



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 20 February 2025

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## THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### PRIVILEGE

#### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.31 am): Mr Speaker, yesterday during a private member's motion the Leader of the Opposition stated—

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.

The Leader of the Opposition also stated—

... I clarify that the impact of the project on his property was never disclosed at any point in time.

Additionally, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stated—

Instead, he is desperately trying to hide his conflict of interest.

Finally, yesterday the member for McConnell stated—

GIICA was not standing beside the member for Kawana when he did not declare his conflict of interest.

I table the public 37th report on the Register of Members' Interests, dated 22 August 2024, whereby I did disclose the fact that TMR had advised me on 9 August—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will listen to the member's statement in silence.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I table the public 37th report on the Register of Members' Interests, dated 22 August 2024, whereby I did disclose the fact that TMR advised me on 9 August 2024 that my property would be materially impacted well before the state election.

*Tabled paper:* Extracts, dated 22 August 2024, from the Thirty-Seventh Report on the Register of Members' Interests, relating to the member for Kawana, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie [113].

This is on top of the already publicly disclosed declarations in this House, inclusive of the following statement I made in this House dating back to 2021, three years ago, where I said—

For the record, I note under standing orders 260 and 262 in that my family house abuts the CAMCOS corridor, so I note my conflict in that respect.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have listened to the Deputy Leader for some time now. I do not see how this pertains to a matter of privilege. If the member is asserting that the House has been misled, there is a process for that. This is not it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Unless I misunderstood, that is where you are up to now.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am, Mr Speaker. These previous declarations went above and beyond what was required to be publically declared because at that stage my property was not materially impacted. As such, I believe the members for Murrumba, Woodridge and McConnell have deliberately misled the House and I will be writing to you accordingly requesting that they all be referred to the Ethics Committee.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We are off to a bad start. My tolerance levels have now been tested. Be warned.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition introduced the Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill 2025. Section 68(2) of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 provides that a message from the Governor in respect of a vote, resolution or bill for appropriation must be given to the Legislative Assembly during the session in which the vote, resolution or bill is intended to be passed.

In a ruling by Speaker Wellington on 14 June 2017, pages 1565-1566, a three-part test was adopted to determine whether there is an appropriation within a bill: does the bill purport to confer any authority to pay an amount from consolidated revenue; does the bill extend the objects and purposes of an existing appropriation; and does the bill alter the destination of an existing appropriation? A bill is not an appropriation bill simply because its implementation may have some potential incidental implications.

There were also a number of rulings made by Speaker Pitt regarding revenue bills last parliament. In a ruling on 17 November 2021, pages 3553-3554, Speaker Pitt outlined the system of government in Queensland and that the Queensland parliament is guided by a number of constitutional conventions. One such convention is the 'financial initiative of the executive'. This embodies the principle that only the government may initiate or move to increase appropriations or revenue.


In order to assist me with making a determination about the bill introduced yesterday, it is important that I understand the detailed effect of the bill within the context of existing and forward appropriations and the complexities of the fare system affected. I would therefore request submissions on the bill from the Leader of the Opposition and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads by Wednesday, 26 February 2025.

### International Mother Language Day

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I draw to the attention of the House that tomorrow is United Nations International Mother Language Day. The day originated as a commemoration of fatalities during protests in Bangladesh on 21 February 1952. Protesters were rallying to have the Bangla language recognised as their mother language. International Mother Language Day also signifies the importance of all mother languages across the globe, including the preservation of Indigenous languages.


This year marks the silver jubilee, the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day, celebrating 25 years of efforts to preserve linguistic diversity and promote mother tongues. This milestone emphasises the importance of language preservation in safeguarding cultural heritage, improving education and fostering more peaceful societies. I commend International Mother Language Day to the House.

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from North Lakes State College in the electorate of Bancroft, Surfers Paradise State School in the electorate of Surfers Paradise and Bray Park State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Kingston, Dr JA

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.38 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Dr. John Alan Kingston, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Over the past 50 years the seat of Maryborough has sent to this parliament a number of members with what can be regarded as a very broad spectrum of interests. They have come from diverse backgrounds and have represented all parties. There are few better examples of this than Dr John Kingston, who served in this House from 1998 until his retirement in 2003. Throughout his brief time in this parliament John Kingston was a vocal advocate for Maryborough and its people.


John Kingston was born in Brisbane 1935. He embarked on a life that took him to multiple countries throughout the world, gave him a broad education and involved him in a diverse range of professions. With formal qualifications in veterinary science and pharmacy, John Kingston assumed ownership of Kingston's Pharmacies in Maryborough but pursued further studies in agricultural economics and environmental science. His qualifications and experience led him to pursue a host of diverse interests—as a university lecturer; as the owner and manager of rural properties producing beef, horses, seed and vegetables; and as a director of a management and consulting company.


What also drove him was his commitment to Laos and its people. Through his Laotian wife, Joy, he developed a passion to assist the people of that country which was struggling to emerge from the impact of the Vietnam War and its own internal struggles. In his first speech to this House in 1998 he said, 'I now regard Laos as my second home.'

Against this varied background, John Kingston found himself in the middle of the 1998 state election. As a councillor on the then Maryborough City Council, Dr Kingston contested Maryborough on behalf of One Nation. He won the seat from the Labor Party and became one of 11 One Nation members in the Legislative Assembly. Like his colleagues, his time in the party was limited and he served the remainder of his time in parliament as an Independent.

Despite economic difficulties, Dr Kingston remained a strong and vocal advocate for Maryborough, its people and its industries. He was an optimist who saw encouraging signs in Maryborough's long-term manufacturing and processing firms and the primary industries that supported many of them. Throughout his time in this House, as well as in his professional life, John Kingston was a champion of innovation. He always sought better ways of doing things so that industries could better serve the communities in which they were based. John Kingston retired from parliament prematurely in 2003. Having left the formal parliamentary environment, he never lost his willingness to serve elsewhere and to pursue the changes to which he was committed.

His passing sees the loss of one of Maryborough's most vociferous advocates. His loss will be felt by many in the community that he served. We offer our condolences to Joy and their children and trust that their memories will sustain them in this time of grief.

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise to express my condolences on the passing of the former member for Maryborough Dr John Kingston on behalf of the opposition. Maryborough has always been one of the industrial heartlands of our state. Its strength is mirrored in the strength of our state's economy. Maryborough is a hub for industry, particularly as the epicentre of our rail history. When Dr Kingston was the member for Maryborough, he was a passionate advocate for Maryborough and its industries. Dr Kingston served his community both as a councillor and as an MP in this chamber. On behalf of the opposition I extend my deepest sympathy to Dr Kingston's family, friends and colleagues, his wife, Joy, their children and grandchildren. Vale, Dr John Kingston.


 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (9.42 am): It is with great sadness that I rise today to acknowledge the passing of John Alan Kingston on 17 June 2024. John was not only a dedicated public servant; he was also a remarkable member of the Maryborough community whose contributions will be remembered for years to come. John's commitment to public service was evident long before his election to state parliament. As a Maryborough city councillor, he worked tirelessly to advocate for local issues, ensuring that the voices of our community were heard and their needs were addressed.

His passion for the people of Maryborough was the driving force behind his decision to enter state politics where he continued his service at an even greater level. In 1998 John was elected as the state member for Maryborough, representing the One Nation party until 23 February 1999. During this time, John was a member of Estimates Committee E, the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee, the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee and Estimates Committee F. He was One Nation's shadow spokesperson for communication, information, local government, planning, regional and rural communities, state development and trade, environment, heritage and natural resources.

His strong sense of independence and duty to his electorate led him to serve his community that elected him to the esteemed position. He was re-elected in 2001 as an independent, demonstrating the trust and respect he had earned from the people of Maryborough. Throughout his time in office, John was known for his unwavering commitment to his constituents, always putting their needs first and working diligently to improve their lives.

Beyond his political career, John was a devoted husband of Pahninh and a loving father to their three children. His dedication to his family mirrored the same values he brought to his public service—integrity, compassion and a steadfast commitment to doing what was right. The late Dr John Kingston was a businessman, pharmacist, vet, academic, farmer and rural adviser, Indigenous advocate and conservation visionary. John was very well known in the community for helping those less fortunate than himself. His legacy extends beyond the policies he supported and the causes he championed; it lives on in the community he served so passionately.

On behalf of the Maryborough electorate, I extend my deepest condolences to John's family and friends and all those who had the privilege of knowing him. His contribution to our region will not be forgotten and his memory will continue to inspire those who seek to serve their community. May he rest in peace.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.45 am): I rise to support the motion of condolence for the former state member for Maryborough, Dr John Alan Kingston. Dr John was well known and respected throughout the Fraser Coast region. Born in 1935 he was an educated man who packed his life to the full. Dr John, as he was affectionately known, was qualified as both a pharmacist and a veterinarian and pursued academic studies in economics, environmental science and regional economic development.

Dr John was a committed conservationist whose interests included studying fish populations, stream health and riparian stability, and minimal input sustainable farming and housing systems and applying them to cane, beef, vegetable and flower producing properties. He also studied economic systems and their socioeconomic impacts and the effects of globalisation. Dr John was a very successful businessman and later a dedicated politician. He took over his father's chemist business in Maryborough which he then grew to be one of the largest chemist businesses in regional Queensland, Kingston's Pharmacies. He then went on to establish Kingston Rural Management and Supplies which pioneered many innovations in the farming industry.

After selling Kingston's Pharmacies, Dr John moved to Laos to use his many and diverse skills to assist that developing country's impoverished people. In Laos he helped establish Vientiane College, the first private school in that country which is still thriving today. He returned to Australia in 1995 with his wife, Joy, and adopted her two Laotian children. They later adopted another young Laotian girl.


In 1997 Dr John was elected to the Maryborough City Council, now the Fraser Coast Regional Council. In 1998 he stood for and won the seat of Maryborough as a member of One Nation and then recontested the election in 2001 as an Independent and retained the seat. Dr John was admired by many and had a strong connection with my electorate of Hervey Bay, including Fraser K'gari Island. Dr John was noted for his strong advocacy and support for the Save Fraser Island Dingoes group—a group dedicated to the conservation and protection of the Fraser K'gari Island dingo. Dr John's veterinary experience was invaluable in providing a wealth of information and advice about maintaining the health and wellbeing of the dingoes on the island and then lobbying government accordingly. He was a strong advocate for the adoption of the Bruce Jacobs and Fred Williams management plan that could benefit both dingoes and tourists to Fraser K'gari Island. Farewell, Dr John, and thank you for your service to the Fraser Coast community. Rest in peace.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will honourable members indicate their agreement with this motion by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Muntz, Mr GH**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.50 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Geoffrey Hugh Muntz, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.



2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.

It is over 44 years since Geoff Muntz was elected to the Legislative Assembly. At the time of his election, Joh Bjelke-Petersen was premier, Llew Edwards was deputy premier, and Ed Casey was leader of the opposition.

Geoff Muntz was a member of one of the Gold Coast's most prominent families, having been born in Beenleigh in 1938. In his initial speech in the House on 5 March 1981, Mr Muntz paid tribute to his parents, Councillor Hugh Muntz and Ethel, whom he described as contributing more than 50 years of community and local government service to the Gold Coast.

Geoff Muntz's education was eclectic and reflected his rural interests. He attended Pimpama State School before furthering his education through Gatton College and, by correspondence, through the then Brisbane Technical College, now the Queensland University of Technology.


Ultimately earning a qualification as an Associate of the Australian Institute of Valuers, Geoff Muntz embarked on a varied career throughout Queensland. He worked in the dairying, grazing and grain industries throughout all parts of Queensland and spent time as an inspector in the State Lands Department. In 1964, relying on his extensive knowledge of Queensland's primary industries, he served as a district manager of the State Agricultural Bank from 1964 to 1979, serving in Dalby and Mackay. From 1979 until his election to parliament, he was a partner in a Mackay real estate agency and continued to act as a valuer.

His local involvement propelled him towards state parliament and he was elected as the member for Whitsunday in 1980. At the time he identified the importance to Whitsunday of the sugar, grazing, horticulture and mining industries. While he promoted the area's traditional agricultural and mining industries, he was conscious of the need to develop the growing tourism industry based on the Whitsunday Islands. In his first speech he noted—


The famous Whitsunday islands, a tourist dream, cannot be duplicated in any part of the world ... New developments will add to the lustre and wonder of this tropical paradise set in the centre of one of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef.

At the same time he was conscious of the challenges that this area and the tourism industry were facing. He warned against the dangers to the natural environment, not a universally accepted concern in Queensland of the 1980s. His advocacy and his determination led to his appointment as a minister from 1983 to 1989 across a range of portfolios covering welfare services, ethnic affairs, youth, corrective services, administrative services, valuation, environment, conservation, tourism and forestry. Geoff Muntz was defeated in 1989.

We welcome to the House today his wife, Jean, son Brett and daughter-in-law Lynelle, and extend our condolences to the entire Muntz family.

 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.53 am): I rise to support the motion moved this morning by the Premier and express condolences on the passing of Mr Geoffrey Muntz, a former member of this House. Geoff was a proud representative of the Whitsunday region in this House for almost a decade. That was after a long career representing the Albert Shire, now the City of Gold Coast, as a councillor. It is clear from his innings in the public service, Geoff had a passion for representing his community. He served this House as a stalwart of the Bjelke-Petersen cabinet in a number of portfolios.

I want to thank Geoff's family for coming today—his wife, Jean, son Brett and daughter-in-law Lynelle—and I extend my condolences to Chris and Cindy, Daniel and Jacqui and all of his friends and family. They can be proud of his legacy of service to his community. I know members will join me in sharing these condolences with Geoff's family and friends.

 **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) (9.54 am): 'Members may ask, "Who is this rookie from North Queensland?"' and it was with those words during his inaugural speech in the Queensland parliament that Geoffrey Hugh Muntz started his career as a politician representing the great seat of Whitsunday. We lost that rookie from North Queensland, who served the Whitsunday electorate from 1980 to 1989, last year. I will not go over what the Premier has said in relation to Geoff's early years.

In 1980, running for the National Party, Geoff was elected to parliament as the member for Whitsunday, a seat he would hold for nine years. I shared with the Muntz family that my grandfather, Stanley Camm, had put his hat in the ring for nomination against Mr Muntz and withdrew for preselection; he did not have the numbers, and we know politics is a game of numbers. I think I ended up with the good end of the deal because I got to have more time with my grandfather, unlike the Muntz family, who had to deal with their father being away so much.

On 5 March 1981, during his inaugural speech, the fierce advocate for North Queensland raised an issue that has continued to plague this great state, and I hope the members of this House and members of his family do not mind me sharing elements of this speech from *Hansard*.

Of utmost importance to Whitsunday and the whole of North Queensland is the lack of an all-weather Bruce Highway. I ask members to consider the inconvenience, the loss of revenue and the total lack of security to Australia in this regard. I am aware that basically this is a Federal responsibility. It is my desire to ensure and see within my career in this Parliament, the construction of such a highway from Rockhampton to Cairns. The section from Mackay to Townsville is in a deplorable state. I acknowledge the enormous amount being spent on the coastal highway between Sarina and Marlborough. Unfortunately the public at large does not see, and is unable to fully appreciate, the millions already spent on this section. I also acknowledge that, as finance permits, work is carried out on other troublesome sections.

I realise that a big percentage of Queenslanders live in the south-east corner. However I do not agree that funds should be allocated on a population basis in this instance. It is about time that both State and Federal Governments recognised that Central and North Queensland provide huge revenues and potential from mining and primary production, and a much greater share of this revenue must be returned to this area by way of better roads.

...

It should, without question, be a tourist asset and an encouragement to State decentralisation. That in itself is another subject. It is my view that the Bruce Highway needs upgrading and rebuilding, and we must support our Main Roads Minister in his submissions for greater Federal funding.


How those words still ring true to this House today. I think Mr Muntz would be quite proud of the incredible work undertaken to reconnect our North Queensland communities in times of the recent disaster.

Geoff Muntz was also a great advocate for the growing tourism industry in the Whitsundays. He understood the potential and the beauty of our region, and fought for its development and growth. There was also the appreciation of the Great Barrier Reef with the former member calling for the reef to be protected at all costs, as well as understanding the need to develop research into the crown-of-thorns in the 1980s. Due to his working background before entering politics, he also understood the need to develop agriculture and mining industries in our electorate which have continued to grow to this day.

During his time as the member for Whitsunday, Geoff was known to attend schools in the electorate to pass on wisdom to young school leaders. He would go to local sporting club presentations to hand out awards and he spent countless hours meeting with locals and was crucial in the start of a number of projects for our region.

Geoff Muntz also served as minister across a myriad of portfolios. In my communications recently with Mayor Greg Williamson, he reflected on his time and friendship with Geoff Muntz as the former deputy chair of the Mackay Whitsunday Tourism when Geoff was tourism minister. He said he always had Mackay and the Whitsundays firmly front and centre and that tourism development was his passion.

I would like to thank Geoff's wife, Jean, his son Brett and daughter-in-law Lynelle for being here today, for allowing him to serve our great community of the Whitsundays and for sharing his life with us.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.59 am): Previous speakers have spoken about Geoff Muntz's political life but it is more on his personal life as a respected and successful real estate agent in Nerang, which was my home for many years, that I would like to talk about. There was a fantastic local authority called the Albert shire many years ago. I had the privilege and honour of being the first mayor and the last mayor—that was last century, probably before some of our newer members were even born. Geoff Muntz was part of Albert shire royalty in terms of his family. It was my great pleasure and privilege to meet him on many occasions as he diligently sold real estate right throughout the Nerang region. In fact Geoff's dad, Hughie Muntz, was for many years—as was mentioned earlier—the chairman of Albert shire and he set the groundwork in terms of the rapidly developing area of Albert shire that hosted Jupiters Casino, Pacific Fair Shopping Centre, Dreamworld, Movie World and those wonderful assets we all share today. Geoffrey, and all the crew who were associated with that, brought it to realisation so that we can enjoy a fantastic tourism industry on the Gold Coast today.

Apart from Hughie Muntz, who succeeded the legendary Russell Hinze as chairman of the Albert shire—I came quite a few years later—Geoff's sister, Moira, married Colin Kleinschmidt, who was the deputy mayor of Albert shire. His other sister, Judith, married Ian Hollindale, who was the general manager of the Gold Coast's South Coast Dairy for many years. Again, as I say, this is Albert shire royalty. In fact, Geoff's real estate career took off in Nerang through the former Arthur Earle Nerang land sales group, which was taken over by the illustrious Colin Meagher, who ran the Ekka for many years. Col was the elder brother of a famous guy, Ray 'Meggsie' Meagher—I think they call him 'Alf' on the TV series that I have never watched.

The fact of the matter is they are a wonderful family. Geoff had a fantastic career locally around Nerang and the Gilston areas selling real estate and he was always respected. He worked with Ian MacLean and Bill Hansen and all of his clients who were very pleased and happy with the courteous and respectful manner in which Geoffrey dealt with them. It was a great pleasure for me as a young businessman in Nerang starting off Petbarn, which went national after I sold out but that is another story. Another success story for me! The fact of the matter is Geoff was highly respected in our chamber of commerce areas and in Nerang. It is a pleasure for me to have Jean and his family here today so that I can reflect on a great fellow and a great community guy in Nerang. RIP, Geoff. You certainly leave us with wonderful memories.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## PETITION

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


### Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

7,573 petitioners, requesting the House to explain the benefits and risks of introducing genetically modified mosquitoes; why another mosquito eradication project is needed in this state; and why not ban the introduction of genetically modified mosquitoes in the state of Queensland [112].

Petition received.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements


 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.05 am): It was a fresh start that Queenslanders voted for on 26 October last year. They voted for a fresh start to change the direction of our great state. As a team, all of us who sit on this side of the chamber do not take this responsibility lightly. I want to reflect on the issues that our government has dealt with this week in the House. There have been issues of transparency, of accountability and of respecting Queensland taxpayers' money. These are all cornerstones of good government but, perhaps most importantly, the key issue that our government has been focused on this week is delivery. Our team delivered on our 100-day plan. We took that plan to the people of Queensland, detailing the immediate steps we would take upon being given the right to govern. It was a set of 43 items that needed to be delivered after one week, one month, by the end of 2024 and by the 100-day milestone on 9 February.

When we wrote that list of 43 promises it was our signal to all Queenslanders that there was a better way. Queenslanders gave us the opportunity to implement this plan, and we delivered. We have acted decisively but rationally. We have identified issues from the former administration and delivered action to tackle the problems that have been left behind. We have done what we said we would do. We have delivered our 100-day plan, but delivering does not stop there. The challenges we have inherited are substantial. The downgrading of the credit rating outlook yesterday serves as a stark reminder of the recklessness of the previous administration in not respecting taxpayers' money. The consequences of the tenure of those opposite sitting on the government benches for the last decade cannot simply be washed away in an instant.

Queenslanders live with those consequences every day. The consequences of youth crime are felt deeply in proud cities and towns right across the state—cars stolen, homes broken into, lives upturned, lives lost. Some Queenslanders will have woken up this morning to the reality of this situation. As a government, we have taken the first steps towards restoring safety where Queenslanders live. Adult Crime, Adult Crime is now law, but that is not where this government's approach to dealing with this problem ends. This year those laws will be strengthened again, as we promised before the election. We have an expert legal panel which is now tasked with delivering options to bolster those laws. We will deliver those laws so young offenders who commit serious crime are given serious punishment. We will deliver those laws so there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland. We will deliver stronger laws because that is what Queenslanders have asked of us.

Our government will not hesitate to put victims of crime first. If laws need changing, if they need strengthening, this government will deliver that. We will engage respectfully. We will listen, we will act, we will deliver—this is how our government will operate. We will be a government that delivers for the people of Queensland.

### Regional Queensland

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.08 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start Queensland voted for. Queenslanders voted for a positive change and regional Queenslanders, in particular, voted in record numbers to change the government, to abandon the Labor Party. Communities in regional Queensland were taken for granted by the former Palaszczuk Miles government. We are, as the Premier said, getting on with the job and doing what we said we were going to do.


I am pleased to report to the House that, effective from 3 February 2025, wind farm applications in Queensland will be subject to mandatory impact assessment—this means mandatory community consultation and third-party appeal rights—because, unlike Labor, we care about the views and wellbeing of people in regional Queensland. Regional communities have been playing host to large-scale wind farm developments for over 10 years and have been the victim of a planning framework that was not fit for purpose, including community consultation being optional under the Labor Party and appeal rights not being afforded. It is only fair that regional Queenslanders are properly consulted on any new renewable energy development in their own backyard, like many suburban communities are afforded when it comes to high-rise development in their neighbourhood. That is why at the election the LNP promised to amend the laws to ensure renewable energy projects were subject to the same rigorous impact assessment approval process, including consultation, as other projects such as in mining and agriculture. What could be fairer?

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Premier. I also say that we have now delivered on that promise. For too long, local Queensland communities have been sidelined under Labor's failed laws, which shut communities out of the process and left them voiceless. Queenslanders backed our election commitment to provide both local communities and councils a say in the renewable energy developments in their backyard. This is yet another example of the Crisafulli government resetting the planning partnership with local communities and local councils.

Another election commitment is the Crisafulli government's \$2 billion infrastructure fund for housing. I have to say that it is exciting as I am meeting all these regional mayors and councillors, waiting for the opportunity, when the Treasurer hands down his first budget, to start investing and unlocking land supply across the state. They are lining up for the \$2 billion. Not only is there the \$2 billion; a billion is going to be spent outside of South-East Queensland, in regional communities, because the Crisafulli government loves regional communities and we love our new members who were endorsed emphatically by regional Queensland. This government will continue to deliver on our commitments and listen to all Queenslanders no matter where they live across this beautiful state.

### Maternity Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.11 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering world-class health services for all Queenslanders, particularly for new mums and bubs. Fixing the shortfall in regional and rural birthing services left by Labor is an absolute priority. As part of the Crisafulli government's 100-day plan, we commissioned a critical assessment into regional maternity services. We know that the decade of mismanagement under Labor's four health ministers, three of them sitting opposite, left maternity services in crisis and chaos across the state. A decade of Labor neglect resulted in workforce shortages in key maternity professions across regional Queensland.

There are staffing vacancies of up to 14.2 per cent in obstetrics, 17.9 per cent in anaesthetics and 11.5 per cent in midwifery. The failure to recruit skilled maternity staff means mums about to give birth in rural and regional areas have been forced to travel to larger facilities, often hundreds of kilometres away from home. Between 1 July 2023 and 8 January 2025, eight facilities in regional and rural Queensland, including Beaudesert, Ingham and Mareeba, were on birthing bypass. Birthing services in Cooktown and Biloela have been on bypass since 2022. We will restore those critical

services. Our commitment in our first 100 days was to transparency and honesty about the state's birthing services so that we can begin to address the resources needed to fix Labor's legacy of neglect. We are starting. It is a long journey but we are on the road.

The Crisafulli government is also committed to supporting new mums who need specialised care after birth. We will deliver perinatal mental health beds across Queensland to address Labor's failures. Earlier this week, the member for Murrumba, the current Leader of the Opposition, had the gall to stand in this place and claim that the Crisafulli government is 'scrapping perinatal mental health beds for Queensland mums'. The Leader of the Opposition knows this is not true but said it anyway. The Crisafulli government has already committed to deliver 30 perinatal mental health beds, including eight in Townsville, as part of our boost to deliver health services across Queensland. The former health minister, the member for Waterford and leadership aspirant, got her sums completely wrong when she announced that 30 beds could be delivered across the state for \$39 million.

**Mr Crisafulli:** She's doing numbers for them.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I take that interjection from the Premier. We cannot wait to see the budget response! The announced eight beds for Townsville were to cost \$38 million, exhausting the entire budget for the statewide 30-bed program.

**Ms Fentiman:** This is what the *Courier-Mail* reported. You buggered that story up.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, withdraw that unparliamentary language, please.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Let me be clear: the Crisafulli government will be delivering all 30 perinatal beds across Queensland and we will be delivering the eight beds in Townsville. We will be doing it sooner than the Labor government were ever going to. They were never going to be able to do it because they did not put money in the budget to deliver it.

Labor's disgraceful scare campaign on our commitment to deliver perinatal mental health beds is another example of their strategy to tell the big mistruth, to tell it often and to tell it loudly. Scare campaigns are a specialty of the three former health ministers, all desperately clamouring to prove their leadership credentials. The Crisafulli government has a plan, the Easier Access to Health Services Plan. The Labor Party only have a discredited scare campaign.

## Housing Supply

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.15 am): After a decade of Labor, it has never been harder for Queenslanders to have a place to call home. The former government left us with a building and construction industry in complete disarray, weighed down with red tape. Queensland has the least productive construction sites in the nation. It is a big reason housing supply simply is not keeping up with demand, and that is especially the case when it comes to social housing over the last decade. On average, only 509 social homes were built each year under Labor. At that rate, it would have taken 105 years to deliver our state's target of building 53½ thousand social and community homes. Unlike our predecessors, the Crisafulli government will ramp up construction to build the more than 2,000 social and community homes we need to deliver each year to do what we said we would do.


In our first 100 days we have made significant progress to get the construction industry to where it needs to be to deliver the homes and infrastructure our growing state needs. We are directing every dollar of the Housing Investment Fund towards building new homes, not purchasing existing properties, as was happening under Labor. We paused BPIC, Labor's CFMEU tax on construction, to restore productivity on job sites. We have the re-establishment of the independent Queensland Productivity Commission underway, with their first task to be a review of the building and construction sector. This review will be important, but we cannot afford to wait until it is done to get moving. That is why, on day 101 as minister, I announced immediate and near-term actions the Crisafulli government is taking to make it easier to build in Queensland.

Our Building Reg Reno is about cutting red tape, reducing costs and getting the right regulatory environment to deliver the homes and infrastructure Queenslanders need. The first big change is pausing the further rollout of trust accounts to private projects below \$10 million. This would have added an enormous administrative burden to house builds across our state, the last thing anyone needs during a housing crisis. We will scrap unnecessary financial reporting for more than 50,000 individual operators—that is 97 per cent of licensees—so they can spend less time on administration and more time on the tools. We will abolish duplicate licence fees for plumbers doing fire protection work, because

paying twice for doing the same work just does not make sense. We will move the QBCC into the 21st century as a more customer-friendly organisation, with digital platforms to cut paperwork and streamline licensing and approvals. We will simplify safety notifications by removing duplicate reporting requirements between the QBCC and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. We will improve the QBCC's review and dispute resolution processes and review the licensing and insurance thresholds for smaller projects. These are commonsense changes that will make sure our regulations are clear and consistent to help builders get on with the job.

The Building Reg Reno is our commitment to a better building and construction industry: one where small operators are not buried in red tape; one where tradies are not paying unnecessary fees; one where we get the balance right between regulation and productivity, between oversight and efficiency, between protecting consumers and supporting businesses to succeed. Our Building Reg Reno is the first step to make Queensland the building capital of the nation.


### Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.19 am): There are 2,718 days until the games of the 35th Olympiad will be staged in Queensland, and I cannot think of a more exciting time to live in this great state. One of our priorities since we formed government is to clean up Labor's Olympic mess. It was given a 1,000-day head start on any other place that has been announced for the Olympics and it squandered it, and that squandering led to a plummeting of public sentiment about the games—a sentiment that we need to change. The pinnacle of its dysfunction was the Gabba redevelopment which it had initially valued at \$1 billion. At the estimates hearing when the Auditor-General was asked what the business case was for that \$1 billion, he said, 'I think it was a press statement.' Not long after a reassessment was done and it was \$2.7 billion and then when Graham Quirk did his 60-day review that figure went to \$3 billion.

Rather than concentrating on the important parts of providing the right infrastructure for us, the then Labor ministers—which included the now opposition leader, the deputy leader and the shadow treasurer—were more focused on the glitz and glamour than the substance of providing the right infrastructure for the Olympics. The next step after the proposed Gabba redevelopment was that the East Brisbane State School, the mighty Brisbane Lions and Queensland Cricket would all be displaced. The latter two were banished to the RNA and then told to pay for their own refurbishment of that venue. It was a complete and utter joke which led to the demise of then premier Palaszczuk and the now opposition leader becoming the premier. His first course of action was to distance himself from every decision that he made as the infrastructure minister for the Olympics and his great legacy was to announce that the Olympic stadium would be at QSAC—an absolutely laughable proposition.

What have we done since we have been in government to clean up this mess? We have appointed the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority to take politics off the podium. Let us let the experts make the decisions, not politicians. We have also announced a \$250 million Games On! community sports infrastructure program so that people right around this state can point to these sets of lights, this clubhouse and this pool and say that they have those because of the Olympics. And we are thinking about the athletes. This week we introduced legislation to free our athletes from bureaucracy and transition the QAS to a statutory body—less red tape, more attention on the athletes. The Crisafulli government will deliver the games that Queenslanders deserve.

### Primary Industries

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.23 am): Last year's election proved Queenslanders wanted change, and they voted for it. The Crisafulli government has delivered its 100-day plan. We are just getting started delivering a fresh start for Queensland. My portfolio is a prime example of how the former government gave up governing and simply did not understand our critical agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. Before the election the now Premier and I unveiled a bold target to reach \$30 billion in agricultural production by 2030. Yes, this is an ambitious target, but with a government that understands agriculture and the policy and regulatory settings required to grow the sector it is achievable.


The last 10 years left major challenges, especially when it came to biosecurity. Biosecurity is the linchpin of agricultural industries. It underpins everything producers do. Biosecurity threats are real and ever present. We must be vigilant. Earlier this month Japanese encephalitis was detected in two southern Queensland piggeries. The department is working with these piggeries through extension services to help them manage it. We must be proactive. This week we allocated a further half a million

dollars on varroa mite preparedness. We are proactively working with Queensland beekeepers. We are currently dealing with threats from fire ants which are significantly impacting primary industries, communities and lifestyle.

Disappointingly, the former government closed the Cape York biosecurity facility in Coen. It was a visible and physical line of defence reminding people of the importance of biosecurity. AgForce CEO Michael Guerin said at the time that the consequences could be catastrophic and that it made no sense. He called it madness. Just like we promised, we are reviewing that decision. Queenslanders strongly endorsed our \$50 million commitment to secure additional biosecurity officers over this term of government. Recruitment started before Christmas. I was always critical that under the former government agriculture was not backed by a government that understood it. For the first time Queensland has a cabinet that not only understands it but has senior members who have lived and breathed it.

As we work towards our \$30 billion target, two weeks ago I announced that we will develop a 25-year blueprint for Queensland's primary industries. Work has already started. Next week I will be convening a primary industries forum of more than 200 industry stakeholders to shape that blueprint and formulate industry-specific plans. This week Queensland hosted 2,000 national and international agricultural tech leaders, investors and innovator delegates at evokeAG. It is about embracing innovation, technology and disruptive science and giving Queensland primary producers the backing that they have been crying out for for years. It is about Queensland producers being best placed to unlock the potential to grow their industry and reach new heights and ultimately ensure government provides the policy and regulatory settings to make this happen. The Crisafulli government is delivering for primary industries.


### Local Government; Volunteering

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.26 am): Just over 100 days ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted for a government that would deliver integrity and accountability in local government whilst enabling mayors and councillors to serve their community without unnecessary regulatory burden. They voted for a government that would ensure a swift recovery from disasters and one that would deliver more resilient communities and community infrastructure. What Queenslanders voted for the Crisafulli government is delivering. In a first for local government, we have established a Local Government Red Tape Reduction Taskforce 100 to streamline approvals and remove barriers for local government projects. Andrew Chesterman has hit the ground running as our taskforce lead, bringing with him over 30 years of professional and public administration experience.

The taskforce is currently considering more than 130 suggestions and over the next four weeks will be speaking with many more councils to garner feedback about burdensome red tape. Next week the taskforce will bring together Queensland government agencies and key stakeholders such as the LGAQ and the LGMA and drive the agenda of red-tape reduction across government. Councils and stakeholders have until the end of March to provide feedback to the taskforce. We will be looking closely at this feedback to identify opportunities that support efficient and effective council infrastructure and enable councils to provide service delivery to their communities. I look forward to receiving the recommendations of the taskforce later this year.

Turning to the issue of volunteering, you need only turn your attention to North Queensland to understand the vital contribution that volunteers make to our state. It is our job to understand what we can do to ensure volunteers have what they need to respond in the times of Queenslanders' needs. Last November we established a parliamentary inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. I have been engaging with volunteers and volunteer organisations and they are telling me there are a range of obstacles stopping people from volunteering. One of the issues that has come forward is the lack of banking services in regional communities. There are a range of solutions and we are committed to finding those solutions. Submissions close at the end of this month and I encourage anyone with a passion for volunteering to let us know how the Crisafulli government can remove those barriers and create clearer pathways for more volunteering. We want to make sure that anyone who has a passion to make a difference in their local community has every opportunity to become a volunteer. We want to make it easier for volunteers. The Crisafulli government is working in partnership with Queensland local governments to deliver for Queenslanders.

## First Nations, Home Ownership

 **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) (10.29 am): Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing is a matter of great importance. This issue is not just about bricks and mortar; it is about dignity, health and a future for our First Peoples here in Queensland. Queensland's home ownership rates are approximately 64 per cent, with ownership rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households at a lot less—approximately 38 per cent but a lot less again in some of our rural and remote areas.

This government is committed to delivering Indigenous housing. We are also committed to delivering opportunities, for the dignity of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to own their own homes. We are committed to Closing the Gap. Under Labor, nine of the 19 Closing the Gap targets were not on track, including the proportion of people living in overcrowded homes. The situation gets worse the more remote one goes. Those living in very remote areas are in a situation where they are even less likely to be living in acceptable standards, with a quarter not having adequate facilities to prepare food and 14 per cent not having access to facilities to wash their clothes or bedding. That is just not acceptable.


That is why under the Crisafulli LNP government we have hit the ground running. We have kept to our promises to work to deliver more housing. I am working with the whole team, but in particular I acknowledge my colleague the Minister for Housing. Already on our 100-day plan we are working to expand the home ownership scheme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. On Palm Island, for example, we have worked with the local council to set up a rent-to-buy scheme. This has been at the request of and in consultation with the Palm Island community and leaders.

We can compare and contrast that to Labor's way. We must compare and contrast it to Labor's way because they are all about symbols rather than substance. They did not listen to the communities about the infrastructure they need to unlock their future and to close the gap. I recently visited Yarrabah with the member for Mulgrave. Let me tell members about one piece of infrastructure Labor did deliver: over \$11 million on a jetty at Yarrabah that was supposed to allow in ferries from Cairns in order to unlock economic opportunity into that community. Talk about a gap: it is 70 metres too short to get the ferries in. There is a gap between the deep water and the shallow water. That was a lost opportunity. Ribbons were cut on infrastructure that failed to deliver in a community that desperately needs more housing and better health outcomes. This is replicated across Queensland. Let us close the gap by working with communities, not create gaps by the ineptitude we saw under the previous Labor government with symbols rather than substance, failing to deliver in some of the critical areas in communities in our most remote areas where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders do not have acceptable water supplies.

We are focused on working with communities on those frontline deliverables and key priorities such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing and the opportunity for them to own their own home. Knowing that there will be different solutions in different places, our commitment is to making sure it happens. We are keeping to our promise and we are going to make sure we do not have another fiasco like the Yarrabah jetty. I table a photo of the Yarrabah jetty, where the gap means you cannot even get a ferry in. What a bunch of absolutely disgraceful examples we have seen, with Labor failing to deliver what matters and what is needed in our most vulnerable communities in Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Image depicting a pier [\[114\]](#).

## Container Refund Scheme, Parliamentary Inquiry

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.33 am): Today I rise to affirm the Crisafulli government's unwavering commitment to preserving our pristine natural environment, boosting recycling rates and putting more container deposit scheme dollars in the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. The container deposit scheme administered by Container Exchange, otherwise known as Coex, is supposed to recycle 85 per cent of all eligible containers in Queensland. It is not. In 2023-24, under the former Labor government's oversight, Coex managed just 67 per cent. To December last year it has only reached 62 per cent. That is more than 20 per cent below where it is meant to be and, frankly, that is just not good enough.

Queenslanders want to do the right thing. We know that if they have the opportunity they will recycle. Instead of putting more container refund dollars in the pockets of Queenslanders doing the hard work, Coex's focus appears to be elsewhere. Last year, the *Courier-Mail* revealed that staff




received bonuses of \$1,000 if they had been there for less than three months or \$2,000 if longer, despite failing to meet those targets. In 2023 the *Australian* revealed that Coex spent more than half a million dollars on an advertising campaign urging schoolkids to return poppers, despite the state being unable to recycle them. We have heard from the sector that money is being spent on conference stalls, advertising campaigns and sponsoring awards nights, but such investment is clearly not delivering results. We need to better understand the growth in Coex's equity, cash and cash equivalents as well as their employee benefit expenses.

I have received correspondence from fellow members of parliament, from community members and from the industry who realise that the scheme is not working as well as it should. Government is about getting things done and doing things right. That is why today the Crisafulli government is announcing a parliamentary inquiry into Queensland's container refund scheme. The inquiry is about a root-and-branch review of the scheme. Importantly, the inquiry will examine whether there is appropriate coverage of refund points so that all Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, can conveniently access the scheme. This is about strengthening this scheme, protecting our environment and putting more refund money where it belongs: in the pockets of Queenslanders. That is why we are inviting all Queenslanders to have their say. Whether yours is a household that regularly returns containers, a business that relies on recycling or a community group passionate about the environment, your input matters.


Those opposite talk a big game when it comes to the environment, but make no mistake: they showed their true colours when they failed to deliver on protected areas, when they failed to deliver on recycling rates, when they failed to stop litter piling into Moreton Bay, when they failed to keep our wildlife hospital network fit for purpose and when they failed to do anything about battery recycling. Their failure to hold Coex to account is just par for the course. That decade of dysfunction is over. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is exactly what we are giving them.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.37 am): I advise that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training is absent from the House today as she is on an international trade mission. I advise that the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations will answer questions for the Minister for Finance in question time.

## MOTION

### Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.37 am), by leave, without notice: I move—  
That the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 21 August 2025 on:

1. The current state and operation of Queensland's container refund scheme and its efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the scheme's objects as outlined in section 99H of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011.
2. The efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme's administration by Container Exchange (Qld) Limited (COEX) as the appointed Product Responsibility Organisation under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, including:
  - (a) its progress towards achieving the container recovery rate of at least 85 per cent for each financial year;
  - (b) the availability of refund points across Queensland to provide the community with access to a place to return empty beverage containers in exchange for a refund; and
  - (c) the final processing and utilisation of recycled products, ensuring transparency and public oversight.
3. Whether the scope and objectives of the scheme remain fit for purpose and meet the needs of all Queenslanders, noting the Queensland government's ongoing support for the scheme.
4. Ensuring the appropriateness of governance arrangements, structures and expenditure (including sponsorship).
5. Any other relevant matters.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Allocation of Time Limit Order



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow the minister to be called to reply to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill by 5.00 pm today and that all remaining stages of the bill be completed by 5.55 pm today.
2. If all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 1., Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Status of Matters



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.40 am): As chair of the Ethics Committee, I rise to advise the House of certain decisions made by the committee. Upon dissolution of the 57th Parliament, the previous Ethics Committee ceased and any matters before the committee lapsed. In accordance with section 105 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Ethics Committee of the 58th Parliament has unanimously resolved not to continue with the matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 12 December 2022 relating to an allegation of inciting or encouraging disruption of the Legislative Assembly. Further, correspondence was received by the committee of the 57th Parliament just before the dissolution regarding an allegation of the publication of a false or misleading account of Ethics Committee proceedings. The former committee did not assess the matter prior to the dissolution. However, the current committee has assessed the matter and has determined not to continue with it. The committee's decision not to continue with these matters does not represent any findings made by the committee.

The committee has also resolved to remind all members of the obligations outlined in the Code of Ethical Standards and strongly advises that each member, whether new or returning, read this important document. We also wish to remind members to exercise care in relation to the use of social media and reiterate the words of the former committee in report No. 23—

Whilst no member can control the public commentary on social media, this arguably places a higher duty of care on members for their social media posts. Members should not be tempted by the benefits of disseminating information widely and rapidly through social media without considering any potential harm or liability for public comments on their social media pages.

We all have an obligation to maintain the highest standards of conduct as expected of us by the people of Queensland. The committee of the 58th Parliament will consider each matter referred to us in light of these obligations.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.43 am.

### Under Treasurer



**Mr MILES** (10.43 am): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise Queenslanders on what date the recent vacant position of Under Treasurer was advertised for recruitment?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Firstly, I thank the honourable member for the question. It is a great privilege that was not afforded to me yesterday when those opposite did not ask me a single question. They took a different strategy yesterday. I do not know if there are any betting people amongst us, but I hazard a guess that the transport minister will not get asked too many questions today because the nightwatchman will not be bringing him on strike again. He will not get too many questions today. Whoever is doing the strategy today must have been doing it yesterday because, on the day after this report was released, why oh why would they ask about the appointment of the Under Treasurer? Do you know what I did last night, Mr Speaker? Last night, I read this report—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you asked the question. I am assuming that you are interested in the reply.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They have no idea. I read this report last night. I thought I would make a few dog-ears where there were interesting things. In the end, I chose to do the opposite and leave clean sheets of paper where there were no interesting things because it is riddled with a culture of absolute corruption, cover-ups, intimidation and bullying. Those opposite come in here and ask about the appointment of the Under Treasurer when this report makes for the most sordid reading about a culture of bullying, cover-ups, miscommunications—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was: what was the date?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I thought your point of order might have been about the disorderly conduct of the members in the House. Premier, you have heard the question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Those opposite know that the way this government conducts itself is vastly different to that of their government and this report shows it. It is an important question and I will tell the House why it is an important question. It is because the Public Service matters. I want to contrast who is leading the Public Service in Queensland now with who was leading it under them. They had a convicted electoral fraudster versus an independent public servant. Someone who was the former state secretary—

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** This is fun, Mr Speaker. They had a self-confessed electoral rorter and a former state secretary of the Labor Party—someone who was marched out of this parliament by the last Labor premier who had an ounce of integrity—versus an independent public servant. Do members want to know where the head of our Public Service came from? He came from South Australia after a decorated career there.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

### Under Treasurer

**Mr DICK:** My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier advise Queenslanders who comprised the merit selection panel for the recent vacant position of Under Treasurer and on what dates did the merit selection panel meet?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Again, a member opposite asks about the appointment of the Under Treasurer on this day.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am not sure who is doing their strategy but I do not think it is a friend of the member for Murrumba. I do not think it is anyone who is friendly with the member for Murrumba. I am going to talk about the Public Service, because that is what the question is about, and what it is like under our government compared to theirs. The member's question goes to the heart of how this government conducts itself versus how the former government conducted itself. The process that was corrupted and the process of intimidation I contrast with a process of openness and accountability.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I notice that the Manager of Opposition Business is just about to jump. You heard the question so I ask you to come back to it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The appointment process was done in accordance with the way governments should be run. There was an open process and those opposite know it. I cannot wait for the egg that will be on the faces of those opposite. They may even want to ask the Treasurer. I am looking forward to the answer. I am going to contrast the way the Public Service is run now with before. The head of the Queensland Public Service is a proper public servant. He has never been a member of a political party.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You are correct: I did not want to rise to my feet on a point of order while you were taking advice from the Clerk. My point of order is in relation to relevance to the question. The answer that was being sought was specifically around who comprised the merit selection panel and when did it meet. During the period in which you were taking advice, the Premier did not provide an answer to those questions whatsoever. I ask you to draw him back to the relevant answer to the question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I again say to those opposite that it was an independent and proper process, it did not contravene the guidelines and there was not a cook-up. There was no cook-up. There was no bullying. There was no intimidation. I am going to compare and contrast the way the Public Service—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I have answered the member's question. I am going to contrast the way the Public Service is run now with then. Those opposite put a self-confessed electoral rorter in charge of the Public Service. Those opposite presided over a culture of bullying and intimidation. They would come in this place and ask a question—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you are well aware of the rules around the use of props in this chamber. If you are referencing the document that is fine, but no props.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not want to table it. I have highlighted so much goodness in here that I do not want to let it go. The contrast between the Public Service of today and yesterday shows the difference between the two sides of politics. They were prepared to have a self-confessed electoral rorter in charge of the Public Service. I ask the Leader of the Opposition: what selection process would lead to a Labor mate running the Public Service? What selection process could make Mike Kaiser a fit and proper person to lead the Public Service? Those opposite remain as crooked as ever.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the next question, member for Pine Rivers and member for Nudgee, you are both warned.

### Public Service

**Mr HUTTON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline what steps the LNP government is taking to restore confidence in and independence to the Crime and Corruption Commission and the Queensland Public Service?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for what is an excellent question. Part of the member's question refers to the Public Service. I want to thank him for his time in the Public Service as a great teacher in this state. He has made a great start to his time in public life.

The member asked about the importance of an independent crime and corruption commission. The member also asked about the importance of an independent public service led by someone who can truly be independent. A little later today, the Attorney-General will introduce legislation into this place. Do you want to know something, Mr Speaker? It would not have to be the case if those opposite had not fought against it for so long. It would not have to be done today if they had not fought against this for so many years. A former government so bereft of integrity was prepared to muzzle an independent watchdog, and that is why legislation is being introduced this afternoon.

Now that we have seen this report in the cold, hard light of day, how can anyone opposite—anyone—justify its being hidden from Queenslanders? How? What on earth is in this report that would not benefit people running a government from seeing it? What on earth is in this report that would not benefit Queenslanders from seeing it? There is only one thing: it is a cover-up for a mate. They were prepared to rack up dollars on the public purse to cover up for a mate—a mate who takes them skiing, a mate who pulls the strings and, in another case, a mate who has very close relationships with people in the Labor Party.

I look across the chamber and I see the people who have led to this culture. I see the same people, almost in the same portfolios, who held this report away from public—

**A government member:** Covered it up.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They covered it up. They hid it from public glare. The member asked about the culture of the Public Service. I am proud to have a public service led by a truly independent public servant. When I speak to public servants, they tell me about the culture of bullying and intimidation during the last term of government. They also tell me about ministers who would yell and scream and intimidate and bully, who were aggressive, who demanded things. It was not just the culture of those young advisers; it was ministers as well, and some of them still hold shadow ministries today.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I caution the member for Chatsworth for his chatter across the chamber.

### Under Treasurer

**Ms GRACE:** My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier advise Queenslanders how many people applied for the recent vacant role of Under Treasurer, and how many people were interviewed for the role?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In answer to the question about how many people applied for the role, there were three. One was ruled out of order but he still got the job. That is how many people there were. I read the report and it shows the culture of cover-ups, bullying and intimidation. I will not lead a government that runs its business the same way, which is why we do have proper processes and why we do have an independent Public Service.

I say to those opposite: I am prepared to look at the former government and say that the person who led the Public Service was inappropriate to lead it. I am asking those opposite to name who in this Public Service is inappropriate to lead a department—name them. I want those opposite to name one inappropriate person running a department. Just name them. I will have a go. I will name one. Are you ready? He was a former Labor MP, a former state secretary and a self-confessed electoral fraudster who was chased out of this parliament by the last Labor premier with an ounce of integrity. His name was Mike Kaiser. Not only did they cook up a process to give him a job as the head of the mines department; they then used that to parachute him to be the highest public servant in this state. What a mob of shysters. They learned nothing. This report exposes them for what they are.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, there are a couple of things: address your comments through the chair; your words describing the opposition are borderline unparliamentary; and address the question asked. You still have one minute and 20 seconds.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am proud to have a public service that is independent. I am proud to have a public service led by people who are appropriate. I say to those opposite: we made commitments to people before the election about what an independent public service would look like. We spoke about the continuity of some directors-general and the change of others. I ask those opposite: name one. I just want them to name one—anyone. Just name one. Which one? Is it the Under Treasurer? Surely someone with those qualifications could not be besmirched.

Is it my director-general? My director-general came highly recommended from Peter Malinauskas, from the Labor Premier of South Australia. He came highly recommended from the South Australian Premier, so I do not think he was ever on the Liberal Party state executive. I do not think he was one of the LNP's one-time running mates. This is an independent Public Service. For those opposite to come in here when they know that this report, which was hidden from Queenslanders, exposes how dodgy and how completely corrupt the process was shows that they have learned nothing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Inala, you are now joining the list.

### Crime and Corruption Commission

**Ms MORTON:** My question is for the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney advise why it is necessary for the Crime and Corruption Commission to publicly report on matters that have been referred to them?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is an important question. I thank the member for Caloundra for the question—a member who understands openness, integrity and accountability. She asks why it is important that the CCC be allowed to report on issues that are before them. There is no greater example than the two reports we saw released yesterday—the Trad and Carne reports. I have never seen the Trad-Miles opposition run so fast out of this chamber so they could work out what they are going to do about the release of the report.

**Mr Bleijie:** Faster than the ski slopes.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection: faster than the ski slopes. We know that Labor love their factional buddies, they love their skiing buddies and they certainly love their cover-up buddies. Why is it so important that they spent so long hiding this report? We only need to look at *Hansard* to see some of the comments that have been made. Who do members think said—

In particular, I thank Jackie Trad for her friendship, advice and campaign guidance.

That was the Leader of the Opposition's statement. What about—

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, for her friendship, mentorship and support over many years ...

I would say that would be the shadow treasurer, the member for Waterford. This is the one I loved. Who likes this one? This member described Jackie Trad as 'a fierce advocate'. I would suggest she probably should have said aggressive 11 times like this report indicated. That member would be the shadow attorney-general.

The member asks why this is so important. We only need to look at some of the comments in this report to know why they wanted to spend huge amounts of taxpayers' money hiding this report—and I am sure we will get to that—and the member for Waterford tried to indemnify former deputy premier Trad. Listen to this comment from the premier at the time—

The first one, she was begging me to appoint him and the second phone call was yelling at me and telling me that I was going to pick up the pen and I was going to sign the document and I said I'm not.

This is about the person who is running the Trad-Miles opposition. That is why these people over there—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yelling down the phone. That is why they did not want this report made public. That is why they spent so much of Queensland taxpayers' money covering up this report. We on this side of the chamber understand openness, transparency and accountability, unlike those on the other side.

### Under Treasurer

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier release the merit selection report of the recruitment process that led to the appointment of the current Under Treasurer?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I really, really, really want to thank the member for the question—the member who underwrote the cover-up of the report we are talking about today; the member who did not declare that it was her mate who took her skiing for whom she underwrote the cover-up of this. We are not talking about a member who was prepared to pay for indemnity. We are talking about a member who was prepared to pay for her mate to remain out of public sight.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order, on relevance, standing order 118(b). Nothing the Premier has referred to is in any way relevant to the question asked. I ask you to draw him back to a relevant answer to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier does have two minutes and 17 seconds remaining and I am sure he will answer the question in that time.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I sure will. In answering the honourable member's question, I want to look at the bona fides of what those opposite are trying to insinuate. They are trying to insinuate that somehow a public servant is obviously not fit for a role. I ask those opposite to compare and contrast the skill set and appointment of the current Under Treasurer with that of former under treasurers.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I have a minute and a half, I must finish this. In the case of the appointment that we are going through, the candidate was not viewed suitable. I want to compare and contrast the appointment of the current Under Treasurer to the last one. Mr Williams, is Cambridge educated, he has been in banking and finance for 30 years and he has come across to be the Under Treasurer. He replaced Mr Michael Carey who was the chief of staff of Cameron Dick. The reason—

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order while I hear the point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You were kind enough to give the Premier additional time when he had 2½ minutes on the clock. He has only 40 seconds on the clock now and he has gone nowhere near giving a relevant answer to the question. He has gone everywhere else except answering the question that was put to him. I would ask that you draw him back to a relevant answer to this question.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order, the Premier is being responsive to the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, could you address the context of the question in your last 40 seconds.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, Mr Speaker. There was a question about the appointment of the Under Treasurer and I am giving an answer about an independent and proper process versus the sham that we read about here. The reason I know Mr Michael Carey is that I watched the train wreck of him reading his CV in estimates when he was trying to justify how he could be appointed—how a Labor mate could appoint his former chief of staff. Those opposite come in and criticise the appointment of someone with 30 years experience. After reading about this corrupt process and after reading about the former process, they come in here after hiding this report using taxpayers' money.

*(Time expired)*

### Workplace Safety

**Mr McDONALD:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier expand on the Crisafulli government's commitment to foster safe workplaces, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any Queensland workplaces that may not have been respectful?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Lockyer for the question. It is an important question because workers should have adequate protections, they should have fair conditions in their employment, they should be well paid and they should feel safe in their workplaces, no matter where they are across the state—whether they are in the private sector or the public sector. They deserve fair conditions and to be safe.

No Queenslanders should be subject to workplace aggression, bullying or coercion. Yet—have I gone long enough before I can transition; I think I have—that is exactly what this CCC report into Jackie Trad shows did not happen. The aggression, the bullying, the fear, the intimidation, the culture of the Labor Party is laid bare in this report. We only have to go to page 8 of the report where the CCC chair says—

I believe that this is a significant report that must be read by all ministers ...

Yet Labor hid it for three years.

Talking about workplace aggression, the CCC report outlines that Jackie Trad aggressively and inappropriately interfered with the recruitment process. Former director-general Dave Stewart told the CCC he was influenced by Ms Trad's 'extremely aggressive lobbying'. He then went on to say—

We were at a State Disaster Management meeting and, quite frankly, I was attacked ...

Former director-general Dave Stewart further told the CCC—

... any phone call I had with Jackie Trad was never a pleasant occasion. They were quite confrontational, they were aggressive ...

He then went on, as it states in the report, to state that conversations with Jackie Trad—

... were very uncomfortable conversations, they were, she was very aggressive ...

Are we getting the hint about Jackie Trad? The CCC found that during a conversation with a regional mayor Jackie Trad stated—

... I'm actually putting the heavies on him to hold out until this is finalised and I'm hoping that it would be finalised.

What a disgrace. The Labor Party, led by the current Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who were leaders of the Labor government, could have tabled this report. It was as simple as a motion, like this government moved yesterday, and all the sunshine would have been on this report. It was as easy as it was yesterday. I have to say that Jackie Trad has come out today to respond. She says that the report was filled with 'subjective character judgements'. I think the report was full of truth—just ask Rob Pyne, a former member who had a confrontation with her. I say Netflix should drop Meghan Markle and invest in Jackie Trad because it would be binge-worthy.

### Under Treasurer

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Was the Premier aware prior to the appointment of the new Under Treasurer of the Treasurer's close personal and professional connection with Mr Williams?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I allowed the suckers to come in and so now here is the answer. I knew this was coming, which is why I have held this one back. The Leader of the Opposition is as predictable in that role as he was in this one. So here goes: it was an independent process led by my director-general. How is that one? It was led by my director-general. If they are going to besmirch my director-general, I

suggest they pick up the phone and ring Peter Malinauskas, the Labor Premier of South Australia, because he said to me that he was a very good public servant, and I tend to agree. I saw him when he served those opposite. He was a very good public servant. That is the sort of person I want.

The Leader of the Opposition was always trying to do this. He was always trying to paint the picture that it is 'because of a connection' or 'because of a relationship'. The Under Treasurer has had 30 years in banking and is Cambridge educated. He is somebody who is above any form of reproach, someone who is not in any way political—someone who has never been a chief of staff for a treasurer, someone who has never been a Labor MP, someone who has never been a member of the Labor Party, someone who has never been a commentator on the news on election night, someone who has never been chased out of the parliament by Peter Beattie, someone who has never been a self-confessed electoral rorter—just someone who has worked in banking!

I would have thought that would be a reasonable selection process. Despite that, he went through an independent process done by the director-general of Premier and Cabinet. On a day when their selection process is in the news, you would think those opposite would bunker down, wouldn't you? You would think someone in strategy land would say, 'Hey, guys, is there anything else? Can we try to talk about something other than an Under Treasurer because our record ain't good!'

Michael Carey, the former chief of staff for the then treasurer, gets picked up: 'Hey, buddy, just bring your red hat and we're going to put you here and you just give us independent advice.' Then we had Mike Kaiser: 'Hey, mate, we're just going to put you here.' Then there is only one candidate who does not cut the mustard but he is the one who gets the job—and they come in here today with this! The Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Woodridge!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The only thing more certain than the fact that the Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job is that the same rotting mess that presided over this continues to preside over the leader of Her Majesty's opposition.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge, you are joining the list of those on a warning.

### Government Expenditure

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer indicate why treating taxpayers' money with respect is a priority for this government, and is the Treasurer aware of any approaches that differ?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Respecting taxpayer money is a fundamental principle of the Crisafulli government. It is something that we committed to before the election and it is something that we are delivering in government. We are doing that through delivering projects on time and on budget. We are introducing a Productivity Commission to ensure Queenslanders get value for their hard-earned taxpayer dollar in the services that they receive. We are commencing with Queensland Government Consulting to ensure we are getting the best services and the most capable and the best equipped Public Service to deliver more and better public services for the people of Queensland.

I want to contrast that with that person who would want to be treasurer—the shadow treasurer of Queensland. We have heard a lot of questions today, but there are a whole range of questions that the shadow treasurer needs to be answering in respect of how much she respects the taxpayer dollar. How much does she respect the taxpayer dollar? We have seen over the last 24 hours in fact how much she disrespects the taxpayer dollar. How much did she sign off when she was attorney-general in Queensland supporting her actions in the Peter Carne matter but, more importantly, her factional friend and ally Jackie Trad? How much did the now shadow treasurer but then attorney-general allocate in support of her factional friend? What kind of financial favours did she give her factional friend in Queensland? She spent \$300,000 of taxpayer money in support of her factional friend Jackie Trad.

**A government member:** That's a lot of trips to Whistler.



**Mr JANETZKI:** That is a lot of trips to Whistler, which were not declared for five months. Normally the indemnity granted by the Attorney-General would be in defence of a matter brought against someone acting in the name of the state. What is most shameful in relation to the \$300,000 that was approved by the now shadow treasurer is in fact that it was used as a sword. It was used not as a shield to defend Jackie Trad against an action; it was used as a sword in collateral proceedings. It was used as a sword rather than a shield. This is not just a misuse of the guidelines in relation to indemnity proceedings; it is a misuse of taxpayer money of Queensland. It was not just a misuse of the guidelines relating to matters regarding indemnity; it was a misuse of taxpayer money. They will never respect taxpayer dollars in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Under Treasurer

**Ms ENOCH:** My question is of the Treasurer. Did the Treasurer have any text messages, telephone calls or other communication with Mr Williams before or during the appointment process of Mr Williams to the role of Under Treasurer of Queensland?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am going to take the heat out of this question. I have been waiting all morning, hoping I would get a question on this. Let me say that it is a shameless attack. It is no wonder that Coaldrake handed down the report he did after the performance this morning from these people. It is absolutely no wonder.

Firstly, I want to respect and acknowledge the contribution of Treasury. In the three months I have been Treasurer I cannot imagine a more professional and diligent group of professionals in my 25 years working. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the Acting Under Treasurer as well for her wise counsel and for her hard work.

I am excited to welcome a new Under Treasurer to Queensland. I am excited because we have a Cambridge educated, 30-year banking professional as opposed to the former chief of staff to the member for Woodridge. If people recall—and the Premier alluded to it—if we go back through the history books, last year at estimates I actually asked the then under treasurer to speak to his experience and expertise. There was an agonising 30-second wait while the then under treasurer had to sift through his estimates folder and then he proceeded to read his CV. I can guarantee for the House that the new Under Treasurer will not have to flick through his estimates material to read his CV. There was an independent and proper recruitment process, as the Premier has said, in relation to the appointment of the Under Treasurer. I look forward to welcoming him.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Speaking of phone calls—thank you, Premier—what did the then treasurer say to the then premier? As stated in the CCC report—

The first one, she was begging me to appoint him and the second phone call was yelling at me and telling me that I was going to pick up the pen and I was going to sign the document and I said I'm not.

Aggression and intimidation—is it any wonder Coaldrake pinged that government for the misuse of the Public Service as he did? I look forward to a person who has succeeded in the private sector coming to offer their services to the people of Queensland.

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

### Workplace Safety

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline the importance of guidelines which support the implementation of Queensland's workplace health and safety laws, and can the Deputy Premier provide any examples of the guidelines not being followed?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. What a wonderful question. I can update the member. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start to restore transparency and accountability in their government. As Minister for Industrial Relations, I am focused on my core portfolio value of ensuring the Queensland government is an employer with a clear focus on respecting Queensland taxpayers' money. That includes a focus on Queensland workers having adequate protections and fair conditions in their employment. As I said earlier, workers should feel safe. When it comes to workplace

health and safety laws, there are clear guidelines with an overview of the laws and how they fit together and what they require employers and workers to do. Codes of practice also provide practical guidance on how to meet the standards set out in WHS regulations.

I am asked by the honourable member about any examples of where there are other guidelines that may not have been properly followed. There are, because I can advise the House that the CCC report into Jackie Trad details a litany of examples where the former government deliberately did not followed guidelines, including when it came to legal indemnity costs. Who was the former attorney-general who gave the indemnity and legal costs to Jackie Trad? It was former attorney-general Fentiman, Jackie Trad's former skiing mate. Former attorney Fentiman failed to disclose luxury accommodation in Whistler. Trad said it was modest, but when you look it up online it was anything but modest. It was a very nice ski lodge in Whistler. It is clear that the former attorney-general helped her best mate by giving her legal indemnity above and beyond what a minister of the Crown should have had. She used a particular clause in the guidelines, an exemption, to get around the rules. The attorney-general had to personally certify and approve it when it was outside the guidelines of approval, and that is what the former attorney-general did. It was confirmed by the former attorney and not declared that it was her best mate, her factional war lord and puppetmaster, whom she gave the legal indemnity to.

As I said yesterday, if you are subject to a CCC investigation or any investigation, civil proceedings, or defamation, a minister of the Crown should be covered, but not when you are trying to cover up a CCC report. The former attorney-general said it was collateral proceedings. No, it was not; it was cover-up proceedings. That is what it was. She calls it collateral; I call it cover-up and—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Use proper titles, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The former attorney-general should not have granted that extraordinary legal assistance and indemnity. I am calling on former attorney-general Fentiman to front the media today and explain why she did a dodgy deal for Jackie Trad, her mate she went skiing with. Why did she give the legal assistance when Jackie Trad ought not to—

*(Time expired)*

### Children, Hormone Therapy

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The AMAQ, countless medical experts and community leaders and thousands of ordinary people have openly opposed the LNP's ban on hormone therapies since denying access to this critical health service will cause significant distress and harm to already vulnerable children. Given how time-sensitive these treatments are, will the minister lift the ban to ensure young people can continue to access life-saving treatment?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. The position of the Crisafulli government in relation to the delivery of gender services has been made abundantly clear. The member for Maiwar would be well-placed to read both the media releases that have been put out and the reports in respect to the delivery of gender services in Queensland. Let me start at the beginning. Firstly, shortly after being appointed it was brought to my attention—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you are joining the list.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—that there had been unauthorised paediatric gender services delivered, supposedly, by the Cairns Sexual Health Service. I then spent the better part of a month getting advice in relation to the delivery of those services, which were unauthorised and were not countenanced by the health service executive. They had been progressing since at least 2016. These are services that require a strong multidisciplinary team approach to ensure that not only is there no harm to those children who are being provided with it but also that they are receiving a benefit from it. It became abundantly clear—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister is directly responding to the question. The interjections will stop. Member for Bundaberg, you are joining the list. I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Unlike those opposite, there is a good and proper explanation for the process the government is taking. It involves a series of unfortunate events that potentially harm children and it involves consent, which is a requirement of this process, where things had not been done properly. That then also raised a broader question. We know this is a contested issue, and it is contested—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is contested medically across the world.

**Ms Grace:** Rubbish!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Who was that?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear the member for McConnell interjecting 'rubbish'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, continue please.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear an interjection and I take issue with it because it is not rubbish. The Labor secretary for health in the United Kingdom has banned the prescription of puberty blockers as hormone therapy for children in both public and private services throughout the country, so if anyone says there is not contested evidence—

*(Time expired)*

### Crime and Corruption Commission

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Attorney-General. How will increasing the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission serve to improve transparency in government, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you very much, member for Thuringowa. As we have seen here today and yesterday, the tabling of the Trad and Carne reports has uncovered countless questions those opposite must answer, and none more so than when the former attorney-general granted indemnity to former deputy premier Trad. I have been listening to the Treasurer talk about figures. I am advised that Queensland taxpayers paid \$16,809 for private legal assistance while the CCC was investigating. After that the member for Waterford signed off on \$380,000 of taxpayers' funds. That brings the total that the former attorney-general paid to Trad's solicitors to \$397,182 of taxpayers' money.

The Trad tap is going to be turned off. She came to me requesting me, as Attorney-General, to pay more towards her—nearly \$5,000. Guess what? The Trad tap is turned off. I am not going to pay for Jackie Trad's legal fees. Queenslanders should not have to pay for Jackie Trad's legal fees.

Let's go to this report. We now know that there are questions that the former deputy premier must answer. I refer to section 305 of this damning report, where it says—

Because of section 8 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, it is inappropriate for the CCC to comment further, other than to note that, based on the matters in this report, Parliament may wish to consider and decide for itself whether it is appropriate to take any action.

There are so many questions left for former deputy premier Trad to answer to this parliament because of this report. I back the calls of the Deputy Premier when he says that the former attorney-general should walk out there and front the cameras and explain why the former attorney-general should not pay Queenslanders back the almost \$400,000 of Queenslanders' money. The former attorney-general has the hide to use our money for her best friend. I say to the former deputy premier and the former attorney-general: not under my watch. I will not pay your buddy's legal fees and nor should Queenslanders.

### Under Treasurer

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is of the Treasurer. The new Under Treasurer has just left People First Bank, formerly Heritage Bank, which is now closing 11 branches and services, including one in my community. Has the new Under Treasurer been appointed by the Crisafulli LNP government to cut services and close programs in Queensland, just like he did at the bank?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Clerk and I did not hear that question. There was way too much noise from the government side of the chamber. Questions will be heard in silence. If I hear anybody interrupt again, they will be warned. Member for Gaven, could you repeat the question, please?

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is of the Treasurer. The new Under Treasurer has just left People First Bank, formerly Heritage Bank, which is closing 11 branches and services, including one in my community. Has the new Under Treasurer been appointed by the Crisafulli LNP government to cut services and close programs in Queensland, just like he did at the bank?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I seek your guidance and clarification as to whether an element of the question contained an imputation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, you could say there are borderline imputations. I am going to give the Treasurer a little bit of leeway in his response. Treasurer, if you would take note of the question as asked as well, that would be good.

**Mr JANETZKI:** There are no depths that those opposite will not go to. Seriously, there are no depths that they will not go to to besmirch an individual in the Public Service. It just proves again that they have not learned anything from the Trad report; nor have they learned anything from the Coaldrake review.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Long before the yelling, screaming, intimidation and aggression that was on display in the Trad report, there are places in the Coaldrake report where it was discussed that public servants were yelled and screamed at.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan!

**Mr Bleijie:** They lived in fear.

**Mr JANETZKI:** They lived in fear; I will take the interjection. In this report that was released overnight, we learn of the aggression and intimidation. Those opposite will stoop so low as to attack anyone at an individual level who wants to work in the Public Service.

I want to compare and contrast the skill sets on offer here. One of the key recommendations of the Coaldrake review was that there should be a greater interplay between the private sector and the public sector. The entire point of the Coaldrake review was that we needed to have a transfer of skills, knowledge and expertise between the private sector and the public sector to deliver more and better services for Queensland. I am so happy that across the length and breadth of government we have people from the private sector wanting to make a contribution in service to Queensland. That is something we should be encouraging. It is something that the Coaldrake review talked about and it is something that we need to see more of for the good of our state. We need to see better government, and that means a more empowered Public Service and more capability into our Public Service. We have already spoken about our Public Service commitments. I want to see that kind of interplay between the private sector and the public sector. I want to see more people willing to give up a career in the private sector to come and serve their state. That is what I want to see.

I see a new Under Treasurer with Cambridge education and 30 years professional experience who is a highly respected business leader in this city and a highly respected business leader of this state who wants to make a contribution to our government. It just goes to show how low and how out of touch those opposite truly are. What would they rather see? Cameron Dick's former chief of staff—six under treasurers in nine years—who had spent more time reading scripts from Cameron Dick's office than answering questions. Is that what they want to see, or do they want to see a highly empowered and skilled Public Service for the future?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, you are warned. Member for Logan, you are warned.

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister outline for the House why it is so important that we as community leaders call out domestic and family violence in all its forms?

**Ms CAMM:** What an important question, and I thank the member for Theodore for it. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. Those opposite, including the former minister for domestic and family violence, are happy to walk past alleged instances of domestic and family violence from one of their members. I understand why we see a cover-up of the Jackie Trad report—because that is her mate. What I do not understand is why the former minister has not stood up, as an advocate for women, for her fellow female MPs who are scared and who do not want to sit with one of their male colleagues. Why hasn't she stood up and supported her fellow member at a press conference? She is happy to spend \$400,000 of taxpayers' money to protect her own friend, yet she will not stand up for some of those women opposite whom she sits beside. We heard the member for Mermaid Beach say earlier that our obligation as members of this House is to conduct ourselves to the highest standard. What we have heard today are excuses and justifications.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Every single head is down.

**Ms CAMM:** There are no interjections from those opposite to rescue and validate the member for Stafford, who it has been alleged faced a court on a domestic incident. There have been no comments made from those opposite.

We have heard a lot about selection processes. We have heard a lot about a merits-based process. In this House, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the government to appoint the member for Stafford to a committee, for a pay rise—a merits-based process—yet women and MPs from those opposite, some of them now with their heads down, have not come out and supported the member for Stafford. I call upon them to do so. I call upon the former attorney-general, in her press conference today, to endorse her support for the member for Stafford, who was absent from this House for 100 days, who has not answered to this House when we are to be held to the highest standard of conduct: why he had to confront a court, why the police were called to his house, and why there are allegations of a domestic incident. Why is it important? It is important that we hold a high standard. I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli government that has a high standard, a Crisafulli government that is not going to condone bullying, that is not going to condone harassment and that is going to call out poor behaviour when we see it time and time again. What we have heard from those opposite and from the female members on that side of the House who used to lecture us is silence.

*(Time expired)*

### **Public Service, Appointments**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Premier. In respect of new directors-general appointments, how is the Premier deciding to directly appoint people to some positions, as Newman LNP government director-general John Sosso, but require others to go through a merit-based recruitment process?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** If it is not bad enough that those opposite will criticise someone with 30 years experience in banking, they have now criticised someone with 30 years experience in the public service—someone who is part of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, someone who has served his state with distinction and an Under Treasurer who has dedicated his life to the finance sector.

I have seen some bad strategies, but what has been revealed today from those opposite is worse than yesterday. It is worse than Tuesday. I know the long climb out of opposition is tough early, but I have never seen an opposition leader make such a bad start to his career as the member for Murrumba. This is an opposition that cannot even execute a strategy.

On a day when the most damning report, where hundreds of thousands of dollars has been spent to cover it up, comes to light, they choose to shine a spotlight on the appointment process. Their only way to try to crab walk out of a culture of misery that still persists is to try to besmirch independent public servants. I will join the chorus from those opposite when the shadow treasurer does her press conference today to address the allegations—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was about the difference between merit-based selection processes or direct-appointment processes. I ask you to draw the Premier back to the point of the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question was around the selection process, Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is, Mr Speaker, and the difference between this side and that one is we do not get processes and compromise them and then have the mother of all cover-ups. I have a minute to go and I need to use it.

When the member for Waterford does her press conference today to defend the individual that she ran away from the other day, when the member for Waterford does the press conference today to explain why she wrote a cheque for \$400,000 to proactively cover something up, when the member for Waterford does her press conference today to say whether or not the Attorney should have turned the tap back on, I want her to answer this question: which public servant does not deserve their job? Is it the Director-General for Tourism and Environment? Is it her? Is it someone who has worked across the state in tourism and environment? Is it Mr Sosso who has worked 30 years in the public service? Is it Mr Williams—30 years? Or is it my director-general who has come to Queensland to serve our state after serving interstate under a government of another political persuasion and served under those opposite?

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

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.44 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

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

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

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### North Queensland, Weather Events




**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (11.45 am): I move—

That this House:

1. acknowledges the devastation caused in North Queensland by heavy rainfall and flooding earlier this month;
2. pays respect to those who lost their lives as a result of heavy rainfall and flooding earlier this month, and extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones;
3. extends support to those who have lost their homes, property and personal possessions;
4. places on record its thanks for the tireless efforts of all emergency service personnel, frontline responders, local, state and federal agencies, community members and volunteers, and members of the Australian Defence Force who came together to support North Queenslanders and continue to support them through the recovery phase; and
5. commits to working with all affected communities to ensure that Queensland recovers from this disaster, with a focus on increasing resilience for future events.

The effects of the flood in North and Far North Queensland will be felt for many years to come. The memories, the loss, the devastation and the heartache is something that all in this House will carry heavy in our hearts, as will those brave communities. On this motion, it is appropriate we pause today and reflect on the triumph in the face of tragedy. To every worker, many of whom came from interstate to help North Queenslanders in their hour of need, we say thank you: the SES, many of whom have been impacted themselves, the fireies, the police, the ambos and the state government agencies. We saw Queensland Rail workers ferrying people over a crossing of a bridge that had been damaged to ensure people could reconnect. We have seen workers there to pick up the pieces. We have seen local members from across the political divide who have been proud servants of their communities. I want to acknowledge that today. Above all, we have seen the North Queensland spirit on display: neighbours helping neighbours, strangers helping strangers, a triumph in the face of tragedy.

I talk in the motion about the need to increase resilience. Some good must come from this heartache, and that good must be a North Queensland that is more resilient to handle the next challenge Mother Nature throws at it. We must build resilience. We must ensure people can not only pick up the pieces but also be in a better position next time to handle it. We must ensure these communities know they matter and that we will be there to see it through. Above all, long after the glare of the cameras disappear, we must continue to go there and enable this proud region to pick up the pieces from the tragedy that has unfolded.


 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (11.48 am): I rise to speak in favour of the motion standing in the name of the Premier. I want to speak about a story of strength, unity and resilience—a story about the unprecedented floods that have affected our beloved North Queensland. This recent disaster has been one of the most devastating floods to hit the region in living memory, leaving thousands of families displaced, homes destroyed and livelihoods disrupted. In the face of such adversity something truly remarkable has emerged: the unwavering spirit of community. We saw kindness, courage, compassion and an example of what it means to be part of the North Queensland spirit. It is in these moments that we truly understand the power of unity. Whether it was volunteers on the front lines, local businesses providing resources or emergency services working around the clock, our community came together in the face of such disaster. This spirit of resilience, of standing tall in the face of hardship, will be the foundation of our recovery. I must also acknowledge the role of government, local organisations and all levels of support. In these challenging times we are reminded that recovery is not just about infrastructure and rebuilding but also about emotional and mental wellbeing. We must continue to work together to ensure no-one is left behind and that all affected by these floods have the support they need to heal and move forward.

There will be many challenges on our path to recovery, but I have no doubt that we will emerge stronger. North Queensland has always been a community of resilience, a place that knows how to stand tall in the face of adversity. Now we will show the true strength of our spirit. I would like to offer my prayers and condolences to the families of the two locals who tragically lost their lives during this event.

To the people of North Queensland, especially Townsville: thank you. Your courage, compassion and determination inspire us all. We are proud to stand with you as you rebuild, recover and rise from this disaster. Together, we are more than just a community; we are a family. To all of those incredible men and women who came to offer aid and to the many caring people we have met along the way in our community: thank you.

I want to acknowledge the true strength and leadership of our Premier—his determination and looking outside the box to find solutions and effective ways of providing alternatives to get roads open to the community for vital goods and services. Premier, you were there day after day, genuinely caring for our community. On behalf of the locals in North Queensland, I take this opportunity to thank you. During this event and the days and weeks after, affected residents did not just see the Premier; they felt they saw a true local who shared the heartache and understood what we needed. The Premier's grassroots as an Ingham boy and his love and respect for Townsville and regional Queensland gave everyone faith in the Premier. In the words of a couple I met during the event, 'Seeing the Premier here gives us hope. His genuine care and concern is evident. He is one of us.'

*(Time expired)*


 **Mr MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 am): I rise to support the government's motion following the devastating flooding we saw in North Queensland over the past month. As Queenslanders, we are strong and resilient. We prepare for the worst and rally together to build back better. That does not make each and every disaster season any easier. On behalf of the opposition—and I am sure the whole House—I share my support for those impacted across the north and I share my condolences to the families of the two people who tragically lost their lives.

The rainfall was fast, heavy and unrelenting. It inflicted serious damage to our roads and railways. Most significantly, it took with it the homes, possessions and livelihoods of so many families and businesses. Recovery will be a long road but, as Queenslanders, we are lucky that we know how to do it and do it well. This is testament to our state disaster coordination and reconstruction teams. I was thankful to spend time in both Townsville and Ingham in the days that followed. It was clear how strong the Queensland spirit is, even on some of our darkest days.

In Ingham I met with Josh, who joked that his wife would not let him take his motorbikes upstairs and away from the rising floodwaters. Even as his family piled their waterlogged belongings on the footpath, he still found time for a laugh. It was Josh who introduced me to his neighbour Julianne, a big Broncos supporter. Jules and her husband, whom she takes care of, had a big clean-up ahead of them, but with the support of the community they were getting through it. Luckily, they managed to salvage some of their photo albums and diaries. Sadly, we also remember the two lives lost in this tragedy. I share my thoughts with the family, friends and communities of Jessie Billy and Elaine Steley.

Of course, I would also like to thank the emergency services personnel and volunteers who are always there for us in the state's time of need. Our police, ambos, SES, swiftwater crews and firies: you answer the call and often when your own homes are also at risk. In fact, the effort from every state


agency to rally together during the response and recovery phase is outstanding and certainly worth recognising. I have always been in awe of the dedication of our front line and the Public Service to lend a hand when their fellow Queenslanders are in need. To the Ergon emergency crews who worked around the clock to restore power: thank you. To TMR, who worked so closely with the ADF to get the bridge up and running so quickly: thank you. We must focus on betterment and resilience—something I strongly agree with the Premier on.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.55 am): The people of North Queensland are no strangers to natural disasters, but the flooding that impacted communities in the north this year has been genuinely devastating for so many individuals, families, businesses and communities. This disaster has seen records shattered, with more than a metre of rain falling in Townsville in just one week. In Paluma alone, they recorded more than two metres of rain in eight days. For Queenslanders not living in the impact zone, every night we watched as bridges were destroyed, roads and rail lines were washed away and homes, shops and businesses were inundated. For some families, priceless family photos and heirlooms and the memories they captured and represented were washed away forever.

While natural disasters are not uncommon in our state it never gets any easier, especially when lives are lost. We grieve for those families who lost loved ones in this devastating disaster. I know that the member for Hinchinbrook has publicly expressed how one of those losses has deeply affected his community. Today, we remember those Queenslanders. We also remember their families. But if Queenslanders are known for anything, they are known for their strength and resilience. Although it will take time to heal and to rebuild, North Queenslanders will recover and their communities will build back better and stronger.

A special thanks goes to all emergency services personnel, including the police, fires, ambos, the SES—in fact all of our first responders, many of them volunteers or auxiliaries—who selflessly left their own homes and put themselves in harm's way to help others and to save lives. From right around the state and across the country, we have seen ordinary, everyday heroes roll up their sleeves to help North Queenslanders. It is important to recognise the outstanding efforts of the staff and workers of Queensland government departments and agencies and Queensland government owned corporations like the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Rail and Energy Queensland, who have all gone above and beyond to restore vital road, rail, energy and other essential service networks. Our thanks also go to the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and to local government staff whose backbreaking efforts made an enormous difference.

There is a long road ahead for communities in the north to recover and to heal from this traumatic event. In the months ahead, as impacted communities look to rebuild stronger and better than before, all members of this House will stand shoulder to shoulder, ready to provide any and all necessary support these weary communities need and deserve.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise today to acknowledge the devastation caused in North Queensland by the heavy rainfall and flooding earlier this month and to reflect on the efforts of all those who contributed during the initial disaster response and subsequent recovery efforts. Rain began falling in Townsville during the last week of January. It is our wet season—that is not uncommon. However, at the beginning of this month, we were struck with so much rain that many Townsvillians feared we would experience devastation rivalling the 2019 flood event, with over half a metre of water recorded over a weekend in some suburbs.

Local disaster management groups were stood up across North Queensland. For the next two weeks dedicated teams worked tirelessly to ensure our community was safe and to minimise damage caused to infrastructure by the weather event. In addition to the rain, over the same weekend, increased wind gusts shut down travel by air and sea, resulting in our already remote communities becoming even more isolated. Palm Island received six feet of rain in a two-week period. This caused landslips which took out power to the entire island including the water plant, which left Palm residents without power or water. The wind hampered the response but as soon as access could be provided, Ergon Energy in combination with Palm Island council worked around the clock to restore power and get drinking water flowing again across the island.

Magnetic Island suffered significant infrastructure damage to roads and bridges and lost power. As with Palm Island, access to Magnetic Island to enable key personnel to conduct repairs was cut and that made restoration of critical infrastructure such as power and water difficult. However, our Ergon Energy crews and our local emergency service personnel were up to the challenge. Townsville




residents were instructed to evacuate their homes; they suffered from flash flooding, sewage and water inundation, car damage, mould inundation, and interruptions to work and school. The community banded together. We have been supported by assistance from across the country and we, the state government, stood with them.

The Premier joined us on the ground in Townsville before the rain had stopped, while the disaster was still unfolding, and he did not leave the region until we were well on the way to recovery. We had ministers from across the cabinet join us for several days each throughout the event, some visiting twice over the period, as damage assessments were made and the recovery efforts began with some truly amazing efforts already behind us. North Queenslanders witnessed firsthand what a government focused on outcomes can achieve.

The road to recovery is not going to be fast or easy. We have committed to supporting those who were impacted and we will work with all North Queensland communities to ensure we will be more resilient to future events.

*(Time expired)*


 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.01 pm): North Queenslanders expect rain to fall throughout their wet season and most will expect an event of some nature through the summer, yet each year our state sees records smashed and recast as Mother Nature puts us through our paces.

The North Queensland floods were the result of a combination of monsoonal rainfall and a tropical low system that in some Queensland communities rained down measuring some two metres. The event was enduring. I want to acknowledge that through events of sustained rainfall—rainfall that feels like it will never give up—there is an emotional and psychological toll. North Queenslanders are often admired for their resilience, their endurance and for being tough, but enduring events like these that bring devastation, loss of property, loss of precious, irreplaceable keepsakes and loss of life are extremely testing times. Every Queenslanders is standing with the people of the north through this event and as they recover.

I acknowledge the emergency services volunteers and the frontline personnel who have worked through this event to keep our community safe and respond to the varying challenges it throws at us. It has been starkly obvious to me as I have connected with them on the ground that these humans have huge hearts. We have seen SES and rural firefighters in the hundreds come from interstate to lend a hand. The opposition leader and I even met with some Country Fire Authority folk who took the time to travel to the other end of the country in between protecting their own communities in Victoria from serious threats.

We share our condolences with the emergency services community and our orange army in particular through this event. Any loss of life is heartbreaking. To have loss of life through the actions of protecting life is even tougher. We stand in solidarity with them through these tough days that have passed and those that are to come. Emergency services volunteers sustained communities, kept them supplied and were critical for their restoration and recovery. To every one of them who took the time away from their family I say we are indebted to you; thank you.

I place on record the acknowledgements of the hard-hit councils and their staff through this event—the mayors, officers and teams who have all worked through sleepless nights and adrenaline charged days—they have given it their all. I particularly acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook and the members of his community who were so hard hit. The reconnection of essential services was a big job. The re-energisation completed by our energy workers was delivered with rapid outcomes. Thanks also go to our Army and Queensland Rail. The recovery and the rebuild work now begins and we on this side of the House will continue to stand with the communities every step of the way to make their communities more resilient.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.04 pm): I have already spoken in the House about the 2025 floods, but there is always more to say about an event that will be etched in North Queensland's history books. Firstly, I would like to pay my respects and extend my deepest condolences to the two families and the loved ones of those who lost their lives as a result of the flooding.


In weather events such as the North Queensland floods it is the role of a government to provide the tools and the resources and to support the community needs to prepare, to respond and to recover. From the moment that the first weather warning was issued, our government was there. Our Premier was side by side with our emergency services personnel to ensure that the north was prepared. As the rainfall continued, the Premier was side by side on the ground with our emergency service personnel

to ensure we could respond. As soon as the weather subsided, our Premier was there, side by side with our community to ensure we could recover. It was not just the Premier; it was also his cabinet, our ministry, who supported the community of the north. Thank you.

I must applaud the efforts of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who had a mammoth task after the Ollera Creek Bridge was destroyed by floodwaters. Within four days we had worked with the ADF's 3CER for a temporary bridge to be constructed to get that critical infrastructure needed to our Ingham community. Within nine days a new temporary bridge was constructed that was open to the community.

I want the record to show our thanks for all the efforts of those who were involved in the events—the emergency services personnel, frontline responders, our ADF, community members, volunteers, Ergon, TMR, SES, QBuild and Queensland Rail; we thank you. I want the record to show that they have a government that backs them, that supports them and that will continue to be with them on this path of recovery that we walk together. The Crisafulli government will ensure that our community recovers and recovers well, and we will build better.


We have announced disaster recovery assistance for individuals, small businesses, sport and recreational organisations, and registered charities to support and enable our community to get back up and running. Once again, the strength of the Queensland spirit and mateship has shone through this disaster event. I will continue to work with our government and our community in Mundingburra and the north to ensure that we are better off.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (12.08 pm): I rise to speak to the motion as moved by the Premier. Again, we have witnessed Queenslanders respond to nature's challenges bravely, selflessly and without hesitation. Despite those brave efforts, the cost of this weather event is substantial. Damaged homes and infrastructure will take time to repair, but nothing will replace those who lost their lives. I, too, would like to offer my sympathies to their families, friends and communities.

In the Burdekin electorate the town of Giru and nearby areas were again hit hard. In Giru itself the water level eclipsed that of the flooding in 2019 with many long-term locals saying it is the biggest flood they had ever experienced. Flooding, it must be said, is not a rare event in Giru. When I visited the community, residents aired their concerns about issues such as drainage, access to a landing site for emergency helicopters and a safe place to park their cars during flood events. A few days later I visited the community again, along with the Premier and the Minister for Police. We met with the emergency services personnel and volunteers, who worked day and night to protect and serve their community. I want to acknowledge the work they have done, and continue to do, right throughout North Queensland.

I also want to pay tribute to people like Jay, June and the team at the Country Ayr Motel who cooked some 300-plus meals to keep their community fed during the worst of the flooding and the other businesses and volunteers who stepped up during our hour of need. While actual flooding in the communities of Ayr and Home Hill was largely avoided, the impact of the weather event cannot be understated. Just like people at Majors Creek, for the residents of Groper Creek, Rita Island and other areas this weather event prevented access to work, to loved ones and to essential goods and services, including medication.

The Bruce Highway is Queensland's main artery. Closures meant food shortages, not just at the site of the closure but further afield. The closure at Plantation Creek, for example, contributed to food shortages in Cairns and Far North Queensland—more than 500 kilometres away. In 2019 I raised the issue of Plantation Creek with the then transport minister. What was the result? Absolutely nothing—more studies, more spin. Unlike the former government, the Crisafulli LNP government is taking action. Before the floodwaters had even receded, work had commenced on addressing the highway closures at Plantation Creek. My message to those affected by this weather event is simple: the Crisafulli LNP government will be with you every step of the way, right through that recovery process. To those who went above and beyond for their communities, on behalf of the Burdekin community I say thank you. We were hit hard and Mother Nature tested us, but it did not break our spirit.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier. I want to take the time today to acknowledge those who lost their lives during this weather event: Jessie Billy, 63 years of age; and Elaine Steley—a friend of mine, a pioneer in the trucking industry, someone who was a fierce advocate for anyone who needed support and a lover of birds. I want to take the time to acknowledge Mayor Ramon Jayo, Mary Brown and the local disaster


management group in the Hinchinbrook shire as well as the local disaster management groups in the Townsville City Council footprint and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council area, led by Mayor Teresa Millwood.

I want to acknowledge the SES, the police, the fire and emergency services personnel and the swiftwater rescue people who came to our aid in the Hinchinbrook electorate and in the Northern Beaches of Townsville and in Cardwell. I also want to acknowledge the health workers—the people who kept our hospitals open and our nursing homes operating, the GPs who worked without their offices being opened and off-duty nurses who helped people within the community across the whole of the Hinchinbrook electorate. I want to acknowledge our flood wardens such as Robert Lyons, Andrew Carr, Robert Bonassi and Mark Regazolli, who went above and beyond—unpaid people who were out there making sure things were running smoothly. I also want to acknowledge those who did not have a badge or a formal recognition of their position during the floods but who were community members who stood up to help their community such as those who opened up community centres to make sure people had somewhere to go, somewhere to be and somewhere to feel safe.

I want to talk about the people who helped feed everyone during this event. The Lees Hotel stayed open and cooked by candlelight to make sure the local disaster management groups and the emergency services personnel were fed during this time. The Forrest Beach shop worked with the Forrest Beach supermarket to ensure it got all of the food that was around Forrest Beach and was cooking it for free. Those people in the community need to be acknowledged, and I could speak all day about them. I want to make sure the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre is acknowledged as well as the Ergon Energy staff who worked tirelessly in the worst of conditions with Telstra and Optus staff and NBN staff to restore services.

I acknowledge the QR workers who helped get people across the line and the Transport and Main Roads personnel who worked around the clock as well as the ministers, the shadow ministers and the Premier who came to town to make sure we were not forgotten. I want to acknowledge the people who have been raising money as well for the Hinchinbrook electorate through various flood reliefs—everyone from Ingham flood donations and Willows' Unite for NQ. The churches have also put their hands in their pockets to help out. Clubs Queensland has raised money by handing the hat around. Brothers in Townsville—we usually love the Herbert River Crushers—have come forward to help out, as have Givit and the AFL Suns in Townsville. I also want to acknowledge the work that needs to be done post flood. Homeless communities need support and businesses need support, as do harvesting contractors right through to tourism operators.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.14 pm): As we have heard in this chamber and as people across this state and the Commonwealth would be acutely aware, we have suffered an unprecedented rain event in the far north and the north. There is no doubt about it: it seems to happen a little more frequently than expected. This flooding emergency saw severe flooding and the evacuation of thousands, power cut to homes, businesses having to shut down and significant damage to the Bruce Highway, and we are very pleased to see the federal government make a significant announcement in relation to funding in that area.

This weather event saw homes from Gordonvale to Townsville flooded, with the hardest hit regions being Townsville, Ingham, Cardwell and a lot of smaller communities impacted in and around there that do not always make the headlines. Those residents suffered. They lost their houses, their possessions, livestock and crops, but it is absolutely heartening to see people come together to speak about this and I acknowledge the work that is being done to assist those people. Tragically, two people lost their lives in this emergency—one who made the ultimate sacrifice in responding to calls for assistance. Our hearts and thoughts go out to those grieving families and loved ones.

As in any emergency, the extraordinary and selfless SES are immediately mobilised the minute a weather warning is issued. I want to thank those wonderful people who risk life and limb for the work that they do. It is absolutely remarkable, and the only thing more impressive than that is their ability to be consistent in providing that support. To community groups, individuals and councils who opened and manned evacuation centres and brought comfort and a cuppa to residents who were riding the wave of emotions, we thank you very much for that. To the incredible Ergon crews who worked tirelessly to get the electricity supply up and running, to the council utility workers, disaster management teams and first responders and emergency services, we know your contribution is significant and remains enormously appreciated by the broader community. It is at times like these that we see the true spirit

shining through—as we have heard, through communities coming together to support one another at a time of great challenge, whether it is brushing and scrubbing and hosing out properties or providing meals and donations or food or simply a hug for those people who need that at the time.


The Defence Force has also played its role. I want to acknowledge that and the frontline workers who have tirelessly contributed to ensure the roads have been opened. We certainly learned that without trucks Australia stops, so I give a big shout-out to our truckies who had their share of challenges in getting these vital supplies into flood-affected areas. I say thank you. They were certainly a very welcome sight in Cairns on Friday afternoon where they had been very much needed. I want to extend the courtesies and thanks to everybody who contributed. When we come together we know the strength of our communities. We will face such disasters again and let us hope that we face them with as much resilience and initiative.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 for a particular purpose. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[115\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[116\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[117\]](#).

I introduce the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices which provide real-time alerts about the location of youth offenders with the intention of improving community safety. The application of an electronic monitoring device provides an opportunity for our hardworking police officers to know that youth offenders are complying with residence and curfew requirements and conditions. It also has the potential to deter offending, with the offender aware that there will be a record of their location at any given time. This bill pertains to the electronic monitoring trial and allows this to happen in certain circumstances. This trial has a long and complicated history. To understand where we are today, we must understand the decisions and actions that have brought us here.

In 2015, the then Palaszczuk Labor government systematically began introducing legislation that weakened our youth crime laws. It made detention a last resort, abolished finding of guilt while on bail as an offence and failed to meaningfully invest in early intervention programs or rehabilitation. By 2021, they had weakened the laws enough that Queenslanders were not safe. Australia Day that year marked one of the darkest days in Queensland's youth crime crisis. It is a tragedy that we know all too well: Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son, Miles, were heinously killed by a repeat offender at an intersection in Alexandra Hills. He was 17 years old, he was out on bail, he was in a stolen car, he was drunk, he was high, he was speeding and he had a history a mile long, including over 20 instances of unlawful use of a motor vehicle in the two years prior. Those on this side of the House called for breach of bail to be reinstated as an offence and the removal of detention as a last resort from the Youth Justice Act because we could see the human cost of Labor's weak youth crime laws. Youth offenders with extensive criminal histories were being released on bail rather than detained and all too often went on to reoffend with no consequences.

Instead of listening to what we were calling for, what Queenslanders were calling for and what the families who had lost loved ones to the youth crime crisis were calling for, the former Labor government introduced a two-year trial of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail. The original trial was very limited. The youth offender must have been charged with a prescribed indictable offence and have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence; have been at least 16 years of age; have consented to wearing the electronic ankle monitor as a condition of their bail, and be living in one of the following five sites: Townsville, Moreton, Brisbane North, Logan or the Gold Coast.

In its first year of operation, Townsville had just three electronic monitoring orders imposed; Brisbane North had only one; and Logan also had only one. As for Moreton and the Gold Coast, they did not have a single electronic monitoring device order imposed on a youth offender as a condition of bail in the first year of the trial's operation. In total, only five youth offenders were actually ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device as a condition of their bail in the first year of the trial. With these numbers, it is safe to say that the former Labor government's original trial was an abysmal failure.

The trial had a sunset clause where it would completely expire on 30 April 2023. As the date for the sunset clause approached, the former government proposed an urgent bill to extend the trial for another two years because the original trial had failed to capture enough youth offenders in order for an evaluation to be completed. They also expanded the application. This time it would apply to 15-year-old repeat offenders, but many of the same conditions applied: youth offenders had to have been charged with a prescribed indictable offence and have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence, and they must consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail. By June 2023, three new trial sites were added: Cairns, Mount Isa and Toowoomba. In the year that followed, just 36 electronic monitoring orders were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. Mount Isa only had one order, Moreton only had three, Brisbane North only had nine, Toowoomba only had four, Logan just twelve and the Gold Coast only had seven. The numbers were clear. The piecemeal changes the former Labor government made were not delivering results and, because of the decisions of those opposite, electronic monitoring was left without a comprehensive evaluation.

On 9 February 2024 came an embarrassing moment for the former Labor government. The then police commissioner Katarina Carroll publicly called on the government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders, describing it as a 'very, very powerful tool'. Former commissioner Carroll stated, referring to our hardworking Queensland Police Service, 'We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail. And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant.' This was the frank and fearless advice Queensland's then police commissioner was giving the former government.


In the last days of parliament, the former government introduced the Queensland Community Safety Act and the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2024. This widened the list of prescribed indictable offences to include more violent and high-risk crimes and provided an option for the court to impose a monitoring device on a youth offender with a previous charge, rather than just a prior conviction. The regulation expanded the trial sites to include Brisbane South, Fraser Coast, Ipswich, Mackay and Rockhampton.

What the previous government did not do was extend the trial so a proper evaluation of the new conditions could occur. The trial is still set to expire on 30 April this year, just eight months after these changes. They did this knowing the trial was set to expire and this meant there would never have been sufficient time to properly evaluate the impact of the new trial. That is why we must act today. There was never going to be adequate time to evaluate the data arising from those changes before the trial was set to expire under those opposite. Without an extension of electronic monitoring, it would end abruptly on 30 April 2025 with no meaningful evaluation. I want to see that meaningful evaluation happen because I have seen the potential of electronic monitoring.

While the trial has been limited, and the failures of the trial have been pointed out, there are individual stories that show how electronic monitoring for youth offenders, when applied correctly, can reduce offending and provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and keep our communities safe. It has offered hope that a well-executed system of electronic monitoring could be an important tool in reducing youth crime and supporting rehabilitation. I will give members an example. In November 2024, a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person's high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend. From the cases I have seen, it is clear electronic monitoring has clear merit and that the current trial needs a comprehensive evaluation. The Crisafulli LNP government will ensure that this trial extension is not wasted. We want to see a comprehensive review to ensure our decisions are backed by evidence, focused on reducing crime and putting victims first.

I now turn to the bill itself. The bill proposes to extend for 12 months the expiry of section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act. The bill would mean that the expiry date becomes 30 April 2026. The bill simply extends the trial so that a robust evaluation of the trial can happen, including time for consultation with stakeholders, to inform decisions by the government about the use of electronic monitoring in the longer term before the provisions expire. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


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

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

### Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.27 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 28 March 2025.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (12.28 pm): Once again here we are moving an urgency motion in this House. It is incumbent upon this House to point out to Queenslanders that the LNP have failed to properly manage their legislative agenda once again. Almost nothing that they have brought into this House will be subjected to the minimum level of scrutiny that this House has decided is appropriate.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left and right!

**Mr de BRENNI:** The bare minimum level of scrutiny that this House has decided that stakeholders need to properly consider bills is a period of six weeks. In none of the cases that have been brought today and yesterday and the day before—that is, all week—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek clarification in relation to the member for Bulimba, who is currently on a warning. She is interjecting whilst on a warning.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Just before you jumped up, Leader of the House, I was about to ask the member for Bulimba to leave the House for one hour under the standing orders. Member, you are on a warning and have continued to interject throughout the contribution of your own member. Under the standing orders, I ask you to leave for one hour, please.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Bulimba withdrew from the chamber at 12.29 pm.*

**Mr de BRENNI:** In no case where this government have brought bills to the House and sought to have the House declare them urgent have they made out a legitimate case for doing so. Before the end of 2024, the opposition pointed out to the government the mistakes that can be made when they rush their bills through this House. At that point, one would have expected the Leader of the House and his cabinet ministerial colleagues would have considered how they could ensure they prepare legislation to be introduced into the House within a timeframe that would allow for proper and adequate scrutiny. We are on record saying that we will not oppose urgency where urgency can be demonstrated, but in the moving of this motion the minister gave no reasons whatsoever. The House can only reach the conclusion that the purpose of seeking to declare this bill urgent is to manage their woefully inadequate legislative agenda. On that basis, we cannot continue to support urgency motions that are moved in this House with no reasons being given, because stakeholders have said—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Coomera.


**Mr de BRENNI:** I will acknowledge that the minister said that the purpose of the bill is to allow for a continuation of the trial, but no reasons have been given for there to be an urgency motion.

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Minister, are you—

**Mrs GERBER:** Responding in rebuttal.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, Minister. I call the minister.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.32 pm), in reply: There is a complete irony in the member for Springwood opposing this bill being declared urgent when in 2023 they moved that the same type of bill for electronic monitoring devices be declared urgent and gave the committee even less time than we are giving the committee in this instance. They made it urgent and gave the committee even less time. Did the Manager of Opposition Business even know that? Did he stand up and rebut this without even knowing what they did in government?

Let us turn to the reasons this needs to be urgent. This needs to be urgent because the Labor government tinkered around the edges of electronic monitoring devices, knowing that there would be insufficient time for a complete evaluation of the electronic monitoring trial. Knowing that the sunset clause was approaching, they failed to extend the sunset clause. Why did they do that? Did they do it because they were never serious about electronic monitoring? Did they do it because they did not actually care? Did they do it because they were more about politics than they were about people?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is highly unusual for the member who moved a motion to then have another opportunity to speak. I spoke in response to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** For the member to have the opportunity to speak again to the same motion—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is the point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** The motion should have been closed off.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, thank you for attempting to raise that point of order. I have taken advice from the Clerk about this. The minister is entitled to close the debate. That is what the minister is doing.

**Mrs GERBER:** That is their Manager of Opposition Business. He does not even know the standing orders. He rises to a point of order—

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to seek clarity around your ruling. The standing orders do state that the Speaker must be satisfied that there has been a proper debate. There has been only one speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Morayfield, I have taken advice from the Clerk.

**Mr RYAN:** I rose to speak. I just wanted to seek clarity.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I reiterate the advice I gave to the Manager of Opposition Business, which was that I sought advice from the Clerk about this matter and have given the call to the minister.

**Mrs GERBER:** They do not want to hear it because they are embarrassed that this bill needs to be declared urgent because of their actions. Those opposite tinkered around the edges of the electronic monitoring device trial without extending the sunset clause, knowing full well that there would not be time for a meaningful evaluation and review of electronic monitoring. Why? I have outlined a couple of reasons, but maybe another reason is that they do not believe in electronic monitoring for youth and they do not believe in trying to make it permanent.

As I indicated in my explanatory speech, this bill needs to be declared urgent because the number of youth offenders subjected to electronic monitoring has been very low since the trial was introduced in 2021. The number is so low that an evaluation of its effectiveness in reducing reoffending has not been possible. A review has not been possible because those opposite failed to deliver an electronic monitoring trial under which youth offenders were actually fitted with electronic monitoring devices. In its first year of operation, only five youth offenders were ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device as a condition of their bail. Those opposite continued to make piecemeal changes to the electronic monitoring trial, including changes in 2023 that reduced the age to 15 years. When they introduced those changes, they declared them urgent. Therefore, I look forward to their support for this bill being declared urgent as well. They gave the committee even less time than we are giving the committee to consider the bill in this case.

Labor knew that the trial was set to expire when they made those changes and they did nothing about it, leaving the mess for us to clean up. Without an extension, the electronic monitoring trial would expire on 30 April 2025. I repeat: it would expire on 30 April of this year, with no meaningful evaluation. Courts would no longer be able to impose electronic monitoring as a condition of bail on children, and children currently wearing electronic monitoring devices—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order—and my apologies to the minister. The member for McConnel is also on a warning and is constantly interjecting across the chamber.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, thank you for your assistance. I have been listening intently to the Minister for Youth Justice, but I note your advice.

**Mrs GERBER:** This bill needs to be declared urgent because those opposite failed to extend the sunset clause. Courts will not be able to impose electronic monitoring devices on youth offenders after 30 April of this year unless the bill is declared urgent. We want to see a meaningful evaluation because we on this side of the House have seen the potential of electronic monitoring devices. We are committed to taking action to restore community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! Member for Chatsworth, you are warned.

**Mrs GERBER:** I have introduced a bill for that purpose. We now have two options for dealing with this problem, which we inherited. First, we could proceed under the standing orders with the minimum six-week committee inquiry before tabling the report. However, that option would not allow for debate until the sitting of 29 April 2025, meaning electronic monitoring would fall off a cliff and courts would not be able to impose it on youth offenders.

The second option is that we could take the pragmatic approach. We could declare the bill urgent and nominate a report date for the committee that would allow debate in the sitting week beginning 1 April 2025. This option would give the committee more than five weeks to consider the bill, less than half a week shy of the six-week inquiry period. This will achieve the necessary outcome, with only minimal deviation from the standing orders.

**Dr Rowan:** Ensures community safety.

**Mrs GERBER:** It ensures community safety—I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. The Crisafulli government is taking this approach. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 19 February (see p. 176), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.40 pm): How exciting that parliament is debating getting rid of two Labor taxes. That is what this debate is. In my 16 years in parliament, mostly in opposition, we have fought the good fight against higher taxation by the Labor Party. Today, we are debating getting rid of two Labor taxes: the patients tax and stamp duty for first home buyers buying or building their first home in Queensland. That is exciting.

For the last 10 years, the Labor Party have been increasing taxes in a cost-of-living crisis. The Labor Party's focus in the last 10 years was on increasing the tax burden on Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders wanting to buy their first home. It is exciting that today we are abolishing two Labor taxes.



The first one we are abolishing is stamp duty for Queenslanders buying or building their first home in Queensland. I am proud to chair the housing cabinet subcommittee with other members of the cabinet. That is about making sure we can get more supply in the market and more houses for young Queenslanders particularly. We are looking at doing everything we can.

One of the biggest burdens for a young person buying a house in Queensland is affordability. I note that we will also allow first home owners to make a bit of money by renting out a room and bank it. That was illegal under the former Labor government. It is clear that the Labor Party failed on housing. There is more homelessness than we have ever seen before. It is clear that the Labor Party failed. I see the former failed Labor housing minister across the chamber. He failed to release more supply, get more young people into their own homes and reduce the taxation burden.

The basic policy of the Labor Party is to have everybody rent for the rest of their lives. We need choice. We need there to be rental availability in the market but we also want to encourage people to buy and own their own home. Home ownership should continue to be the aspiration of every Australian and every young Queensland. Under the Labor Party, that dream went. We in the Liberal National Crisafulli government are restoring the dream of home ownership. That is why we are abolishing stamp duty for first home owners buying or building their first property.


I am not sure why we are calling it a boring revenue bill. The title of this bill should have been 'Abolishing Labor Taxes Bill'. That is what this bill should have been called. Maybe the Treasurer will move an amendment later, or someone may want to. We should do it.

Now let's talk Labor's patients tax—a tax that Labor denied existed. It does exist. The former treasurer, Cameron Dick, introduced it. He was so greedy for money. Former treasurer Dick was happy for Queenslanders to pay more to see their GP in a cost-of-living crisis and, I might add, a health crisis. I want to pay tribute to our GPs right across the state who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the last few years trying to ease the burden on our hospital and health system.

**Mr McDonald:** They picked up the slack.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer—the GPs are picking up the slack. I pay tribute to Jen and Dr Nicola who have a small practice on the Sunshine Coast in Caloundra. They had the courage to call out Labor's patients tax. They received an onslaught of abuse both online and through social media because they were calling out Labor's patients tax but they had the courage of their convictions. They did not want to see general practices close in Queensland. If Labor had been re-elected, Labor's patients tax would have continued and it would have been the end of bulk-billing as we know it in Queensland. There would have been more burden on our health and hospital services. We would have seen GPs close their clinics across the state. No-one would have benefitted from the Labor Party being re-elected.

The AMAQ described Labor's patients tax as 'a crippling patient tax that will mean the end of bulk-billing in Queensland'. Day after day, I saw Labor double down on their patients tax. Even during the election campaign, when we continually called out Labor's patients tax, Cameron Dick said it never existed. If it did not exist, we would not need a bill in parliament to get rid of it. It exists all right. Labor's patients tax exists but it is the Liberal National government that is getting rid of it. It is the Liberal National government's philosophy and ideology to have a smaller taxation regime. It is this side of the House—the Liberal National government—that is reducing the taxation burden on Queenslanders whether they are buying their first home or going to visit their GP.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee tabled its report on 7 February and has recommended that the bill be passed. The purpose of the bill is to allow first home owners when purchasing a new home or vacant land on which to build a home to not have to pay any transfer duty. It will also enable recipients of the transfer duty home concession to rent out a room during the first year of occupation and retain the full benefit of the transfer duty. It is also amending the Payroll Tax Act to introduce an exemption to provide that wages liable to payroll tax and the mental health levy do not include wages paid or payable by medical practices to general practitioners.

I would like to deal with the exemption for the general practitioners first. It is my view that legislating a payroll tax exemption for general practitioners is only required because of the LNP's offensive scare campaign. The Commissioner of State Revenue said that the impact of the GP payroll tax amnesty was already reflected in the published forecasts.

I wonder if anyone on the government benches has taken the effort to read *Thomas and Naaz Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2023] NSWCA40 in an attempt to understand the complexities of the payroll tax in this space. The subcontracting employment model that some GP practices operate under is very similar to the way many other businesses operate. The LNP say they are friends of small business. I wonder what the LNP will do when other contracting employment businesses come knocking once these laws pass to highlight the fact that these laws are not equitable and do not treat similar arrangements equitably when it comes to the payroll tax.

This payroll tax issue is not a Labor Party invention; it came about because, in 2020, a New South Wales tribunal ruled that independent practitioners were employees for payroll tax purposes. Under tax harmonisation arrangements between the states, in 2021 the Queensland Revenue Office—which has the responsibility to oversee these harmonisation arrangements—began auditing general practices using the new interpretation of the law, as it then existed.

It was not a patients tax, as those on the government benches would want us to believe. It is a complex issue that comes out of a New South Wales tribunal ruling which said that some doctors' practices were not exempt from payroll tax. To badge this as a patients tax is misleading, dishonest and lazy. I note that in his introductory speech on this legislation the Treasurer made no mention of the impact of the review of this exemption, showing that the exemption was already in effect in the forward estimates.

Like all Queenslanders, I know that we need more homes. I get calls in my office daily about the lack of housing availability, so I do support the attempts to improve housing supply, especially as Queensland has the lowest rate of home ownership of all states in Australia. Housing supply and affordability are a challenge in Queensland but also all around the world, so it is critical that the mechanisms in place are targeted to drive real change for first home buyers and for supply in the market. I hold concerns that completely removing the threshold on first home transfer duty concessions will not provide assistance to the prospective first home buyers who need it most. Instead, the change will provide tax cuts on multimillion dollar houses—something that will not move the dial on home ownership.

Submitters emphasised the importance of comprehensive policy reforms that tackle the underlying issues of housing supply and affordability. Without such a broad-based strategy, the bill's measures may prove insufficient in achieving the desired outcomes. It is especially concerning that those in the 25- to 39-year age bracket have more people renting than in home ownership. In the past, this age group was the main group purchasing homes. I believe that the government needs to determine the reasons for the change in this particular age group.

I would now like to turn to some of the comments made by submitters which I think are significant in relation to dealing with the reforms that are proposed under the Duties Act. The Women's Legal Service Queensland stated in its submission—

Domestic and family violence ... is the leading cause of homelessness for women, with 45% of all women and girls seeking homelessness assistance identifying family and domestic violence as a cause. Within the current context of the legislation, there is no express consideration of a person fleeing a domestically violent situation, or a requirement for this to inform the consideration of the Commissioner in any reassessment process.

The current structure of the 12-month occupancy rule makes it more likely that women who are non-compliant with the occupancy rule as a consequence of leaving a domestically violent relationship will also fail to come under the jurisdiction for an exemption from a duty in the federal jurisdiction.

Given this context, it would be appropriate to insert an express provision in the Bill to require consideration of those fleeing DFV in the reassessment process, or alternatively consider an expansion of the definition of "intervening event" to include circumstances where a person is escaping domestic and family violence, either expressly in the provision or through prescript under a regulation.

I also refer to the submission of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland. It stated—

The many barriers to homeownership such as housing accessibility, affordability and upfront costs, has led to more people renting, for longer periods of time.

...

The introduction of the new concessions, the concession for *first home and new home* under section 92A and concession for *first home that is vacant land* under section 92B (as well as the new mixed claim concessions under sections 93A and 93B), are a welcome change that we expect will positively encourage homeownership by removing part of the upfront financial barrier to purchasing a new home or building a new home for first home buyers.

There is, however, a lack of data available on first home buyer's purchases of new properties or vacant land in Queensland.

In our view, the use of the new concessions may be limited to an extent. The completion rates of new homes and rates of building approvals in Queensland are presently below the historical average, particularly in regional Queensland.

In the submission from Q Shelter, it stated in relation to stamp duty changes—

Australian Housing Urban Research Institute (AHURI) research shows that first-time home buyers nationally have received substantial expenditures ... in direct grants and tax concessions, over the past five decades. However, these policy settings are likely to have exacerbated, rather than alleviated, the challenge first-time home buyers face to finance home ownership by making housing more expensive in real terms.

...


In general, our sector supports policy reforms to abolish stamp duty and a broader reassessment of the tax and transfer system, which currently gives housing investors an economic advantage ... over first-home buyers as they compete in the market.

Q Shelter supports the measures proposed in this bill regarding first-home buyers.

...

This bill also seeks to allow first-homebuyer grant recipients in Queensland to rent out rooms in their properties for the first 12 months with no consequence for the grant they have received.

Q Shelter understands that the former government implemented this measure just before the caretaker period and the recent State Election. That was to be a trial for six months, and since then, the new government has sought to make the change permanent.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (12.56 pm): It was 11 years ago this month that my wife and I, after years of saving, had our block of land cut, ready for the start of the construction of our first home. It was a time of great stress and pressure—perhaps exacerbated by the impending birth of our firstborn child—yet as we stood on our block we were incredibly proud. We were proud because it was the product of dedicated saving, of choices to scrimp and save and to go without, and with the support and care from our family and friends and plenty of hard work we finally got there.

We were young professionals, both working in good jobs, yet when we went to the bank our fear levels had been through the roof: 'Will they let us borrow? Can we build the home we need for our literally growing family? Ultimately, can we afford to stay in the community where our support network, where our family and where our friends can be found?' These are the same conversations I have had so many times with prospective homebuyers in Keppel. My wife and I were lucky because, if what we faced appeared at the time as a hill to climb, our young people today are facing absolute mountains. Today, cost of living, inflation and rising housing prices are all making what has always been the Australian dream a lucky break—that is, if our first home buyers can afford it at all.

At the last election, I advocated for a fresh start for Queensland that included our ambitious promise to bring Queenslanders to the top of the home ownership ladder by 2034. This bill will abolish stamp duty for first home buyers, removing a significant cost, and will support demand for new builds in communities like mine in Keppel. This bill also acknowledges the much higher mortgage repayment costs faced by new homebuyers by giving them the freedom to rent out a room, giving them the freedom to choose to ease the financial pressure of their new build by way of including a housemate or flatmate. This is one way we can help.


To own a home has always been a part of the Australian dream. For many, their home will be the largest asset they ever own. It is a keystone piece of many Australians' plans for financial security in their retirement. As a government, the Crisafulli government, we are supporting Queenslanders to buy or build their first home. I commend this bill to the House and I commend the Crisafulli government for working every day to ensure Queenslanders have a place to call home.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hutton, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Economy, Credit Rating

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.00 pm): A credit rating downgrade was not on the cards for Queensland back in September last year, because at that time S&P could see the clear, responsible economic plan laid out by the former treasurer.

**Mr Crisafulli:** No. Oh, dear!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order, members! We will hear the member on her feet.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take the interjection from the Premier. I am not sure whether the Premier is aware but we were given a stable—a stable—outlook in September last year. Under his government we have had a downgrade. The only thing that has changed since September last year is that the LNP are now in charge. We have an LNP government more focused on political spin than sound economic—

**Government members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members! I was struggling to hear the member on her feet. Please cease the interjections.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The only thing that has changed since September last year, when we were given a stable outlook, is that the LNP are now in government. We now have an LNP government more focused on political spin than sound economic management. They are making a mess of the state's finances and it is Queenslanders who are paying the price. Since S&P revised the outlook for Queensland's credit rating, the Treasurer has been parading around like he has won some sort of prize. Someone should probably remind him that this is bad news for Queensland, not just for his government but for every Queensland family.

While the LNP want people to believe that this is somehow the former government's fault, it would seem that the Treasurer's latest political stunt has completely backfired. We said when they finally delivered their budget update a month late that they had juiced the numbers, and that is exactly what ratings agencies have also said. If you read the statement released yesterday from S&P, it is absolutely clear that they have called out this government and this Treasurer for this revised outlook. They explicitly said the government 'hasn't incorporated its own fiscal strategy or all of its decisions in fiscal forecasts'. In other words, the Treasurer delivered a budget update with absolutely no fiscal strategy or any decisions about how they were going to manage the budget. Isn't interesting that S&P had also previously called out the budget update, saying it was a political narrative.

*(Time expired)*

### Home Ownership

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.03 pm): In my first budget reply five years ago I spoke of the looming storm clouds. I spoke of the cost-of-living challenges on the horizon for the people of Queensland. I spoke on the pressures on businesses that came with rising electricity prices, the kitchen table bills and the struggles of everyday families. So we got to work. Over the course of those years we got to work listening to Queenslanders, sitting with real Queenslanders.


On Tuesday, those real Queenslanders got the first glimmer of any reprieve for a long period of time with the Reserve Bank's decision, but in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis it is incumbent on leaders to listen to Queenslanders, to understand their struggles and to deliver action for their hip-pocket pain. Today to help with that pain we are not just taking one step but taking two because that is what delivering looks like. That is what listening and acting looks like.

I want to reflect on home ownership and the challenges that Queenslanders face. I use the suburb of Biggera Waters—part of it in my electorate of Broadwater and part of it in the member for Bonney's. The ABS data shows the home ownership rate in Biggera Waters is 47 per cent—47 per cent. Fewer than one in two people in that beautiful suburb own their own home. I want them to be able to own their own home. Some people will choose to invest in other things, but where people want to own a home we have to make that a reality.

I look at the aspiration of young Queenslanders and I know that they want that. I know that Queenslanders in the area I represent, but indeed across this state, want the ability to own a home, and we are going to give that to them. We are going to give that to them with the first ever state shared equity scheme for those Queenslanders who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad. We are going to do that by removing a whopping big tax—the first time a tax has been removed. We are going to do that by ensuring there is adequate land supply by releasing an infrastructure partnership to increase supply and get them in the market.

I want young Queenslanders to know that if they aspire for a home I aspire to give them the opportunity to do it. The focus of this government will be on aspiration, on rewarding those who are willing to have a go and helping the less fortunate who fall through the cracks. It is infrastructure supply partnerships to get young Queenslanders into the market, it is more supply to put downward pressure on rents and it is partnership with the community housing sector and making sure that every single cent of the Housing Investment Fund builds new supply after a decade of inaction that has created Labor's housing crisis.

## Youth Crime


 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.06 pm): What a week we have had—week one of parliament and a fresh new year, but it is clear after this week's display that Queensland is not getting the fresh new start they have been promised under the Crisafulli LNP government. One would think that the LNP, newly elected after more than a decade spent in opposition, would come in here with a little bit more than salacious gossip and personal attacks. It has been 117 days and still no agenda but broken promises and policies that have failed to deliver.

The residents of Paddington in my electorate have asked me to come in here today to inform the Premier that his signature policy Adult Crime, Adult Time is failing. This time last year in Paddington we had just 12 offences. This month already we have had 38. Crime has trebled in Paddington in the time that they have introduced this bill. Locals are furious. They are scared. They did not vote for this bill, but now they are shackled to a policy agenda that is making things worse. I am working with a number of local residents to form our own Neighbourhood Watch group to identify local solutions that might help neighbours to regain their safety.

Before the election the Premier announced that there would be fewer victims. He staked his job on it—in 100 days crime would go down. What kills me is that they knew all along that this bill was never going to work, but it did not stop them from going out into communities right across Queensland—communities that were hurting, communities that loved their children but were scared of them and wanted something to be done. The now Minister for Victim Support, the member for Currumbin, and the now Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the member for Ninderry, went into these communities who were so desperate for an answer and told them that their children were the worst of the worst, that they were young terrorists and a generation of untouchables. They convinced communities that the only solution was to lock them up for longer. They convinced communities to invest even more in a carceral system with over a 90 per cent failure rate. We are a small business family. I can tell you right now, Mr Deputy Speaker, that, if we had a supplier who failed over 90 per cent of the time, we would stop investing in that supplier.

My residents deserve that same level of stewardship from this government. Adult Crime, Adult Time was nothing more than a slick slogan. It was never intended to drive down crime: it was designed to win an election. Continuing to pursue ideology over evidence is absurd. It is going to continue to drive crime up. Queenslanders deserve better than this.

## Member for Waterford; Kawana Waters Surf Lifesaving Club

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.09 pm): I wonder why on earth the previous speaker voted for the laws if she is so opposed to them. I remember there was a bit of friction at the end of last year when she sat in here with her earphones on for the whole debate.

We just heard from the shadow treasurer—I think the first time we have heard from former attorney-general Fentiman in the chamber all week. She did not address, being the former minister for women or the shadow minister for women, the allegations raised against the member for Stafford. She did not get up and talk about that. She did not get up and talk about her mate Jackie Trad and she did not address the questions we raised this morning, such as why she paid \$400,000 for legal indemnities for her mate Jackie Trad outside of the legal indemnities guidelines. She did not talk about any of that. All she tried to do—she must have been forced to come in here—was justify the bad budget position left to her by the member for Woodridge, who was in here. He just kept staring at her, making sure she kept his legacy, but it is a bad legacy. I would say to the shadow treasurer: do not go after that legacy, because it is not a legacy you want. It is a bad Labor legacy, it was a bad Labor budget and it is bad Labor debt.

The great news is that there has been a fresh start, including in Kawana, for the Kawana Waters Surf Lifesaving Club. As the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, I signed a ministerial infrastructure designation in February which will begin the renovation of the Kawana Waters Surf Lifesaving Club. The wonderful lifesavers at the Kawana surf club look after one of the longest stretches on the east coast of Australia. As their local member and the minister, I was proud to sign the infrastructure designation to get that renovation underway.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the former planning minister, who did not sign the designation. I had to do it because it sat on her desk for too long. I was proud to do it. She wasted so much time with politics that she did not get on with the job, but I am happy to do it.


This ministerial infrastructure designation is on top of the \$10 million we committed for a new Kawana surf club. They are going to get not only a little renovation for the surf lifesaving club and the Kawana Waters RSL subbranch—because veterans need to be looked after in our community—but also a new supporters club. This government, with a fresh start, took a commitment of \$10 million—

**Ms Grace:** Pork-barrelling is alive and well.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take interjection from the member, who is out of her seat. She says it is pork-barrelling. No, it is not; it is an investment in areas on the Sunshine Coast because the Labor government failed to invest on the Sunshine Coast when they were in power. For 10 years they rejected the Sunshine Coast. They failed the people of the Sunshine Coast. That is why the LNP won every seat on the Sunshine Coast. That is why the Labor Party was rejected in Caloundra and Nicklin. We will continue to deliver a fresh start for all of the seats on the Sunshine Coast because we love the Sunshine Coast. We will fight for the Sunshine Coast. I want to thank Shane and the team at the Kawana Waters Surf Lifesaving Club for their amazing advocacy, because they are getting a new club under this LNP government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): The member for McConnel will not interject from a seat other than her own.

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.12 pm): It has been just over 100 days since the LNP government was elected and what a disappointing 100 days it has been for Queenslanders. The people of Queensland were promised a fresh start—a government of accountability and transparency, a government that mean what they say and do what they promise, a government that value an empowered and respected Public Service. Those are their words—all direct quotes.


Promises matter and memories are much longer than the new government is giving Queenslanders credit for. As much as the Premier and Deputy Premier might hope that Queenslanders are talking about their extraordinary achievements to date—including having a meeting, directing departments to do some things and starting work on a tender—what Queenslanders are actually talking about is how in its first 100 days the government: gagged the parliament from discussing women's reproductive rights; cut the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry without a modicum of respect and dignity for the chair or elders; cut pill testing; banned access to public health services for trans young people; rammed youth justice laws through the parliament without consultation with stakeholders, service providers or victims; were called out by S&P Global Ratings agency for exaggerating budget estimates for political pointscoring; and refused to release cabinet documents. 'Lazy or incompetent?' the news coverage asked. I think both.

The government unceremoniously marched 10 directors-general from their offices—they were met in the car park by security—without warning or the respect due to any public servant or worker. If those opposite think there are only 10 people out there reflecting on the disgusting way the government treated them, they do not know the Public Service and the way that every detail of how this new LNP government treated those 10 'empowered, respected and homegrown' public servants—their words—reverberated through the tens of thousands of public servants in their respective departments. That is a true reflection of just some of what they have really accomplished in their first 100 days. Print that list on your oversized corflutes and put green ticks beside it, because that is the real story.

The sad reality is that some elections are won on hope, some on fear and some on a single policy vision or response. The new government has the unenviable record of having won an election on slogans. The problem with slogans is that, while they might be catchy, memorable or even clever, they lack substance. We are now seeing the result of a lack of substance from those opposite. There are no policies, no plans and no vision. Queensland deserves better.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Gold Coast City councillors Dan Doran, Josh Martin and Nick Marshall. You are very welcome here, gentlemen.

### Nanango Electorate


 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.16 pm): I add my welcome to those hardworking Gold Coast councillors.

I would like to talk about Harlin State School. As people in this chamber may know, I talk about it each and every year. It is one of my nearly 50 schools. It is a beautiful little school nestled in the Brisbane Valley. I give a big shout-out to Henrietta, Blake and Harlon, who are the proud 2025 school captains. It was an honour to visit—I have been every year since they were in prep—and present their badges. We know that small schools make the world go around. They shape well-rounded, confident little individuals, offering unique opportunities for growth and connection. Again, thank you to Harlin State School.

This weekend the mighty Cooyar show is on. I cannot wait for Jason and I to get out there. Please come out and support it. President Scott Duncombe, Brianna, Paul and their team are putting on a brilliant show weekend. They have put together an exciting program, so get out there to the bull and bronc event at the end of the Cooyar show on Saturday night. As a proud sponsor of the Cooyar show, I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. It is the start of the show season for the Nanango electorate. I have one nearly every weekend.

In my remaining time I would like to talk about the beauty of the Nanango electorate. For many years, rural communities like yours, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, and the Minister for Local Government's have had to contend with a shortage of health professionals, but here is the exciting part. The Nanango electorate is not just a rewarding place to work; it is an extraordinary place to live and play. We have vibrant communities, stunning countryside and a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. It is the perfect spot to build that meaningful career and bring up your kids. There are amazing little schools as well. You just know that tight-knit communities, like many of mine, are where volunteers come from. That is where community spirit comes from. People dedicate their time to the hardworking SES and rural fireies. To all of those people who travelled north to help their further north cousins, thank you. I also give a big shout-out to all of our hardworking police, who worked overtime arresting all of these extra little kids under the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.19 pm): When my children were young and learning to read, we would practise our active verbs. Members would know them—run, walk, jump. For example, I might say, 'The member for Kawana talks for an incredibly long time.' The active verb is 'talks'. When the Crisafulli LNP government released their first 100 days report card, I read it with great interest and was hoping to see some of these strong active verbs—words like 'complete' and 'finish'. What have we got? We have got 'begin'; there is a lot of 'begin work'. They do not finish anything in 100 days, just 'begin'. We have 'start', which is the same as 'begin'. We have 'commence', which is also the same. Let me see what else. 'Meet'—that is so active! I think I have done 100 days of 'meet' as well. 'Hold'—I think that one has everyone excited but, hang on, no, it just says 'hold our first LNP cabinet meeting'. That is just another way of saying 'meet'. We have 'refocus', 'publish' and my favourite 'ease'—maybe it should be 'easy', which is what this government seems to be doing if this week is any example. They are taking it easy.


I also have a few choice active verbs for the new LNP government and I promise they are all parliamentary: 'fail'—despite all the promises and commitments made to the people of Queensland, it is clear that the LNP's rushed youth crime laws are failing, with youth crime up since they were enacted; 'forget'—forget to include rape and attempted murder in their youth crime laws, an omission made stark by recent events; 'blame'—blame each other for forgetting to include rape and attempted murder in their youth crime laws; 'inflate'—inflate midyear budget figures that even independent ratings agency S&P Global say are clearly overcooked and politically motivated and which have now led to a downgrade; 'overstate'—overstate the cost and timeframe of Cross River Rail by adding 30 years of maintenance cost projections and independent certification refuted by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator; 'hide'—hide cabinet documents, and we have barely seen any, so either it is a very light cabinet agenda or they are simply not releasing those documents—where is the sunshine now? and 'deflect'—something the LNP government is desperate to do as it becomes clearer each and every day that governing is hard, they are not up to it and they have no real forward agenda for the people of Queensland.

After all that, the worst aspect and the most disappointing is that in 100 days the LNP is employing the grossest of tactics—again, to deflect from their lack of any real vision for this state. Whilst I think tabling secret photographs of other members has backfired badly—and I would encourage everyone to read Caleb Bond's news.com article today—it is hardly surprising from the LNP. I will leave the House with one more active verb—'fight'—because on this side of the House we are not going to be intimidated by their creepy photos. We are going to fight for our communities.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order! The House will come to order. When no member has the call, the Speaker does—in fact, the Speaker does at all times. There will be silence in between members being on their feet to speak.

### North Queensland, Weather Events; Queensland Fire Department

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.22 pm): Queensland Fire Department personnel have worked around the clock to keep North Queenslanders safe and support the recovery.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Members to my left.

**Ms LEAHY:** Throughout the peak of this devastating weather event, around 500 fire and rescue personnel from across the state were providing support daily to impacted communities. These personnel responded to over 1,070 incidents relating to this weather event. The Queensland Fire and Rescue swiftwater floodwater rescue crews rescued 106 persons and two animals and evacuated 103 persons and 16 animals. The swiftwater rescue crews were strategically pre-positioned in high-risk areas ready to respond. Rural Fire Service staff and volunteer members, as well as auxiliary and permanent firefighters, were also on the ground in impacted communities. They completed washouts of more than 160 homes and businesses as part of the recovery efforts.

Specialist fire and rescue firefighters completed over 2,900 damage assessments, providing valuable data for the recovery operations. QFD drones were also used to gather crucial aerial intelligence. Their 276 flights clocked up in excess of 28 flying hours, which is a very big effort from them. Nine aircraft from bases in Townsville, Innisfail and Cairns were also deployed throughout the region to provide support by transporting rescue crews, essential supplies and freight to impacted communities. The total number of aircraft hours during the disaster was in excess of 149 hours.


The QFD also set up two 90-person temporary accommodation facilities in Ingham and Townsville to accommodate emergency services personnel, including hundreds of State Emergency Service volunteers and interstate colleagues. This critical capability eases the burden on accommodation in these impacted communities so support personnel can be in place but not to the detriment of housing displaced members of the community. In many cases, those community members need that emergency accommodation.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to start warning members. Members to my left, that is your final general warning. Your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms LEAHY:** The facilities provided crews with a place to eat, shower and sleep. The disaster response and recovery efforts have been massive and the work of everyone involved cannot be overstated. The Queensland Fire Department continues to assist during the recovery phase, through conducting damage assessments and supporting the SES with washout tasks. There are quite a number of those to undertake. On behalf of all Queenslanders and the parliament, I would like to thank all of those frontline personnel for their huge efforts during this devastating flood event in North Queensland.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.25 pm): We have had 100 days of an LNP government: 100 days of doubts and disappointments, 100 days of cuts and soon-to-be cuts. That is what we have seen from this Crisafulli LNP government. The first cuts came in health. Health is something that LNP governments in this state despise. We saw the cuts to the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. We saw the cuts to pill testing that would keep people safe from the harm of illicit drug use. We saw proposed cuts to infrastructure and now we have uncertainty about the future of the new Bundaberg Hospital project.



In December last year I asked a question on notice to the health minister. I asked the minister to advise on expenditure to date of the \$1.2 billion costed hospital, the updated project budget and the completion date. What we got was an answer that shows that the LNP are gearing up to cut this hospital from our community in Bundaberg. The answer from the health minister stated—

As at the 28 October 2024, the new Bundaberg Hospital was publicly announced at \$1.2 billion—

Yes, it was. He went on to say—

... however several hospital expansion projects across Queensland have suffered from significant cost blowouts and project delays from what was announced by the previous government.


The health minister then went on to say—

The Government has appointed an independent team ... to conduct an analysis of the cost blowouts within the Capital Expansion Program, which includes the new Bundaberg Hospital.

The problem is that at no point has the lead contractor, CPB, ever said that the project was not on cost and on budget. At no point has the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service ever said it is going to be more than the original \$1.2 billion cost that the Palaszczuk and Miles governments put it at. At no point has the chair, the CEO or the infrastructure team said that it would not be delivered by its original expected date of the end of 2027.

What is the trigger for the LNP to put our new Bundaberg Hospital under review? Why have they said that they are going to put this under review for possible cuts, like they are going to cut the rest? Let us be honest, at no point did the LNP care about the new Bundaberg Hospital until they saw the polling in the lead-up to the election. All of a sudden, the corflutes came out and they said they were going to support the new Bundaberg Hospital—but they did not put 'public' on their corflutes, did they. When I put 'public' on my corflutes, they did not want to go near that. Why is the new Bundaberg Hospital under review by the LNP? Why are they gearing up for the cuts? Why do they not respect the people of Bundaberg who supported a Labor member who stands up for them?

### Currumbin Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.28 pm): In 100 days the Crisafulli government has delivered more for the people of Queensland than those opposite ever did in 10 years. I want to give this chamber an update on some of the local commitments for our local schools in Currumbin. We committed for Tallebudgera State School a brand new car park and for Elanora State High School a business case for a STEM centre of excellence. I am proud to update the House that the department is—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Order!

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Bulimba, I warn you under the standing orders. If that continues, you will not be the last.


**Mrs GERBER:** I am really pleased to update the House on the election commitments that the Crisafulli government has made to the people of Currumbin for our state schools. Tallebudgera State School is getting a brand new car park, and Elanora State High School is getting a business case for a STEM centre of excellence. I am really proud to advise that the department is in the process of acquiring the land to deliver that brand new car park for Tallebudgera State School. For Elanora's STEM centre of excellence, the business case is fully funded and ready to be commenced. I am so proud that we are delivering for our schools in Currumbin.

I want to give the House a bit more information in relation to Elanora's STEM centre of excellence. Before the end of term 1, technical specialists will have been engaged to commence the project planning. This is a \$500,000 investment in planning, and it will position Elanora State High School to be a school of the future. A STEM centre of excellence is something the school has been campaigning for and hoping for, for a very long time. The Department of Education anticipates the planning project will be completed by the end of the year. The STEM centre of excellence will absolutely enhance learning at Elanora State High School. It is a project that I am really proud of—a project that I am really glad to say is fully funded and will be delivered. I am really proud to be part of a school environment that is enhancing learning, particularly around science, technology, mathematics and engineering.

I also want to update the House in relation to the \$44 million behavioural boost that Currumbin schools are going to get. The Crisafulli government is delivering on our commitment to state schools to receive a \$44 million funding boost to reduce behavioural issues in our schools. I am really proud to

say that Currumbin state schools will receive \$319,811 of this funding. This funding will help schools hire new staff. It will help schools increase the hours for teacher aides and hire speech pathologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists so that our teachers can focus on getting back to basics and teaching our students rather than managing behavioural issues in our classrooms.

### Liberal National Party

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.32 pm): The fresh start that Queenslanders were sold is well past the first 100 days and it is already circling the drain. This is a government that went to an election with very little in the way of policy offering, and in the first six days of this parliament this Labor opposition has introduced an equal number of private members' bills as the LNP did in four whole years of opposition. They are big on slogans and short on details. Nothing has changed. This is a mob who made a report on their first 100 days, and all they can do is give themselves one big, green tick after another.


When it comes to the complexity of governing for and delivering for our state of Queensland, the job is not accomplished when all this unambitious government does is hold a cabinet meeting, start work on a tender and instruct a department to do something. These are the actions they are patting themselves on the back for. These are not grand accomplishments or jobs complete; they are BAU—business as usual. This is a phoney report card and it is glaring to see that this rabble of a government are not fit to govern. They love weaponising their plans. It is the reason they will not do so much of what Queensland needs. It is the explanation they will give to stakeholders when they do not want to make the changes that stakeholders ask for, yet it is dismissed when it is convenient. There is so much more that this government has done in a covert and underhanded way.

What has happened in the last 100 days that is not in this report card? My local hospital had a contract for mould removal cancelled. A hospital originally opened as a respiratory hospital put a stop to this work. Our successful nurse-led walk-in clinics have had their hours of operation slashed, cutting back access to a service that health professionals and women were praising. In possibly their cruellest and most sickening move yet, they are targeting vulnerable young Queenslanders in an ideological attack on gender-affirming care—Queenslanders who deserve, like all of us, to make their health decisions with medical practitioners and their families and away from elements of the far right of this government.

Queenslanders were promised Sunshine Coast heavy rail would be delivered—no ifs, no buts, no short cuts—only to have the Sunshine Coast Deputy Premier walk it back in record time—an election promise made with no plan to deliver. They are a government that were so focused on winning a vote they never put together a plan to deliver.

Supporting the community with financial relief during a global cost-of-living crisis is not their policy or priority—no relief from energy bills, no relief on rego, kids' sport vouchers on the chopping block and so much more. In the LNP's 100-day plan there is not a single measure of cost-of-living relief. Their priorities are not for everyday Queenslanders; they are only for themselves. This is a government focused on themselves. They are not fit to govern.

### Queensland Academy of Sport, Para Sport Unit

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.35 pm): The success of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be measured in a significant way by the success of our athletes, and my goal is for Brisbane 2032 to be the most successful games ever for our country.


At the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games Australia won a total of 63 medals, with 18 gold medals in that tally. Twenty-eight of those medals were won by Queenslanders, bringing home a remarkable seven gold medals. This is an outstanding effort, but we want to see even more Queenslanders on the Paralympic podium and more para-athletes to inspire the next generation like Curtis McGrath, Alexa Leary, Korey Boddington and Chris Davis. That is why I recently announced \$2 million in funding for a new Para Sport Unit at the Queensland Academy of Sport, delivered in partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport and Paralympics Australia.

The goal is to more than double the pipeline of future Paralympians on the road to Brisbane 2032. Currently, the QAS supports 85 para-athletes, and the Para Sport Unit aims to take that number to beyond 170 by 2029. The Para Sport Unit will reduce the barriers to participation for para-athletes, expand talent identification programs and develop more world-class coaches who specialise in para-sport. There are far too many barriers to participation for our para-athletes: a lack of experienced

coaches, the cost of travel to competitions and difficulty assessing high-performance pathways and classifications, to name a few. The Para Sport Unit will address some of these challenges to keep Queensland at the forefront of Paralympic sport and get more Queenslanders with a disability participating in competitive sport. The unit will include: a talent program for 40 aspiring para-athletes at the pre-elite level; a Gen 2032 coaching program to develop coaching expertise; and a talent ID network, where we will work with allied health professionals and networks to expand talent identification.

The Para Sport Unit will help change Queensland's Paralympic future, ensuring more athletes with a disability can follow their dreams. We have little time to waste, with LA 2028 just around the corner and Brisbane 2032 only seven years away. Be assured that in 2032 we will deliver the games that Queenslanders deserve.


### Fire Ants

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.38 pm): I am so pleased that the former agriculture minister, Mr Furner, is here in the chamber today, because he is one of the most passionate people in the fight against fire ants. In Logan, we are absolutely aware of the presence of fire ants in our area. That is why I was so pleased when Mr Furner put in place a \$37 million investment, in addition to the national program, to target things we could do locally. I applauded the fact that, as part of that program, we were able to give out free fire ant baits through electorate offices. I did many information stalls where I gave away fire ant baits, collected the addresses of people, and then got them to do some of that eradication. We recognise the national program is concentrating on the outside area to prevent spread and also to do eradication, but Logan residents wanted to help out by doing their bit to suppress them within Logan. However, I was gutted to see that the new minister has cut this program so that it is harder for Logan residents to get access to fire ant bait.

We have seen breakouts of fire ants in the past. I am concerned that if suppression is not happening in Logan because of these cuts, if there was a breakout in the Darling Downs, in Bundaberg or in any of our other key agricultural areas, the minister would have serious questions to answer about why he cut this program. I have literally talked to hundreds of residents in Logan where I have discussed how to eradicate fire ants from their area. I am really disappointed that this cut means that some of them might take a pot plant or soil into an agricultural area, and it will be the responsibility of the new agriculture minister who cut this program.

We saw the 100-day report, but we saw no positive, proactive measures such as this—cheap and efficient ways to get the message out. This would not only get bait into the hands of residents in Logan but also to get those addresses where we know there are nests so there could be follow-up. Member for Lockyer, you need to be responsible if there is a breakout in Lockyer if it comes to Logan because there was not suppression. You need to get onto the agriculture minister and say, 'Put back this program. Get fire ant baits back in electorate offices so that we can be agents in the fight against fire ants.' This is a government that cuts key things that can make a difference. Logan residents could be part of the fire ant volunteer army and stop it—but this minister has made that harder. This is a cut in the fight against fire ants. We need to stand up to the agriculture minister and restore the program.

### Night-life Economy

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.41 pm): Queensland's night-life economy is an essential part of our state's cultural and economic fabric. It supports thousands of jobs and attracts millions of visitors each year. We know the sector has faced significant challenges in recent years—challenges which go far beyond the impacts of COVID. In yet another example of typical Labor 'spin over substance' the former government announced and appointed a night-life economy commissioner with no staff or resources to support his work. The Crisafulli government, though, takes Queensland's \$34.9 billion night-life economy seriously. We are ensuring the commissioner is well supported and has everything he needs to advocate for a vibrant, safe and thriving night-life sector.

Today I want to update the House on the important progress made by our Night-life Economy Commissioner, John 'JC' Collins AM. Over recent weeks and months, JC has undertaken an extensive listening tour across Queensland, meeting with almost 100 stakeholders. The commissioner has heard firsthand of the impact of increased costs, the regulatory burden on businesses and the need to repair the relationship between government and industry to drive creativity and investment.


To further support the commissioner we have established the night-life economy advisory panel to bring together industry leaders and sector experts from every part of Queensland to help shape the future of our night-life economy. The panel has live music venue operators, event promoters, hotel and club representatives, performers, academics and safe night precinct workers from across our state. With JC, they will work on solutions on a range of issues that are vital to the success of late night economies across Queensland. This includes improving transport options and regulations and enhancing safety measures to support those who are working in the sector. They will help us make a more sustainable and adaptable night-life economy. As minister, I have issued a statement of expectations to the commissioner which I table to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Statement of Expectations: Night-Life Economy Commissioner' [118].

By the end of the year, the commissioner will deliver the Queensland night-life economy strategy to provide a road map for growth, investment and regulatory improvements. The first meeting of our night-life advisory panel will be held next week, marking a major milestone in the revitalisation of our night-life economy. This meeting will set the agenda for the year ahead with a focus on short-term wins for the sector, regulatory reform opportunities and the priorities for the new strategy.

Our state is known around the world as a holiday destination and an exciting and vibrant night-life is an essential part of that. By the time the 'best of the best' athletes from across the world arrive for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we must be ready in every part of Queensland. We will be on the world stage and that presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to position our state—like so many other host nations have before us—as a global icon.


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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.44 pm): It has been extremely entertaining this week watching LNP members and ministers contort themselves trying to keep a straight face as they slap each other's backs saying, 'We have delivered for Queensland over our first 100 days,' when nothing could be further from the truth. What the Crisafulli LNP government have delivered in their first 100 days is 100 days of deceit, 100 days of disappointments, 100 days of backflips and of cuts—cuts to clean energy projects, windfarms, green hydrogen projects, pumped hydro projects and hospital beds. They are cutting health services but they are happy to spend over \$200,000 renaming satellite hospitals which could—and should—have gone to providing more frontline health services.

Now I have followed the Minister for Housing, who in the first 100 days cut social housing—including in his own electorate. Of course, apart from the backslapping we have seen the backflips—an Olympic-sized backflip when it comes to stadiums. We know, and every single Queenslander knows, that despite the 'no new stadiums' iron-clad promise that there, in fact, will be a new Olympic stadium when the panel hands down its review.

The only bright spot in the first 100 days is when the LNP actually delivered a Labor policy and funded 50-cent fares. The fact is that the Crisafulli LNP government is not a functioning government. We know that there is no fiscal strategy—Standard & Poor's told us that. There is no energy policy, no housing policy and no health policy. There is no legislation. That is why this week the government has had to bring in motions and pad out the legislative program and there has only been debate on one bill. It is because they are still stuck in opposition mode. This is not a government; this is an opposition. They have not been able to change gears. They have come in here this week. They have been mean-spirited, they have been nasty, they have been personal. They have been obsessed with Labor and obsessed with themselves and they have not thought about Queenslanders at all. They have not delivered a thing for Queenslanders in their first 100 days. They have been found out to be phonies, fakes and flunkies.

### **Queensland Police Service, Review**


 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.47 pm): The Queensland Police have a proud history that extends for over 160 years. Through the provision of appropriate laws and adequate resources, we will do everything possible to ensure our police have what they need to do their job and keep communities safe. To this end, we support the launch of the Police Commissioner's 100-day review. This is a review that will ensure community safety imperatives are reflected in a police organisation that is well led, highly-effective, focused on its core duties and returned to being a world-class policing organisation that people want to join, be energised and be valued by and, importantly, want to remain as members.

The Queensland Police will undertake a review to guide the improvement and realignment of the functions that are outlined in section 2.3 of the Police Service Administration Act of fighting crime and keeping people and their property safe. While the QPS has been subject to previous reviews, this review aims to prioritise the needs and regain the trust of frontline police, improve organisational effectiveness, improve morale, and ensure community safety is central to the ethos and operations of the organisation.

The commissioner and I both agree with former commissioner Bob Atkinson, who used to say to his leadership team 'If any decision you make is not benefiting your frontline officers, you should not be doing it'. We need to push back against mission creep, where police have been incredibly called upon to plug the holes left by other government departments. We have to ensure police officers get back to doing the things they signed up to do. We know that police will never let the public down. That is why they must be free to do those things for which they are trained and to which they are committed—to protect life and property. Our goal is to grow police numbers, not reduce them. We will empower, value and support them. There are two overarching objectives: support frontline police and rebuild workplace morale.

The review will be led by the commissioner and will involve consultation with key stakeholders including relevant unions and, importantly, frontline personnel. The commissioner will be assisted by an advisory panel, the members of which will provide guidance and advice, assist with the reporting and aid in the consultation with relevant stakeholders. The panel has an independent chair, Mischa Fahl, a recognised employment relations specialist. The panel will include three former high-ranking and highly regarded officers who also possess other agency experience: Brett Pointing, Ross Barnett and Mark Ainsworth. It is proposed the review will commence in early March. We look forward to the commissioner, his officers and the panel commencing this review. I await the recommendations with anticipation so that we can continue to give our frontline officers the support they deserve.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Health**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.50 pm): What we have seen so far is a Crisafulli government with a plan to get elected but no plan for Queensland other than their usual LNP DNA: health cuts, jobs for mates, dumping fully paid infrastructure like the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line, juicing up the MYFER and breaking election promises. The Crisafulli government has spent the first 100 days sledging, cutting, hiding cabinet documents and not recusing themselves from meetings where there was a conflict of interest.

Let's look at the first 100 days. The first cabinet meeting—it is up there with putting your socks on and opening and closing a door. What vision from Premier Crisafulli! Axing the patient tax—that was already resolved by the previous government, the Miles Labor government. If the LNP want to co-opt the parliament in an exercise of plagiarism, that is the new low standard set under Premier Crisafulli with his right-wing priorities plan. His right-wing plan for Queensland has few commitments in health. It is threadbare. Real-time data—that is not going well—has been poorly implemented and is widely misunderstood by patients, with increasingly disturbing stories under a hands-off minister, who did not want to be health minister but was made to by the Premier. It is not a substitute for capital in the health space for a booming population.


In the LNP health plan they say more nurses and doctors, yet what we see is cuts: Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme—cut—good luck improving staff numbers in regional, rural and remote health services without that scheme; Transport Initiative Nurses in emergency departments—cut; nurse-led clinic hours—cut; nurses—cut; Townsville Hospital expansion—cut; pill testing—soon to be cut; access to the Queensland children's gender service for new patients—cut. That is shameful given the independent evaluation panel endorsed them as best practice less than a year ago, despite the nonsense put forward by the health minister today, who was rolled by the member for Kawana behind the scenes.

How does it feel to deny Queenslanders health care in a universal healthcare system as the health minister? How does it feel to be that weak and to deny Queenslanders their basic human rights? This so-called small-l liberal health minister should hang his head in shame. Yes, funding for the perinatal eight-bed unit in Townsville for mums with mental health challenges after birth has been withdrawn and cut. Satellite hospitals have been renamed—right-wing priorities. Their plan was to stabilise waiting lists—not improve them, not reduce them, just stabilise them. That is anaemic policy from a lethargic health minister. Then there is to assess staffing levels across Queensland maternity services in regional areas—a program commenced by this government. This government has

attempted to co-opt it and is taking the credit. They are mailing in Labor's work as their own. They have not funded a single new bed in Queensland at any point in the past four months. Their record is consistent with their cutting ideology.

(Time expired)

### Cook Electorate


 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (2.53 pm): The electorate of Cook is the furthestmost electorate in the state from this House. It is literally at the end of the line. In formulating my description of the electorate I was tempted to make reference to the famous Cat Stevens song title *Miles from Nowhere* but I thought better of it. Whilst my electorate largely escaped the recent devastating floods unscathed, they did, however, highlight that we are, in fact, at the end of the supply line.

Queensland's response to these record-breaking floods was truly commendable, from the efforts of the Premier, the members of parliament, frontline and rescue workers to transport operators and neighbours. No-one was left unsupported during or in the aftermath of the devastation. Being at the end of the supply chain means the far north is the first region to run short of essential supplies and the last to be resupplied. Notwithstanding this almost annual challenge, it appears to me that the further people are from the capital cities and the more remote their location, the better they are able to survive the impact of any disruption to the supply chain.

It was an unusual disaster event that saw every road transport and rail link between the south and the far north disrupted by flooding for a number of days. The impact on residents in the path was devastating, as we have heard. Unlike the then government's fragmented and half-baked response to—and the broken promises after—Cyclone Jasper, the Crisafulli government turned up, stayed and saw the job through, reconnecting the north with the distribution network as soon as possible.

The people of Far North Queensland are entitled to an all-weather access road joining Cairns to Brisbane and, whilst that is in the making, a pre-disaster strategy to ensure that all residents in the far north are safe and well provisioned. This is not the sole responsibility of the state government, as local authorities, the federal government and disaster management groups have a vital role to play. Large supermarket chains need to reassess their storage, resupply and distribution processes, and residents need to be educated on the value of preparedness over panic buying. I acknowledge that my electorate fared far better than most in the far north, which is a commendable indication of their resilience.

### North Queensland, Weather Events; Water Infrastructure

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.56 pm): I wish to make reference to the devastating flood that we experienced in North Queensland and turn our attention to how these things can be mitigated not just through roads and bridges but also through the building of dams and diversions. Hells Gates and the revised Bradfield scheme would see major diversions from the upper Tully, Herbert and Burdekin rivers, which was always a strong basis for its viability. Its selling point was that it would divert waters from the devastating floods that we always get in that high rainfall area and take them out to the dry inland.


I have some fun facts for honourable members. Inland Australia covers 82 per cent of the land mass, has 74 per cent of Australia's water and has three per cent of the population. Coastal Australia, with only 18 per cent of the land mass, has only 26 per cent of the water and 97 per cent of the population. Surely at some point in our history we need to stand back and say, 'What are we doing here?' Every other country in the world has looked at it and said, 'Let's deploy our resources to repopulate these other areas.' America did a fantastic job of it. Through diversions we could create wealth and wealth follows these things. If the government wants to pay for its 50-cent fares and Olympic stadiums, this is how to do it: you create industry. That is what Queensland did, but we ran to a grinding halt about 30 years ago.

Dad got money for a feasibility study for the Bradfield scheme. It was about \$50 million but it was all burnt up because bureaucrats and the departments love knocking these types of proposals on the head. Dad also got \$30 million for Big Rocks dam. That was burnt up by bureaucrats and none of them wanted to see it built. Big Rocks Weir is a weir above an old weir. It is a weir above a 100-year-old weir. We were told there are all these environmental and Indigenous impacts that mean it cannot possibly be built. It would be a 10,000-megalitre weir above an old weir. It is ridiculous. Then there is HIPCo dam at Hughenden. There are 1,000 kilometres of the Flinders River and there are only two flow meters on it, but no-one wants to let us take any water out of it. Only about one or two per cent of the average

annual flow gets to be taken out. Then when we go to build a water storage, they will give a thousand reasons we cannot do it. These departments, especially the water department, just want to kill everything.

Well-meaning politicians might want to give directions and give money for it, but it needs to be driven. We need to mitigate against these floods and at the same time create wealth down here. It will not make my public transport cheaper in Mount Isa or give me a better sports stadium, but it will help create wealth for all of you here so you pay for your hospitals and your 50-cent fares. However, you have to start out there and build these fundamentals of industry. If we do not concentrate on that in a strategic way, I can assure honourable members that our future does not look good.

### Glass House Electorate


 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.58 pm): As the member for Glass House, this afternoon I want to begin by highlighting the remarkable achievements of Sam Lucas, a talented cellist who grew up in a beautiful part of my electorate—Montville. Sam's career has taken him all around the world, performing in Belgium, Russia, South Korea, New Zealand and of course Australia. One of his most recent milestones was performing at the European Parliament in January this year for the solemn ceremony on International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2025. During this event, Sam played a rare 1720 Nicolo Gagliano cello once owned by Holocaust victim Pal Hermann. This cello, lost for decades, was rediscovered through Sam's performance in Brussels in 2022, making his role in this discovery even more significant. Sam's passion, dedication and talent have earned him recognition worldwide. From a young boy in Montville to a global classical musician, Sam is a true success story, making his family, hometown and nation incredibly proud.

Last Friday, I was honoured to attend Nasho Day 2025 in another beautiful part of my electorate—Wamuran. The Nasho memorial park in Wamuran stands as a moving tribute to Australia's National Servicemen, affectionately known as Nashos. These honourable men served in the Australian Army during compulsory national service periods, notably from 1951 to 1972. I want to make special mention of some of our local Nashos—Ken Brown, Noel McEwan, Graeme Marlow, Geoff Murray and Gordon Tunstall. The memorial was officially unveiled in August 2002 and was a labour of love for the local Nasho community. The land, once derelict, was transformed into a space for reflection and remembrance. The park is also a gathering place for major commemorative events including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. On Friday we commemorated the lives of 105 returned servicemen who have since passed with the addition of their new plaques to the existing sandstone memorial. These plaques were dedicated to the servicemen and their families, ensuring their contributions are remembered and honoured for generations to come.

Lastly, I also want to congratulate the Stanley River Rugby League Football Club on the launch of its A-grade season. Attending its launch event on Saturday night, we got to hear from club president Sam Cooper, coaches Ethan Szendrey and Danny Green, captain Ben King and a new signing, Cameron Cullen. Some members may recall that he was a former NRL player with the Titans and Sea Eagles and a great new addition to our local club. I have a great feeling about the Wolves in 2025 and cannot wait to watch the season unfold.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.01 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report on the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill by 11 April 2025. The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's *Report 4: 2024-25—Energy 2024* be referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee; that Auditor-General's *Report 5: 2024-25—Preparing for the Brisbane games* and Auditor-General's *Report 9: 2024-25—Major projects 2024* be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee; that Auditor-General's *Report 6: 2024-25—Protecting students from bullying* be referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee; and that Auditor-General's *Report 7: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's regional water quality* be referred to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 11 March 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.03 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[119\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[120\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[121\]](#).

There could not be a timelier piece of legislation introduced in this parliament. For years the former government fought hard to keep two reports—two CCC reports—secret. These two reports investigated the allegations of corruption against the former public trustee, Peter Carne, and the former deputy premier Jackie Trad. The LNP called on the former government to make those reports public—we did that for many years—to allow the public, Queenslanders, to make their own judgement and for many years the former Labor government engaged in a monumental cover-up to protect its mates, and it started with the former attorney-general deciding to enable the former deputy premier to have her legal fees paid by us, the Queensland people. The questions remain: why was she covering up for her best buddy and why was she using Queenslanders' dime—Queenslanders' money, taxpayers' hard-earned money—to cover-up for her best mate?

On release of the reports it became immediately clear why those opposite ran the protection racket and why they ran it for so long. These two reports are damning on the way that the former Miles-Palaszczuk Labor government ran its government—completely damning. As the chair of the CCC said, everyone should read these reports. The former government allowed \$397,182 of taxpayers' money to be spent on Trad's legal fees to keep this report hidden, betraying Queenslanders' right to know.

When the High Court ruled that the CCC had no power to report into Peter Carne's conduct as the public trustee, the chair of the CCC asked the Labor government to consider urgent law changes that would protect its reporting powers. Did the former government listen to the chair of the CCC? No, it did not. The only people who were listening to the CCC around accountability, around transparency and about good government was the LNP, and from opposition we dragged those opposite kicking and screaming to a position where they could not handle the pressure any longer.

In the last few dying days of the Miles government those opposite eventually introduced a bill that they knew would never be passed. They hoped beyond hope that they would be able to cling on to power, to keep their powerbroker protected. That is what they were hoping to do. They knew that their bill was never going to be passed. They knew that they were never going to restore the reporting powers of the CCC. Queenslanders trusted the LNP to do that, and that is what we are doing. We are delivering on our commitment to restore the reporting powers of the CCC, and that is what we are doing here today.

We also know that the LNP vowed to restore integrity and transparency in government by restoring the CCC's reporting powers, and the bill I introduce today does just that. Queenslanders have been kept in the dark for too long because the CCC has been unable to provide vital information to the public about corruption and corruption risks. Queenslanders have a right to know and to be kept informed about the activities of their government if they are able to fully enjoy their democratic rights. Openness and transparency are essential if the public is to have confidence in the processes of government, its leaders and managers and the public sector as a whole.



In performing its corruption functions, the CCC is guided by certain principles as espoused and established in the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Under the public interest principle the CCC has an overriding responsibility to promote public confidence in the integrity of the public sector and to assure the public that if corruption does happen it is dealt with appropriately. How can the CCC do this if it cannot appropriately tell the public about its corruption investigations? Of course, for many years it was widely accepted that the CCC did have the necessary powers to do this. I will repeat that because that is the important point here: for many years it was widely accepted—by government as well—that the CCC did have the necessary powers to do this. The CCC released numerous reports and public statements over a significant period of time in the performance of its corruption functions.

On 13 September 2023 the High Court determined that the CCC had no power to report on an investigation of alleged corrupt conduct other than confidentially, under section 49 of the act, to certain entities for the purposes of criminal proceedings or disciplinary action being considered. The decision was stark and clear, with its ramifications significant for the operations of Queensland's CCC. In fact, the CCC has, as a result, removed 32 investigation reports and 256 media releases from its website. The CCC had, of course, stopped any form of public reporting well before September 2023 in line with the history of this litigation before the High Court ruling.

As the Minister for Integrity, I am pleased that this bill will bring a close to this unfortunate chapter in the CCC's history once and for all. It will also deliver on the government's key election commitment to restore reporting powers to the CCC and overcome the basis for the High Court decision. The bill clarifies the way in which the CCC performs its corruption functions so that it is clear that this includes providing information to the public by reporting and making public statements about complaints and corruption investigations and provides clear powers to enable the CCC to do so. The language is very clear. It removes the basis of the High Court's decision.

I acknowledge the considerable efforts of my colleague the former shadow attorney-general and member for Clayfield, who presented the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill in the 57th Parliament in 2023. That bill outlined the LNP's approach to addressing the serious deficiencies in the Crime and Corruption Act highlighted by the High Court decision and past inquiries which is consistent with the bill I present today. I also acknowledge the constructive way the CCC have worked with the government to help address this deficiency in Queensland legislation.

The new powers for reporting and making public statements are subject to new safeguards that apply to the CCC's decisions in relation to the preparation and publication of reports and public statements. These safeguards are in the form of a set of mandatory criteria that apply to both the preparation and the publication of a report or public statement. While the proposed criteria are mandatory considerations, they do not lock the CCC into hard and fast types of reports or public statements; nor will their application result in an outright prohibition on reporting. Importantly, the new framework provides the CCC with flexibility to independently determine when and how releasing information will be in the public interest.

Specific considerations will also apply before the CCC can include identifying information in a report or public statement. The bill requires the CCC to consider a range of matters in deciding whether or not to include information in a report or statement that identifies an individual or from which their identity may be readily apparent. The significance of publicly revealing that someone is the subject of a corruption investigation cannot be understated; however, the discretion will remain with the CCC in regard to this. It is not a decision that the CCC will take lightly. Putting specific legislative factors in place to guide these decisions also serves to illustrate what is at stake and ensure each decision to report is thought through in a considered way. A public statement may take any form, for example the issuing of a media release or the publication of a statement on the CCC's website. Under the Crime and Corruption Act, the CCC retains reporting powers that have not been impacted by the High Court decision. Through the bill, special care has been taken not to impact or diminish this existing residual power.

I would also like to draw out a further clarification provision that has been included in the bill. The bill makes it clear that the CCC does not have the power to make findings of corrupt conduct. This has always been the case and does not change the position under the current act. The CCC's role is to give all relevant material it has uncovered to the decision-making authority, including prosecutors, who are responsible for determining whether further action is warranted. The bill makes this clear through an express provision limiting the CCC's ability to make findings or recommendations relating to a person engaging in corrupt conduct, whether a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or

disciplinary action, or whether there is evidence or insufficient evidence to support the start of such proceedings. This is to remove any doubt on the matter and avoid the potential for any implied power to be established as a result of this bill.

In some cases it will be appropriate and necessary for the CCC to name the subject of an investigation and make adverse comment about them. That does not amount to a statement that a person has engaged in corrupt conduct. In this case, the CCC is bound by the requirements of the current act to give that person procedural fairness. The Crisafulli government is expanding the procedural fairness requirements and has worked with the CCC on ways to do this. This means that the CCC is required to give the person the opportunity to make submissions about the proposed adverse comment so that the person can give their side of the story and put forward any submissions as to why some or all of the comment should not be included in the report or be reflected in a different way.

The bill revises the approach under the current Crime and Corruption Act for the tabling of CCC reports to ensure the decision to table the report rests solely with the CCC. Under the bill, a signed commission report must be given simultaneously to the chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, the Attorney-General as the minister responsible for the Crime and Corruption Act, and the Speaker. The Speaker is then required to table the report in the Legislative Assembly on the next sitting day after the Speaker receives the report. Where the Legislative Assembly is not sitting, the Speaker must deliver the report to the Clerk of the Parliament, who must authorise its publication.

I turn now to the situation with respect to the CCC's past public reports and statements. The bill makes it clear that all past reports and public statements of the CCC are valid. This extends to any action taken by the CCC in relation to the report or public statement, including any preparation work undertaken by CCC officers. There is no requirement for these reports or statements to have complied with the new criteria set out in the bill or the enhanced procedural fairness requirements. They are validated as they are in accordance with the existing framework of the Crime and Corruption Act. The former government, in its lapsed bill, chose not to retrospectively validate the work of the CCC. We know why. One reason is \$1 million for Carne; another reason is nearly \$400,000 for Trad. That is why.

**Mr Janetzki:** Unbelievable!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Unbelievable! I will take that interjection. We are doing this because we believe in integrity in government and the need for transparency for Queenslanders. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame.


**Mr McDonald:** They had a chance.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They did have a chance. I will take that interjection. It is incredible they had to be dragged kicking and screaming to this place today. It will be interesting to see how they end up voting on this bill.

The bill also contains measures to improve the operational efficiency of the CCC, measures relating to the engagement of agents and requirements for notices issued electronically. These measures are very minor technical amendments but will go a long way to assisting the CCC in its day-to-day operations.

I am extraordinarily proud to have been appointed the Attorney-General in the Crisafulli government. I am proud to be a member of a government that honours its election commitments. Today this bill delivers another important milestone and an important deliverable under my ministerial charter letter. We have taken a vital step to promptly restore reporting powers to the CCC. As Attorney-General and Minister for Integrity, I stand in complete support of transparency in relation to the way the CCC performs its work on corruption risks. Nothing could better underscore the need for this legislation than the revelations made in the House yesterday. With this bill, the CCC should be equipped with all of the tools it needs to raise standards and conduct across the public sector, which is foundational to our integrity landscape. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

## Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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

## Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (3.20 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill by Friday, 11 April 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed on p. 221, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.21 pm): I love cutting taxes. That is because lower taxes are good for Queenslanders. You will always use your money more effectively than any well-meaning bureaucracy ever could. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I rise to support the delivery of the Crisafulli LNP government's promise to scrap two taxes today.

It beggars belief that, in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, Labor were going to impose a new tax on GP practices, which is a cost that would inevitably be passed on to the consumer, as all taxes are. It is already hard enough for Queenslanders to make ends meet. The last thing they needed was for it to be more expensive to see a doctor when they need one. It is a false economy, too. An abundance of data shows that if people cannot access local, timely and affordable GP services then they end up in the emergency rooms of our hospitals. Ultimately, that is a harm to the patient and also a higher cost for the taxpayer. That simply does not make any sense. In my electorate, 32.4 per cent of my constituents have one or more long-term health conditions, which is higher than the Queensland average. That means it is absolutely vital that we have readily available and strong GP services in our community.

However, this debate has gone very strangely. Labor member after Labor member has stood up, talked about a scare campaign and claimed that there is no such tax. If that were the case then why, after months of claiming that there was no such thing as a patients tax, did Labor have to cave to pressure from the community and offer what they called an amnesty for the new payroll tax burden? Somewhat cheekily, that amnesty would have lasted till just the other side of the election. You can call me cynical, but that demonstrates both that there is a tax and that they were intent on reviving it as soon as they swindled their way into another term in office. Those opposite simply cannot have it both ways. If there is no patients tax then why on earth would we need an amnesty? Instead of listening to those opposite, maybe we should listen to our GPs. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners called this tax illogical. The Australian Medical Association of Queensland said it would be the end of bulk-billing. I can only thank heavens that Queenslanders did not fall for it.


On this side of the chamber we are determined to ensure people in communities such as the Redlands can access quality health services when they need them. GPs are a vital part of the fabric of health services in the Redlands and across Queensland, and we will unashamedly fight for that to continue. We are determined to respect Queenslanders' money. One way to do that is to stand against policies that would increase the cost of living and make life more expensive for households. It beggars belief that, at a time when families are struggling with inflation and the cost of groceries, energy, housing and more, much of which has been driven by the ill-disciplined spending and poor economic management of state and federal Labor governments, Labor were prepared to make it even harder for people to get by.

Of course, that is not the only tax we hope to axe today. This bill abolishes stamp duty on new home builds for first home buyers. Increasing home ownership is a key priority of this government. Under Labor, the dream of home ownership has steadily slipped away as Queensland's home ownership rates have fallen to the lowest in the country. People used to move to this state because of

its robust economy and affordable life which meant that people from all walks of life used to be able to get ahead. Home ownership matters. The difficult task of saving for a deposit and paying a mortgage while you are younger gives us security in old age. It encourages strong and stable families. It encourages people to put down roots and deeply connect to their communities. All the evidence shows that young people still want that. Over 60 per cent of people aged 28 or younger want to own their own home, yet less than half of that group believe that they will ever be able to achieve it.

I see the impact of low home ownership on vulnerable older people in my community. When Caroline told me her story, I could not help but be moved. At the age of 80, steep rent rises forced her to rent out rooms in her townhouse in order to try to cobble together the money to make the payments. She had in her house people she did not know and who, shall we say, lived to very different values to those she lived by day to day. That made her feel unsafe and, using a deadlock, she would lock herself in her bedroom. When she asked her property manager what she could do about the situation, they used it as a trigger to evict her and threaten her with homelessness just before Christmas. In our communities, we need as many people as possible to own their own homes. It prevents the kind of upheaval experienced by people such as Caroline. However, with the rising cost of living and the failure of the previous government to deliver sufficient housing supply, that is harder than ever.

This government is different. We are doing what it takes to stop inflation in the cost of building by restoring order and safety in the construction industry and by reducing the burden of red tape on the industry, which pushes up prices. We are doing the planning work that will lead to land releases in the right places and with the right infrastructure. That matters for a lot of reasons, including the fact that local businesses cannot get staff, not because the talent is not there but because new staff simply cannot find a place to live. It also matters to give hope to young people who aspire to be new homeowners. I support this bill wholeheartedly and I look forward to the Crisafulli LNP government abolishing the burden of stamp duty for those who seek to build their first homes.

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.28 pm): I am pleased to speak on the revenue bill. I am also pleased to follow the member for Oodgeroo as we talk about home ownership because who could forget that it was the member for Oodgeroo who said on Sky News that a shared equity scheme was 'really dangerous'—now she comes in here and says that she supports home ownership—despite that being in complete contradiction to what the Premier has put forward as a policy. Perhaps that is why she is not on the front bench.

Of course, I heard none of those brave soldiers in the government say anything when Peter Dutton and their federal mates were blocking the shared equity Help to Buy scheme. They were completely silent about home ownership when they were all blocking reform and investment that would help young people and working Queenslanders get into the market and now they are trying to pretend like they care about young Queenslanders getting into the market. Let's be honest, this is really about giving a tax cut to people who want to buy multimillion-dollar homes. The government is not interested in helping working Queenslanders get into the market.

**Mr O'Connor:** You'll be eligible, member. You can get in the market.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney, the chief NIMBY himself. I do not know how the member will help young Queenslanders get into new homes—this is about new homes—when time and time again he blocks new homes being built in his own electorate.

The Labor opposition will always support attempts to increase home ownership and housing supply, but we do share some of the concerns that experts have put forward about the impact the measures in this bill will actually have on the housing market. The REIQ, which those opposite so often like to quote, said—

The REIQ would be interested to understand if the Government has modelling in relation to the expected take up of the new concessions and anticipated increase in the rate of homeownership in Queensland.

I ask the Treasurer in his reply to the debate to table the modelling. I suspect he will not because, as with the Making Queensland Safer Laws, there is no modelling. This is one measure but there needs to be a range of measures to improve the rate of home ownership in this state. I agree with the member for Oodgeroo on one thing: supply is necessary. Time and time again we see the government opposing supply. The UDIA said—

... fundamentally the important thing to remember is that supply is the only answer. We need more houses of all types ...

Q Shelter made similar remarks. What is the Crisafulli government's record on supply? Their housing minister ran on a platform against affordable housing in his electorate. Some 650 homes that were—

**Mr O'Connor:** Hypothetical houses.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection. Any DA is effectively hypothetical until it is approved. When you remove the mechanism for it to be approved, it cannot then eventuate.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Bonney.

**Ms SCANLON:** That is how planning works. This is perhaps why the member for Bonney is not the planning minister. That is one example of—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Bonney! That is twice now I have pulled you up.

**Ms SCANLON:**—a number of projects the member for Bonney and those opposite have opposed in their own electorates. The first bill that the government introduced in this House was not in fact about youth crime, despite all their rhetoric at the election. Their first bill was to rush through an Olympics piece of reform, abolish the truth-telling inquiry and a whole range of reforms for First Nations people and sneak in measures to give the Deputy Premier the power to cancel or reduce affordable housing projects that Labor had given the green light to. Why would the government create that power if they did not intend to use it? The Deputy Premier needs to disclose which affordable housing projects he has a problem with and wants to axe or reduce. That is the first law that the LNP passed. It will go down in history that a law to get rid of affordable housing was their priority.

We saw in their supposed 100-day plan that they were going to somehow unlock 10,000 new community homes and it would not cost a dollar. It was just a change in regulation, apparently. The member for Bonney has already walked that back. We have already seen cabinet ministers step out of line on that issue. We have seen the member for Chatsworth oppose 44 proposed—I know that that word 'proposed' triggers the member for Bonney—homes in his own electorate.

**Mr Minnikin:** Complete rubbish.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the member for Chatsworth's interjection. If it is rubbish, why is he telling his community that he has concerns?

**Mr O'Connor:** It's to put their feedback in. It's not difficult.

**Ms SCANLON:** There is already a mechanism—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members about standing order 247, which is to address comments through the chair. If you are addressing anyone, it is through the chair.

**Ms SCANLON:** The member knows about that project because it was publicly available for people to provide comment on. If the LNP are wanting to pass laws to be able to amend those projects, they must be cutting them.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** They must be cutting them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Bonney! I have just reminded the House about standing order 247, which is about addressing all comments through the chair. I remind the House about standing order 246 as well—there is to be no quarrelling.

**Ms SCANLON:** Those opposite talk a lot about cutting red tape. We have just heard that they want to elongate processes. The whole point of the state facilitated development pathway was to speed up approvals, and those opposite have created laws to slow it down and to cancel projects. I will not be lectured to by those opposite about productivity and reducing red tape when they have already put in place a whole range of roadblocks that will slow down the supply of affordable housing in this state.

What actually helps create housing supply and encourages home ownership? The answer is providing free TAFE and free apprenticeships. When the LNP were last in government, they tried to make people pay for TAFE, outsource TAFE and close down campuses.

**Mr McCallum:** Over 900 per cent fee increase.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundamba. Massive increases do not incentivise people to take up a trade. It also helps to have a dedicated minister responsible for all of the levers in housing. That is what our Labor government did, but those opposite could not trust the members on that side so they have put a whole lot of portfolios in different areas. None of them is talking to the other, which will cause enormous problems for industry.

I hear the government talk a lot about productivity, as I just mentioned, and I wonder if the member for Bonney has actually read the Australian Productivity Commission report that was released only very recently.

**Mr O'Connor:** I quoted it the other day.

**Ms SCANLON:** He quotes the bits that work for his political convenience—I take that interjection. I remind the member for Bonney of some other quotes in the Productivity Commission report. Under the title 'What should be done?', it says—

Streamlining the operation of the entire planning system ... is needed to improve productivity.

It specifically references the state facilitated development pathway that those opposite just passed laws to try to slow down. If they wanted to create productivity they should have kept doing the things Labor was doing, but they have tried to make changes to effectively give the Deputy Premier the power to cancel those projects or to reduce them.

**Mr McCallum:** Politics over policy.

**Ms SCANLON:** Politics over policy—I take the interjection again.

**Mr KEMPTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Bundamba is interjecting—the interjections are being taken—and he is not in his seat.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sure the member knows the direction: if you want to interject or contribute, you need to be in your allocated seat.

**Ms SCANLON:** If those opposite are so defensive about the state facilitated development pathway and they are, allegedly, now not going to make changes, even though they created the powers to do that, why did the LNP Noosa candidate say that she was going to scrap the project? That clearly got the consent from someone, presumably the leader. It is about time the planning minister and the housing minister owned up to the fact that those laws were all about cancelling housing projects.

The Productivity Commission report also talked about the need for modular homes. It specifically mentioned Labor's commitment to build 600 modular homes in Queensland. When we announced that commitment those opposite suggested it was too much, so presumably there will be cuts to modular housing. Last time the LNP were in government there were cuts to QBuild, which builds and maintains public homes. I heard the member for Bonney praising QBuild. If only he did that years ago when his neighbour was sacking them all. I assure you: they have not forgotten.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven and member for Bonney, there is a bit of cross-chamber chatter. Member for Gaven, please direct your comments through the chair. Minister, please cease your interjections.

**Ms SCANLON:** As I said, the Labor opposition will always support reforms that increase home ownership and increase housing supply. We do not believe that this bill goes anywhere near far enough to addressing the significant housing policy that needs to be addressed in this state.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (3.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. At the beginning of my contribution, I would like to address the amendments to the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act which were circulated by the Treasurer yesterday. The distributor-retailer amendments will retrospectively validate irregularities in the processes followed by the boards of the distributor-retailers. They are necessary to resolve irregularities in adopting infrastructure charges schedules and making decisions related to this.

The objective of the amendments is to declare the infrastructure charges under the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act as properly made. The amendments will put forward beyond doubt that the infrastructure charges schedules were properly adopted. They will declare that they are valid, along with related decisions and actions, issued notices and agreements entered into.


Infrastructure charges schedules are part of the distributor-retailer's Water Netserv Plan. The Water Netserv Plan sets out the water supply and sewerage trunk infrastructure networks. The infrastructure charges under the SEQ water act are levied by the distributor-retailers, guided by the infrastructure charges schedule. Levied charges contribute to the provision of essential water and sewerage trunk infrastructure that service growing South-East Queensland communities. Certainty about infrastructure charges is absolutely necessary. The distributor-retailers, their owner councils, consumers and the broader community need to know that charges like this are valid and properly made.

Despite these irregularities in making declarations about the validity of the charges, all charges levied were correct. This has been an administrative processing matter. The developers will not be worse off and will not be charged more than they were supposed to be charged under the SEQ water act under this proposal. Water supply and sewerage networks are planned and delivered by Urban Utilities for the Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council areas. The Noosa Shire Council, the Sunshine Coast Council and the City of Moreton Bay areas are serviced by Unity Water.

Urban Utilities and Unity Water are distributors under the SEQ water act. The distributor-retailers have advised the government that, without resolving these irregularities, there would be increased cost that could be passed onto consumers through their water and sewerage charges. These amendments will clarify that the distributor-retailer's Water Netserv Plans are, and always have been, valid.

In relation to the Crisafulli government, I am very pleased to see the Treasurer is cutting taxes. It is a long time since we have seen a treasurer in this place cut taxes. We are scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. This is an up-front tax. There is no capacity for deferral. If people do not pay they do not get to purchase. The removal of this tax will save first home buyers tens of thousands of dollars. The stamp duty cost can often be the difference between buying or not buying your first home.

That brings me to another core part of the bill related to renting out a room. The reality is that many potential first home buyers need the option to rent out part of their home just to make ends meet. I know many young people are in that situation. This bill makes that possible for first home buyers without another hit to their hip pocket. This bill is proof that the Crisafulli government is delivering on what Queenslanders voted for—respect for their money and a place to call home.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.43 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. From the outset, I indicate that the Katter's Australian Party will be supporting the passage of this legislation through the House.

Home ownership is something that every young Queenslander should be aspiring to. We understand that there is a place for people to be renting, but the fact is that the Australian dream and the Queensland dream has always been for people to own their own home—own their own property—and invest in something for their future and their family's future. The reality is that a lot of young Queenslanders cannot afford to get into their first home.

The fact that the Crisafulli government has decided to abolish stamp duty for all first home buyers is an important step forward, but this bill does not go far enough. There are a lot of people saying that they need an extra hand up to get into the housing market.

I remember buying my first home in 2005. Young Nick Dametto was getting into the mining industry. I thought then that I would probably blow most of the money I made in the mining industry so if I were paying off a house at a young age and starting to put money into a mortgage I might have a savings account. It was a strategy that worked well. What helped me get into my first home was the first home owner grant that was available when purchasing an established home. It was about \$20,000 at the time. It gave me that leg-up to get into a home.

We know that building prices have skyrocketed—they are through the roof. Ten years ago it was about \$1,500 a square metre to build a house in North Queensland. That was expensive, but now it is around \$2,000 or \$2,500 a square metre. People are not getting the bells and whistles for that price either. To remove stamp duty for first home buyers in Queensland is great. However, there is a whole market of properties out there that young Queenslanders could be buying to get them their first property. If we expanded the first home owner grant that would be a fantastic way to get people into a property.

This bill reforms the transfer duty for all first home purchases in Queensland regardless of price. It also gives first home buyers the opportunity to rent out a room in the first 12 months. As a young person that is how I had help to meet my repayments. We were allowed to do it at the time. Allowing

people to rent a couple of rooms out to their mates is a fantastic way to bring down their repayments per month or per week, depending how they have their mortgage set up. This is a very important step forward. I acknowledge the government's move in this regard.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I am not taking the interjection. I cannot hear what you are saying.

Removing stamp duty will give people an opportunity to get into a home and not have the expensive burden of that tax. When talking about stamp duty in this place, we cannot ignore the most expensive thing about owning a home, especially in North Queensland—that is, insurance. As we have spoken about a number of times in this House over the last week, we have had one of the worst flooding events in North Queensland. There are many home owners who cannot get insurance for their homes because there are blanket exemptions for flood cover. The biggest problem is the cost of insurance.

There is a tax on every one of our insurance policies, and that is stamp duty. There were a number of organisations that contacted me when they heard that stamp duty was being debated in the House today. The Townsville Chamber of Commerce was one. Multiple insurance agencies and brokers contacted me also and said, 'If you are talking about stamp duty in this bill, let us talk about the stamp duty on insurance.' Removing stamp duty on insurance would address immediate cost-of-living issues and reduce the cost of insurance by eight per cent. There is eight per cent added to insurance policies that is stamp duty. It is a hidden tax that everyone is paying. Every advocate is saying that there is a double tax. There is GST on insurance policies that goes to the federal government. They are taking a bit and adding to the misery of people in North Queensland who have insurance policies. Then the state takes a bit through stamp duty.


I will give the House some figures. It is forecast that Queenslanders will pay \$1.7 billion in stamp duty over the next 12 months. Over the last five years, Queensland insurance customers have paid \$6.4 billion in stamp duty. There are calls to scrap that stamp duty cost on insurance. One way to address the insurance issue in North Queensland is to mitigate the risk. If the state is collecting \$6.4 billion in stamp duty, let us put that into mitigation rather than putting it into the coffers of the state government.

I think we have a responsibility to look at abolishing more taxes here in Queensland. It is great to see the GP tax, as it has been coined, removed, making it cheaper for people in Queensland to see a GP. That is fantastic. A sick person in Queensland should not be deciding whether or not they can afford to go to the doctors. If there is a small way to reduce the cost for patients, that is a good move.

Once again, this is not the only tax we should be looking at abolishing. I will talk about insurance again while I have an opportunity. In North Queensland we have a failing insurance product. We have a fundamental market failure in the insurance industry. The federal government have a responsibility here. They have been sitting on their hands. Yesterday they pulled in the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool. That has done very little to bring down insurance prices. It needs to be expanded. It will do nothing to help bring down the cost of insurance policies affected by flooding moving forward. We have to find ways to reinvigorate the insurance industry. Another way of doing that is bringing in either a state or a federally owned insurance agency, making sure insurance is available especially for those people who are completely without insurance right now or any other options.

We will be supporting this legislation as it goes through the House. Bringing down the cost of new homes for those young people out there trying to get into the market is so important, but we do have to start looking at pulling other levers like expanding the First Home Owners' Grant to established homes. That has been supported by the REIQ in Queensland. It has been supported by all sorts of different advocacy groups. We want to make sure we are doing our best not just to make sure that people get into new homes but also to put a roof over their head, especially at a time when people are living in caravan parks, living in their cars and living in tents. We have a housing crisis. We need to do all we can in this state to try to get people into homes so they can start building a life for themselves and a future for their kids.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Before I call the member for Currumbin, I just mention that there is a lot of audible conversation in the chamber. Please keep that down. It is getting difficult to hear.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.51 pm): The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 delivers on some of our key commitments to provide meaningful cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. This bill is axing two taxes. It is axing Labor's patients tax and it is scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers who want to



get into a new home. If you are a first home buyer and you want to buy a new home, under an LNP Crisafulli government you will pay zero dollars in stamp duty. On top of this, this bill is easing pressure for our renters by scrapping the rule that means first home buyers lose their concession if they rent out a room in the first year. This helps both first home buyers and renters.

I am really proud to be part of a government that is delivering meaningful cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders, and I know this will help people in my electorate. Stamp duty is a huge barrier to first home buyers. That is why this bill abolishes stamp duty for first home buyers on all new builds. First home buyers will be able to access this relief from 1 May this year. It will include the purchase of vacant land for the first home buyer to build their new home on.

For people in my electorate this means that a first home buyer on the Gold Coast purchasing a new house and land package for \$850,000 will save more than \$24,000. That is \$24,000 still in their pocket. That is \$24,000 that they can use to service their cost of living. That is \$24,000 that might go back into our economy. Local 23-year-old Mollie, who lives and works on the Gold Coast, wrote to me and said—

Something needs to be done to help the younger generation get into the housing market. Cost of living and the cost of renting makes it impossible to get ahead. We shouldn't have to be working 3 jobs just to save for a deposit, let alone afford a mortgage.

To Mollie and others who want to buy their first home: this bill will lift a large barrier blocking you from entering the market on the southern Gold Coast. By abolishing stamp duty for all new builds, we are making it easier for people on the Gold Coast to buy a home, to build a home and to invest in our great state.

While helping first home buyers, this bill also helps renters. Under Labor, to receive any stamp duty concession a new home owner could not rent out any part of their property in the first year. They were not allowed to rent a room to a university student or a local worker or any other flatmate. They could also not use the rental income to support their loan application. This restriction completely removes the opportunity for any additional income stream to support the new homebuyer in accessing a mortgage and takes much needed rooms out of the rental market. This bill scraps that restriction.

We know how hard it is to save for a deposit and to break into the housing market. There are thousands of first home buyers and owner-occupiers who can benefit from this right now, not to mention the many renters who are struggling to find affordable accommodation. The potential for this to ease pressure on our first home buyers and on the rental market is a complete no-brainer, yet Labor maintained this restriction for a decade. By allowing first home buyers to rent out a room from day one, we are making a much needed, commonsense change that will ease cost-of-living pressures on first home buyers while also increasing rental supply.

This is so vital because opening up the rental market eases the overall pressure on renters—renters like an elderly couple in Coolangatta in my electorate who recently faced homelessness. Their daughter reached out to me last year because she was worried that her parents were on the brink of homelessness. She wrote to me—

My mum and dad are devoted grandparents, they are healthy for their age, kind and caring humans, and I just want the best for them. I really need some help or guidance with what to do. The rent is out of this world, and the stress of knowing that it could be bumped up to well outside their affordability is a real concern.

For seven years this couple languished on the public housing waitlist while they struggled to make ends meet. Their private lease was coming to an end and, with the potential rent hike, they were concerned they would end up on the street. I wrote to our new housing minister, the member for Bonney, and shared their concerns and their situation. This couple went seven years on the housing waitlist without support, yet, under our new minister, within a week they not only had spoken to a housing officer but also were approved for a rental security subsidy. This was the first support this couple had received in seven years. I am pleased to update the housing minister, who is in the House, that on Monday this couple were able to extend their lease because of the subsidy that he expedited for them. They were able to stay in their home close to their family and can watch their grandkids grow up in the community they love. Those are the meaningful results the Crisafulli LNP government has already delivered for the people of my electorate and for the people of Queensland. Those are the meaningful results that this bill is delivering.

I will now turn to the part of this bill that relates to Labor's patients tax. Labor's patients tax would have had a devastating impact on our health system. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners labelled it 'illogical' and warned the former government that GPs would have no option but to pass this tax on to patients. It was described by the AMAQ as 'a crippling patients tax that will mean the end of bulk-billing in Queensland'.


Practice manager Alissa Mahoney, from Hervey Bay's Family First Medical Practice, said that this tax would 'leave a lot of vulnerable people without any health care'. Doctors warned the former government that this tax would be the end of GP bulk-billing and drive up bulk-billing and the cost of seeing a GP for Queenslanders.

What did Labor do? Did they immediately stop this tax? No. They first denied its existence. They denied it even existed. Then they decided to pause it. If the tax does not exist, why would you need to pause it? No—they paused it until just after the election, because they were always going to maintain that tax. If they were going to scrap it, they would have done it when they were in government. The LNP is scrapping that tax. The LNP has introduced amendments to the Payroll Tax Act to stop Labor's patients tax and safeguard access to local GP services across the state.

A local Gold Coast GP told me that Labor's patients tax could very well make or break the clinic they work at. They said—

We are a local medical clinic and we want to service our community. But this tax will add a financial burden that we would inevitably have no choice but to pass on to our patients or face shutting down.

That was the impact of Labor's tax on people in my community. This bill will deliver real relief. This bill will deliver relief not just for renters and not just for people who want to break into the housing market. It will ensure the cost of seeing a GP can remain affordable for people in the electorate of Currumbin. It puts Queenslanders first and delivers the change they are calling for. The Crisafulli LNP government is making home ownership easier, cutting the tax on patients and delivering a fresh start for our community.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (3.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. In doing so, I acknowledge the importance of affordable, safe and secure housing for all Queenslanders. It is really the threshold issue for our generation. What does housing look like for the next generation? How do we support people into affordable, safe and secure housing? How do we ensure there are pathways for young people to secure housing in whatever form that takes? It is a community conversation we need to have around what housing looks like and how we manage the demand for growth and affordability.

In the Morayfield state electorate community we have seen a number of initiatives around housing affordability that have been delivered over previous years. I acknowledge the Deputy Speaker as a neighbouring member of parliament in that part of the world who was involved in council matters many generations ago. We have seen our communities change and how the density of our communities has changed. There are competing views around what that looks like. To the west of the Morayfield state electorate is the Caboolture West Waraba development. It has been a journey, but it is an exciting development for the Moreton Bay north region that will deliver tens of thousands of new homes. My hope would be that many of those new homes are purchased by first home buyers—people who, like me, get to grow up in a community, get to stay in a community, get to see their kids grow up in a community, and really develop that sense of pride and affection about where you live. A lot of the Caboolture West development was enabled by government initiatives like the South-East Queensland City Deal, the growth area fund of the previous government.

We also have many redevelopments happening within the Morayfield state electorate, acreage blocks being converted into smaller blocks. That has generated much conversation. In fact, I have often had robust discussions with those who are on the other side of politics around those particular developments when they have opposed them. They have opposed the redevelopment of those areas into higher density. In doing so, they have opposed more affordable housing options. At the last state election those people representing conservative parties were at election booths saying, 'We're opposed to these residential developments happening', which obviously is very disappointing. In this bill before the House there are a number of initiatives around addressing housing supply. The intention behind the bills is to address the cost of housing.

We have to take our responsibility around the scrutiny of bills very seriously. The opposition is not opposing the proposals in this bill, but we do think there needs to be significant scrutiny about what is being proposed and whether or not it does have a measurable impact on housing affordability and housing supply. When we look at a number of the proposals, there are experts who say they do not think it is going to have any measurable impact. In respect of the transfer duty threshold point, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland said—and you would think they know a bit about the market and what certain initiatives will achieve—'In our view, the use of the new concessions may be limited.' A question for the Treasurer will be what modelling has been done around the transfer duty threshold proposal and how will it be measured. In six months, 12 months or four years time how will the Treasurer say that the

transfer duty threshold initiative enabled by this bill made an impact on housing affordability and how many additional first home buyers have entered the market. It comes back to a threshold question; that is, how you use the finite resources of government to best support the most number of people. Is it right that someone purchasing a \$10 million house should have a subsidy from the government, or is it a better use of the finite resources of taxpayers to use that opportunity cost to support people of fewer means into housing. It is important that this particular initiative is measured so we can see the impact. What is the value of houses that are being purchased as a result of this initiative?

The second initiative I will touch on is partial renting for first home buyers. This matter was addressed by the housing minister in the previous government. In essence, this was a matter that was already resolved. It is important that when you adjust mechanisms for people to use assets to earn income you provide the necessary guidance to people around that. I would look for the government to provide some sort of education campaign for those people who may choose to sublet their residential property around any possible tax consequences as a result, whether that be capital gains tax consequences or income tax consequences. It needs to be part of the conversation around saying, 'On the one hand we are enabling this exemption from the concession ineligibility rules, but on the other hand you should probably get your own tax advice around what that might mean for capital gains tax or federal income tax.'

These are some questions for the Treasurer around this particular initiative: how many people have lost their eligibility as a result of this ineligibility consideration; what modelling has been done around how many more will be eligible; and what is the measure in six months, 12 months or four years time about how effective this is? There are experts who say they do not think this is going to have any measurable impact on housing affordability or housing supply. In fact, the Housing Industry Association says that the real impact of this measure is likely to be minimal.

The final point I will address in the time remaining is the nonsense we heard around the so-called GP patient tax. It even prompted the AMA to call it out a couple of days before the election. They had to issue a public statement because of the nonsense. It arose from a decision of a court in New South Wales that was addressed by the previous government. If you go by the Treasury documents, this piece of legislation will not generate any change to the tax collected by the state. In fact, the measures put in place by the previous government had already addressed this particular issue. The nonsense that was carried on around the election continues to this day. I note that the AMA had to come out a couple of days before the election and say that they could not endorse any political party and they had to criticise the LNP's use of misleading information on this particular issue. Notwithstanding the AMA coming out and saying that what they were talking about was nonsense, they still continued to talk about that nonsense in the House during this debate.


The opposition will not be opposing the bill before the House, but of course we want to see measurable outcomes and we want to ensure it is effective.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! I call the member for Glass House.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I just called you all to order. The member for Glass House is waiting to start.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.09 pm): I am delighted to rise and speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I was trying to think of the last time a tax was done away with. I may have played some part in that myself, having gotten rid of the then waste levy back in 2012. We know that those on the other side of the chamber brought it back. I am pleased to announce it will now stay. Before that, you would probably have to look at death taxes. In this one bill, we are getting rid of not just one Labor tax but two Labor taxes: stamp duty for first home buyers on a new build and the patients tax.

We know that Labor's decade of dysfunction has seen them try to bleed Queenslanders dry to pay for the financial train wreck that was the Palaszczuk-Miles government. In contrast, the Crisafulli government said that we would respect taxpayers' money, and the No. 1 way we can do that is to ensure we do not take too much of it. Unlike Labor, we are getting our hands out of Queenslanders' pockets. We are going to help, not hinder, first home buyers by abolishing their stamp duty on new homes, and we are sending a simple and clear message to Queenslanders: we will not tax you for going to the doctor.

I want to firstly tell the House about how this bill embodies our commitment to home ownership and making sure young Queenslanders can get ahead in life. Under Labor, Queensland became the state with the lowest rate of home ownership in the nation. Queensland's home ownership rate currently sits at 63½ per cent, and just 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged between 25 and 29 own their own home today. In 1971 that rate was 70 per cent. Last year we had more people between the age of 25 and 39 renting than in home ownership. Our young people are renting longer and paying more and have not been given the fair go they deserve. That is why more than half of gen Z believe they will never actually own their own home. After Labor's decade of dysfunction, our young people think that the Aussie dream is out of reach and that they will end up worse off than their parents. The Aussie dream has turned into the Aussie nightmare.

In my community of Glass House, we have higher levels of rental stress than the Queensland average. I see just how hard our young people have to work time and time again, on a double income, just to pull a deposit together, get into their first home and then hopefully set themselves up for the future. When they have to pay tens of thousands of dollars in stamp duty up-front, it only gets harder. This is a battle I know my own kids are fighting.

Let me put on the record today that over the summer break my eldest son, Dan, proposed to his now fiancée, Izzy. They are now two young people ready to begin their lives together. Part of that journey should be getting onto the property ladder, but it has simply been too hard. That is why it fills me with pride—not just as a minister in the Crisafulli government and the member for Glass House but also as a dad and soon-to-be father-in-law—to stand here in this place and say that the Crisafulli government is abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers like my son and his future wife.

Under these measures, first home owners purchasing a new build worth \$850,000 will save more than \$24,000. Given that is below the median house price in Maleny, Beerwah, Wamuran, Montville, Woodford and so many other towns in the Glass House electorate, I know just how big some of these savings will be across the community. This will help get over 3,000 young first home buyers into homes. I know this will make life easier for young people right across the Glass House electorate. I want our young people to make the most of this opportunity.

As a government we are not stopping there, though. We know that making ends meet does not magically get easier once you have crossed the threshold of your own home. Yet again in Glass House we have higher than average levels of mortgage stress, meaning that our community works hard to keep the roof over their heads and maintain that place to call home. We know that having a flatmate can provide an income stream to help make those repayments. It also helps ease young people into the financial responsibilities of home ownership, and this is something we want to encourage. Every dollar helps, and we need to make sure we are not cutting off any avenues first home buyers might use to make their life easier. That is why we are changing Labor's restrictive laws and allowing first home buyers to rent out a room in their home and keep the first home buyer concessions they need. The combined impact of these two changes may be the game changer my son needs to get into the market, finally. As an added bonus, it helps boost supply in the rental market as well and helps those who want to buy a home in addition to those who already have.

In true fashion, those opposite have opposed our positive agenda every single step of the way. After doing nothing during their decade of dysfunction in government, those opposite have resorted to baseless class warfare that sounds like it should be coming from the Greens. We have all heard Labor's confected complaints about multimillion dollar homes getting tax breaks. Just about anyone who knows a first home buyer immediately sees how ridiculous that claim is. Beyond that, our government believes that, no matter the circumstances of the buyer, every new home supported by this relief is another home added to Queensland's housing supply, helping to address the challenges facing the housing sector.

The LNP is the party of home ownership because we know it is good for society. Owning the place you call home is a way to put down roots and belong in a community; it is a pipeline to building a strong and stable family and the most important financial asset you can own. It is no wonder our plan has been backed by industry and experts who share our vision for more homes and more home owners.

When it comes to industry and experts supporting our fresh start for Queensland, we need look no further than to our plan to abolish Labor's patients tax. In a desperate bid to plug the budget black hole created by the decade of dysfunction, Labor decided they would tax Queensland's GPs. As if surgery waitlists, ambulance ramping and emergency delays in hospitals were not enough, the former minister for health and former treasurer—either of whom could be the opposition leader in the not-too-distant future—were more than happy to come after our local GPs, who are the first port of call for millions of Queenslanders every year. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the

RACGP, labelled the tax as illogical. The Queensland branch of the Australian Medical Association said that the ‘crippling patient tax will mean the end of bulk billing in Queensland’. Local GPs across our state made it clear that this would put their practices underwater and put their most vulnerable patients at even greater risk.


In my community of Glass House I spoke to countless locals who told me the same thing: this would make visiting the GP more expensive and make so many of them less likely to go, even when they needed it. In regional communities like ours we depend on our local GPs and providers, which is why I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is getting rid of Labor’s patients tax. But do not just take it from me. The Queensland chair of the RACGP said—

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

As opposed to letting our health workers down, we are working hand in glove with healthcare providers to ensure Queenslanders get the quality and accessible care they deserve.

Speaking to the specifics of the bill, it will amend the Payroll Tax Act to provide that, where relevant conditions are met, wages paid or payable by medical practices to GPs will not be subject to these taxes. The amendments will have retrospective effect from 1 December 2024. This means the exemption will apply to relevant wages paid or payable from 1 December 2024 onwards. The exemption is currently being delivered under an administrative arrangement, pending progression of the amendments in this bill, to ensure medical practices employing GPs can access the benefit of the exemption immediately. We did this because when we promise Queenslanders something we deliver on it.

Today we take that promise one step further by getting this bill through the House, delivering on our commitment and finally axing Labor’s patients tax for good. It is a privilege to stand here in this place and yet again get on with the job of doing exactly what we promised Queenslanders we would do, delivering the fresh start our state voted for. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (4.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The lauded savings under this bill may sound good. I have heard those opposite say it is a \$24,000 saving, but when the median house price in the electorate of Springwood, which I am very grateful to represent, is right on \$950,000 it is difficult to see how this will shift the dial for most prospective home owners. The LNP’s big answer to housing affordability is to make a home worth nearly \$1 million just \$24,000 cheaper. One has to ask who they are really helping with this policy. No-one is saying to me that they think this policy is going to reduce rents in outer suburbs. No-one is saying that their kids will now suddenly be able to buy a home somewhere affordably. When you look at how much of a difference this makes for residents of communities like the one I represent, it speaks volumes. Just to do a bit of math. It is hardly surprising the committee process also revealed that Queensland Treasury had not done any of the modelling on take-up.

The average age for young Queenslanders to move out of home is 24 and right now, as I said, in many communities like the one I represent the median house price is \$950,000. With a house deposit of 20 per cent, you would need a mortgage of \$760,000, and to even be able to have one of the big four lend you \$760,000 you have to have significant cash reserves or significant borrowing capacity. In fact, as a 24-year-old with no debt and with average monthly expenses you would have to earn \$162,000 per annum. That would put you in the top 93rd percentile of all taxpayers—the 93rd percentile. That is who this policy, which the LNP says is their big answer to housing affordability, is looking after—just a handful of the top income earners in this state. If you are on average income, if you are an ordinary Queenslanders, the LNP has no plan for housing affordability for you.

To drive real change for prospective first home buyers, measures need to be targeted. There is real concern out there that completely removing the threshold of property value for first home concessions is simply not a targeted approach. Removing the threshold effectively means that significant tax cuts are gifted to those buying properties worth well over that median price—that tiny handful of first home buyers with extraordinary borrowing power or huge cash reserves. The tax cuts for million-dollar houses for mega earners will not move the dial on home ownership or housing affordability for most Queenslanders. I am advised that someone buying a \$2 million property would receive nearly six times as much in tax support as a first home buyer purchasing a median property in somewhere like Bundaberg.

The Labor opposition will always support policies that improve housing supply and therefore housing affordability. We will always support better wages to help working people be able to pay their rent or service their mortgage, because a secure wage means you have certainty so you know when your next pay cheque is coming. Good stable jobs fuel home ownership.

Our record on this side of the House, Labor's record, speaks for itself. In fact, from 2015 to 2024, Queensland jobs have risen by 29.6 per cent, the strongest rise of any state in the nation. In Canberra, after almost a decade of federal coalition rule, a decade of delay, division and denial, Labor is doing the work of repairing the national economy.

This is what Labor have delivered: real wages are growing, jobs are growing, inflation is coming down, and we have seen the welcome news of the Reserve Bank cash rate cut this week. The work of Treasurer Chalmers and the federal Labor government have enabled these outcomes. That is the sort of economic management that really helps ordinary Queenslanders into a home. The lowest unemployment rate in 50 years is the sort of outcome that really helps Queenslanders, ordinary Queenslanders, like those in the community that I represent. Inflation has more than halved and real wages are rising. That is what Labor has delivered for Queenslanders and Australia.

Tax cuts disproportionately benefiting the rich, on the other hand, is straight out of the book of 'ScoMo-nomics'. He is the LNP leader whose record will forever be supply chain breakdowns and an overheated housing market, not just in Queensland, but right across the country. These are all the hallmarks of ScoMo's fiscal genius. Aussies who are in the housing market right now who will soon vote at a federal election will easily recall the LNP's emergency JobKeeper payments to billion-dollar companies who pocketed the excess and that they never paid it back. Imagine those billions upon billions, which were handed to the richest companies in the world operating here in Australia, being reallocated to social housing or tax relief to first home buyers.

Here in Queensland, the LNP's response to housing affordability is just inadequate. We share the concern of experts that the impact of the measures in this bill will be too limited. They do not constitute the sort of comprehensive strategy that will get more ordinary Queenslanders into a home. The measures will not deliver the sort of rent reduction so desperately needed everywhere.

The REIQ, a thoroughly informed voice in this debate, pointed to a lack of data and modelling in their submission to the committee. They said, 'In our view, the use of new concessions may be limited.' As we know, the LNP does not have modelling on this.

But what has been modelled, what is proven to work and what will ease housing pressure is supply—building more homes and delivering them faster. What will help Queenslanders pay their mortgage and rent is a good job. Relief like energy rebates and FairPlay vouchers will help people pay their mortgages and their rent.

While we did everything we could to increase supply, what was one of this LNP government's first moves as a government? They cut housing supply, including 650 homes on an abandoned golf course on the Gold Coast in the housing minister's own electorate. I mean, really? One abandoned golf course could not be used for housing in a city that has the most golf courses per square kilometre in the entire country?


Then they backed it in by dumping Cost of Living Rebates for ordinary Queensland households. Then with glee—with absolute glee—this government announced they have made attacking on-time payments for tradies in the construction sector their next big priority. It is frankly shocking. Keeping consumers' money in the pockets of developers and big builders rather than seeing it paid on time to tradies will not make homes cheaper for consumers and it will not reduce rents.

'Shocking' is a great segue into my contribution on the Payroll Tax Act amendments. It was a complete and utter fabrication peddled by the LNP right throughout the 2024 campaign. They love to wrap themselves in speeches about integrity, but then they fabricate to scare Queenslanders for their own political benefit. The truth is: Labor made Queensland the first jurisdiction in the nation to put the amnesty in place. We made it clear that GPs would not have to pay any payroll tax—the sort of costs that Queenslanders know Peter Dutton wants for them. It was a measure that was in line with longstanding practices in the industry. Then changes were made by the Miles government to enable general practitioners to avoid being subjected to payroll tax. Those measures were welcomed by the college. In fact, the college were encouraging other states to follow Queensland's lead. We made it clear when we announced our support for an exemption that medical centres were never going to incur payroll tax on GPs.

You will hear the LNP claim savings for consumers, but there will be no saving because there was no revenue to forgo. It was an LNP fabrication. No matter the truth, they kept pushing that falsehood out there. This is a government that said they would be transparent and accountable. They claimed that they would be a government of integrity, yet they cannot tell the truth. The purpose of this part of the bill is to simply wrap up their dodgy, confected scare campaign to bookend their litany of lies.

In contrast, Labor committed to 50 bulk-billing GP clinics across Queensland. We committed that every Queenslanders would have access to world-class primary care, regardless of where they live. It was a move to fix a system that had been neglected by a former federal LNP government. Queenslanders know the LNP under Peter Dutton tried to end bulk-billing. Queenslanders know the LNP under Dutton as health minister slashed hospital funding by \$10 billion. They know it was Peter Dutton and the LNP who wanted to introduce a GP tax and end free Medicare. We will not oppose something that Labor already resolved, but Queenslanders can see right through this bad Crisafulli LNP government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): I remind members, before I call the member for Pumicestone, that the level of audible conversation is rising. Please keep it low so I can hear the member for Pumicestone.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, a bill that delivers on our promises, provides real cost-of-living relief, supports home ownership and ensures Queenslanders can afford to go and see a doctor. For too long, families, young people and retirees in my electorate of Pumicestone have faced rising costs, increasing pressures and roadblocks put in place by the former government. Whether it is home ownership slipping further out of reach or young families struggling to save a deposit, one thing is clear: Labor failed Queenslanders, and our government is here to fix it.

There was a time in Queensland when owning a home was not a privilege, it was an expectation. It was something that every hardworking Queenslanders, no matter their background, could reasonably aspire to. That is no longer the case. The statistics are confronting: home ownership in Queensland has dropped to 63.5 per cent—the lowest in the nation; only 35 per cent of Queenslanders aged 25 to 29 own a home; and more young Queenslanders are renting than owning—236,210 renters compared to 227,572 home owners aged 25 to 39. These are not just statistics; this is the reality for thousands of young Queenslanders, like myself, who feel locked out of the market.

In Pumicestone I hear these stories every day. Just a few weeks ago I spoke with a young couple from Bribie—both working full-time and both doing everything right, yet they could not break into the housing market because of up-front costs like stamp duty. This bill delivers real relief by abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. For a young couple in Sandstone Point or Ningi, this means saving more than \$24,000 on a new home worth \$850,000. For a first home buyer in Toorbul, Elimbah or Caboolture, that is the difference between staying stuck in the rental market or stepping onto the property ladder.

We also know that buying a home is not just about getting the keys; it is about being able to keep the home and afford the mortgage. That is why this bill also removes outdated restrictions that punished first home buyers for renting out a spare room. Under Labor's rules, if a young home owner rented out a spare room to a friend or a flatmate, they lost their stamp duty concession. This made no sense. I have spoken to many young people in Pumicestone who said that having a flatmate would make all the difference, helping them cover mortgage repayments, save for the future and get ahead. Take, for example, my friend Josiah, a young teacher at Caboolture State School who lives in Ningi and was considering buying his first home. He told me that if he could rent out a spare room to a friend it would make home ownership affordable for him. With this change, he now can. This is a commonsense reform that will help young people afford their mortgages, encourage more first home buyers to enter the market and ease pressure on the rental market by creating more rental availability. This is how we make home ownership possible again—by removing unnecessary barriers, providing financial relief and giving young people more choice.


While housing is a major challenge, it is not the only crisis Queenslanders have faced under Labor. We also inherited a healthcare system in turmoil—a system where patients would be forced to pay more to see their GP because of Labor's patients tax. This was a direct tax on Queenslanders' health. Under the former government's payroll tax changes, GPs would have been slammed with unexpected tax bills that would have given them no choice but to pass these costs onto the patients. The results would have been devastating: bulk-billing rates plummeting, GPs considering cutting services or closing their doors, Queenslanders being forced into emergency departments instead of

seeing a GP. In Pumicestone, Labor's patients tax would have had real consequences. In communities like Bribie Island, which has one of the highest populations of seniors in Queensland, this tax would have made health care unaffordable for those who need it most. I remember speaking to an elderly couple in Bongaree who told me they had been bulk-billed for years but were worried about being charged more if their GP could not absorb the cost of Labor's patients tax. This is not something people should have to worry about.

This bill abolishes the patients tax once and for all. We are removing payroll tax for GPs, ensuring Queenslanders can see a doctor and not have to pay more. AMA Queensland called this a game changer, saying it will save practices from closing and will keep health care affordable. This is not just about patients; this is about reducing pressure on our already overstretched hospital system. If people cannot afford to see a GP they end up in emergency departments, increasing wait times and putting even more pressure on our frontline health workers. This bill ensures that does not happen.

I want to make one thing clear: Labor had every opportunity to fix these problems, and they failed. They had 10 years to act on home ownership—they ignored the problem. They had 10 years of warnings about their patients tax—they refused to listen. It was only when they were staring down an election defeat that they scrambled for last-minute fixes, but Queenslanders saw through it. This government, the Crisafulli LNP government, is taking real action. That is why we appointed Queensland's first ever Minister for Home Ownership—because we take this crisis seriously. That is why we immediately instructed the Treasury to scrap Labor's patients tax—because we know Queenslanders deserve affordable health care.

This bill is about real solutions, real action and real relief for Queenslanders. It will abolish stamp duty for homebuyers purchasing new homes; give first home buyers the flexibility to rent out a room to ease mortgage stress; and scrap Labor's patients tax and make GP visits affordable. This is a government that is focused on solutions—helping Queenslanders to buy a home, pay the bills and see a doctor without financial stress. This is what we promised to Queenslanders, and this is what we are delivering. I am proud to stand here today as the member for Pumicestone in support of this bill, because I know it will make a real difference to the people in my community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.34 pm): The member for Pumicestone and some of the newer LNP members who have been contributing to this debate have not been around for long, so I will give them a little bit of a history lesson.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney, who has been waiting for so long to have some kind of housing policy that he can call his own—but back to the new members from the LNP. The opposition supports exempting general practitioners from payroll tax because it is Labor policy. The changes that were made by the Miles government at the time enabled practitioners to avoid being subjected to payroll tax. In fact, the action that was taken by Labor at that time was supported by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The RACGP were encouraging other states like New South Wales to follow Queensland's lead. We made it clear when we announced our support for an exemption that there would not be any cost to the budget because we factored in that medical centres were never going to pay the payroll tax. The exemption will not cost the government any money in terms of forgone revenue, something I will come to later in my contribution in relation to other elements of the bill.

The only reason there is a bill before this House is to respond to the obscene scare campaign that the LNP ran before the election. I was almost going to take an interjection from a member who was not in their seat but they caught themselves! Evidence of just how ridiculous the LNP's scare campaign on this was can be found right here in the House back on 14 September 2023, when the member for Woodridge and then treasurer said—

Queensland, of course, was the first state to offer an amnesty relating to payments to contracted GPs—an amnesty that is in effect until 30 June 2025. Other states have followed our lead, instituting amnesties of their own.

Labor made a commitment to removing the payroll tax prior to the election. In fact, a media report from 9 October last year in the *Brisbane Times* states—

Doctors' groups have welcomed a ... election pledge to exempt GPs from paying payroll tax, a move they say will help keep medical costs down.

Indeed, the same article in the *Brisbane Times* goes on to say—

... Opposition Leader David Crisafulli promised to do the same in one of his first commitments of the campaign ...



He popped up from behind the small-target strategy he was running to announce a policy that Labor had already implemented.

Moving on to some of the other elements of the bill, this is a bill about revenue. Can I just say that revenue in the state of Queensland under the Crisafulli LNP government is going to take an enormous hit. We found that out yesterday when Standard & Poor's announced they are preparing to downgrade Queensland's forecast from stable to negative based on—

**Mr Stevens:** Because of your treasurer.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I know that those opposite try to blame Labor for this. They do not want to stand up and take any responsibility whatsoever. Let's listen to what Standard & Poor's actually said. They said that the revised outlook was from stable to negative. They stated—

... we see elevated uncertainty over Queensland's fiscal outlook. This is because the government—the LNP government—

describes MYFER as the previous government's "last budget update" and hasn't incorporated its own fiscal strategy or all of its decisions in fiscal forecasts.

No fiscal strategy! That puts paid to the ridiculous contention those opposite are putting forward that somehow the S&P downgrade is Labor's fault. It is the LNP Crisafulli government's fault and independent credit rating agencies know it; that is expressly what they said in their advice yesterday. Quite frankly, I am not surprised. This is a Treasurer who around Christmas spent more than a third of his time on leave, so it is no wonder that our credit forecast is going down.


I move on to the transfer duty threshold. As other speakers from the opposition have contributed during this debate, we will support practical measures that do help home owners and improve housing affordability. However, as other speakers have raised during this debate, there are real concerns around the application of the removal of transfer duty in this bill in that it is not targeted. What is proposed in this bill is a blunt instrument that will drive an inequitable outcome when it is applied. For example, when somebody is buying a multimillion dollar property in LNP electorates like Broadwater or Bonney, they are going to see a much bigger discount than people in my electorate of Bundamba who are seeking to buy their own home. In fact, during the committee process it was also—

**Mr O'Connor:** So vote against it.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the member for Bonney who, once again, like most of the LNP members opposite, is so simplistic and so reductive that he always brings a debate on a bill back to a binary proposition and cannot entertain any kind of detailed debate over the technicalities of the bill. We will not see it because this debate will be guillotined in about 15 minutes time and it will get rammed through. Then we will see Queenslanders, we will see rich people with deep pockets buying multimillion dollar mansions getting an enormous discount thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government when battlers out there will be seeing a much smaller benefit, and that is no accident. That is no accident at all.

As previous opposition speakers have indicated, what is proposed in this bill will not really change the dial when it comes to housing affordability in Queensland. Whilst the measures that are contained in this bill are going to be supported by the opposition, what they represent, just like the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws that were passed last year, is underdeveloped and not fully progressed policy and legislation that should have been done a lot better. Those measures should have been more targeted; they should have been able to deliver a much more equitable outcome when it comes to housing affordability right across Queensland, but they do not because the Crisafulli government has not done the work.

We look forward to calling out the LNP government when it comes to their incomplete work and their lack of detail when it comes to the laws they have drafted, just like they have a dearth of legislation in this House at the moment. We have seen the stalling this week because they have no legislative process at all.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.45 pm): I will make my contribution in the closing minutes of this debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. I will not be opposing the changes in this bill that extend the exemption to paying stamp duty to more first home buyers. In fact, the Greens support more broadly the abolition of transfer duty in its entirety and replacing it with an equitable system of land taxation. I will not oppose the bill, but unlike the LNP, I will not pretend that this bill is any sort of serious solution to the housing crisis. We need bold, transformative changes to ensure all Queenslanders can access safe, secure and affordable housing. Tinkering at the edges of a failed system, like this bill does, simply will not cut it.

Any sensible analysis tells us that the housing market is a complete failure. In just one generation the cost of the average home has gone from three times the average income to nine times the average income. The relative cost for someone to buy their first home today is triple what it cost their parents. Right now if a first home buyer goes along to an auction this weekend, they will be bidding against investors who are buying their third, fifth or tenth property. Every year because of the policies of successive LNP and Labor Party governments, those investors will receive \$20 billion in investor tax concessions. That is \$20 billion that goes straight into bidding up the cost of that house. It is \$20 billion that a first home buyer cannot access but property investors can. It used to be that if you were a teacher, a nurse, a plumber or a painter, you could rent or buy a house at or below cost because it was built by the government. Now, instead of building one in seven new houses to rent and sell to ordinary people, governments build fewer than one in 50.

If we wanted to improve access to education, we would not cut state school funding. If we wanted better access to health care, we would not cut health funding or privatise public hospitals. However, that is exactly what consecutive Labor and LNP governments have done in housing. It used to be that you could get cheap loans from a public bank or apply to access government finance to build a first home, but today those banks have been sold off and the government handouts go straight into the pockets of wealthy investors and billionaire developers. As a result, instead of working to get families into their first home as a public bank with the cheapest possible bank loan, the Commonwealth operates to generate as much profit for its shareholders as it can. Last year the Commonwealth Bank made \$10 billion in profits. That is \$10 billion out of the pockets of people struggling to pay off their mortgages.

Instead of government supporting families with government loans and finance to buy or build their first home, the LNP and Labor now shower their donors in handouts. I speak of donors like billionaire property developer Harry Triguboff who have no interest in anything other than making as much money as they can. Far from building housing, this means developers are incentivised to withhold supply. Triguboff himself said it explicitly; he said the quiet bit out loud. He admitted—

I am holding a lot more than I am selling at the moment, and as the value of property goes up the value of what I have kept rises.

That is a direct quote from that man. This is who donates to the LNP. This is who the LNP is governing for.

Even with the changes in this bill, wealthy investors will continue to receive the bulk of government concessions. According to the Australia Institute, two-thirds of housing tax concessions in the form of negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions go to the wealthiest 10 per cent of households. While a waiver on stamp duty for first home buyers might marginally narrow the inequality gap when it comes to government handouts, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute has found that it will also continue to make housing more expensive in real terms, ultimately benefiting the vendor most of all. This small concession for first home buyers is nowhere near enough to make home ownership a genuine possibility for the majority of renters and it does nothing to address the underlying problem.


In 2010 just 12 per cent of buyers were relying on financial help from family members. We have heard a lot of talk about the bank of mum or dad in this debate, but it is shocking to realise that now that figure is closer to 60 per cent. The UDIA noted that Brisbane's median dwelling prices had risen to \$883,000 in October 2024. That is up 67 per cent in less than five years. At that price, it takes the median household close to 11 years to save a 20 per cent deposit and more than half their income to service a new mortgage, yet the prices keep going up. In January this year—just last month—Brisbane's median house price officially reached \$1 million. At that price, if you are a single parent earning the median weekly income, home ownership is impossible. A \$29,000 concession on a million dollar house that no nurse, teacher or mechanic can possibly afford in the first place is downright offensive.

While Labor and the LNP do nothing meaningful to help the hundreds of thousands of potential first home buyers, the rate of home ownership continues to fall and the social housing waitlist has continued to grow, ballooning to almost 48,000 people now. All of this just sounds like numbers until you meet some of the families across the state living in tents, in short-term crisis accommodation and in rentals that are barely fit for habitation. With the new school year upon us now, families in my electorate living in crisis accommodation are choosing between groceries for the week and the stationery to put in their kids' school bags to go off to school for their first years of primary school, yet no-one in this House supported the Greens bill last term to cover out-of-pocket school expenses or to make sure that state education was genuinely free.

The LNP's answer is to tinker with taxes to let a few extra people in the gate and to wind back regulations in the blind hope that property developers will do the right thing. I have some news for it: despite what the Property Council of Australia wants it to believe, that will not fix the problem because the problem is that it does not want affordable housing. Affordability is entirely at odds with its very purpose. It is not in the business of building houses out of the goodness of its heart. It is only in it to maximise shareholder returns. For it, it is simple: it is more profitable to land-bank, to limit the slow trickle of supply, to cut corners and cost, to build luxury complexes and drive prices up. When Brisbane's median house price surpassed a million dollars and the median apartment price increased almost \$100,000 in less than a year—a single year—various property industry groups released celebratory articles patting each other on the back for a good year's work, rejoicing that the city had now passed these so-called milestones, while home ownership gets further and further out of reach for countless Queenslanders. I do not know about anyone else, but I find that sickening.

We need radical, transformative shifts in the way housing is treated in this country. The LNP and Labor have turned housing into a lucrative asset for wealthy investors to park their money, inflating prices and creating an economic bubble. As property prices continue to balloon, a vacant block of land can now make more money than most ordinary people make in a year of real productive actual work. We need an end to these spiralling house costs, and that means a rent freeze and long-term caps on rent increases. It means an end to tax handouts for wealthy property investors who push up house prices. With the budget savings from those tax handouts we could fund massive investments in well-designed public housing that people actually want to live in—housing that is close to the services that people need and existing communities and where a nurse can live next door to a lawyer and a teacher can live next door to someone on the disability support pension. The struggle to access safe and secure housing is a universally dehumanising experience, but it does not have to be like this.

I will turn very briefly to the other component of the bill, which provides an exemption from payroll tax for wages paid by a medical practice to GPs. The Greens support this change and we support the abolition of payroll tax entirely for small and medium businesses, but let us not pretend again that this change is anywhere near enough to make access to affordable health services realistic for all Queenslanders. The last six years have seen the number of bulk-billing GPs drop by 31 per cent and access to health services in rural and remote communities even further limited. We need to see an expanded investment in public health clinics across the state to boost access to affordable GPs, specialists and mental health clinicians, and that can only be done by undoing years of damage to Medicare and the public healthcare system. We need governments that are willing to fairly tax billionaires and multinational corporations to fund the things that ordinary people need.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill and speak on behalf of the people of Toowoomba and south-west Queensland. People in my part of the world are very pleased to see this legislation. There are housing pressures in Charleville, in Quilpie, in Roma. There are housing pressures all throughout the south-west and certainly in Toowoomba. We want to help young people move into the south-west and think about careers, whether they be teachers or nurses or whether they want to work in agriculture. We want opportunities for them, and removing stamp duty means that they can move around the state. After they finish their university degree, they can go into a regional area and buy affordable housing and not have to pay stamp duty. The Greens would much rather see them stay in the CBD and try to work out how they are going to buy a multimillion dollar house, which is just a nonsense. We want these people to come to the south-west. We do not want stamp duty to be a barrier for a first home buyer in the south-west, so having them come out to our area and not have to pay that stamp duty is a great incentive for them to get into home ownership.

Earlier in this debate I heard a member talking about the downgrade that was faced and how it was nothing to do with the Labor government. I just want to clarify a couple of issues. After 34 months in government, in 2014-15 the interest bill paid by Queenslanders was \$3.9 billion. That was the interest bill being paid on debt as we left government. After 10 years of Labor being in government, the interest bill at the last Labor budget—the 2024 budget—was \$7.73 billion, so a substantial increase in that 10 years in the interest bill. How many affordable homes could be built for \$3 billion? Probably a few, but just not by Labor.

When we look at the MYFER that was put forward, the true cost of Labor's completely incompetent mismanagement of its spending over the period of time of governance is \$9.9 billion, and that is just the interest. That is not to get the debt down; that is just what the people of Queensland have to pay because those now on the opposition benches could not control their spending. Costs are being driven up and cost of living is hard because everything that the Labor Party touched has driven


up the costs for the people of Queensland. Therefore, it is great to be part of a Crisafulli government that is providing some cost-of-living relief, particularly around home ownership, and better access to health care. We know that under Labor there was this moment of consternation by medicos as to whether they were going to have to restructure their entire business, whether they were going to pay tax, how it was going to work and what was going to happen. It was very unsettling for people who have invested a lot of money in setting up a business so they can provide health services.

We are told by some of those opposite that what we are doing is completely unnecessary. We are told by others sitting next to them that they had already put an amnesty in and so therefore it was not necessary. The amnesty is going to run out. If this was not necessary—if this was, as we are told, something that was not required—then why was the amnesty put in in the first place? The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Medication Association warned that it would force doctors to raise their fees or, much worse, particularly in my community and communities west of us, shut their doors. Health services in regional and remote Queensland, particularly out in the south-west, are pretty hard to come by. It is difficult for some people to keep their practices operating. Having to pay a tax because the former treasurer Cameron Dick could not manage the spending and the former main roads minister could not control expenditure—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member, could I ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr WATTS:** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pursuant to the motion agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Treasurer to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.00 pm), in reply: I thank those members who have contributed to the bill over the last few days. The measures in this bill go to the heart of the Crisafulli government's agenda: easing cost-of-living pressures, protecting access to health services no matter where you live and providing hope for a generation of first home buyers. We are determined to restore the great Australian dream of home ownership by axing a tax to make buying a new home cheaper and to encourage more supply. We are also allowing for more capacity in the rental market and we are axing a sneaky tax grab which would have made it harder and more expensive to see a doctor.

I am honoured to be the Treasurer whose first revenue bill in this House is to axe two taxes. Over the last 10 years there has only been a one-way direction with tax in this state. There have been 18 new or increased taxes over the course of the Palaszczuk and Miles governments. Most famously, before the last election the member for Woodridge promised 26 times there would be no new or increased taxes and what did the former treasurer do? He raised four new taxes in the budget of 2022. It was clear there was only one direction for those opposite when it came to tax and that was more and higher. The measures in this bill respond to significant cost-of-living pressures in housing and health care, pressures those opposite utterly failed to address in their 10 years in office.

I will commence my response to the debate on two home ownership measures in this bill. When this government says we are abolishing stamp duty on first home buyers purchasing a new build, we mean it. The shadow treasurer in her contribution said that some first home buyers do not need a tax cut. It is not surprising. We all remember when the deputy opposition leader and former treasurer said he did not feel sympathy for Queenslanders doing it tough given the tight housing market conditions. The member for Mount Ommaney said completely removing the threshold is not a targeted response. In fact, we heard this critique constantly from those opposite during the debate and it is completely false. In abolishing this tax we are, in fact, providing a targeted response. Even more specifically, for first home buyers choosing new builds we are helping to stimulate supply in the economy. We are committed to home ownership—no, we are the party of home ownership! Every dollar that a first home buyer does not spend on stamp duty is another dollar they can put to their deposit to get onto the housing ladder.

Opposition members also seem to be ignorant to the very real support that abolishing this tax would provide first home buyers in their own electorates. The member for Bulimba said this bill does not appear to really address some of the hopes and dreams that young people have about home ownership. I am going to help the member for Bulimba with some maths. The median price for units in the suburb of Murarrie in the Bulimba electorate is \$795,000. Under this bill, a first home buyer buying a new apartment at that median price would pay zero stamp duty, a saving of \$19,890. There are new family homes on sale in Murrumba Downs in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition for around \$900,000. Under this bill a first home buyer will save over \$26,000.

Members opposite also repeated the furphy that the impact had not been appropriately modelled by Treasury. It makes sense that they would say that because none of them were listening. None of them were paying attention to the committee report, none of them were paying attention to the transcript and none of them were paying attention to my second reading contribution. In fact, I think they are a very lazy opposition and it is already on display because it is wrong that there was no modelling undertaken. It is in black and white on page 7 of the committee report itself. Queensland Treasury had modelled and estimated the impact of this policy and, as I said, I commented on it in my second reading speech. I said that Treasury modelling says around 3,000 first home buyers per year will receive additional benefit from this measure, inclusive of the new demand expected given the more favourable treatment of new builds compared to existing homes. There is the modelling which none of them seemed to pick up. Let me be clear: when it comes to first home buyers purchasing or building a new home, this government is abolishing a tax today.

It was also very interesting to hear those opposite talk about their new-found interest in what stakeholders in the property industry are saying. For the best part of a decade those opposite treated stakeholders in the property sector with absolute contempt. One only needs to look back at the Housing Summit as a perfect example. The reason the Housing Summit was necessary in 2022 was because those opposite had failed to consult. They had stopped listening. They did not care; they just went straight ahead. It was after the abolition of the renters tax. Who can forget the renters tax? There has been a pretty big silence in this debate over the last few days: I cannot recall hearing the member for Woodridge speaking today, or yesterday or the day before. The member for Woodridge was the genius behind the renters tax which would have pushed out investment and put up rents in the middle of a housing crisis. That was just one example of how those opposite had treated the property industry and the stakeholders with absolute contempt. They did not care. They called that Housing Summit because they had forgotten everybody in the housing stakeholder group. They had not talked to anybody. They treated them with contempt. There were a series of meetings and then there were no outcomes. Those opposite were masters at that. They call a Housing Summit, have a whole range of meetings and then no real outcomes are ever reported.

I am also reminded of the Homes for Queenslanders plan. The only bullet point on home ownership in that policy which was released last year was something that the Palaszczuk government had announced the previous year. When I say that we are the party of home ownership I mean it. Today we now have runs on the board when it comes to home ownership. I want to comment on the member for Bulimba, who said—

I would much rather hear from submitters like the REIQ, the Housing Industry Association and the Urban Development Institute of Australia.

The member for Bancroft said—

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.

That is seriously what the member for Bancroft said. As I have just outlined, those opposite treated the industry with contempt. There would not have been a need for a review had they actually kept in touch and spoken with the industry. As the circumstances were modified, they never kept in touch with the industry. Last year during the election campaign the former treasurer accused the Property Council of delivering for the LNP. That is literally how those opposite treated stakeholders. That is what the former treasurer of Queensland said about stakeholders.

It is interesting to note that the former treasurer is now busy Hoovering up free lunches at Property Council events. When in government, those opposite treated the industry with contempt. Those key people provide prosperity and future homes and rental properties for Queenslanders. They were deeply offended by the renters tax and the way in which the former treasurer treated the sector for all those years. It is interesting that he has changed his tune now that they are in opposition. We are fully engaged with the sector. Many on our side of the House regularly meet with them. As Treasurer and a member of the Ministerial Housing Taskforce, I know that many members on this side of the House do engage with the Property Council because that is what mature collaborative governments do.

Those opposite also claim that they delivered the reform to allow homebuyers to rent out a room without losing concessions, whether that be the first home owner grant or the stamp duty concession. The member for Miller said—

This bill is like being given an oil painting and then scrawling your own initials in the bottom corner ... putting it on the wall, pretending you painted it and telling people that you did.

Not a single person in the world would pick up the work of the member for Miller and claim it.

When we first proposed in the public square that someone with a first home buyer grant who rented out a room would not lose the concession, the member for Aspley said it was 'not really a big issue out there'. Would members believe that 3,497 days into their government and just 21 days before the caretaker period they very quietly approved an administrative arrangement but they never told anybody? The member for Cooper said 'it was implemented by the Miles Labor government as a six-month trial'. It is funny, but I do not remember any ministerial or public statements from those opposite saying that they had ever adopted this policy. They believed in it so passionately, apparently, that they told no-one about it. They told no-one about a policy that they apparently believed in so passionately. They could not even be bothered putting it into legislation. They made it an administrative arrangement so that it was hidden from everybody. That shows how much they believed in it. Today we are going to make the temporary arrangement permanent because that is what we promised and now we are delivering it.

I turn to the patients tax. I have never heard a more confused, inconsistent and incoherent line of argument than what I heard from those opposite. You would think that, after everything that has happened over the past few years, they would have just sucked it up and taken the loss today, but no. They are going to double down. They were busy gaslighting the people of Queensland in their contributions across the board.

**Dr Rowan** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Where does it start, Leader of the House? There was utter confusion from those on the other side of the House. The shadow treasurer said, 'The opposition has always supported exempting GPs from payroll tax.' I table a *Courier-Mail* article that states 'Mr Dick ... ruled out any form of exemption'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 1 February 2023, titled 'You'll pay the GP tax' [\[122\]](#).

**Mr Lister:** I remember that.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. We have an absolute contrast. It is a contradiction. It is as if those opposite have collective amnesia about what actually went on over the past few years.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection. It was more than that. It was not collective amnesia; it was straight-out dishonesty. By saying that, the shadow treasurer shows a lack of integrity when it comes to admitting what actually happened. On 9 November 2022, the member for Woodridge said that GPs were subject to the same rules as others. He also said—

People might not like paying tax, but I'm sure people would agree that it's appropriate for people to pay their fair share.

That day, the then premier, the then health minister and the then treasurer all told parliament that there was nothing to see here. That is effectively what they said. The next month, a ruling was issued that made it clear that GPs would be liable for payroll tax.

After the December 2022 ruling, the LNP opposition and doctors continued to talk about their concerns. Meanwhile, Labor continued to defend their position. The now shadow health minister, the member for Miller, called it a 'beat-up'. By February 2023, the Labor government had granted an amnesty and addressed retrospectivity. My question is: why would you need an amnesty for a tax that does not even exist? Why exactly would those on the other side of the House have needed to grant an amnesty if, as they claim, the tax did not exist? At the time, Dr Maria Boulton, the then president of the AMAQ, said—

In two and a half years, GPs will still be forced to pass on the cost of payroll tax to patients.

In September 2023, they had yet another attempt at developing a workable solution. According to the member for Miller, after that everybody lived happily ever after; everyone was very happy. Seriously? You cannot be serious! While it is fair to say that there might have been some initial optimism, the devil was in the detail and those opposite know it. That was reflected through feedback from the RACGP. RACGP state manager James Flynn said that practitioners were talking to their lawyers and their accountants and taking on tens of thousands of dollars in costs to rearrange their administrative arrangements. He said they were taking on additional administrative and compliance burdens. That was never fixed and those opposite know it. General practitioners took on additional costs and compliance burdens. We know that because James Flynn, the state manager of the RACGP

at the time, said it. I will give the perfect example. I spoke with Rod Martin, a practice owner at Everton Park. He said there were medical practices preparing to install up to 20 to 25 EFTPOS machines to comply with these ridiculous changes, to comply with the patient tax. That shows the cost to the industry.

After that bruising journey and everything that has happened, for those opposite to claim that there was a scare campaign or a fake campaign is disgraceful. After seeking to deny the very real concerns of doctors and patients, they then have the temerity to suggest that they would have delivered what this government is delivering, but we know they never would have abolished the patients tax. We know it.

The member for Bundaberg said that we are handing in Labor's homework. The member for Aspley said that the opposition applauded the government for continuing the important work of the Miles Labor government. Spare me! Labor's hypocrisy does not end there. Throughout the debate, the shadow treasurer and her colleagues claimed that the revenue impact of the exemption was already accounted for. Wrong! The member for Ipswich and many other Labor members said that a permanent exemption would not cost anything to the budget. However, just five months ago, in a debate on this very issue, the member for Ipswich said—

We have provided this amnesty at a cost in our budget of \$100 million per year.

Which is it? Those on the other side of the House are utterly inconsistent. The former treasurer allowed an estimate of \$100 million for his amnesty scheme but, as we know, it lapsed this financial year. Why? Because when the former government put that provision in the budget they had assumed they would start receiving revenue from the patients tax from 1 July this year. Not only is it in black and white in the 2023-24 budget papers, but the member for Woodridge also made it very clear in budget estimates. He said—

To be clear, we have provided this amnesty at a cost to the budget of \$100 million per year.

He also said—

The LNP should say what they believe, whether they believe in this, whether they believe in the amnesty and the reapplication of payroll tax to general practice and medical practices on 1 July 2025, or whether they do not.

Those opposite knew it was a tax. They knew it was a patients tax. They gave themselves away when they brought in an amnesty. For them to say that they supported the exemption all along, or to otherwise say that there was no such thing and it was a fake scare campaign, they are without credibility. They are without credibility on this issue. If there was no tax, why would there ever have been an amnesty?

Only this side of the House can be trusted to deliver this tax reform. My fear is that, if those opposite ever got back into government, they would bring it back. They would bring it back and drive up emergency department presentations. They would bring it back and drive up the cost of seeing the family doctor. They would bring it back and put upward pressure on bulk-billing in Queensland.

I am out of time. I would love to keep going on this—but today is a historic day. Our first bill is about to pass and we are axing two taxes. Queenslanders deserve it.

*(Time expired)*

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



**Mr JANETZKI** (5.21 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

#### 1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 4, line 7, 'division'—

*omit, insert—*

divisions 2A and

**Mr JANETZKI:** I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

*Tabled paper:* Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, explanatory notes to Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [123].

*Tabled paper:* Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [124].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



**Mr JANETZKI** (5.22 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

**2 After clause 5**

Page 5, after line 25—

*insert—*

**Division 2A Amendment commencing on assent**

**5A Insertion of new ch 17, pt 31**

Chapter 17—

*insert—*

**Part 31 Imposition of AFAD in particular circumstances**

**688 Imposition of AFAD payable 1 January 2018 to 8 April 2024**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) AFAD was purportedly imposed on a relevant transaction under chapter 4; and
  - (b) the AFAD was purportedly payable on or after 1 January 2018 and before 8 April 2024; and
  - (c) the purported imposition of AFAD on the relevant transaction was invalid only because the provisions of this Act that purportedly imposed the AFAD were to any extent invalid or inoperative under the Commonwealth Constitution, section 109 because of an inconsistency with a provision of an agreement given the force of law by the *International Tax Agreements Act 1953* (Cwlth), section 5(1).
- (2) AFAD is imposed on the relevant transaction.
- (3) The liability for AFAD imposed under subsection (2) is taken to have arisen, and to have always arisen, at the same time as liability for the purported duty would have arisen if the purported duty had been validly imposed.
- (4) AFAD imposed under subsection (2) is payable by, and is taken to have always been payable by, the person who would have been liable for the purported duty if the purported duty had been validly imposed.
- (5) The amount of AFAD payable under subsection (2) is the same amount, and is taken to have always been the same amount, as the amount of AFAD that would have been payable if the purported duty had been validly imposed.
- (6) The rights and liabilities of a person in relation to AFAD imposed under subsection (2) are taken to be, and to have always been, the same as the rights and liabilities that the person would have had in relation to the purported duty if the purported duty had been validly imposed.
- (7) Anything done or omitted to be done by a person in relation to the purported duty has, and is taken to have always had, the same force and effect as if it were done or omitted to be done in relation to AFAD imposed under subsection (2).
- (8) In this section—

***purported duty***, in relation to a relevant transaction, means AFAD referred to in subsection (1) that was purportedly imposed on the relevant transaction.

***relevant transactions*** see section 230.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 26, as read, agreed to.



Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr JANETZKI** (5.23 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr JANETZKI**: I move amendment No. 3 circulated in my name—

**3 After clause 26**

Page 26, after line 12—

*insert—*

**Part 2A Amendment of Land Tax Act 2010**

**26A Act amended**

This part amends the *Land Tax Act 2010*.

**26B Insertion of new pt 10, div 10**

Part 10—

*insert—*

**Division 10 Imposition of land tax in particular circumstances**

**104 Imposition of land tax payable 30 June 2019 to 8 April 2024—foreign company or trustee of foreign trust**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) land tax was purportedly imposed for a financial year on taxable land at the rate (the **surcharge rate**) mentioned in section 32(1)(b)(ii) as in force when the liability for the land tax arose; and
  - (b) the land tax was purportedly payable on or after 30 June 2019 and before 8 April 2024; and
  - (c) the purported imposition of land tax on the taxable land at the surcharge rate was invalid only because the provisions of this Act that purportedly imposed the land tax were to any extent invalid or inoperative under the Commonwealth Constitution, section 109 because of an inconsistency with a provision of an agreement given the force of law by the *International Tax Agreements Act 1953* (Cwth), section 5(1).
- (2) Land tax at the surcharge rate is imposed on the taxable land.
- (3) The liability for land tax imposed under subsection (2) is taken to have arisen, and to have always arisen, at the same time as liability for the purported land tax would have arisen if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
- (4) Land tax imposed under subsection (2) is payable by, and is taken to have always been payable by, the person who would have been liable for the purported land tax if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
- (5) The amount of land tax payable under subsection (2) is the same amount, and is taken to have always been the same amount, as the amount of land tax that would have been payable if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
- (6) The rights and liabilities of a person in relation to land tax imposed under subsection (2) are taken to be, and to have always been, the same as the rights and liabilities that the person would have had in relation to the purported land tax if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
- (7) Anything done or omitted to be done by a person in relation to the purported land tax has, and is taken to have always had, the same force and effect as if it were done or omitted to be done in relation to land tax imposed under subsection (2).
- (8) In this section—
 

**purported land tax**, in relation to taxable land, means land tax referred to in subsection (1) that was purportedly imposed on the taxable land.

**105 Imposition of land tax payable 1 January 2018 to 8 April 2024—absentee**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) land tax was purportedly imposed for a financial year on taxable land at the rate (the **absentee rate**) mentioned in section 32(1)(c) as in force when the liability for the land tax arose; and

- (b) the land tax was purportedly payable on or after 1 January 2018 and before 8 April 2024; and
  - (c) the purported imposition of land tax on the taxable land at the absentee rate was invalid only because the provisions of this Act that purportedly imposed the land tax were to any extent invalid or inoperative under the Commonwealth Constitution, section 109 because of an inconsistency with a provision of an agreement given the force of law by the *International Tax Agreements Act 1953* (Cwth), section 5(1).
- (2) Land tax at the absentee rate is imposed on the taxable land.
  - (3) The liability for land tax imposed under subsection (2) is taken to have arisen, and to have always arisen, at the same time as liability for the purported land tax would have arisen if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
  - (4) Land tax imposed under subsection (2) is payable by, and is taken to have always been payable by, the person who would have been liable for the purported land tax if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
  - (5) The amount of land tax payable under subsection (2) is the same amount, and is taken to have always been the same amount, as the amount of land tax that would have been payable if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
  - (6) The rights and liabilities of a person in relation to land tax imposed under subsection (2) are taken to be, and to have always been, the same as the rights and liabilities that the person would have had in relation to the purported land tax if the purported land tax had been validly imposed.
  - (7) Anything done or omitted to be done by a person in relation to the purported land tax has, and is taken to have always had, the same force and effect as if it were done or omitted to be done in relation to land tax imposed under subsection (2).
  - (8) In this section—
 

**purported land tax**, in relation to taxable land, means land tax referred to in subsection (1) that was purportedly imposed on the taxable land.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 27, as read, agreed to.

Clause 28—



**Ms FENTIMAN** (5.24 pm): I have two questions for the Treasurer regarding clause 28. Changes made by the Commissioner of State Revenue in September 2023 meant that GPs would no longer be liable for payroll tax. Given this change, what was the Treasurer's advice in the incoming government brief on the revenue forgone from the government's election commitment to exempt GPs from payroll tax? Secondly, the AMAQ in its submission in committee hearings requested that all medical businesses, including non-GP specialists, be exempted from payroll tax. Will the Treasurer be acting on that request?

**Mr JANETZKI**: I thank the shadow treasurer for her question. To the second question first: I confirm that the exemption is limited to general practitioners, as we have publicly stated. It has been quite clear throughout the committee process what the revenue forgone would be. As I have described in my reply, \$100 million was previously forgone in the last budget of the former government. That revenue forgone has been clearly articulated for the House.

Clause 28, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr JANETZKI** (5.26 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr JANETZKI**: I move amendment No. 4 circulated in my name—

#### 4 After clause 28

Page 27, after line 24—

*insert—*

**Part 4** **Amendment of South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009**

#### 29 Act amended

This part amends the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009*.

## 30 Insertion of new ch 6, pt 15

Chapter 6—

*insert—***Part 15 Validation provisions for Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2024****157 Validation of particular infrastructure charges schedules etc.**

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
- (a) an infrastructure charges schedule was purportedly adopted under this Act by an SEQ service provider that is a distributor-retailer; and
  - (b) a requirement of section 99BRCE, 99BRCF or 99BRCG was not complied with in relation to—
    - (i) the adoption of the schedule by the distributor-retailer's board; or
    - (ii) a board decision for an adopted charge included in the schedule (a **relevant adopted charge**), including an automatic increase provision of the decision.
- (2) It is declared that—
- (a) the infrastructure charges schedule is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid as it would have been if the schedule had been adopted by the distributor-retailer's board in compliance with section 99BRCE; and
  - (b) the board decision for a relevant adopted charge is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid as it would have been if the decision had been made in compliance with section 99BRCF; and
  - (c) if the board decision for a relevant adopted charge did not state the day when the charge was to take effect—the board decision is taken to have stated the charge was to take effect on the day the decision was made; and
  - (d) an automatic increase provision of the board decision for a relevant adopted charge is taken to be, and always to have been, as valid as it would have been if the provision had stated how increases under it are to be worked out; and
  - (e) section 99BRCG(4) does not apply, and is taken never to have applied, in relation to an automatic increase provision for a relevant adopted charge.
- (3) Also, it is declared that anything done, or to be done, by an entity in relation to the infrastructure charges schedule, relevant adopted charge or automatic increase provision for a relevant adopted charge is, and always has been, as valid as it would be or would have been if—
- (a) the schedule had been adopted in compliance with section 99BRCE; and
  - (b) the board decision for the relevant charge had been made in compliance with section 99BRCF; and
  - (c) for a relevant adopted charge mentioned in subsection (2)(c)—the board decision had stated the charge was to take effect on the day the decision was made; and
  - (d) section 99BRCG(4) did not apply, and had never applied, in relation to an automatic increase provision for a relevant adopted charge.

*Examples of things done or to be done in relation to an infrastructure charges schedule, relevant adopted charge or automatic increase provision—*

- the levying of an adopted charge included in the schedule, including the giving of an infrastructure charges notice, by the distributor-retailer under section 99BRCE
- the adoption of a water netserv plan, or an amendment of a water netserv plan, under chapter 4B that includes the schedule as a charges schedule
- the levying of an automatic increase in levied charges in reliance on the automatic increase provision

- (4) In this section—
- adopted charge** see section 99BRCF(1).
- automatic increase provision** see section 99BRCG(3)(b).
- board decision**, for an adopted charge, see section 99BRCF(1).
- done** includes purportedly done.
- infrastructure charges schedule** see section 99BRCD.

**158 Validation of particular infrastructure charges notices and agreements**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) either—
    - (i) an infrastructure charges notice is purportedly given by a distributor-retailer under section 99BRCE; or

- (ii) an agreement with the recipient of an infrastructure charges notice is purportedly entered into under section 99BRCM; and
  - (b) the notice or agreement relates to a levied charge that is a relevant adopted charge under section 157(1)(b)(ii).
- (2) It is declared that—
- (a) sections 99BRCK(1)(e) and 99BRCM(2) do not apply, and are taken never to have applied, in relation to the notice or agreement; and
  - (b) anything done, or to be done, by an entity in relation to the notice or agreement is, and always has been, as valid as it would be or would have been if section 99BRCK(1)(e) or 99BRCM(2) did not apply, and had never applied, in relation to the notice or agreement.
- (3) In this section—
- done** includes purportedly done.
- levied charge** see section 99BRCI(6).

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr JANETZKI** (5.26 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I move amendment No. 5 circulated in my name—

**5 After clause 28**

Page 27, after line 24—

*insert—*

**Part 5 Amendment of Taxation Administration Act 2001**

**31 Act amended**

This part amends the *Taxation Administration Act 2001*.

**32 Insertion of new pt 13, div 13**

Part 13—

*insert—*

**Division 13 Effect of particular assessments**


**189 Assessments related to Duties Act 2001, s 688 and Land Tax Act 2010, ss 104 and 105**

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) any of the following applies—
    - (i) the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688;
    - (ii) the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104 or 105; and
  - (b) an assessment of a taxpayer's liability was made or purportedly made under this Act in relation to purported duty under the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688 or purported land tax under the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104 or 105.
- (2) The assessment has, and is taken to have always had, the same force and effect as if it were made in relation to—
  - (a) if subsection (1)(a)(i) applies—AFAD imposed under the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688(2); or
  - (b) if subsection (1)(a)(ii) applies—land tax imposed under the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104(2) or 105(2).
- (3) The rights and liabilities of a person in relation to the assessment are taken to be, and to have always been, the same as if the assessment were made in relation to—
  - (a) if subsection (1)(a)(i) applies—AFAD imposed under the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688(2); or
  - (b) if subsection (1)(a)(ii) applies—land tax imposed under the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104(2) or 105(2).
- (4) Anything done or omitted to be done by a person in relation to the assessment has, and is taken to have always had, the same force and effect as if it were done or omitted to be done in relation to—
  - (a) if subsection (1)(a)(i) applies—AFAD imposed under the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688(2); or
  - (b) if subsection (1)(a)(ii) applies—land tax imposed under the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104(2) or 105(2).

- (5) Any amount paid by a person in relation to the assessment is taken to be, and to have always been, paid in relation to—
- (a) either—
- (i) if subsection (1)(a)(i) applies—AFAD imposed under the *Duties Act 2001*, section 688(2); or
- (ii) if subsection (1)(a)(ii) applies—land tax imposed under the *Land Tax Act 2010*, section 104(2) or 105(2); and
- (b) any interest and penalty tax payable under part 5 in relation to a liability mentioned in paragraph (a); and
- (c) any other amount paid or payable by a taxpayer to the commissioner in relation to a liability mentioned in paragraph (a).

Amendment agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.27 pm): I move—


That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.27 pm): I move amendment No. 6 circulated in my name—

6 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Payroll Tax Act 1971*'—

omit, insert—

, the *Land Tax Act 2010*, the *Payroll Tax Act 1971*, the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009* and the *Taxation Administration Act 2001*


Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## SPEAKER'S RULING


### Error in Question on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 19 February 2025, the member for Greenslopes asked a question on notice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in accordance with standing order 114. Due to an administrative error, the Table Office incorrectly referred the question on notice to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The member in no way contributed to the error. I, therefore, order that the responsible minister for question on notice No. 57 of 2025 be corrected on the *Notice Paper* for 20 February 2025 and in the questions on notice database.

## QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

Resumed from 28 November 2024 (see p. 82).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The restoration of the Queensland Productivity Commission is a key step in restoring a mature discussion about what underpins our state's prosperity. This bill, which was introduced at the end of last year, delivers on the government's election commitment. The commission is tasked to lift productivity, improve living standards and drive economic growth through the in-depth and transparent review of complex economic, social and regulatory issues by independent experts, informed by public consultation.

Technically, productivity strives to squeeze more from costly capital and scarce labour, but it goes far deeper than that. Productivity growth has been largely stagnant in Queensland for too long. Over the most recent cycle, from 2017-18 to 2021-22, labour productivity grew by only 0.7 per cent, compared to 1.5 per cent nationally. Weak productivity growth has significant consequences for Queensland households. Had productivity growth remained at its pre-2018 average over the subsequent period, it is estimated that Queensland's real per capita income would have been \$11,000 higher in 2023-24.

It is clear that governments must pursue productivity gains in order to protect economic growth and enhance living standards. This is why the government is committed to establishing the Queensland Productivity Commission. Lifting Queensland's productivity performance will require improvements to policy and regulatory settings to support business activity and income growth, provide better government services and deliver on our government's housing and infrastructure priorities.

One of my key criticisms of Labor's last term in government was their squandering of record rivers of revenue gold. The member for Woodridge ultimately collected \$70 billion more than what he forecast in his first budget of the last term. That is \$70 billion more than what Labor expected to receive in less than four years. What happened to this windfall? What confidence can Queenslanders ever again have in Labor when record revenues only resulted in record numbers of the sick waiting on the ramp and the homeless sleeping in cars, under bridges and on the streets, and the highest number of victims of crime our state has ever seen. With this record, Queenslanders lost trust in the former Labor government's ability to productively deliver more and better services with the precious taxpayer dollar. Governments play a fundamental role in the productivity challenge as they tax, regulate and spend.

Last year, the federal Productivity Commission released its five-year review of Australian productivity. It was a nine-volume, 1,000-page document crying out for public policy improvements. Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has talked about an opportunity to 'renew' the federal Productivity Commission, and past Labor luminaries Hawke and Keating shaped their reform agendas on Productivity Commission recommendations. There is, undoubtedly, a productivity challenge facing our nation as the regulatory reform program of the 1990s and 2000s envisioned through Hilmer has drawn to a close.

Meanwhile in Queensland, the member for Woodridge abolished our version of this important institution. Originally introduced in the first term of the Palaszczuk government, the Queensland Productivity Commission had delivered a range of independent opinions. The former Palaszczuk government gradually starved the commission of relevance. Four matters were referred to the commission in 2015 alone but only seven from then until it was abolished in 2021. Only one matter was referred in 2020.

The commission reviewed important matters such as electricity prices, service delivery in remote Indigenous communities and improving regulation. In 2020, the Queensland Productivity Commission released a report demonstrating that productivity had declined under Labor since 2015. In March 2021, the commission provided a regulatory blueprint for the way forward out of COVID-19. It outlined that countries with more efficient regulatory regimes are more likely to experience smaller economic contractions and faster recoveries. This is because efficient regulatory regimes allow resources to be rapidly reallocated to respond to the crisis or to be redeployed to newly productive opportunities, limiting the economic and social costs of a crisis.

The commission estimated that Queensland business expenditure to comply with state regulation could be in the order of \$3.5 billion to \$7 billion each and every year—that is, \$7,000 to \$15,200 per business every year. That totalled approximately one to two per cent of Queensland annual gross state product at that time. By improving state regulation, there is a chance to improve public sector productivity and potentially free up resources to support the delivery of public services. Relevantly, as reported by the commission, gross spending on administering and enforcing regulation in Queensland is likely to be in the order of \$2.6 billion to \$3.1 billion per year. The report also made reference to the growth in regulatory burdens. The last count of Queensland regulation in 2013 identified over 72,000 pages of legislation and 265,000 separate regulatory requirements.

Despite all these valuable insights, the member for Woodridge shut it down. It is not surprising, really. The member for Woodridge never spoke to the Productivity Commission Bill in 2015 when it was introduced by then treasurer Curtis Pitt. I note that in his contribution to the bill in 2015 the now opposition leader said that ‘the Queensland Productivity Commission will provide a vital service for the government and the state’. I could not agree more.

I want to turn now to key aspects of the bill. Section 9 details the main functions of the commission. They include undertaking inquiries and research into economic and social issues, regulatory matters or legislation as directed, or on its own initiative. Significant functions will also include administering, monitoring and reviewing regulatory matters and providing advice as requested from time to time. The bill sets out that the commission may be asked to provide or publish reports, advice or information within a stated period.

Importantly, the bill encourages a culture of public consultation in undertaking research and inquiries. For too long, there has been a failure to listen to the views of Queenslanders and stakeholders. The core of the commission’s work will be to undertake public inquiries through transparent and open processes and provide publicly available advice to government. There will be not just public hearings but also a commitment to regional engagement and consultation with those experts working on the front line of the matter under research or inquiry.

Reporting timeframes are likely to vary based on the complexity of the issues involved, although a timeframe of about six to 12 months per inquiry is likely. It is expected that the commission would conduct two to three inquiries per year. Before public release, final inquiry reports will be submitted to government for consideration. The Treasurer will be required to give the commission a written response to the report within three months, with the commission to publish the report as soon as practicable thereafter.

I note the opposition’s concerns in their statement of reservation to the committee report. They stated—

This Commission would be accountable to no-one except the LNP Treasurer of Queensland, who would assume new powers through the Productivity Commission to inquire into any aspect of Queensland life ... The Commission would move beyond giving advice to being an active participant in setting and implementing the LNP Government’s agenda.

...

It will be a hammer in the hands of the Treasurer, controlled by the Treasurer, doing as the Treasurer commands.

On this point, the opposition members of the committee have proven themselves as out of their depth as the shadow treasurer. Section 38(3) cannot be any clearer that any direction given by the Treasurer ‘can not be about the content of any advice or recommendation given by the commission’. That is called independence! It has been done before. As then Labor treasurer Curtis Pitt laid out—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** As then Labor treasurer Curtis Pitt laid out in 2015, the then Labor government would ‘set the questions for the commission’s work ... before providing an independent opinion to government’. That is exactly what we are doing. The Labor deputy chair of the committee, the member for Bancroft, said back in 2015—

The Productivity Commission will provide independent economic and policy advice to the state with the goal of increasing productivity as well as improving the living standards of Queenslanders and driving economic growth.

As then so it is now. The government will remain the decision-maker, but it will have the benefit of rigorous, thorough and public advice from the commission. But it gets worse for the opposition in their misunderstanding. Not only do they deny the independence of the new commission, but they deny why they abolished it in the first place. The member for Woodridge actually stated in his contribution to the debate when he was abolishing it—

The new office will provide an enhanced focus on productivity and regulatory reform as part of the government’s economic recovery policies. The new office will combine an in-depth and longer term focus with the core Queensland Treasury capability of expert economic policy advice and the development of innovative policy solutions.

The former treasurer expressly said that the former commission was to be abolished so that their work—once independent and rigorous—would be now ‘part of the government’s economic recovery policies’. Labor never ever wanted to hear independent views from the commission. They held the commission in contempt, and for them to ever criticise its now proposed structure is the height of hypocrisy. In the same debate in 2021, the member for Macalister gave the game away. She said—

With this inclusion into the Treasury, the advice provided by the new office will be more practical in nature when aligned with the government’s economic strategy.

The member for Ferny Grove said the work of the commission 'will continue within the processes of government'.

I note that the former commission had responsibility for administering the government's Regulator Performance Framework and regulatory impact analysis requirements. The commission will regain responsibility for these functions which are currently undertaken by the Office of Best Practice Regulation in Treasury.

I also note that the application of competitive neutrality flows from the Competition Principles Agreement of 1995 when each jurisdiction released a competitive neutrality policy. The former commission was responsible for performing the state's competitive neutrality function by advising government agencies on compliance with the principle of competitive neutrality and receiving, investigating and reporting on complaints about alleged failures of government agencies to comply with the competitive neutrality principle.

When the member for Woodridge abolished the commission in June 2021, the competitive neutrality function was returned to the Queensland Competition Authority. I hold the view that it was best practice for this function to be undertaken by the independent Queensland Competition Authority, which already effectively discharges these responsibilities with appropriately expert officials in place. I am also of the view that by not returning this function to the commission it will enable the commission to better concentrate on its core function of undertaking inquiries and research related to economic, social and regulatory priorities.

The commission will be governed by a board, appointed by the Governor in Council and will comprise one full-time permanent commissioner known as the Queensland Productivity Commissioner and up to three other commissioners, full-time or part-time, who may be permanent appointments or temporary for a particular inquiry.

Submissions to the parliamentary committee were overwhelmingly supportive of the bill. Business Chamber Queensland welcomed the Queensland Productivity Commission and stated that businesses have had productivity stifled resulting in sustained periods of low business confidence. They stated that productivity must be at the centre of policy and investment decision-making and must be a priority for government. They argued, 'The Queensland Productivity Commission re-establishment is central to economic reform in Queensland' and, 'Productivity must be at the centre of policy and investment decision making and productivity within the Queensland business community must be a government priority.' Canegrowers Cairns Region said—

With productivity, profitability and environmental stewardship remaining front and foremost we see now as the ideal time to back things up with evidence based science overseen by an independent statutory body.

Australian Constructors Association said—

Poor productivity is the single most important issue facing the construction sector and the failure to address this will limit Australia's ability to realise its potential.

The Property Council stated—

As drafted, the legislation provides sufficient powers and structures for the QPC to undertake robust and independent analysis of economic and related issues impacting Queensland.

Master Builders noted—

... that the Government has publicly committed to the new Productivity Commission's first order of business to be a regulatory review into the building industry. We support the Commission's focus on the building and construction industry.

The REIQ was unequivocal in that they 'strongly agree with the re-establishment of an independent statutory body to oversee government policy-making in Queensland in order to enhance transparency, accountability and to ensure the government is obtaining critical feedback from relevant subject matter experts and industry bodies'. The UDIA asserted—

Not only does the Institute agree that productivity underwrites prosperity, the Institute is specifically of the view that productivity is a key factor influencing the pace and cost of new housing delivery. Further, the industry strongly supports the intention for the Commission's first task to be a comprehensive review of the Queensland construction industry.

QREC is supportive of the establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission with a view that 'it will play a pivotal role in ensuring that the regulatory landscape within Queensland remains efficient, productive, and conducive to both business and social development'. Australian Energy Producers outlined—

Conducting formal public inquiries is a specialist skill—it requires time and experience to build trust with the community that their views will be respected, heard and considered. Line agencies don't always have the time to continue developing new and better ways to consult, so the Productivity Commission, if properly resourced, can play an important role in rebuilding confidence in policy consultation in Queensland.



They went on to say—

Independent advice to Governments lifts the standard of fact-based decision making and policy discussions and can facilitate a balanced tenor of public debate.

Canegrowers observed—

Ensuring that this legislation is broad enough to allow the QPC to have scope to investigate issues that the agriculture sector and in particular the sugar and bioenergy industry believe are having a material impact on our productivity is of highest importance to us.

The Housing Industry Association stated that the government had responded to their ‘calls with the introduction of the Bill, proposed establishment of the QPC and pausing of the application of BPIC’. The McKell Institute encouraged the commission to ‘take an expansive and global view of its work, focusing not just on small matters of deregulation but on economic diversification, the adequacy of the education system and new economic opportunities for the state’.

Why is the Productivity Commission important? Queensland’s economic and industry development is dependent on improving productivity. As I have detailed, productivity has stagnated over the last decade. That stagnation is partly attributable to the changing mix of industries in our economy. More people are working in service industries where productivity typically grows more slowly.

It means that a strategic approach to productivity is more important than ever. Finding ways to enhance a skilled and modern workforce and strategic investments in TAFE training to address Queensland’s critical skilled workers shortage are an early approach. We announced during the campaign the new \$61 million TAFE Precinct of Excellence at CQUniversity’s North Rockhampton campus where the government will partner with CQUniversity to develop Queensland’s trade workforce.

We are carefully thinking through the right policy settings to ensure that capital flows to where it is most productive. It is one of the reasons Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro did not progress—a \$36.8 billion weight on the state’s balance sheet which would have inevitably grown exponentially. It is also why we did not grant further equity and grant funding to Stanwell’s hydrogen project. We will always continue to carefully weigh up the right policy settings to ensure that capital flows to where it is needed and where it is allocated most efficiently.

Our plans for agriculture and tourism include a \$30 million fund for farming innovation and a 20-year tourism plan preparing for the Olympics. The agriculture minister has set a benchmark of driving the value of agricultural production to \$30 billion by 2030. It is also important to pursue collaborative opportunities with the federal government. At my first Council on Federal Financial Relations meeting in November, the Commonwealth and states agreed to a 10-year reform of the National Competition Policy. Up to \$900 million will be available to states and territories through a new National Productivity Fund, to boost competition and productivity across the economy. We see clear opportunities to crystallise productivity gains through efficient planning frameworks and unlocking land and skilled labour to help address the housing crisis.

One million Queenslanders are employed by small business, with more than 459,000 separate small businesses across the state. The Minister for Small and Family Business has written to over 120 chambers of commerce asking for specific examples of red tape holding back small and family businesses. Businesses have raised issues like overly complicated language and regulations, conflicting information from different government departments, and duplicative documents and processes. The Queensland Small Business Commissioner has been refocused towards red-tape reduction and dispute resolution in support of our productivity objectives.

Poor road conditions and congestion are a drag on productivity, whether it is bush roads that carry our agricultural wealth to local markets or ports or commuters in South-East Queensland seeking to get to work and then return home to their families and loved ones. It is why we have permanently embedded 50-cent fares. Public transport users have saved more than \$181 million since the introduction of 50-cent fares. More than 93.3 million trips were taken in South-East Queensland, an increase of 18.3 per cent from the benchmark period in 2023. We will continue to closely observe these numbers as we strive to ease congestion and drive productivity, but productivity runs even deeper.

The Queensland budget tells the story. Queensland’s public sector is dealing with growing pressures on social services spending, especially health but also education, child safety and youth justice. Roughly a third of Queensland government expenditure is put to health and a quarter towards education. Never has the need been more urgent to make decisions and set policy directions that harness data and digital technology to deliver high-quality services.

We are committed to building the capability of the Public Service to deliver more and better services. We will enhance graduate programs and opportunities, provide training and professional development to better suit public servants' individual needs to embrace new approaches to deliver better infrastructure and services, and require all contractors and consultancies to include a substantial training and professional development component to strengthen the Public Service capability.

We have announced the setting up of the Office of Social Impact and stand ready to fund social entrepreneurs to deliver. Ben Gales will lead the establishment of the new Office of Social Impact. The former chief impact officer at Paul Ramsay Foundation, his extensive philanthropic and government experience will deepen the collaboration's work.

I am excited about the potential for the Crisafulli government to partner with the for-purpose sector to drive social outcomes and tackle the serious social challenges we face in Queensland. Social impact can change lives for the better through improved education, health or employment outcomes. Our Social Impact Advisory Roundtable will provide invaluable insights to government as we chart a course towards a thriving social enterprise sector.


The modern Australian Productivity Commission was established in 1998 to replace the Industry Commission, Bureau of Industry Economics and the Economic Planning Advisory Commission. It has conducted numerous important inquiries and provided critical advice on key economic issues at the request of the Australian government. In preparing for the re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission, I engaged with leaders who helped frame the productivity debate originally across our nation over the last 25 years. I was fortunate to recently spend time with the founding Australian Productivity Commission chair, Professor Gary Banks AO, and his successor, Peter Harris AO. I sought their insights into what a best practice productivity commission can achieve and how it ought to be structured and put to work. Gleaning information from their experiences, it is clear that the commission can serve two key purposes; namely, it will provide independent, rigorous advice to the government of the day and help inform and shape important discussions in the court of public opinion.

Commissioners have the ability to independently scrutinise issues that pressured departmental staff simply do not have the requisite time to evaluate. It allows deeper and broader consultation with every stakeholder impacted by the issues in debate and facilitates a discussion free from the day-to-day pressures of politics. The model is clear: a government can tell the Productivity Commission what to do but never what to say.

This bill is a significant step forward for Queensland. In line with delivering on a key commitment from our 100-day plan, this bill not only re-establishes the Queensland Productivity Commission but also allows for independent economic, social and regulatory policy advice to the Crisafulli government so we can help to lift productivity, drive economic growth and enhance living standards for all Queenslanders.

The Productivity Commission's first order of business will be to undertake a comprehensive review of Queensland's construction sector in the wake of revelations that Best Practice Industry Conditions were adding up to 25 per cent to the cost of major projects and property and construction regulation generally. Treasury modelling has exposed that productivity losses are a key driver of the economic costs of BPIC, but the regulatory environment must be managed appropriately.

We need our own Productivity Commission to secure our future prosperity. We need to cut unnecessary regulatory imposts, encourage creativity and innovation, and build a highly skilled Public Service to deliver better and more services. Reshaping our economic architecture in the service of the Queensland people will take time and persistence, but it is fundamental to our shared future and it is the fresh start that Queensland so desperately needs. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.55 pm): Transparency means being open, honest and up-front—no secrets and no hidden agendas. Every single one of us in this place took an oath to serve the people of Queensland with integrity, and that means being transparent about the decisions we make and the policies we put forward. Let's be clear: transparency is not just a word you throw around when it is convenient. It is a principle. It is an obligation. Right now this government is failing Queenslanders on both transparency and accountability. Let's go over another definition: independence. Independence means being free from influence or control. It means standing on your own two feet, making decisions based on evidence and not political convenience. That is exactly what this so-called independent Productivity Commission will not be.

The Premier and Treasurer have talked a big game about setting up a productivity commission to provide fearless and frank advice, but let's not kid ourselves. This is not an independent body. This is an LNP think tank designed to push an agenda that will lead to cuts, job losses and attacks on workers' rights. I want to be very clear: Labor does not oppose the re-establishment of a statutory productivity commission. We completely support the notion of improved productivity and efficiency for our state, and we will not stand in the way of any viable solutions to this issue. However, our support is conditional on the commission being established as independent from government.

As outlined in the statement of reservation to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's report on this bill, we know that the Productivity Commission will be controlled entirely by the Treasurer, who will have the power to dictate what it investigates and what research it undertakes and, just as importantly, what it does not. Part 4 of the bill does not allow the commission to independently conduct published research without the approval of the minister and, further, allows the minister to amend the research proposal.

**Mr Power:** He has to approve it.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection: he has to approve it.

**Mr Power:** That's not independent.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** That is not independent. I take that interjection from the member for Logan. Not only can the Treasurer refuse the commission the opportunity to commence research they have formed the view is needed; the Treasurer can amend the research proposal without limits. If the Treasurer does not want something scrutinised, it will not be. If there is an outcome the Treasurer wants, he will get it. That is not independence; that is not transparency.

**Mr Power:** It's an LNP think tank.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. It is an LNP think tank. The Treasurer has been running around talking about full independent scope but in the same breath admits the commission's research will focus on 'whatever is of interest to the government'. You cannot have it both ways.

Here is the thing. Even stakeholders who generally support the idea of a productivity commission are sounding the alarm on this one. The Australian Institute for Progress has raised concerns that the commission will only take instructions from the Treasurer, warning that it should be able to launch its own inquiries if it is to have any credibility. The Queensland Cane Growers Organisation has also flagged serious transparency concerns given the level of control the Treasurer will have over its research. Business Chamber Queensland stressed the importance of ensuring the commission's independence. We have business groups, we have industry leaders and we have key stakeholders all saying the same thing. This commission as proposed is not independent, it is not transparent and it is not in the best interests of Queenslanders. All of these people are right.

Let us be crystal clear about the real purpose of this commission. It is about stripping away workers' rights and it is about attacking pay and conditions, starting with Queensland's construction industry but spreading far beyond. The LNP have made their priorities clear. Instead of supporting the hardworking people who keep this state moving, they are coming after them. They are setting up a commission without any independence to give them the excuse to cut workers' protections and cut wages. We fought hard to put in place laws that keep workers safe and laws that ensure good wages and conditions. If the commission is hand-picked by the Treasurer, is controlled by the Treasurer and only publishes the findings the Treasurer approves, you can use it to justify anything. This has never been about transparency or accountability; it is about power and it is about control. It is about making it easier for the LNP—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Order! I ask the House to be quiet so we can hear the member speak please.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This has never been about transparency or accountability; it is about power and control and making it easier for the LNP to do what they always do—that is, to cut, sack and sell.

The bill has also been found wanting when it comes to accountability. Unlike the federal Productivity Commission, there is no requirement for this body to table reports in parliament—none—and any work the commission initiates on its own can only be published with the Treasurer's approval and there is absolutely no parliamentary oversight. This is a Treasurer who does not want any scrutiny, who does not want any transparency. Let us talk about this Treasurer. It is the same Treasurer who

embargoed his own press conference about the budget updates so Queenslanders would not see the details. It is the same Treasurer who has been running around claiming Queensland's economy is in crisis but when pressed for solutions comes up empty-handed.

Queenslanders are still waiting for answers on cost-of-living relief, on the budget and on the LNP's real economic plan, if they even have one. If we asked this Treasurer why he did not model this Productivity Commission on successful versions from around the country, he would probably need a week's notice and two weeks of media training before he could come up with the response. Even then, I doubt we would get a straight answer. The truth is simple. If this commission were truly independent, it would not serve the LNP's agenda and that is why it is being set up this way.


There is an unfortunate reality that Queenslanders must face when we look at the contents of this bill and those who are presenting it. The reality is that Premier David Crisafulli and his government have continued to break the promises they made to Queenslanders during the election campaign. The Premier staked a large part of his campaign on his promise to lead a government of integrity and transparency and labelled himself open and honest, yet this bill and this Productivity Commission are the exact opposite of that. We have already seen that this government are so opposed to transparency that they have failed to release cabinet papers by their deadlines and this Productivity Commission is absolutely set up to be an LNP think tank.

The Labor opposition knows that significant changes are necessary in order to create a functioning, independent Productivity Commission for our state. If the commission is to be truly independent, it needs to stand alone from the Treasurer, who under the current proposed bill would have overreaching powers to command the statutory body. The amendments that have been circulated and that I intend to move in consideration in detail are designed to give the commission true independence, as well as ensuring that any ministerial direction is published in a timely manner.

Amendment 1 to clause 37 removes requirements for the minister to approve research undertaken on the commission's initiative and it removes the minister's ability to amend the proposed research and instead requires the commission to notify the chief executive before publishing the research or analysis. The wording is consistent with the Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2015 that the government committed to 're-establish'. Amendment 2 amends clause 38 to articulate a timeline for publishing the minister's direction such that the commission must publish the minister's direction on its website before any research or consultation to follow the direction is commenced. I table a copy of those amendments for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024, amendments to be moved by Ms Shannon Fentiman MP [\[125\]](#).

These simple amendments that key stakeholders have advocated for strongly throughout the committee process should be supported by those members opposite so they can go home and speak to their chambers of commerce and the Canegrowers and talk about how they voted to support a truly independent Productivity Commission. They need to demonstrate to their own stakeholders and their community that they are serious about acting with integrity and transparency. If the LNP are serious about establishing a standalone independent Productivity Commission, then they must support Labor's amendments. To do otherwise is to admit that they want to be able to completely control the research agenda of the commission to further their own political agenda and interests.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. In report No. 1 of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, the committee recommended that the bill be passed. The Queensland Productivity Commission was originally introduced by Labor in 2015 in the first term of the Palaszczuk government before being abolished by the member for Woodridge in 2021. When introduced by then treasurer Curtis Pitt, it was said that the commission would be an 'independent economic advisory body with the broad objective of lifting productivity'. The now Leader of the Opposition said the Queensland Productivity Commission 'will provide a vital service for the government and the state'.

The former commission reviewed important matters such as electricity prices and service delivery in remote Indigenous communities and improved regulation. While four matters were referred to the commission in 2015 alone, eventually Labor stripped the commission of its relevance. It only referred seven matters between 2016 and 2021 when it was cut by Labor. Despite the valuable insights provided to the government by the former commission, the member for Woodridge shut it down. The former treasurer said that the former commission was being abolished so that their work, once independent and rigorous, would continue inside government agencies.

What was the catalyst? In 2020 the Queensland Productivity Commission released a report demonstrating that productivity had declined under Labor since 2015. That did not go over well with those opposite. Clearly, the Queensland Productivity Commission and Queenslanders had lost trust in the former Labor government's ability to productively deliver more and better services with precious taxpayer dollars. They were in government at a time when revenue increased significantly—rivers of gold come to mind—but where did the money go?

Productivity is not an academic concept. Weak productivity growth has significant consequences for Queensland householders. The real world effects of lower productivity are lower economic growth, lower wages, higher unemployment and higher inflation. Had productivity growth remained at its pre-2018 average growth over the subsequent period, it is estimated that Queensland's real per capita income could have been \$11,000 higher in 2023-24. The estimated population of Queensland as at June 2024 was 5,586,322. That equates to an additional income for Queensland of \$61,449,542,000 in that year alone.

The northern Gold Coast electorate of Coomera is the fastest growing region in Queensland by number of residents. We have around 105,000 residents in the Coomera electorate. Our share of that lost per capita income amounts to \$1,155,000,000. That lost productivity is massive and it is lost forever, and that loss is for just one year alone.

That brings us to today. This lack of productivity is costing Queenslanders. In 2022, the LNP announced our commitment to restore the Queensland Productivity Commission and it was the second bill introduced by the Crisafulli government, delivering on the pledge from our first-100-day plan. Restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission is not the end, though. Delivering productivity growth will be critical in driving the delivery of our commitments to ease cost-of-living pressures to deliver high-quality public services with better outcomes and to build the housing and infrastructure our state needs and deserves. Restoring the Productivity Commission will help secure our future prosperity. The re-formed Queensland Productivity Commission also delivers on the government's drive to identify opportunities to slash red tape and reduce unnecessary regulation. Cutting unnecessary red tape and regulation will reduce costs for Queensland businesses and consumers.

The Crisafulli government has announced the commission's first order of business will be to conduct an inquiry into opportunities to enhance productivity in the building and construction industry, which has been hampered by declining productivity growth. The commission will also be tasked with preparing an intergenerational equity report. Increasing the productivity of this industry is critical to improving housing affordability, reducing costs to business using construction inputs and delivering the government's capital program on time and with respect for Queenslanders' money.

The bill outlines the objectives and functions of the Queensland Productivity Commission, which will operate as an independent statutory body to tackle the challenges of a growing state and manage cost-of-living pressures. A re-established commission will help lift Queensland productivity growth by identifying areas for improvement to policy and regulatory settings to support business activity and income growth, provide improved government services and deliver on government's housing and infrastructure priorities. The core function of the commission will be to undertake reviews of complex economic, social and regulatory issues and provide advice and recommendations to the government.


Guiding the commission will be the values of independence, rigour, responsiveness, openness and effectiveness. The commission will be headed by a full-time Queensland Productivity Commissioner appointed by the Governor in Council. Depending on the commission's work program, up to three other full-time or part-time commissioners may be appointed. The commission will conduct inquiries through an open and transparent process, informed by public consultation. The resulting findings and recommendations provided to government will be independent and contribute to the policy development process. The government of the day will be able to refer matters for inquiry, but, crucially, control over report content will be retained by the independent statutorily appointed commissioner.

The functions of the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction in Queensland's Treasury, which currently undertakes some productivity and regulatory functions, will be transferred to the commission. Under the current arrangement put in place by Labor, these functions were not independent of government and were not open to scrutiny. Despite the spin and mistruths being peddled by the opposition, this bill formalises the commission's operational independence from government, confirms the commission's functions and mandate, and puts in place its corporate governance framework.

Business Chamber Queensland welcomed the re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission. They argued that ‘the Queensland Productivity Commission re-establishment is central to economic reform in Queensland’. The Property Council stated—

As drafted, the legislation provides sufficient powers and structures for the QPC to undertake robust and independent analysis of the economic and related issues impacting Queensland.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee members and the GEFC secretariat for their hard work on the report on this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.13 pm): I have spoken with constituents in my electorate about this bill and it is clear that there is support for a productivity commission. Many public servants in Cooper remember the former Queensland Productivity Commission, the QPC, which operated from 2015 to 2021. They recall the valuable and rigorous inquiries it conducted—work that made a real difference in shaping policy for Queensland. There were inquiries like the electricity pricing inquiry, which examined the drivers of electricity prices, including the impact of limited competition; the manufacturing inquiry, which provided crucial recommendations to help the sector keep pace with evolving technology and address skills shortages; and the 2019 inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism, one of the most important pieces of work, I think, the QPC undertook. It revealed that while crime rates in Queensland were falling imprisonment rates were rising, and it made a series of evidence-based recommendations to break the cycle of reoffending and reform the justice system.

The former QPC was able to deliver this kind of high-quality, independent research because it was truly independent—dependent of government, independent of ministers and independent of political influence. If this bill were simply re-establishing that kind of productivity commission the opposition would not be resistant to it, but that is not what this bill does. This bill takes a fundamentally different approach, weakening the independence and transparency that made the former QPC so valuable. It is why the opposition will be moving amendments to strengthen those provisions.

One of the clearest contrasts between the former commission and what is proposed in this bill is found in their respective objectives. The 2015 act explicitly states that the commission was required to perform its functions with independence, rigour, responsiveness, transparency, equity, efficiency and effectiveness. Independence, rigour and transparency—these were not just ideals; they were enshrined in legislation. However, the Crisafulli LNP government’s bill before us today states that the Productivity Commission must perform its functions in a ‘proper, effective, and efficient way’. Gone is any mention of transparency. Gone is any guarantee of independence. Gone is any explicit requirement for evidence-based, rigorous research.

These omissions have been noticed. Submissions from key stakeholders have raised serious concerns about the bill as drafted. The Institute of Public Affairs warned—

The effectiveness of the QPC is potentially undermined by broad and vague drafting in the provisions outlining its main purpose and functions.

Mr Nate Tosh from the Queensland Council of Unions pointed out that even the word ‘productivity’ is barely mentioned in any meaningful way. He noted that ‘productivity’ appears in the bill 69 times, and only one of those is not the name of the Productivity Commissioner. The only meaningful reference to productivity in the bill is as a matter the commission must ‘have particular regard to’; it does not even say they must prioritise it. As currently drafted, the inquiries and research do not even need to relate to productivity at all. How can we have confidence in a productivity commission when productivity itself is not even a core function of the body being established?

One of the most concerning elements of this bill is the level of ministerial control over the commission’s work. Part 4 of the bill explicitly prevents the commission from conducting and publishing independent research without the approval of the minister. Even more concerning, it allows the minister to amend research undertaken before publication. This is completely at odds with what Queenslanders expect from an independent productivity commission. Compare this to the Commonwealth Productivity Commission, which was established under a Labor government and operates with full autonomy to initiate and publish its own research. Compare this to the former Queensland Productivity Commission, which had the authority to initiate and publish research without interference from the responsible minister. The question must be asked: what is the government afraid of?

In 2021, the government transferred the former QPC into Treasury as the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction. In recent weeks, the government has spoken a lot about the ability for Queensland Treasury to undertake independent modelling and research. If independent modelling can be done within Treasury right now, why does the productivity function now need to be pulled out of Treasury and repackaged into an entirely new commission? This is bureaucracy for bureaucracy’s sake.

We are using parliamentary time, stretching Public Service resources, and standing up an entirely new commission that, as drafted, will have essentially the same functions and constraints as the existing office within Treasury. What is the difference? It is more ministerial control, less transparency and no meaningful mandate for productivity.

The opposition will be moving amendments to restore the independence of the commission, specifically moving to remove the Treasurer's ability to interfere in the commission's self-initiated research, to remove the requirement for the responsible minister to approve or amend the approved research, and to require that, in the case of minister directed research, the minister's direction must be published before any research or consultation begins. These amendments are reasonable and the government has no legitimate excuse to oppose them.

The need for an independent productivity commission is not just something the opposition is calling for—it is something that Queensland businesses, unions and industry leaders all support. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council told the committee—


... we are really supportive of balanced reform, evidence-based reform and policy, and research through an independent body at arm's length from government.

The Business Chamber of Queensland said—

The commission's independence and advisory role will be key to producing credible, high-quality recommendations ...

The Institute of Public Affairs noted that the bill's current drafting leaves the commission vulnerable to ministerial direction that is 'inconsistent with the very reason the QPC is being established'. The government must answer: why are they afraid of an independent productivity commission? This government promised Queenslanders an independent commission, yet the bill before us tells an entirely different story. Will the government keep its word—keep their promise to Queenslanders and strengthen this bill—or will they continue down the path of saying one thing before the election and doing something completely different when in government?

We all recognise the opportunities that a renewed Queensland Productivity Commission could bring but for it to be truly effective it must have: a clear and ambitious charter; the resources to conduct meaningful research; and the authority to make frank and fearless recommendations to government. This bill, as it stands, is a disappointing and impotent attempt to deliver on those outcomes. Queenslanders deserve a productivity commission that delivers real results—not one that exists only to rubberstamp ministerial priorities. The opposition urges the government to accept these amendments and to restore the independence and integrity of this vital institution.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (6.21 pm): In October 2024, Queenslanders voted for change, and that change is here. Queenslanders want action and they want it now. They want transparency in what is going on within the government and they want to know when they will start seeing results. In 2022, the LNP committed to restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission. It was the second bill that was introduced by the Crisafulli government, fulfilling a key promise from our first-100-day plan. Restoring the Productivity Commission is a step towards securing Queensland's future prosperity. By focusing on productivity, we will improve housing affordability, reduce construction costs and ensure the government's capital program is delivered on time and with respect for Queenslanders' money.

Business Chamber Queensland welcomed the re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission stating that 'its re-establishment is central to economic reform in Queensland'. Canegrowers Cairns Region emphasised the importance of evidence-based science, overseen by an independent statutory body, to ensure sustainability in both profitability and environmental stewardship. The Property Council also expressed strong support, highlighting that the legislation provides sufficient powers and structures to robust and independent economic analysis. Former treasurer Curtis Pitt recognised in 2015 that 'governments should seek new productivity gains in order to protect economic growth and living standards' and that the Queensland Productivity Commission is a 'key mechanism' in that process.

In the last 100 days, the Crisafulli government has been listening to the concerns of Queenslanders and I have listened to my electorate. We have addressed critical local issues such as the ongoing traffic hold-ups at Tiaro on the Bruce Highway, particularly during busy holiday periods. We are committed to making the Tiaro bypass a reality and ensuring the missing links on the Bruce Highway are completed. We are working towards making the stretch from Gympie to Maryborough four lanes, ensuring better safety for all Queenslanders. The Bruce Highway is vital to the Maryborough community and our residents are passionate about road safety.

We welcome the government's inquiry into boosting productivity in the building and construction industry which has faced challenges. Housing affordability is a major issue in Maryborough, as it is across Queensland. People need homes and the sooner we can address this, the better. Our community is encouraged by this inquiry and eagerly awaits its outcomes. On a larger scale, the rail project for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics being built at the Torbanlea train manufacturing facility is another source of pride for Maryborough. The Premier's motto of 'building on time and on budget' speaks to our hardworking blue collar town values. We appreciate value for money and we are reassured knowing the Premier is focused on how taxpayers' dollars are spent.

The cost of living in Maryborough remains a concern. With high rents compared to average wages, many in our community are struggling from week to week. While we are fortunate to have the support of charities like the Salvation Army and various church groups, many families still need assistance. The people of Maryborough are relieved to know the Crisafulli government understands the hardships many are facing.


The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring all Queenslanders feel safe in their communities. I am proud to share that this commitment was put into action in our very own community last December. For some time, we have been facing persistent crime issues in our CBD and the safety of our residents and business owners has been a growing concern. After a town meeting, Queensland Police responded by introducing a dedicated taskforce of officers to focus on patrolling our CBD. This was not a temporary measure—it was a 24-hour service that lasted for almost two months. During this period we saw a dramatic decrease in crime. Shop owners and locals in Maryborough were finally able to operate their business with peace of mind. Both residents and visitors to our heritage city no longer felt unsafe when shopping in the CBD. This showed that not only I care deeply about the safety of our community but also the Crisafulli government is committed to delivering on the promise that everyone has the right to feel safe where they live.

Government red tape remains a significant issue. The new LNP government is committed to tackling these barriers. One of the most distressing concerns I hear from my community is the difficulties some face when seeking housing, especially for those fleeing domestic violence. It is not uncommon for constituents to visit our office desperate for help. This is a serious issue and I am confident the new government will fast-track solutions. The Crisafulli 100-day plan is dedicated to ensuring all Queenslanders have a place to call home. While there is still much work to be done, I am proud of the progress we are making in the social housing space here in Maryborough.

Public health services are another critical concern in our electorate, and we have a long road ahead for us to deliver a satisfactory public health service for our constituents. It is incredibly encouraging that the Crisafulli government has recognised the need for better support when people are at their most vulnerable; however, there is hope on the horizon and it is a time for a fresh start. The Maryborough community has welcomed the new LNP government and we are excited about the transparency and progress the Crisafulli government is bringing to Queensland.

Queensland's economic and industry development depends on improving productivity. A strategic approach to this issue is crucial, and that means finding ways to enhance our skilled and modern workforce. Queenslanders, especially the people of Maryborough, have spoken and I am listening. I am committed to being proactive and responding to their needs, not just as their representative but as a member of our community. On behalf of the Maryborough electorate, I commend the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.29 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise tonight to speak on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 before us. As we have heard, it is clear that this commission will not be independent, not be transparent and not be accountable. We heard what the member for Bundamba said in the hearing on this. He said—

Have I missed anywhere in the bill where I could find the words 'independence' and 'transparency'? Are those words in there and I have just missed them?

I think that sums up what this is about. 'Independence' and 'transparency' are not in this bill and they are not part of this commission. Clause 3 may mention independent advice, but there is almost nothing in this bill to back that up.

The Treasurer said earlier tonight that it would be accountable and independent because of clause 38(3) and that is that the Treasurer cannot actually direct the content of any of their work. That is the only part of the bill they can turn to if they want to claim independence—the only part of the bill.



However, that one clause is no foundation. When you look at what else is in the bill, there is nothing about publishing directions to the commission from the Treasurer and nothing about needing to table any of their work in parliament. All the commission needs to do is publish it on a website three months after the Treasurer has sat on that report. There are no lines of reporting or accountability to parliament. There is nothing about independence because the Treasurer needs to control this commission. As we have said, he will command it. He can give it any direction he feels is reasonably necessary. He can command that they give him advice or information within any timeframe and he can attach conditions to that command. The commission can only do research or release information as commanded by the Treasurer.

Let me reiterate what these commands can be under section 37. The commission must give notice of their intention to do research. The Treasurer can approve or refuse this research. The Treasurer can amend the research proposal. The Treasurer can command the commission not publish their self-initiated research. Whichever way we look at it, the information must go through the Treasurer. The people appointed to the commission have to come through the Treasurer. He is the funnel through which every candidate going to this commission must be appointed.

As an example of the lack of transparency surrounding this commission, we know there were two government statements, on 14 November and 28 November, which outline many of the reasons they think they need this version of a productivity commission. During the hearing we asked for this modelling. They could not or would not provide it. That modelling is one of the foundations or the reasons for this commission, yet it remains hidden, and that is modelling done by Treasury. It is very clear that this commission is not an independent body. As the shadow treasurer said, it is a personal plaything of the Treasurer. It is his own private think tank to command.

The question is: what can the Treasurer do with this body he personally commands? The answer is: nearly anything he wants it to do. It can conduct inquiries into any economic or social issue. In fact, I believe that could encompass nearly every aspect of Queensland life we could imagine. It is pretty broad. This is his own personal think tank that is able to examine anything to do with jobs, schools, hospitals or work conditions, for example.

We discovered during the hearing that this commission can even be directed by the Treasurer to review new or existing legislation. That was made explicitly clear by Treasury officials during the hearing. That was their opinion. The question is: what is the point of having committees of parliament to examine legislation if the Treasurer's own think tank can actually do it? Would that report by the commission on new or existing legislation be tabled in parliament like committee reports are? Would they be done before new legislation is actually debated? I think we heard Treasury say that such a review would be complementary to the parliamentary processes, but it is clear they can replace or shunt aside some of the work of a parliamentary committee with this body.

One of the other things we looked at is that the Treasurer can direct this commission to administer regulations. That is in the bill. Which regulations are they? We do not know. Clause 9 says that the commission can administer, monitor or review regulatory matters. The question is: what does this mean? Can they be in charge, for example, of workplace regulations? The Treasury officials we talked to during the hearing said they initially had the same questions. When we asked the Treasury officials whether they could administer any kind of regulation, they admitted these are matters to be decided by government. That is right; it is up to the government to determine how they use this regulatory power.

**Mr Crandon:** The difference, though, is we are open and accountable and you never were in a decade. There's the difference, open and accountable—not you.

**Mr WHITING:** It is very interesting to hear these interjections from the other side. Many of the members opposite have made many promises and commitments. It occurred to me tonight that the government will be able to wriggle out of those commitments and promises if it puts this Productivity Commission onto the job: 'I'm sorry. We've looked at it. We can't do this project or that project.' I heard the member for Maryborough talking about the road projects he has promised and committed. There is a lot of work there. If the Productivity Commission gets on to the job of what this government can actually afford, I would be hesitant to say he is going to deliver those. That is a word of warning for members opposite about how this Productivity Commission could be used.

One of the things we note is that there is not much in this bill about productivity. The QCU pointed out that the functions of the commission do not relate to productivity; it is only mentioned meaningfully a few times, as the member for Cooper has already outlined. These same concerns were reflected by the Institute of Public Affairs. If productivity is not going to get a look-in, one of the things we know is that the LNP will want to use this commission at the command of the Treasurer to target the wages and


conditions of workers in the construction industry. There is no doubt about that. That will be their job: to drop the hammer on the wages and conditions of workers in the construction industry. There is already this extraordinary expectation that the government will use the commission to do exactly this.

One witness made the incredible statement that the commission will be 'a policy tiger to deliver change across government'. It is no secret that they are going to go after construction. This witness said the construction industry needs a 'daddy' figure and strong regulation. The news is that the Treasurer, through this commission, is going to be that 'daddy' figure for the construction industry.

**Mr Mander:** And what a good daddy he is!

**Mr WHITING:** There are many things to unpack there, but I am not going to go into that. I think that says more about the member for Everton than anything else.

In conclusion, I will repeat some of the comments we put in our statement of reservation. The commission will not be independent, it will not be accountable, it will not be transparent. It will be a hammer controlled by the hands of the Treasurer doing as he commands. It will have unfettered remit to inquire into any aspect of Queensland life. It will be able to go beyond conducting inquiries and providing advice and move into the space of policy creation and implementing the LNP Crisafulli government's agenda.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.40 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Kempton, welcome back to the chair in here after a 10-year drought. It is certainly wonderful to see you back in the chamber. Tonight I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. At the outset I want to thank the committee members—the committee chair, the member for Coomera, and all other committee members—for their work on this quite important legislation. Understanding the fundamentals of economic drivers and the ever changing landscapes of market forces should play a significant role in government decision-making. Understanding these economic drivers has the potential for opening productivity and economic stability through better management, but to do this the government needs independent information that acts as a guide to improve policy and regulatory development which in turn supports business activities, income growth and ensuring infrastructure is built where it is required.

Following on from some of the comments other members have made, especially those on the opposite side of the chamber, I find it quite interesting that these individuals carry on about how this new commission has been formed when only about three years ago they got rid of it. It really does breed hypocrisy, because we need to ensure that productivity in this state continues to grow. In his speech the member for Coomera made a very valid point that, had productivity growth remained at pre-2018 averages, in the subsequent period it was estimated that Queensland real per capita income could have been \$11,000 higher in 2023-24. That shows real outcomes when we listen to—

**Mr Crandon:** Over \$60 billion in one year alone.


**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection: over \$60 billion in one year alone. That shows that if we listen to the experts these commissions can find out how we can have better productivity in this state. There is a housing crisis in this state. In every single one of our electorates we have homeless people and we need to find ways to get construction well and truly underway to build houses for these residents. My electorate on the northern Gold Coast is no different and it is a blight on the previous Labor government in this state that in 2021 it got rid of the Productivity Commission all because in 2020 it gave an adverse report saying that construction had not gone anywhere in this state. That should be something about which the former treasurer should hang his head in shame. At least the new Treasurer who is running the state's finances now has the foresight and fortitude to act on this matter and seek opinions and not just throw it away when the government gets an adverse finding. The simple notion of what those individuals opposite did is naive. Getting rid of a productivity commission was naive for them to do.

Understanding these economic drivers and the potential to unlock these roadblocks is what Queensland needs to succeed, as is identifying unnecessary red tape where all regulations will only serve to benefit Queensland businesses and the general community. We have to build infrastructure that has economic value to build Queensland, and removing productivity choke points is exactly what we need. We have a booming population yet, as I said before, we lack the necessary housing to house this growing population. If we add to this the declining productivity in the construction industry, the commission will need to desperately look into this as a matter of priority.

The bill outlines the objectives and the functions of the Queensland Productivity Commission and how it will operate as an independent statutory body. The commission will be headed by a full-time Queensland Productivity Commissioner and, depending on the work program, up to three other full-time

or part-time commissioners will be appointed. Whilst it is important that the government be allowed to refer matters for inquiry, it is crucial, as outlined in the legislation, that the commission remains independent in its reporting as the legislation outlines, opening up transparency.

If, as those opposite have said, they were so transparent, why did they sit on CCC reports for so long, keeping Queenslanders in the dark? At least the Crisafulli government is working on transparency and is working on opening up this information and allowing people—businesses and Queenslanders—to participate in these processes. We are acting on government commitments, driving change on how we do business and building strong foundations, because Queensland's best days are certainly ahead of us. We have to keep the momentum going and we need to ensure that we have a strong economy and a focus that will build a better Queensland.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (7.47 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. In doing so, I want to acknowledge what a properly functioning, independent productivity commission would mean for Queensland. It could serve as a critical institution for evidence-based economic reforms leading to a prosperous Queensland. A productivity commission should work at arm's length from the government—a commission working in the best interests of our communities and for Queensland. Unfortunately, the Queensland Productivity Commission proposed in this bill promises to provide independence but instead delivers control. It promises to deliver transparency but will enable secrecy. In fact, within the bill itself there is practically no mention of transparency.

The Premier and his Treasurer claim to be delivering on their election commitment to re-establish an independent Queensland productivity commission, but what they seek to deliver fundamentally undermines the core principles of an independent and transparent productivity commission. This bill creates nothing more than a think tank at the beck and call of the Treasurer—a think tank which would give this LNP government an excuse to cut the conditions of working Queenslanders.

What do we see in this bill? We see the establishment of a productivity commission which must seek the Treasurer's permission before conducting any self-initiated research and a productivity commission that must submit any research proposals to the Treasurer for his approval. Under this bill the Treasurer would be able to shut down any independent research proposals without public knowledge. No-one is going to have to know. A productivity commission that could not publish its findings without the Treasurer's approval is not independent; that is control.

The government claims this bill closely mirrors the Australian Productivity Commission, yet Treasury officials, when questioned in the committee hearing, could not explain why this Productivity Commission would lack the basic independence enjoyed by its federal counterpart. There are serious questions about how independent this commission can truly be. Under the previous 2015 act the Productivity Commission could conduct research on its own initiative without ministerial approval. Under this bill they must seek the minister's blessing just to publish their findings.

Organisations across Queensland have raised alarm bells. The Australian Institute for Progress submitted that provisions in this bill reduced the commission's independence and warn that this will compromise the commission's ability to provide fearless, quality advice to the government. They state that, to add the quality and fearlessness of the advice that the government receives, the commission should be allowed to launch its own inquiries, similar to the Commonwealth Productivity Commission. Queensland Canegrowers referred to the importance of transparency, given the minister's control over the commission's scope and publishing rights of independent research. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council requested that any research the commission is seeking approval from the minister for is made public. Stakeholders emphasised the critical need for genuine transparency and independence, yet it seems this legislation is designed to do the opposite.

Even more concerning is the requirement for the Productivity Commission to keep the minister reasonably informed of their work. How can we expect truly independent research when the commission must effectively report their every move to the minister? This is not oversight; it is oversight on a leash. While Treasury claims this ensures resources are focused on priority issues, I ask: priority for whom? Is it the government or the people of Queensland? We need a productivity commission that serves in the public interest, not one that is constrained by ministerial control.

The truth is simple: this government do not want an independent productivity commission; they want a political think tank that will let them think or do whatever they want—a body made up of their mates who will allow the government to take away the rights and fair working conditions of workers across our state, or perhaps cut vital cost-of-living measures such as our 50-cent public fares or the energy rebates we gave to every household in Queensland, under the guise of so-called independent

advice. We have already seen concerning signs of this government's attitude towards transparency. They failed to meet the deadline for releasing cabinet papers, and when questioned about this failure by the *Courier-Mail* the Premier's response was silence. Is this the transparency Queenslanders were promised by this government?

Let us look at the government's first intended use of this commission: a review into Best Practice Industry Conditions. The Treasurer has already cited independent economic modelling of Treasury to justify pausing these conditions, yet when asked to produce this modelling through right-to-information requests he refused. When members requested access to this supposedly independent modelling, Treasury officials would not, or could not, provide it. This raises a crucial question: if Treasury can conduct independent modelling, why does the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction need to be transferred out of Treasury? The answer is simple. This is not about improving productivity; this is about creating a mechanism to justify predetermined outcomes.

What this bill makes clear is that there is no requirement to table reports in parliament, unlike the Commonwealth Productivity Commission. Instead, reports will only be published on the website after the Treasurer has had not one, not two, but three months to craft his response. There are no parliamentary oversight provisions and no parliamentary reporting lines, only clause after clause detailing how the commission must report to and only respond to the Treasurer. The commission would have unprecedented power of inquiry into any aspect of Queenslanders' lives but would be accountable to no-one except the Treasurer. The Treasurer can give any written direction if they are satisfied that it is reasonably necessary, they can demand advice within any timeframe, attach any conditions and even dictate the nature of public consultation.

I support the shadow treasurer's proposed amendments to this bill. These amendments would remove the requirements for ministerial approval of the commission's self-initiated research and ensure that any ministerial directions are published before research or consultation begins. These are basic transparency measures that any truly independent body should embrace. The people of Queensland deserve better than this facade of independence. Queensland deserves a genuinely independent productivity commission that can investigate issues without political interference, publish findings without ministerial approvals and serve the public interest rather than political interests. This is what Labor's amendments will deliver.

This bill in its current form represents another step away from transparency and accountability by this government. It creates not an independent productivity commission but a ministerial puppet—not a source of objective analysis but a political tool. I urge all members to support the shadow treasurer's amendments. Let us deliver what was actually promised to Queenslanders: a truly independent productivity commission that serves the public interest, not political interests.



**Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (7.55 pm): I rise tonight to speak in strong support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024—a crucial piece of legislation that will reinstate the Queensland Productivity Commission as an independent statutory body. This bill ensures that the commission operates with full independence from government and is empowered to conduct formal public inquiries, reviews and investigations into complex economic and social issues, regulatory matters and legislation.

The re-establishment of the commission was a commitment made during the 2024 Queensland state election, reflecting the government's dedication to fostering economic growth and improving living standards across Queensland. This bill sets out the commission's core functions, governance framework and appointment process for commissioners, ensuring its effectiveness in delivering high-quality, independent research and policy advice.

The Queensland Productivity Commission was originally introduced by Labor in 2015 during the first term of the Palaszczuk government. It was established as an independent economic advisory body with the broad objective of improving productivity, conducting inquiries and providing expert recommendations on complex economic and social issues. At the time its creation was widely supported within the government, with the now Leader of the Opposition, Steven Miles, saying—

I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill ... It reflects this government's commitment to excellence in policymaking and its commitment to both public consultation and expert advice.

In its early years the commission played a key role in investigating critical economic matters, including electricity prices, service delivery in remote Indigenous communities and improving regulatory frameworks. It demonstrated its value as a tool for evidence-based policy development. However, despite its early contributions, the commission gradually lost relevance under successive Labor governments. Between 2016 and 2021 only seven matters were referred for review, a stark contrast to

its initial active years. Ultimately, in 2021, the then treasurer and member for Woodridge made the decision to abolish the commission, arguing that its work could instead be undertaken within government agencies.

**Mr Lister:** Under the control of the treasurer!

**Mr HUNT:** I will take that interjection: under the control of the treasurer.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members, I would like to hear from the member for Nicklin, not the rest of you, thank you.

**Mr HUNT:** This move effectively ended the commission's role as an independent body, stripping Queensland of an institution dedicated to rigorous economic analysis and policy recommendations. Notably, in 2020 the commission released a report highlighting that productivity had declined under Labor's tenure since 2015. This report underscored the critical link between productivity and economic outcomes, reinforcing why Queensland needs a dedicated, independent commission to guide policy decisions. The former commission's abolition meant that Queensland lost a valuable source of independent advice at a time when productivity concerns were becoming increasingly pressing.

The decision to disband the commission was a short-sighted one. Many of the same leaders who once championed the commission's creation ultimately abandoned it, yet the need for independent expert economic advice has not diminished. In fact, it has become more crucial as Queensland seeks to strengthen its economy and improve long-term prosperity. The commission's work will be vital in addressing key economic and social challenges that impact Queenslanders. Its inquiries will involve extensive stakeholder consultation, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered and rigorously tested. The commission's recommendations will be independent, evidence based and capable of significantly contributing to the policy development process. By engaging with businesses, community organisations and industry leaders, the commission will provide crucial insights to shape future economic and social policy.

Beyond formal inquiries, the commission will provide research and advice to the minister on key economic and social issues. It will have the ability to initiate its own research into productivity and regulatory matters, subject to ministerial approval for publication. This ensures that Queensland remains at the forefront of best practice in economic policy in governance. Furthermore, the commission will have the ability to advise on issues that impact Queensland's long-term economic sustainability, including employment trends, industry shifts and innovation.


The people of Nicklin stand to benefit greatly from the commission's work. Our region is home to a diverse mix of industries, including agriculture, tourism, construction, manufacturing and small business. By addressing regulatory inefficiencies, fostering economic productivity and identifying barriers to growth, the commission will support policies that enhance job creation and long-term economic stability in our community. The potential for increased productivity will directly benefit small businesses, entrepreneurs and local industries, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to thrive in a rapidly changing economy.

Additionally, the bill enables the commission to administer, monitor and review regulatory matters as directed by the minister. This includes assessing the effectiveness of the Queensland government's regulatory impact analysis system and regulatory performance framework. By ensuring that regulations are effective without being burdensome, the commission will help create an environment where businesses can thrive, investment can grow and communities can prosper. This is particularly critical for regions such as Nicklin where red tape has historically impacted a business's ability to expand and compete effectively. In particular, the construction industry, which is essential to the continued growth of our state, has experienced little to no productivity growth over the past 30 years. According to Treasury analysis of ABS data, those industries have grown by only 17 per cent since 1994-95 compared to 64 per cent in the broader market sector. This disparity underscores the need for a dedicated body to investigate, assess and implement policies that will drive efficiency, drive competitiveness and drive job creation in this key sector.

Productivity is not an abstract economic concept. It has real-world implications for every Queenslanders. Weak productivity growth leads to lower wages, slower economic expansion and higher inflation. Had productivity growth remained at its pre-2018 average, Queensland's real per capita income could have been \$11,000 higher in 2023-24. That is money that could have gone towards

housing, education, small business investments or everyday household expenses. This bill seeks to rectify those shortcomings by ensuring that productivity growth is a key priority in shaping future economic policy.

Importantly, while the commission's role will remain advisory, its research and analysis will serve as a critical resource for policymakers. Its recommendations will be based on thorough objective assessments, ensuring that policy decisions are backed by evidence rather than speculation or short-term political considerations. This will lead to more sustainable impactful policies that benefit Queensland in the long term. This is an opportunity to support a stronger, more productive Queensland. By passing this bill, we will affirm our commitment to accountability, efficiency and economic progress. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. Speaking of bills, this is the second bill that we have debated this sitting week. If we consider that we are talking about productivity, it is Thursday night and we are only a couple of speakers deep into the speaking list on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill—what a delicious irony. When this bill passes the parliament, as it undoubtedly will when the government uses its numbers, perhaps the first thing that the Queensland Productivity Commission could look into is the legislative program of this LNP government because it is pretty bare at the moment.

This LNP version of a productivity commission absolutely should be a matter of concern for all Queenslanders. It is very different to the productivity commissions that exist federally and in other states and territories. It differs from all the other productivity commissions because it is not truly independent and it is not truly accountable to anyone other than the LNP Treasurer of Queensland who would assume new powers through the commission to inquire into a very broad range of matters including the lives of Queenslanders. Given the broad scope that this bill contains, almost any aspect of Queenslanders' lives could be inquired into if the Productivity Commission is set up as is proposed in the bill that the government has brought before the House. That means that the LNP commission would, in fact, move beyond giving advice to being an active participant in setting and implementing the government's policy agenda.

**Mr Vorster:** Hear, hear!

**Mr McCALLUM:** That is the first of many instances where it fails the test of independence. I take the interjection of the member who said, 'Hear, hear!' when I said that it would move beyond providing advice into being an active participant in setting and implementing the government's agenda.

**Mr Vorster** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** He has done it again. I am glad that that is on the record. I hope that the Treasurer will refer to it when he sums up so he can explain why a member of his government thinks that supporting that proposition is not somehow undercutting the independence that this commission purportedly has.

We have heard other speakers say that the first task of this political plaything of the LNP government will be to attack the wages and conditions of ordinary Queensland workers in the building and construction industry. To that I say, 'Shame.' This commission will not be independent. It will not be transparent. It will not be accountable; it will only be accountable to the LNP Treasurer, who will be able to control and command the Queensland Productivity Commission. There will be no real accountability. There will be the facade of accountability but there will be no actual independence or accountability.

This is something that stakeholders and witnesses brought up during the committee process. Stakeholders such as the Business Chamber of Queensland and the Queensland Renewable Energy Council stated that they believed there is a need for established transparency and independence. The Queensland Council of Unions also made a submission to the—

**Mr Crandon:** This should be worthwhile hearing.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Absolutely. I take the interjection from the member for Coomera, who obviously needs to listen to it again. Perhaps this time the member for Coomera might learn something. Whilst I live in hope, I doubt it.

The member for Caloundra asked whether or not a department which sits in Treasury needed to be more independent and whether the Productivity Commission would not offer more independence. Mr Nate Tosh, the officer from the QCU, provided a response which absolutely schooled the member

for Caloundra and established the utter nonsense of the facade of independence that surrounds this bill. Mr Tosh said—

Are public servants not bound by their code of conduct to be independent? If they are not, they can be found to be in breach of the code of conduct. It says they have to be. As a good public servant, they must be independent. They must provide frank and fearless advice. I believe that is what this government expects and what it has said repeatedly, so I would expect that departments would be.

Hear, hear! Let the sun shine in.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members!

**Mr McCALLUM:** They bellow, 'It needs to be accountable. It needs to be independent.' The Labor Treasurer—


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let's try again, shall we?

**Mr McCALLUM:** When the independent Productivity Commission, established in 2015, was brought within Treasury, we still received independent advice. I will move on because, unfortunately, my time is running short.

I want to make a few quick remarks in relation to a couple of contributions—one from the member for Coomera and one from the member for Theodore. I think another member was quoting a productivity dip in Queensland between 2018 and 2022-23. I wonder what happened during those years. Perhaps there was a global pandemic that might have impacted our economy. By the way, Queensland's economy did extremely well—we led the nation and led the world—as we came through the pandemic. When talking about cherrypicking data and spinning it, that has to be the worst example ever.

The commission has a very broad remit. I am concerned that this LNP think tank of a productivity commission will undermine and undercut the work of truly independent organisations such as the Auditor-General, who is an officer of this parliament. I hope that does not come to pass, but I suspect there is a real risk.

The Productivity Commission will be able to look into any aspect of our lives. For example, it might look into our recovery from natural disasters. Perhaps this independent commission could work with the former member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, in his new role as the State Recovery Coordinator. If it looks into workplace health and safety, it could work with the former member for Burleigh, Michael Hart, in his new role. If it looks into energy, it could work with former deputy premier Jeff Seeney. It is not independent. They will stack it with their LNP mates, just like they have been. Talk about productivity—they give jobs to their mates.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Productivity Commission Bill. The objective of the bill is to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission as an open, independent and impartial statutory advisory body. This bill was a 2024 Crisafulli Queensland state election pledge and a key commitment in our 100-day plan. Today we are delivering on that promise.

In 1918, Norman Lindsay penned a comic classic called *The Magic Pudding*. It is a story about a magical pudding called Albert which, no matter how often he is eaten, always re-forms to be eaten yet again. The comical 'magic pudding' has become a useful metaphor in Queensland economic analysis and debate. 'Magic Pudding economics' could be used to describe an ever-replenishing resource. It is a very apt description for Labor's reckless approach to economics, over-regulation and the cost-of-living crisis. It is a fairytale story that, no matter how much you spend, money keeps magically replenishing. To use an idiom, it is having your cake and eating it too—over and over again.

Queensland is forecast to be \$218 billion in debt by 2028. Yesterday, the Standard & Poor's ratings agency downgraded our economic outlook from AA-plus stable to AA-plus negative.

Consider capital costs. Queensland Labor's legacy is a four-year blowout in capital costs from an estimated \$22.6 billion to \$129.9 billion. Economic modelling by Queensland Treasury over the term 2024 to 2030 estimates Labor's Best Practice Industry Conditions tax is likely to increase project costs by up to 25 per cent and create a net economic cost of \$17.1 billion. It is a fact that productivity is integral to a healthy and sustainable Queensland economy. Conversely, weak productivity results in lower economic growth, lower wages, higher unemployment and higher inflation.

The core business of the commission is to conduct formal public inquiries, reviews and investigations into complex economic and social issues, regulatory matters and/or legislation as referred to it by the responsible minister. The Queensland Productivity Commission was originally a statutory body created in 2015 to provide independent economic and policy advice to the Queensland government. According to the 2015 bill's explanatory notes, it was about delivering on the broad aims

of lifting productivity, improving living standards and driving economic growth. However, in June 2021 Labor abolished the Queensland Productivity Commission, leaving Queensland without the independent analysis and investigatory powers so critical to a vibrant, healthy and secure economy.

There are 495,000 small and family businesses in Queensland that employ one million Queenslanders and contribute an estimated \$131 billion per annum to our Queensland economy. Small businesses create jobs, pay taxes and stimulate economic growth. In and about my electorate of Hervey Bay, there are 6,726 registered businesses, and 21 per cent of these are in the construction industry. The construction industry represents the largest share of small businesses in Queensland.

The first brief of the Productivity Commission is to conduct a comprehensive review of the building and construction industry. The commission will also deliver Queensland's first intergenerational equity report, outlining key issues that Queenslanders experience across the generations and the long-term solutions. The Productivity Commission's independence is crucial to its effectiveness, and the provision of independent advice plays an important role in effective policymaking. Economist David Gruen has said—

Productivity outcomes will clearly depend not only on the choices and actions of the government, but also of the private sector, individuals, businesses, and the community at large.

He goes on to say that it is critical that government gets the policy settings right on both spending and regulation. According to the Business Chamber Queensland *Efficient regulation report 2023*—

Inefficient government regulation, or red tape, has impacted 70% of Queensland business' growth while the median business cost of complying with regulation has doubled to \$50,000 in the last two years ...

It continues—

To make Queensland productive, efficient and competitive there needs to be overall regulatory reform—to make it easier for businesses to work with government.

The Queensland economy generates more than \$500 billion in economic output per year, with major international exports including metallurgical coal with a nominal value of \$48 billion, LNG of \$22 billion and agriculture of \$13 billion.

In 2024 on the Fraser Coast there was a gross regional product of \$5.9 billion, up 5.8 per cent on the previous year. Gross regional product is a broad indicator of the growth of our regional economy. In 2024 there was \$692.9 million in overnight visitor expenditure and 986,000 visitors to the Fraser Coast. The 1,431 small and family owned Fraser Coast construction businesses, which employ 3,600 employees, need less over-regulation or red tape and a genuinely competitive marketplace.

It is timely that the Queensland Productivity Commission's first assignment is to comprehensively review the building and construction industry, including the Best Practice Industry Conditions—the CFMEU tax—which is driving up the cost of major projects by \$17.1 billion. The Queensland Productivity Commission is due to deliver the report in mid-2025. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring productivity at building worksites and to the Queensland economy. It is a fresh start for Queensland and Hervey Bay.

After a decade of stagnation, we can no longer afford to kick the productivity can down the road. Queensland Labor has plundered Aesop's goose that laid the golden eggs. Restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission is about respect for Queenslanders' money, driving down the cost of living, improving housing affordability, and reliable and affordable electricity. Queensland Labor has left a legacy of reckless spending and unfunded promises.

Many in my Hervey Bay electorate have not forgotten a decade of Labor's chaos and crisis. Labor has no credible plan for a productive and vibrant economy to improve standards of living for all Queenslanders. Labor's state run service stations, state run general practices, free lunches and colossal capital cost blowouts are no substitute for a productive, thriving and growing Queensland economy.

Queenslanders have also not forgotten Queensland Labor's arrogant disregard for transparency, accountability and responsible government. Let the sun shine in on Labor's lack of accountability and integrity. Let the sun shine in on the \$236 million Wellcamp disaster shrouded in secrecy. Let the sun shine in on Labor's CFMEU and ETU dealings. How magnanimous of Labor to lecture the Crisafulli government on responsible government and parliamentary democracy.

The Crisafulli government is committed to instigating a rational and methodical approach to managing the Queensland economy. Productivity is integral to successfully managing our \$500 billion economy. Re-establishing the Queensland Productivity Commission is essential to a healthy and



sustainable economy. Queenslanders have had enough of Labor's reckless magic pudding economics. It is time for a rational, impartial, open and transparent approach to improving productivity in our economy. I commend the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Before I call the member, I point out that there have been five instances tonight of members from both sides of the House passing between the member speaking and the chair. This is contrary to the standing orders. If you persist, I will name you.

**Ms GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (8.25 pm): If the Crisafulli government and the Treasurer are looking for a magic pudding of independence that is going to solve everybody's productivity issues, let me tell those opposite that this bill ain't going to deliver. It does not matter how they try to cut the cloth—'This is independent. We are going to establish this Productivity Commission. It is the magic pudding that is going to solve all the problems of small businesses in Queensland. It is going to solve all the building site issues that we hear out there. It is going to solve the issues of the world.'—good luck.

**A government member:** And world peace.

**Ms GRACE:** And world peace. I take that interjection from the minister. It is even going to solve world peace. You have to aim high. I give him credit that he is at least aiming high. When it comes to a truly independent Productivity Commission that can have their own views and do their own work without seeking approvals, the Treasurer is not aiming very high at all.

We only have to look at the legislation. Those opposite can come into this House and pontificate about things time after time, but it does not change what is in the bill. There is a saying that a fish rots from the head. They may be taking their lead from the head in relation to this rotten piece of legislation. At the end of the day—

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** If you want to continue on with that kind of interjection I will take offence and I will ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you will address your comments through the chair and not directly to the member.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask that that be withdrawn as I take offence.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Deputy Speaker, the minister—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, take a seat, please. You can see I am taking advice. I will ask everybody to remain quiet, thank you. Minister, I will ask you to withdraw.

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Ms GRACE:** As I was saying, I note that the Treasurer previously drew our attention to clause 38(3), which says that he cannot dictate to them what they write. Thank goodness for that. They want to put a clause in the legislation which almost says, 'If you write a report—guess what?—you are free to write it.' The only reason he has had to put that in the legislation is section 37, which basically says that everything they do—everything they want to do, any research they have to do, any research they propose to do and any research they want to do—has to be approved by the Treasurer. That is far from the independent Australian Productivity Commission, which can commence its own research based on its own advice and without any need for approval from the Treasurer.

Government members can get up and continue to pontificate how independent this commission will be, but the reality is that the proposed legislation says that everything they do must be approved by the Treasurer. In my electorate of McConnel I have some great community groups. I invite the Treasurer to do the pub test. Let's go and have a drink in one of the taverns in my electorate. Let's talk to the people there and give them section 37 and see whether they think this is an independent productivity commission. It will not pass the pub test.

I invite the Treasurer to come with me to National Seniors and we will have a nice morning tea. They are a lovely group of people. Let's explain to them the independent Productivity Commission. Let's show them clause 37 and the detail of the legislation. Let's have a look and see if it passes the National Seniors test. I will even take the Treasurer to meet some young people in my electorate. Let's go and talk to them. Let's see whether or not we can convince them that this is an independent commission. I say to the Treasurer that it does not pass any of those tests.

No-one—no matter how you say it—is going to change their mind in relation to that. That is because the LNP do not want an independent commission. They want a body that will tell them what they want to hear. This is nothing more than an LNP think tank set up to give the LNP an excuse to cut conditions, projects, regulations—whatever it is. There is no transparency, no integrity and no independence. It is an LNP think tank paid for by the taxpayer. That is all it is.

There is independence at the moment in exactly the same way under Treasury, so why change it? I know that a lot of members on our side have asked that very pertinent question and I put that question to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer answer this question: if they are going to be doing exactly the same work as the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction, why do they need to be transferred out of Treasury? When he has clause 37 in the legislation, they still cannot commence any public research without the approval of the Treasurer. It is another step away from transparency and accountability. Isn't it amazing that they cannot make the transition from opposition to government! When they were over here, they kept going on about transparency and independence. What a difference now they are in government. It goes right out the door.

Productivity is not even a core function of the Productivity Commission. We will be moving amendments to make sure that we hold this government to account and that we strengthen the commission's independence. I also note that the LNP will make the commission's first job about the building industry. This is really interesting. They have announced a pause to Best Practice Industry Conditions. When they did this they cited independent economic modelling of Treasury.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, she is not taking interjections.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. That is a bit rude. In relation to this independent modelling—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will give you protection but I do not need comment. Thank you. You have the call.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have lost my train of thought.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think you said 'productivity', if I can help you.


**Ms GRACE:** Maybe I do not need commentary either, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much. I jest!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Put it in writing.

**Ms GRACE:** It is late at night. We have to spruce things up a bit. Come on! When they get an RTI request that says, 'Give us the economic modelling. Give us the documents. Give us the 44 pages that say that not having BPIC is going to save \$17 billion,' if that were me and I had that modelling in my hand I would be flying helicopters over Brisbane and I would be throwing it out the window for everyone to read. I would be direct mailing every person in Brisbane. They have economic modelling that says that not having BPIC will save \$17 billion, but guess what they gave the *Courier-Mail*? Two lines. Out of 44 pages they gave them two lines.

If I had something that was going to strengthen my argument, I do not think I would be hiding it. The only reason the Treasurer is hiding it is that it does not pass the pub test. It does not withstand scrutiny. There is no detail in any of the proposals they have put forward. Queenslanders are paying the price. Even Standard & Poor's have said that they have cooked the books so much that until they get a clear picture of what is happening—it is truly a disgrace and economic vandalism that a new government would do that without giving any detail. If this is what we are going to expect—44 pages of modelling that is hidden in two lines—all I can say is that you have to be kidding me. That is exactly what they are trying to do. They are trying to kid all of the people in Queensland in relation to this.

There is an article written by Josh Robertson about some of the practices on some major sites on the Gold Coast. It talks about employers and the manner in which they manage health and safety. If the commission does this inquiry, let us hope it covers both industrial organisations of employees and employers, because this article says a lot about what is happening on job sites.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.37 pm): I rise today in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): I remind the House that I am very interested in what the member has to say, even if you are not.

**Miss DOOLAN:** It is a critical step in ensuring the prosperity and economic resilience of Queensland. Productivity is not just an abstract economic term; it is the backbone of Queensland's future. It determines the strength of our economy, the security of our jobs and the cost of living for our hardworking families. The people of Pumicestone, from Bribie Island to Beachmere, Caboolture and beyond, know firsthand the pressures that come with a growing population and increasing economic demands. They deserve a government that prioritises economic growth, job creation and financial stability.

This bill seeks to restore an essential institution—the Queensland Productivity Commission. Interestingly, it was first introduced by those opposite in 2015 yet, despite its invaluable contributions, Labor allowed it to wither. By 2021 it was abolished entirely—its functions hidden away within government agencies, away from public scrutiny and accountability. Since then we have seen the real-world consequences of weak productivity growth: lower wages, higher inflation and a housing market struggling to keep up with demand. The numbers speak for themselves. If productivity growth had remained at pre-2018 levels, Queenslanders could be earning \$11,000 more in real per capita income today. That is money that could be going towards mortgages, school fees and local businesses in Pumicestone and across the state.

In 2022 the LNP made a clear commitment to restore the Queensland Productivity Commission, and we are delivering. The bill introduced by our Crisafulli government is about securing our economic future. The re-established commission will be an independent statutory body, ensuring its findings remain free from political interference; focus on cutting unnecessary red tape, reducing costs for businesses and consumers alike; and provide transparent, evidence-based recommendations to the government, benefiting industries, workers and families across Queensland. Mr Deputy Speaker, if you are wondering, its first task was a much needed inquiry into the building and construction industry. For too long declining productivity in this sector has driven up costs and slowed progress on critical infrastructure and housing.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): There is too much noise in the House.

**Miss DOOLAN:** Increasing efficiency here will mean more affordable homes, stronger businesses and better opportunities for Queensland families. The people of Pumicestone deserve a government that delivers real economic solutions. Whether it is small business owners in Caboolture like Red Fox Orchids, tradies in Sandstone Point or young families trying to enter the housing market in Caboolture, productivity matters to all of us. Cutting through bureaucracy and reducing regulatory burdens will empower businesses to grow, create jobs and drive innovation. The commission's work will ensure that taxpayers' dollars are used efficiently, delivering more with less—something the previous government failed to do.

Of course, those who sit across from us will try and misrepresent the bill. They may claim the commission will lack accountability and be a political tool, but let us be clear. The commission will be independent, with statutory protections in place to prevent government interference in its findings. It will conduct public consultations, ensuring transparency and broad community input. The Treasurer cannot dictate the content of its recommendations, only refer matters for review. Contrast this with Labor's approach: shutting down an independent body and burying productivity discussions within government agencies, out of sight and beyond public scrutiny. Queenslanders deserve better.

This bill is not just about economics: it is about quality of life. It is about ensuring our hospitals, schools, roads and essential services keep up with our growing population. It is about helping families afford their homes, keeping businesses competitive and ensuring that hard work is rewarded. The Queensland Productivity Commission will provide the insights and strategies we need to drive efficiency, innovation and growth. It will help deliver a stronger, more sustainable economy not just for today but for generations to come.

I stand in full support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. The people of Pumicestone and all of Queensland deserve a government that makes informed, transparent decisions to improve their everyday lives. This commission will be a critical tool in ensuring that Queensland remains a place of opportunity, growth and prosperity. Let us drive productivity and secure Queensland's future. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.42 pm): I am very proud indeed to support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. I do so recognising what productivity is about. Productivity is not a big, long word plucked from a textbook. Productivity is the means by which we may generate wealth for the state of Queensland. It is not wealth for its own sake but wealth to fuel an economy that lifts living standards and fulfils the aspirations of a great people.

Presently, the best I can surmise is that the LNP has inherited a very weak and anaemic economy. Dare I say, it is a sick economy. That is because we have just learned during this sitting that Standard & Poor's have put us on notice. Because Queensland's productivity is falling, our economy is not growing fast enough to deal with the terrible debt legacy left by those opposite which is projected to be—and I stand to be corrected—\$40,000 for every man, woman and child in the state of Queensland.

I am motivated to support this bill because of a conversation I had while on the hustings. I was doorknocking the beautiful southern parts of Palm Beach. I recall this conversation very clearly. I approached the front door of this duplex. It was a hot day. I had been doorknocking for hours. I could not quite get to the front door because of a gate across the driveway. I did not need to make it to the front door because a lady—I will not name her—was doing the gardening in the driveway. She took a lot of pride in her garden. She explained to me that she loved Palm Beach. She loved living there. She loved the simple things in life, including gardening in her old age. We had a great conversation. I moved on. I kept on doorknocking and a few weeks later I returned to the same neighbourhood.

This time I was doing a roadside and the same lady came up to me. She said, 'Hermann, you're everywhere.' I said, 'Thank you very much. But so are you, ma'am. You are absolutely everywhere. Since I met you the first time, I see you constantly out of the house.' She said, 'I love walking my dog. I love the outdoors.' I said, 'What's going on in your life?' She explained to me that she was in the process of investigating getting a visa to Vietnam. This struck me as very odd. I could not help myself. I threw my hands up in the sky—it was a beautiful day—and I said, 'But why would you want to leave Palm Beach? This suburb is paradise.' She explained to me that as a pensioner she could no longer afford to put a roof over her head. What I thought was her home when I doorknocked her the first time turned out to be the home of her friend. She was not living in a habitable part of that home; she was living in the only safe place she could. The thing is, it was not all that safe for her and she had to spend as much time as she could out of that home. She shed a few tears on the roadside. I will never forget these words. She said, 'Hermann, I have worked my whole life. I have paid my taxes, but in my moment of need there is no help. There is no longer a place for me in my own country.'

Those words shook me. They also lit a fire in me to do something about it, because in this great nation and in this great state we have the ability to compete with any other in the Commonwealth. With the mineral wealth, the intellect, the aspiration and the enterprise of this state, there is every opportunity for us to create the wealth necessary.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member for McConnel.

**Mr VORSTER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Those opposite have long forgotten the battler. They are too busy making ridiculous metaphors about their propensity to throw money away than to look after decent Queenslanders in their time of need. This Productivity Commission will be the pathway to that wealth creation. It will be the pathway to reducing the costs that have pushed Queensland families to the breaking point. I am most excited by the direction provided by our fine Treasurer. He is much better than the other lot could ever produce. He said that the first order of business for the Productivity Commission will be to look into the housing and construction sector.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, take a seat. Members who are choosing to squabble across the House, I will start naming you if you persist.

**Mr VORSTER:** By addressing housing, not only will we have the ability to look after the forgotten battlers—the battlers that those opposite forgot—but we will be able to unlock aspiration in the next generation, giving them a stake in their communities, because private property and home ownership is the foundation of a stable and healthy society. It encourages personal responsibility, it gives people a powerful incentive for good stewardship and it also creates that private space where families can instil values and traditions which will lead to a stable and strong society. Those homes will never be built if they are too expensive to be built. Low productivity is robbing those young people of the opportunity to buy their stake into the Australian dream.

During this debate I have heard very unusual arguments from those opposite that this bill is not worth supporting because it is not—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr VORSTER:** They are not listening to me, in the same way they have not been listening to Queenslanders. If they had been listening, they would be sitting on the government benches; instead they are sitting on the opposition benches.

Getting the housing question sorted is very important to this government. Today we have already abolished Labor's disgraceful tax on housing for first home buyers. We have done that but there is more to do. This bill will put forward options for the government to act on to reduce the cost of housing and to ease the cost-of-living pressures borne by Queenslanders so there is more money in their pocket which can be pumped back into the economy for productive purposes. As I said, it will give more Queenslanders a stake in their state.

We have heard inane arguments from those opposite that this bill is not worth supporting because the Productivity Commission is not independent. That is not seeing the forest for the trees. At least we will restore a productivity commission. If there is to be someone directing that Productivity Commission and putting it to work, I would sooner have it be our Treasurer than any other member opposite. Those opposite do not believe in productivity; they believe in a weak economy where battlers have to depend on them. We believe in aspiration, where people can stand up under the strength of their own hard work.


**Mr BERKMAN:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr LISTER:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Southern Downs.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not want to get into an argument but I did not hear a call from the left side of the House. I have made the call.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.52 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. What happened to the Labor Party of the 1980s—

**Mr MELLISH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. From my point of view here, it was pretty clear that the member for Maiwar sought the call first, and I believe he sought it last time as well.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**(Mr Kempton): Can I deal with one at a time, please.

**Mr LISTER:** Well, time is running out.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Could you just take a seat. I did not hear the call.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have made my position clear. Member for Southern Downs, you have the call.

**Mr LISTER:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In accordance with standing order 247(3), I move—

That the honourable member for Maiwar be heard.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Could you please not argue across the chamber. I have made my decision. I did not hear the call. I have made the position clear. Member for Southern Downs, you have the call.

**Mr LISTER:** Thank you. What happened to the Labor Party that was proud to have the—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rose on a point of order in relation to standing order 247(3) and I moved that the member for Maiwar be heard. I am happy for that question to be put and then we can move on after the question has been put.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, if you would like to come up here and take the seat and think you can do better, you can. I am in the middle of taking advice. I want quiet, please.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business, it is my understanding that you had made a ruling. With respect to the point of order that the Manager of Opposition Business is raising, he is now trying to move a motion with respect to your ruling. If he dissents from your ruling, it is my understanding that he would have to write to the Speaker about that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thought I had made my decision in relation to the point of order quite clear as to who had the call and who I heard. I am going to take some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, you can see what is happening here. I will have total silence please while I get some advice. I will put the question that the motion be agreed to.

Division: Question put—That the honourable member for Maiwar be heard.

*In division—*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, we are in a division. I will not have arguments.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I made a comment earlier in the week about chatter during a division.

**AYES, 33:**

**ALP, 32—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Mullen, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

**Grn, 1—**Berkman.

**NOES, 47:**

**LNP, 47—**Baillie, Barounis, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. 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.

Resolved in the negative.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lister, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.02 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Children, Hormone Therapy



**Ms ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (9.02 pm): Before I begin, I raise a content warning related to transphobia, mental health, self-harm and suicide. It is often said that the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, what we have seen so far from the Crisafulli LNP government is frightening. First it was First Nations peoples with what the *Courier-Mail* called a politically cruel move when the LNP repealed the Path to Treaty legislation—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Apologies, member for Alger. Members, keep your noise down, please, as you are leaving the House out of respect to the member on her feet.

**Ms ENOCH:**—with no consultation, no notice and just four hours debate and now it is the LGBTIQ+ community. Last month, without warning, the LNP Minister for Health ordered a blanket statewide halt on any new patients under 18 accessing health services related to gender therapy. It is fair to say that the LNP's decision to interfere with an individual's right to health care has left incredibly vulnerable young people and their families in an even more vulnerable position. This is evidenced in

the Open Doors Youth Service ‘share your story’ campaign, and I will share just a few of the numerous stories young people have shared on that website. One young person heartbreakingly shared—

I have been directly affected by the ban, I was referred in late May of 2023 under a category 2 and have been waiting since to receive any kind of updates. When I found out about the halt, I sobbed for 3 hours, it genuinely felt like my reason and motivation for living had been taken away from me.

They went on to say—

I have hurt myself and attempted to end my own life because of the feelings brought on by gender dysphoria, I have been severely bullied for being trans, gender dysphoria has caused me to dissociate heavily, have panic attacks, and so so so so so much more.

Another young person said, ‘I no longer want to live if I am denied these hormones.’

The consistent message by young people, their parents and supporters is that the LNP’s decision to halt access to gender dysphoria health treatment will put young people’s lives at risk.


How anyone can read these stories and not be affected is beyond me. Did the minister talk to any young vulnerable people or their families before announcing this blanket ban? Did he take into account their incredible vulnerability? What exactly was the level of consultation he undertook to reach this decision?

I am advised that Open Doors Youth Service, Queensland’s only dedicated LGBTIQ+ youth service, has experienced a 68 per cent increase in referrals since the LNP minister’s decision. Has the minister ensured this service has the extra resources it now needs to deal with the fallout of his decision? I call on the health minister to immediately release the details of any consultation he undertook with the community prior to declaring this statewide ban and provide advice regarding how the LNP intends to address the very real impact their decision has had on the mental health of many young people.

Just like we saw when the former LNP government closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre, the LNP has once again inserted themselves and their ideology into the direct health care of vulnerable young people. This action reflects the true measure of this government and its disregard for some of our society’s most vulnerable citizens.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Burdekin, there was far too much noise in the chamber during the last member’s contribution. I did not want to interrupt her again. Members, take your conversations outside or be quiet in here, please.

### Far North Queensland, Tourism and Manufacturing

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.06 pm): The Crisafulli government values regional and rural Queensland. I know firsthand that you cannot be making decisions for people in regional and rural Queensland while sitting in Brisbane. That is why it is my priority to spend as much time as I can outside of SEQ.

Last week I had the opportunity to visit Cairns and Palm Cove. A big part of our vision to return Queensland to a premier tourism destination is reinvigorating our Great Barrier Reef islands. That is why our government has taken the next step towards securing the future of Double Island off the coast of Cairns. Whilst in Cairns I had the privilege of announcing that the site of the former resort has been converted from a Land Act reserve to state owned freehold land. It is a significant change that allows us to negotiate a fit-for-purpose commercial lease to restore Double Island to the tourist icon it once was. This change gives us stronger powers to negotiate commercial leases and ensure the leaseholder provides world-class tourism offerings. Most importantly, it means we have more power to ensure leaseholders are accountable to Queenslanders.

The conversion to state owned freehold follows extensive consultation with the local community as well as market sounding. A real estate agent will be appointed in coming weeks and soon we will call for expressions of interest for operators interested in taking Double Island forward.

We promised Queenslanders a fresh start, and we are delivering. The former Labor government sat on their hands and let Double Island’s potential go to waste. Locals were locked out. The island was left to decay. Well, not on my watch. We knew locals were fed up. We have listened and we are delivering.


We also want to see manufacturing thrive in regional Queensland. I had the privilege, whilst I was in the far north last week, of visiting two of Cairns’s premier manufacturing businesses. The team from Norweld have grown their business over the last 50 years to develop some of the country’s leading

tray and canopy design packages. I would like to thank Norweld's General Manager, Steve Umback, and Executive Chairman, Jaime McIntosh, for taking the time to show me around. It is a first-class operation and I have to say I was very envious of the quality of the welding, and I would have loved to have taken a few tips away with me from that particular business.

I was also blown away by the size, scale and operations of CSF Industries, a family owned steel fabrication operation built on a foundation of family values which has grown to 150 staff and 19 apprentices, six of whom are female. Thank you to Karina Adams, who is part of the original CSF Industries family, and Tony Hogg for allowing me to tour their facility.

When regional and rural Queensland thrives, we all thrive. Our government will never take that for granted, nor the people who live and work with those communities.


### Mount Ommaney Electorate, Health Services

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.09 pm): Members of the House may have seen that over the parliamentary recess I have been out and about in my community talking about one of the things I am most excited about: the brand new urgent care clinic that has recently opened up at Canossa Private Hospital in Oxley. While knocking on doors and having mobile offices I have spoken with hundreds of locals, and the message is clear: they are really excited to have this world-class facility right in our community in the heart of Oxley. This brand new clinic is federally funded and, most importantly, it offers full bulk-billing to everybody who walks through its doors. It sits right on the border of the federal electorates of Oxley—represented by my great friend Milton Dick, who fought so hard to secure this clinic—and Moreton. The candidate, Julie-Ann Campbell, is working tirelessly to ensure every single resident of her community knows this facility is available. I want to thank them both, along with Graham Perrett—the outgoing member for Moreton—for their advocacy to secure this fantastic service. I understand that since it opened in November it has seen around 1,000 patients and that number grows, of course, every single day.

This clinic works hand in glove with the state government satellite hospitals that are located in Ripley and Eight Mile Plains to provide free after-hours health care to our community. So many parents have told me how fantastic it has been to be able to take their kids with a suspected broken arm to a satellite hospital on a weekend rather than go to the emergency room. Our satellite hospitals can treat other things like simple fractures and infections, earaches, minor burns or head injuries, and by appointment they can offer kidney dialysis and related services. They have cancer and outpatient medical services and other nursing and allied health services. These services would otherwise be offered at major hospitals, so it is a real game changer for people who live in outer suburbia to have them offered close to home instead.

In the time I have left, can I say how disappointed I am that in their first 100 days the LNP have focused not on the great work that our satellite hospitals do but on renaming them. When I speak to people in my community—the members of Probus, the parents of kids who love sport and the mums of newborns—I hear that they are so grateful for these free health facilities. When you listen to the services they provide, it sure sounds like a hospital to me. Changing the name of these significant health services is a wrong priority—just like the recent closure of health facilities in Townsville that will impact on mums and bubs. It shows that they just do not understand the inherent value of these centres to our communities. I think the name change diminishes the fantastic work that they do. On this side of the House, we love our satellite hospitals. We do not call them 'fake hospitals' like those opposite; we back them every step of the way.

### Lockyer Electorate, Roadworks

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.12 pm): I rise tonight with mixed feelings about a wonderful opportunity that we have in the Lockyer region. The Grantham Helidon Road is having some wonderful safety upgrades that I have fought for but, unfortunately, the works have had a devastating impact on our businesses in Grantham. Tanya and Bill Hooper from Hooper's Grantham Store, Belle and Scott from the Grantham Fuels shop, and Tabitha from The Floating Cafe reached out to us because of a downturn in business of about 30 per cent. This is threatening employment—they have had to let some people go—and it is threatening their businesses. I want to assure the community that I have reached out to the Department of Transport and Main Roads and they have listened. After that, I spoke to the minister and he has also listened. They are improving the coordination of the controls on the Grantham Helidon Road roadworks.




Most people think roadworks are a wonderful thing, but there are five sites between Gatton and Helidon—three between Grantham and Helidon and two between Gatton and Grantham—that have caused devastation for these businesses. We have made representations to Transport and Main Roads. They have listened and they are improving the coordination. I have been through there myself. I know that the regional director has been through there. They have done an audit and there has been an improvement in the coordination.

They have reduced the length of a lot of stops from up to 30 minutes to about 10 minutes. This could still be improved. I have suggested to Transport and Main Roads that there should be more manual control of those devices. They were being used on timers at night and that was resulting in some long delays. Through manual control and by minimising the length of controlled areas to where the roadwork is actually happening, we have been able to achieve some improvements. We have asked Transport and Main Roads to continue to improve that coordination, and I want to assure our community that that will happen.

I have also made representation to the minister—and I thank him for listening to us; I recognise him here tonight—to make sure that when the works are happening we improve those roads. Lawlers Road is one of the roads at the back that can have some treatments; I am fighting to see that improved. I recognise that Transport and Main Roads and the contractors are now buying fuel in Grantham as well as purveying The Floating Cafe and Hooper's Grantham store. I want to see them continue to shop local. If you are from the Lockyer Valley, please continue to go out to Grantham. The businesses are still open and they need our help. They have been through some bad floods but they are on their way to recovery, and anything we can do will help.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Can I have some quiet, please. There are too many conversations.

### Wynnum Community Place

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.15 pm): It is no secret that the Premier is ruthlessly attacking our most vulnerable Queenslanders. So much for a fresh start! We know that this heartless Premier is cutting \$45 million from homelessness services, at a time when homeless rates have increased by 13 per cent. It is sadistic, and the Premier's mask is now off.

I will share another heartless story. We have a caring and inclusive community in the bayside, with lots of wonderful organisations that support our baysiders. I have proudly worked for over a decade delivering infrastructure, health, education and services, including a fully funded community service—the Y Hub. During the election the LNP pretended to care about vulnerable people and chose to attack my record of standing up for vulnerable baysiders and other service providers. Their nasty, desperate campaigning cynically latched onto Wynnum Community Place, an organisation that was unsuccessful in its tender for community centre funding. I did not dignify their attacks on me; however, a promise is a promise and if my community will benefit then I am all-in.

In a media release dated 9 October, the LNP promised \$500,000 if they were elected to government. It states—

The LNP will save Wynnum Community Place ... if elected on October 26.

It said they 'would commit \$500,000 in new funding to ensure the service's survival and provide certainty for its operation over the next two years'. This is a new low—using vulnerable people for political gain. How disgraceful, but that is how the LNP operate. Now we all know that their pre-election commitment was a cheap stunt.


*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 9 October 2024, titled 'LNP announces it will save Wynnum Community Place in Lytton' [\[126\]](#)

WCP was set to open its doors on 7 January 2025. This did not happen. WCP stated that its doors would remain closed until promised government funding came through. Where is it, you may ask? I wrote to the Premier on 6 January, asking him to honour his funding promise—no response. I wrote to the Premier again on 24 January seeking certainty for my community—again, surprise, no response. Third time lucky: I wrote to the Premier again on Tuesday this week—42 days since I first asked him for clarity. Guess what? I have received no response. I get the picture. I will not keep bothering him to keep his promise, but I will hold him and this mob over here to account every day. The Premier has shown us who he really is. He has shown me his lack of compassion—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Members on my right, there were parts of that address I could not hear, in case anybody wanted to make a point of order about it. I caution you all.


### Mount Morgan State High School

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.18 pm): Last week I was lucky enough to be invited to attend a very important birthday. It was the 113th birthday of the Mount Morgan State High School. Mount Morgan State High School holds the honour of being the oldest state high school in Queensland by one day, having opened in 1912. This history is a reminder of what an economic powerhouse Mount Morgan once was. The school has served the community with purpose throughout its life.

First starting as a technical college in 1908 before becoming a state high school, it served the community as a temporary isolation hospital in 1919 for patients with Spanish flu. Today, the school still serves throughout the community by educating just over 215 students with distinction and is led by principal James Lye. With a vision to create the leaders of tomorrow, Mr Lye has helped to instil the strong sense of respect amongst the students. Whilst there, the respect that the students had for all the teaching staff was clear with the students all acknowledging Mr Lye with a ‘Good morning, Sir. How are you?’ as he took me on a tour of the school. No more was this sense of respect and strong leadership shown than in the new school captains and vice captains. A team of four young confident women—Abbie, Dakota, Keeley and Destiny—all show the characteristics of strong, respected leaders amongst the students. The confidence with which they led the school assembly will serve them well in their roles, being leaders for the school and helping set an example for other students in terms of what they can achieve.

I commend the work of the staff at Mount Morgan State High School and, with future plans being developed to help improve the school, I look forward to working with them in coming years to ensure that the school continues to honour its history and tradition by continuing to provide high-quality education for young people in the region and around the area of Mount Morgan.

### Children, Hormone Therapy


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.21 pm): My community of Mansfield is reeling from the LNP’s decision to halt the implementation of recommendations made by the 2024 review of the Queensland Children’s Gender Service including ceasing hormone therapy treatment for young gender-diverse Queenslanders. This decision undermines, and is in stark contrast to, how our parents and community support our young people, and my community has been here before. In January 2022, Citipointe Christian College tried it on; they introduced an enrolment contract that discriminated against students based on their sexuality or gender identity. Students, parents and members of the Mansfield electorate overwhelmingly rejected this administrative act and ultimately Citipointe withdrew the contract.

Once again, young people are being targeted and subjected to harm and prejudice due to the LNP government’s decision to halt vital gender-affirming care. We know that this was an ideological outcome looking for a cause—the cause found in our vulnerable young people. It is a dirty right-wing priority deal done in response to the abortion gag. The political victims are young people who already face additional risk to their mental health including self-harm and isolation. I have heard from many mothers in my community for whom this decision will have a direct effect on their child’s life. These are not abstract concerns; they are real worries shared by families trying to do what is best for their children.

In 2023, Children’s Health Queensland commissioned an external service evaluation of the Queensland Children’s Gender Service. This evaluation was part of their commitment to ensuring that children and young people receive the safest, most evidence informed care. We know that access to health services is the first step in promoting better mental and physical wellbeing for young people who are questioning or wish to affirm their gender. We know that gender-affirming care saves lives and yet this LNP government seems determined to limit this access.

The LNP is yet to provide a logical rationale to support its decision-making. What consultation was undertaken with the health services before making the decision to pause gender-affirming care across the state? Did the minister consult directly with the trans community? Local families deserve answers. Since the ban, services that provide support to gender diverse youth have experienced a significant increase in referrals. Open Doors has reported a 68 per cent increase in referrals and yet has received no further funding or support from the LNP to meet this demand. My community is asking for immediate action from this government to ensure our most vulnerable young people are provided the health care afforded to all Queenslanders.

### Hedges Avenue, Footpath


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.24 pm): The light rail stage 3 is taking shape throughout my electorate and the promised ancillary development as a corollary of the light rail project should now also be addressed. Mayor Tom Tate has categorically ruled out committing Gold Coast City council funding to the sacrificial Oceanway project along the foreshore fronting Hedges Avenue. Whilst it is clearly a council decision, something must be done in the interests of personal safety to address the hordes of walkers, runners, pram pushers and cyclists who regularly utilise the Hedges Avenue walkway for daily exercise. It is time to bring the walkway into the 21st century by extending the footpath width across the now dedicated cycleway, which ironically goes against the one-way traffic flow in a peculiar gesture to high-speed cyclists who regularly exceed the 30 kilometre per hour speed limit for this intensely utilised one-way street.

The 1960s power poles, cracked and uneven footpath and a tapestry of variable and difficult driveways hinder the safe and comfortable passage for the multitude of human traffic using this popular exercise route. With increased traffic utilising Hedges Avenue, particularly because of the light rail incursion, it will only be a matter of time before a serious accident occurs, possibly even involving a fatality.

There has been an agreement between the state government and Gold Coast City council to fund the Oceanway project on a fifty-fifty basis. With the council not proceeding with the beachfront Oceanway at Hedges Avenue, that funding agreement should transfer to the upgrade of the footpath along Hedges Avenue on that fifty-fifty basis. Ideally, the undergrounding of the powerlines should also be included in the remedial works to bring a highly taxed area into the 21st century environment. A wide footpath similar to the footpath through Kurrawa Park would alleviate the missing link in the Gold Coast Oceanway project and would satisfy safety concerns and accessibility for thousands of exercise addicts—me included—both locals and tourists.

Following discussions with council officers and the local councillor, a detailed plan needs to be progressed immediately with costings and timeframes put in place for council and state government consideration. This would be a substantial commitment that needs to be properly and seriously addressed, but the alternative of a life-threatening scenario is just not acceptable. With the projected population densities for this area of the Gold Coast—it is planned to host another 15,000 residents—plus the expected increase in tourist numbers to the Gold Coast, this infrastructure project is not a wish list project but an absolute necessity. Whilst this project would normally be the remit of the Gold Coast City council, the fact it is a missing piece of the Oceanway project that the state government has committed to justifies the state government funding. Also it was part of the upgrade to local facilities as part of the light rail stage 3 project additional benefits, which is also a state government driven project.

### Political Donations

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.27 pm): Billionaires and multinational corporations control politics in Australia. That is no secret. It is not a conspiracy. I do not even think it is particularly controversial among political observers. It is just business as usual for our two major political parties, the LNP and Labor, who are completely captured by corporate interests.

The LNP and Labor take donations from private health insurers while underfunding public hospitals. They take donations from the big banks while the big banks make record profits ripping off everyday people. They take fossil fuel donations and continue to approve coal and gas projects. Right now, the LNP is tearing up Queensland's renewable energy plan, and Anthony Albanese and federal Labor have shredded their own government's environmental reforms.

The LNP and Labor also take donations from billionaires like Anthony Pratt, mining magnate Gina Rinehart and property developer Harry Triguboff, whom I mentioned earlier. These billionaires all have effectively unfettered access to our politicians. Their influence on our laws is huge and they decide government policy, but what are their priorities?

When she is not lobbying the government to crush workers' rights, Gina Rinehart is instead demanding that the Queensland taxpayer fund some more luxury yacht moorings on the Brisbane River—la-di-da! Newsflash: ordinary people do not have luxury yachts; ordinary people are struggling to keep up with skyrocketing rents; ordinary people are paying buckets to the big banks while they cannot afford to fix their pipes at home; ordinary people are working 40 hours a week but cannot even imagine they will save enough to be able to retire comfortably; ordinary people could not give a flying


stuff about Gina Rinehart and whether there is enough yacht parking for her on the Brisbane River; and ordinary people want to be able to send their children to fully funded state schools that are genuinely free.

We want to know that when our loved ones get sick they will receive excellent care at a public hospital. We want the teachers, the nurses and the tradies of tomorrow to be able to go to TAFE and uni for free, just like our Prime Minister was able to do, and we want dental brought into Medicare. We want billionaires and multinational corporations to pay their fair share to make it happen.

The Greens are ready to take on the LNP and Labor and their billionaire backers in Gina Rinehart, the CEOs and the big corporations and to stick up for everyday people. We are the only party willing to take on the real estate agents, the big banks and the wealthy investors to make rents, mortgages and new housing more affordable. The Greens are fighting every day to make billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share for the things we need and we are the only party fighting to stop fossil fuel oligarchs from opening more fossil fuel projects. We are the only party saying that billionaires can no longer call shotgun on every ride and we want to put real people in the driver's seat.

*(Time expired)*

### Nicklin Electorate, Sport

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (9.30 pm): Winter is coming and what that meant for me when I was a kid was putting the cricket bat away in the cupboard and taking out the footy boots and strapping them on for the Marist Brothers Junior Rugby League Club. Likewise for the junior kids in the area of Nicklin, winter means winter sport. The Nicklin community has some great junior sports clubs, with many of the more popular sports including the mighty Nambour Crushers and Palmwoods Devils Rugby League Club, Nambour Toads Rugby Union, Nambour and Districts Netball Association, various football clubs like Nambour-Yandina United, Woombye Snakes, Palmwoods Warriors, Nambour Wildcats, Cooroora United, the Hinterland Blues Aussie Rules, Nambour Blue Demons and I could name many others. I also want to give a quick shout-out to our Sunshine Coast Ausfunk Cheer and Dance crew about to head to Hawaii for a championship and I was proud to support them with a recent donation. None of those clubs can run without volunteers. On behalf of the community of Nicklin, I want to thank those people—usually parents and grandparents who do not just take their kids to sport but put their hand up to do the important work of administration, coaching, umpiring and volunteer support.

With my 17-year history as the Sergeant in Charge of the PCYC in Nambour, I am acutely aware of the role that kids' participation in sport plays in their development and sense of belonging and community. As the local member, I say to the people of Nicklin: I will advocate strongly for the facilities that you need for your sport. I have met with many of the local sporting clubs and volunteers recently to discuss their needs, and that is why I am excited that our Crisafulli government will soon release funding rounds in the upcoming \$250 million Games On! funding program for generational infrastructure and facilities. I will be encouraging my local sporting groups to apply for the funding that they need for their facilities and I am happy to provide whatever support they require because I want to see as much of that funding as possible flow through to our great clubs in Nicklin.

In the meantime, I say this to the people of Nicklin: get the kids to strap on those boots and netball shoes, head out to your local club, sign them up and also consider putting your hand up to join our wonderful team of local volunteers.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, 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, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young