



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 14 March 2025

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	481
Trusts Bill, Declarations by Members of Parliament	481
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, listing members of the Legislative Assembly with an interest in a trust as a trustee or beneficiary or both on the Register of Members' Interests	481
Leader of the House, 50th Anniversary	481
Harmony Week	482
Visitors to Public Gallery	482
MINISTERIAL PAPER	482
Queensland Government Objectives for the Community	482
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Statement of the Queensland Government's Objectives for the Community'.	482
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	482
Youth Crime	482
Regional Reset	483
Police Service, Personnel	484
Productivity Commission	484
Racing Industry	485
Small and Family Business	486
Cairns Community Cabinet	486
Anti-Discrimination Laws	488
Crisafulli LNP Government, Indigenous Councils	488
Women	489
ABSENCE OF MINISTER	489
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	490

Table of Contents – Friday, 14 March 2025

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	490
Queensland Health	490
First Nations, Health Strategy	491
Crisafulli LNP Government, Government Expenditure	491
First Nations, Health Strategy	492
Infrastructure Funding	493
Hospital and Health Services, Board Members	493
Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure	495
First Nations, Health System	495
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Image, undated, depicting a PowerPoint slide relating to the First Nations Health Office.....	495
Bruce Highway	496
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated 14 November 2023, titled 'Infrastructure Policy Statement'	496
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Land Transport Infrastructure Projects: Federation Funding Agreement—Infrastructure'	496
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stadiums	497
Community Safety	498
Innisfail Hospital, Helipad	499
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 6 January 2025, from the President, Innisfail Local Ambulance Committee, Mr Alf Gullotta, to the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding the Innisfail Hospital helipad.	499
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 4 February 2025, from the Mayor, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Councillor Teresa Millwood, to the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding the Innisfail Hospital helipad.	499
Regional Queensland, Justice Services	499
First Nations, Health System	500
GST Methodology Review	501
Health System, Data Reporting	502
HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	503
Introduction	503
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.	503
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.....	503
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.....	503
First Reading	508
Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee	508
EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL	509
Introduction	509
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025.....	509
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.....	509
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.....	509
First Reading	514
Referral to Education, Arts and Communities Committee	514
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL; APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL	514
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	514
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	520
Minister for Education and the Arts	520
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of news articles from the <i>Courier-Mail</i> relating to education and NAPLAN.....	521
Cyclone Alfred, Recovery; GST Methodology Review Report	521
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	522
Weather Events, Response	522
Community Safety	523
Cooper, Ms R; Doherty, Ms B; Wallace, Ms D	524
Cape York World Heritage Listing	524
Olympic and Paralympic Games, Games On! Program	525
Sports Funding	525
Gregor, Ms R	526
Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line	527
Chinchilla Hospital	527
Mitchelton Youth Club	528
Moggill Electorate, Cyclone Alfred	528
Gambling	529
Mulgrave Electorate	530
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	530
Pumicestone Electorate, Cyclone Alfred	531
Noosa Electorate, Cyclone Alfred	531
Weather Events, Response	532
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	533
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	533
MOTION	533
Access to Petition	533

Table of Contents – Friday, 14 March 2025

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL; APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL	533
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	533
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)	560
Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to	560
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to	560
Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to	560
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to	560
Third Reading (Cognate Debate)	560
Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
Long Title (Cognate Debate)	560
Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill	560
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY	561
MOTION	568
Order of Business	568
TRUSTS BILL	568
Second Reading	568
SPEAKER'S RULING	583
Removal of Bill from <i>Notice Paper</i>	583
ADJOURNMENT	584
Centenary Highway	584
Cairns Community Cabinet; Crime	584
Bui, Dr C	585
Weather Events, Response	585
Ipswich Electorate, Weather Events	586
Police Service, Resources	587
Vocational Education and Training	587
Burleigh Electorate, Weather Events	588
Homelessness	589
Theodore Electorate, Weather Events	589
ATTENDANCE	590

FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2025

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.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Trusts Bill, Declarations by Members of Parliament



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today we may commence consideration of the Trusts Bill. A number of members have been making inquiries about debate of the Trusts Bill when members may be trustees or beneficiaries of trusts. The Clerk provided general advice to all members about this issue on Tuesday. The Clerk advised that it is unlikely that any member is required to make a declaration under standing order 260. This is because even though the standing order applies whether or not an issue is a matter of public policy, the requirement to declare only arises if the pecuniary interest is greater than the interest held in common with subjects of the Crown or members of the House generally.

The Clerk observed that standing order 260 has been narrowly construed. Many members have an interest in trusts as trustees or beneficiaries, as do a large number of the public. Indeed, the Register of Members' Interests records declarations by 36 members that they have duties as trustees or interests as beneficiaries or both.

Speaker McGrady's advice in 2005 is often followed where he noted that even if there is no strict requirement to declare under standing order 260—

Any possible criticism or controversy would be avoided if members were especially diligent to declare any possible pecuniary interest they have in a matter when they speak in the debate.

With such a large number of members having an interest, including many members who may not speak on the bill, I am concerned that things may become unwieldy with tens of declarations on any division. Therefore, I thought it expeditious to simply table the list of members who have declared an interest in trusts. It is clearly now on the public record. The details of each member's interest is detailed in their register. Given the Clerk's advice and the additional tabling of the list by me today, I do not see the need for any member on that list to make a further declaration as to their simple interest in a trust.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, listing members of the Legislative Assembly with an interest in a trust as a trustee or beneficiary or both on the Register of Members' Interests [\[200\]](#).


Leader of the House, 50th Anniversary



Mr SPEAKER: I wish to formally advise members that later today, a special event will be held in the Bernays Room of the Queensland parliament. This event will formally acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the modern role of Leader of the House. The Parliamentary Library has compiled a register of the modern leaders of the House since Allen Maxwell Hodges was appointed on 27 February 1975.


To commemorate this milestone of 50 years, the Parliamentary Service has compiled a photo board of all the members of parliament who have performed the role of Leader of the House from that day to the present to be displayed in the Old House. All living leaders of the House who feature on the photo board have been invited to a function to be held this afternoon. I thank those officers of the Parliamentary Service from the Parliamentary Library, Property Services, Corporate Services, Marketing and Communications, and Catering Services who have worked on this project.

Harmony Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, next week is Australia's Harmony Week. Harmony Week is an inspiring celebration that embodies the values of tolerance, inclusivity and multiculturalism. Throughout Harmony Week we acknowledge and honour the rich diversity in our state that makes Queensland's society vibrant and strong. By promoting tolerance, we create a community where everyone is respected and valued for their unique contributions. Inclusivity ensures that every individual feels a sense of belonging and participation, regardless of their background.


The 21st March is also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is important to combat racism where it arises. During Harmony Week, let us come together to celebrate our shared humanity and work towards a more harmonious and united world.

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 St Anthony's School, Alexandra Hills, in the electorate of Capalaba, and St Laurence's College in the electorate of South Brisbane.

MINISTERIAL PAPER


Queensland Government Objectives for the Community

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): I lay upon the table of the House the statement of the Queensland government's objectives for the community.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Statement of the Queensland Government's Objectives for the Community' [201].

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Youth Crime

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): Queenslanders were promised action to address youth crime in the first 100 days of this government. We delivered on that commitment. Adult Crime, Adult Time is now law—the first step toward restoring safety where Queenslanders live. After 10 years of neglect under Labor there is no overnight fix, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I will be filling out the warning paper very early in the day, it would appear, if this behaviour continues.

Mr CRISAFULLI: After 10 years of neglect under Labor, there is no overnight fix, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland. We heard Queenslanders. They want youth offenders to face consequences for their actions. They want justice to be served. So, we must continue to take action on crime and keep working to make our community safer.

Already this year, we have appointed an expert legal panel to help further strengthen the Making Queensland Safer Laws. But we also want to see at-risk youths given the best chance to move away from a life of crime. That is why, alongside the new laws, our government will deliver early intervention and rehabilitation programs, including the Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs. We want to put young people back on the right track and reduce rates of reoffending.

Under Labor, youth detention centres were treated like a revolving door and reoffending rates just kept skyrocketing. Today I can reveal the latest youth justice data from September 2024. It shows 94 per cent of youth offenders released from detention reoffended within 12 months. That is 94 per cent. Almost all youth criminals were back on the streets in less than one year, stealing cars, breaking into homes or even worse. It is no surprise then that rates of serious repeat offenders also increased under Labor. In 2019, serious repeat offenders represented nine per cent of youth offenders.

Ms Grace: Nonsense.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel who said, 'Nonsense', the same member who denied the youth crime crisis. I will take the interjection. They are still in denial about a youth crime crisis they created, still in denial about the carnage they created, and still the member for McConnel doubles down on what we saw for 10 years.

Queenslanders now have a front-row seat to a former government that for 10 years denied a problem—for 10 years. I will take the interjection. I always do because the member for McConnel is the cheerleader for those opposite who are denying the problem exists.


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

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. By 2024 the number of serious repeat offenders had grown and one in five youth criminals were classed as serious repeat offenders. Last year almost half of previous offences were committed by serious repeat offenders. These figures show just how critical it is that we turn kids away from crime and help them get back on the right track. That is exactly what our government's Staying on Track program is all about. Staying on Track will deliver a 12-month rehabilitation program for youth exiting detention. I can advise the House that tenders for the Staying on Track program are now open—the next step in our plan to tackle youth crime. We want to help young people reintegrate into their communities. We want to see them turn their lives around and put an end to the detention merry-go-round we have seen. Ninety-four per cent of repeat youth offenders is a figure no Queenslanders will accept. We want to see them turn their life around. That means we need to make sure that they get the support and skills they need to build a positive future.

Mr Speaker, the consequences of youth crime are felt deeply in cities, in towns, in homes, in businesses, in parks and in streets. This government is determined to do something about it. We are working hard to make our community safer, just as we said we would. It will take time to break the cycle of crime but we will not hesitate to put victims of crime first and, unlike those opposite, we will work every day to make sure that the youth crime crisis created by Labor is fixed by the LNP.

Regional Reset

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.42 am): Queenslanders right across the state have been impacted by weather events in the last few weeks. The north was hit by a disaster and South-East Queensland was hit by a disaster, but the wheels of the Crisafulli government did not stop turning. I am proud to be able to update the House that the tenders for our Regional Reset program have gone to market. We made a commitment to deliver programs that will make our community safe again and we are a government that delivers on our promises.

Regional Reset will provide a one-to-three-week short-stay reset to put at-risk kids who are showing high-risk behaviours back on the right path, back on a different trajectory away from a life of crime and towards a brighter future. Regional Reset targets youths aged eight to 17 years old who are at risk of committing a crime, who may be disengaged from school, who may be showing antisocial behaviours, using alcohol or drugs, or at risk of going through the police and courts and becoming entangled in our youth justice system.

The program will focus on helping these young people with control, with discipline and with opportunities. It will work with young people and their families to reset behaviours and attitudes. It will be delivered in nine locations across Queensland: Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Rockhampton in Central Queensland, Logan, Gold Coast, Ipswich including from the Darling Downs, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg in the Wide Bay and Western Queensland. Regional Reset is about providing young people with hope to turn towards a brighter future. It is about equipping kids with the life skills, discipline and psychological support they need before they become entrenched in a life of crime. Prior to opening up for tender, we held more than a dozen consultation information sessions across Queensland with over 350 stakeholders engaged in the process. It is incredible to see so many service providers right across Queensland being engaged in our crime-fighting programs and being willing to stand up and support their communities to deliver these programs. Now they can tender to deliver one of these programs for their region.


Opening tenders for Regional Reset is just one step towards delivering a safer Queensland. Our Making Queensland Safer plan will put kids back on the right track and deliver fewer victims of crime in this state. Queenslanders put their faith in this government to drive down crime after Labor let youth

crime run rampant in this state for the past 10 years creating chaos and crisis on our streets, in our homes and in our businesses. It will take time to unwind 10 years of Labor creating a generation of hardcore repeat youth offenders.

Ms Grace: Nonsense.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection from the member for McConnell calling it nonsense. Again, they continue to deny the youth crime crisis that the Labor government created in this state. The Crisafulli government is committed to making sure victims of crime are at the heart of everything we do. There will be fewer victims of crime in this state. To everyone who has lost a loved one to Labor's youth crime crisis, has been a victim of crime themselves because of Labor's youth crime crisis, or has gone to bed feeling unsafe because of Labor's youth crime crisis: the Crisafulli government is delivering on our promise to restore safety to our communities, and Regional Reset going to tender is just one step in delivering on that promise.

Police Service, Personnel

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.46 am): Yesterday I was privileged to attend the swearing in of 155 police recruits from the Oxley Police Academy—the largest police graduation in 33 years. These new constables are just some of the hundreds in the pipeline to bolster police ranks across Queensland this year as a part of the government's plan to restore community safety and send the back-up our frontline police have been calling for. There are another 750 recruits currently training at Queensland police academies and there are more than 2,100 applicants in the pipeline.


What impressed me most about yesterday's graduates is they have already been part of the frontline response during Tropical Cyclone Alfred. I was privileged to meet many of yesterday's graduates while they undertook these important tasks just one week ago. They doorknocked thousands of residents and assisted with evacuations to help ensure the safety of their fellow Queenslanders. I could not have been more impressed with their dedication and hard work under difficult circumstances.

The government is determined that our police will have at their disposal the laws and resources to keep themselves, their colleagues and all Queenslanders safe. By boosting police numbers and introducing our Making Queensland Safer Laws, we will do everything possible to support our police officers. Unfortunately, under the previous government we saw record attrition rates, with hundreds of police leaving the job each year due to burnout, lack of support and mounting frustration. We are committed to overcoming this and making sure employment in the Queensland police, once again, becomes a desirable career choice. The one guarantee I can give is that as our police make individual and collective sacrifices, the Crisafulli government will always have their back.

Last night I told those graduates that the oath they swore is one of the most important acts any Queenslanders can perform. To protect life and property, preserve peace and good order and prevent the commission of offences is a huge responsibility but one those graduates, and all serving police officers, accept with enthusiasm. The constables who graduated last night included former law students, business owners, security officers and some who have already served our nation. They also included former police officers from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Nepal, Germany, China and Korea. These new officers will be transferred to the four corners of the state to bring their experience, talents and training to assist their fellow Queenslanders. They will join the 55 I met at their graduation in Townsville just last month.

These officers will see the worst of the worst and the best of the best—sometimes in the same day. They will restore justice to a victim by solving a crime, bring comfort in someone's darkest hour and help someone open a door to a completely new and brighter life. Together they will begin a career of service which, though challenging, will be significantly rewarding. Service to the community is one of the greatest contributions an individual can make and these police graduates deserve our thanks, our support and our admiration.

Productivity Commission


 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.49 am): This week the Crisafulli government passed the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill in a key step to restoring productivity, improving living standards and driving economic growth. The independent Productivity Commission will research solutions for pressing economic challenges facing Queensland and provide the government with advice and recommendations to address those key issues. We have restored a productivity commission to Queensland after Labor left

the state without a source of independent economic advice to alleviate cost-of-living pressures when they abolished the commission in 2021. Shockingly, on Wednesday night Labor chose their CFMEU mates over a more productive state, voting against the establishment of the Productivity Commission.

The first order of business will be to undertake a comprehensive review of Queensland's building and construction industry in the wake of revelations that best practice industry conditions were adding up to 25 per cent to the cost of major projects. The Crisafulli government has delivered the Productivity Commission as promised to drive down cost pressures and drive up productivity as part of a fresh start for Queensland. We need to cut unnecessary red tape to encourage creativity and innovation and to build a highly skilled Public Service to deliver better and more services. The Productivity Commission model has been proven to have a real impact on government-led economic improvement both at a national level and in other states. The commission will undertake public inquiries and reviews on complex economic, social and regulatory matters. While the inquiries will be directed by the government, control over report content and advice will always be retained by the commission.

This inquiry is just the beginning. The commission will also play a key role in driving best practice fit-for-purpose regulation including administering the government's Better Regulation Policy and the regulator performance framework. It will also deliver Queensland's first intergenerational equity report outlining the key issues Queenslanders face across generational lines and the long-term policy solutions needed. The Crisafulli government promised to restore respect for taxpayers' money and that is exactly what we are delivering.

Racing Industry

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.52 am): Racing is a part of the social fabric of Queensland.

Mr Stevens: Hear, hear!

Mr MANDER: It is a major contributor to the state's economy as is the member for Currumbin—sorry, member for Mermaid Beach.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr MANDER: The member is a major contributor as well. Racing is a major contributor to the state's economy, an important employer for many hardworking families and is at the heart of our communities. This is why the Crisafulli government is delivering on its election commitment to undertake the state's most comprehensive independent review into all aspects of racing. This is a proactive review and we are committed to ensuring that all three codes of the industry have a viable and strong future.

Two weeks ago I launched a discussion paper as the first step in this review process and announced former chairman of the Australian Turf Club Matthew McGrath to spearhead the review. Mr McGrath is well respected in the industry. He brings with him three decades in business management and is on the board of the Cronulla Sharks. Despite that, I still appointed him!


This review will look to further strengthen the integrity of Queensland's racing industry as well as recommend the necessary steps to deliver modern and fit-for-purpose infrastructure and safeguard the ongoing strength and success of country racing. It will also foster a collaborative relationship among stakeholders to ensure the ongoing viability of each of the racing codes with a high regard for animal welfare standards as well.

The racing industry's impact on the state now exceeds \$2.4 billion per year and is responsible for around 16,000 jobs in Queensland. Importantly, more than half of the economic benefits of racing go straight to regional Queensland communities—communities like Birdsville where the Birdsville Cup attracts around 7,000 fans each year, all the way up to Cooktown, home to the northernmost track on Queensland's coast which will celebrate its 150th race meeting in November. We know that country racing is the lifeblood of our regional communities and is just as important to the members who represent them.

I have already heard from several members about how passionate they are about racing in their electorates including the members for Gregory, Thuringowa, Toowoomba North, Barron River and I had better say the member for Nanango as well. We want to hear from everyone—from the south-east corner of the state to the west and far north, from the trainers, the jockeys, the drivers, the strappers, the breeders, the owners, the punters, the administrators and anyone else who shares an interest in racing. No matter where you live and work in Queensland we want everyone who is passionate about racing to contribute to our discussion paper.

The discussion paper is the first step in our review and in April we will release the terms of reference with the final report to be handed down to the government in September. We will release the findings of the report. Unlike those opposite, we will be transparent with the industry. Unlike the former Labor government, we are not going to spend \$500,000 on a report and keep it secret. We will work with the industry to ensure racing is sustainable well into the future. After a decade under Labor's chaos and crisis, the racing industry cannot afford to be pushed to the side. The Crisafulli government is delivering on a fresh start that our racing industry deserves.

Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.56 am): Under the new Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business I can say for the first time that Queensland has a government focused on the customer. There is no better example of agencies working with other agencies to support small and family businesses than the recent natural disasters. Our business concierge team will assist small and family businesses impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. They will be present in the community recovery hubs started at Thornlands, Nerang, Burleigh Waters, Russell Island, Upper Coomera and Beenleigh.


Our outreach to small and family business owners will complement our presence in these hubs including phone calls and doorknocking to connect with impacted businesses to provide on-ground support and assistance. The business concierge will establish dedicated small family business recovery hubs in zones and areas most impacted. These hubs will provide somewhere for business owners to get access to a range of services including our mentoring for recovery team, small and rural financial counselling, and business wellness coaching. In addition to face-to-face support, under the Crisafulli government we will always ensure customers have multiple channels to access critical services and information including online and over the phone. Our disaster and government websites have received over six million views since the start of March.

There are many efforts that go unrecognised in disaster response and recovery. I recently had the chance to meet and thank many of our staff at the Dandiiri Contact Centre in Zillmere. During the response and recovery to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred we have doubled our capacity to take over 28,000 calls from the community including over 18,000 SES calls and 10,000 community recovery calls at both our Zillmere and Mount Gravatt call centres. We are working with the federal government on financial assistance.

Ms Pease: Great. Bring it on.

Mr MINNIKIN: I make the point for those opposite that the process for approval has not changed. I repeat for the benefit of the member for Lytton: the process has not changed. One of the initial steps continues to be a survey of the impacted area. If anything, we are moving even quicker. If anything we are moving even quicker than past recovery efforts. Working hand in glove with the federal government, we announced grants to small and family businesses following the recent flooding event in North Queensland in under 10 days. Compare that to more than two weeks to announce grants under Labor and the Leader of the Opposition following ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper. Queensland small and family businesses are used to meeting the challenges of natural disasters, but they can be assured that they will do so with the full support of a Crisafulli government that has their back.

Cairns Community Cabinet

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.59 am): Last week the Crisafulli LNP cabinet went to Cairns for our first community cabinet. We love Far North Queensland and Far North Queensland loves the new LNP members for North Queensland and the new government, because we are delivering. We began with a well-attended community reception followed, I might add, by 100 deputations with over 250 residents, businesses and community groups. The interjectors on the Labor side might ask, 'Why so busy and why so many people?' Because Labor left Far North Queensland in a mess and we are going to fix it, and there is a lot to fix. We did not see much of the member for Cairns at the Cairns community cabinet. He was very absent in representing his community.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, just keep your contribution to the speech and through the chair.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take the interjection from the honourable member for Clayfield: we did see the former member for Mulgrave but not the current member for Cairns at the community cabinet. I also addressed—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: But the new member for Mulgrave is by far much better, and I am going to get to him in a minute.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Why do those opposite hate Far North Queensland? They take it for granted.

I also had the pleasure of addressing the International Women's Day reception where this year's theme was 'March Forward'. I told the story about the strong women in my life including my wife, Sally, my 21-year-old daughter working hard at university whilst working and also my 19-year-old daughter, who is a fly-in fly-out worker at the Cracow goldmine in the member for Callide's electorate. I told the story about how great it is that the resource sector is encouraging and inspiring young women to get into the resource sector. I know the members of the Labor Party who are interjecting would be flabbergasted to learn that, one, my father was a truckie and, two, I have a daughter working fly-in fly-out in the mining sector, because my family are blue-collar workers, and they were surprised to learn—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It hurts them to learn that my dad was a truckie and my daughter is a fly-in fly-out goldminer. It would hurt them—

Mr Dick: What happened to you?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell members what happened to me: I worked at KFC and I worked in a chicken abattoir. Take that! I was a blue-collar worker—and I still eat chicken!

Honourable members interjected.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let us just lower the tempo a bit. What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I draw to your attention standing order 62 and the intent of ministerial statements. In order to maintain the decorum and the dignity of this House, I want to refer to previous Speakers' rulings around the intent of standing order 62 and the contribution from the Deputy Premier. A number of former Speakers have ruled that the purpose of ministerial statements is to report back on public affairs and I do not see how the personal family circumstances of the Deputy Premier are a ministerial statement. I would ask you to draw him back to the intent of ministerial statements.

Mr SPEAKER: The advice is that ministerial statements are regarding portfolio issues, so, Deputy Premier, if you could put your focus on portfolio issues that would be much appreciated.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was representing the honourable the Premier at the community cabinet as at the time he was preparing for what was Cyclone Alfred, so this was our agenda and this is what I spoke about. I proudly spoke about my daughter at the International Women's Day breakfast, and I know it hurts members of the Labor Party to learn that I am more blue collar than they are. I know it hurts them.


I was particularly pleased to visit the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning's Office of Industrial Relations and talk to the Office of Industrial Relations workplace health and safety officers. I can tell members that they love our new laws targeting the CFMEU. They love the 24-hour right-of-entry provision. They love the safety and protection that this LNP Crisafulli government is affording our workers on the front line. Those public servants love the fact that we are prioritising the public servants' safety, not the interests of the CFMEU, because I do not answer to the CFMEU and the Premier, the cabinet and our members do not answer to the CFMEU, but clearly the Labor Party, which voted against the re-establishment of the Productivity Commission as outlined by the honourable Treasurer, still answers to the CFMEU. And just wait—interject if you want—but I have a little report sitting on my desk that I am going to table at the right opportunity which is going to expose the CFMEU, and the Labor Party for all we know. Maybe I will table it now. I might wait until question time.

We are taking real action on housing with Indigenous Queenslanders. Ministers and directors-general met with mayors and the chief executive officers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander councils, the Torres Cape Indigenous Council Alliance and the LGAQ where we reaffirmed the Queensland government's commitment to improving tangible outcomes for Indigenous Queenslanders, particularly in health and housing, and not woke, left-wing Labor ideology. People want real action on health and housing in these communities.

We encouraged everybody in Far North Queensland to take advantage of the \$2 billion housing infrastructure fund when it becomes available very shortly. I also pay particular tribute to our state representatives in the Cairns area and Far North Queensland area—the member for Barron River, the member for Mulgrave and the member for Cook who are all fantastic champions for Far North Queensland. I also want to extend a great thanks to Mayor Amy Eden and her council for hosting us for the cabinet meeting and lunch with all of the councillors at the council chambers.

Anti-Discrimination Laws


 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.07 am): The Crisafulli government took to the election a commitment to consult with stakeholders on anti-discrimination laws. Today I am updating the House on the next steps in that process. Anti-discrimination laws are important to protect vulnerable people, and that is why it is important we get them right. During the final days of the Miles Labor tenure those opposite rushed through parliament the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act which made major changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act. While some of those changes are now in place, many of the remaining changes are due to come into effect on 1 July this year.

When I first came in as Attorney-General the Department of Justice raised serious concerns with me after consulting other government departments. The department told me that it was particularly concerned that the new protected attributes for discrimination, including a relevant criminal record, could impact statutory decision-making schemes. Of key concern is whether the new attribute will undermine several high-risk discretionary decisions, including decisions relating to weapons licensing, police protection notices and security provider licensing.

Reforming discrimination law is a difficult and complex process that attracts significant stakeholder interest, which is why it should not have been rushed through by the former Labor government. I am extremely concerned with the prospect of some very serious unintended and unwanted consequences.

I am mindful of creating an unnecessary burden on organisations and institutions already taking steps to try to comply with those reforms. The rushed laws did not predict the implementation issues. The current commencement date does not allow sufficient time for consultation or policy work, which if not undertaken will inevitably lead to further legislative fixes. Given the importance the Crisafulli government places on protecting Queenslanders from harassment and vilification, it is crucial to ensure our laws are fit for purpose. The government will therefore be progressing amendments to delay the commencement of these reforms until a date set by proclamation. The amendments to adjust the commencement date will come before the parliament in the coming months. Implementing a pause will allow sufficient time for the Department of Justice to undertake policy work while we consult with stakeholders. This fulfils another election commitment and is further evidence that this is a government that does exactly what we said we would do.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Indigenous Councils

 **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) (10.10 am): On 3 March an historic meeting occurred in Cairns when the Crisafulli cabinet met with the mayors of Queensland's Indigenous councils and confirmed our commitment to work with them in true partnership on issues that are a priority for them such as housing, clean water, health, education, employment and locally responsive services that help their communities thrive. To help their communities thrive is their core priority. Chaired by the Deputy Premier on behalf of the Premier, who was attending to preparations ahead of Tropical Cyclone Alfred in South-East Queensland, it was a significant and fruitful meeting.


Feedback from the mayors about the forum was that it gave them an opportunity for direct dialogue with government ministers. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. They are telling us that they feel like they have access to ministers, who are hearing and understanding what they are needing help with in those rural and remote discrete communities. The key message is that their

communities need meaningful, tangible programs that deliver real outcomes, in particular for housing, health and education. They also said that they wanted to see transparency in how government was spending money in their areas and what the outcomes were. They told us how frustrated they had been that they had not been able to get this from the previous government.

We are committed to working with them. We have the right plan, which is about true partnerships. The Crisafulli government is committed to true partnerships, in particular with local elected councils. We are focused on tangible solutions to complex problems in partnership with these communities. As demonstrated this week by the Premier's signature to the Equal Partners in Government agreement with local government, this government values the role of local elected representatives who are creating a better future for their communities.

Elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders in these rural and remote communities are on the front line of dealing with the very tough issues that their communities face. They tell us about the fact that they do not have clean water supply, that they do not have enough housing, that they have areas of true disadvantage. They have a vision and a passion that people will see that their communities have a future, where there is an economic opportunity for their children to have jobs, where they can have a roof over their head, where they can turn on a tap and know that they have safe and secure drinking water and that they can live a long, healthy and happy life. As one of the leaders said to me, 'It is not just about closing the gap; there is actually a hole. We want government to listen to the issues that have not been heard by the previous government.' We are committed to working with them to deliver tangible solutions and make that happen.

Women


 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.14 am): As I look around this place I am very proud to see the number of women that we have sitting in the Queensland parliament. In October we saw the 110th woman elected to the Queensland parliament. Last Saturday was International Women's Day and across South-East Queensland there were many events planned that many females and males in this House were going to attend to celebrate International Women's Day. Many celebrations occurred more broadly across the state and we were privileged to host one in Cairns.

It is important that we take a moment to pause and reflect upon how far our state has come after the Elections Acts Amendment Act was assented to in 1905 granting Queensland women the right to vote in this state. I reflect on the first female member of this parliament: a conservative woman, Irene Longman, who was pioneering in her advocacy for women. She advocated for the appointment of female police officers, for equal pay for equal work, for female justices of the peace, for women to sit on juries and, most importantly, for protective legislation to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation.

Across our state, as we saw ex-TC Alfred impact our communities, I had the opportunity of being out and about meeting with many across our community. In the weeks prior to that I was up in Ingham. I want to pay tribute to the hardworking women of our community—those who were out restoring power, paramedics, police officers and those in our community recovery hubs and in our neighbourhood centres, where we saw an increase in funding for hardship and crisis payments. I would like to thank those women who are out there getting our community back on its feet.

I would also like to recognise Bernice Watson and many female members of our Parliamentary Service for their planning of the event that was meant to be hosted here at parliament but has been delayed. Thank you for the support of your office, Mr Speaker, and that of the Clerk. The women of parliament have done an incredible job in showcasing 110 women of our parliament. We thank not only them but also the women who support us in our life here at the parliament—our attendants, the women who clean our rooms, in catering, in the coffee shop, in the library and at the table—to do the job that we are so privileged to do.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.17 am): I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development is absent from the House today. I advise that the Minister for Primary Industries will answer questions for the minister in question time.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.17 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 1 April 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.18 am.

Queensland Health



Mr MILES (10.18 am): My question is to the Premier. Last night 9News revealed the LNP is planning a major restructure of Queensland Health. Can the Premier guarantee that not a single job will be cut under the Crisafulli LNP government?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The answer is: of course I can, because we believe in a world-class public health system and a world-class Queensland Public Service. The reason I am so delighted with this question is that it gives me a chance to do a bit of a compare and contrast. In just a few short months, this side of the House has restored faith in the Public Service and in their ability to work with government.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for Waterford. I am getting on to the way that you treated the Public Service. We will be getting onto that. We know about it. We have heard about the bullying. We have heard about the berating. We have heard about the yelling. We have heard about all of those things. We have heard about the locked doors. The member can object if she likes, but we have heard the stories about the way that Queensland Health staff were treated. We have heard about it. There is a shopping list of it.

A government member: And Justice.

Mr CRISAFULLI: And Justice; we know how they were treated. There is a stark contrast. Before I talk about the restructure and what the minister and the director-general are doing, I thank the minister for the way that he has gone into the hospitals and shone a spotlight on the health heroes. During the course of the disaster in the south-east caused by Tropical Cyclone Alfred, on one night 2,000 health staff stayed overnight in a hospital so that they could serve others—2,000 staff. The restructure is about making sure that senior management is able to fulfil its role and help them do their job.

Mr Bailey: You're cutting things like the nurse-led clinics.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for Miller. The answer is no. There is not—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am taking the interjection from the member for Miller. Member, I am taking your interjection because I want to put your mind at ease as I know that you are not someone who would deliberately try to scare people.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I will remind you to put your comments through the chair. It helps me with my role.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know the member for Miller is not someone who would go and give blood and then politicise it. He is not that sort of person so I am going to put his mind at ease.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you are now warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want every single staff member, not just from Queensland Health but, indeed, from across the Public Service, to know that we respect and value them. I always make sure that I have a copy of the Coaldrake review on my desk because it is the barometer of what happens when a government rots so badly that those serving at the front line live in fear of the generals walking through. I assure the people of Queensland Health and, indeed, the broader Public Service that they have a government that has their back.

First Nations, Health Strategy

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Queensland Health staff have been told that the First Nations health strategy will be scrapped and the office of first nations health will be abolished. Can the minister explain why the Crisafulli LNP government does not view First Nations health care as a priority objective?

Mr NICHOLLS: For 93 days I have been in this role and have been answering questions in this place. Today, for the first time since 10th December, I actually get a question from the opposition—the first time since 10th December. I have had more questions from the crossbench than I have had from the Labor opposition. They are the most well-resourced and lazy opposition that I have seen in more than 20 years. We have a shadow health minister who spends more time flicking around on Facebook than he does in actually coming up with a policy and has the temerity—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I remind you to address your comments through the chair as well.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed, Mr Speaker. We have a shadow health minister who does not have the courage of his convictions and has not asked even one question of the government—not even one.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: Is it any wonder because this is a member who sacks himself from the front bench. We all remember a year ago—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b), relevance. We simply ask that the health minister answer the question.

A government member: He is.

Mr de BRENNI: He has not answered the question.

Mr SPEAKER: I will make the ruling. Minister, there was a particular part of that question that talked about a project.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed, Mr Speaker, very much so and I have a very good answer to that question, as well.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Pine Rivers withdrew from the chamber at 10.25 am.

Mr NICHOLLS: We have a health shadow minister who quit before he was sacked by the opposition leader when he was premier. If the reports are to be believed, Bailey was to be the first cabinet minister—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The noise level is way too high. I cannot hear the minister. I do not know whether he is answering the question or not. Minister, there was a specific part of the question that was raised. You are going to go to that now. Let us hear the minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The premise of the opposition leader's question is completely false. The First Nations health strategy has been signed off and is proceeding.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Government Expenditure

Mr G KELLY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier explain why respect for taxpayers' money was a fundamental pillar for the LNP's plan for Queensland and is the Premier aware of any contrasting approaches?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. The member for Mirani knows about respecting taxpayers' money because the member campaigned real hard to stop one of the greatest wrecking balls ever to have gone through Queensland's electricity prices and this state's economy, the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro con. It was the member's advocacy that made the difference between that project proceeding or not. That con job on Queenslanders would have been a \$37 billion wrecking ball. It was the member for Mirani who led the charge on that and I thank him today.

The member asked me about respecting taxpayers' money. The document that I tabled this morning outlining the Queensland government's objectives for the community puts respecting taxpayers' money front and centre in all that we do. Today we learned just how much the former government took a different view to that. To learn that there was a \$6.7 billion blowout in forward transport costs and they deliberately kept that from Queenslanders tells you everything that you need to know.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Aspley and I can tell members why. He said that he would be different to the member for Miller and he was. He was worse. He hid more. I have to give it to the member: the member for Miller did a pretty good job in shuffling things around when it came to Cross River Rail and he did a few of the old three-card tricks, but he was never good enough to hide \$6.7 billion. Oh no! That is next level. That is an A-grade cover-up. The member is the one interjecting when you'd think he would be laying a little low today—\$6.7 billion.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection again because the member does not understand the ramifications when you allow a militant union to run riot. He does not understand the implications of what happens when a government does not do things on time and on budget. For the same member to now be appointed as the shadow spokesperson for this shows you that the opposition leader does not understand it either.

The member asked me about alternative approaches. I look across the chamber and all I see are the same faces in the same portfolios that created the mess. It is the guilty party. He has lined them up. For the member opposite to interject when there has been a \$6.7 billion blowout on his watch tells us everything we need to know. We have had a militant union out of control. We have had BPIC, which has forced project costs up and times to blow out everywhere. We had a government that would not even stick up for Bruce Highway funding. All of that has been mopped up. In a little over 100 days all of that has been fixed, and this government knows nothing but—

(Time expired)

First Nations, Health Strategy

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Since the minister's charter letter directs her to work closely with other agencies to improve health outcomes for First Nations people, will the minister be advocating for every dollar allocated under the First Nations health strategy to be retained and its initiatives to be continued to support all First Nations Queenslanders?

Ms SIMPSON: I am pleased to answer a question which affirms our full commitment to ensuring we address the real needs of our First Peoples in Queensland in practical and supportive ways. We have already heard this morning a very clear answer to this very question from the Minister for Health. It has been signed into action.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Cross-chamber chatter will cease. Member for Chatsworth, the cross-chamber chatter will cease.

Mr Crisafulli: You have to listen and pivot.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister is the only one who has the call.

Ms SIMPSON: I do take the interjection from the Premier, because he is right: the Labor opposition have not listened to the answer that has already been given by the Minister for Health in regard to our full commitment to ensure we have that plan available, signed off, able to be actioned and funded to deliver these real and tangible support programs.

Mr Powell: We listened to the mayors and their councils.

Ms SIMPSON: I also take the interjection from my colleague the member for Glass House and Minister for Tourism. We have been listening to those Indigenous mayors, wider communities and stakeholders across Queensland.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, the cross-chamber chatter will stop.

Ms SIMPSON: With regard to those rural, remote and discrete communities, being out of sight should not mean being out of mind the way it was under the former Labor government. During the discussions in Cairns, we heard that when they met with the previous government they would nod their heads but nothing would happen. Labor's lip-service meant that they still did not have clean water and they still could not get transparent funding to explain what was happening in their community. Where was the investment mapping that was supposed to provide that transparency?

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Algeester, you are now warned.

Ms SIMPSON: It was two years out of date. How absolutely hopeless! Not only did they fail to listen and action the very real and reasonable requests of our most vulnerable communities in Queensland and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; they did not even get releasing the transparent information right. They were completely hopeless when it came to the transparency that the mayors wanted. It did not happen under Labor. We are committed to ensuring they get tangible access to services.

Mr SPEAKER: Just for clarity, the member for Algeester is warned.

(Time expired)

Infrastructure Funding

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister outline how taxpayers' money is being respected on vital projects in Far North Queensland, and are there any approaches that differ to this?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Mulgrave for his question. He is one of our trio of new members in the Far North delivering a fresh start for Cairns and the Far North. It is a far cry from the last 10 years of Labor's economic mismanagement that did not deliver for the people of Cairns and for the broader Far North.

We are focused on getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland—stopping the cost overruns and the budget blowouts, getting people home sooner and respecting taxpayers' money. As the Premier just announced, today we have released information that shows that Labor's QTRIP, which outlines its forward transport projects, has blown out by \$6.7 billion. We have released a full list of them. Have a look at the press release, member for Aspley, if you do not believe me. It shows that the 201 projects total \$6.7 billion.

In the Far North, some of those projects include: the Cairns Southern Access Corridor stage 5, \$225 million blown out to \$598 million; the Cairns Western Arterial Road, \$300 million blown out to \$638 million; and the Bruce Highway safety improvements between Ingham and Innisfail, \$25 million blown out to \$80 million. All of that is in addition to the previously disclosed Cairns Common User Facility at the port that was supposed to be \$360 million and has now blown out to \$826 million. That is Labor's record. Labor's record is a litany of failure when it comes to transport projects.

Labor's idea of budgeting was to pull a number from the air, push out a press release, double it and then work out the overruns later on. We have the overrun overlord there—the member for Miller—who presided over the better part of a decade of failure, followed by his apprentice, the member for Aspley, who just continued with abject incompetence. It is Queenslanders who pay the price. Queenslanders are paying the price. They are sitting in traffic longer than they should. Projects are taking longer to deliver than they should. Who can forget Cross River Rail? It is not in the QTRIP list but it is another Labor blowout. They said it was going to cost \$5.4 billion but it has blown out to \$17 billion.

Queenslanders deserve better than what they got under the former Labor government. We are committed to delivering genuine results for Queenslanders, delivering projects on time and on budget and respecting taxpayers' dollars. I know that the member for Mulgrave understands that. I only wish that those opposite had shown the same restraint when they were in power.

Hospital and Health Services, Board Members

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will hear the question in silence.

Mr BAILEY: Can the minister confirm that every hospital and health board already has a clinician appointed under the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, and can the minister advise the total number of clinicians currently across the 16 HHSs?

Mr NICHOLLS: I have waited a long time for a question from the minister for health.

Government members: Shadow minister!

Mr NICHOLLS: Shadow minister for health. I have to take issue with my friend the former minister for transport—they call him the ‘lanky lurker’ in my office.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That comment was particularly low. I find it personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member finds it personally offensive. It is also unparliamentary, so I ask you to withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course I withdraw, and I apologise to the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Members will use proper titles and speak through the chair.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Now we will have silence in the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: I have had two questions from those opposite, and it has been 93 days since the first question from the member for Waterford. That is the same amount of time it took the Crisafulli government to deliver real-time hospital data. In the time that they have come up with one question—which they could have found the answer to by going online and looking at the annual reports of each of the HHSs. In relation to who is on the boards of the HHSs, we are delivering real-time data like we said we would. That is something those opposite were unable to do in 10 years. In 3½ thousand days they were not able to deliver it. We were able to deliver it. Is it any wonder that the member for Miller was consigned to the backbench by his own hand and he jumped before he was pushed.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was clearly about whether clinicians were already appointed to HHS boards and the number of those that already have one appointed. The minister has not attempted to answer that question at all.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you heard the point or order. Can you please go to the specific part of the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I did, Mr Speaker. I will certainly be answering that question in a fulsome and complete way. When it comes to facts and figures, let us have a look at three of the worst health ministers in Queensland in the last four years. They are all still sitting on that side of the House. This is the only question they can come up with.

Who presided over an increase in ramping rates to become the worst in the country? Who can remember the member for Waterford, who, upon being appointed to the job, said she would reduce ramping rates to 28 per cent within 12 months?

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is the same. Some 30 seconds ago I asked you to ensure that the minister is answering the question and that his response is relevant to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you gave us an assurance that you would round out your question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I have to take the opportunity to keep the audience engaged right up to the last second because the answer is going to be so thrilling for them that they need to be listening right to the end. Who can remember the member for Waterford, who, upon being appointed health minister, was going to reduce ambulance ramping to 28 per cent? What did it end up at? It was 45 per cent.

The answer is, of course, yes. There is a clinician on every health and hospital service board in Queensland under the Crisafulli government.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was a second part to the question. I take it that has been taken on notice and will be granted to the parliament or are you just refusing to answer it again?

Mr SPEAKER: That is up to the minister.

Gold Coast, Transport Infrastructure

Mr VORSTER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli government is delivering value for taxpayers' money when it comes to Gold Coast projects, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches?

Mr MICKELBERG: The member is a hardworking local member on the southern Gold Coast. He is a local member who served his community as a councillor for many years and is now delivering for his community as a member of the state parliament. I know that the member for Burleigh understands the importance of respecting taxpayers' money. He understands the importance of focusing on deliverables rather than announcements. We are focused on getting people home sooner at the end of a long work day. We are focused on making a road network that is reliable, efficient and safe. We are focused on delivering economic management that is capable and respects taxpayers' money.

Labor, in their nearly a decade in office, demonstrated consistently that they had a wilful disregard for taxpayers' money. On the Gold Coast we have Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3. Originally, that project was promised to be delivered for \$709 million. What do members think it is now? What do they think Labor's record is?

Mr Stevens: 1.5.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take that bid—1.5. It is \$1.549 billion. Under Labor—signed off by those opposite in September; so let's not pretend this is manufactured because it went through CBRC—they signed off on a \$330 million extra overrun on that project. Why did that project blow out by \$330 million? This is just the most recent blowout. What do members think it was? BPIC—Labor's CFMEU tax is why that project is over budget and over time. They had weak ministers like the member for Aspley and the member for Miller. They were ministers who were incompetent and did not hold contractors or unions to account. It is taxpayers who pay the price because of Labor's economic incompetence.

If we look at the Coomera Connector stage 1, what do members think the blowout is for that? When that was first announced, the Coomera Connector stage 1 was going to be \$1½ billion. What do we think it is now? Are there any bids?

Mr McDonald: Three.

Mr MICKELBERG: The member for Lockyer is 100 per cent on the money. It is at least \$3 billion. That figure is still subject to commercial negotiations so it may be higher, but it was at least \$3 billion under them. That is double as well.

Mr O'Connor: And it's late.

Mr Mickelberg: It is also late. I take that interjection.

It does not matter what project we look at. For Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail those opposite said it was going to be \$2.6 billion, but under them it has gone to \$5.75 billion—and it did not even include the signalling for the line. I do not know how they were going to run trains without signals, but nevertheless.

Nearly every single project on the Gold Coast—the ones I have detailed—that those opposite presided over is at least double what they said it would cost to deliver. Queenslanders deserve a government that will deliver and that will respect taxpayers' money. That is exactly what the Crisafulli government will do.

(Time expired)

First Nations, Health System

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Health. I table a PowerPoint slide outlining the LNP's plan to abolish the office of First Nations health and allocate them to two other units. Does the minister stand by his earlier answer, and will he direct Director-General David Rosengren to retain a standalone First Nation's health office and the dedicated First Nations health strategy?

Tabled paper: Image, undated, depicting a PowerPoint slide relating to the First Nations Health Office [\[202\]](#).

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that question from, I think, the third worst health minister in the last 10 years. If I recall, he was a health minister who locked the door between his office and the CLLO office. He did not want them walking in.

Mr Bleijie: It was a keypad lock.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly right.

Mr Dick: To secure public documents which were entirely unsecure under Springborg?

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection: to secure public documents. Obviously, the then minister was unaware of the little safe that sits in the back of his office where he can secure public documents if he ever needed to. That assumes that the member for Woodridge ever had a document that was needing to be secured in the first place. No-one would trust him with it anyway.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I will take that interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, if you could come back to the question it would be much appreciated.

Mr NICHOLLS: The scaremongering and fearmongering from those opposite knows no bounds. The reality is that the Chief First Nations Health Officer and the office of the Chief First Nations Health Officer continue in existence. They continue in the reorganised structure and, in fact, the office of the First Nations health workforce will be created and will go into the workforce systems and plans branch of the new health alignment. Not only are we keeping the Chief First Nations Health Officer; we are empowering and mainstreaming the First Nations workforce.

The results of closing the gap under the former government have declined. They have fallen. The healthy birth weight in ATSI children has declined by over a percentage point in the last two years alone under the former government. We are seeing a reduction in the number of successful interventions towards zero harm. We need to refresh that program and invigorate the program by having a workforce that is compatible for it.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, whilst there was some provocation, your interjections were nonstop so you are warned.

Bruce Highway

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier outline how upgrades to the Bruce Highway are being delivered with respect for taxpayers' money, and is the deputy aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Maryborough for the question. We know that the Bruce Highway is getting more attention from this member than the Bruce before him, so thank you, member for Maryborough! The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job, delivering the fresh start that we promised Queensland and that Queensland voted for, including the Bruce Highway and making it a priority.

The Tiaro bypass, which I know the member for Maryborough is such a strong advocate for, is so desperately needed because the death toll on that strip of the Bruce Highway is truly devastating. I know that the member had a forum with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—and I thank him for his advocacy on that. The bypass, as I said, is yet another Labor blowout, with the cost of the project ballooning—are members ready?—from \$336 million to \$650 million because of Labor's economic mismanagement over 10 years. But that does not mean it is not a priority. We are going to work with the member—and I thank the member and his community for their advocacy.

While I am talking about the Bruce Highway, let's put the facts on the table. The former Labor government agreed to reduce funding for the Bruce Highway. They agreed with the federal government for a 50:50 funding split. They say they did not. Well, I have the proof right here. This is the Land Transport Infrastructure Projects federation funding agreement. It says—

Projects must also demonstrate alignment with the Commonwealth's Infrastructure Policy Statement ...

That was signed by Mr Bart Mellish on 15 August 2024—one month before the caretaker period for the election. Mr Speaker, if you look at the infrastructure policy of the federal government, it quotes 50:50 funding.

Mr Mickelberg: Why do you hate Queensland?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. I table those documents.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 November 2023, titled 'Infrastructure Policy Statement' [\[203\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Land Transport Infrastructure Projects: Federation Funding Agreement—Infrastructure' [\[204\]](#).

Mr Mickelberg: Why did you sell out Queensland?

Mr BLEIJIE: The truth is now out. They sold out Queensland. They sold out Queensland to Canberra. While I am talking about Canberra, who could forget that the member for Murrumba when he was the premier, with all gruff bravado, said, 'I'm flying to Canberra and I'm going to take the fight to Canberra'? All we recognise is that he just wanted to attend a book launch at the media club for Kevin Rudd's daughter. That is all he did in Canberra. Instead of fighting Canberra, instead of fighting for Queensland's fair share, he came back and do you know who he fought? He fought me. Are you ready for this? This is for feeding the chooks and the George Street Beat—he sued me for a tweet I made when he was in Canberra. That is his priority. The former premier's priority at the time was to sue me for a tweet, rather than getting Queensland's fair share. Queensland will get its fair share under the LNP government.

(Time expired)

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Stadiums

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. I refer the Premier to a repeated promise not to build a new Olympic stadium. Would building a new Gabba stadium be breaking that promise?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for the question, a question that was just penned in the last 30 seconds as they were scrambling around because they did not know the order of where it was going. It goes to the heart of the chaos and the crisis of those opposite.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you were on a warning. You will have to leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Woodridge withdrew from the chamber at 10.53 am.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There will be silence in the House. There will be more warnings, I can assure you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I am just waiting for the long goodbye to be over—and there it is. That was an inordinately long departure time.

I say to the honourable member that I understand why the question is so important and I understand why those opposite are so interested in what will happen on 25 March. The reason is that Queenslanders have been yearning for a plan. They have lived through over a thousand days of missed opportunities, they have lived through a thousand days of mixed messaging and they have lived through a thousand days of a government that, quite frankly, could not plan and could not communicate a plan. On the back of it, we have Queenslanders from one side of this state to the other who just want to know that things can be done, who just want to know that when the eyes of the world are on us—

Mr Langbroek: We won't be embarrassed.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—we will not be embarrassed. Interestingly, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise just used the word. I say to Queenslanders: you will not be embarrassed because you will have a government that has a plan.

Ms Grace: No-one was going to be embarrassed.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to take the interjection. For the second time today I am taking an interjection from the member for McConnel. The honourable member was not even able to appoint a board. In a thousand days—

Ms Grace: Sorry, tick! That is untrue.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to take the interjection.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I have taken the interjection from the honourable member, who says it is not true.

Ms Grace: Andrew Liveris spoke to you. I know he did.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel!

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member keeps interjecting but I am going to stay on this point. The member said that what I said just then was untrue, so I am asking the honourable member to name those members of the board that the member appointed. I am waiting.

Mr Miles: You threw the list out and picked your mates.

Mr CRISAFULLI: No. I am going to take the interjection from the member for Murrumba, whose brainchild was QSAC—on the back of an envelope. The member for Murrumba does not have the ability to plan or detail or communicate a strategy. As for the member for McConnel, she knows that what I just said was true.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) on relevance. The question was: will a new Gabba stadium be a broken promise or not? We have not heard an answer from the Premier to that question.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier. You have heard the specific part.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I have taken both interjections and I am responding to the interjections.

Mr SPEAKER: You have 14 seconds to round out.

Mr CRISAFULLI: On 25 March, Queenslanders—

Mr Miles: Answer the question. You never answer the question. You are so dishonest.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find personally offensive what the Leader of the Opposition just said.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, the Premier has taken offence.

Mr MILES: I withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, there is a lot of disrespect being shown to the chair here today by both sides. I am appalled. I want to make that very clear.

Community Safety

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli government is 'restoring safety where you live' across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any policies that did not keep Queenslanders safe?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Southern Downs for his question. The member for Southern Downs is a fierce advocate for his community. Like me, he represents a border community that has been absolutely terrorised by youth crime as a result of the previous government's failure to have strong laws, failure to have early intervention and failure to have rehabilitation. As a result, youths have run riot in our state over the past 10 years. The member for Southern Downs's interest in the policies of the Crisafulli government to make our communities safe again is something I am really pleased to be able to update the House on. I know he has a keen interest in that in his own community.

In our first 100 days we, of course, passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Adult Crime, Adult Time is law in this state, and it is just the beginning. That was the first tranche and there is more to come. We have our Expert Legal Panel that is currently convening and has met around the state to look at the second tranche of our Making Queensland Safer Laws.

The member for Southern Downs is very well aware that we promised strong laws. We promised those laws to keep our community safe, but we also said that we would do early intervention and rehabilitation to put kids back on the right path. Today you have heard from the Premier and me that Staying on Track and Regional Reset are both open to tender so that our communities can have place-based solutions so that we can ensure that kids get the programs they need to make the right choices and get back on the right track.

Let's contrast that with Labor's record. In 2015 Labor made detention a last resort. They passed legislation that said a detention order should only be imposed as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period. In 2016 they closed the courts to victims and their families and they abolished the Childrens Court trigger, stopping the Family Responsibilities Commissioner from being able to work with parents and creating a healthy environment for kids, effectively stopping the commissioner from

implementing early intervention. In 2019 they weakened our bail laws so more youth offenders could be let back out into our communities and run riot across the state. There is a member in this House who paid one of the ultimate prices for that. The member for Capalaba is sitting next to the member for Southern Downs, and is he in this House today to stand up for the strong laws his community deserves.

What did all of this mean for Queenslanders over 10 years? It meant more and more victims of crime. It meant that the number of victims of crime in this state exploded by 219 per cent. The Crisafulli government will deliver safety to where people live. We are committed to reducing the number of victims of crime in this state.

(Time expired)

Innisfail Hospital, Helipad

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The helipad at Innisfail Hospital has been closed for three years and traffic redirected to the airport, placing a strain on ambulance services and endangering lives. I table letters from the LAC and council.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 January 2025, from the President, Innisfail Local Ambulance Committee, Mr Alf Gullotta, to the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding the Innisfail Hospital helipad [\[205\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 February 2025, from the Mayor, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Councillor Teresa Millwood, to the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding the Innisfail Hospital helipad [\[206\]](#).

With the assessment report finalised over nine months ago, will the minister reinstate the helipad service at Innisfail Hospital?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Hill for the question. I want to commend him for his advocacy on behalf of his local community. I know the member is relentless in his pursuit of outcomes for his community. He has been pursuing this for a while. In fact, the member has written to me on this matter, and we have that correspondence together with supporting correspondence from the local council. Indeed, the member asked me a question on notice in relation to it, so I am happy to take the question today and provide some information in relation to it for the benefit of the House and the member.

The existing helicopter landing site, which is situated in the midst of the Innisfail Hospital and surrounded by buildings, is currently noncompliant and it is not operating. That is as a result of an event that occurred in 2022. Due to the circumstances of the site when the Agusta 139 helicopter was taking off, it had to take off vertically and slide backwards so it could keep the landing pad in view. That is a requirement of the Australian aviation rules. In doing so, a passer-by who was walking on the footpath some distance away was hit by the downdraft of the helicopter and suffered a life-threatening injury outside the hospital. Because of the power of the new helicopters, the clearance range that was once compliant is now no longer compliant in terms of a safe landing.

The member is right in that this occurred in 2022. He is also correct in saying what has happened since then, because the reality is the Labor Party has done nothing since then to resolve this issue. While the pad is used infrequently—probably around two to three times a week—it is important that there is a long-term solution put in place. The government is expecting a report to be finalised in the next few weeks. The preliminary advice from that report is that the pad cannot be repositioned where it is because it will not meet air safety rules. The costs of making it compliant are in the order of \$10 million to \$15 million. That is quite a substantial amount of money for that particular facility. It is currently fenced off. We are waiting for the outcome of that final report. I am happy to keep the member advised of the progress of that report and to discuss with the member and the local authority what an appropriate solution for that will be. At this stage, the preliminary indication is that the helipad cannot be used.

The chief executive there, with whom I have raised this matter, has other problems with another helipad. He advised me that sometimes young kids are hanging onto the fence as the helicopter comes in and being blown off the ground so they can sort of pretend they are Superman. That is obviously not acceptable—

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Justice Services

Ms MARR: My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General outline how the Crisafulli government is supporting justice services across regional Queensland such as Townsville, and is the Attorney aware of any differing approaches?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to thank members for the fresh start we have in Townsville with the member for Thuringowa, the member for Mundingburra and of course the member for Townsville. Those members, like many others in this House, live in communities that are sick and tired of the crime crisis that was established because of the rolling back of the law by the former failed Labor government. After 10 years we have a generation of untouchables. We just heard from the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support in relation to what we need to do and what this Crisafulli government is doing.

We need to see faster access to justice. That is why we have committed to a further District Court judge up there in Townsville, and we are in the process of doing that. I also heard that this former government failed to fund the courthouses, so I looked into it. They were going to spend a small amount of money on just one courtroom, so I asked how we could make it better. I went up there, I had a look at it and I said, 'We can fit in two courtrooms.' These guys would not even think to do that. We will have two extra courtrooms, spending \$9.5 million to get the people of Townsville faster access to justice.

We also know there is a critical investment of \$48 million needed for courthouses. I will tell you why, Mr Speaker: those opposite failed to fund critical maintenance. Why is that so important? It is important for the people who work in courthouses. It is important for the victims who turn up to our courthouses. They deserve to be safe; they deserve to be secure. What did these guys do? Nothing around critical maintenance. In fact, we have 87 vital courthouses in this great state and 52 of them have gone past their useful life. That is 60 per cent. Where is one of the worst? Beenleigh. I have visited it. I have gone to many courthouses and I will continue to visit those courthouses. I am constantly told that I am the first attorney-general they have ever seen in a courthouse. I wonder why they decided not to fund the courthouses. What have they got against our court registry staff?

Mr Nicholls: Since him.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Since the member for Kawana, obviously. Most critically, they failed to fund upgrades to the domestic and family violence courthouses. There is a \$26 million shortfall. It is shameful the way they treated victims in this state—

(Time expired)

First Nations, Health System

Mr McCALLUM: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Given that the minister has confirmed his support for a massive restructure within Queensland Health to realign the First Nations health office, will the minister confirm whether First Nations health stakeholders support this decision?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am very happy to answer that question. Firstly, let me put something out there quite clearly; that is, this is not the first time the health department has realigned its internal operations. The last time it was done, it was done under the Labor Party in 2022. They did the same thing. They did it before COVID as well. They did it before COVID, they did it after COVID, and it is all done in accordance with all of the industrial agreements in relation to it. Those industrial agreements—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They do not like the answer but they are going to get the answer that I have prepared for them anyway. That is what is going to happen.

They flounder around trying to find something; they flounder around with another scare campaign just like they always run. We remember their mates in the union movement who ran the 'Mediscare' campaign in the election campaign about the sale of the Logan Hospital and all of those sorts of things. We remember the Leader of the Opposition saying, 'It's perfectly legitimate to run a scare campaign.' We know what his tactics are. In fact, it was so bad that the member for Macalister—and we wish her the very best on a speedy recovery—disassociated herself from the union campaign that was a deliberate scare campaign in relation to it. We know the form of the second worst health minister on that side of the House. We know the form that they have over there.

We also know what has been happening in First Nations health; in fact, we got this loud and clear when we met with the mayors in Cairns last week. They said that for the last 10 years under that government they had been going to more funerals than 21st birthday parties and weddings. They said it clearly, and every minister in this government was in the room. That is what happened over 10 years, and they condemned the actions on Closing the Gap under the former government.

What are we doing? What we are effectively doing is supporting the healthcare system because our First Nations people are Queenslanders and all Queenslanders deserve the very best in health care.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance. The question was about First Nations health stakeholders. I ask you to draw him back to that.

Dr ROWAN: In addressing the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business, I would say that the minister is addressing all elements of the question, including First Nations health. He is comparing and contrasting approaches and outlining what the Liberal National Party state government is doing.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I know you like to play the clock right down before you get to the nub of the question, but I think that is where you were going. I hope so. If you would do that, that would be wonderful.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I am almost inclined to take offence at that but I will not today! Thank you.

The business case for change was released to our staff, as we are obliged to do under the industrial agreements that are in place. The first place it goes is to our staff, which is the right thing to do. It is what the industrial agreements do. The second place it goes is to the unions. The unions are being consulted. They have the business case for change and they are being consulted on Monday. On top of that, the chair of QAIHC, which is the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander community health system, has also been contacted.

(Time expired)

GST Methodology Review

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Treasurer. In the last few minutes the Commonwealth Grants Commission has released the 2025 GST Methodology Review. Can the Treasurer update the House on the implications for the funding of essential services and infrastructure for Queensland in the years ahead?

Mr JANETZKI: The final report of the 2025 GST Methodology Review has just been published by the Commonwealth Grants Commission. It contains a set of recommendations that should shock every Queenslander. What it says is that our state should be stripped of more than \$5 billion in GST revenue. It says that the money should instead go to Victoria and New South Wales. Appallingly, the report recommends to the Commonwealth government that Queensland's GST revenue should be slashed by \$2.4 billion in 2025-26. This is the biggest GST reduction from any state since the introduction of the GST in the year 2000. That is \$2.4 billion less than we received this financial year, despite the national GST pool growing by \$4½ billion over the year and every other state and territory receiving more GST revenue. f

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundaberg! I would like to hear the answer. I do not know about anybody else.

Mr JANETZKI: The national pie is bigger but Queensland is getting a smaller slice. This is an ominous sign of what could be in store for Queensland in the federal budget, which is just weeks away. Jim Chalmers falsely claimed before the election that a new government would gut Queensland like a fish. Little did we know that Jim Chalmers was planning to gut Queensland like a whale. Inexplicably, the commission recommends that Victoria be given an extra \$4 billion and New South Wales an extra \$1.3 billion in 2025-26. The ongoing impacts of the 2025 review will rip \$5.3 billion more in GST revenue away from Queensland over three years.

I am appalled that Queensland is the only jurisdiction subjected to a decline in GST, when we face such significant service and fiscal challenges left by the former Labor government after a decade of debt, deficits and deception. This is why I have just written to the federal Treasurer imploring him to reject this report unless it is revised to provide a fair share of GST to Queenslanders. I have also asked Treasurer Chalmers to commit to quarantining from GST impacts the \$7.2 billion of Bruce Highway funding recently committed to by the Australian government. If the Bruce Highway funding is not quarantined, Queensland could lose a further \$2.9 billion through GST redistributions to other states. Without urgent intervention, the Albanese government will be placing the livelihoods of Queenslanders, including their access to critical infrastructure and services, at serious risk.

Health System, Data Reporting

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data. The minister has been tasked with ensuring the government is open and transparent through more accessible public data. The LNP committed to delivering elective surgery and real-time ambulance wait times within 100 days. Has the Crisafulli LNP government failed Queenslanders by hiding this data?

Mr SPEAKER: That was a lengthy question but I will go to the minister. Minister, you have two minutes.

Mr MINNIKIN: I thank the member for Lytton for her first question to me. I want to make an observation before I begin. It is patently obvious that we have four factions over there but it may be that the member for Lytton is in the 'left right out' faction, because the reality is that all she has done for the last three question times is pretty much try and pivot based on ministerial statements—then 'Scrub that, no'—and then she gets a combination of post-it notes and then she is on her phone. She has no idea what she is trying to achieve. The simple fact of the matter is that she is more like a synapse trying to find a motor neuron: totally out of her—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are almost there. I have expressed my disappointment in the behaviour of the House but it continues. Minister, I would appreciate it if you would address the question.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan and member for Bulimba, you are both warned.

Mr MINNIKIN: The member for Lytton is interested in real-time health data. For the benefit of the House, let us share some real-time health data right now. This is data from the Royal Brisbane hospital, where the median waiting time at the moment is 21 minutes. We have made it very clear that those opposite had just under 10 years to deliver real-time health data. Could they do it? No, they could not do it. This will be a newsflash for the member for Lytton, because it is something very difficult for those opposite to grasp. It is called—wait for it, here we go—minister speaking to minister.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). The question was clearly around data relating to elective surgery and real-time ambulance wait times. We have not heard from the minister in relation to those specifics.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, that was the question. I think you were addressing it, if you could make that clear in your response.

Mr MINNIKIN: This is real-time data. The fact of the matter is: this was promised within the charter letter of the health minister, and he delivered it. He delivered that promise within 93 days. How did he do that? His department actually worked in concert with my department, hand in glove. Maybe the member for Lytton needs to spend more time preparing the question.

Ms PEASE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I waited until the end because there were multiple personal offences made to me in his statement, and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Also, member, there was some unparliamentary language in there. I would like you to withdraw that, too, if you will.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw those comments.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: We will have order in the House! We will have silence in the House before we go to the next item.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.20 am): What an exciting morning we have had, I must say—very enjoyable. I am looking forward to coming back in a couple of weeks—a very enjoyable time it is—and maybe getting some more questions of consequence because we certainly have not had any so far.

I present a bill for an act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [207].

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [208].

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [209].

The Crisafulli government promised Queenslanders that we would put clinicians back in charge to implement local health solutions for their community. I note that was the subject of a question today. We promised Queenslanders that we would empower frontline clinicians to make the best decisions for their patients and communities because they know what is happening on the ground. We promised Queenslanders we would encourage more clinicians to take on leadership positions in local Hospital and Health Services. This bill delivers again on our election promises. Promise made, promise fulfilled.

The Hospital and Health Boards Act specifically recognises that any person with relevant clinical expertise or experience can be appointed to the board on the recommendation by the minister. The new requirements for the clinician board members will commence on 1 April 2026, and this will align with the expiry date of a significant number of current board appointments which finish on 31 March 2026. It also provides time for the boards to conclude their business and find appropriate recruitment processes to secure candidates with the necessary skills and experience for the role.

I think members would appreciate that a considerable amount of work has gone into making sure we are honouring our commitments, we are honouring our obligations and we will continue to do so. I have been in this role for 133 days, and I have visited more than 60 health facilities across Queensland and spoken with hundreds of frontline clinicians.

Mr Bailey: Almost as many as I have.

Mr NICHOLLS: The difference, member for Miller, is they speak back to me, and that is not something that I understand is high on the list of amendments for you, as you chase around the countryside following me around.

To go back, the bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to require at least one registered health practitioner working in the local health service to be appointed to each hospital and health board in Queensland. The clinician must be a practitioner who is registered under the health practitioner regulation national law which means they must be a doctor, nurse, midwife or from another allied health profession that requires registration. The practitioner could be an employee of the hospital and health service, or they can be a clinician working under contract, someone like a VMO. This important reform will help ensure local clinicians who have firsthand experience working in our public hospitals and health facilities play a leading role in critical decision-making about service delivery and patient care in their community.

Those opposite would have benefited from having more clinicians involved in critical decision-making. Listening to clinicians would have meant that Labor knew 'satellite hospitals' was the wrong name for these great facilities. They would have known that 'satellite health centres' or some other more appropriate name would have been more suitable. We know those opposite did not want to consult with the clinicians actually running the hospitals and treating patients. Instead, decisions were rushed and often made to meet the political needs of the Labor Party and its re-election prospects rather than the health needs of Queenslanders—announcement after announcement without the details or the funding to back it up.

Those opposite should have listened to clinicians because it is apparent they did not understand the basics of how our hospitals operate. They rushed through announcements from the Capacity Expansion Program for an additional 2,200 hospital beds, but did not budget a single dollar to

operationalise those beds—not a single cent in the budget to pay for the doctors, the nurses, the other clinicians, the orderly services, the grounds-keeping, the building and electrical services specialists. There were no nurses, no doctors, no allied health professionals to provide care to those patients, and no doubt more will be revealed in the budget.

Empowering clinicians rather than ignoring them might have helped avoid the more than \$6 billion worth of blowouts in Labor's failed Capacity Expansion Program, due to a rushed planning process and significant scope oversights. Listening to clinicians might have avoided a few problems we have been hearing about. For example, listening to clinicians in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service might have meant that when the new Toowoomba Hospital was being prepared, the things that should have been included that were not under Labor might have been. These are things like a patient flow and transit lounge. Moving patients through the system might have helped.

Do you think having cardiac services and operating theatres in a hospital might have helped? Do you think making provision for dialysis in an aging population might have helped? Do you think providing provision for mental health short-stay patients would have helped? In an aging population, you would have thought that listening to clinicians might have meant we would have had geriatric rehabilitation. Importantly, as we see a population that wants to grow, it would have been nice to have birthing suites in that new Toowoomba Hospital. In fact, you have to wonder, other than a concrete slab and lift towers, what would have been at the Toowoomba Hospital at the Baillie Henderson site had Labor continued with its reckless course under the Capacity Expansion Program.

Mr Watts: Not much.

Mr NICHOLLS: Not much is the answer. I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North who keeps a keen interest on all things Toowoomba, including the new hospital development. All of those were left out because clinicians were not consulted.

What about the new Coomera Hospital? There might be a member or two interested in the new Coomera Hospital? Where is the member for Coomera? Anyway, he will no doubt be hearing about it, as will all members on the Gold Coast. The new Coomera Hospital, had there been clinicians consulted, would have been designed with pharmacy and pathology services which it was not under Labor. It might have had an out-patients ward which it did not have under Labor.

What a fantastic member is our great new hardworking member for Mackay. I had the great pleasure of working with the member for Mackay in the campaign. At the Mackay hospital, they might have designed in a rooftop helipad so we could actually have helicopters bring emergency patients in, as the member for Whitsunday knows all too well. There was no provision for a Ronald McDonald House for families to stay there overnight with children, nor did they have a high-voltage generator. You would have thought a high-voltage generator might have been an important provision in the Whitsundays, because what happens in the Whitsundays quite often, as the member for Whitsunday tells us? Cyclones and floods. As well, they have had no success in the relocated community birthing centre and, in fact, have had considerable problems with the birthing centre because of the failure to consult properly. A local clinician would have known about those issues.

Our three great new members representing Townsville are vitally interested in the Townsville redevelopment—again, developed without a pharmacy, short two operating theatres and short a central sterilising department. Who would have thought that a hospital with no central sterilisation department sounds like a good idea? It might sound like a good idea to the Labor Party, but a clinician would have told you it was not going to work so well. Further, a day medical centre and transit lounge and outpatient and consulting rooms were left out of the scope of works.

I turn to Redcliffe. I have been out to Redcliffe with the new member for Redcliffe, who, as a nurse, knows exactly what is going on. Perhaps Labor could have consulted with someone who actually knew something about the health system instead of the fourth worst health minister we have had, the former member for Redcliffe, who was so bad that she even got relocated by her own party. What did they not have? Paediatric outpatients, a mortuary, an education and training centre and a green heart and plantings in that area. The Redcliffe Hospital expansion has been delayed as a result of that failure to consult. The Prince Charles Hospital, one of our leading areas for heart transplants, had paediatric emergency department short-stay excluded, expansion space for operating theatres excluded and a full sterilising department not included in the scope of works. In Cairns, where I have been on a number of occasions, a surgical centre was not in budget.

Speaking to local clinicians who work on the ground, who know the area and who know how hospitals work, would have benefited all of these projects. If that had occurred we would not be facing what we now are, which is a \$6 billion blowout in Labor's failed Capacity Expansion Program. Nor would we have more than \$2 billion outstanding under the Sustaining Capital Program, because if you listen to clinicians they will tell you when things are wearing out, when things need to be replaced and that they need to be looked after so we do not have situations like at the Charleville Hospital. I give a big shout-out to 'Zoro', the mayor of the Murweh shire, who came to see us yesterday about a hospital that has lived well beyond its life and has not been sustained with the capital that it ought to have received over the past decade. Well might it be considered that a clinician would have identified a number of problems long ago and those problems would have been fixed.

The bill requires that the clinician must have been employed or engaged by the HHS for a period of at least two years prior to appointment and to have worked in that HHS a minimum of eight hours per week. This enables us to have the broadest range of clinicians who work in that hospital and health service available to provide advice and a genuine connection to the local area and health service. During the recruitment and appointment process I will be recommending the appointment of the most capable clinicians with relevant experience in the local area to ensure they make a real impact for each hospital and health board.

The bill provides that a clinician board member who works for the HHS will not be eligible to be the chair or deputy chair of the board. This is an important aspect of the appointment process and of the legislation. This will assist in maintaining an appropriate separation for members of the board between their role as an employed clinician—because they will work in the HHS—and their role on the board. While we want and need that clinical support, it is also important to have proper governance around how that should operate to avoid conflicts of interest. While they will be board members, they will not be able to have a board chair or deputy board chair position because those positions often have a casting vote. Doing that is clearly sensible.

The bill does not prevent other clinicians with relevant experience from either inside or outside the hospital and health services from being appointed to boards. I recall when we set up the hospital and health services—an initiative of the former LNP government to give local control back to local people, to cure the then disastrous state of the health system that had been bequeathed to us by the Labor Party. Who can forget the fake Tahitian prince—a classic example of the Labor Party? Who can forget then premier Anna Bligh saying she wanted to take a meat axe to the health department? That was the situation. Who can forget the failure to pay everyone in the health department—doctors and nurses were overpaid, underpaid or not paid at all—and claiming payments back from employees' estates after they had passed away? Remember them trying to claw back the payments from deceased estates? That was Labor's legacy.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as an historical treatise is going back 15 years, we are talking about a bill that is current. I think the minister really needs to come back to the bill rather than dusting off his old notes from the Bligh government.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): I will take some advice. I take that point of order and ask the member to return to the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: I thought it would be interesting because the member for Miller, of course, had his own pause for a period of time when he scuttled out of the Brisbane City Council before he came back to this place. I thought he might be interested in knowing a little bit about the history of this place.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have given a clear direction to the Minister for Health and he is flagrantly ignoring it immediately.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have taken advice. That is not a relevant point of order. Unless there is a point of order, I will ask the member for Clayfield to continue.

Mr NICHOLLS: Clinicians being appointed to boards and the detail of how those clinicians will be appointed to boards and the history of it I think is very important. We know about these provisions. We actually made the decision to create hospital and health services. We made the decisions in relation to who should be on those boards, including the appointment of clinicians to those boards. As a result of that, we fixed up a system that had failed. In fact, at the time of the change of government ambulance ramping was below 15 per cent. What was the ambulance ramping rate as at the end of the former Labor government? It was 45 per cent. Under the LNP it was 15 per cent, with clinicians managing and in control and being part of the boards, while under Labor it was 45 per cent. We know what happens

when the old lefties—the commissars from the left who do not know whether they are coming or going, whether they should be there or should not be there, whether they are going to be there next week or removed afterwards—get in charge of the health system. They start fiddling around and run it into the ground.

What would suit the Labor Party would be to run the Queensland health system like the NHS in the UK is being run. They would love that—control over every aspect of it, no role for the private sector, no role for anyone. Then we would see exactly what we are getting here in Australia—that is, a flood of clinicians leaving and going somewhere else. How do we know that? They are coming to Queensland because they realise that under an LNP government their views will be respected and they have the potential to be put on the boards of our HHSs. It is across the spectrum because we can appoint people to the boards who are nurses, midwives, in allied therapies or doctors. In fact, we have many of those people on our boards right now. We will strengthen that by ensuring local HHS employees are put on those boards.

As I indicated earlier, the new requirements for clinician board members will commence on 1 April 2026, as this will align with the expiry date of a significant number of current board appointments on 31 March 2026. We are going through the process that has been mandated and run by the health department for the last 15 years. There will be a proper recruitment process for the appointment of people to those roles.

As I said earlier, I have been in the role now for just over 135 days. I visited more than 60 health facilities across Queensland. As I am fond of saying, from Currumbin to the cape and from Brisbane to Bedourie and beyond there is not someone in Queensland whose life will not be affected in some way, shape or form by the efforts of our magnificent Queensland Health staff. I want to take the opportunity to recognise all our health practitioners and those who support them in critical, enabling and administrative functions for their dedicated service to the people of our great state. The dedication of Queensland Health's frontline workforce is second to none, and this bill takes a critical step forward to ensuring that they are at the front and centre of our health system and that we will continue to listen to them.

I can tell the House that clinicians and other staff are enjoying the access they get to speak to the minister—to a number of ministers who have visited their premises. The feedback overwhelmingly is that they are glad they now have a government that is empowering them, that is supporting them, that is celebrating their successes and that is listening to them and is prepared to proceed with their ideas and their advice. I received that feedback only a couple of days ago when I was at the Redlands Satellite Health Centre speaking to the nurses there. They raised concerns about the manner in which communications occurred prior to the flooding in that part of the world. The member for Redlands and I listened and fed that straight back into the system. I heard it in Cairns where we were looking at the fast-track system there in relation to clearing the backlog in the emergency department, which has been done quite well in the last couple of months and is moving patients through. I heard of their support for the director-general's directive in relation to a significant event because patients should not be waiting in an emergency ward or an emergency bed for more than 24 hours. We are actually listening to clinicians and implementing solutions that are working to deliver outcomes for Queenslanders. They say it is a breath of fresh air to have a government that knows what it wants to do, has a clear plan for doing it and is doing it in a calm and methodical way. They are reassured by that. I want to continue to give that reassurance to our hardworking staff as we work with them.

Probably for the first time in a long time last Saturday I received a call from the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union's state secretary asking whether I would join her in a Facebook post to say thank you to the nurses and midwives who worked over that long weekend, especially those who were among the 2,000 clinicians and staff who stayed overnight. This is from an organisation that spent nearly half a million dollars in not wanting to see this side of the House get elected and yet we have a constructive working relationship. We will not agree on everything, but we are united in delivering better health services for Queenslanders, easier access to health services closer to where they live.

These amendments and our ongoing efforts to work with clinicians and our staff are all part of our Easier Access to Health Services Plan to ensure world-class health services are accessible to everyone in Queensland no matter where they live. It is part of the fresh start for Queensland that they were never going to receive under a tired, decrepit and retread Labor government.

I turn now to the second part of the bill. The bill also amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to support our public health enforcement teams in tackling the scourge of illicit tobacco and vaping products.

Mr Lister: Hear, hear!

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs because I know he is passionate about sorting out the problems that Labor left linger for too long. Queensland has a significant vaping problem. Evidence shows vaping can lead to serious health concerns including respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems and nicotine addiction. For our young people—and inevitably they are the targets of the marketers of these products—we know that vaping can exacerbate mental health concerns like depression and anxiety. That is why the Crisafulli government is committed to taking strong action against the illegal operators selling illicit tobacco and vapes in stores across Queensland.

Under the former government hundreds of illicit tobacco and vapes stores just popped up across the state. They were allowed to operate in plain sight, selling illicit products to children and young people, and Labor did nothing about it despite knowing about it. You only have to drive down the street to see vaping stores and tobacco stores popping up all over Queensland. They are notorious. They are notorious in the member for Miller's seat as well as in the member for Caloundra's seat. I know there is a huge one there. They are notorious and Labor let it flourish without taking action.

For too long the significant profits for many retailers from the illegal trade of these products have outweighed the risk of enforcement action. We are assuring Queenslanders that our government is taking decisive action and working to hit those unscrupulous retailers where it hurts, and this bill is one step towards achieving this. There is more to come.

Our enforcement efforts are continually ramping up and we are working hard to take away financial incentives and undermine the business models of these illicit stores. We have an incredibly hardworking enforcement team consisting of more than 150 enforcement officers across 11 public health units and a centralised enforcement team, all with the authority to enforce legislative controls. In fact, a number of the members in the Cairns region and I visited our public health unit there and spoke to the people who are doing the work in cracking down on these illicit vape stores. We listened to them and heard about their frustrations, the fact they were underresourced and the fact that the former government did not really seem to mind and was not really putting the resources or the support they needed into it. That is going to change. I am proud to update the House that the Crisafulli government has increased enforcement efforts so that almost 75,000 vapes have been seized in the last two months alone. That is significantly more than the 22,000 that were seized in the last two months of Labor's watch. Under Labor in two months, 22,000 were seized. Under the LNP in two months with someone who cares about public health, 75,000 vapes were seized.

The reality is vapes remain too easily available in our communities. Ongoing enforcement efforts have highlighted some practical issues which will be addressed in this bill. We are becoming victims of success, if you like, because of the enforcement effort. Current laws about the forfeiture of vapes are simply not fit for purpose. Existing procedural requirements are leading to extended and expensive storage of illegal vapes once they are seized. Before forfeiting and destroying seized vapes, a show cause notice must be issued allowing the former owner of the seized illicit products a 28-day period to object to the proposed forfeiture of the vapes to the state. The legislation allows for an appeal from a forfeiture decision in the 28 days after the notice of the decision and also allows the court to impose a stay on that forfeiture decision until the appeal is heard. This effectively means that the seized illegal vapes must be stored for a minimum period of eight weeks and sometimes much longer.

They are illegal—we know that—they have to be seized, then the show cause notice has to be issued, then there is a right of appeal from the show cause notice and then a court may order a stay of the show cause notice while an appeal is heard. It is taking too long. These are illegal products; let's not forget that. The lengthy storage period is problematic because vapes contain noxious chemicals like liquid nicotine and lithium ion batteries that can overheat, ignite and explode. Seized vapes have to be stored under stringent protocols including the use of ventilated fire-resistant containers and these facilities are costly, with individual units typically priced between \$35,000 and \$65,000 each. Because of our recent successful enforcement, storage capacity across the system is now approaching its upper limit. It is full. Without these amendments, storage capacity constraints will impede enforcement efforts because we will not have a safe and secure place to store the vapes. To ensure Queensland Health can continue strongly enforcing vaping laws, the bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products

Act to allow for the immediate forfeiture of seized vaping goods. This means illicit vapes can be swiftly destroyed and do not need to be stored for extended periods. This will ensure enforcement officers can continue seizing vapes and reduce their availability.

As I thanked our hardworking staff in the public-facing roles in HHSs and in the health department, I want to take a moment to thank the public health enforcement officers for their commitment. Their work is difficult, demanding, sometimes dangerous—they often require police to assist them—and often unrecognised, but let me assure them that it does not go unnoticed. On behalf of our community, I thank them for their vigilance and efforts to keep Queensland safe. Without their dedication, hundreds of thousands of harmful vapes would remain on the streets and in our schools.

While the amendments in the bill mean that vapes will no longer need to be stored for extended periods, their destruction also presents logistical challenges. Not only do we have to seize them and hold them; we have to get rid of them. Vapes must be dismantled before safe disposal, with each component including the plastics, batteries and toxic liquids requiring specialised handling. Improper handling can lead to personal injuries if batteries explode or ignite and to environmental contamination if toxic chemicals seep into our soil and water. The cost of safely dismantling and disposing of vaping goods places an additional financial burden on the state. Money that we could spend on enforcement is actually now having to be spent on destruction.

Queensland Health also incurs significant costs in enforcing offences relating to other illegal products such as ice pipes, bongs and illicit tobacco. These items, once seized, need to be transported to appropriate facilities, stored and then safely dismantled and destroyed to ensure they cannot re-enter the market. Currently, there is no specific power for courts to order convicted individuals to pay the reasonable costs incurred by Queensland Health for dealing with these products and for investigating and prosecuting offences under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

To hold those who are supplying illegal products accountable for these costs, the bill amends the act to insert new court ordered cost-recovery provisions. These provisions will empower a court to order a convicted person to pay reasonable costs incurred by the state, including the costs of storing, transporting, dismantling and disposing of products such as vapes, ice pipes, bongs and illicit tobacco. The provision will also allow the court to order that the convicted person pay the department's reasonable costs of investigating the relevant offence and for the prosecution of the offence. Any amount ordered by the court will be a debt owing to the state and recoverable as such. This change will ensure that convicted offenders are held responsible for the impact of their illegal conduct and reduce the financial incentives associated with the sale of these illegal products in our communities. The Crisafulli government will continue to take decisive action against the illegal operators and hit them where it hurts—financially.

This is a bill that supports Queenslanders. This is a bill that improves public safety and better equips our public health enforcement officers. It will help to get vapes out of retail stores but most importantly out of the hands of kids and other young people. This is also a bill that strengthens our health system. It empowers clinicians and ensures local communities receive the best possible care. We said that we would put clinicians back in charge of hospitals, and that is exactly what this bill will do. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.52 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

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

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (11.53 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Education, Arts and Communities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[210\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[211\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[212\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill 2025 to the Queensland parliament. The bill amends the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. The Crisafulli government is focused on giving all children a great start, encouraging young people in learning, creating safe and inclusive workplaces, and investing in communities for a stronger Queensland. The Crisafulli government has been clear on the need to make sure that our principals, teachers and school communities are empowered to deliver improved educational outcomes for Queensland children. This includes identifying opportunities to reduce the administrative burden on teachers to allow them more time to focus on classroom teaching and ensuring that schools are adequately resourced and authorised to maintain strong behavioural standards in Queensland's schools.

This is supported by the Crisafulli government's investment in the education sector. We have recently provided \$44 million in funding for a behaviour management boost to give teachers more support in the classroom. The behavioural boost can be used to hire new support staff or increase the hours of existing teacher aides, speech pathologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. The funding can also be used by teachers for targeted face-to-face mentoring and professional development workshops or to access specialist educational resources.

The Crisafulli government is delivering on its commitment to ensure that Queensland kids can succeed. We are also delivering on our commitments to reduce red tape for teachers with three early actions: firstly, a one-plan-per-student approach to students' needs management assessments; secondly, simplifying procurement processes for low-value routine purchases, thereby improving efficiency and reducing paperwork; and, thirdly, launching a single point of contact for teacher recruitment to make the process faster, easier and more efficient for principals.

The government is investing \$1.9 billion in state school infrastructure to build, maintain, improve and renew schools across Queensland. All of this is on top of funding already provided to schools, including the reasonable adjustments resources, teacher and teacher aide allocations and curriculum grants. The government is delivering its More Teachers, Better Education plan to ensure that all Queensland children have access to a world-class education. That includes refocusing education on the basics such as mathematics and English to unleash every student's full potential.

The Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, E(GP)A, is a core part of the legislative suite supporting the Queensland education framework. The E(GP)A is a wideranging act providing for the establishment of state schools and other state educational institutions as well as school enrolment, compulsory schooling and compulsory participation requirements. The E(GP)A also provides a framework for the good order and management of state educational institutions and non-state schools, including student discipline in state schools and the protection of students through the mandatory reporting of sexual abuse in both state and non-state schools.

The E(GP)A sets out the establishment and regulation of school councils and parents and citizens associations in state schools and supports the regulation of home education. This framework underpins the delivery of high-quality education for all Queensland children or young people by enabling Queensland schools to operate effectively and safely whilst providing for education to be delivered in different ways, reflecting varying needs and circumstances.

The bill I am introducing today includes proposed reforms to reduce the regulatory burden on schools, parents and students and support student and school community safety. The bill will reduce the administrative burden for approved online services used in state schools by: streamlining student access to these services and supporting digital learning and student administration in state schools; extend age eligibility for home education registration to 18 years of age, removing an impediment to

student related financial and education supports for students who wish to remain registered until they are 18 years of age; reduce the administrative burden on state school principals by enabling them to delegate the telling of suspension decisions; streamline enrolment transfer processes for students already enrolled at state special schools; support the operations of parents and citizens associations; clarify that information can be provided by a non-state school principal or the non-state school's governing body to the chief executive of the Department of Education; clarify distance and medical eligibility criteria for e-kindy; and support student and school community safety by mandating the use of transfer notes when students transfer between Queensland schools.

I will now take the House through each proposal one by one. Firstly, in relation to approved online services, Queensland state schools are supported by a variety of third-party technology solutions. Teachers may use online services with students to support curriculum delivery, complete learning activities and assessment, facilitate class collaboration and create and publish class work. Online services are also used to manage school operations and communicate with parents. At any time individual state schools are using hundreds of online services. To support student access to some online services certain information may be required to be provided, such as the student's name, date of birth, achievement data, email addresses and school data. This enables account registration and access to the service for a student. Currently parents or students are required to provide consent where personal information is recorded, used, stored or disclosed for each individual service they access, or the service requires this in their terms and conditions.

With the growing use of online services to support teaching, learning and school administration, the existing consent management process has become overly burdensome for schools, teachers and parents. Amendments to the E(GP)A will provide that personal information about a student that is relevant to the use of an online service can be recorded, used and disclosed by an employee of the department to an approved online service. Importantly, the proposed amendment will only apply to an approved online service—that is, where the chief executive has approved the use of the online service for students.

The bill requires that the chief executive can only approve an online service where the purpose of the online service is for the educational support of students or the effective administration of state schools and has met strict criteria specified in the bill. A robust framework will underpin the assessment of online services called Safer Technologies 4 Schools, which is a nationally endorsed and used approach to evaluating digital products and services in schools across Australia and New Zealand against a nationally consistent security and privacy control framework. Contracts applying to the online service will be in accordance with information privacy requirements and the online service must be assessed as being suitable to protect the privacy and security of information about the student.

To ensure transparency to parents and students, the bill also requires the chief executive to ensure a list of all approved online services is made available for public inspection. The responsibilities and processes to obtain and manage student and individual consent for the use of online services is outlined in the Department of Education's *Obtaining and managing student and individual consent procedure*. Students and parents will retain the right to opt out of using online services or they can limit consent by saying they do not consent to certain online services.

Parents can also revoke consent where it had otherwise been given. Parents and students can opt out at any time by advising the school in writing and the school must provide written receipt of the advice from parents and students. Schools must record opt-out advice and ensure this is applied for the student. Once opt-out advice is received by a school, a school cannot use the student's information for an online service. For online services that require sensitive information, individual consent will still be required. Sensitive information includes, for example, racial or ethnic origin and religious beliefs and, when changes to the definition of sensitive information under the Information Privacy Act 2009 commence later this year, will also include other matters such as health and biometric information.

The reforms in the bill will reduce the administrative burden on state schools, parents and students whilst balancing the importance of protecting student information. The proposed approved online services reforms will not commence for up to 12 months after passage of the bill to ensure appropriate guidance and communications materials are in place prior to implementation.

Turning to the second point in relation to home education age eligibility, access to educational choices for parents and students is a pillar of Queensland's education legislation. Students can access education through state schools, non-state schools, distance education and home education. Many students move between modes and sectors of education throughout their learning journey. The Crisafulli government supports parents in their choices about the best education pathways for their children.

A key issue identified for parents and students in the home education sector has been a legislated impediment associated with the current age eligibility for home education registration. Under the E(GP)A students can only be registered for home education until the end of the year in which they turn 17. This has presented concerns for some students and parents who wish to continue registration for home education until the student is older. This bill proposes to amend the current age eligibility requirement from 17 to 18 years of age. Importantly, this aligns age eligibility for home education registration with students attending a state or non-state school. In addition, removing this barrier to home education registration for students who wish to continue to be registered in the year in which they turn 18 years of age will support parents and students by maintaining eligibility for student-related financial supports and educational resources. This is significant for all home-educated young people and their families and particularly for those with complex learning needs. I note for the benefit of the House that these amendments are intended to commence on assent to bring them into effect promptly.

The bill will enable principals to delegate the notification of suspension decisions. The bill reduces the regulatory burden for state school principals by enabling a principal to delegate the telling of a suspension decision to another senior member of the school staff. Principals have significant demands on their time and currently the E(GP)A does not allow a state school principal to delegate the telling of a suspension decision. Principals will still be the decision-maker. This power remains with principals to ensure that decision-making for such important matters is at a high level. However, principals will be able to delegate the communication of the suspension decision to be delivered by another senior member of school staff. Senior members may include the head of school, a deputy principal or head of campus. The amendment will support the administrative responsibilities of principals and the provision of timely advice to students and parents or carers about suspension decisions.

In relation to state special school enrolment transfers, I am pleased to advise the House that the bill reduces the regulatory burden on the principals of special schools, parents and students by streamlining the requirements related to enrolment transfers between special schools. Currently the E(GP)A requires that special school principals must refer applications for enrolment to the chief executive for an assessment of eligibility even when the student is transferring from one special school to another. Students already enrolled at a special school have already been assessed under the eligibility policy. Requiring a student to undertake the same assessment again simply to facilitate an enrolment transfer is a regulatory burden and unnecessary red tape for our principals and creates uncertainty for the student and their parents whilst they wait for enrolment decisions. Therefore, the bill will remove the requirement for students who are already assessed and enrolled at a special school from having to undertake further assessment if they are transferring to another special school. Principals of subsequent special schools will not be required to refer such applications to the chief executive. Instead, they will have the power to assess the application and enrol the student if the student is a person with disability and the special school can meet the educational needs of the student.

I note for the benefit of the House that this will apply to students already assessed and enrolled at a Queensland state special school. New applications for enrolment, or students transferring from an interstate special school, for instance, will still require referral to the chief executive for assessment against the eligibility policy for enrolment at special schools to ensure that students are accessing educational supports appropriately.

I now turn to amendments that will support another important part of our school communities: parents and citizens associations. P&Cs or P&Fs—parents and friends associations—have an important role in schools across the breadth of Queensland. P&Cs work in partnership with their school principal and the community to promote the interests of the school and facilitate its development and further improvements to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. We are very appreciative of the work that parents do in our schools and we know that they have time pressures. However, a very important part of what the Crisafulli government is trying to achieve in education is to encourage more parental involvement, acknowledging that parents are often very busy.

More than 900,000 state school parents are active participants in their local schools through P&C associations. The bill proposes three reforms to support P&Cs and to reduce the regulatory burden on P&Cs. Currently, the E(GP)A provides for a single P&C to be formed for each state educational institution. Some Queensland schools have multiple campuses that are geographically dispersed. For example, Tagai State College has 17 campuses located throughout the Torres Strait, each with unique local needs and interests. The bill provides that prescribed schools with multiple campuses may establish a P&C at each campus. For clarity, I note that this proposed reform will not enable single-campus schools to have more than one P&C. The amendment is particularly aimed at regional schools where campuses can be separated by long distances. The current framework for the establishment of

a P&C that is set out in the Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 will apply for this approach. Decisions about multiple P&Cs for a relevant school will be made by the principal in consultation with eligible persons.

The second reform to reduce the regulatory burden for P&Cs will see the P&C of one school able to support a P&C at another school. Currently, a P&C is only able to use funds raised for their own school and is not able to donate funds to another P&C or school for charitable reasons. Situations where a P&C may wish to do this to support a school community would be following a natural disaster such as flooding or fire. I am sure that members of the House can imagine how important a provision like this could be, given recent events in Queensland. The proposed reform empowers P&Cs, should they wish, to actively support one another following natural disasters to help fellow school communities and support students. This relatively small reform will deliver ongoing benefits for our P&Cs and school communities into the future.

The bill also supports the integrity of a P&C executive membership by precluding a person who has been convicted of an indictable offence from holding an executive membership role in a P&C, such as president or treasurer. Indictable offences include serious fraud offences, theft or robbery. This restriction is in recognition of the additional responsibilities that executive roles hold on a P&C. The reforms in the bill clarify that, unless it is a spent conviction, if a person is convicted of an indictable offence then they may not hold a position as a P&C executive member or executive officer. This approach is consistent with the current approach to the membership of school councils. The reforms will not prevent a person from being an ordinary member of a P&C. I am very pleased to be taking forward these reforms for our P&Cs and, as I have already mentioned, to support them in the great work that they do in our schools throughout Queensland.

In relation to the collection of information from non-state schools, the bill reduces the regulatory burden for the principals and governing bodies of non-state schools. Currently, the E(GP)A sets out that the chief executive may ask the principal of a non-state school for certain information but does not expressly authorise the principal of the non-state school to provide that information. Stakeholders in our non-state school sector identified that this clarity would assist their operations and give confidence to principals in the management of information.

The bill amends the E(GP)A to remove any possible doubt by setting out that information requested by the chief executive about students of non-state schools can be provided and that this process is compliant under privacy requirements. Furthermore, to ensure that the non-state school sector is supported in this space, the bill also clarifies that information requested by the chief executive may be in the legal control of the non-state school's governing body and can be provided. The clarification provided by the reforms in the bill will provide the non-state sector with certainty in their legal responsibilities for this matter and reduce the regulatory burden associated with administrative processes.

The bill further reduces the regulatory burden and supports access to education by improving access to eKindy, which is a comprehensive at-home distance education kindergarten program delivered in remote parts of the state to children who cannot access a centre-based program due to travel, itinerant lifestyles or work arrangements or for medical reasons. I was very proud to deliver eKindy the last time I was the education minister. It is particularly important in discrete Indigenous communities where people may have a very limited ability to take up kindy services. For that reason, we hope these amendments will improve accessibility to the very important services that we know kindy provides for children in the very early years.

Currently, a student's eligibility for eKindy for medical reasons is based on a child having more than 10 consecutive weeks of absence from a centre-based service due to the child's health. This limits access for children who may have medical absences that are cumulative rather than consecutive. The bill will adjust the 10 weeks to be cumulative so that a child undertaking intermittent medical treatment will also be eligible for eKindy.

A distance criterion can also apply for access to eKindy. In this case, the E(GP)A currently sets a 16-kilometre distance from the child's home to the nearest centre-based service for kindergarten aged children. Under this criterion, the centre-based service does not need to be an approved kindergarten provider and offer a child access to an early childhood teacher. The bill amends this criterion to set the 16-kilometre distance from the child's home to a centre-based service delivering an approved kindergarten program or to a prescribed state school that offers a state delivered kindergarten program. This change will promote access for children to quality kindergarten programs delivered by early

childhood teachers to best prepare them for school. The last time I was the minister it was one of our great achievements that Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that had kindergarten enrolment figures in the low 20s increased that figure to the high 80s, as I recall, by the time we left office in 2015.

In addition to the number of important red-tape reduction reforms I have detailed so far, the bill also promotes the protection of students and school communities by requiring the proportionate sharing of relevant student information when students transfer between Queensland state and non-state schools. These amendments respond to a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The royal commission considered that proportionate and proactive information sharing when students transfer between schools could support student safety and wellbeing and that of staff and others at the student's new school.

The E(GP)A currently enables the sharing of relevant information about students using a transfer note on an optional basis when a student moves between Queensland state or non-state schools. Relevant information is prescribed by regulation and includes student identifying information and educational information such as level of schooling and educational performance, requirements for educational support or behavioural issues and school attendance. The bill provides that transfer notes will become mandatory, not optional, reflecting an increased focus on the safety and wellbeing of students and school communities and supporting continuity of a student's education. To be clear, the intent of the new framework is that, when a student has started at their new school, the principal is required to seek a transfer note within 90 days of commencement. The requirement for a transfer note to be requested after enrolment at a new school mitigates the risk of a transfer note being used for enrolment screening. Ninety days is approximately a term of school and will provide time for the principal to welcome and settle the student into the new school and make their own assessment of the student. It also enables the most up-to-date information about the student to be provided to the new school to best support continuity of education and the safety and wellbeing of the student or school community.

The bill provides that principals may, within that same 90-day period, also request transfer notes from any other state or non-state school that the student was enrolled at within the previous 12 months immediately before the day the student enrolled and commenced at the new school. Importantly, transfer notes apply for students transferring between any Queensland school, ensuring that student and school safety is supported across the state and non-state sectors. To balance administrative requirements, principals will not have to obtain a transfer note where they may already have access to the relevant information—for example, if they have already been given a transfer note by a parent or a student or have access to information through OneSchool, which is an online system used in Queensland state schools. The transfer note amendments will commence by proclamation to enable the Department of Education to work through implementation approaches together with non-state school stakeholders.

Finally, the bill will make minor technical amendments to update legislative cross-references ensuring the accuracy of Queensland legislation. In addition to minor updates for the numbering of section references in the E(GP)A itself, amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999 will update a reference for the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, while an amendment to the E(GP)A will include an updated reference to the Further Education and Training Act 2014.

In summary, this bill will: reduce the administrative burden for approved online services used in state schools; reduce the administrative burden on state school principals by enabling them to delegate the telling of suspension decisions; streamline enrolment transfer processes for students already enrolled at state special schools; extend age eligibility for home education registration to 18 years of age; support the operations of Parents and Citizens' associations; clarify information-sharing provisions for non-state schools; clarify distance and medical eligibility criteria for eKindy; and support student and school community safety by mandating the use of transfer notes when students transfer between Queensland schools.

There is still more work to be done, but this bill is a great first step in reducing red tape for our teachers and principals and supports student and school safety, delivering on the Crisafulli government's education related election commitments. The bill ensures that all Queensland children and young people, no matter where they live, have access to a high-quality education system now and into their futures. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (12.21 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 Education, Arts and Communities Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL**APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from 13 March (see p. 473), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.22 pm), continuing: I started my contribution last night and return to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. I was making the point last night that we have heard a lot of nonsensical and contradictory arguments from those opposite during this debate. We are considering the appropriation bills, which relate to unforeseen expenditure. We heard a lot of arguments from those opposite, but they must be relevant to the bill. They said there had been irresponsible fiscal management, cost blowouts and reckless waste.

Mr Stevens: Unbudgeted.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I will name the things that they are calling irresponsible fiscal management, a cost blowout or reckless waste. There is a message in this for their new members: do not just take the notes from the minister's office or the Premier's office and read them out because reading out these slogans can actually lead to embarrassment. I will get to it.

We know, because it is in the committee report, that these bills are considering unforeseen expenditure. It is additional appropriation for emergent needs, like a natural disaster. When we see what next year's appropriation bills contain, we will read out all the comments from those opposite where they have called the things that are funded in the appropriation bills—

Mr Stevens: The only natural disaster is the Labor Party in charge of the chequebook.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection. That member has been here long enough to know how foolish he will look in 12 months time when we quote his words back to him. These appropriation bills relate to unforeseen expenditure for emergent issues like natural disasters, among other things. The first cyclone in 50 years hit South-East Queensland and there will be unforeseen expenditure in 12 months time. There is already unforeseen expenditure.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Morayfield, can you take your seat, please. As a courtesy, I will remind those who are on a warning. They are the members for Cairns, Pine Rivers, Algester, Woodridge, Jordan, Bulimba and McConnel. I remind those members that they are on the list at the moment.

Mr RYAN: We have already had unforeseen expenditure. We will support community organisations and residents during natural disasters because it continues our record of supporting communities, residents and organisations impacted by natural disasters.

We have already had unforeseen expenditure. The personal hardship grants have been approved. They are available. That is an unforeseen expenditure which will be caught up in the appropriation bills. Using the government's formula that would be considered irresponsible fiscal

management, a cost blowout and reckless waste. That is what they are saying. This is the nonsense of their argument. They conflate these silly slogans and do not consider the relevance to the bill. This bill is about appropriation for unforeseen expenditure.

Let's consider the other things that they are calling irresponsible fiscal management, a cost blowout or reckless waste. They are in the bill. They are in the explanatory notes. They are in the committee report. It goes to show that all of those members who have read the silly slogans provided to them by the Treasurer's office or the Premier's office did not actually read the committee report. The committee report states that the bill authorises a supplementary payment in respect of Queensland Health for LifeFlight. The formula that we have heard when they are quoting the silly slogans is that that is irresponsible fiscal management and reckless waste. What a nonsense and how silly do they look!

In respect of the department of families, a supplementary payment is authorised for out-of-home care services. Using their formula, that is reckless waste. In respect of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, there is the Cairns Marine Precinct Common User Facility, the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity program and the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line. Using their formula, because they are reading out the silly slogans and not thinking about what the bill relates to, all of that is reckless waste and irresponsible fiscal management.


How is this for an application of their silly slogan: the Department of Education will receive an additional appropriation for students with a disability, but using their formula that is reckless waste and irresponsible fiscal management. In respect of the Department of Housing and Public Works, they consider Helping Seniors Secure their Homes, Homes for Queenslanders and the head leases, which apparently they are cutting, as reckless waste and irresponsible fiscal management.

The Minister for Primary Industries is here. He is very passionate about his portfolio—I will give him a pat on the back. Using his formula, and repeating the silly slogans, the future fisheries reform is reckless waste and irresponsible fiscal management. In respect of Queensland Corrective Services—I like this because it underscores the government's secret agenda to privatise prisons—they say that the funding for the employees of the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre is reckless waste and irresponsible fiscal management. The privatisation of the prisons is on the way. In respect of the department of state development, racing infrastructure for Racing Queensland is irresponsible fiscal management and reckless waste.

These bills relate to unforeseen expenditure. They relate to the very things that Queenslanders value, and every reasonable Queenslander would say, 'That is a good use of taxpayer funds.' We have heard those opposite read the silly slogans from the Treasurer's office or the Premier's office—or wherever they are from—but they have not read the bill, the explanatory notes or the committee report. If they had read even one of those documents they would know that this appropriation bill is for good purpose. It is good use—

Mrs Frecklington: It's Labor waste.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. All of those things that I have read out she says are Labor waste. The investment in school students with disabilities is Labor waste. Fair dinkum, Attorney-General! This underpins their agenda. The secret agenda is being revealed. All we have to do is look at their speeches. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (12.30 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate on the supplementary appropriation bills, which shine a light on the mismanagement of the previous Labor government and their incapacity to manage Queenslanders' money with the good stewardship expected of them in this high office of government. A budget is a budget.

These bills are necessary to authorise the unforeseen expenditure from 2023-24—unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 billion. It is the final part of three necessary appropriations totalling a massive \$9.5 billion of overspend in the last financial year alone. As our Treasurer has said many times, this bill is the full stop on the story of Labor's 10 years of fiscal vandalism. This \$9.5 billion overspend includes two unforeseen expenditures of \$2.267 billion in the Cheaper Power (Supplementary Appropriation) Act 2024 and \$6.154 billion contained in the Appropriation Act 2024. There is a great deal unforeseen here—a lack of vision, a lack of planning, a lack of management and, clearly, a lack of proper resourcing.

I would like to break things down for the members of the opposition, who seem to think \$9.5 billion of blowouts is okay—nothing to see here, nothing to report, nothing to explain to the taxpayers of Queensland. One billion dollars is \$1,000 million. Here is how I explain this to my grandchildren, for they want to know why for years they will be paying down this mess. They will be paying for the debts

incurred by the previous Labor government. They are trying to understand just how much overspend there was. I tell them, 'Well, if you saved \$1,000 per day, it would take you 2,740 years to get to \$1 billion.' I tell them, 'If each step you take is around one metre, one billion steps will take you around the circumference of the earth 40,075 times.' That is one billion. We are talking about 9½ times that. It is a disgrace.

This blowout of unforeseen expenditure is demonstration of an incompetent administration unable to manage Queenslanders' hard-earned money and unable to deliver on the core responsibilities of a state government such as health, housing and education. Unforeseen expenditure has already been approved on two occasions and this is now the third appropriation, exposing Labor's poor budget management and their state of chaos and crisis. That is 11.6 per cent over their budget.

The previous Labor government then had the audacity to go to the polls in October 2024 misleading the people of Queensland that they could actually afford their pub dinner ideas such as state owned service stations, state owned medical practices, state delivered school lunches and a state owned energy supplier. They even announced jubilantly that they would borrow an additional \$33 billion. The *Financial Review* called Labor's last budget a clown show. That is a show where you keep handing over money and shoving white balls down the throats of turning heads, hoping to win a prize. The interest on \$9.9 billion in the forward estimates is over \$27,000 per day.

The former treasurer broke his 'no new or increased taxes' promise—a promise he made 26 times—and then collected \$70 billion more revenue than he forecast in his first budget less than four years before. He left Queenslanders with record debt, record deficits and a record interest bill, at the same time as there were record numbers of the sick waiting on ramps, the homeless sleeping in cars and victims of Queensland crime crisis.

In Rockhampton, our community has sat back waiting for over 10 years for investment into infrastructure. We even had a delegation of passionate business owners on their own merit—sick and tired of broken promises—do a road trip to Canberra to bring attention to the continued delays in development and funding for the Rockhampton Ring Road. It was meant to be finished this year, but because of the previous state Labor government's back and forth delays it never even got off the ground, despite being spoken of and approved in 2014.

The debt, deficit and deception that underscored the previous Labor government during their 10 years of chaos and crisis is more than disappointing; it shows they were utterly delinquent in their duty owed to the people of this state. That is why I stand here. The people of my electorate, well known as a Labor stronghold, have spoken out. In disgust they have spoken out.

Mrs Frecklington: Not anymore.

Mrs KIRKLAND: I will take that interjection. They were sick of losing loved ones on the underfunded and not-fit-for-purpose Bruce Highway and fatigued from the continued failure of the previous Labor government to address rising crime and homelessness within the region. All the while, the previous Labor government was throwing money on fool's errands such as the Pioneer-Burdekin hydro project and a speculative hydro project. Who can forget the Wellcamp quarantine facility—another fine example of their wasteful spending, illustrating a reckless pattern that has led to the need for this third appropriation bill in one calendar year?


From Rockhampton we sat and watched shaking our heads in utter disbelief as projects in the south-east continued to blow out, further infuriating us as we considered that that could have paid for a PET/CT scanner, a new hospital emergency department or an expansion of our overly cramped police station. It could have built some social and affordable housing or funded the needed upgrades of the Bruce Highway.

Those identified blowouts continue to include: Cross River Rail; Gold Coast Light Rail; the hospital capacity expansion program; CopperString; Pioneer-Burdekin—that one is up from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion; and the Borumba pumped hydro project, up from \$14.2 billion to \$18 billion. It is eye-watering. As if that were not enough, the previous Labor government then left giant black holes of discontinuation of critical service delivery funding in such things as child safety and Queensland Health programs—perpetuating their deception of Queensland people.

It has all been a game of smoke and mirrors from the previous Labor government that has made a complete mockery of the budget process, attempting to trick the people of Queensland into believing they had it all under control when in reality they were spiralling out of control. Even the Standard & Poor's Global ratings report talked of Labor's waning fiscal discipline and looser fiscal discipline which was eroding the buffer in Queensland's rating.

The Crisafulli government has inherited this mess and yet are already well on the way through a measured and considered approach, sorting the wheat from the chaff to take steps that will improve the budget. Sanity has prevailed with the Crisafulli government cancelling the \$36.8 billion Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, pausing BPIC—saving the budget \$17 billion to 2030—and opting to not provide significantly more than \$1 billion in equity and grants for the speculative hydrogen project. We are showing respect for taxpayers' money.

These appropriation bills today are necessary to seek formal authorisation for specified amounts in each bill that the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2023-24 financial year. This exposes the previous Labor government's promiscuity with Queensland taxpayers' money and discounts the opposition from ever being able to be trusted again. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (12.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the appropriation bills, which have now been made cognate for this debate. Firstly, I want to touch on some of the comments that have been made by the LNP government, but I also want to commend the comments made by Labor members of this parliament that have succinctly put a timeframe around this and given us an understanding of what unforeseen expenses really mean. We merely need to look at the definition of 'unforeseen' to find out what that word means. It is about the unknown. It is about the unprepared. It is about the unanticipated things that may occur into the future.

Let's look at the history of Labor governments, not only in this state but also in the nation, and how they have dealt with unforeseen matters—whether they be natural disasters; COVID, which is the worst pandemic that this state has seen in a century; or cost-of-living pressures, for which we quite rightly funded initiatives, such as the \$1,000 energy rebate, to make sure families and communities were taken care of. I know that the communities of many members, whether they are in government or opposition, would have been very appreciative of those funds. That is why there is a need for governments of the day to predict as far as possible when doing budgets but, beyond that, through appropriation bills, there will be unforeseen circumstances that require funding.

I want to reflect on the COVID pandemic. At the time when we were in government we dealt with an influx of people to our state—and we are still dealing with that now. The current LNP government is having to deal with population growth. That is why those sorts of measures and those unforeseen circumstances cannot be predicted into the future. That is why we need to bring forward funding in appropriation bills such as this to fund the roads, the new schools and the new infrastructure that is required to meet the demand of people moving to this state. You cannot blame them for wanting to move to Queensland. What a great state we have! That is why we have population growth and that is why we have to address the need for expenditure from unforeseen circumstances. That is what we are debating here today.

I also want to reflect and remind members of this House how Labor governments deal with unforeseen circumstances. I was privileged enough to be in the Australian government when we dealt with the global financial crisis. We had the Building the Education Revolution, where \$16.9 billion was put into education. These are hallmark reforms that you only see from a Labor government. These sorts of reforms and outstanding contributions will never be seen from a coalition or LNP government. These reforms protected our communities, protected the livelihoods of people, protected the tradies and protected our economy. We were the only country in the world that dealt with the global financial crisis and protected our constituents and our economy. As a Labor government we supported those people.

You only need to go to some of those federal seats—whether it be the seats of Dickson, Ryan, Wright, Forde or Maranoa—and you will see the plaques. My name is on those plaques. There are some 130 plaques where we opened school buildings as part of the Building the Education Revolution. We supported new halls and new science centres. I will never forget the then Queensland senator of the day Barnaby Joyce reflecting on those buildings saying they were 'rusty tin sheds'. That was the opposition in federal politics referring to good initiatives to make sure the economy was protected—to make sure we had funding for unforeseen circumstances to ensure that people in their neighbourhoods and communities were protected from the global financial crisis.

I want to focus on one particular part of the committee report. I commend the committee members on their report on these appropriation bills. Paragraph 2.2.6 of the report indicates that the former department of agriculture and fisheries, now the Department of Primary Industries, be authorised supplementary funding from the Consolidated Fund of \$58.3 million. I note that the Minister for Primary Industries is in the chamber.

A government member: He's the farmers' friend.

Mr FURNER: No. He will never be the farmers' friend.

A government member: He's a real farmer!

Mr FURNER: That is debatable. He is a farmer but I do not know whether he is a real farmer. That \$58.3 million was in respect of future fisheries reforms. I acknowledge the appropriation funding, but I want to ask certain questions with regard to how that \$58.3 million will be distributed. Will that funding go to the future sustainability of the sector itself, whether it is commercial, recreational or other forms of scientific research? I think answers need to be provided by the minister and the government as to how that \$58.3 million will be distributed.

On most occasions we hear support from the government and, in particular, the minister only for the commercial fishing sector. I want to hear from the minister or the government how the funding is to be used, whether it is going to be used for paying out Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers. Are they going to be terminated like they were when the LNP were last in government? Are they going to slash the scientific working groups that make sure they provide the science and evidence and stock assessments? When we were in government we made sure the science was good and sound and readily available to ensure that we protected the Great Barrier Reef. We made sure that the reef would not be in danger in the future.

The federal government committed \$160 million in assistance before the future fisheries policy, the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy. I want to know whether the minister is able to stand up here in the House today and give a commitment to the House that there will not be any terminations of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers or hundreds of fisheries staff like they did when they were last in government. This is in their DNA, and we saw that when they were last in government. This is how they deal with meeting the requirements of costs associated with their budget. If you recall, Madam Deputy Speaker Marr, and I know you were not in government at the time, but 14,000 public servants were terminated by the Liberal National Party as a result of bringing in Peter Costello to make sure the books were sorted out.


Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Order, members to my right!

Mr FURNER: This is how they deal with meeting unforeseen circumstances. That is not the case on behalf of the Labor Party, as I have demonstrated previously, when it comes to meeting the demands of unforeseen circumstances, whether it be COVID or the global financial crisis. This is the legacy that Labor will leave to make sure that our constituents—the people in our state and in our nation—will be protected when it comes to unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters.

I take on board the comments made by the member for Morayfield earlier. After the severe weather we have had, including the severe weather in your area, Deputy Speaker Marr, let's see what the expenditure will be next year to make sure that infrastructure is taken care of. We have heard from the government that they are going to build better roads and better bridges. Let's see how they are going to build them. Let's see what the unforeseen circumstances will be in any appropriation bills into the future to make sure those things are covered off.

In conclusion, I want to make sure that we have an appreciation of how this funding will be spent. It is clearly addressed in the report and in the bill as to which areas in the department those funds are to be spent. Notwithstanding that, I think that this is an opportunity for the government to outline today that there will be no terminations of public servants—our hardworking men and women who take care of all of those areas in departments and who look after Queenslanders—as a whole into the future. I thank the House and I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (12.48 pm): I rise to speak to this supplementary appropriation bill. It is an extraordinary situation to find ourselves in. We are legally required to have supplementary appropriation dealt with by the House, but it is extraordinary because it now accumulatively means that an extra \$9 billion has had to be appropriated since the last budget.

The legacy of Labor's fiscal vandalism is that we have a significant supplementary requirement. As a result of the fact that they did not get their last budget right, 11.6 per cent beyond the original appropriation has been required through supplementary appropriations. We hear from Labor members 'nothing to see here', as if that is not extraordinary. Well, it is. Supplementary appropriations are a mechanism that provide the opportunity for scrutiny by this House, but still Labor has not learned that there does need to be scrutiny of these very mechanisms for very good reasons because—guess


what?—it is not our money. It is taxpayers' money. If we really are to respect their dollars, which is in fact the money that is being appropriated through the parliament, then they deserve to have their voices heard and understood.

We have never had a situation like this before. Labor had 10 years in government and they abused that trust with additional taxes they completely misled the public about. They were unable to contain themselves within a reasonable framework to deliver the services that Queensland needed. For example, they had record blowouts and failures with ambulance ramping. It was not about how much money was being spent in some of those areas; Labor failed to have respect for taxpayers' dollars in the way they were managed.

We are committed to ensuring there is care taken with taxpayers' dollars. That is why at the 2024 election, under the leadership of now Premier Crisafulli, we said that we understood that cost-of-living pressures were a significant issue for Queenslanders. People have been hurting. There are many factors that have led to people having less money in their pockets. The previous government did not get the fact that people had these pressures and put extra taxes and other requirements on them. The fact is that inflation has increasingly taken away the power of those dollars. That is still lost on the Labor Party. The size of the supplementary appropriation is due to the fact that the previous Labor government did not get it right. They did not have respect for people's dollars, and that is why we are seeing an incredible cumulative \$9 billion in supplementary appropriations.

Three appropriations are required to ensure people have the money to pay the bills that Labor was not able to manage in a timely way. We are committed to respecting taxpayer dollars. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders have the frontline services they need and that money is allocated to deliver those critical services. We will ensure that there are outcomes, not significant blowouts and wait times such as we saw with ambulance ramping, and that people can get access to the housing, education and health services that are appropriate.

Labor still have not learned; they are still chaotic. They still do not take responsibility and they do not have the answers to address the very issues Queenslanders are putting forward. We stand to work with Queenslanders. We will work with small and family businesses, which are the powerhouse of jobs in this state, to unlock future prosperity by respecting that they want government to get off their back. We will work with them to ensure they can employ more people and make some money so they can reinvest into our local communities. Our government will ensure that expenditure on services leads to outcomes so that Queenslanders can thrive wherever they live in this state.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.54 pm): It is great to rise this afternoon to debate the appropriation bills before the House, which are being debated in cognate. I will give my contribution from the perspective of the KAP and the people of Hinchinbrook. Over the last two days we have heard members from both sides of the House speak on this bill. The Labor Party obviously managed the budget the way it did; the new government says there were budget blowouts. From the outside looking in, it has been a mudslinging competition. The reality is that both sides of the House need to start answering questions. Why are things in this state so expensive to build? Why are there budget blowouts?

I am sure that when the opposition were in government they would love to have staged their budgets. Previous ministers probably did not want to be dragged over the coals for hiding budget blowouts, but the fact of the matter is that they are happening. Now there are two appropriation bills before the House trying to mop up the mess and figure out how the state is going to pay for the projects that are happening and the things we need in Queensland, including hospitals and improvements to roads and schools.

Going forward, it is going to be a problem for the government to manage costs because of how expensive things are. I will give members a couple of examples in the Hinchinbrook electorate. There are projects that have been going on for nine years in some cases—for example, Dungeness at Lucinda. The Hinchinbrook Shire Council spent over a million dollars trying to get environmental approvals. The previous state government was nice enough to stump up \$300,000 to try to finalise those environmental approvals. We have not even put a rock in the water to build the rock wall at Dungeness or pulled one bit of mud out of there as part of the dredging project and a million dollars has been spent already—\$1.3 million to be exact. We have not spent a cent on any construction. There is no concrete and steel coming out of the ground. That is a real problem in Queensland.

Another case in point is a little dredging project in the middle of the Hinchinbrook electorate to allow marine infrastructure to progress so we can run tourism businesses. That is exacerbated across the state. We have seen projects for which three business cases have been done and there is still no

detail and design. What is going on? Who is being held accountable for these sorts of things within departments like Transport and Main Roads? Who is being held accountable at the previous departments of environment and science to make sure we are not constantly chewing up state funding?

It is not the state's money. We need to remind people in this House that it is not the state's money. It is the money of the people of Queensland we are wasting. Wasting the money of Queenslanders is a travesty. Everyone here should be trying to find ways to cut red and green tape, whatever you want to call it. We have to start pointing to the things that are costing us too much money and blowing out the cost of these projects.

Earlier the member for Rockhampton was talking about how suddenly we have become very comfortable with things costing a billion dollars. That is a thousand million dollars. When did we start becoming comfortable with that? Over the last four or five years we have seen the cost of construction escalate. Things happened on the back of COVID. There was a lack of construction companies and people who were able to do the work, but when did we become comfortable with things costing so much? There really needs to be a fine toothcomb taken to this problem.

I know there are two appropriation bills being debated in cognate that have been put forward by the LNP government, but unless the government has a really good look and tries to figure out how we can do things cheaper in the state we are going to see continual blowouts. That is not because one side has done it better than the other. There are problems within the bureaucracy. Things are going on that indicate people are making these things way more expensive than they have to be.

I will give members another example. There is a road project at Dallachy Road on the Bruce Highway just outside of Blenners Transport, one of the biggest transport companies in Queensland. Blenners have water coming through their property every time there is a flood because there have been problems with the drainage there. That project has been going backwards and forwards for over three years. We were almost ready to go out to tender. It went out to tender and the price had gone up so we needed more money. We found more money through TMR. All of a sudden there was a federal government change. The new government did a 90-day review, which turned into about a 150-day review. The problem is that by the time you go to do the job you do not have enough money anymore, so you have to go back cap in hand to the minister of the day. At that time we were lucky enough to get some money out of the minister, but we should not be going backwards and forwards trying to find more money while bureaucratic red tape and bureaucrats continue to hold up projects and we end up with cost blowouts.

I had an opportunity to travel through Europe a couple of years ago and it was fantastic to see how different countries do things. I could not believe that I was having dinner in a building that was 400 years old. It had its problems, but at the same time it was 400 years old. We were walking on cobblestone roads that had been built by the Romans in Italy.

We have projects going on across Queensland right now. For example, in Townsville they want a brand new entertainment centre. That sounds fantastic, but the old one is only 30 years old. When did we get to the point in this country where we knock down a building that is only 30 years old and build another one which is five or 10 times more expensive than what it cost to build in the first place? Why are we not building things in this state that last?

Mrs Frecklington: Build it better.

Mr DAMETTO: Build it better; I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. Build it better and build things that are going to last generations. I was lucky enough to go on a parliamentary delegation to China in 2019, before COVID. They were trying to show us projects they had built.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I am going to have to stop you there and ask you to adjourn the debate, please.


Mr DAMETTO: I will adjourn the debate and finish my contribution.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dametto, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Minister for Education and the Arts

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.00 pm): Access to a good education is one of the most important opportunities you can give a child. It literally can determine the entire life path which that child takes, which is why the role of the education minister is so important. It is a privilege, in fact, to be given

that responsibility. Our kids, teachers, school staff and parents rely on the education minister to do a good job. They expect him to do a good job and to aim high because it matters so much. They also expect the education minister to care. Imagine how all of those people felt when they woke up to that *Courier-Mail* article last month which had the interview with the 'I'm not a teacher' member for Surfers Paradise and they heard that their education minister simply cannot be bothered. I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of news articles from the *Courier-Mail* relating to education and NAPLAN [213].

I had already heard from multiple sources that when he first started he would tell anyone who listened that he did not want the job in the first place—that it was unfair for the Premier to give him one of the hard portfolios. It must have stuck in the gut of the member for Moggill, who we know is his mate and who was desperate for the job. Stakeholders were disappointed that the member for Moggill did not get it as well; they could not understand why.

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

An opposition member: She's awake.

Ms BATES: Yes, I am awake. The member for Bulimba was using unparliamentary language and I ask that she withdraw.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I did not notice the unparliamentary language. However, member for Bulimba, it would assist the House if you would withdraw.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. I will just recap on that article for those people who did not see it. The article said that the minister was not going to guarantee any improvement on NAPLAN because it actually was not really his job because he is not a teacher. He also said that he was not going to track how their bullying initiative was going—that is the one he was boasting about yesterday—even though he has the data available to track it, and he also reckons that vaping is going okay.

I would say that it was not just school staff, parents and schoolkids who were disappointed to read that article; I would say the Premier would have been a bit disappointed as well. What was really clear in that article was that the minister was not going to be bothered to meet the KPIs the Premier had given him. I will tell the House some of his KPIs: implement strategies to deliver improved NAPLAN results for Queensland—'No, can't be bothered'—and introduce a zero tolerance policy for violence, vapes and drugs in our schools—'No, it's okay.' At least on the bullying all he had to do was work with stakeholders to launch an anti-bullying campaign. Well, he launched it but he does not have to do anything about it. He does not have to make sure it is working so he is able to tick that one off.

I have to say that on this side of the House we think our kids are really important. We think our teachers and school staff do the most amazing job. We think our parents who rely on us to promise those futures for our kids deserve the best. How about the Premier ditches that education minister and gives the member for Moggill the job he always wanted and let us get on with it.

Cyclone Alfred, Recovery; GST Methodology Review Report

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.03 pm): I am pleased to inform the House that work to reconnect all Queenslanders impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred is ahead of schedule, with 96.6 per cent of all impacted customers—some 483,000 Queenslanders—now reconnected. In fact, since yesterday alone, electricity has been restored to more than 17,000 customers across South-East Queensland. The scale of restoration efforts cannot be understated. Energex has patrolled more than 9,000 kilometres of network in response to Tropical Cyclone Alfred—the equivalent of driving to Perth and back—across areas such as Tallebudgera Valley, Currumbin Valley, Burleigh Heads and Palm Beach, which required extensive network replacement rather than simply network repairs.

Reports suggest that at least two million Queenslanders were impacted by Cyclone Alfred's network outages, not to mention countless businesses and not-for-profits. We thank Energex and Ergon crews who have worked tirelessly—some under extreme conditions—to achieve this result. These crews have not stopped—first in responding to the North and Far North Queensland floods and now in responding to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. I can tell the House firsthand how hard they have been working, having seen the sheer scale of the job just in my electorate at the front of Mudgeeraba Creek State School where a power pole was snapped clean in half. That took out power to the school and hundreds of residents in the area, but thanks to the committed Energex and Ergon crews the kids are back at school and residents in that pocket have their power back.

For the 17,000 South-East Queenslanders who remain without electricity, please be assured that restoration work continues and work will not stop until all homes are reconnected. The Energex restoration plan estimates that all outstanding households will be reconnected over the weekend, including in the Currumbin Valley, Tallebudgera Valley and my area in Springbrook. I thank the Minister for Energy for working so hard to make sure that is occurring. For Queenslanders who were affected by flooding or structural damage, Energex advises that a licensed electrical contractor must inspect the wiring to ensure it is safe to reconnect supply. It is also important that Queenslanders continue to report any fallen powerlines to triple-0 and remain clear of fallen powerlines.

With the remainder of my time and in my capacity as Minister for Finance, I wish to briefly echo the earlier comments of my colleague the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership in response to the shocking news that the Commonwealth Grants Commission has recommended that more than \$5 billion of GST revenue be stripped from our state, including \$2.4 billion next year. The commission proposes these funds be instead sent to New South Wales and Victoria. Queenslanders do not deserve to miss out because of the poor planning of other states. The federal Labor Treasurer, Queensland Jim Chalmers, should be protecting the livelihoods of his fellow Queenslanders but he is ripping the rug out from underneath us. The Crisafulli government will continue to advocate for Queensland—


Mr McCallum: Mr Speaker—

Ms BATES:—and we are calling on the Commonwealth government to act in Queensland's best interests and dismiss this unacceptable—

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I remind members that they should cease speaking when their time is up. Also, member for Bundamba, you rose to your feet and sought the call before the member's time had lapsed so I caution you against that.


Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.07 pm): It is more than a little galling to follow a member of the LNP government who was talking about energy matters because this is someone who was part of the Newman government that tried to privatise our entire energy system. They absolutely wanted to tear it to bits. Queenslanders, whether they are energy workers or Queensland homes and businesses, know all too well the terrible legacy the LNP have left in this state when it comes to an energy policy. Last time they were in government, there were 43 per cent increases in power prices to homes and businesses. Yesterday we had news from the independent Australian Energy Regulator that Queenslanders are now staring down the barrel of at least a 5.8 per cent increase to bills for struggling homes and businesses. That equates to over \$120 a year to every bill in Queensland. That is the legacy of the brand new LNP Crisafulli government.

The Premier stood up sure and proud during the election campaign and said, 'Bills will go down under my government.' The Premier gave a commitment that energy rebates and cost-of-living assistance would continue for Queenslanders. Well, both of those promises have been broken and both of those promises have been found out to be a complete sham. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, we have a government which has delivered a kick to Queensland families who were already down and struggling under the rising cost of living.

Not only have they cut rebates; they have cut job-creating energy projects that would have lowered prices—projects like the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro storage and the green hydrogen CQ-H2 project in Central Queensland. These are regional jobs cut under the LNP. They have started the 'LNP speak' when it comes to other job-creating, generational energy projects like CopperString and Borumba. The LNP 'speak-ometers' really wound up and they are talking about saving the project. We all know what that means. It means privatisation and it means cuts. In this LNP Crisafulli government we have a government which has no plan for energy in Queensland. Queensland is a state with a government that has no plan to bring down power prices and no plan for the future of our energy system, only empty and broken promises.

Weather Events, Response

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.10 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the devastation caused by Cyclone Alfred. As a North Queensland, I fully understand the anxiety and despair that came with its delayed arrival as well as the overwhelming uncertainty everyone faced in the lead-up. The anticipation

of disaster is always difficult, but it is the courage and strength of our community that carries us through these moments. I witnessed firsthand the incredible work of so many dedicated individuals, and many of them are in this room today.

I must once again highlight the extraordinary leadership of the Premier. His resilience, especially coming off the back of the recent disaster in North Queensland, shows remarkable determination. The Premier, being an Ingham boy, has a deep understanding of cyclones and the unique challenges we face in the north. His leadership during this crisis has been a beacon of strength for the community. Once again, the hard work of our first responders and SES must be acknowledged. The tireless efforts in ensuring the safety of our people are invaluable, and we owe them our deepest gratitude.


Today I want to remind all North Queenslanders that they have not been forgotten. Our locals are still feeling the effects of their flooding loss and disruption to our daily lives. We are still with them every step of the way. The Crisafulli LNP government remains firmly on the ground in the north, working diligently on our recovery efforts. Just last week I had the privilege of meeting with the State Recovery Coordinator and his team, who visited us in Thuringowa to listen to our experiences, and we spoke about what we could improve on.

In the true spirit of the north, we continue to see locals helping locals—attitude in action. Goods continue to arrive daily at places like Willow Shopping Centre and other local outlets to make sure the north receives the vital supplies it needs. North Queensland's recovery journey serves as a powerful example of how adversity can bring communities together, foster innovation and highlight the importance of planning for the future. As the region continues to rebuild and grow stronger, it is clear that North Queensland is not just recovering; it is emerging more resilient than ever.

North Queenslanders, we should all take immense pride in how we handle these incredibly difficult times. We continue to show our resilience, adaptability and unwavering commitment to coming together after each disaster. The lessons we learn, the improvements we make to our systems and the strength we demonstrate after every event have equipped us with invaluable knowledge. This knowledge, our leadership and our resilience are what we now offer to South-East Queenslanders. We have shared our experience and expertise with them, just as we have always stood together through the toughest of times.

To everyone, regardless of where you live in Queensland: the LNP Crisafulli government are there with you—before, during and, more importantly, now after the event—when you need us the most.

Community Safety

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.13 pm): I rise today to speak about safety. Every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe and to be safe. Community safety is a paramount concern right across Queensland. In October last year, Queenslanders voted for a change approach, albeit from a slogan that those opposite introduced. David Crisafulli told Queenslanders, particularly those in Townsville and Cairns, that crime would drop by Christmas. Well, it did not. The people of Townsville—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the member for Gladstone using correct titles.

Ms Boyd: Frivolous.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under the standing orders. I will not tolerate commentary while I am taking advice or making a ruling. Member for Gladstone, you did refer to the Premier by his personal name. I remind you of the need to refer to members by their correct titles.


Mr BUTCHER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The people of Townsville were told the LNP's new laws would see crime drop across Queensland. It has not. In fact, crime in Townsville is rising, with 7,555 crimes recorded in the first two months of 2025. That is more than 200 over the same period last year. Even with the flooding event, the region recorded 126 unlawful use of motor vehicle offences in Townsville in the month of February alone. That is more than in January and a 12 per cent increase in February compared to the same time last year. What do the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa have to say about this spike in crime? What do those members have to say to their communities about the broken promises made by their leader? The LNP and their botched laws have failed Queenslanders.

Not only are these laws failing Queenslanders but also this week we have heard how the LNP scrapped the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council under the cover of Cyclone Alfred, reminiscent of the days when the Newman government—some of the same people are still sitting opposite—axed

the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee under the cover of darkness. They are doing it again. The IMAC was an advisory body set up to support victims, made up of experts and people with lived experience.

This LNP government have no shame at all when it comes to talking to the people of Far North Queensland. It makes you wonder why they scrapped this advisory body. Is it as retribution because that body did not agree with their signature laws of Adult Crime, Adult Time? The Premier rushed through these laws, despite experts like IMAC and many others saying it would have unintended consequences. Guess what? It certainly has had unintended consequences. The LNP are not interested in listening to the experts, and they certainly are not interested in keeping Queenslanders safe, particularly in Far North Queensland—in Townsville and in Cairns.

Cooper, Ms R; Doherty, Ms B; Wallace, Ms D


 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.16 pm): I am pleased, in this House, to congratulate Rebecca Cooper, our Australian Citizen of the Year for Mackay Regional Council, who has been the driving force behind the Northern Beaches Community Network and the Northern Beaches Playgroup. Our Northern Beaches community is one of the fastest growing communities in the state and particularly in the Mackay Regional Council area, with lots of young families. Rebecca has been a tremendous advocate for our community, but what she has done, most importantly, is deliver place-based connections and community development. I am pleased to be sponsoring Rebecca at the Queensland Volunteering Conference. I know that the member for Mackay is sponsoring a local champion as well. We look forward to hearing the outcomes.

It is with great sadness that our community mourns the loss of Bridgeen Doherty. Bridgeen was the light in the room, a fierce advocate for ovarian cancer who bravely shared the story of her symptoms, which were nearly non-existent, as many women also confront what is a terrible disease. Bridgeen went on to be the ambassador of the Trudy Crowley Foundation which does a lot across my community in Mackay and the Whitsundays for those suffering with not just ovarian cancer but all types of cancer. Bridgeen was also the long-term executive assistant to the CEO of Mackay Regional Council. I had the great privilege of working with Bridgeen throughout her career and also got to work with her daughter, Lassara. My sincere condolences to her daughter and to her family. She has been a loss to our community.

Another great woman from my community is Dorne Wallace. Dorne Wallace was a social justice advocate and a community development champion—a woman of tenacity who was never afraid to share her views, which were strong, as an advocate for our region, particularly when it came to social and community development.

Dorne was integral in the transition and transformation of the Regional Council for Social Development. I had the great privilege of working with Dorne, particularly post COVID, helping not-for-profit organisations across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday communities with business continuity planning post COVID, before I entered this House. She also was part of the leadership team as a volunteer committee member at Kalyan house, for many years fighting for more funding for youth homelessness across the Mackay region. Dorne kept her illness private from our community. She will be a great loss and my condolences to Stephen and her family.

Cape York World Heritage Listing


 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.19 pm): Cape York is a special place. Spanning almost 15 million hectares, Cape York Peninsula's geology spans the development of the Australian continent since the Precambrian and the resulting land surfaces support remarkable diversity of flora and fauna habitat—some found nowhere else in the world. Some parts of Cape York Peninsula, such as the Coleman Plateau, are considered to have changed little since their development in the Jurassic period. Of course it is not only home to spectacular landscapes but also important cultural places and stories that span generations. Rock art, most notably throughout the sandstone Laura Basin date to 17,000 years ago with evidence of occupation at these sites dated to 34,000 years ago.

As the former environment minister, I sat at the foot of that rock art with elders and it was a privilege to see it through their eyes and to listen to their stories. It is a privilege that I hope my children one day experience; it is a privilege that I hope all future generations might have the opportunity to experience. That is why last year I stood alongside the traditional owners and the federal government to add the cultural landscapes of Cape York Peninsula to Australia's Tentative World Heritage List. That

day, standing alongside elders representing Kulla, Olkola, Wuthathi, Quinkan, Oyala Thumotang, Alwal and Ma'alpiku country, was a special day that was over 15 years in the making. A day to give effect to their voices, their will, on their lands—not mine, not ours—theirs; a day that followed an extensive period of consultation and public information sessions across the community.

Imagine my surprise to read the media commentary of the LNP environment minister only months after taking over the reins declaring he was going to review the process as, in his words, 'there was no indication adequate consultation and consideration had taken place'. Here's a tip: ask your department for the evidence. They ran the consultation process. This from a minister who when he was last in the portfolio in the feted Newman years said they did not support World Heritage listing for the cape because we had previously 'overconsulted', yet now it is because we have 'not consulted enough'—so which is it? It is not adding up and I will tell you why. The real reason the LNP do not want the cape listed is they want the cape open for business—not the kind of business that draws in tourists from around the world, creates jobs and instils a further appreciation for the biodiversity the cape is home to but open for broadscale clearing, open for mining, open for logging, open to line the pockets of the mates who line theirs, running roughshod over traditional owner wishes. Queensland's natural assets should not be up for sale and those opposite should come clean about their real agenda.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Games On! Program


 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.23 pm): We want to ensure all Queenslanders enjoy the legacy benefits that come from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane in 2032. That is why, prior to the election, we announced the \$250 million Games On! program to invest in community sports infrastructure right across the state. Games On! will build enthusiasm and pride for the games no matter where you live. We believe in the transformative power of sport to support kids' physical and mental health and to deter at-risk youth from crime and violence. Games On! is a community Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy fund aimed at boosting participation in grassroots sport right across Queensland in the lead-up to 2032 and beyond. This program will ensure local clubs will benefit from clubhouse or canteen upgrades, new change room facilities, lighting or new fields in courts. We want to ensure the Olympic legacy is felt right across this state.

We want children, like the students we have here today in the gallery, no matter where they live in this state to be able to point to facilities in their local area with pride and say, 'We got that because we got the Olympic and Paralympic Games'. Then in the future, when they have reached the pinnacle of their sport, they may look back and say, 'It all started here in my local club.' So far we have committed to more than 125 projects and we will deliver on every single one of them—no matter where that commitment was made and whether it was made by a successful candidate or an unsuccessful LNP candidate.

Labor's track record on investment in sport was nothing short of shambolic. During the election campaign, our Games On! commitments had Labor members scrambling across the state to match our commitments. Let's take the Pine Rivers Football Club for example. The club has been approaching the member for Pine Rivers for years. She has ignored their needs and abandoned hardworking volunteers. Then during the 2024 state election campaign, the LNP committed \$3.8 million to upgrade the change rooms that were left derelict by the member for Pine Rivers. It is only after that commitment that the member for Pine Rivers scurried back to that club to make a last-ditch effort. Now she has the temerity to get on Facebook and claim she is the one who is delivering it. We had the member for Aspley scurrying to make a commitment to the Aspley Hornets after we made a commitment there. Then we have the member for Stafford who has left the Stafford Brothers Junior Rugby League Football Club in the dark for years by not providing lights because that's what they do at football clubs—they leave them in the dark. We will deliver on that promise, as well.

The Games On! program is all about Olympic and Paralympic legacy so that people in our communities can have sporting facilities that will encourage young people to be involved in sport and to become the Olympians and the Paralympians of the future.

Sports Funding

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.26 pm): I would like to use this opportunity to advocate for my local Rugby League club, the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club. At the last election I made a commitment on behalf of the Labor Party that, should we be re-elected, we would provide \$3 million towards their clubhouse. Unfortunately those opposite did not match it, but I plead with the sport minister

to back this local club. I hope that the Games On! infrastructure fund that he was just discussing is distributed equally across the state, and that clubs like the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club have the opportunity to apply for that funding because they are in desperate need of that funding and they know there are many strong advocates for them.

I would also like to take the opportunity to say that when it comes to sports, LNP cuts are on the way. Labor's extended FairPlay voucher is at risk with those opposite, and it is not just the *Courier-Mail* that has identified this today. There is an article in the paper today about Labor's FairPlay vouchers not being supported by those opposite, but I have heard from organisations which have met with multiple ministers on that side and when specifically asked about whether the FairPlay vouchers will be extended those ministers have not committed to that. I have also heard from sporting organisations that have spoken to their local LNP MP advocating for the FairPlay vouchers to be extended and been told, 'No, it is probably not going to happen.'

Labor's extended FairPlay vouchers are making a huge difference to ensuring young people can get into sport and making a huge difference when it comes to assisting families with the cost of living. They are an enormous mechanism for ensuring young people are involved in sport and are a very strong and proud initiative of the previous government. Not only did it increase the value of the FairPlay voucher from \$150 to \$200 but, most importantly, the eligibility was increased—that was the critical component. So I am pleading with the LNP government on behalf of all of the kids who play sport in the Morayfield state electorate: please keep Labor's extended FairPlay voucher scheme. It makes a huge difference to them, a huge difference to their families, and a huge difference to local sporting clubs. One of the best ways we can support young people to lead positive lives is to get them in sport, keep them occupied and support their families with the cost of doing that.

Gregor, Ms R



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.29 pm): It is with deep sadness that we reflect in the House today on the passing of Roslyn Gregor. Today, I honour a remarkable life and a legacy of a woman whose dedication, passion and tireless commitment to her community has left a lasting impact on Nanango and the wider South Burnett region. A lady who can be blamed for having me here in the chamber today. She was always very encouraging of me.


Ros was a woman of action, a community builder and a quiet achiever whose work has shaped the heart of our region. In 2011 she was rightfully recognised as the South Burnett Citizen of the Year, an honour that only begins to reflect the depth of her contribution. Her legacy can be seen all around us, from the formation of the Nanango Historical Society to the transformation of the incredible Ringsfield House into a museum and cultural precinct and the purchase of the former Nanango Masonic lodge building for community use. These were not just projects; they were acts of vision and love for her home town. In 2016 Ros helped ensure that our history was not lost to time when I worked with her on the relocation of two historic Nanango Hospital buildings to the Nanango Showground, preserving an important chapter in our region's healthcare story.

Ros's commitment to public service was unwavering. She was first elected to the Nanango shire council in 1991, serving as deputy mayor from 1994 to 1997 and again from 2000 to 2004. She brought intelligence and compassion to everything she did and I certainly valued her guidance and support in my early years as the member for Nanango. Ros served as the president of the Nanango Historical Society. She was a committee member on the South Burnett health council and a life member of the great Nanango Show Society. She gave her time, her heart and her hands to many causes.

Ros also worked alongside her partner, Lenny Bochmann, on many community projects, particularly through the Nanango Historical Society and Ringsfield House. Together they were a formidable force for good for our region. In 2015 Ros was honoured with the naming of the Ros Gregor Nature Walk at Tipperary Flat, Nanango, which is now the home of Ros Gregor Park Run, a fitting tribute that continues to bring people together in the spirit of community and wellbeing.

Ros leaves behind a rich legacy but, importantly, she leaves behind a loving family: her children, Andrew, Genevieve and Meredith, and, of course, her partner, Len. To them and their families I extend my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences. Ros Gregor was a pillar of our community and her legacy will live on through the places she helped create, the history she preserved and the lives she touched.

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.32 pm): We know that in late January the LNP started their public campaign to kill rail on the Sunshine Coast via their proxy LNP group Sunshine Coast 2032. This is the group that wants to sell off parts of the CAMCOS corridor to developers and replace rail with buses. A report on the ABC from 29 January states—

Jarrold Blejje has thrown doubt on the promise he made during the election campaign to extend a rail line to Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast in time for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

He seized on a submission to the government's 100-day Games review that claimed the cost of the project could blow out from \$12 billion to more than \$20b.

Initially I thought this was just the member for Kawana freewheeling in his new-found power and status, making up figures on the fly, but it looks like the transport minister has also been up to his neck in it all along. The now published ministerial diaries reveal the minister met the group Sunshine Coast 2032 on 9 January, the day before submissions closed on the games 100-day review.

Taking a step back, the business case finalised last year has rail to Maroochydore costing \$12 billion, but the Deputy Premier now says it is \$20 billion. Did the minister challenge this group on the \$20 billion figure that the Deputy Premier has been flaunting? If not, why not? The minister and the Deputy Premier definitively know that the \$20 billion figure is wrong because we learned it on 5 February this year at a committee hearing, when I directly asked the minister's department. With regard to the cost of the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line they said it had not changed. The minister's own director-general went on to say—

... but I cannot advise the committee at this time of anything fundamentally different from the estimates we had at hand.


There is no increase from \$12 billion to \$20 billion, according to the minister's own department. I will cut them some slack. If the figure cannot be confirmed from the transport department, maybe it came from the Deputy Premier's own department. I asked the Deputy Premier's hand-picked director-general and he said—

I am saying that we are not in the business of supplying to the Deputy Premier the cost of rail projects.

The Deputy Premier and the minister have been caught out peddling false information to the media and the public. They are all at sea on the Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line. Imagine striving for a decade to be a minister or a deputy premier from the Sunshine Coast only to start work once you get in the job to kill the biggest infrastructure project, the biggest transport project the region has ever seen.

The LNP need to come clean to Sunshine Coast locals and admit they misled them during the last election campaign. They never had any intention of delivering rail to Maroochydore. It is a sham and they should hang their heads in shame. What a disgrace. This new transport minister is gearing Queensland up for cutting this project that is much needed. This minister has not turned a sod or cut a ribbon on one single transport project since becoming minister but he has had more than 10 press conferences complaining about how hard his job is. There is no sympathy from Queenslanders sitting in traffic all thinking the same thing: do your job.

Chinchilla Hospital

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.35 pm): Today I am going to talk about the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. As many members may know, I have spent a lot of time in this House talking about rural health, especially when it comes to rural maternity failures from the former Labor government and the former minister for women, who failed the women in the bush and failed the women in my communities with the never-ending bypasses, which were really closures, of maternity services. Importantly, the Chinchilla community has been wondering what is happening with the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. I am happy to stand in the House today—I have been working with the minister and the minister's office on many health projects across Callide including this one—and place on the record what is happening with this important project.


The Chinchilla Hospital is an incredibly important facility in my home town and what is the largest town in the electorate of Callide. As they did with many rural towns, Labor also turned their back on this one. Former minister Fentiman was under pressure because of cuts to local services, such as the maternity services in rural and regional Queensland, and made what we have now uncovered to be a completely hollow promise with regard to the Chinchilla Hospital. This was done to try to cover up the excessive amount of chaos and crisis we were seeing from the Labor government.

Even though Labor promised a new hospital upgrade a full year ago, with concept planning phases to have commenced at the same time, come the election and nearly a year on these concept plans had not been finished. Of course, construction was also meant to have started by now. We walked in and asked some questions as to what was happening. We also sought an independent review of the Capacity Expansion Program and the Sustaining Capital Program, the latter of which inappropriately funded projects like the Chinchilla Hospital project. We have since been determining how we can save these programs that were simply being failed by Labor.

Ultimately, you cannot build a project if there is no money for it. We have found out that, while construction was meant to start, Labor left no money in the budget for it. That is what we inherited for the community of Chinchilla. Nonetheless, we have since completed the concept design because the LNP are getting on with the job of delivering health facility upgrades for Queenslanders. The next step will be to undertake schematic design, procurement planning and community consultation because, ultimately, we listen to Queenslanders and take them on the journey with us. We will properly consult with the community to inform the project's delivery.

To the Chinchilla community I say: we will work with you and we will deliver the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. At this stage the redevelopment is planned to be completed sometime in 2026. I am looking forward to continuing to work with the minister to complete this important hospital upgrade.

Mitchelton Youth Club


 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (2.38 pm): The Mitchelton Youth Club in Ferny Grove is the premier gymnastics club in Brisbane's north-west and at present it hosts five of the six Olympic gymnastics principals. Today it is home to more than 800 young gymnasts across many feeder suburbs. Unfortunately, the clubhouse is so old and damaged it faces an uncertain future.

In 2022 the club suffered major damage in the rain and flooding event. Later that year the Labor government—and I want to put on record my appreciation to the member for Cairns—provided a \$675,000 grant to the club to replace its damaged roof. When the department inspected the clubhouse to plan the repairs, they learned that the entire facility needed to be replaced rather than repaired. I have been working closely with Rebecca Hack, the Labor candidate for the seat of Ryan, to secure adequate funding to ensure the club's future. At present the clubhouse does not have compliant ceiling heights, toilets or disability access.

With the Olympics just around the corner, now is not the time to backflip on the future of this sport in our community. On 1 August last year I note that the member for Everton—I am pleased that he is in the chamber and I take on board his comments today in his contribution—and now Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games visited the Mitchelton Youth Club for a photo op. Later that week the LNP promised \$250,000 for a business case to upgrade the Mitchelton Youth Club, so it is on the record that the member is going to provide that funding. I look forward to seeing that delivered and not another backflip from the LNP, yet to date the Crisafulli government has not even warmed up. It is still sitting on its hands and the club has not received the funding to progress the planning or business case for the future it desperately needs.

I had the opportunity on Tuesday to speak to Kate from the club to check on any flooding. I also want to thank the Ryan Labor candidate Rebecca Hack and Senator Anthony Chisholm who visited Kate and checked on their wellbeing and the situation at the clubhouse. Not far from the clubhouse is the Gallipoli Barracks in my electorate. I want to put on record my appreciation for the conversation I had with Brigadier Cornelia with respect to my concerns about the wellbeing of the ADF personnel who were injured in that serious accident near Lismore. They are sappers from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment and I know that they are doing what they are trained for—that is, to help Australians out in difficult times of natural disasters. My well wishes and those of everyone in the chamber goes to them and their families for a speedy recovery.

Moggill Electorate, Cyclone Alfred

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.41 pm): The community response to the recent circumstances of Tropical Cyclone Alfred has been nothing short of remarkable. Queensland has again demonstrated why it stands as a national leader in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. In the electorate of Moggill there was significant preparation work undertaken in relation to potential isolation, as well as service and infrastructure impacts. Throughout the evolving severe weather circumstances of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, I remained in regular contact with our various local emergency services, schools and


community organisations to ensure the safety of all local residents and the timely communication of emergent issues to various government agencies and the resolution of specific community safety matters.

I wish to acknowledge some of the many outstanding local residents and emergency service personnel for their dedication and commitment to our community throughout this event, including Alison Clark, group leader of the Moggill Group SES; Inspector Corey Allen, Chief Inspector of the Queensland Police Service's inner-west patrol group; Senior Constable Chris Tetley; Senior Sergeant Lee Fortune, officer in charge of the Karana Downs police station; Senior Sergeant Shane Hancock, officer in charge of the Indooroopilly police station; Dan Bloor, officer in charge of the Pinjarra Hills Ambulance Station; Tahryn Kellie, officer in charge of the Kenmore Ambulance Station; Queensland Fire Department Assistant Commissioner Kevin Reading; members of the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade; Dr Cath Hester of the Colleges Crossing Family Practice; those community members such as Mark Smeaton leading and facilitating the 4070 Community Disaster and Coordination Group as well as others involved in the Karana Downs Region Disaster Community Support group; and Councillor Greg Adermann, councillor for the Pullenvale Ward, and Councillor Penny Wolff, councillor for the Walter Taylor Ward.

I am pleased to say that there have been noticeably significant improvements in disaster preparations as well as collaboration and coordination between agencies and various levels of government following the 2022 severe weather and flood event as well as the Brisbane flood of 2011. The much required new Mount Crosby vehicle bridge, now known as Explorers Bridge, has also provided better resilience and continued access to residents of the western part of my electorate. I also acknowledge the importance of facilitating our Mount Crosby State School as a planned community support hub along with our Moggill SES facility at Anstead also being a base for enhanced community responsiveness as a part of Brisbane City Council's disaster planning processes. I also want to acknowledge the significant planning for Chapel Hill and Kenmore, as well as Brookfield and Upper Brookfield, and I certainly know that local power outage issues have been substantial as a part of the broader loss of power for 300,000 residents across South-East Queensland.

To those on the front line, to every volunteer and to every Queenslanders who has extended a helping hand, we say thank you. Your efforts remind us that, while we may face adversity, we do so together, united as Queenslanders.

Gambling


 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.44 pm): I have been approached by several constituents voicing their concerns regarding the detrimental impact of problem gambling but more specifically poker machines. Raised as a major concern was the easy access to these devices and the fact that unlimited amounts of money can be ploughed into them. We all know that problem gambling can threaten health, leading to increased incidents of mental illness, suicide, low self-esteem, stress, anxiety and depression. Results from a representative national sample state that a concerning percentage of Australian parents with dependent children are classified as problem gamblers and children of problem gamblers are at risk of harm. We also know that problem gambling drives poverty by diverting household spending on essential goods and services. The impact of this on growing families and children should be hugely concerning to each and every one of us in this chamber and across this state.

Gambling can be an addiction just like drugs or alcohol. Unfortunately as a nation, according to the official government research, we now lead the world when it comes to gambling. Incredible as it may seem, Australians lose more than \$25 billion a year on legal forms of gambling, representing the largest per capita losses in the world. What a great place to be such a world loser! Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety released new research looking into the relationship between gambling and domestic violence. Although gambling does not initiate domestic violence, a recent study reports it undoubtedly exacerbates it.

I note that there is already action from some state governments in addressing those concerning statistics. The Victorian government has introduced strict limits on how much money can be loaded into an individual poker machine. From next December, the amount of money people can load into a machine in Victoria at any one time will be reduced from \$1,000 to \$100. In Tasmania a mandatory precommitment card is needed to use any poker machine in the state, with the loss limited to \$100 a day, and in New South Wales the government is considering similar measures but is further ahead on implementation. It recently concluded a cashless gaming trial and is currently considering 30 recommendations from a 530-page report. The New South Wales government reduced the amount of cash that could be inserted into a poker machine at any given time from \$5,000 to \$500 last July. Like

a number of my constituents, I am very keen to hear what this LNP government is going to do to protect families and protect young people from serious problem gambling. It is a major issue across our community, it needs to be acknowledged and it needs to be addressed.

Mulgrave Electorate

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (2.47 pm): A big shout-out to the Gordonvale RSL club. It has been around eight years now and the members of Gordonvale's cash-strapped RSL club continue with their refurbishment of the Gordon Street hall, which was condemned by engineers in 2017. In 1953 the site was set aside by the diggers to be hallowed ground for veterans forever. That is why they are fighting to save this hall. Currently, the Gordon Street hall cannot be hired out for functions as a source of income until major repairs are completed, hence the Gordonvale RSL subbranch is undertaking a major renovation of the hall. To this end, I want to thank the Premier and Minister for Veterans for recently supporting this quest through a \$125,000 grant for electrical upgrades. The work can now roll on. Ninety per cent of this refurbishment work is volunteered every Saturday morning by members whose average age is 75. They have members who are painters, carpenters, electricians and steelworkers helping. They will require more funding to complete this million-dollar refurb, as sausage sizzles just do not cut the mustard anymore. I wish them well and look forward to assisting the subbranch with finalising this refurbishment.


Yesterday there was a lot of discussion about 50-cent fares. Members, spare a thought for the discrete Aboriginal community of Yarrabah in my electorate which is 30 kilometres from Gordonvale and yet still does not have a public transport system for residents to easily travel to the nearest affordable supermarket in Gordonvale or Cairns, 52 kilometres away, to access the commercial, social and health services they require. Yarrabah has a relatively new multimillion dollar public jetty. It is 2½ years old. At the opening the previous member said—

As Queensland's largest Indigenous community, it was important that the area had the right access and could capitalise on the economic opportunities of the region.

As the new member, I was thinking of an ecotourism venture or maybe a future public ferry service to Cairns to take advantage of the 50-cent fares, but that was not to be. Even though it was built on time and on budget by the previous Labor government, it is not fit for purpose. It is not long enough to access deep water and is not suitable for large vessels, only small dinghy access. It is now a very expensive fishing jetty—another Labor legacy. To this end, Kinetic, Australia's biggest bus operator, is planning the Yarrabah community bus pilot proposal, which will trial—

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.50 pm): I note that the Minister for Sport did not mention Easts Rugby Union in his contribution. I am not surprised, because it probably represents I would not say the first LNP cut, but it is certainly up there. They did not bother to fund Labor's election commitment; they went for the bargain basement, el cheapo LNP commitment. They got that out the door quickly, but there is a chance for the member for Everton to reverse that very first cut and fully fund Easts Rugby Union club—right after he gets finished funding the Caboolture Snakes and every other commitment that has been made by this side of the House.


I have appreciated the opportunity to get back out and visit many health facilities in my role as the assistant shadow health minister. I have been to Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Balmoral, Mount Gravatt, Kedron Park, Charleville, Mitchell and Roma, and I want to thank all of the staff and volunteers who have taken the time to meet me and show me the work they are so passionate about. I particularly want to thank the Murweh Shire Mayor, Shaun 'Zoro' Radnedge, who made sure I met with staff and students at the local UQ nurse training school, local GPs and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service and gave me a meeting room to catch up with the QNMU and other union reps. He might be a butcher by trade, but he understands more about the health issues for his region than a lot of health professionals and certainly a lot more than the nasty, low-blowing, bitter, twisted health minister we saw in action this morning. I was sad that the health minister did not let me visit the Charleville Hospital or the nursing home. Members will notice from that list that I did not go to the Charleville Hospital or the nursing home, because I was not allowed in there.

Mr Fumer: What are they hiding?

Mr J KELLY: That is a very good question, member for Ferny Grove. What are they trying to hide? What is going on in the Charleville Hospital that it was so dangerous for me to go in there and have a chat to the staff and look at the great work they are doing? Perhaps I would have seen evidence of the impacts of the rural health workforce attraction scheme being cut and what that means for country towns like Charleville. This is a government that says it will get on top of midwifery services in regional Queensland. How are they going to do that if they cut one of the very things that brings people to these country towns? That is a very good question.

I see the local member shrugging her shoulders. She does not know how to answer that question. When I met the people in her electorate they certainly wanted an answer to that question. Cutting that service does not give them an answer. We should not be surprised they do not want us in there. We have seen the great work the shadow minister has done visiting so many facilities. What we have seen so far—cutting pill testing and gender clinic services, with blatant disregard for the evidence, pandering to the far right, not caring about young people; reduced hours at nurse-led clinics; playing games with mother and baby mental health beds; and pausing hospital expansion programs—shows there are no cuts that this government is not capable of.

Pumicestone Electorate, Cyclone Alfred

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise today with immense pride to speak about the resilience and kindness of the Pumicestone electorate during ex-Cyclone Alfred. In the face of adversity I witnessed an incredible community spirit: neighbours helping neighbours, young people stepping up and businesses offering support without hesitation. Kenzie, a young local, spent her day filling sandbags for older residents; Steven used the surf club van to deliver sandbags to Woorim caravan park; and businesses like Bribie Sand and Gravel generously gave away free sand. These are just a few examples of the countless people who not only prepared themselves but also went out of their way to prepare others. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in our community who took the warning seriously and prepared for the storm. A special thanks to the Moreton Bay council, led by Mayor Peter Flannery, for their exceptional work in ensuring our region was ready and well supported in recovery efforts. Without the teamwork and coordination from both council and state government, Pumicestone could have faced prolonged power outages, blocked roads and all of the other challenges that come with a tropical cyclone.


I would also like to acknowledge our men and women in blue, in particular Chief Superintendent Adam Guild, who kept me updated and led the doorknocking efforts, amongst other things, to ensure vulnerable residents were safe. Our SES crews, firefighters, health workers and volunteers are the real-life superheroes. Of course, a massive thank you goes to Energex, who worked tirelessly to restore power to thousands of homes across South-East Queensland. It was a stressful week and perhaps we were a little overprepared, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. Never again will I take for granted being in the eye of the storm.

While Pumicestone was fortunate, my heart goes out to communities further south and to Hervey Bay, where homes and businesses suffered severe flooding and damage. For those in Pumicestone who have experienced hardship, I want to remind you that personal hardship assistance is now available for eligible residents. This includes emergency payments of \$180 for individuals and up to \$900 for a family of five or more, grants that cover damaged whitegoods and loss of power, and income tested assistance for property structural repairs and the reconnection of services.

Unfortunately, I must express my disappointment that the opposition leader chose to use this disaster as a political opportunity, spreading unnecessary anxiety and fear. Moreton Bay's application for financial assistance was in the process of being submitted. It was submitted after Redlands and the Gold Coast because we were the last local government area affected. The people of Moreton Bay deserve support, not political pointscore. I commend the Premier for providing confidence and certainty to our communities during this time of need. Ron Nothman, a Bribie resident, shared his sentiments when he said—

The Premier has done an exemplary job. The Queensland government has handled this weather event perfectly. I've been through plenty of storms and have seen some woeful government stuff-ups, but not this time.

Noosa Electorate, Cyclone Alfred

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.56 pm): Last week saw the incredible resilience and tenacity of South-East Queensland communities. In Noosa we were fortunate, with Alfred giving us only a brief taste of what many other communities experienced for days. To fellow MPs in impacted electorates,

whether major or minor: our hearts went out to you and continue to. Most frustrating was that we were not able to assist while we were in the warning area ourselves. However, I know that our community will do everything we can in the coming weeks and months to assist.


There are so many to thank. To the Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers for police and disaster recovery: you have our deep gratitude for the fabulous job you did and continue to do as communities start to recover. Thanks also to our LDM group, led by Noosa council, of 35 members incorporating QPS, QAS, QFES, TMR, MSQ, QPWS, Queensland Health, Energex, Surf Life Saving, the state Reconstruction Authority and many more; our incredible volunteer emergency services of the SES and RFS; and, of course, the Lions who kept everyone fed at the refuge centre. Thank you to those sitting daily in meetings with us, BoM, Noosa Hospital hydrologists and more—all very organised, focused and selfless, with clear communication and patience for our many questions as we prepared for the worst. To Police Superintendent Craig Hawkins and the district disaster management group and the team's state emergency coordination centre: again, thank you.

To my fellow residents I express the biggest gratitude. You continued working throughout, whether as a nurse sleeping at our hospitals or a volunteer filling sandbags for days on end, tarping up roofs and feeding others. Noosa got ready, assisted neighbours and friends and checked on our vulnerable. You stayed off the roads, beaches and waterways which alleviated the demand on resources as well as potentially saving lives.

Commentary regarding an overreaction by government was very disappointing. Our community, having gone through the devastating 2019 fires and 2022 floods, knows the impact and heartbreak as well as the long recovery of households, businesses and infrastructure after a disaster. Being prepared for the worst will always be preferable to losses, especially of lives. Even with South-East Queensland having time to get ready, there were many near tragedies through the unpredictability of Alfred, so please give respect to all who have been impacted, those who volunteered and those on the front line by supporting their efforts.

With every disaster we learn more. Alfred demonstrated how good our systems are and where we can make improvements, including income support for non-salaried workers. How lucky we are to live in an era when earlier detection is possible. This would have saved thousands of Queenslanders' lives over the years if available back in time. I give my blessings and gratitude to all. To Alfred: we are very glad to see the back end of you.

Weather Events, Response

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (2.59 pm): So far this year, Mackay has been blessed to have avoided the devastation of any natural disaster. I bring to the attention of the House the fact that personnel from Mackay came down to the south-east corner to assist. When South-East Queensland recently faced the floods and the disaster that Alfred brought, it was heartening to see so many Mackay people step forward. Among them were 16 dedicated police officers who volunteered to travel south to assist their counterparts. Those officers showed true Queensland spirit, stepping up with much needed skills. I particularly acknowledge recently promoted Superintendent Dean Cavanagh, who was deployed to the Sunshine Coast. I know the people of South-East Queensland are grateful for the support they received from him and his team. I am informed that more police officers were willing to volunteer, some of whom had recently returned from the northern deployment.


In addition to police officers, Mackay's outstanding SES volunteers once again showed their unwavering commitment to serving our state. Eighty-five SES volunteers from Mirani, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Yeppoon and the Whitsundays have travelled south to provide vital assistance. Along with their colleagues from across the Central region, those volunteers have been working tirelessly in areas such as the Redlands, Oodgeroo, Capalaba, Redcliffe and Pumicestone. In addition to those dedicated officers, 12 staff manned disaster management coordination centres. Impressively, another group of SES volunteers are ready to deploy on Sunday to assist with the clean-up in this area. I extend my deepest gratitude to those volunteers, their families and their employers who have released them. I acknowledge their willingness to leave their homes and workplaces to help fellow Queenslanders.

As we approach the upcoming Easter holidays, I encourage Australians to visit Queensland. While South-East Queensland is open for business and eager to welcome visitors, so too is the Mackay and Whitsunday region. Our region is home to some of the most beautiful beaches, islands and natural wonders in the country. Whether you are seeking a relaxing camping holiday or a hotel, Mackay and the Whitsundays have a lot to offer. By choosing to spend your holiday in regional Queensland not only do you create wonderful memories with loved ones; you also support local businesses and communities.

The dedication of our emergency services personnel cannot be understated and the Mackay region makes a contribution to those efforts. I encourage everyone to keep our hardworking responders in their thoughts in the coming days as they serve our great state.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm): I advise the House of the determinations made today by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Health Legislation Amendment Bill by 2 May 2025; and that the Education, Arts and Communities Committee report on the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill by 2 May 2025.

MOTION

Access to Petition

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—
That, notwithstanding anything in standing orders, all necessary measures be put in place to ensure the current e-petition sponsored by the Clerk (4205-25), once it is closed and presented to the House—

- (a) will not be copied; and.
- (b) will be accessible for viewing only by members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly at the Table Office.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 520, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.04 pm), continuing: As I asked earlier today, why does it cost us so much to do things in Australia, and particularly here in Queensland? It will be a hallmark of this government if it can pull out some of this bureaucratic red tape, green tape—whatever you want to call it—to try to reduce the cost of projects such as CopperString 2.0 or CopperString 2032. Whatever its name, we can call it 'something that's not being done right now' because there is no construction. There is not one tower out of the ground, there is not one piece of steel to be seen and no concrete has been poured. People have to start asking: if we continue to see blowouts on projects, is it because of the cost of business or is it the cost of doing stuff through government departments or government owned agencies? Are there better ways of doing this?


We want to ensure that we own our Queensland assets. We want to ensure we own our roads, our bridges, our dams and our electrical network, but we have to find cheaper ways of doing it. We cannot keep going down a road where we end up with exacerbated prices before we have even started the project. We cannot let five years go by during which time the project cost doubles, quadruples or gets to five times the original estimated cost, otherwise we will never again build anything in the state. Maybe that is what some of the bureaucrats want. Maybe they do not want to build anything in the state, but I know that the KAP does and I know that people in this House do.

We have to find a way to continue to push this state and the nation forward without continued cost blowouts. If we do not, we will end up going backwards and Third World countries will start to pass Queensland, which is not what we want to see. We want to find ways to do things at an affordable price. We cannot keep going back to Treasury, the World Bank or wherever it is that the state gets its money

from on any given day to ask for money because for generations to come Queenslanders' hands will be in their back pockets to pay off those projects. We have to make sure that projects are being delivered efficiently, otherwise what will we do? We will not build anything in the state.

With the upcoming state budget, we will be putting forward a number of projects for the Hinchinbrook electorate. We need funding for projects at Dungeness. We also want to see funding for road projects along the Bruce Highway. We are hearing some good things from the state and federal governments through the Betterment Fund and we may actually see some of those improvements on the Bruce Highway. That is important not only for the people of Hinchinbrook but also to ensure that we can get freight up and down the highway. It is imperative that we can do that not only for nine or 10 months of the year but throughout the wet season. North Queensland has just gone through one of the most prolonged wet seasons and the Bruce Highway is not good enough.

We want to ensure that projects that are important for our health system, whether it is renal chairs, CT scanners or even hospital expansions, do not drag on for 10 years while we wait for someone to put a pen to paper before the project can go ahead. We love the fact that money gets allocated to them but, once again, where is the money being chewed up? We do not want the money chewed up with business cases. We do not want it chewed up through an allocation of funds so people can get the administration right on those things. We know those things are important, but they should not take up 20, 30 or 40 per cent of the project budget. We should be using the money that Queenslanders generate in the state to deliver projects on time, on budget and at an affordable price. I think that is the responsibility of all governments.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill. Basically, what happens at the beginning of every year is that the Treasurer makes an estimation of how much money the state will require for the following year. That is commonly called a budget. You have to be pretty good if, at the end of the year, you got it right. You have to be pretty good to have got it smack on.

We have these bills before the House and, to explain it to the newer people without being patronising—I am being patronising to that side because I know I have to speak slowly for them—they are about correcting any overexpenditure, which is inevitable. That is why we are here today to pass these bills. The amount of money that we are having to approve is not a small sum. It is actually \$1.132 billion, not \$1.132 million. Am I right, Treasurer?

Mr Janetzki: That's right. That's this one.

Mr MANDER: That is this one. That is the point. Thank you for that segue. We need to have a look at previous years to see how often the treasurer of the day has miscalculated, if you like, or misestimated. I want to go back to when we were last in government. When we were last in government, we did the budget for three years. In 2013-14, the underestimation was \$447 million.

Mrs Kirkland: The underestimate?

Mr MANDER: We underestimated the expenditure so we had to appropriate another \$447 million. That is a fairly significant sum as well. The year before—our first budget—the adjustment was \$63 million. Do not forget that the figure we are talking about now is \$1.13 billion. Let's go to our last budget. This figure is extraordinary. For our last budget, the supplementary appropriation was \$12 million. The treasurer at the time was the member for Clayfield. He did such a great job that we only had to appropriate another \$12 million in a budget of about \$60 billion.

Let's look at the former treasurer's record. This year it is \$1.13 billion. Last year it was \$1.34 billion. The year before that it was \$2.823 billion. He has had a good year with the \$450 million. If we go back another two years, it was \$1.1 billion and \$1.3 billion. The previous former treasurers obviously had no idea how to budget. This is supposed to be a slight adjustment, not billion dollar adjustments. Is it any wonder that the ratings agencies have come in—

Government members: Standard & Poor's.

Mr MANDER: Somebody has just mentioned Standard & Poor's. When talking about last year's budget, it said that the record \$9 billion of unforeseen expenditure comes as no surprise as the former Labor government had lost control of the budget and their spending. Everybody knew it. During the last few months of the Labor government, Standard & Poor's spoke of their waning and loose fiscal discipline which was eroding the buffer in Queensland's rating. This is the better description: the *Financial Review* called Labor's last budget a 'clown show'.

The now Treasurer warned everybody that this reckless spending by the previous government would put our credit rating at risk. Lo and behold, Standard & Poor's recently revised its outlook to negative, which is very worrying because it costs the state money which in turn costs taxpayers money. That is why this is so serious.

We had a treasurer who promised no new or increased taxes—that promise was made 26 times—and he collected \$70 billion more in revenue than he forecast in his first budget less than four years before. This figure is astonishing. That treasurer was so focused on self-promotion. I will tell another story to some of our newer members. After all the devastation of the Binna Burra area and the Binna Burra resort due to fires, the then treasurer was more focused on self-promotion than on making sure our books were balanced that he posted a photo of himself coming out of the parched and burnt forest—prim and proper, not one stain on him—holding the Binna Burra bell, and the caption read, 'We found the bell.' He did not say it was the volunteer firefighters or the paid firefighters but 'we found the bell'. He was grandstanding, like he always does. He was a treasurer focused on self-promotion and not on balancing the books.

If some of the newer members want some entertainment, they should look at the former treasurer's Facebook posts. He had a fixation with black-and-white photos of former American presidents. We all remember the very famous JFK—

Ms MULLEN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 236 in relation to relevance. I do not believe this has anything to do with the appropriation bills before us and I ask that the member be returned to the long titles of the bills.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I do agree with that point of order. Member for Everton, would you henceforth confine yourself to the matter contained in the bill.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will take your advice. For context, these photos were taken at budget time every year. After the budget there was a photo of him imitating JFK. This was a pose of JFK through the Berlin missile crisis and we have—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I have given you my guidance. I would ask you, please, to confine yourself to the long titles of the two cognate bills.

Mr MANDER: I will actually take that advice, but I have to correct what I said. It was obviously the Cuban missile crisis. I am getting that mixed up with the Berlin Blockade. There is no doubt that the former treasurer who is responsible for this overspend will go down in the history of Queensland parliament as the most irresponsible, incompetent treasurer.

Mr McDonald: We have a calm and confident treasurer now.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. In contrast, our current Treasurer is actually educated in finance and has addressed the issues and the challenges before him in a calm, cool and calculated manner—very measured. I know that this current Treasurer gives the financial markets and those in commercial operations around the state a great deal of confidence that we can control the budget.

We have respect for taxpayers' money. That is what we will show. We will not have the waste that we have had in the past. There is no greater example of that waste than the Wellcamp debacle up in Toowoomba. Was that in the Treasurer's electorate?

Mr Janetzki: Just outside.

Mr MANDER: It was in the electorate of the member for Condamine, the Speaker. That is the type of waste that the previous government was renowned for and it is simply not good enough. The result of that waste is that we now have to go through parliament and appropriate more money 12 months down the track. Thank goodness the adults have finally taken over. We have competent people—the Treasurer, the finance minister, the Premier and the Deputy Premier. We have a magnificent ministry backed up by unbelievable local members and assistant ministers, all the way up to the electorate of Cook. We have fantastic members.

This is necessary, unfortunately. We have to do this. I am very confident in the future because we now have a treasurer who is competent, who is in control and who will make sure that we respect taxpayers' money.

Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (3.19 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I wish to clarify some comments I made during the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. I referred to a quote from the current member for Murrumba as being the member for Murrumba in 2015. As many in the House would know, he was actually not the member for Murrumba at that point in time. I meant for those comments to be reflective of the current member for Murrumba.

We are here talking about the supplementary appropriation bill that is filling in a lot of the blanks as far as unforeseen expenditure is concerned. This is, I believe, the third time this has been done for the previous Labor government. This is Labor's last budget legacy that they have left Queensland from the Palaszczuk-Miles government era. Frankly, it is appalling to see the excessive blowouts. As someone who respects Queensland taxpayers' money, it is incredibly sad to see so many more blowouts on top of the previous blowouts and on top of the blowouts before those. There has been a long list of blowouts over the years, especially under former treasurer Dick.

The unforeseen expenditure in this supplementary appropriation bill is for in excess of budget amounts from \$1.1 billion to \$8 billion. The final component of Labor's record is a \$9 billion overspend for the last financial year. That is \$9 billion in overspend. I can tell members that there is a long list of projects that I could deliver for the community of Callide if I had \$9 billion.

Mrs Kirkland interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Rockhampton.

Ms Dooley interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Redcliffe, who is doing a fantastic job. I dare say she is the best member for Redcliffe this House has ever seen. The member for Rockhampton, who is right here beside me, is the best member for Rockhampton this House has ever seen. It is fantastic that we have an LNP member for Rockhampton who is part of team CQ.

A government member interjected.

Mr HEAD: The member for Maryborough, how could I forget you? I will do a roll call in a second. The member for Mundingburra is a fantastic member for Mundingburra.

We could deliver a list of projects in Callide with that \$9 billion. Some of those were actually meant to be funded in the budget, but they never happened. While this is not in the Callide electorate, it certainly relates to the Callide electorate. I speak of the Gladstone port access road. Since April 2019 there has been \$100 million in the budget from the federal government to upgrade the Gladstone port access road. Unfortunately, we cannot overspend on a project that has never started, even though it was supposed to start a long time ago.

The Biloela Hospital should have been included in that financial year, but the former minister for health never started to deliver on her promise in that space. Now that the LNP is in government we have started work on the Biloela Hospital upgrade. It is a fantastic project. I was there seeing the terrific team the other day. The former government made all these promises. Frankly, I do not know how they managed to blowout the budget so much so many times when all we saw in Callide was plenty of empty and hollow promises. I was talking in the House not too long ago about an upgrade to the Chinchilla Hospital and the failed promises from Labor.

Those opposite have been talking a lot about energy rebates for Queenslanders. I got my electricity bill from Ergon the other day. The previous government announced those energy rebates last financial year. Those opposite have been talking about those rebates in this debate. Their allegation is that we have apparently cut them. We cannot cut something that does not exist.

I was very shocked to see how expensive my electricity bill was. I know the cost of living is an incredibly big issue for Queensland and something that we talk about a lot and we hear many concerns about. Why was my electricity bill so big when both sides of the House supported the electricity rebate of the former government? The former treasurer had that payment up-front at the start of the financial year. It meant that in the lead-up to the election people were not paying a cent but in the back end of the year—which is now—people are getting their bills and a lot of the rebate is exhausted. The former Labor government's energy rebate policy means that Queenslanders are now seeing the highest electricity bills they have ever seen. That is due to the failures of the former Labor government in terms of our electricity system. We know about the excess blowouts in this bill with regard to electricity management and the many hoaxes that they were promising for Queenslanders.

A government member interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. We have seen the hydro hoax with Pioneer-Burdekin and the blowouts in relation to Borumba. I know the Treasurer and Minister for Energy is working incredibly hard to get those costs under control. We need to get those costs under control to get our power prices down.

Constituents are starting to contact me and asking about their electricity bills. The high bills that they are now seeing are as a direct consequence of the actions of the former Labor government and the way they set up those rebates. If those rebates were genuine cost-of-living relief for the future, they

would have funded them through the forward estimates—so they would have been funded beyond 30 June—and they would have been done in a way so that the rebate was spread over multiple bills. It was done to buy votes in the lead-up to election. We have inherited Labor's failures and now we are seeing ridiculously high electricity bills and, frankly, it is disgraceful.

What we also saw in that financial year from the transport department was the demolition of the little shed at the Gin Gin Driver Reviver, which is an incredibly important facility for that community. It was community funded and yet the former government demolished it. It was a community-funded project that the community loved and the community ran. There were many volunteers. I have been talking to them recently and they are still incredibly passionate about getting that facility reinstated. The former government bulldozed it. That is how they treated communities in Queensland. We know how important road safety is and yet the former government took community assets off people and bulldozed them. In Callide there is not exactly a long list that they did overspend on in that financial year because really the only things we saw them doing around the place was pushing things over that the community actually wanted and supported. That is realistically their legacy.

In his time as treasurer, former treasurer Dick received \$70 billion that in their early forecasts their government was not meant to receive. If someone is a good treasurer—as we have now—and they all of a sudden receive unexpected revenue or an unexpected windfall they would put it towards something useful and there would not be excessive blowouts. The reality is that the former treasurer spent more and received more in taxes than any treasurer in history and yet we have the worst debt in history to show for it. That is the legacy of the former treasurer.

Some \$70 billion in unforeseen revenue could have been used to deliver state-of-the-art new projects, above and beyond what the government was already doing. I would love to walk around Queensland and the electorate of Callide and see the evidence of that, especially when a lot of that money came straight out of Callide through coal and other royalties from our mines. We have many primary producers in Callide who pay a lot of taxes and produce a lot of great food and fibre. There is not much that is grown in Queensland that is actually not grown in the electorate of Callide. It is a credit to all primary producers across the electorate.


We have significant gas as well. There are significant gas royalties that come out of Callide. Under the former Labor government we got next to none of it back. I was earlier talking about the Chinchilla Hospital upgrade. Labor failed to properly fund that project. They took billions of dollars of revenue and royalties out of Callide but did not give it back. That is the legacy of the former Labor government.

Mr Bennett: Paradise Dam.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. If we want to talk about blowouts, Paradise Dam is \$4.4 billion—

A government member interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the minister. They knocked down sheds at Gin Gin and just up the road they could not even build Paradise Dam properly and now Queenslanders are paying for it.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.28 pm): It is a privilege for me to speak on the cognate appropriation bills before the House. I have been listening with great intent to the contrast in the House between those members opposite, who are in opposition, and ourselves, who are in a calm and stable government that has clear respect for people's money. I refer to that contrast because it mystifies me.

I have been listening to the speeches of the new members from the Labor Party who have been using their speaking notes espousing Labor's ability to manage money. Those members have to start talking to their Labor Party colleagues because even Labor Party members themselves know that Labor cannot manage money. It is 'Labornomics': once they have spent their money, they will come after yours with higher taxes and more spending which just completely ruins the budget. Those opposite who are espousing Labor's ability to spend money should go and talk to their fellow members, because the whole community knows that Labor just cannot manage money.

In contrast, we have an LNP Treasurer in the Crisafulli government—a Treasurer who is actually a banker and who has many decades of financial experience—bringing a sense of calm to our economic progress. We have absolute respect for taxpayers' money. We promised that to Queenslanders, and we are doing what we said we would do. That is a clear contrast with the crisis that we saw when debt was projected to head towards \$212 billion from \$170 billion. That is an absolute waste of money over a short period.

I must say that it is not just me or my colleagues who are saying this. Credit ratings agencies warned of the 'waning fiscal discipline' and the 'loose fiscal discipline' that the former Queensland government was employing. Standard & Poor's are on record warning about threats to the credit rating. It is not just us saying this. This is the clear evidence from the banking and financial world.

As I started to say before, we now have a Treasurer who actually understands finance. One of the key elements to finance is planning and talking about what you are going to do. Being disciplined in accounting standards is very important for the financial and business community because it sets a standard of confidence in understanding what needs to be done and then doing it. We are doing what we said we would do.

We have come into this House and occupied the government benches, and we have already seen some sensible decisions being made such as axing the hydro hoax—the \$12 billion hydro hoax that was projected to blow out to \$36.8 billion. That is an absolutely sensible decision. We will see other savings because of what we have done in the last couple of sitting weeks including just this week in relation to re-establishing the Productivity Commission. We want to make sure Queenslanders know that we do respect their money and that we are spending it in a sensible fashion.

Let me move to a couple of other issues that are important for the Crisafulli government. It is not just about money. I mentioned in the debate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill that it is easy to get tied up with numbers, but the community do not understand what \$1 billion, \$2 billion or \$7.5 billion looks like. Every billion dollars is a thousand million dollars. It is an extraordinary amount of money. It is not just about the dollars, because the waste of those dollars affects people. It affects people because we cannot deliver the services that we need. That is why the former government had a housing crisis, a health crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a youth crime crisis, because they lost control of the discipline needed for running the government. Again, in contrast, we are already putting in place measures to make sure we address each of those areas to give Queenslanders confidence that we are a calm and methodical government that does respect their money.

The former treasurer broke his promise of 'no new or increased taxes' 26 times. In contrast, in the lead-up to the election we said that we would deliver cuts to taxes. In fact, I was proud to be the chair of the committee that oversaw the revenue bill's passage through this House to get rid of the GP tax and also to see tax incentives for homebuyers—a sensible approach to stimulating home ownership and creating more supply, and that is key to solving the housing crisis.

I cannot help but turn my mind to the Housing Investment Fund. It was \$1 billion, then it went to \$2 billion and then \$3 billion but no new properties were built. I had 11 properties purchased around Plainland in my electorate, but they were properties that were already in the rental market, so they displaced people from the rental market to put others into housing but there were no actual solutions. In contrast, our Premier and the housing minister have given a guarantee that we will build new homes using the Housing Investment Fund to add additional supply, and that is key to resolving the housing crisis.


Yesterday and this morning the Deputy Premier spoke about the review of planning schemes. Changing the planning schemes and having genuine partnerships with local governments—having direct input into those planning schemes, having meaningful partnerships and having consultation on those planning schemes—will make a difference.

I go back to Labor's waste. My former role was as the deputy chair of the state development committee—and I recognise the former chair of the state development committee, who is currently the Deputy Speaker. One of our inquiries into an Auditor-General's report examined the Wellcamp facility and also the Gabba facility. I draw the attention of the House to the extraordinary number on the balance sheet of \$223 million, or \$230-odd million, for the Wellcamp accommodation facility. It is all right to buy things but, when you spend \$223 million, it should appear on your balance sheet as an asset—but of course it does not, because it is not owned by the government. That was an incredible missed opportunity for us to have some additional housing or whatever that may have looked like. It is just another example of wasted money.

We see no bigger waste from the former government than BPIC. Again, the Auditor-General has identified an estimated saving of \$17 billion over the next five years, from 2025 to 2030—\$17 billion. When you consider that last year the state budget was, I think, about \$62 billion, \$17 billion—or \$17,000 million—is an extraordinary amount of money. I am very proud to be a part of the Crisafulli government that, in our first sitting week, made changes to BPIC and made sure the CFMEU were no longer in charge. That alone has given confidence to the commercial property area and also the

construction industry—and I acknowledge Paul Bidwell from the Master Builders Association and Jess Caire from the Property Council. I am proud to see our government taking charge and getting rid of that crazy CFMEU tax, which was adding between 25 per cent and 30 per cent to most builds.

As I said, the Auditor-General identified \$17 billion in savings over the next five years. That figure alone represents an extraordinary saving. I am proud to be a part of the Crisafulli government, ably led by our Treasurer, David Janetzki, who is a former banker, who does give the commercial world and the financial world confidence that the Crisafulli government is laying stable foundations on the pathway ahead because we care about Queenslanders and what waste does to them.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.38 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak on the cognate appropriation bills 2023-24. Although I enjoyed the member for Lockyer's fantastic contribution, as I listened with interest I was startled by the contrast in the quality of the contributions to the debate between the two sides of the House; however, they have strangely fallen silent, member for Lockyer. In this case, I think we have seen the bottom of their defence of their track record of irresponsible fiscal management. I am reminded that, despite their protestations to the contrary, Labor members might be better off recalling the Judy Garland song *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, because somewhere on the other side of the rainbow there may be a fictitious pot of gold with the billions of dollars we need to find every time we come into this place to cover up for their oversight, their lack of planning or their naked attempt to hang onto office by simply spending money they have not thought about.

Whether you are a household with a single, double or part income, whether you are a small business or whether you are a multi-national corporation, the principles of budgeting are to expect the unexpected to the best of your ability. For sure there are things that will arise from time to time, but not core business—not funding maternity services in the Biloela Hospital, not funding the road maintenance backlog. When I was first elected mayor of the Barcaldine Regional Council I was advised by the then director-general Neil Scales that it had a backlog of maintenance exceeding \$6 billion. That has only gone up since.

These appropriation bills do not cover historical things that were overlooked: they were overlooked during the budget planning process by people who were not looking beyond the next media grab or the next press conference. Mums and dads cannot run budgets where three or four times a year they go to a household lender or bank manager and ask for another 10 or 15 per cent of their turnover simply because they did not think about what might come down the road.

Mr McDonald: Live within your means.

Mr DILLON: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer: we have to live within our means. Where there is an extraordinary event or something that legitimately could not have been foreseen, as we have seen in recent times, you had credibility with the bank to ask for that.

The other thing that people outside of the bubble of the Queensland parliament struggle to understand is the manner with which 'billions' now rolls off our tongue like 'thousands' used to only a few decades ago. Billions is a figure that is incomprehensible to mum-and-dad operators, people who are legitimately struggling, and people who would have desperately loved to receive an energy rebate. Despite claims by members opposite, not every member in the state of Queensland received a household rebate for their energy. If you are a grazier or primary producer in Western Queensland and you live on your cattle station, you did not qualify.

When those opposite claim they delivered all of these things to everyone in Queensland, what didn't they deliver? They did not deliver safer roads. They did not maintain the road network to the standard we should expect. The transport minister and member for Buderim and I met with a local government recently and a councillor said, 'They would deliver a safer road if we took the bitumen away and put gravel back.' That is the depth of despair that people are seeing in this state because of a lack of fiscal accountability and looking after what you already have before you promise and deliver something which may or may not be needed, so we have seen billions added. As I said, that is a figure that mums and dads and people leaving school today cannot comprehend—and most likely never will—yet it just rolls off our tongues like 'thousands' used to.

Not only are we spending billions more or asking the Queensland people to approve billions more in spending; we are giving away billions more—the same incomprehensible figure—in interest. We are foregoing the opportunity to do the things those opposite think are integral programs and critical to future success. Well, we are limited in our capacity to deliver them for one reason: the debt we are paying interest on on a daily basis cuts out thousands of government programs—thousands of cost-of-living measures—that cannot be considered because of the dollars we need to put back into a

financier or lender, the people who give us the money, because those opposite spent more money than they earned for the last decade. For the people of Gregory to ask their representative to come down here and approve an appropriation bill that did not have a sound fiscal management or responsible delivery plan behind it is hypocrisy of the highest order from those opposite.

Mr McDonald: It's Labornomics.

Mr DILLON: That is Labornomics; I take the interjection. That is a decade of Labornomics, and we will see it at a federal level unless we get the right result very shortly. It is one thing to stand here and criticise those opposite; however we have a plan to turn that around. During the election we took to the Queensland people a very clear principle: to have respect for their money and to value every dollar they raise for us. Whether they be a wage earner, whether they pay \$16,000 a year to register a road train or whether they are paying their contributions as an individual or a business, we will value that money. We will respect the work they put in and not just move an appropriation bill every time we think it will be convenient to help us get re-elected.

We have a Treasurer who has the understanding and comprehension and cabinet ministers who are businessmen and experienced people in terms of managing money and with respect for their own money—something they have worked diligently in their lives to protect, defend and raise. They are the people who, for the next four years, will make the decisions that will protect Queenslanders' money. We will plan appropriately. We will ensure that where possible we do contingency plan. We will enact programs that are responsible and affordable and, in a transparent manner, communicate those decisions to the people of Queensland.

One thing we will also do is go back and fix those roads. We cannot do it overnight, but we will fix them. We will build new roads. We will improve the quality of substandard highways such as the Bruce Highway, the Peak Downs Highway, the Gregory Developmental Road and the Kennedy Highway. I could go on, but I would sound like Judy Garland with a really strange voice. Somewhere over the rainbow is where we are now. We just have to try and manipulate the limited financial resources that have been left to us with an overcommitment on repaying borrowings or just meeting our interest repayments on a daily basis.

With the quality of cabinet members we now have, in future years these appropriation discussions will take a different slant. We will get better outcomes through the budget because we will live like Queenslanders expect us to: within our means. We will deliver quality outcomes, whether it be through infrastructure delivery, service delivery or simply putting away money and restoring the financial credibility of this state.


Mr McDonald: What about the hydro hoax?

Mr DILLON: Thank goodness we got rid of that, member for Lockyer. I take that interjection. Not only was that going to be a serious impost on the financial security of this state; it was going to deliver extremely poor environmental and social outcomes in the areas represented by the member for Mirani and the member for Mackay. They stood strongly on this and were rewarded because they were standing on a position backed in principle and responsible financial discussions around what we need to do to safeguard the energy needs of this state. This is what we come back to: responsible, practical men and women on this side of the House who will be informing cabinet ministers, who will be informing the Treasurer, who will inform the Treasury of what is required, the volume in which it is required, and how long it will take us to deliver. I could speak for hours, but I know the rules of this place will not let me. I will summarise very quickly.

Mr Lister: I'll move for extra time.

Mr DILLON: You will move for extra time. The only thing is, I know the member for Buderim's contribution and his experience in this place will surpass anything I could dream of. He is waiting with baited breath.

Responsible, calm, collected and informed government now sits in the state of Queensland. We will respect your money, people of Queensland, and I, as the member for Gregory, once again reaffirm that. We will scrutinise these decisions and this is the last time we will ask you, through the most humble of means, Queensland, to once more cover up Labor's poor budget planning.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.48 pm): There is another great song from that musical, something about a wicked witch. The people of Queensland know that the wicked witches of the LNP are in charge now; that is for sure. They seem to have forgotten something: they are actually in charge, so if they do not like what is in this appropriation bill they can vote against it. They are in charge; they do not have to do it. Not one of them has got up and talked about that. Nothing was more amusing than

watching the member for Lockyer have a go at Labor members speaking off speaking notes while speaking off speaking notes about having a go at Labor members on this side of the House. Come on, member for Lockyer, you can do better than that.

I want to talk about Labor's economic record. Let us broaden this out a bit more. Those on that side of the House take a very narrow view, but I want to talk about some of the economic challenges that we had when we were elected in 2015 and what we did about those. One thing I am extremely proud of—and I know that every single member on this side of the House is proud of this as well—is what we did to create jobs in this state. If you want to improve the economy of a state, you create jobs. How did we create jobs? We trained people, we employed people and we built things.

That brings me to my second point. If you want to improve your economy, you have to invest in infrastructure. What have we heard from those on that side of the House? The transport minister is apparently waiting to get on his feet once again to tell us how difficult his job is and what a tough time it is to be the transport minister; he is softening us up for the blows that are inevitably going to come. The health minister said this morning how difficult it is to build hospitals; he is softening us up for those blows. We are going to once again see an LNP that pulls everything back, and maybe we will get 2 William Street. We have 1 William Street and it is time to build 2 William Street. Maybe that is the one thing they will build in this term of government.

I will tell the House what else we did to improve the economy: we backed the Public Service. We believe in the Public Service. We know that if you want to control weeds on agricultural land, you have to have public servants to do that. If you want to make sure that every worker in this state is healthy and fit to turn up to work and make a contribution, you have to employ public servants. If you want to make sure that children are growing up to be contributors of the future, you have to have public servants. All of those things come with public servants. What did they do? They left us a mess. They left us a Public Service that was absolutely gutted. None of them want to talk about those economic aspects.


Let us talk about climate change. There seems to be a lot of collective burying of heads in the sand over there, but that was an issue that we tackled head-on when we were in government. It is a very big issue for any economy. We can see from the recent events, with the rapidly increasing number of storms, cyclones and tempests that we have to deal with, that it is costing our economy massive amounts of money. Did we bury our head in the sand and say there was nothing we could do? No, we got in there and we started to take action in a whole range of areas in relation to climate change. It is to their shame that they are shutting down renewable energy projects and moving away from that. I bet they cannot wait for their little mate in Canberra—'Nuclear Pete'—to get himself elected and bring in his nuclear energy that makes absolutely no economic sense whatsoever—zero economic sense.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Southern Downs, cease your interjections.

Mr J KELLY: Member for Southern Downs, have you built Emu Swamp Dam yet? He has had over 100 days. He spent three years yelling about Emu Swamp Dam, which would no doubt bring great economic uplift to the region he represents, but has he built Emu Swamp Dam yet? I do not believe that has been done. I am really surprised that in the days we have been sitting in this parliament I have not heard the member for Southern Downs once call out for Emu Swamp Dam. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that interesting? That was the No. 1 thing that he got himself thrown out of this chamber for on a regular basis but it is no longer on the agenda.

I am certainly supportive of this bill and I am supportive of Labor's economic record. We had a fantastic treasurer. With our leader Steven Miles, he put in place the leading cost-of-living package for this state. If people are struggling with their cost of living, the economic spiral downwards is going to be significant. We stopped that and we turned that around. I can tell the House what else we did. We responded very effectively to COVID. It destroyed many other economies around the world but we came back bigger, better and stronger. Those history rewriters on the other side of the House are going to try to rewrite that, but we should never let them rewrite that history. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.54 pm): We knew that it was bad when we were in opposition, but I have to tell the House that it is even worse than we could have imagined. When we came in in November and we inherited the previous government's books, the red ink, the cost overruns and the unbudgeted failures of the Labor Party were in every single brief that I read. As we have opened those books for Queenslanders so they can see the true state of the budget—

Mr McDonald: We're letting the sun shine in.

Mr MICKELBERG: We are letting the sun shine in; I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. We are being open and transparent and we are uncovering Labor's deception—a deception to hide the cost of Cross River Rail, at \$17 billion; a deception to hide the cost of Labor's roads and transport infrastructure projects, at \$6.7 billion extra than Labor said they were going to cost. It is just the start of Labor's economic mismanagement.

For the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the unforeseen expenditure in 2023-24 was \$212 million, but that is on top of \$1.1 billion provided to the department in other appropriation bills outside of the budget. These supplementary appropriations seek about \$9 billion in additional funding that those opposite conveniently forgot to provision for. Part of it is that they forgot to provision; the other part is that they failed to deliver. Whether it is roads or the detention centre that is being built in the Lockyer Valley, those opposite were not able to deliver projects on time or on budget. As a consequence, Queenslanders have seen those projects delayed and we are paying more for them because of Labor's mismanagement.

Labor have never been able to keep a budget, not once. They demonstrated a wilful disregard for taxpayers' money from the day they walked into government in 2015, which was before my time in this place, and it is Queenslanders who pay the price. I would say that it was the former treasurer, now shadow minister Dick, who failed to keep the budget in order, but the truth is that it happened long before he came along. When Jackie Trad's long shadow was cast across this place, the budget was in a similar state of disrepair and it has only got worse in the entire time—

Mr Lister: It still casts across this place.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. She still casts a shadow in this place as the puppetmaster of the current shadow cabinet. Jackie Trad is pulling the strings of the member for Waterford and the opposition leader. It is that legacy of mismanagement that we are trying to rectify now that we have a fresh start for Queensland in the Crisafulli LNP government.

What we saw from those opposite over the entire time they were in government—nearly 10 years—was a focus on announcements, but they would forget about the follow-up. They were all about the photo opportunity up-front, but they would forget about the follow-up. A case in point is the Olympics. We are three years and seven months down the track and we still have nothing to show. That is Labor's record and Labor's legacy, and the budget reflects that. Net debt has never been higher, as a consequence of the Labor Party. We have had a rating outlook downgrade, as a consequence of the Labor Party's economic mismanagement. Queenslanders deserve better. It means we have less capacity to fund the things we need to fund here in Queensland.

We see such hollow rhetoric time and time again from those opposite. Let us take 50-cent fares, for example. The LNP's permanent 50-cent fares is a great initiative that we have been proud to fund through the budget process. The Labor Party like to claim credit for this great LNP initiative, but the truth is that when they had the opportunity to make 50-cent fares permanent during the 10 years they were in government they squibbed it. They never did it. In fact, they did a six-month trial with no money to continue it afterwards because they did not have the courage of their convictions to back in a worthy cost-of-living initiative that is making life better for Queensland commuters. We have taken on that 50-cent-fare initiative and we have made it permanent because we said we would and we recognise that it is providing cost-of-living relief for every single Queenslander.

Labor's last budget back in June—this here is the last budget update for Labor—was a typical Labor budget of deficit and deception. Many Queenslanders are rightly asking questions. I note that the member for Hinchinbrook spoke about the local roads that still need to be upgraded and the member for Gregory spoke about the lack of maintenance. Others spoke about frequent and reliable public transport. Labor's failure to manage the budget has real consequences for Queenslanders every single day.

The reason Queenslanders are waiting for those critical services is that the budget has blown. We have huge delays in overspends. With regard to Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, the most recent blowout is \$330 million because of the CFMEU tax. That is only 12 months after the last blowout which has seen the cost more than double from what Labor said it would. The construction cost of Cross River Rail started at \$5.4 billion; it is now \$17 billion. They said it was going to be finished in 2024; it will likely be 2029. That is Labor's record.

The reason Labor could not manage the budget is that they are hopelessly beholden to organisations like the CFMEU. The CFMEU's reign over the former government had a cost to Queenslanders every single day. I note that the member for Bancroft was formerly a member of the

CFMEU. I do not think he is anymore. However, that tells you everything you need to know about the former Labor government—members of parliament installed by the CFMEU, and they ran roughshod over the Queensland budget as a consequence.

We have taken strong action to ensure that the stranglehold of the CFMEU over the former government is stopped. I say this all through the chair, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): You are on thin ice there, member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: Don't get me onto master fishermen, Mr Deputy Speaker. You do not want me to go there. We took strong action in pausing BPIC, the CFMEU tax, because it is destroying productivity on Queensland job sites, and we respect Queensland taxpayers' money. We will continue to take strong action to ensure productivity is restored in Queensland and that projects are delivered on time and on budget.

We want to ensure that tradies have good conditions and are paid well to complete road and transport infrastructure across Queensland, but the key word there is 'complete', and that is the bit that has been missing for far too long here in Queensland. Labor like to announce projects, but they never follow up and they never actually deliver. We will not just be announcing projects or planning projects; we will start projects and we will finish them, because ultimately that is what this is about. It is not about the photo op, it is about delivering the outcome for Queenslanders.


Budgets are just a reflection of the government's priorities. Labor, for too long, have run roughshod over Queensland taxpayers' money, with the wrong priorities. We have the right priorities. We will deliver a fresh start for Queensland. We are focused on delivering respect for taxpayers' money.

We have been left with a budget mess, but we will move forward in a mature, responsible, systematic way to get Queensland back on track. I have a clear focus on delivering projects on time and on budget, and I welcome that responsibility with which the Premier has entrusted me, an approach that was not evident in the ministers of the former government.

We will work with all levels of government to improve infrastructure and services right across the state. We have already proven that by securing an 80:20 funding split with the federal government on a \$9 billion package of road upgrades on the Bruce Highway. It is a shame that those opposite abrogated their responsibility for fighting for Queensland when they decided to cave in to their Labor colleagues federally and accept 50:50 funding on federal roads. We did not accept the same situation and we have delivered 80:20 funding on the Bruce Highway in the first 100 days of government.

It will be remiss of me not to talk about the federal government's attack on Queensland today in slashing the GST distribution that Queensland will receive. This will make it harder for Queenslanders and for the Queensland government to deliver services that Queensland needs. Today, Queensland has been robbed of \$5 billion over the forward estimates. We have been robbed of it by the Labor Party federally and those opposite have been silent on it. My advice to those opposite is to pick up the phone to Albo. I can assure you that I will be raising this with my federal counterpart, Catherine King, and I will be telling her in no uncertain terms that we will not accept Queensland not getting its fair share, just as I did when we were fighting for 80:20 funding for the Bruce Highway. Every single member opposite needs to look their constituents in the face and say that they fought for Queensland's fair share. Robbing Queensland of \$5 billion in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, when we are trying to do more with less, is simply unacceptable. Queenslanders deserve better. I am sure Queenslanders will pass judgement on that when they go to the ballot box federally in a couple of weeks time.

We are focused on delivering mature, responsible and sensible government. We will restore respect for taxpayers' dollars. We will manage the budget in a responsible way, unlike those opposite, with the right priorities, and I look forward to being a member of the Crisafulli government delivering for every single Queenslander.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.04 pm): This bill cements one undeniable legacy for the member for Woodridge: he was the worst treasurer in Queensland's history. Those opposite have an appalling history in this state of overspends and budget blowouts, and ultimately it is Queenslanders who are having to pick up the tab. This bill seeks to formally authorise funds that those opposite spent for unforeseen expenditure in the 2023-24 financial year, formalising their \$9 billion overspend, budget blowouts and failures to deliver. Corrections is a big part of this.

It is critical that I provide an update on the current state of corrections in Queensland. I must warn you, this is yet another sorry tale of Labor failing to deliver, leaving a legacy of budget blowouts, unfunded promises and unfinished projects. For 10 years, our QCS officers have been hamstrung by

Labor ministers who scored gold stars for neglect, mismanagement and inaction. As a result, our correctional facilities are at breaking point. When a correctional facility, built for 1,000 prisoners, is packed with 1,500, it should come as no surprise that services suffer, rehabilitation suffers and, more importantly, our correctional officers suffer. Our hardworking officers are stretched thin, managing an overcrowded and volatile environment. Assaults on staff have increased. Labor's failure to build a new prison when it was needed has resulted in the overcapacity and overcrowding that we are seeing in our prisons right now. That is the legacy that the LNP government has inherited, that is the legacy that was in the incoming brief, and that is the legacy that Labor tried to hide from Queenslanders.

Instead of taking action, those opposite sat on their hands and watched the numbers go up. They were given repeated warnings. They saw the modelling that said prisoner numbers would continue to increase with population growth and new infrastructure was needed, and they ignored it all. They did this at the cost of the safety of our correctional officers and at the cost of the safety of our community. In fact, the only investment that Labor made in Queensland correctional infrastructure was for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which was a project that the LNP funded when we were last in government.

In 2014, the former LNP government funded a business case for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. This centre was needed in 2015 when correctional centres were sitting at 103.2 per cent capacity, just like it had been modelled. Those opposite took five years to act on this much needed infrastructure and investment. When they finally did, they told Queenslanders it would cost \$618 million and would be completed in the 2022-23 financial year. How has that turned out? By June 2019, that same year, the project cost had blown out to \$654 million. Three years later, Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre was not complete and Labor changed the goal posts once again. It was quoted to cost \$861 million and would not be complete until the end of 2023. A month later, Labor pushed the completion date back to April 2024, and in February last year, the year that relates to this appropriation bill—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Speakers have already ruled earlier in this debate that the bills we are debating here, the cognate appropriation bills, pertain to the financial year 2023-24. From what I can hear, the member for Currumbin is debating matters that are outside of that date range. I ask you to draw her back on a standing order relating to relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Currumbin, I understand you are painting a broader picture, but you do have to keep it relevant to this debate, so just bear that in mind as you continue.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, Deputy Speaker. The history is entirely relevant to the most recent budget, which I have literally just canvassed, which pertains to this appropriation bill. In February last year, the cost of the prison had blown out to \$885.9 million and Queenslanders were then told that it would not be ready until 2024. The history of this prison matters. The history of Labor's blowouts in relation to this prison matters. The Leader of the Opposition may not want to hear it, but it matters to Queenslanders and it matters to this bill.

Even what they said was not true. When Labor said in February last year that the cost of the prison would be \$885.9 million and it would be ready in late 2024, that was a deception. The incoming brief showed that Labor knew it. They knew it and they continued to deceive Queenslanders. A decade on, the prison was not delivered when Labor promised it would be and it has had three budget blowouts, to the tune of \$265 million. That is the result of Labor's failure to deliver critical infrastructure to support the corrective services system.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I thank the minister for the promotion, but I want to refer to her use of incorrect titles. She referred to me as the Leader of the Opposition. I would ask her to withdraw for the accuracy of the record.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I was going to address that at the end. The member is the Manager of Opposition Business.

Mrs GERBER: I am just going to call him 'the member for Woodridge'. Is that correct?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is the member for Springwood.

Mrs GERBER: I will call him the member for Springwood.

Mr de BRENNI: Once again, Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. So that the record might reflect who the member was actually speaking about, I ask that she withdraw and use the correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, would you withdraw?


Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. As I was getting to, member for Springwood, as a result of Labor's failure to deliver critical infrastructure to support the corrective services system—as a result of Labor's failure to deliver the Lockyer Valley prison when they promised for the amount of money that they promised, as a result of the continuous budget blowouts—the corrective services system is now facing the imminent prospect of triple-ups. We will have three prisoners to a cell because of the Labor government's failure to deliver the infrastructure that they promised Queenslanders. They failed to deliver it on time, on budget and when they promised.

Triple-ups put our correctional officers at risk. Triple-ups mean that our prison system is unable to deliver the rehabilitation and the corrective services that a prison system is meant to deliver. Labor's inability to see past their sweetheart CFMEU deal has hamstrung the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre project. This is the same union that last sitting week dropped tools, stopped work at multiple sites across Brisbane, including Lockyer Valley, and bussed protesters into the city, to the front of this building. In fact, last year, out of a total of 265 days there were only 163 days spent actually working onsite at the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Labor's delay in funding and building this project on time and on budget has had a disastrous impact. The worst part is that Labor knew it—they were told it—and they failed to take action when they needed to.

Labor have delivered a correctional system at breaking point. We are sitting at almost 150 per cent capacity across the system. In the male secure system it is even worse—almost 160 per cent capacity, with eight out of nine centres operating at above 150 per cent capacity. We know that correctional centres are essential to delivering effective intervention and rehabilitation for prisoners. Our QCS officers are vital to restoring community safety and to reducing the number of victims of crime, but right now there is little space for rehabilitation programs, no resources for mental health support and no chance to break the cycle of crime—because of Labor's legacy when it comes to our corrections system. Instead of being given the tools to be reformed, prisoners are locked in their cells for more hours in a day than ever before—left to fester, get angrier, get more disconnected and be more likely to reoffend the moment they walk out of those prisons, because Labor failed to build the needed infrastructure on time and on budget. This is not just a failure of policy from those opposite; it is a complete failure of leadership. It is a complete failure in respect of being able to manage a budget, make a decision and build projects in this state. Every single Queenslanders is paying the price for that.

Our Crisafulli government will give our hardworking QCS officers the support they need to actually deliver corrective services. You can be assured: we will build the correctional precincts that our QCS officers need. We will build what is needed to keep our community safe and we will ensure the significant maintenance backlog that was built up under the previous government is dealt with. The Crisafulli government is a government of fiscal responsibility—a government that knows how to manage a budget. The \$9 billion blowout that this appropriation bill cements tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about the Labor government's fiscal responsibility. The Crisafulli government is a government that will deliver for Queenslanders, including our correctional officers.

(Time expired)

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.15 pm): On behalf of the electorate of Southern Downs I rise to make a contribution to the debate on these cognate money bills. It has been amazing to listen to members on the other side of the House protest that what we have been talking about here are not blowouts but 'unforeseen expenditures'. My honourable friend the member for Capalaba made a very pithy observation. The member for Capalaba has his feet more firmly planted on the ground than anyone I know, and when he speaks I listen. He said, 'What? The electricity bill came in and we had to pay it, did we?' That sort of irony pervades everything the Labor Party have been saying in the course of this debate.

The honourable member for Currumbin spoke about how this appropriation cements \$9 billion in overspends. We need to remember this is not the first and not even the second but the third crack that this parliament has had at appropriating sufficient funds to cover the appalling economic mismanagement by the Labor Party, who, fortunately, are no longer in government. The word 'Labor' is a byword for economic backwardness—taxes, debt and unemployment. That has real implications for the people I represent as the member for Southern Downs. Earlier my honourable friend the member

for Gregory spoke in great detail about roads and infrastructure in his own electorate. I could almost carbon-copy his speech when I refer to the situation in my electorate of Southern Downs. When I see a \$6.7 billion blowout in QTRIP while, at the same time, QTRIP shows billions of dollars in underspend on maintaining roads in regional electorates like mine and the member for Gregory's, it really grates. Our roads are falling apart and there has been alarming—

Mr Field: It is Third World.

Mr LISTER: Third World, yes; I take that interjection. There has been alarming incompetence and mismanagement in spending the money that has been allocated to the roads. I have seen examples of where the government have lauded going in and spending \$20 million on a section to make it safer yet it is worse than the day before they began—and that is before it started to rain. These things are not unnoticed by the good folk of my electorate. I have sworn to faithfully and forcefully represent their concerns on these matters. My honourable friend the member for Greenslopes raised the matter of Emu Swamp Dam. I am very glad that he did because I would like to rebut a number of things.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr LISTER: I have permission from the small business minister. I know that a lot of small businesses will be very happy to see that project go ahead. Emu Swamp Dam is an example of the infrastructure we are not getting because of the poor management of the economy by the Labor Party.

A government member: What is it? I haven't heard of it.

Mr LISTER: I will mention it to you one night. You must have been away the last couple of years, Minister!

When you overspend billions and billions of dollars through a combination of mismanagement and corrupt arrangements with thug unions that then preselect people to come in here and vote for what those unions want to keep the system going along, you miss out on things like dams, roads and infrastructure. What exactly is the opportunity cost in terms of infrastructure that we are facing because of the profligate spending that we are seeing and having to account for in this particular appropriation bill? I can assure the member for Greenslopes, who asks, 'When is it going to happen?' that if it happens it will not be through any help that he or the Labor government have provided.

It was in the year 2023-24 that the federal government withdrew from its budget the funding which it had put aside for Emu Swamp Dam and that was done on the advice of the Labor state government. It is an unspeakable low that a state government would turn down and advise the federal government to take money away for a project that would provide hundreds of extra jobs in my community, which would provide water security and not just for the town of Stanthorpe—which ran dry and for 18 months had to have water carted to it by a truck up the hill—but water security for the farmers and their employees who produce the food and fibre we rely on and to keep the town of Stanthorpe going. This is one virtuoso example of a lost opportunity. I will tell honourable members one thing. I know that if we have a federal government led by Peter Dutton they will put the money back on the table. I know we have a state government here that is interested in the plight of rural and regional Queenslanders and understands that water is vital to our economic needs.

I heard one of the members speaking before me talk about priorities and choices that the previous government would make. I think it was during the period of 2023-24 that the previous Labor government made the miserable decision to evict the hardworking volunteers from the Gladfield Driver Reviver, which I will confidently attest was the finest Driver Reviver in Queensland. Just like the member who spoke before me, not only did they disfranchise those hardworking volunteers who cared for their communities, they had the temerity to go in and bulldoze the site within days of them leaving to make sure they really could not go back. That is the sort of thing that the Nazis did when they moved across Eastern Europe. That was such a miserable thing to do. No doubt there would have been some type of economic imperative to say, 'We are behind by \$6.7 billion on QTRIP so we have to make these tough decisions.'

Where were the tough decisions, the right decisions, that would have arrived at infrastructure being delivered on time and within budget? We are borrowing from our grandchildren and from their grandchildren's grandchildren to fund blowouts in projects like the ones we have seen in the course of the last 12 months. If we cannot afford to build infrastructure with what we have now, how the hell are we going to manage in years to come? How are we going to be able to pay the bills, keep the lights on and build infrastructure if we have to borrow from our grandchildren now? There is nothing wrong with debt for some of the projects we have been talking about, but if the debt is applied so that you are paying triple the price of an asset and it is taking three times as long as it should to be delivered, that is costing everybody.

I am delighted that we now have a mature and confident government in the Crisafulli government which understands where the money comes from, and that is not the taxes generated by politicians and public servants. We are funding things with the proceeds of the hardworking private sector in this state and they are entitled to expect that governments will live within their means, run a tight ship and not blow out money over and over again, distorting the economy, making their lives harder and at the same time generating the type of red tape and delays that make all small businesses shudder.

The amount of \$70 billion of unforeseen revenue was poured into the coffers of the previous treasurer, the member for Woodridge. Where did all the money go? Where did it all go? We do not need much to fix the roads in Southern Downs—and I am sure it is the same in Gregory—if you just manage it properly and have a properly funded forward project where roads are not only maintained but improved. Instead, we saw a river of gold frittered away and spent on thought bubbles—


Mr Dillon: CFMEU.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Gregory. Yes, it was spent on the CFMEU. That is the honest truth of it. We have seen that \$17 billion will be shaved off the cost of building things in this state by suspending BPIC. What were we getting for that? We were seeing union bosses accumulating vast funds and influence. They could then install their Labor Party politicians in this House, choose which ones would be ministers and which one would be the premier and direct them on how to run the industrial relations system in this state. In any other context that would be called corruption, and I call it corruption. That is my opinion on these things. If you had the pub test—maybe not one of the pubs that the member for McConnel was talking about the other day when she talked about the National Seniors test. She might have meant the Queen's Arms, the Prince Consort or some other cocktail bar like that. However, in a real pub like those in Goondiwindi, Allora, Warwick, Stanthorpe or—

A government member: Blackwater.

Mr LISTER: Blackwater—actually I have been to Blackwater. In those pubs she might get a very different opinion.

The Labor members opposite should not be surprised when we harp on about the profligacy, the mismanagement and the corruption which has led us to this low point in having to, for a third time in a year, appropriate additional funds for unforeseen expenditure. I believe that the current government will take time to improve our economic situation with discipline and with spending money wisely and getting the best value for every dollar so that we do not need so many of them. I can assure the members of my electorate quite confidently, as my honourable friend the member for Gregory did, that our roads under a Crisafulli LNP government will improve. They will improve in a gradual process where money is spent appropriately on proper designs and proper contracting so that the day after it rains they do not fall apart again.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.25 pm): I, too, rise today to speak on the appropriation bills before the House. In essence, these bills exist to plug yet more of the gaping financial holes left behind by the Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and their chief fiscal vandal, the member for Woodridge. Under these bills the Treasurer is authorised to pay over \$1.28 billion in unforeseen expenditure. This is the final piece of Labor's \$9 billion overspend in the last financial year. Let me say that again: a \$9 billion overspend in one financial year.

The bill approves Labor's unforeseen expenditure from 2023-24. This is the annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to finalise the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year. The bill relates to decisions made by the previous government including unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 billion, the final component of that record \$9 billion I mentioned. This bill is the full stop on the story of Labor's 10 years of fiscal vandalism.

Conventionally, unforeseen expenditure within the financial year is approved by the parliament in a single supplementary appropriation bill introduced and assented to in the following financial year. Regarding the 2023-24 financial year, unforeseen expenditure has already been approved on two occasions. This is now the third attempt by Labor to work out how to manage a budget. Thank goodness it is no longer their responsibility.

Under Labor, we know that blowouts were the norm. I know that so many of my colleagues around the cabinet table have had to come into their new roles and immediately spend their time cleaning out Labor's skeletons in the closet, and we have heard from a number of them already in this debate: Cross River Rail—they promised it at \$5.4 billion, it is now \$17 billion; hospital Capacity

Expansion Program, started at \$9.785 billion and it is now at \$16 billion; the CopperString project, up from \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion; Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, up from \$14.2 billion to \$18 billion; and Pioneer-Burdekin—before we did away with it, thanks to the member for Mirani in particular and his advocacy—up from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion.

In my own portfolios of environment and tourism, science and innovation we have seen yet more examples of Labor's complete and utter failure, but let me just use one, the Wangetti Trail. Members would have heard me speak of it before. Back in May 2018 Labor announced the design and business case for what was then a 76-kilometre nation-leading bike and walkway. In April 2019 that project had grown to 94 kilometres. We were told in June of that same year that construction had started on the Port Douglas to Mowbray North section and that the full trail would be fully funded at \$36 million. Despite all these grand announcements, in February 2021 that figure had risen to \$41.4 million. In July 2023 it had climbed to \$47.1 million and the first stage actually only opened in September last year—just before the election I might point out. To deliver just eight per cent of the trail the previous government had already spent \$22½ million of that \$47.1 million budget. You do not need to be a rocket scientist to work out you are not going to be able to fund the other 92 per cent of the trail for the remaining \$24-odd million.

Under Labor, locals had started calling the Wangetti Trail the 'Wrong-getti Trail', hadn't they, member for Barron River? It has become the most expensive footpath in Australia and Queenslanders deserved to know why. Just as all of my cabinet colleagues are getting on with the job and fixing up Labor's mess, I am working hand in glove with the councils, with the communities, with the business operators, with the member for Cook in the north and with the member for Barron River in the south to get this trail done right. The Wangetti Trail is a brilliant vision and, just as we will have to clean up the rest of Labor's mess across other portfolios, we will get the Wangetti Trail done right, too.

Let us talk about where Labor's mess has left us. Labor's last budget update revealed secret cost blowouts and unfunded services, leading to \$217.8 billion debt by 2027-28. It has saddled Queensland with one of Australia's highest per capita debts—almost \$40,000 for every single Queenslanders. It has given us a \$22.6 billion blowout in our four-year capital program, including blowouts of \$4.2 billion in health projects, \$4 billion for energy, water and port projects, and \$3.1 billion in transport projects through to 2028. Now our Treasurer, the member for Toowoomba South, has inherited not just an outlook downgrade but potentially a credit rating downgrade as well.


The member for Woodridge should hang his head in shame. The former treasurer broke his 'no new or increased taxes' promise 26 times and collected \$70 billion more in revenue—more than he forecast in his first budget less than four years before. It is no wonder those opposite cannot budget within one year and come up with \$9 billion in unaccounted funds when they cannot identify that they are going to receive \$70 billion more over the forwards. He left Queensland, despite that revenue river, with record debt, record deficits and a record interest bill. At the same time there were record numbers of sick waiting on hospital ramps and the homeless sleeping in cars and increased numbers—in fact, record numbers—of victims of Queensland's crime crisis.

Labor's 10 years of blowouts, budget black holes and unforeseen expenditure never delivered for my community of Glass House. After its decade of dysfunction, this new government with a new focus—the LNP Crisafulli government—will deliver for the place I love. We are funding \$7 million worth of upgrades to the intersection at Landsborough-Maleny and Maleny-Montville roads to get people home safer and sooner. We are also delivering \$10 million to commence upgrades to dangerous intersections on the D'Aguiar Highway including Campbells Pocket Road, Mount Mee Road, Raaen Road and hopefully George Street as well. Meanwhile, we are commissioning a \$1 million detailed design study to plan, cost and prioritise upgrades on Mount Mee Road through Ocean View. The RACQ has named that section of Mount Mee Road the third worst road in the state. Those opposite may have been happy to leave it that way, but we certainly are not.

For Maleny we are delivering \$250,000 to protect and enhance Maleny's dark sky status by bringing forward the replacement of all state controlled lighting. We know that current street and building lights are made of mercury metal halide that have a high blue-green wavelength and shine light above as well as below the bulbs. These lights create light pollution and ruin the beautiful night-time that our community loves, so we are getting on with the job and we are replacing them. Then there is a commitment that is close to my heart: we are turning Woodford P-10 into Woodford P-12. When I was putting this speech together I came across a question on notice I asked of the then minister for education in the Bligh government in 2010 about when this could finally happen.

A government member: Who was that?

Mr POWELL: In 2010 it might have been Rod Welford, I believe. I know how much our community wants this and I am proud to finally be delivering it. We are delivering for Glass House—just as we are delivering for communities across the length and breadth of our state, because we respect taxpayers' dollars. Today and every single day we will keep fighting to deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for and the strong, capable and competent government they deserve.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak to the supplementary to the supplementary appropriation bills—

A government member: No, the supplementary to the supplementary to the supplementary bill.

Mr LANGBROEK: Exactly. I hear it is the third one that we have had, to add a total of \$9 billion in unforeseen expenditure. This one seeks to authorise \$1.132 billion, as the honourable the Treasurer has pointed out, and highlights the last chapter in the previous government's long and shameful history of financial mismanagement. As the Minister for Education and the Arts responsible for portfolios that should be about opportunity, growth and investment in Queensland's future, I have instead found examples of how careless spending, poor planning and a disregard for outcomes has resulted in many classrooms remaining overcrowded, teachers overworked and student performance in decline.

The former government's handling of education funding was nothing short of negligent, with this bill revealing that the Department of Education alone accounted for \$163.5 million in unforeseen expenditure—\$163.5 million of taxpayers' money spent without prior approval. The previous Labor government promised a major school building program yet consistently failed to deliver projects on time or on budget, with schools across Queensland remaining underfunded and delays on infrastructure projects blowing out, as we have heard is the case in other departments, by hundreds of millions of dollars. I will have more to say about some of these overspends and delays in coming weeks and months.

Labor committed millions to bureaucratic programs that have done nothing to help students or teachers and that were nothing more than costly rebranding exercises, expensive consultant reports that were shelved and funding for programs that never eventuated. Under Labor's misguided priorities, the basics were neglected and schools were often left without adequate air conditioning, despite the attempts of those opposite to get that done after the former leader of the opposition made that a policy. Unfortunately we have had issues, including those issues that I mentioned yesterday and the member for Currumbin mentioned, where the former minister for youth justice said that Gold Coast people did not deserve air conditioning because they had sea breezes. They are the sorts of puerile comments that we would hear from some of those members opposite in question time back then. We also had outdated IT infrastructure and teachers in some cases having to buy supplies out of their own pockets. They write to me about that quite regularly.


Turning to the arts portfolio, we see the same pattern of waste and misplaced priorities. Labor always talks about supporting the arts, but its approach was more about political theatre and red carpets than real investment in our artists and cultural institutions. Millions were poured into arts grants and projects that lacked transparency and accountability, along with funding decisions based on political considerations rather than artistic merit, leaving many deserving organisations struggling to survive whilst well-connected groups received disproportionate support. Since taking on this portfolio a number of arts companies have raised with me the funding uncertainty they faced under the former Labor government, highlighting that decisions were often made at the last minute, making long-term planning virtually impossible. The former government talked a big game about supporting the arts, but its actions showed a complete lack of understanding of how the sector actually operates. The result of this wasteful spending is now clear. Queensland has been left with a record \$218 billion in debt—the highest per capita debt in the nation, equating to \$40,000 for every man, woman and child.

This is what the Crisafulli government has inherited: a struggling education system where student outcomes continue to decline, an arts sector where major institutions are forced to beg for last-minute funding, and a state where reckless financial decisions have now given us a negative credit outlook. The Crisafulli government is already taking steps to clean up Labor's mess with a commitment to reducing red tape, prioritising frontline services and ensuring every dollar spent delivers real outcomes.

As I said yesterday in the House, I am committed to improving literacy and numeracy in Queensland schools. I want to ensure resources go where they are needed most—into classrooms, not bureaucracies. We will deliver school infrastructure projects on time and on budget and will restore accountability to the department. The government will support artists and performers directly, rather than funnelling money into unnecessary administrative overheads, and ensure cultural investments deliver real economic and social benefits for all Queenslanders, not just those with political connections.

We also need to bear in mind that we have the 2032 Olympics to plan for, yet of course we know that that has been completely left lacking, not just in the sports space but also in arts and culture, which will be an important part of the 2032 legacy.

These bills are a necessary step to close the book on the previous government's financial mismanagement and serve as a stark reminder of why Queenslanders voted for change nine years, eight months and 26 days after we were last in office. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (4.40 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024 and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024. These bills provide additional appropriation for various departments for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2023-24 financial year. These bills are about decisions made by the former Labor government. Year after year it boasted about record budgets, yet they made Queenslanders worse off with less to show.

These bills are evidence of their record of unforeseen expenditure of \$1.132 billion. It is the final component of the \$9 billion overspend that the former Labor government made in the last financial year. Let that sink in: a \$9 billion overspend. This bill cements the legacy of the former Labor government as the worst money managers in Queensland's history. These funds are Queensland taxpayers' funds.

Usually unforeseen expenditure is dealt with once in a single bill and approved the following financial year. Parliament has already approved on two other occasions unforeseen expenditure in the 2023-24 year. This is now the third attempt by Labor to work out how to manage a budget. Labor clearly lost control of the budget and its spending. Labor left this state with a legacy of debt, deficit and deception. The overspends are across the board. Labor mocked the budget process. The blowouts mean that critical infrastructure was not fixed, maintained or constructed. Overspend means projects are pushed out.

In my own portfolio, the former department of agriculture and fisheries has unforeseen expenditure of \$58.3 million, primarily to deal with its future fisheries reform. Add to this the \$7.74 million under the Appropriation Act 2024 and it has received a total of \$66.04 million in supplementary payments in the 2023-24 year.

Earlier today the member for Ferny Grove ludicrously claimed we will cut jobs in fisheries. It is completely false. It was deliberately disingenuous. The majority of the unforeseen expenditure is because it was the former government that was deliberately putting hardworking fishers out of business.

The Crisafulli government understands we have a shared resource in the wild-caught fisheries. I have a consultative approach. I have already worked closely with all sectors of fisheries, including commercial, recreational and charter boat operators. They have raised a lot of concern about how decisions were made by the former government. Unlike the former government, we will use a genuine science-based approach to decision-making. I have already met with the QSIA, with AFTA, with Sunfish, the Gulf of Carpentaria Commercial Fisher Association, processors, retailers and other fishing representatives across the state. I have been onsite and met with departmental staff from research areas and boating and fishery patrols. They have welcomed my science-based approach to future decision-making. Unlike the member for Ferny Grove, we will conduct a regulatory impact statement if there are any changes to fisheries management, something the member refused to do.

As I said yesterday, we gave a commitment that a reinstated Productivity Commission would review the fisheries structural adjustment packages. It will focus on the fairness and transparency of these adjustment packages and subsequently take necessary actions to right or remediate identified issues. We also committed to asking the Productivity Commission to assess the implementation of the outstanding measures in the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027.

We want to build confidence back in the department across the entirety of fisheries. The former government never valued agriculture. The former minister never understood primary industries. A lack of support and regulatory burdens translated into higher prices at the check-out. There was no assistance with crippling labour shortages and exorbitant input costs. Year after year, while other departments received increased funding, under the former government DAF funding did not keep pace with need. Last year it was cut by more than \$100 million from the actual spend. AgForce CEO Michael Guerin was scathing at the time. After last year's budget he said—

... the treasurer making a big song of dance about our state's net debt to revenue being the lowest in Australia but no interest in using the balance sheet to further assist the agriculture industry.

It's been hard to find much to like ... when it comes to agriculture, especially seeing the decrease in the budget for Biosecurity Queensland.

Among other departments with unforeseen expenditure are Transport and Main Roads at a total of \$212 million; Housing and Public Works at \$136 million; Health at \$217 million; Education at \$163 million; state development at \$30 million; and families and child safety at \$213 million. It is a litany of cost blowouts. Cost blowouts mean that there is nothing to deal with critical roads and bridge infrastructure in rural and regional Queensland. They were not funded because Labor could not manage its budget. I continually hear about transport matters on rural and regional roads. Stakeholders, industry, local government and primary producers frequently raise with me the state of rural and regional roads. Labor's failure to maintain rural and regional roads makes it harder to get produce to market. Load limits on inadequate bridges make it harder to get produce to market. When you cannot control a budget and you are not interested in keeping projects to budget, critical projects are pushed further into the future and other essential infrastructure never makes it to the drawing board. The problems keep exacerbating.

Since the election, the Crisafulli government has steadily and systematically identified Labor's capital project blowouts and overruns across all areas of spending: Cross River Rail up \$494 million, when it was promised to be \$5.4 billion in the budget—now expected to exceed \$17 billion; Gold Coast Light Rail up \$330 million; hospital capacity expansion program blowouts pushed out \$9.785 billion to \$16 billion; CopperString up from \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion—it is an additional \$2.8 billion; the Pioneer-Burdekin project up from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion—blowing it out by \$24.8 billion; the Borumba pumped hydro project in my electorate is up from \$14.2 billion to \$18 billion, and that is an additional \$3.8 billion that was not identified—this does not include the unfunded operating expenses commitments made by the former Labor government; \$12 billion in health programs and services were left underfunded. Years of record health budgets and overspend has left Gympie's health services and facilities treading water. The outcomes were worse and services declined. Hardworking staff do their best, but they deserve better. The stressed and frustrated patients and their families deserve better.

For 30 out of the last 35 years Labor was in control of the purse strings. The legacy in my electorate is damning. The Crisafulli government is already working to improve the budget position. We have cancelled the \$36.8 billion Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax. We have paused BPICs on new government funded construction projects. It will save the budget \$17 billion to 2030. We have opted not to provide significantly more than \$1 billion in equity and grants for speculative hydrogen projects. We respect taxpayers' money.

Last year the former treasurer pathetically pleaded with Queenslanders to ignore Labor's record. The former premier, the former treasurer and every one of Labor's ministers who sat round the cabinet table asked to be absolved of almost a decade of decisions. It was pitiful. Ten years of Labor's decisions and mismanagement delivered a health crisis, a crime crisis, a housing crisis and a cost-of-living crisis. If there were no crises Queenslanders would not have been asked to ignore their past. Despite revenues from rivers of gold, Labor left Queenslanders with record debt and record taxes. I support the Treasurer's bill.

 **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) (4.48 pm): I am pleased to stand to speak in response to the appropriations bills, not only on behalf of the government, but also as a regional member of parliament who represents the incredible Whitsunday electorate.

Other speakers have outlined cost blowouts, in particular in relation to the Pioneer-Burdekin project. As locals on the ground, we knew that it was a hydro hoax. The members for Mackay and Burdekin will remember waiting with me for the arrival of former premier Palaszczuk, who flew in late to a police remembrance day. She then scurried off to announce the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project, which nobody had ever heard of. Nobody in the Mackay region, the Mirani electorate or the Whitsunday region had ever heard of it. The Yuwi people, the traditional custodians, had never heard of that project. The communities of Mackay, the Whitsundays and Mirani were never consulted or engaged on it. Over the past two years we have been misled by those opposite with the largest marketing campaign hoax, with the glossy brochures and the promise of renewable energy through the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped project that was going to give our state the electricity security that we need.

We saw the blatant disregard of those opposite in relation to the natural environment. Those opposite caused great stress in our communities of Eungella, Netherdale and Finch Hatton as people were forced to give up their livelihoods for nothing but a hoax and a wasteful disregard of Queensland taxpayers' money. That is why we now hold the seats of Mirani and Mackay. We should thank those opposite for being as blatant as they were because it is why regional Queensland took notice and it is why people across my community were happy to stand up, alongside our new members, to fight for their community.

In his contribution, the health minister outlined cost blowouts in his portfolio. I turn to the Mackay Hospital and Health Service and the upgrade project that was announced not once, not twice but three times. Over and over again, previous health ministers flew in to Mackay to announce the hospital expansion project. Those opposite have the worst record on health service delivery in my regional community of Mackay. They have shown a blatant disregard for women in Mackay, particularly those women who want to give birth safely in Mackay. We know what has been uncovered, through this bill and the work of the government, with regard to birthing services that were not funded by those opposite. A helipad was not funded by those opposite. Under a previous Labor government a helipad was not funded in our hospital build, even though we sold our airport to fund hospital expansions. That is how Labor economics works. There is no regard for the regions and certainly no understanding of how you plan and deliver a project on time and on budget.

Many members on this side of the House have outlined Labor's cost blowouts and failures to deliver road infrastructure across the regions. That was no more evident than with the delay, under two transport ministers, to deliver Hamilton Plains flood proofing in my electorate of Whitsunday. I am pleased that the tender is now underway and that the drainage works have already been completed. It will mean that people across my electorate will not be cut off from hospital services. It will mean that in Airlie Beach, Cannonvale and Proserpine, children will be able to get to school. On this side of the House we care that children can access an education, particularly in times of wet weather. We care that people can get their children to school and that people can access basic goods and services that many take for granted.

I represent an incredible tourism region. We have seen a failure by those opposite to deliver on road upgrades, particularly on the Bruce Highway, meaning that in my community people who live in Airlie Beach and the Whitsundays can get cut off from the airport. When 800 people get stranded at the Whitsunday Coast Airport, it is because for over a decade those opposite decided not to invest in Bruce Highway upgrades, they decided not to invest in maintenance for the Bruce Highway and they decided not to flood-mitigate parts of the Bruce Highway to ensure our tourism industry can thrive. As I tell tourism industry operators, who are so pleased to see an LNP government, never fear because we will work with you. We will work across our portfolios to deliver so that we have a thriving tourism industry. I commend Minister Powell on his efforts already and for the multiple visits he has made to my electorate to engage with and revive tourism as part of our government's plan to deliver.

I will now speak to my portfolio. What a privilege it is to be the state's Minister for Child Safety and to head a department that every day is working hard to protect our most vulnerable children. When I was sworn in as the minister, from the first incoming briefings we uncovered things with regard to our workforce that I was so surprised at. Those opposite talk about their respect for the Public Service and the mission that they have led with regard to job safety for those in the Public Service; however, we discovered that 91 frontline staffing positions were not funded beyond Christmas. In Mount Isa, staff were crying in front of me because of their fear that we would not clean up the mess of those opposite. Ninety-one staff were going into Christmas knowing that their jobs were not funded in January because of those opposite. Those 91 staff were working to protect the most vulnerable children in this state. Those opposite are all high and mighty when they talk about how they care about the Public Service, but they have shown a blatant disregard for the Public Service and the department that I now oversee. We were pleased to be able to fund those positions.

With regard to residential care, those opposite left a \$461 million black hole. When Labor came to power in 2015, there were 663 children in the residential care system. Do members know how many there are today? As of September, there are 2,093 children. After four failed child safety ministers, one of whom no longer sits in the House because he lost his seat, we have been left with an absolute mess. We have a residential road map to nowhere. I am pleased to meet with the Treasurer and the Under Treasurer, who understand the black hole left by those opposite. We will work to reform the residential care system. We will work to ensure that children are protected, that they are safe and that they are not funnelled into a life of youth crime and the youth justice system left by those opposite. That is the mess that those opposite have left. There has been no investment—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I remind members that there will be no quarrelling across the chamber. We are getting towards the end. Can we calm it down, thank you.

Ms CAMM: The previous government showed a blatant disregard for the most vulnerable children in this state with a revolving door of ministers who were never up to the task. They never wanted the portfolio. I am pleased that I can meet with every child safety officer across my department

and tell them that I wanted this portfolio because I care about the children of this state and I care about the residential care system, which has been left broken by those opposite. We will reform it. We will invest. We will ensure that our most vulnerable children are protected. What we will not do is disregard Queenslanders' money. We will respect it and we will make sure it is invested in our next generation with purpose.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Before I call the member for Clayfield, I once again request no cross-chamber argument.

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.59 pm): As we consider the appropriation bills—if you like, the last wash-up of the last dying days of the last gasp of the last Labor government—it is important to draw an analogy. We are also dealing with the last gasp of a destructive and damaging tropical cyclone. Just like the cyclone that disintegrated off the coast, the Labor Party disintegrated just before the last election. Just when we thought it was all over and safe to go back in the water, what happened? We had tropical cyclones and storms up and down the coast. It does not matter if we are talking about Hervey Bay or the Gold Coast because the tail end of it is still washing across Queensland and still causing damage, destruction and despair. That is the story of Labor writ large across this state.

Just like Tropical Cyclone Alfred wandered around like the unwanted guest at the party and finally disappeared into a hole of its own making so too did the Labor Party. It will be left to the LNP to clean up the mess that was left behind. Nothing exemplifies that more than this supplementary appropriation bill.

We have seen it all before. We saw it after the Bligh Labor government, to which the member for McConnel made so little contribution. Former premier Bligh kept the member for McConnel out of her cabinet for as long as she possibly could. We remember that. The member sat up there in the back and was never picked by Anna Bligh. That shows us what former premier Bligh thought about the member for McConnel. She sat there dreaming for a long time but was never rewarded. We had it in 2011 and 2012.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They do not like it. The unforeseen budget in 2011-12—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Just one moment, member for Clayfield, please. Could I just ask the chamber to be quiet so I can hear the member speak, particularly those on my left. Thank you.

Mr NICHOLLS: In 2011-12, the unforeseen expenditure in Andrew Fraser's last budget was \$2.83 billion. It was \$2.83 billion going into an election year. In 2012-13, the first year of the LNP government, the unforeseen expenditure was \$63.5 million. That is about proper budgeting. That is about proper control. In 2013-14, the unforeseen expenditure was \$447.6 million. Again, that is about proper budgeting, proper management and proper control. In 2014-15, it was \$12 million. That is about maintaining proper control. In 2015-16, the final year, if you like, where an adjustment was made to an LNP budget, the unforeseen expenditure was \$390 million. Let's look at the elections in 2016-17. What was the Labor figure? It was \$2.27 billion. In 2019-20, what was it? It was \$1.19 billion. In 2023-24, what was the total of Labor's mismanagement and inability to accurately forecast and manage their expenses? It was over \$9 billion.

Respect for money is not something that is said lazily or easily. Respect for money takes work and effort. It involves reading the budget papers, knowing what your budget submissions are and controlling the costs and expenses. It is about providing properly. Labor has no capacity to do any of that.

The member for Miller presided over the budget blowouts on Cross River Rail and could not tell people about it. We remember the false media release that he sent out last year. He said, 'It wasn't the topic of the day so I wasn't going to tell people about it.' He stood right there and said it was not the topic of the day, not the issue of the day.

Mr Mickelberg: Politically convenient.

Mr NICHOLLS: Politically convenient. What was he out by, Minister for Transport? I think the cost blowout was \$400 million. In relation to the Coomera Connector, he had no idea of the costs, no idea of the time and no idea of the delays. Even his own side realised the Coomera Connector could not be left to the member for Miller. It probably would have gone east into the bay rather than south to the coast.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as this is, it is a long way away from the bill. We have gone back 15 years. I ask the member to come back to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, please ensure your comments are relevant to the bill. Thank you. I remind everybody in the chamber to keep the noise down as a matter of courtesy so we can hear the member speak, please. Thank you.


Mr NICHOLLS: Of course, Madam Deputy Speaker. When we take the appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that this bill is proposing—just over \$1.1 billion—and add it to the previous two unforeseen expenditures that were brought into this House by the former government, we see the magnitude of the task that the member for Toowoomba South, the Treasurer, has in front of him. Given the level of unforeseen expenditure, these matters will take some considerable time to resolve. They will not be resolved this year and they may not be resolved next year. They will take a considerable amount of time and work. Given the level of unfunded expenditure that is baked into the forwards, it would not surprise me if we continued to see this type of thing occur.

This bill reminds me again of the opposition's inability to fund and budget properly when it comes to providing for the health portfolio. The single largest component and contributor to this particular supplementary appropriation is Queensland Health—an additional \$217 million is needed than was budgeted for and it is more than what was provided for in the prior two supplementary appropriations. There was the budget, supplementary appropriation 1, supplementary appropriation 2 and this is now the third supplementary appropriation for another \$217 million. Health will be determined to resolve this to make sure that they are not the laggards and always putting their hand out for more money. Proper budgeting is part of that process.

I have already highlighted the \$12 billion budget black hole in the future expenditure of Health. It is not just in the capital expenditure of \$6 billion but also in the expenditure of the centrally managed budget which funds things like wages and salaries over the next four years. That hole includes \$1.88 billion missing from enterprise bargaining agreements. That money is to pay the staff we already have—their wages, salaries and entitlements that were negotiated by those over there as part of the enterprise bargaining agreement. The money is not in the budget.

Some \$14.8 million for ambulance ramping initiatives were announced in the lead-up to the election but are unfunded. The list of these failures goes on and on. The reason for that has been set out quite clearly: the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, did not fund a proposal that Queensland Health made in order to make sure that the minimum level of funding growth was met. The budget books show that only an average of 1.08 per cent funding growth was provided to Queensland Health. That is billions less than they were advised was the minimum amount necessary to fund the health services that Queensland needs.

As the requirement for funding grew by multiples of that number—seven, eight and nine per cent because of the inevitability of an aging population, the inevitability of increasing healthcare costs and the desire for more procedures—they were still only funding the growth at 1.08 per cent. Inflation was running at 3½ per cent. That is the failure of Labor, and that is the failure that we see writ large in the schedule to this bill—that is, the \$217 million that is necessary to catch up. That is why, together with my colleagues the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier, the Premier and others, we will focus on Queensland Health to ensure funding is provided, every cent is spent and every cent is accounted for to provide accountability and certainty to the people of Queensland so we are not faced with this ever happening again.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the supplementary appropriation bills, supposedly for unforeseen expenditure. What I would say is that good management should be able to predict things. For example, in Queensland we know that from time to time we are going to have a natural disaster so there should be some provision for that.

The previous Labor government have had to come back for a third time to supplement their budget because they failed to manage. They failed to prepare. They failed to make sure there was going to be enough money for the things they said they would do. We see in the forwards that that failure will continue for a number of years. The other failure is that they have failed to control expenditure as it is going through. We have seen that with cost overruns on Cross River Rail—billions and billions of dollars. We have seen that with QTRIP—\$6.7 billion.

Poor management, poor provisioning and poor control is no way to treat Queensland taxpayers' money—this money that Queensland taxpayers have earned and have then had to give to government because government has said we shall pay stamp duty, rego or whatever the income stream might be. When we get that money, a good government will manage it appropriately. They will budget appropriately and they will have some fiscal discipline around how they are administering things.

The previous Labor government showed no discipline, no management and no foresight. Across these supplementary appropriations we are talking about \$9 billion. Nine billion dollars is a big number. A lot of people might not be able to visualise what \$9 billion is. Over a year, that is \$750 million per month. Bear in mind, that is not what is being spent; that is what has not been included in decent management and cost control. That is \$173 million a week and \$27 million a day. It gets worse. It is a million dollars an hour. The unforeseen expenditure—the expenditure their management, control and discipline could not manage—is a million dollars an hour. It is \$285 a second. That is how incompetent the former Labor government was.

In the 10 minutes that I will speak this afternoon, the former Labor government's incompetence, the extra provisioning—not funding the services or building the infrastructure or doing all the things they said they would do; just the waste and incompetence—will add up to \$171,000. That is how poor they have been at managing things.

If that is hard to imagine, I could lay \$50 notes out on the road between here and home in Toowoomba and I could drive over those \$50 notes across all four lanes up and back and there would still be some money spare. That is how much money has been thrown out the car window because of poor management and an inability to control costs.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr WATTS: I hear the member for Bundaberg squawking. He might want a six-level hospital to be built, but if we had the \$9 billion we might be able to build him a six-storey hospital.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Just one moment, member for Toowoomba North. May I ask the members on my left not to be continually interjecting, please.

Mr WATTS: Unfortunately, that \$9 billion is not available because it has already been squandered. They talk about cost of living—'We had to do these things.' For the record, there are 3.6 million cars in Queensland and at 50 litres a tank and \$2 a litre we could have bought the owners of those cars 25 tanks of fuel for the year. That would have helped the cost of living for people—25 tanks of fuel free for every single car in Queensland. That is the amount of money they squandered through poor management and an inability to control expenditure.

What were some of the things that were driving this? Was it that they did not put provisions in for things that are now claimed to be unforeseen? We just heard from the health minister that they negotiated a pay deal but did not put the money in the budget.

Mr Smith interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, member for Toowoomba North. Member for Bundaberg, could you please cease interjecting.

Mr WATTS: If you are going to negotiate a pay deal with our very valuable medical staff, whom we absolutely need—and we would like to see some more come into the system—you negotiate it. I come out of small business. Maybe I am just a simple old publican, but if I am going to employ people and offer them some extra pay I am going to make sure that I have put that in my budget—that I have allocated the amount of money that it will cost me to pay them. If I did not do that I would have to borrow the money.


When you borrow money—the previous government has left an interest bill of \$9 billion to manage their borrowings—that comes at a cost. In my old business, it would come at a cost from a bank. When it is government debt, it comes out of future taxes, which means we have a couple of choices. We can reduce our infrastructure spending, we can reduce our service delivery, we can steal from future generations or we can learn to live within our means and manage things effectively.

The former Labor government did not do any of that management. They did not have any fiscal discipline. They had no plan on infrastructure. We heard the member for Lockyer talk earlier about the prison. I know people who have been working on that prison. Sometimes they would barely go to work for a week because construction was stopped. We have seen the productivity. This week we passed the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill so that we can start to get some efficiency back.

It is not just about efficiency; you also need good management, you need good budgeting, you need controls and you need discipline. There is nothing we have seen from the former Labor government that would give anybody any confidence. The reason we are standing here now is that they were incompetent at managing. They were promising things they could not deliver. They were telling people stories without provisioning any of the money. They say, 'You're going to have to cut this or cut that.' What a load of nonsense. It was never there. You cannot cut a fairy tale. It was never there.

They were just misleading the people of Queensland to grasp onto power. That was the objective. That is what they did and now the people of Queensland are going to be subject to this supplementary appropriation. They are going to have to pay the interest on the debt and it is going to take considerable time to make up the gap between what is needed in terms of service delivery and what is needed in terms of infrastructure and the liability of having to pay for Labor's wasteful control, ineptitude in management and inability to foresee budgetary requirements like, 'We signed a pay deal with the nurses. We might have to fund that.' This is not unforeseen. How can this be an unforeseen appropriation? It is totally foreseen. They negotiated it and signed a contract. The only way it could be unforeseen is if you are blind or incompetent or both, or you are wilfully misleading everybody so that you grasp onto power.

It is a disgrace for the former Labor government to have left us in a situation of \$9 billion of appropriations that are required and with a \$9.9 billion interest bill to fund. Remember how much \$9.9 billion is. We could buy everybody who has a car in Queensland 25 tanks of fuel every year. Instead of that, we are paying their interest bill.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.20 pm), in reply: These bills before the House are the full stop on Labor's 10 years of fiscal vandalism. To do it, we have sadly had to pass three pieces of individual legislation to approve the highest unforeseen expenditure of the last decade.

The final bill of that tripartite unforeseen expenditure approves Labor's unforeseen expenditure of \$1.128 billion from 2023-24. This, as I said, is the final component of the near record overspend last financial year, excluding the year of 2010-11, which was slightly more than \$9 billion but factored in natural disasters—the flooding of that year—and also factored in a number of adjustments for the asset sales that the Labor Party undertook, because they are the party of asset sales. We should never let the House forget that.

Mr Bailey: Strong Choices!

Mr JANETZKI: The member for Miller knows it. He bit straightaway. Excellent. We are off and running. It is going to be a great 20 minutes. The member for Miller bit because those opposite are the party of asset sales. They are the party that sold the assets. I do not need to go through the whole list, but the member for Miller bit. They are the party of asset sales. The adjustment in 2010-11 was necessary and was reflected in the unforeseen expenditure of that particular financial year.

As I said, this is the last sorry chapter in the story of Labor's fiscal vandalism and this unforeseen expenditure comes as no surprise. As demonstrated in Labor's last budget update delivered in January, the former government had lost control of the spending in its budget with project blowouts—capex blowouts—unfunded service delivery commitments and black holes. Let's not forget Labor's capital project blowouts and overruns. We heard a couple of them today from my colleague the transport minister: Cross River Rail, up \$494 million in a blowout; and Gold Coast Light Rail, up \$330 million.

My colleague the health minister just spoke about the hospital capacity expansion program—up from \$9.785 billion to \$16 billion—\$16 billion. Then there is CopperString, \$6.2 billion to \$9 billion; Borumba, \$14 billion to \$18 billion; and of course Pioneer-Burdekin from \$7 billion to \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion. They are all the capex blowouts.

Ms Grace: It is all rubbish. Table the documents.

Mr JANETZKI: The member for McConnel may interject. I am going to take the interjection because sometimes in debates it is not so much what people say but what they do not say. If I look at the former government's Cabinet Budget Review Committee—the Cabinet Budget Review Committee of the last government—by my reckoning, the four members were the member for McConnel—

Ms Grace: Yep, proud of it.

Mr JANETZKI:—doing lots of interjecting; the former premier, the member for Murrumba; the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge; and the former health minister, the member for Waterford. Between all four of them they spoke for six minutes—all four of them. That is all they could muster. This was their opportunity to defend their economic legacy. Between the four members of the CBRC of the former government they could manage to speak for only six minutes.

Mr RYAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just as there is a convention about reflecting on someone's presence in the chamber, there is also a convention about reflecting on whether a member has or has not contributed to a debate. I would like to draw the attention of the Treasurer to that convention and ask you to order accordingly.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): I will take some additional advice on that, but in this moment could you just be mindful of how you comment about other members in the chamber.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Those opposite, through the former members of the CBRC, are clearly not willing to defend their economic legacy, and I will spend some more time on that a little later. They were the capex projects that I just ran through quickly again then.

We also had the unfunded service delivery commitments. My colleague the child safety minister spoke passionately about that too in respect of the \$461 million cliff that was coming in March. This March—right now—we would have had our most vulnerable and at-risk kids in child safety in residential care out on the streets. The former government knew that that service delivery was unfunded, that that important child safety service delivery was unfunded. They knew it, they hid it from the Queensland people and they never funded it. I commend the child safety minister for the work she is already doing in the portfolio.

The health minister also recognised that there were Queensland Health programs and services left unfunded—completely unfunded or underfunded—by the former Labor government. As I said before, those opposite had a lot to say in respect of various aspects of these bills, and I am going to come to that shortly. They had three cracks during the last year at trying to get supplementary appropriations correct. I am going to run through some of what they all had to say.

First, for the good order of the House, yesterday I remarked on the absence from the House of a member opposite, and I unconditionally withdraw those comments.

I want to turn now to the member for Waterford's contribution. The shadow treasurer, who spoke earlier this week, or I think spoke in the last sitting week, managed to have 10 minutes of ChatGPT in respect of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. The shadow treasurer plugged in the search and away it came. What has happened with the supplementary appropriation bills before the House? The shadow treasurer contributed six minutes—six minutes to this debate—when she could have spoken for a full 30 minutes on these appropriation bills.

This debate was all about the full stop on the economic vandalism of the last 10 years of the Labor government. You would think that the member for Waterford would have mounted the very best case defending the economic legacy of those opposite. You would have thought that. What did the member for Waterford manage? Six minutes—six minutes in defence. As I said earlier, sometimes in debates it is not so much about what people say; it is about what has not been said. Between the former health minister, the former treasurer, the former premier and the former state development minister, their silence says everything. The six minutes that all four of them spoke says volumes about their inability or unwillingness to defend the economic legacy of the former government.

You would think that the member for Waterford would have great interest in defending their legacy because, as a key member of CBRC, those opposite were there for every single decision, every report that was hidden from the Queensland people, every cost blowout that was hidden from the Queensland people, every figure that was not transparently delivered to the Queensland people—and those opposite know it. They know it. Those opposite knew that the Pioneer-Burdekin project was going to be \$12 billion before the election. They knew it was going to be \$36.8 billion, truthfully. They knew it and they never said a word. Those opposite knew about the hospital capacity expansion program blowout—that capex blowout from \$9 billion to \$16 billion.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, Treasurer. Could I ask members on my left to not keep interjecting and allow the Treasurer to speak. Thank you.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Those opposite knew it. The member for Waterford knew that the hospital capacity expansion program had gone from \$9 billion to nearly \$17 billion. I find it interesting that the member for Waterford talked about interest costs with respect to what happened with the outlook downgrade here in Queensland. I never heard the member for Waterford comment on interest costs when the interest bill for Queensland taxpayers went from \$3.9 billion in 2014-15 to \$9.9 billion at the end of the forwards, as my colleague the member for Toowoomba North has just mentioned. There was not a word from those opposite when the interest bill went from \$3.9 billion at the outset of their government to \$9.9 billion at the end of the forwards. That

is where they left the interest bill. There was not a single mention of the cost of borrowing from those opposite for all of that time. The former treasurer did not even know the difference between a credit rating and credit spreads, and that said volumes. They were simply not interested. In fact, the former treasurer spent more time goading ratings agencies into downgrading Queensland's rating than talking responsibly, calmly and methodically to the Queensland people.

As I said, sometimes it is more about what people do not say than what they do. Now I want to turn to some of the things those opposite did say during the debate. Their silence said plenty and those members of the former CBRC said plenty, but let's turn to what they said. The member for Bancroft—I have to check *Hansard*—was talking about one of the three witches on the Gold Coast. I would love to know who the member for Bancroft thought the other two witches were. I do not even know what the member for Bancroft meant there.

The member for Ipswich said, 'Our state's credit rating has been downgraded.' I am happy to overlook plenty of things, but the member for Ipswich said, 'I have to clarify. The outlook has been downgraded; the credit rating hasn't been downgraded.' You would have thought that as a former assistant treasury, trade and investment minister the member for Ipswich might have known the difference between an outlook downgrade and a rating downgrade. It triggered a memory for me. When the member for Ipswich, the former assistant treasury, trade and investment minister, should have been helping the former treasurer prepare the 2023-24 budget she was gunning for the member for Blair's job, as I recall. The member for Ipswich wanted out. Maybe if she paid more attention to the job that she had as assistant treasury, trade and investment minister she may have recognised the difference between an outlook downgrade and a rating downgrade.

In his contribution the member for Springwood spent more time talking about Peter Dutton than defending their legacy. I understand why the member for Springwood would not have wanted to talk about the legacy of the former government, because as energy minister he had a whole range of capex projects that blew out. I understand why the member for Springwood would want to talk more about Peter Dutton than his record. Let's look at the energy projects under the former energy minister's watch. We talked about Pioneer-Burdekin and the \$36.8 billion as we found out after the election. We saw CopperString go from \$5 billion to \$6.2 billion. To defend the member for Springwood, it appears that he did know about the numbers between \$6.2 billion and \$9 billion. It appeared after the election that he was aware of it but the former treasurer was not. I do not doubt the justification for why the member for Springwood would not want to talk about that. Then we had Borumba pumped hydro, which the member for Gympie knows very well.

Mr de Brenni: Great project.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes. I take the interjection from the member for Springwood. We want to find a way to save that project because there are plenty of options. Unfortunately, under the member for Springwood's watch the project went from \$14 billion to \$18 billion. It was another one of those projects where those opposite hid the true cost from the Queensland people. Those opposite promised first energy by 2030. What we found out after the election in the report was that there was a less than one per cent chance of any energy being delivered by 2030 under that project. They knew it and they hid it from the Queensland people. The Energy and Jobs Plan, of which Borumba and Pioneer-Burdekin formed a major part, fell apart under the lightest scrutiny imaginable. Once Pioneer-Burdekin was proven to be \$36.8 billion and a generational lag on the balance sheet of our state—and Borumba went from \$14 billion to \$18 billion and the first chance of any energy by 2030 being less than one per cent—it was shown to be the fantasy and the hoax that it was. Those opposite hid it from the Queensland people. These appropriation bills show that they had no respect for taxpayers' money, and those energy projects are a perfect example.

The members for Bundaberg and Morayfield had a fair bit to say about the cost of living, and that was a common theme throughout from those opposite in their contributions. I just have one question for those opposite: where in the budget were the cost-of-living measures?

Mr Smith interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, one moment, please. Member for Bundaberg, I did ask you to not interject anymore. You are now on a warning.

Mr JANETZKI: In the forwards they spent more time advertising the rebates on the back of the budget papers than they spent in the forwards. They spent more time advertising it, whether it be energy bills or 50-cent fares—well done, transport minister—on the back of the budget papers than they did putting it in the forwards. That is how dishonest those opposite were about their claims with respect to cost-of-living relief.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: They spent more, transport minister; I will take the interjection. They spent more advertising their cost-of-living relief on the back of the budget than they put in the forwards. Those opposite can never again speak with any credibility on these issues. That is the members for Bundaberg and Morayfield.

The member for Bulimba was talking about S&P's comments. She sat around the cabinet table for most of the last 10 years; she got it wrong, too. The member for Bulimba talked about Queensland's credit rating as being downgraded. That is wrong; the outlook has been downgraded. Thanks to those opposite for that.

Those of us on this side of the House have spoken about the risks. Standard & Poor's talked about the 'waning fiscal discipline', the 'looser fiscal discipline'. The *Financial Review* called their budget a 'clown show'. We know all of that, but I want to return to some of the dishonesty. The contribution of the health minister went some way to this when he talked about the deliberate underfunding of service delivery in Queensland. If there is one figure that shows the depths of the deceit of those opposite with respect to service delivery funding across the forwards it is that for the first nine years of the former government expense growth averaged 6.6 per cent—across the first nine years of the budget. In the last budget delivered by the former treasurer, the 2023-24 budget, the former treasurer put 1.4 per cent expense growth in the forwards.

That says everything. They knew that they were chronically underfunding service delivery in Queensland. They knew that they had 6.6 per cent expense growth across the first nine years, yet they put in 1.4 per cent expense growth across the forwards. That shows the depths of those opposite in their deception. They stopped at nothing to deceive the Queensland people, including all the way through that last budget.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: The member for Greenslopes interjects and I will take the interjection. In his speech he said, 'If they don't like what's in there, they don't need to vote for it.' It is money that has been appropriated. It has gone, right? The service delivery deceit—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Greenslopes, the Treasurer has the call.

Mr JANETZKI: The member for Greenslopes should be more agitated than most—and I accept that he is agitated—because it was in Health where the deception of those opposite was worse, and the health minister has just described it. The member for Greenslopes should know this about the government which he was a part of: for the first nine years expense growth ran at 6.6 per cent, and in the forwards they had measured it at 1.4 per cent. The member for Greenslopes should know that.

I want to pay a compliment to those on our backbench and to our committee members. They have done an outstanding job. The member for Coomera, the member for Maryborough and the member for Caloundra have done a great job in their contributions to the committee. I thank them for it and I thank the entire team that has made a contribution to this bill. I see many of them here in the House tonight.

It is disappointing that for those of us on this side of the House it is a steep learning curve when it comes to Labor's mismanagement of the economy and the budget in Queensland. I hope throughout this debate members have been made aware of the challenges and the economic and fiscal vandalism of those opposite. We have said we will target budget improvement because those of us on this side of the House and the new MPs know how it is important. They know it is a massive challenge but we are up for it.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill**

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)**Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill**

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.44 pm): I move—

That the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.45 pm): I move—

That the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)**Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill**

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.46 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill

Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.46 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 11 December 2024 (see p. 405).



Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (5.46 pm): To stand here in this august chamber and give my address-in-reply after being re-elected for a fifth term by the people of Chatsworth is indeed a true honour and one that I do not take for granted. I fully realise that it is a privilege and not a right to serve in this hallowed chamber and I am truly indebted to the people of Chatsworth. I thank them for giving me the opportunity of serving as their state member in this 58th Parliament. I again reaffirm my allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III and to his representative, Her Excellency the Governor, Dr Jeannette Young, the institution of parliament and of course the electors of Chatsworth who have entrusted me with a fifth term of electoral representation in this 58th Parliament. As I stated in my inaugural address-in-reply back in 2012—

Our role and responsibility as a government is to provide an opportunity deposit slip for all Queenslanders and not an entitlement chequebook. It is our responsibility as the government to be an enabler of opportunity and not a provider of assumed entitlement.

Even though four months have passed since the last state election, I take this opportunity to once again acknowledge the valuable contribution made by defeated and retiring members from the 57th Parliament. I congratulate all returning and new members of this 58th Parliament. I also congratulate Mr Speaker on his appointment to the role.

I remain steadfastly committed to doing what is best for the Chatsworth electorate, which I am proud to serve. Whilst I am deeply honoured to be a minister of the Crown, as I have repeatedly said the most important initials or title one can have as a politician is 'MP'. Without them you are not a minister, shadow minister, whip or anything else. It reinforces the notion in my mind that serving your local community as their MP is, and always will be, the highest priority. On this point, nothing has changed. Since first being elected 13 years ago in 2012, my passion to make the local community I represent in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane a better place in which to live will continue to be the focus of what drives me each and every day as a parliamentarian.

Being asked by the Premier to take on the role of Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Small and Family Business was a distinct privilege. It is a portfolio very dear to my heart, having set up an award-winning customer service centre at the Redland shire—now city—council 30 years ago. I am truly honoured to have been asked by the Premier to be the inaugural Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business.

Navigating the labyrinthine structures of government services is often a daunting task. As the first Queensland Minister for Customer Services and Open Data in addition to Minister for Small and Family Business, I am committed to addressing some longstanding issues around customer service and how everyday Queenslanders receive government services. The challenges are well documented: red tape, jargon-rich communication and siloed government departments, all of which can confound and frustrate the very individuals seeking assistance. It takes more than just lip-service to overcome these hurdles; it takes a concerted effort and a vision.

To deliver better digital services, we must provide a reason to engage with a single platform for multiple services and supports. Securing a digital driver's licence on its own does not build trust or confidence in accessing digital services. We want to provide a single digital access point that pulls together the services that customers and business require on a daily or monthly basis—blue card, yellow card, birth certificates, sport and recreation grants, personal hardship and recovery grants—in one location and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

By building this capability to allow access to these and other support services, we will change the way citizens and businesses interact. We will also build future capacity and possibilities for more effective and responsive services to meet the needs of communities. This is not simply a work stream enhancement but a philosophical shift. The approach will ensure that government is more understandable and accessible for the average citizen. To be clear, this is not about creating an impersonal, digital-only interface that alienates those less technologically minded. It is about offering choice: digital, face-to-face or phone. This multichannel customer experience approach recognises the diversity of preference and need across Queensland's wide demographic spectrum.

My vision and expectations are that Queensland sets a new standard that others will want to emulate: excellence in service delivery where the needs of the customers drive the evolution of systems and, importantly, the service we provide. This extends beyond mere administrative adjustments. It will revolutionise the way the Queensland government supports and assists citizens and businesses across

the entire state. Queenslanders have already had a snapshot with the Queensland Open Hospitals initiative, the first of what will be many initiatives that align transparency and efficiency. By partnering with Queensland Health, we have enabled access to real-time data on emergency department waiting times, turning previously opaque systems into sources of empowerment for the health-seeking public. In an era where data drives decisions, the Queensland government's focus on open data is an essential and necessary first step. I look forward to updating the House as we progress.

We recognise that Queensland's economy is built on the back of over 495,000 small and family businesses that make up about 97 per cent of all Queensland businesses and employ more than one million people across the state. I can assure people that the Crisafulli government is focused on creating an environment in which small and family businesses are a key customer that we want to see, as I have said previously, not just survive but thrive.

Our Small and Family Business First commitments included refocusing the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and dispute resolution as part of our 100-day plan. Let's face it: red tape had been weighing down businesses across Queensland for far too long, and we all have experiences or examples. I thank the members on this side for their advocacy in identifying red tape from their local small businesses. It is something I would urge those from across this parliament to focus on if they are serious about small and family businesses.

Under phase 1, I wrote to more than 120 chambers of commerce across Queensland asking for their feedback and examples of red tape impeding small businesses from operating efficiently and profitably. I recently announced phase 2—the opening up of feedback to all 495,000 Queensland small and family businesses, whether they are a tradie, a tourism operator or a cafe or clothing store owner. Some of the feedback we have already received includes language on government forms being far too complicated, different information from different areas of government, or duplication in auditing and monitoring requirements. I am keen to hear from as many people as possible.

We have already started the journey across government. In addition to refocusing the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on red-tape reduction and delivering dispute management services, work is progressing on other commitments, including: delivering the Secure Communities Partnership Program to provide grants to small businesses and local governments to implement crime prevention measures; delivering a new dedicated small business concierge service to streamline government support and deliver a one-stop shop to improve access to government services—and I would like to pay tribute to the former shadow minister in this sphere, now the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, for his advocacy in this leading policy development; delivering the five-business-days On Time, Every Time Payment Guarantee for small businesses and immediate payments for invoices under \$10,000; making it easier for small businesses to tender for government work with simplified procurement processes, standardised contracts and smaller tenders; developing a small and family business innovation pathway; establishing a regional business gateway grant program to support chambers of commerce, trade organisations and local councils to operate business hubs in regional centres; and supporting small and family businesses with the cost of apprenticeship wages.

All politics are local, and I will continue to fight hard for the constituents of the Chatsworth electorate and look to improve amenities in my electorate. Leading into the 2024 state election campaign, I put forward my vision and plan for Chatsworth. These things included: Belmont State School—\$10 million to deliver a new A block; Belmont State School—\$40,000 to upgrade facilities; Gumdale State School—\$661,000 to upgrade facilities; Carina State School, my old school—\$15,000 to upgrade facilities; Mayfield State School—\$550,000 to deliver a new acoustic wall in the undercover activity centre; an initiative very dear to my heart, the Queensland Koala Society—\$220,000 to deliver a fauna crossing on Old Cleveland Road at Carindale to keep our koalas and wildlife safer; and Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, otherwise known as B4C—\$135,000 to deliver a weed control and rehabilitation program, and I acknowledge the great work that B4C do.

As I have stated in the past and will continue to acknowledge, there is one aspect of being a politician that unites all of us in this chamber, regardless of our various ideological beliefs: none of us can aspire to high office without the help of our wonderful support base. Therefore, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to several important people. Firstly, to the local LNP branch members: thank you yet again for your dedication and professionalism during the last state campaign. None of you are paid a dime, yet you give up your time and effort in order to support me and the LNP overall. I am forever in your debt; I thank you sincerely. My dedicated campaign team continued to hit the pavements and letterbox dropped targeted areas of the electorate as well as undertook roadside duties and doorknocking.

To the many supporters, both from within the LNP and personal friends, who assisted with the pre-poll in the weeks leading up to election day, I give my deepest thanks. I acknowledge Charles, Mike, Drewe, Ken, Lauren, Ben, Renee, Tracey, Madeline, Paul, Greg and many others. Yet again, I would like to acknowledge the several hundred supporters throughout the Chatsworth electorate who enabled my mighty campaign team to erect election signs along their front yards and fences.


Yet again my mother, Denise, was exceptional in her support throughout the entire fifth campaign, particularly rising to the occasion with pre-polling. My love for her knows no bounds. I acknowledge the fact that eight weeks before the pre-poll she broke her knee. She was in plaster and she was hobbling, but she gave at least seven hours every day for pre-poll. She took medication at night, came back the next day and away she went. That is what I call a true champion.

As was the case several years ago when I first ran for preselection, my greatest support base is my immediate family. My two adult children, Heather and Lachlan, worked tirelessly around their university, school and sporting commitments to assist with my campaign for the fifth election in a row. I was full of pride and overwhelmed with their work ethic and dedication during the campaign; nothing politically will ever surpass my pride in watching them grow into fine free-spirited and thinking young individuals.

Twelve years ago I described my wife Roslyn in my inaugural speech as my 'rock of Gibraltar'. This description is just as apt today. I could only achieve politically as a member of parliament with the support and assistance of my wife for well over a quarter of a century. She has done a phenomenal job—not just throughout the campaign but throughout the course of my political career. Ros is a dedicated high school teacher and consummate professional in everything she does. My success in being elected for a fifth term is due, in no small part, to her efforts. As a teacher she is a busy professional in her own right and virtually runs the entire household when I am consumed with politics. To my extraordinary wife Ros: I thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

I have previously stated, and again reiterate, that our ideological battles here in this hallowed chamber are an important part of the overall democratic process. Indeed, robust debate is an important part of this but, as the approximately 1,100 names on the honour board of past members of the Legislative Assembly attests, our time here is, relatively speaking, short-lived as a proportion of our entire life's experiences. I believe it is incumbent, therefore, upon all of us to use our privileged time here responsibly in pursuing tangible outcomes for the electorates we all serve.

In closing my fifth address-in-reply speech, I am truly honoured to be returned for a fifth time. In closing my address, I will end where I always have with my previous address-in-reply speeches. I will again quote Hal Colebatch, who stated, 'The high privilege of democracy cannot be maintained unless the equally exalted responsibilities attracting to it are understood and observed.'

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (6.02 pm): I begin my contribution by first acknowledging Mr Speaker, Pat Weir. I congratulate him on his ascension to what is perhaps the most important office in this parliament, and that is keeping us all in order. I also wish to acknowledge the new LNP government and congratulate them on their electoral success in the 2024 election. In doing so, I acknowledge the Premier David Crisafulli and his family. His story is a great Queensland story. Whether you believe in his political philosophies or not, for a boy from Ingham to come to the south-east corner and become the Premier is a great story and I know that his family would be proud. I wish to acknowledge the Deputy Premier and his family, and I congratulate all ministers on their ascension as well.

I, of course, need to acknowledge my electoral neighbour, the member for Burnett. He might fall over to hear that, but I do respect the contributions that he makes throughout his time in this place, so congratulations to Mr Stephen Bennett on his return to serve the people of Burnett. I welcome all members back to this place, or to this place for their first term. It is indeed a privilege to serve our communities. Whether you have served your communities previously in a charitable role or through a community organisation, the difference now is that you get to serve through representation, which is a great honour and privilege. Regardless of the amount of time we may be here, to be asked to represent others in our community is something that we should not only be very proud of but also very humbled by at the same time.

I want to give a special mention to the new members on this side of the House. The member for Ipswich West who I know has done a fantastic job within this House previously—maybe not this chamber—but has definitely left a mark through her prior roles in assisting many of us and actually helping to get us through and returned into this place, so we do thank the member for Ipswich West for her previous contributions and look forward to many years to come. I pay tribute to the new member

for South Brisbane—even though she put me on a warning a moment ago! I know these members have served their community in many different roles previously and that they will continue to serve their community in this place. I want to pay tribute to the member for Sandgate for being the first person of the Muslim faith to serve in this parliament and to break down barriers and show people all across this state that no matter your faith or background, you can overcome any adversity that may be put before you and represent those who need that shining light. I will say: I did once see the new member for Sandgate at a state conference and let me tell you, she will be holding the LNP to account in her own boisterous way, that's for sure. She was quite thrilling at that state conference actually. I think it might have been against the future member for Moreton, so that should be fun in the future!

I also acknowledge the leaders of our caucus: the member for Waterford, the member for McConnel and the member for Woodridge for their outstanding fight and determination during the election period. They showed what leadership can be and how progressive Labor Parties can take the fight around ideology to elections. I want to thank my friend the member for Murrumba, Mr Steven Miles, who I believe was a leader for the time and will again be a leader for the time.

In Bundaberg, we shaped a plan to move our community further forward. Over four years we took a commitment of hard work to the people. Whether it was through representing them each and every day through constituency meetings, being out at shopping centres or at the markets, listening to people is always the best way you can then work for people. We made investments in grassroots community organisations; we saw the unemployment rate at its lowest level in over 10 years across the Wide Bay, including Maryborough and Hervey Bay; and we also delivered major infrastructure. We made commitments to future infrastructure such as the new Bundaberg Hospital and the new wall for Paradise Dam. I know that the Alcohol and Other Drugs Service rehabilitation centre has opened. We have seen the industrial design technology building open to high school students at Kepnock. The works on Isis Highway, or Childers Road, are continuing. We have seen social housing delivered for people in the Bundaberg community and we have seen investment in our TAFE hubs. I know that the member for Bulimba and the member for Bundamba played a significant role in that.

We also delivered the first ever NRL competition match in Bundaberg. We have had trials previously but for the first time, NRL teams came to Bundaberg and played for competition points. It was a successful three years. I want to thank the North Queensland Cowboys, who played in the first year, for their cooperation. There was significant work done by the Dolphins but, of course, the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs were the home team and did fantastic work. Andrew Gifford, who was the director of the Bulldogs, has chosen Bundaberg to be his home, so to Andrew and his family we say: thank you very much for the work you did.

Of course, this work is due to the fantastic efforts of my electoral office staff. They are very much the people who control my life and thankfully, they control it with much more responsibility than others could. Teisha Russell has been fantastic. She has been there since almost day one. Her maturity in the job has just grown and I rely on Teisha every single day to make sure that the office is working well to serve the people of Bundaberg, so thank you to Teisha. As well I thank Gayle Porch for the magnificent work that she does. Gayle is fantastic because she has a more mature head. I will often run my ideas by Gayle and if she says, 'Don't do it', I will often do it, but then I will think, 'Oh, maybe I should have listened to Gayle the first time round!'

I want to thank Ben Wilmott. He was there from the beginning and did outstanding work. He is currently down here in Brisbane with his family—his two boys and his beautiful wife. If it were not for Ben, the success in 2024 would not have been possible. Ben, I appreciate you and thank you very much.

I also want to pay respect to Carl Moller, who is currently doing work in the office. He has worked for previous members for Bundaberg in Clem Campbell and Nita Cunningham. He says that I am definitely in the top three of those three members.

A government member: I worked for Nita and you are.

Mr SMITH: That is right. I take the interjection. I will take that as a compliment maybe—I do not know.

An honourable member: A strong third.

Mr SMITH: A strong third; that is right. Bronze is something at the Olympics. I also want to thank: Genevieve Newton for the fantastic work she did over a short period in the office when she was looking for some transitional work; Meredith Newman, who helped set up the office in the first two weeks after the election; Josh Fidge, who is a great man who I know will go very far; and Meg Freeman, who did a little bit of work over the uni holidays. Thank you for your work, Meg.

What we saw in Bundaberg at the previous election was a vote of trust in Labor governments to deliver the critical infrastructure and crucial social services that our community needs. I want to thank the Bundaberg community and all those who put their trust in me for a second term. I will fight every single day to make sure that every single person across Bundaberg is heard and listened to and that my office works for them. Regardless of how people put forward their political persuasions, every member is a member of the community and we should always respect their voice in our community.

I want to thank many volunteers: Susan Jackson, Margaret Slocombe, Marcus Monargle, George Nathan, Narelle Nathan, Jason Jarro, Marge Sayers, Donna Webster, Bev Collins, Leanne Convery, Ian Kendrick, Austin Allen, Sasha Walters, Pam Liddell—Pam did not think she could do phone calling but she proved herself to be a champion—Loit Fields, Michelle Burchett, Kyara and Geoff Dettl, Janet Cumming and Heather Pepperill. Heather, you are an absolute superstar and we thank you for all of the work that you do. Some members on this side of the House may know Heather. She is the one who keeps tagging you into posts. She is very passionate and a fantastic volunteer and will do great work on the upcoming Hinkler campaign. She is a proud Cavendish Road student. She actually graduated alongside me in 2007.

I want to thank Zoe King, Brenda May and Don Meiers. Don always wins the raffle tickets, so keep buying those raffle tickets for fundraisers, Don. I want to thank Martin Kelly for his outstanding work and contribution as well as his son John Kelly. John was excellent coming out to help during the campaign. I want to thank Leonie Henricks for her outstanding work, especially on the pre-poll—and I think the member for Burnett will always remember that pre-poll—Kaylene Dwyer, Ann Gosner, Rachel Brady, Tina Marshall, Wayne Macdonald, Keith Ballin for the tremendous work he does with the Bundaberg branch and his long service to the Australian Workers' Union and to workers as well, Peter Woodland, Bruce Kensler, Wanita Ellis, David Kevill, Debra Finlay, Greg Purches for his significant contributions, Phil Freeman for the outstanding work he does and Teresa Packer. In fact, I thank the entire Freeman family for their continuous support.

I mentioned Gayle Porch as an electorate officer but also as a volunteer, Danielle Robert, Gayle Castle, Darryl Sirl, Peter Sullivan, Pat Faircloth—Pat is still punching well above her weight and doing fantastic work—Alys Wall and Lee Harvey, thank you for your contributions, Ann Gouge, Kaye Fagan. Kay actually remembered when I used to be in year 1. It was a little bit scary to hear about what I used to be like in year 1. I only got better, apparently.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SMITH: That was clearly sarcasm. Kerri Morgan—I really want to thank Kerri. Twice she has been a candidate for Burnett. It is never easy being a candidate but Kerri has done a fantastic job. I thank Callum Johnson, Danny Wogam, Mary Seng and the continuous work that Mary does in the QCU building in Bundaberg, Steve List and Scotty Sologinkin, two very proud ETU members. I really thank those two gentleman from the ETU for the significant work they have done over many years not just for the Labor Party but also for their comrades in the ETU. I know that the member for Bundamba would want me to place on record how much he knows those two gentlemen and respects them as well.

I want to give some special mentions to Bronson Thomas, an organiser for the Australian Workers' Union. Bronson does great work, again, looking after workers in Bundaberg. He did significant doorknocking. It was wonderful to be there on pre-poll with him and also on election day at the polling booth. I thank Richard Pascoe for his continuous work for the party and for what he does for working people. Keith Krebs would always be there at the markets on Sunday with me making sure that everything went well and that the marquee would not blow away, and to Geoff Brennan—Geoff's text messages can be very long, but his efforts on the booth are very long as well and also joining me at the shopping centres. He is a true Labor man and someone who is very dear to his values.

I want to thank Maria Todd for the significant work she did in terms of being a volunteer captain. It is never easy to make sure that every single event has people there, but Maria did a fantastic job. To Allan Cook for his—I was going to say militant but I will say—disciplined way of making sure we have all of our corflutes out and about. To Terri Rees who campaign-managed from Brisbane: Terri is now two for two and he tells me he is not coming back for a third, but we will see what we can do.

I want to pay special tribute to Cheryl Dorron. Cheryl is the champion Labor hero of the Bundaberg region. I know there are members on this side of the House who have known Cheryl for many a long time. She is still out there at the markets. She gets there at 6 am every second Sunday with me. The best one was when she stayed up till four o'clock watching tennis, had a sleep for 90 minutes and still came out to the markets for the rest of the day. That shows Cheryl's commitment not only to the Labor Party but also to tennis, apparently.

I want to also thank people like Evan Schwarten, Jake Araullo, Rhiannon Douglas and Alister Windsor for their fantastic work. They provided great insight into the campaign but also were wonderful supports along the way. I want to thank Gary Bullock, Stacey Schnell, Jacqueline King, Peter Ong and Peter Allan. Of course I want to thank Zac Beers and Kate Flanders for the great work in the role they played.

I have had a lot of people come up and pat me on the back for winning the election, but, as I mentioned, it is our volunteers and our electorate officers who should be congratulated. I must also say that the work Brianna Bailey did on the campaign was absolutely sensational. Brianna worked tremendously hard. She is a true Labor person through and through. The best thing about her is that even if you are right she will tell you why you are wrong and why she is right. Then you just admit that she is right and you go out there and you win an election. Well done to Brianna. Brianna's only fault was that she let the Premier's team know when my birthday was so they decided to surprise me with a birthday cake. Can I say, I have never had so many people wish me happy birthday. I want to thank the *Courier-Mail* and the headlines for getting me re-elected. Brianna, you are a true comrade and I will always be indebted to you for your efforts. Thank you very much.

I want to pay tribute to former members Adrian Tantari and Bruce Saunders, the former members for Hervey Bay and Maryborough. I have known these men since 2017. They are wonderful Labor people and they work hard for their communities. Whilst they were unsuccessful in the last election, success should be the way you work for community, not how many elections you win. I really want to pay respects to my two mates. I know we will continue to sit down and have a coffee and maybe a beer from time to time.

I also want to make special mention of the former member for Sandgate and former member for Stafford, Mr Stirling Hinchliffe. Stirling, like me, was a little bit nerdy about the parliament. We quite enjoyed reading through standing orders books.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SMITH: I will not take that interjection. Stirling was someone you could always have a conversation with and who would put you at ease in terms of getting used to parliament and how to represent your community. He was someone I definitely looked up to and someone I have tremendous respect for. When he left this parliament you could see by the number of people in the gallery and the respect shown by the then opposition just how much of a gentleman he was and how much he is missed from this place. I was very honoured that Stirling gave me one of his former cab bags that sits proudly in my office, so I do appreciate you, Stirling.

I also want to acknowledge my family: my mum and my dad, who made sure they always put my brother and me first; my brother, Nick, who keeps watching parliament even though I tell him not to because it is not that exciting, so I want to thank Nick; and my grandma—Gran—who is always there for me and who is always calling. I try to make sure to answer almost every phone call, but I will at least always call back. Gran is the most inspirational person I know. In this job you get to meet many inspirational people, but Gran's story in terms of where she came from as a child to where she is now and the family that she helped form is a true inspiration.


I want to thank my Uncle Jay, my Auntie Joanie and Willow as well. I spoke about my brother and Willow in my first address-in-reply. They continue to be the two most courageous people I know in my life and they overcome challenges every single day. I promised Willow that I will try to get to one of the sailing events that you are in. Sometimes in this job you have to miss family events, but I will try to do my best to make sure that I get to see Willow out there on the water because she is an absolute sensation when she does it.

Finally, I want to thank all of those whom I was lucky enough to serve with in the last parliament. When you become a member of parliament there is not much of a manual. There is a standing order and then we pretend that we know the standing orders, but we really do rely on those around you—those colleagues, those friends—and I have to say that the friendship does not just stop at your own party. There are those over on the other side whom I consider to be mates. There are very good people on both sides of the chamber: people like the member for Toowoomba South, who is always a gentleman and we always have a friendly conversation in the halls; the member for Chatsworth, who has always been very gentlemanly and always puts out a good word; the member for Gympie, who is a good fellow. Given our positions we are meant to be at sword lengths, but he is a good friend and a good gentleman. I also want to give a special mention to the member for Southern Downs.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SMITH: I know. He always comes up and is a good person and has good values. As I mentioned yesterday, I am on the Emu Swamp Dam ticket, brother! I am there for you. There are so many members on this side of the House whom I could thank, and the list goes on. I will say this to those members who did not return from our side last year: I learned so much from you as members of parliament. As I said before, it is not the length of time in this place; it is the contributions to your communities. You did wonderful work for your communities and you will always be remembered for it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): I want to address the point of order made by the member for Morayfield earlier. I have taken advice on this and there is no convention regarding the mention of the lack of a member's contribution to a debate.

 **Mr LISTER (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.22 pm):** I rise with pride to make my contribution to the address-in-reply and affirm my ongoing allegiance to the Crown, to the people of my country and particularly to the people of my electorate of Southern Downs, whom I am so honoured to have the opportunity to represent.

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I acknowledge my good friend in saying, 'Hear, hear!' to that. It is nice to know that there are many of us in the House who feel that way. It is an enormous privilege to be an MP—we all know that—and many of us have said that in the course of our contributions. I thought I might speak about my electorate and how that particular honour is experienced by me. This is my third term and I am most grateful indeed that the people of Southern Downs elected me to be their representative once again, and I can certainly confidently assure them that I will continue to be a vociferous and boisterous representative in this House. I remember speaking to the member for Southern Downs before me, the Hon. Councillor Lawrence Springborg AM, the Mayor of Goondiwindi—a great friend and mentor. I told him about the first time I was ejected from the House for disorderly conduct and I was rather proud of myself at the time. He was not. He said, 'It's not the Southern Downs way,' but I assured him that things had changed.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LISTER: If it were that good an impersonation, I will do it for Lawrence at some stage. I am much grateful for the opportunity I have, and the electorate of Southern Downs is a marvellous place. It has a unique and varied landscape, an involving and friendly—

Mr Head: The second best electorate in Queensland.

Mr LISTER: I will not take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Callide. It has involving communities and we are a productive, industrious place and very diverse. The electorate stretches from the top of Cunninghams Gap all the way to about 140 kilometres west of Goondiwindi just short of the towns of Nindigully, Thallon and Mungindi. It also includes the major centres of Millmerran and up to Cecil Plains, Allora, Warwick, Killarney and Stanthorpe down to Wallangarra and the Queensland-New South Wales border near Texas and Inglewood and smaller places like Karara and Torwood. It is a place where every individual town has its own character—its own gun club, its own Lions club, its own scene.

One of the great enriching experiences of being a country MP—and I am sure that my honourable friends who consider themselves country MPs as well would agree with me—is that wherever you go people will give you a fair go. There might be electors who would not vote for me in a pink fit, but they will still invite me to their AGM or they will come and poke me in the chest and say, 'What are you doing about this?', and engage with me. That makes the role of representing a large electorate easier because, if you are embraced by those communities and given the opportunity to represent them, you are able to do so to the best of your ability.

I want to thank my campaign manager Carol Clark for the wonderful work that she did with the LNP membership to run the campaign for my re-election. Carol is unfortunately in hospital recovering from surgery. I do not know whether or not she is watching, but I wish her well and thank her sincerely for her dedication and very hard work in a tough campaign considering the size and diversity of our electorate. I also want to thank the LNP membership in my electorate. We have branches in Warwick, Killarney, Stanthorpe, Inglewood, Texas, Yelarbon, Goondiwindi and also the Granite Belt women's branch. They came together as party members, as all sides do, to get their members across the line. I thank them for the not insignificant amount of work that they put into standing at pre-polls. Two weeks of pre-poll in three pre-polling centres is a significant amount of work. Many of the members have done so in spite of being somewhat older than me and they have done it with a smile on their face, so I am most grateful to them for that.

I also want to thank my family, because it is my immediate family who are the ones who experience the life of being the family of an MP. I might be home one or two nights a week; the rest of the time I am in a motel in Goondiwindi or Millmerran or I am down here for parliament or something like that. We all know that the effect of that on our families is not a positive. Belinda and I were very blessed late last year to welcome our fourth child into the world—George, who is—

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: Thank you. He is a lovely little fellow. He has brightened our lives, but it is not easy for my wife when George is nocturnal. We have a three-year-old, Amelia, who is also somewhat nocturnal, and two boisterous boys—Jeremy is 14 and William is 11—and to run the show with that band of terrorists on her own is no small thing at all and I express my undying love and gratitude to Belinda for doing that. I hope that I can one day make it up to her.

We have difficulties in Southern Downs. All electorates do. The ones which occupy the minds of us most of the time are the things which we face every day, particularly roads. I know that a number of my colleagues such as the member for Callide know that the roads in our electorates in the bush are very rough. In fact, the standard of the roads and the highways in Southern Downs is appalling, which has come from a decade of underinvestment. I make nothing up in saying that you could consult QTRIP and see that billions of dollars have been withdrawn from the ongoing maintenance of roads in electorates like mine and Callide. This has meant that roads have been patched and then repatched and then repatched on top of the repatches without an ongoing plan of investment to pull up roads and improve the gravel base to improve drainage and so forth and to lay them smoothly. This is no academic matter. In an electorate like Southern Downs, transport is vital in order to get our products to market and for people to get around the electorate, and I take that acknowledgement from the Minister for Primary Industries and my good friend the member for Gympie. He certainly knows what I mean. I was very upset to see in the rains which were associated with Tropical Cyclone Alfred that many people had smashed alloy wheels on their cars from driving through potholes on the Cunningham Highway. This is a major road in our electorate.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

MOTION

Order of Business



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 2 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRUSTS BILL

Resumed from 18 February (see p. 71).

Second Reading



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (7.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Trusts Bill 2025 is an accumulation of more than a decade's worth of work—of consultation—to finally modernise the Trusts Act 1973 and to deliver a framework for the regulation of trusts that fits for the 21st century. I introduced the bill in this House on 18 February 2025, after which it was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for consideration. I would like to thank the member for Nicklin and his committee for its work during the inquiry and note that the committee's report made one recommendation: that this bill be passed.

Firstly, for the benefit of members I will respond to several specific issues raised in the submissions to the committee during the public hearing on that bill. Clause 22 of the bill relates to the appointment of replacement trustees and applies where the last continuing trustee is incapable of acting as a trustee because of their impaired capacity. If the conditions of the clause are satisfied, an attorney under a power of attorney for that trustee or administrator under the Guardianship and Administration

Act 2000 for that trustee may exercise the power to appoint a replacement trustee. To avoid any conflict of interest arising between their obligations to the trustee with incapacity and their fiduciary obligations to the beneficiaries of the trust, the bill provides that neither the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 nor the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 will apply in relation to the exercise of the power of appointment under the clause.

I note that during the committee's public hearing on the bill both the Public Advocate and the Queensland Law Society expressed concern about this clause and suggested that any conditions in the document appointing the attorney in relation to the trust could be ignored. With respect to the Public Advocate and the Law Society, this is not the effect of the bill. This is because clause 22(7) makes it clear that the power of appointment in clause 22 applies subject to a contrary intention in either the trust instrument or the order or instrument by which the administrator or attorney is appointed. This means that, if the trustee appoints an attorney under an enduring power of attorney that restricts them from exercising the power of appointment under clause 22, that attorney will not be able to exercise the power of appointment. A QCAT order appointing an administrator could similarly prevent the administrator from exercising the power of appointment. Finally, the settlor of a trust in establishing the trust could provide in the trust instrument that clause 22 does not apply. This would mean neither an attorney nor an administrator for the last continuing trustee with incapacity would be able to exercise the power of appointment under the clause.

In the explanatory speech for the bill I outlined that this power will only apply in specific limited circumstances prescribed by the clause and noted that the provisions are a measure of last resort to ensure the trust can be administered without needing to make an application to the court, which can be an expensive exercise. Its inclusion was also expressly recommended by the QLRC in both its interim and final report. The clause will provide clear administrative efficiency for the administration of trusts and is consistent with the intent of the reforms in this bill. I note that some of this may be dry, but I do ask members to hang in there with us.

A government member: We are with you!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members, it is going to be dry: it is trusts and it is Friday night. Let us keep it quiet and I will not have to keep interrupting.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Students of law for possibly a century to come may reflect upon this second reading speech.

An honourable member: Better get it right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I do need to get it right. I now turn to clause 44 of the bill, and that applies if a person is appointed as both executor and trustee of a will and that person renounces probate of the will or fails to apply for probate. As I noted in the explanatory speech for the bill, compared to the lapsed bill, clause 44 expressly provides that disclaiming the trust of the will, commonly called renouncing probate, does not automatically affect any other express testamentary trusts. In submissions to the committee, the Law Society submitted that, while the bill responded to its initial feedback to the former committee's inquiry on the lapsed bill with respect to this provision, the language could be clearer and suggested it should be amended to allow a person to both renounce probate of a will and renounce trusteeship of any express trust established under the will in a single document.

The government has considered the Law Society's comments and is not persuaded that the clause needs to be changed. The intention of the clause is to retain the effect of section 18(1) of the current Trusts Act. Clause 44(2) of the bill provides that renunciation or failure to apply is taken to be a disclaimer by the person of the trust of the will. Clause 44(3) clarifies that such a disclaimer in these circumstances does not affect any express trust established under the will. This means that a person's renunciation of probate which renounces the bare trust—that is, the estate—does not automatically result in renunciation of any further testamentary trust that is established at the conclusion of the estate administration. The effect of clause 44(2) is that, by operation of law, a person's renunciation of probate of a will is taken to be a disclaimer by the person of the trust of the will. Clause 44(3) as drafted simply clarifies that the renunciation of probate does not also automatically operate as a renunciation of a testamentary trust. Subclause (3) does not deal with an express renunciation by the person of a testamentary trust. This means there is no reason why a person's statement in a document that they expressly renounce probate, including a statement that the person renounces being a trustee of any express trust established under the will, could not be used as evidence of both renunciation of probate and renunciation of a further testamentary trust. No amendments are therefore required to address the

concern raised by the Law Society. On that, I will also note that, upon my communications with the Law Society, they are satisfied with the new Trusts Bill. They fully understand why the department has landed where it has in its advice in relation to that clause.

I now turn to ancillary funds. In relation to provisions in part 13 of the bill, both in its submission to the committee and in giving evidence before the committee the Law Society recognised that, while an alternative approach could be taken, the regulation-making power in the bill addresses the concern they had previously raised with the equivalent provisions in the former lapsed bill. The Law Society submitted to the committee that there are 34 ancillary funds that may need to be prescribed under paragraph (b) of the definition 'prescribed trust' in clause 212 in order to gain the protection of the part.

Prior to the commencement of this bill, my department will continue to work with the Law Society and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that any regulations that are necessary to support the operation of part 13 of the bill are in place by the time the bill commences. In this respect, I note that there will be a generous lead time prior to the commencement of the bill to enable the department to engage with relevant stakeholders on the development of any regulations that would commence at the same time as the bill.

The lapsed bill was subject to detailed consideration by the former housing committee, which recommended that the lapsed bill be passed. As I noted in the explanatory speech, the bill and the supporting material substantially reflect the content of the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024. Key differences were identified in my explanatory speech for the benefit of those who are familiar with the lapsed bill. Given these substantial similarities and the detailed consideration by the former committee, as well as the length of time that these reforms have been under consultation, I moved an urgency motion so that the new committee would not go through the process of virtually mirroring that of a former committee. I note that some stakeholders took issue with the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's shortened committee timeframes, but these are important reforms that many in the industry have been waiting for and it is unnecessary to delay them any further.

I will now give a brief outline of the bill. The bill largely retains and re-enacts in modern drafting and plain English many of the existing provisions in the act, continuing the application of well-known and settled trust law provisions. The bill reflects some incremental and minor changes for clarity or to address areas of uncertainty in the existing law. In a number of areas, the bill builds upon existing legal requirements but includes changed obligations to modernise practices and provide for greater administrative efficiencies of trusts. The bill does not retain outdated, obsolete or unnecessary provisions from the act, including provisions that have become unnecessary because of new provisions contained in the bill or advances in law generally.

The bill will apply to a trust whether created before, or partly before and partly after, the commencement of the bill, that is, all trusts, except to the extent the bill or other act provide otherwise. The provisions will apply despite a contrary intention in any trust instrument except to the extent that the bill, again, provides otherwise.

Under the bill, particular people—a child, an insolvent under administration, a company in liquidation or a person disqualified from being a trustee—cannot be appointed as trustees of a trust. Provisions in the bill set out when trustees may be replaced, removed or appointed to a trust and how the trust properly devolves on replacement, removal or appointment of the trustees, including situations where the last continuing trustee of a trust becomes insolvent, under administration, dies or has impaired capacity for administering a trust.

I might just break here and note that I have circulated amendments to the bill that are consequential and technical in nature. They appear to be creating some consternation opposite. Mr Deputy Speaker, rest assured that the Trusts Bill is quite simple in its nature, frankly, with those amendments. I will get to that in a second.

The bill clarifies the liability of a custodian trustee and any managing trustees of a trust. New statutory duties are imposed on the trustee in administering a trust—namely, to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons, with a higher duty applying to professional trustees or those who have or hold themselves out as having special knowledge or experience relevant to administering the trust or trusts of a particular type; and to act honestly and in good faith and if the trust is a charitable trust to further the purposes of the trust or otherwise for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the trust.

Under the bill, a trustee is provided with power to invest trust property, noting the bill sets out the duty and liability of a trustee in exercising that power. The bill grants trustees a new general power to deal with trust property like an absolute owner of trust property, unless this power is expressly excluded or modified in the trust instrument and also prevents the trust instrument from modifying or excluding certain minimum powers to deal with trust property, including the power to sell, lease, mortgage or insure a trust property. This ensures the trustee has sufficient general powers necessary to administer the trust property effectively. The bill clarifies a trustee's delegation powers, including who can be a delegate, when a delegation ends and who needs to be notified of the delegation.

Other aspects of the bill include: the distribution of trust property, including income and capital to beneficiaries for their maintenance, education and advancement; the indemnities and protections provided to trustees and other persons; and provision giving the court powers in relation to ordering or reviewing remuneration of trustees.

I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker, but it is just so funny hearing the member for McConnell trying to explain the amendments to the shadow attorney-general. I am sorry. I stopped before—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Attorney, direct your comments to me. I will give you protection, if you need it, from the other side, I assure you. Those on my left, keep your chatter down a bit, thank you.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The bill also sets out the powers given to courts, including powers to make vesting orders, appoint and remove officeholders of the trust including trustees, disqualify a person from being appointed as a trustee and to make other orders in relation to trust property or other property.

In respect of charitable trusts and cy pres applications, the bill provides that, if the original purposes of a charitable trust are not able to be given effect to, a trustee may apply to the court or, if the trust property does not exceed the District Court's monetary limit currently sitting at \$750,000, apply to the Attorney-General so that the trust property can be applied to another charitable purpose that is as close as possible to the original purpose of the charitable trust.

As I explained in my explanatory speech, the bill has been drafted to align with the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024 in order to preserve the results of extensive stakeholder consultation undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission in its review of the Trusts Act 1973 and by the Department of Justice in the development of the lapsed bill. I would like to remind the House that the QLRC handed down its final report in 2013—a decade ago—but anyhow. Once again I thank all those stakeholders who contributed and waited for this legislation to come before the House.

Finally, I note that a technical issue has been identified with the drafting of clause 275 of the bill. I thank the department for identifying a technical issue in relation to the drafting of clause 275. The issue also existed in the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024. Under the current Trusts Act, a person who suffers loss because of a wrongful distribution of trust property cannot take legal action against the person who received the distribution without first exhausting any legal remedies against the trustee unless the court has granted the person leave to take action against a recipient. In line with the QLRC recommendation, the bill changes the law and enables a person who has suffered loss because of the wrongful distribution of trust property to enforce a remedy against a recipient of the trust property without first exhausting their remedies against a trustee and without seeking the leave of the court.

Clause 275 of the bill is a transitional provision that applies if a person was refused leave by the court under the current Trusts Act but had not yet started a proceeding against a trustee before the commencement of the bill so that the person can enforce the remedy in a way permitted by clause 143. Mr Deputy Speaker, it is prudent for me to note your extensive experience in the legal sector, particularly in and around trusts, and note the reason you are so interested in this speech tonight is because you understand, you have practised and you get this.

Clause 275(2) provides that the order refusing leave to bring an action against the recipient of a wrongful distribution without first exhausting all remedies against the trustee who made the wrongful distribution ceases to have effect. To avoid any suggestion that the transitional provision undermines the independence of the court which refused leave, I have moved amendments to enable the opposition to have some time—

Mr de Brenni: You circulated them.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I just circulated them, thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I circulated amendments to address this issue by providing that the person in this very limited situation can make a new application to the court to have the order refusing leave set aside.


I would like to take this time to thank some people. I thank the committee, headed up by the member for Nicklin, including the member for Thuringowa, the member for Capalaba and the other members of the committee. I thank the members of the former committee, the stakeholders who looked into this bill and the QLRC who handed this down back in 2012. Most importantly, I would like to thank Eloise from my office who has assisted both Riccardo and Lleyton from the department who have been generous with their time to put together the majority of this speech tonight. I am sure that where I went off on a tangent both Riccardo and Lleyton would prefer it if I said that they were not their words. I do very much thank them because this is an important piece of legislation.

This legislation has needed to be changed for a very long time. The people in the world today who are so excited are the Queensland trusts lawyers who genuinely have been awaiting this change. The legislation originated from the English trustee legislation back in the 1800s. This 1973 act is well overdue to be brought into the 21st century. I know there are many members of this House who were not even born when the last act came in.

We note that this report was commissioned back in January 2012. The QLRC handed down its final report in 2013. The lapsed Trusts Bill was not introduced until 2024. I remind the House that it took the former Labor government 10 years to make this a priority. The Speaker of this House today reflected upon the number of members in this House who have disclosed that they have an interest either in a trust or in some form of trust. Unfortunately, it is what happens in life.

As we have both administered former estates, we know that trust implications often arise whether someone dies intestate or with a will. That is only one small element of the refurbishment of this much needed Trusts Bill. So many lawyers, accountants and financial planners have been waiting for this bill to be passed. One of my first priorities was to ensure we worked out the minor technical amendments and what was wrong with the former lapsed bill. We worked on that and, again, I very much thank the Department of Justice for the work that it has done in relation to the bill.

I also thank the Queensland Law Society and everyone else who has submitted and contributed to this bill. Reforms to the Trusts Act have been a long time coming. With this bill reflecting the outcomes of that significant consultation with stakeholders over more than 10 years, it is vitally important that we do not stand in the way of sensible, considered reforms to modernise and to remove obsolete provisions from the Trusts Act. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (7.55 pm): I rise to address the Trusts Bill 2025 and in so doing acknowledge the time the parliament has spent considering the previous iteration of this bill, introduced by the former Labor government—the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024. The Attorney-General has already gone to great lengths to detail the extensive history of this bill as well as its objectives. I have no intention of repeating what the Attorney-General has already said in her introductory speech, nor do I intend to recycle elements of the former attorney-general's introductory speech. I understand why the Attorney-General did that as this bill is technical in nature and it is important to get it right.

I acknowledge that the legislation before us today has had a long gestation period. What has resulted is modernised legislation that will be responsive to the needs of trustees, trust beneficiaries and trust practitioners alike. This bill was introduced by the former Labor attorney-general and then lapsed, and the bill has now been reintroduced by the current Attorney-General. I appreciate that this has taken time, but I also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the stakeholders, the submitters, the department, the former attorneys-general and, in particular, the member for Waterford and the former member for Redcliffe for their contribution to the previous iteration of this bill.

The opposition has no intention of standing in the way of sensible legislation. We support the intention of this bill and support these changes being effected. We will not impede progress of legislation for partisan gain. In introducing a bill so closely resembling the bill introduced by the former Labor government last year, it is clear the Attorney-General shares the same confidence in the quality of our work. We will be a productive opposition because our duty to Queenslanders is to make the most of the time we have in this House. However, it would be remiss of me not to discuss the urgency motion that was moved in relation to this bill. This bill is another clear example of the Crisafulli government's failure to plan.

Mrs Frecklington: But you just said you agree with everything.

Ms SCANLON: While the opposition supports this bill, we have strong concerns about this government's continued reliance on urgency motions to fill the *Notice Paper* because they did not introduce enough legislation last year.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Attorney-General, you have had your go.

Ms SCANLON: While the lapsed bill was consulted on extensively at multiple stages in its development, two stakeholders made submissions to this bill with concerns about the government circumventing this House's consultative process. With written submissions open for only three business days following the bill's introduction, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners Queensland branch said—

... the time-frame for making submissions is so short as to be illusory.

and expressed their disappointment—

... that such an important piece of legislation is being treated in this way.

In her introductory remarks, the Attorney-General attempted to justify the use of an urgency motion by saying that trusts lawyers had been waiting for this bill to pass. In direct contrast to the Attorney-General's remarks, the Queensland Law Society's submission stated—

Although it is arguable that modernisation of trusts law in Queensland has long been overdue, this is not an adequate reason to declare the Bill urgent and truncate the public consultation period.

The QLS submission continued—

A fundamental tenet of our system of parliamentary democracy is that stakeholders have a meaningful opportunity to be involved in the consultation process. We do not consider short consultations such as this one amount to meaningful and robust consultation with stakeholders.

Both submissions acknowledge the bill was modelled on the lapsed bill. However, they still concluded that the provided consultation period was inadequate for their volunteer members to review changes between the two bills in detail.

This bill represents, as I said, a positive step forward for trusts laws in Queensland, modernising the legislation and addressing existing gaps in the act, but this bill also represents the arrogance of a new government with a clear and intentional lack of legislative agenda. As previously outlined, this bill has predominantly been developed by Labor through consultation on the previous iteration of the bill. For this reason, the opposition does not see any reason there should be unnecessary time dedicated to debating a piece of legislation that we have all said we agree with—a bill that has unanimous endorsement across the parliament. As such, on behalf of the opposition, we support and will vote to pass it tonight as there is bipartisan support. I move—


That the question be now put.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Attorney, could I please ask for quiet as I am getting advice on this issue.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not find that the debate has been sufficiently progressed and therefore call the member for Nicklin.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (8.02 pm): We are here to debate this important bill that Queenslanders have been waiting on for a long time. While we are talking about trusts, I will tell members whom I trust. I trust Dale and Donna Dowler from the Shack Community Centre in Nambour to spring into action when the community needs them—like they did in the floods on the weekend. I thank the wonderful volunteers in Nambour who sprung into action in our community. I appreciate the indulgence of the House to mention them in this speech.

I also trust the Attorney-General and her team and the work they have done here and the sensible amendments that they have proposed. I will be supporting those.

This is a piece of legislation that is not only a long overdue update to our legal framework but also a critical step in ensuring that the laws governing trusts in Queensland are fit for the 21st century. As chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I want to place on record my thanks to the secretariat and committee members who worked so hard to ensure that our report was tabled in the short timeframe provided for this urgent bill that Queenslanders have been waiting so long for. The committee made one recommendation—that is, that the bill be passed. The broad support from key stakeholders, legal experts and community representatives underscores the importance and necessity for these reforms.

For decades, trusts have played an essential role in the lives of many Queenslanders. They have provided mechanisms to protect and preserve assets, to support charitable causes, to manage complex tax obligations and to offer security for children or individuals who may lack full decision-making capacity. Trusts are not merely abstract legal constructs. They touch the everyday lives of families and communities across our great state.

The Trusts Bill 2025 proposes to repeal and replace the outdated Trusts Act 1973—a statute that has served Queensland for more than 50 years without significant modification. Back in 2012 and 2013, under the former LNP government, the Queensland Law Reform Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act. This review was a detailed and thoughtful examination of the legal provisions that had become over time outdated and in need of reform. The commission engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, legal experts, charitable organisations, financial institutions and members of the community to gather insights and identify the necessary changes to modernise our trusts law. The commission's recommendations were clear. We needed to replace the 1973 act with a new legislative framework that would modernise, clarify and update laws governing trusts in Queensland.

Nearly a decade passed after these recommendations were made, with the former Labor government introducing the Trusts Bill 2024, only for it to lapse with the dissolution of the 57th Parliament. Today, with the Trusts Bill 2025, the Crisafulli government is finally delivering a modern and updated Trusts Act—a process that began more than 10 years ago and one that has involved extensive consultation, robust debate and careful drafting.

I commend the diligent work of all those who contributed to the consultation process. Their time and efforts have not been wasted, even though the shadow attorney-general thinks we are wasting our time here. The Trusts Bill 2025 builds on the foundation laid by the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024. It has been crafted to address the valuable feedback provided by stakeholders during various consultation processes, including the recent submissions to the former committee's inquiry into the lapsed bill.

This approach ensures that the modernised legislation remains true to the principles that have long underpinned Queensland's trusts law while also addressing the evolving needs of our community. The bill does not seek to codify every aspect of trusts law, rather it supplements the common law. The bill grants broad powers to trustees, enabling them to manage trust property effectively. At the same time, it imposes new minimum statutory duties on trustees, requiring them to exercise the level of care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise when managing the affairs of others. This is a significant improvement, providing clear guidance and accountability in the administration of trusts.

Among the many areas addressed by the bill are the restrictions on the appointment of trustees, the processes for the appointment, the discharge and removal of trustees and also the mechanisms for the devolution of trusts. The bill also provides detailed guidance on maintaining trust property. It outlines indemnities and protections for trustees and other parties and clarifies rules regarding the remuneration of trustees. In addition, it delineates the powers of the courts in trust matters as it establishes provisions concerning charitable trusts and permits trustees to make gifts for philanthropic purposes, measures that all work together to ensure that trusts can continue to serve their vital role in our society.

Another important feature of the bill is its provision for the District Court to hear applications concerning trust property matters that do not exceed its jurisdictional limit, which is currently \$750,000. This ensures that disputes or issues concerning smaller trust properties can be resolved more quickly and cost-effectively, reducing the burden on both the courts and individuals involved. Furthermore, the bill introduces a simpler process for trustees of smaller charitable trusts.

The bill also responds to several concerns raised by key stakeholders during its development. Firstly, it guarantees that the restrictions on who may be appointed as a trustee will not impede the court's power to order that they hold property as a trustee when necessary. This ensures that the legal mechanisms available to protect trust assets remain robust and effective. The bill clarifies that if a person is appointed as both executor and trustee of a will, any renunciation or failure to apply for probate does not affect the validity of an express trust established under that will. This provision protects the integrity of trust arrangements and offers reassurance to those relying on these mechanisms for estate and asset protection.

The bill also addresses concerns raised by the Queensland Public Trustee. Importantly, it does not include provisions that would automatically vest trust property in the Public Trustee if the last continuing trustee has impaired capacity. This measured approach maintains the status quo while ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place.


The bill responds to concerns raised by the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland, preserving the requirement for the Board of Benevolence to obtain Grand Lodge approval prior to making certain investments, thereby respecting established traditions and practices.

Finally, the bill tackles a technical issue raised by the Queensland Law Society. It does so by including a regulation-making power that allows for the prescription of particular entities as eligible recipients under the ancillary fund provisions. This ensures that the relevant sections of the bill remain consistent with Commonwealth legislation. The implementation of the new legislation will be supported by a lead-in time of approximately 12 months. This period is crucial to ensure that all Queenslanders, from trustees and legal practitioners to beneficiaries and community groups, are fully prepared for the new requirements.

In closing, let me say that the Trusts Bill 2025 is a welcome and necessary evolution of our legal framework. It honours the longstanding tradition of using trusts as instruments of protection, support and philanthropy while also embracing modern principles of accountability, transparency and flexibility. It reflects the collective wisdom of decades of consultation and collaboration and positions Queensland to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli government introducing this bill early in our term. The extensive work and consultation that have already taken place are evident in every provision of this legislation. There is simply no reason to stand in the way of long overdue reforms that are vital for safeguarding the interests of Queenslanders, whether they are protecting their family assets, contributing to charitable causes or ensuring that the most vulnerable among us are cared for.

I urge all members of parliament to support the Trusts Bill 2025. Let us work together to deliver modern, effective, and forward-looking trusts law that will benefit our communities for generations to come.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (8.12 pm): Trusts play an essential role in the lives of many Queenslanders. They help families protect their assets, support charitable causes—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Attorney, this is a very riveting debate. I cannot imagine why not everybody is listening with bated breath for the outcome. Attorney, let's get on with it.

Mr FIELD:—and provide security for children of those with impaired decision-making capacity, yet for 50 years the laws governing trusts in our state have remained largely unchanged. The Trusts Act 1973, introduced more than half a century ago, has failed to keep pace with the financial and legal realities of the 21st century.

It was a former LNP government that recognised this urgent need for reform, commissioning the Queensland Law Reform Commission to conduct a comprehensive review in 2012-13. Their recommendation was crystal clear: Queensland required a new modern trusts act. Yet nearly a decade passed before the former Miles Labor government belatedly introduced the Trusts Bill 2024 only for it to lapse with the dissolution of the last parliament in October. Now, at long last, the Crisafulli government is delivering these long overdue reforms that Queenslanders deserve.

The Trusts Bill 2025 builds upon extensive consultation and broad support from legal experts, charitable organisations and trustees. It preserves the role of common law while clarifying the updated key aspects of trust legislation. Importantly, the bill introduces minimum statutory duties for trustees, ensuring they act with care and diligence. It streamlines the appointment and removal of trustees, enhances protections for trust property and simplifies processes for charitable trusts to vary their purposes when necessary. It also guarantees that restrictions on trustee appointments do not interfere with the court's power to order someone to hold a property in trust. The concerns raised by stakeholders have been addressed, ensuring that Queensland trust law is both practical and robust.

The bill also resolves technical issues aligning state regulations with Commonwealth laws. The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's sole recommendation was that this bill should be passed. This is a testament to the thoroughness of the consultation and the soundness of the proposed reforms. This bill is not about politics; it is about the fundamental need to modernise our legal framework, ensuring it remains effective, relevant and capable, addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (8.15 pm): I rise very proudly today to speak on the Trusts Bill 2025, a critical piece of legislation that will modernise and reform the laws governing trusts in Queensland. Trusts are fundamental instruments that play a significant role in protecting and preserving

assets, managing tax obligations, supporting charitable causes and protecting vulnerable people, including those with impaired decision-making capacity. They are an essential part of life for many Queenslanders, helping to ensure that property and funds are managed in a responsible and beneficial manner.

As members have heard tonight, the Trusts Act was first introduced in 1973, more than 50 years ago. Since that time it has not seen significant modifications. Over those decades the landscape of trust law has evolved significantly, and the time has come to ensure that the legal framework governing trusts keeps pace with these changes. We must recognise that it took nearly a decade after review by the Queensland Law Reform Commission for the former Labor government to introduce the Trusts Bill 2024, a bill that sought to address the growing need for reform. Unfortunately, that bill lapsed when the 57th Parliament was dissolved.

The Trusts Bill 2025 takes bold steps forward in modernising trust law in Queensland. It grants trustees broad powers to deal with trust property alongside new minimum statutory duties. These duties are designed to ensure that trustees exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent businessperson would apply when managing the affairs of others. This will bring Queensland's trust laws into line with contemporary expectations and provide greater clarity and guidance to trustees in fulfilling their duties.

The bill also addresses a range of important matters under trust law. It includes reforms to the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees; the devolution of trusts; and the general powers of trustees. It is essential that these areas are updated to ensure that trusts continue to operate efficiently and effectively for all parties involved.

Furthermore, the bill responds directly to several concerns raised by stakeholders due to the consideration of the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024. Let me highlight some of these key changes for the House. I will be brief. It will continue to be dry, but hopefully it will be easier to understand.

Court power and trustee appointment: the bill guarantees that the restrictions on people who can be appointed as trustees will not impede a court's power to order that they hold property as a trustee. This ensures that the judicial system maintains the ability to appoint a trustee where it is necessary for the protection and benefit of those involved in the trust.

Executor and trustee roles: this bill ensures that, if a person is appointed as both the executor and trustee of a will, the person's renunciation or failure to apply for probate does not affect any expressed trust established under the will. This clarification provides greater certainty for those administering estates and trusts.

The bill responds to concerns raised by the Queensland Public Trustee particularly around the automatic vesting of trust property in the Public Trustee if the last continuing trustee has impaired capacity. Compared to the lapsed bill, this approach retains the status quo, ensuring that the Public Trustee will not automatically assume control of trust property unless absolutely necessary. The bill also addresses concerns regarding changes to the requirement for Board of Benevolence approval for investments. This bill ensures that this requirement remains in place, preserving the integrity of the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland Trustees Act 1942.


The bill responds to a technical issue raised regarding the ancillary provisions. By including a regulation-making power, the bill enables consistency with Commonwealth charities and taxation law, providing clarity and compliance for Queensland.

During the committee hearing, which I was proud to be part of, the Queensland Law Society indicated that the approach taken in the Trusts Bill 2025 effectively addresses their concerns. This collaborative effort between stakeholders and the committee demonstrates the comprehensive approach taken in developing this bill. The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee considered the Trusts Bill 2025 and made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

This recommendation is a clear indication of the bill's broad support and its potential to significantly improve trust law in Queensland. However, it is important to note that the bill will require a generous lead-in time. This will ensure that all Queenslanders, particularly trustees and legal professionals, have sufficient time to prepare for the new requirements and understand the changes that will be implemented.

The Crisafulli government deserves commendation for introducing this important bill early in its term. It is a piece of legislation that has undergone extensive consultation and careful drafting to ensure it addresses the concerns of all stakeholders. It is a prime example of pro-active governance that responds to the evolving needs of Queenslanders. This is a long-overdue reform that will provide significant benefits to Queenslanders. It is critical for the future of trusts in our state, ensuring they

continue to serve their important role in protecting assets and providing for those who depend on them. There is no reason to stand in the way of these reforms. The Trusts Bill 2025 is a product of extensive consultation and it is time for it to be passed into law. I support the Trusts Bill 2025.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.21 pm): I rise to speak to the Trusts Bill 2025. As the shadow attorney has made incredibly clear, the opposition will be voting to support the passing of this bill this evening. The Attorney has also been very clear in her second reading speech. Her words were ‘for the purposes of legal practitioners’ and I think she referred to students. Her words in that speech included ‘for the benefit of the interpretation of the act once this parliament passes it’. Her second reading speech was presumably carefully developed by the Attorney in consultation with her department. I am sure that those departmental officials are highly regarded and very skilful legal experts. Given that I am not convinced—and I do not think anyone in this House would be convinced—that further debate, which is likely to be entirely repetitious, would do anything—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Is this a closure motion under the standing orders?

Mr de BRENNI: No, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am speaking to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is your own contribution?

Mr de BRENNI: That is right.

Mrs Frecklington: Do you want some talking points?

Mr de BRENNI: I have written some talking points if you would like to listen to them, Attorney. I am not sure whether further debate on this, which has already appeared to be entirely repetitious, would do anything but diminish the clarity of legal interpretation. The government declared—

Ms Grace: You said it was urgent.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjections from the member for McConnel and the shadow attorney. They remind the House that the government declared the bill urgent. It is apparent that the following things are true: there is no opposition in this House to the bill—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order! Member for Chatsworth.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order, and that is relevance. The member on his feet is not speaking to the long title of the bill. The bill that he is speaking to is the Trusts Bill. I would ask that the member talk about the bill that is before the House, not debate whether he wants to go to bed a bit early by trying to put debate—

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is relevant. Manager of Opposition Business, you said you are making a contribution to the bill.

Mr de BRENNI: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: If you keep your commentary to the bill that would be great.

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. All I am saying is I think the Attorney was right when she said the purpose of the second reading speech is for the benefit of legal practitioners—and I think she said students—for decades to come. It is pleasing that she took great care in the delivery of that speech. I think she said words to the effect of—and I want to be careful with my words—‘lawyers have been waiting for this and it would be unnecessary to delay them any further’.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General!

Mr de BRENNI: It is clear from the government’s speaking list that they have no intention of passing this bill this evening. The opposition, for all of the reasons outlined by the shadow attorney, is very happy to support the passing of this bill tonight. In effect, the Attorney has been misleading in her remarks. The government intends to deliberately delay the passing of this bill. How ironic for the Attorney to be misleading when dealing with a matter of trust. It is a pity that for decades law students, as the Attorney said, will observe the conduct of this Attorney in this debate, being deceptive in her remarks—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I have called you a couple of times already.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, for all of the reasons outlined I move—


That the question be now put.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 88, the Manager of Opposition Business is attempting to close this debate early. I would submit to you that he is impugning the rights of members of this House. There has not been sufficient debate in relation to the legislation. It is important that members are allowed to speak on behalf of their communities in relation to this important legislation. The former government delayed passing this bill for many years. There has to be due scrutiny by the parliament. We have 93 members in the House. We have only just commenced the debate—

Opposition members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I am being interjected on, Mr Speaker, in relation to making my point of order. There have only been a couple of members who have contributed to the debate thus far, so I would submit to you that under standing order 88 there has not been sufficient debate. The rights of members here are being impugned with a premature closure by the Manager of Opposition Business with respect to his comments and attempts to close the debate.

Mr SPEAKER: I am looking at a speaking list here that is quite lengthy. Manager of Opposition Business, you said there is no opposition to this bill. You intend to support it. If that is the case, I have seen many times where bipartisan bills in this House have been debated for lengthy periods. It is my opinion that we have not debated this enough. The people on this list indicated they wish to speak to it. There are 93 elected representatives in this parliament. This is where they come to have their say. This bill, if passed, is law. I do not think it should be treated lightly. It is my view that the debate should continue. Next on the speaking list is the member for Hervey Bay.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.28 pm): I rise to make a modest contribution to the Trusts Bill 2025 by way of general comments. The Attorney-General dealt with the technical details of the bill's clauses in her second reading speech. I commend the Crisafulli government for introducing this bill so early in the term after so much work and consultation has already occurred. The Crisafulli government will finally deliver legislative Trusts Act reform after 10 years of lazy Labor's decade of dithering and procrastination. I also wish to congratulate our hardworking Attorney-General, Deb Frecklington, for her diligence in preparing the legislation for the House. It is a fresh start for the law of trusts.

There is now no reason to delay this long overdue legislative reform which is so important for Queenslanders. On Wednesday, our Minister for Small and Family Business informed the House that in Queensland there are 495,000 small and family businesses employing one million Queenslanders and contributing \$131 billion per annum to our Queensland economy. On the Fraser Coast there are 6,726 registered businesses. Many of our small and family owned businesses and primary producers use a trust as a means for protecting their assets and for tax planning. Trusts also have an important role in estate planning, giving to charitable causes and protecting the vulnerable. There are currently one million trusts registered in Australia with the Australian Taxation Office.

After 10 years of Labor's deferral, dithering and procrastination, it is time for reform of our trust legislation. There generally seems to be an increasing demand for trusts as a lawful and legitimate form of asset protection, succession planning and taxation planning.

This bill will repeal and replace the current Trusts Act 1973 with modernised, simplified and fit-for-purpose legislation that is appropriate and adapted to the 21st century. Like the current act, the bill does not codify all aspects of trusts law but rather supplements the common law. This bill broadly replicates recommendations from the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Between 2012 and 2013, the Law Reform Commission conducted a full, comprehensive and independent review of the former Trusts Act 1973. Since that time, nearly a decade passed before the former Labor government belatedly introduced the Trusts Bill 2024, which lapsed when the 57th Parliament was dissolved. It is now more than 50 years since a comprehensive review has been undertaken of trusts legislation in Queensland.

The act commenced in 1973 and, aside from significant changes to investment powers that were introduced by the Trusts (Investments) Amendment Act 1999, it has not been substantially amended since its commencement over 50 years ago. According to a 2012 Law Reform Commission paper—

This review provides an opportunity to examine whether the Act can be further improved and simplified, especially in relation to its articulation of trustees' duties and powers.

The Law Reform Commission, in reviewing the former 1973 trust legislation, considered equivalent provisions in other jurisdictions and widely engaged with stakeholders before producing an interim and then a final report.

The modern trust law has an historical lineage dating back to the time of King Henry VIII in the Statute of Uses 1535 and the Elizabethan Statute of Charitable Uses 1601 which was passed after King Henry dissolved the monasteries. The Elizabethan statute then gave rise to the charitable object's

principle of a 'public benefit test'. In later years, trusts were dealt with in the courts of chancery, which was heavily influenced by the ecclesiastical tradition to mitigate the strict application of the common law. The law of trusts now exists as an important part of the law of equity.

A trust exists when the beneficial ownership of property is separated from the legal ownership of the property. There are three elements to a trust: firstly, the trustee—a legal person who holds a vested legal title, or an equitable title, in the property, subject to fiduciary duties; secondly, trust property—legal or equitable property; and, finally, a beneficiary—a person or group of persons who hold a beneficial interest in the property and on whose behalf the trustee must act. The person who creates the trust is usually identified as the 'settlor'.


There are a number of different types of trusts: express trusts, implied trusts and statutory trusts. An example of an express trust is a discretionary trust, which is commonly used in commercial business structures for small- and medium-sized businesses. An example of an implied trust is a resulting trust which arises usually out of presumptions of intention or a constructive trust imposed by law. Nonetheless, the trustee is legally responsible for the operation of the trust and legally liable for the debts of the trust.

Analogous to the lapsed 2024 bill, the Trusts Bill 2025 grants broad powers to trustees to deal with trust property and imposes new minimum statutory duties on trustees to exercise care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons. I welcome the 'prudent person' test as a well-established objective standard for ascertaining a trustee's obligations of care, diligence and skill.

The bill also includes an ability for the District Court to hear applications for matters involving trust property which does not exceed its jurisdictional limit, which is currently at \$750,000. This bill furthermore deals with a range of important matters under trusts law, including: restrictions on the appointment of trustees; the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees; the devolution of trusts; and the general powers of trustees.

In relation to smaller charitable trusts, where it is not possible to give practical effect to the objects of a charitable trust, this bill will give the court power to apply charitable trust property under a *cy pres* scheme for another charitable purpose that is as close as possible to the original purpose of that trust. This bill will require a lead-in time of approximately 12 months to ensure that all Queenslanders are prepared for the new requirements.

In summing up, this bill largely retains and re-enacts in modern drafting and plain English many of the existing provisions in the act, continuing the application of well-known and settled trusts law provisions. The bill reflects some incremental and minor changes for clarity or to address areas of uncertainty in the existing law. In several areas, the bill builds upon existing legal requirements but includes changed obligations to modernise practices and provide for greater administrative efficiency for trusts. Only a Crisafulli government has the ticker to deliver substantive legislative reform to modernise trusts legislation. A modern, fit-for-purpose Trusts Act will provide clarity and certainty in relation to the operations of a trust. I support and endorse this Trusts Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.37 pm): I rise to address the Trusts Bill 2025. In all the time I have been in this House, I have seen a lot of debates guillotined—always by the Labor Party, I might add—but I have never seen anyone in this House try to guillotine a debate when only one member from their side has addressed the bill. Only one Labor member chose to jump up and address this bill—so far, I might add. I know that it is a debate and some of them might actually choose to represent their constituency. Rather than talk about these important issues that have a real impact on Queensland, they want to knock off and go to bed. Working on a Friday night is a bridge too far for the Labor Party. They want to knock off because they are not getting double time and a half.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is late on a Friday night. Let us just get through this. Member for Buderim, continue your contribution on the bill.

Mr MICKELBERG: They want to knock off because they are not getting double time and a half, but I will move on to the bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I cannot hear myself because of my own side.

Mr SPEAKER: It is pretty bad when I cannot hear the member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: I cannot hear myself think and this is an important contribution.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is the only one in the chamber who has the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the outset, I want to note that I have an interest in a trust both as a beneficiary and also as a sole director and secretary of a corporate trustee. It is declared on my register of interest, but out of an abundance of caution, I am declaring that here tonight. It has been more than 50 years since the Trusts Act has been significantly modernised, and that is despite a thorough consultation and comprehensive review back in 2012 when the LNP were last in government. In fact, the former government similarly started work, but did not finish the work, to address the Trusts Bill.

Mrs Gerber: Sounds about right.

Mr MICKELBERG: It does sound familiar, member for Currumbin. Far too often it is all about the announcement at the start, but they forget about the actual doing at the end. That is 100 per cent on the money, member for Currumbin. A lot has changed since the 1970s. For starters, I was not even born back then, unlike the member for Clayfield. Like any legislation that was created almost half a century ago, it is outdated and it needs to be brought into the 21st century. It is disappointing it has taken so long for this to occur, but I commend this dynamic Attorney-General in the Crisafulli government, the member for Nanango, for making this one of her first priorities—among her first priorities, not her first priority—upon being appointed Attorney-General of this state.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission conducted the review back in 2012 and in 2013, and they made an expert recommendation back then to update the trusts law here in Queensland. More than 10 years later—10 years of Labor government; it took a long time—the former Labor government finally put the wheels in motion to introduce the act's modernisation to this place, but they did not last long enough to actually pass the bill. The display tonight is very clear why that is the case. They simply do not have the heart for it. They simply do not want to step through the systematic, methodical and sometimes boring work—I am not going to lie, this is not the most exciting bill in the world—but systematic, methodical, important work that it takes to govern properly. Those are the bits those opposite, the Labor Party, forget about far too often.

The Crisafulli government is now doing the work that should have been done when Labor came to power a decade ago—introducing this bill, now called the Trusts Bill 2025, early in the term—because Queenslanders have waited long enough for these long overdue reforms. Through thorough consultation with key stakeholders and experts in the field, this modernised bill deals with a range of important matters, including restrictions and general powers for trustees while providing improved guidance around the maintenance of trust property and court powers. These are important issues. Of course, this has happened through the committee process in particular.

I want to acknowledge the member for Nicklin. How good is it to have the member for Nicklin back in this place? The member for Nicklin ably chaired the committee that considered this bill, alongside our tremendous members for Thuringowa and Capalaba, off the top of my head. I acknowledge the Labor members and the Green member on that committee as well, although I note that only one of those members chose to speak to the bill. We are on the speaking list now, so I admit they might come in here, but I notice they were that intent on ensuring that this bill was rigorously scrutinised, they could not even be bothered addressing it. Nonetheless, I want to acknowledge the committee's work and I want to acknowledge the member for Nicklin—the true member for Nicklin, in my mind—for his working through some serious issues in his short time back in this place since October. Gee, it is good to have him back. I know the people of Nambour, Kenilworth and Yandina are glad to see a competent committee chair like the member for Nicklin overseeing bills like the Trusts Bill 2025. He is a capable, competent and diligent member of parliament, as opposed to his predecessor, and I really could not be happier. I am not going to lie, I am most happy that the member for Nicklin is now Marty Hunt in this place, even more so than the fact that I am the member for Buderim.

Mr O'Connor: Is there a relevance on this?


Mr MICKELBERG: There is not. I am pleased that there will be a 12-month lead time once this bill has been passed so we can ensure all Queenslanders are prepared for any changes. It begs the question why those opposite are so eager to put the bill, given there is a 12-month lead time.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear those opposite. The shadow attorney could only speak for a little bit on it when she had her turn, but she wants to interject now. Maybe you can raise matters in consideration in detail, shadow attorney—maybe; I do not know. Maybe we were just not paying attention through the committee process.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, thank you, member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I know that there is only one recommendation made by the committee that the shadow attorney sat on, and could only speak for a very short period of time on this bill, and that was for it to be passed. I, too, support this bill being passed, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.44 pm): Can I just say in respect to the contribution from the member for Buderim rarely have I heard such an erudite and completely irrelevant contribution to a bill in the House, and noting his comments early on in the piece in respect to not being alive in 1974 and some nasty aspersions about me, like a good wine, I only get better with age. That is something we can only hope and pray for the member for Buderim.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the point of relevance. You just said the other was not relevant. There is now relevance to the legislation? But a trusts bill, by his own words? Bring him back to the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is on relevance. I note that there is only 30 seconds so far on the clock. I know your love for these sort of technical bills. I am sure you have much to contribute, Minister, so bring it back to the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I say, it is a wideranging debate on a piece of legislation that affects so many people in so many ways. In terms of relevance, at least we are speaking on the bill. When it comes to relevance, if you want to be relevant, at least do the work. At least turn up and talk about the Trusts Bill which, for a wasted decade, the Labor Party sat on. I know that because at estimates, for the last four years, I have been asking, 'When is the Trusts Bill going to be presented?' Lazy Labor! Not only was the former government the most well-resourced and laziest government, they are now the most well-resourced and laziest opposition, continuing a tradition that goes back over a decade when they could not even be bothered speaking to a budget bill in 2012. They did not even turn up. On a Friday afternoon when the call went up, where were they? Missing in action, and they are missing in action this afternoon. No one wants to speak on it; it is all too hard. It is a Friday and, 'Come on, comrade, let's go down to the Workers' Club.' That is what they want to do—over to South Brisbane straightaway and mingle with their mates at the CFMEU.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to focus on the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Trusts Bill, as I say, affects an enormous amount of public commercial life in this state. As we already know, there are many in this place who have personal and family trusts—legitimate vehicles set up over periods of time. In fact, I myself have a trust. It is an inoperative trust and has been for many years, but many people have them. Trusts are set up under wills as well. Testamentary trusts are part and parcel of the law of trusts.

Trusts, of course, are an institution that goes back to the medieval times. When the knights shot off on Crusades in the defence of Christendom, the trusts were set up because the knights would go over—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: You cannot get more relevant. When the knights shot off overseas leaving their wives and families behind, of course they needed to have a provision for the protection of their property. In order to do that, the courts of chancery established the use of trusts. The trust would protect the property so that the widow of the knight who did not come back from the Crusades in the Holy Land would not be disenfranchised in the times when wives and children could not hold property in their own name. Thankfully, that is long gone. The law of the use of trusts evolved from about the 11th century onwards to protect property and ensure it could pass on to the heirs of the family, and it has continued ever since.

The law of trusts has evolved over the years and has become a much widely used vehicle for ensuring the protection of assets, the protection of property, the devolution of assets amongst siblings and beneficiaries to provide for the education of families, of children, of those who established the trusts and otherwise to benefit people over many years. It is used in commerce all the time. Property trusts

are set up all the time. In fact, shopping centres are owned by property trusts. Investment vehicles are owned by property trusts. They are a means of distributing income amongst the beneficiaries of those trusts while holding the assets safely in security.

If you have superannuation you have a trust. That is how important the law of trusts is. To think that something of such magnitude and something of such importance to the undertakings of commerce in this state has been dismissed by those on the other side, with one speech of less than 10 minutes, shows their lack of care and consideration in relation to how things are meant to work. This is compounded by the fact that it took 10 years for them to get a bill into this House.

As I said, trusts have been around for the better part of 1,000 years. The law of trusts has evolved over that time, but in Queensland it has not been modernised for a lengthy period of time—since the 1970s and before that. The 1970s amendment really just repeated and replaced the language of the 18th and 19th centuries. There are still rules in there in relation to how trusts operate which are antiquated.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I heard the member for Currumbin say, ‘Tell us about it.’ Obviously, the member of Currumbin has studied law and I am sure did very well in the law of trusts. She will understand in relation to the law of trusts the rule against perpetuities. No doubt the member for Currumbin will make a contribution with respect to the rule against perpetuities that held that a trust cannot last forever because of the precepts of the English law that say you cannot tie something up forever. The rule of perpetuities meant that trusts could not exist beyond the life of the last remaining heir of King George III.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly right. Well done, member for Currumbin. You have done exceptionally well. This bill deals with the rule against perpetuities and makes it a much shorter time. It makes it about 111 years, if I understand it correctly. I may be subject to correction. It modifies some of the antiquated and ancient rules in relation to the operation of trusts.


The objective of the Trusts Bill brought in by our dynamic and hardworking Attorney-General is to replace the act. In less time than it takes a Labor Party member to change factions—let’s face it, that does not take long, if I am to believe what is written in the *Australian*—the Attorney-General has introduced a Trusts Bill that modernises the last 50 years of legislation here in Queensland in relation to it. It is broadly in accordance with the recommendations of the Queensland Law Reform Commission, which undertook a very extensive review and delivered its report in December 2013.

The bill generally adopts the Queensland Law Reform Commission’s review recommendations and modernises and simplifies trust legislation for Queensland. It does so by repealing provisions that are obsolete or no longer appropriate in modern trust legislation—rule against perpetuities, member for Currumbin—or confers powers that are no longer needed in light of the new provisions in the bill. It uses modernised language that people can understand. It modernises trustees’ duties and powers. It confers on trustees all of the powers of an absolute owner of the trust property, subject to the trustee’s duties to account and be responsible to the beneficiaries and to the law. It states trustees’ minimum or core duties that apply in administering a trust including a general duty of care, a duty to act honestly and in good faith—something that would be absent from those on the other side—and a duty to keep trust accounts and make them available to beneficiaries on request so that the beneficiaries have an opportunity to scrutinise the actions of the trustee, who actually only holds the property on behalf of those beneficiaries.

The bill allows the delegation of authority by conferring a new power for a trustee to ask for another person to exercise those investment powers, but it does limit that power to delegate those powers, authorities and discretions in the trustee to 12 months duration. So it allows it to occur but it provides for review of it to occur after 12 months. It does not affect any power of appropriation conferred under the trust instrument—the trust deed, usually—and the settlor may specify greater or additional powers in the trust instrument to those specified in the bill. In short, it does modernise the provisions to reflect modern community standards. It makes an essential instrument in modern commercial life a much more relevant document, a much more easily understood document and a document that will deliver clarity and certainty for those undertaking commerce in this great state of ours.

Under the LNP government and its fresh start, there will be many more people getting involved, investing in this state and doing what we need them to do: employing people, investing their funds and acting responsibly as contributors to the wealth, employment and enjoyment of this great state. There

is no reason to stand in the way of these long overdue reforms that have been sat on by the Labor Party for so long and are so important for Queenslanders. The only problem is: something of such importance does deserve debate and scrutiny. Unfortunately, yet again, the LNP has to do the work that those opposite failed to do in explaining it, scrutinising it and delivering on the reforms that Labor could not do in the better part of a decade.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (8.54 pm): I would like to firstly acknowledge the Attorney-General, as well as the member for Nicklin and the entire committee for their efforts. I have to acknowledge that when I was speaking to members of my community in Emu Park about what was coming up in parliament in the current fortnight and mentioned the Trusts Bill, I honestly did not think there would be that many people who would know what we were talking about. I was amazed and surprised to find out that there are people from all walks of life who have trusts and are beneficiaries of trusts. It encouraged me to understand that this piece of legislation that seemed, for me—a first-time MP who has not had very long in this place—almost innocuous can be very important to so many members of our community. This encouraged me to want to speak to this bill.

The Trusts Bill 2025 provides a fresh start to all Queenslanders who have a trust, all Queenslanders who are a trustee and all Queenslanders who are a beneficiary of a trust because, ultimately, we know that trusts are used in everyday life in Queensland for myriad purposes. Trusts are used to protect or preserve assets within families; trusts help manage donations given to charitable causes; trusts can be used to help organise tax obligations; and some trusts are used to provide future security for children or family with impaired decision-making capability—a very important cause and something that justifies why we should invest our time in making sure we get this right.

The current Trusts Act was introduced in 1973 and, with limited modification, has lasted more than 50 years. The Trust Bill 2025 will replace the act and make sure that trusts for Queenslanders—trusts for families with young children, trusts for people who may be disabled, trusts for people looking to manage their tax obligations, manage donations to charitable causes and preserve assets for their families—meet the needs of Queenslanders in the 21st century.


This bill has been a long time coming. The committee report listed that the Queensland Law Reform Commission, the QLRC, first conducted a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act in 2012, then again in 2013, with a view to starting off the process for reforming the act. The QLRC, after extensive consultation with stakeholders—engaging people across the state from the sector as well as from the community—recommended that we needed to replace the Trusts Act 1973 with new legislation. Ten years later, the former Labor government introduced the Trusts Bill 2024, with the intention of modernising this act; however, unfortunately, it was never passed. I acknowledge the work of former committees in the last term and thank the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, which provided its report with just one recommendation to the House: pass the bill.

Acknowledging the complexity of trusts, it is important that in the bill there is 12 months invested in preparing Queenslanders for the changes, to make sure that people using trusts for charitable purposes, to meet taxation obligations or to provide security for children or people with impaired decision-making capability within their families have the advantage of understanding them and ensuring they are well set up to meet their needs into the future. I commend this bill to the House. I commend the Crisafulli government for bringing about these long overdue reforms.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hutton, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Removal of Bill from *Notice Paper*

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday I made a ruling that the Locking in Cost of Living Support (50 Cent Fares Forever) Amendment Bill 2025 contains an appropriation and should not have been introduced without first being recommended by a message of the Governor in accordance with section 68 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and standing order 174. I ruled that the bill is out of order and will need to be discharged and withdrawn by the member for Murrumba, failing which I will direct the removal of the bill from the *Notice Paper*. The member for Murrumba has not subsequently moved a motion to discharge and withdraw the bill. Accordingly, I now direct that the bill be removed from the *Notice Paper* with immediate effect.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.01 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Centenary Highway



Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (9.01 pm): I look forward to hearing the member for Keppel's ongoing contribution in two weeks time for this super-urgent bill that we needed to pass. Can't wait! It was so super-urgent! Were they telling the truth then or are they telling the truth now? It is clearly not that urgent.

The Centenary Highway is one of our most important transport corridors and it is particularly important to the motorists of the Jordan electorate. Since my election, we have seen an increasing focus on the Centenary, and rightly so given it is servicing one of the fastest growing regions of Queensland. Just in the past four years under Labor we saw the completion of the \$15 million Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange upgrade and the completion of the \$80 million Summers Road interchange upgrade. We made the investment in the \$298.5 million Centenary Bridge upgrade, which is currently under construction, and in a matter of weeks we will have completed the \$6.5 million upgrade of the Centenary Highway exit 32.

We also made an investment in significant planning and funding for future upgrades of the Centenary Highway. This includes the section from Darra to Toowong and from Darra to Yamanto. This section of the highway is particularly critical for our Ipswich communities including Greater Springfield, Redbank Plains, White Rock, Ripley Valley, Deebing Heights and Yamanto. The funding allocated is aimed at providing a master plan for future lane duplication, interchanges, on- and off-ramps and active travel such as the extension of the Centenary cycleway. The first stage of motorway preservation is meant to have started. However, Ipswich MPs are now in the dark about this project. Despite a written request to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to allow TMR to provide us with an updated briefing, I understand we are still waiting to have this confirmed. My greatest concern right now is that this critical work will be delayed and potentially cut by the new LNP government. I want a reassurance and a briefing by the minister that work is continuing at pace on this. I also want to see continued investment in the Centenary Motorway. The section between exit 31 and exit 33 needs to be upgraded first. Even TMR officers admitted to me that this section is a priority given the daily congestion we are experiencing.

In January TMR suddenly closed an on-ramp to the Centenary Motorway. They then closed the exit 32 off-ramp from Brisbane, a major off-ramp for peak afternoon traffic. It caused mayhem, but as a state member I was not provided with any advice of this, not a phone call, not a formal notice—nothing. When I urgently reached out to metropolitan region multiple times I was finally advised that they could not talk to me about it. Once I went public with the fact that I was being denied important information, TMR suddenly became available to speak to me. I do want to acknowledge that the minister also rang me to assure me he had not given a direction to TMR and I have accepted this and I hope it is true, though several of my colleagues on this side of the House are sharing similar stories with me. I have now sought another urgent update because this is not good enough.

Cairns Community Cabinet; Crime




Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (9.04 pm): Last week it was great to have our hardworking ministers in Cairns for our first community cabinet meeting. Far North Queensland being first off the rank shows the LNP Crisafulli government's commitment to Far North Queensland. Our community cabinet heard from locals about a variety of issues—from housing and hospital issues to tourism and business opportunities—but it is no secret that Cairns crime is out of control. On the Sunday before the community cabinet began, a justice crime rally was held with over 500 residents of Cairns. I was honoured to attend and speak at the rally. Also in attendance were our hardworking Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

We listened to victims of crime and heard their harrowing stories. We listened to residents who are a mix of furious, frightened and frustrated because of the crime in our beautiful city. Bravely, a letter was read out from a young married woman whose life will never be the same again, and my thoughts and prayers are with this couple, their family and friends and the first responders supporting them through these alleged crimes.

Safety where you live and a safer community is our government's commitment, and this is why our government passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws. This means that a child who is sentenced under Adult Crime, Adult Time will be liable to the same minimum and mandatory sentences that apply to an adult. We are not finished with the Making Queensland Safer Laws yet. That was our first tranche and there is more to come this year, including Jack's Law, which will allow police to use handheld metal detectors without a warrant to check for weapons, and Daniel's Law, which will create a public sex offender registry, and there will be more to come.

Our team's focus is on fewer victim numbers and I am pleased that tenders for two of the Crisafulli government's critical youth crime-fighting programs have been released to market today. The Regional Reset will deliver one- to three-week resets for at-risk youth while the Staying on Track program will provide a 12-month post detention rehabilitation program, including at least six months of intensive rehabilitation which right now is only a 72-hour window and most of those repeat youth offenders are offending again and the cycle continues. We are working every day to turn this mess around. There is no time to waste. We hear you and we are acting, Far North Queensland. There is a lot more to do, but we are with you every single day fighting. Thank you to those beautiful women who created that rally in Cairns. It was a really tough day for Far North Queensland, but I was honoured to be there. We will keep fighting for you.

Bui, Dr C

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.07 pm): It is my solemn honour to rise this evening to speak on the very sad passing of Dr Cuong Bui, the long-term president of the Vietnamese Community Queensland Chapter. Three minutes is not nearly long enough to cover his 50-year history of service to Australia, but I will do my absolute best. His history of awards is significant: in 1985 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia; in 1992 he was the recipient of the prestigious Paul Cullen Award; in 2010-11 he was named a Queensland Disaster Hero; in 2015 he was awarded the Pride of Australia medal; and most recently in 2022 he was awarded one of Australia's top honours—a Member of the Order of Australia.


Dr Bui was one of the very first members of the Vietnamese community to arrive in Australia 50 years ago. This year he was instrumental in coordinating many commemoration events for the anniversary of the fall of Saigon. His involvement is so significant because of his long service to the Vietnamese community here in Queensland and these events will be even more deeply etched with sadness because he is not here to mark them with us.

Fifty years ago as Vietnamese refugees fled in boats in search of a better life, thousands landed here in Australia. Many came to Queensland and, for the vast majority of them, it was Dr Bui who was a beacon of hope and support when they arrived. Around him the Vietnamese Community Chapter of Queensland was born. He forged a brave and resilient community that stood strong in the face of their shared trauma—a trauma that few of us could even dare to imagine. A significant number arrived with nothing but the clothes on their back. Many thousands died at sea, and those who made it were often robbed or raped by pirates. Can members imagine being the person who worked to pull this community together and helped them to make the significant contribution to Australia that our Vietnamese community has? That was Dr Bui.

It is Dr Bui who has ensured that the children and grandchildren of these migrants remain connected to culture and community, with celebrations like the Children's Moon Festival, also known as the Tet Festival. He was instrumental in celebrating the achievements of the next generation and fostering a community of pride in their achievements. Their success was celebrated for all to see, proudly recognised as also being the success of their parents and their grandparents who sacrificed so much to provide for them.

When I was elected I had a young family and I would always remember the kindness that Dr Bui showed my children. He ensured that they were included in a meaningful way so they had the opportunity to learn a little about the history of our Vietnamese community in Queensland. He was certainly a strong leader, but he led with kindness, grace and humility. Vale, Dr Bui.

Weather Events, Response

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.10 pm): Tonight I wish to honour the resilience of Queenslanders. This year has already tested Queenslanders with floods, storms and a cyclone. On each occasion Queenslanders have stepped up, shoulder to shoulder—and I mean all Queenslanders—and carried

this burden together. Our decentralised state is large, it is beautiful, but it is ultimately interconnected in ways that can be seen by the eye but also are absent if no-one shares the story. You might say when one part of Queensland sneezes, the others catch a cold.

Across the state Queenslanders have experienced bare shelves, no milk, no bread, no meat or veg and yet there are no complaints. There were cancelled surgeries and cancelled flights, yet every part of our state stepped up to help our fellow Queenslanders in their time of need. A special shout-out to our amazing SES volunteers from across the state who, even when their own communities were struggling, still got on planes—15 police officers from the central region alone came down here—to be of service to the state of Queensland.

I want to acknowledge our absolutely brilliant teachers who, while their own families may or may not have had power, may or may not have had cleaning up to do at their own home, opened up schools when they were safe to do so under the guidance of their principals to provide an opportunity for kids to start to deal with the trauma of the events that they had just experienced. It is a really special moment. It is not a normal school day and I acknowledge the special work that our teachers do on those days providing a place of safety, a place of community, where our kids can come back and see the semblance of a normal day. Our emergency services who stepped up, our rural and regular fireies, ambos, our doctors and nurses all played such a special role.

I also want to take a moment to say how incredibly proud I was of each and every one of the MPs of this parliament. They demonstrated leadership on their Facebook posts, on their videos, when they were out there stepping up for their community, when they had their own families, their own worries. They kept going out there and fulfilling their role as a leader and I am so incredibly proud. I know how hard it is. In case no-one has said it this week, I wanted to say thank you because I know it is a big step. They have served their communities so well. Thank you.

Ipswich Electorate, Weather Events



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (9.13 pm): Once again I am rising in this House to talk about a natural disaster that has impacted the beautiful City of Ipswich. Saturday, Sunday and Monday of last week we saw 306 millimetres of rain. The Bremer River peaked at 11.57 metres. There were 79 road closures. Hundreds of people in Ipswich have already lodged home and motor insurance claims for damage. Now that we are on the other side of this, my immediate feeling is one of immense gratitude and pride: gratitude for the dedication of those who worked so tirelessly to help us recover from ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred; and pride because it really is in times of adversity that we do see the strength and the resilience of our communities.

Firstly, I thank the SES volunteers. Your selflessness and courage in the face of danger is nothing short of extraordinary. Their presence alone brings people comfort and confidence, but it is their actions in braving dangerous conditions, responding swiftly to help those in need, clearing fallen trees and ensuring the community safety that I want to acknowledge here in the parliament. Their commitment to protecting lives and property is something we will always be grateful for.

To the council officers working in disaster management, your expertise in coordinating the recovery efforts has been invaluable. From planning evacuation routes to organising clean-up operations, you have ensured that our communities were fully supported and recovered quickly.

To my electorate office staff working behind the scenes, you have been, as always, a backbone of support. Your patience and compassion in answering calls from concerned residents, helping those who felt overwhelmed and connecting people with the support they need made all the difference.

Our local principals and school staff once again found themselves responding to changing circumstances and advice throughout. Their excellent communication with their school communities was really appreciated by Ipswich families.


To the police officers and all the government agencies, including Seqwater, that played a key role, your presence and commitment to addressing media and keeping the community informed did not go unnoticed. To all the emergency service personnel, firefighters, paramedics and everyone in between, your work is often taken for granted but during a disaster we see how invaluable you are. Your professional, compassionate and swift action helped save lives and protect homes, and we are grateful.

Of course, I acknowledge the amazing team at Energex. Up to 3,881 Ipswich customers lost power during the weather events. Energex did a fantastic job of getting people reconnected to the grid and that number did come down very quickly.

To all those community members who helped their neighbours and wider community, you are the heart and soul of the recovery effort. Whether you were distributing supplies, offering a helping hand to neighbours or simply offering comfort, your generosity and selflessness is an inspiration to us all.

This disaster, like all the ones it has followed, has shown us the true meaning of community. It has made us come together and rise above the challenges before us. One thing you can be sure of is that in Ipswich we will continue to work together, support each other and move forward stronger than ever.

Police Service, Resources

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.16 pm): Earlier this afternoon in the chamber, a question was asked: what were the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa doing about crime in Townsville? I am here to answer that question. We were doing what we said we would; we were delivering a fresh start for Queensland.


This year alone we have welcomed over 300 new constables into the Queensland Police Service, the family of blue. At the ceremonies, those constables were made a promise by the Crisafulli government that we would support them and we would have their backs. We are on a mission to restore safety across Queensland after 10 years of chaos and crisis under the former Labor government that watered down the youth justice laws.

We committed to putting in place the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas and we delivered on that promise. We committed to appointing the Expert Legal Panel to deliver the next tranche of laws and we delivered on that promise. The committee has hit the ground running and is working with our government to ensure the next tranche of more complex changes are implemented properly.

Beyond the Making Queensland Safer Laws, we have made the necessary changes to bolster police resources and give police the powers that they need to keep our communities safe. In January we announced a new flying squad, the largest rapid response unit in Queensland police history. The flying squad is made up of permanent additional police resources as opposed to continually stripping units for special operations, robbing Peter to pay Paul. In their first statewide blitz, the flying squad arrested 176 people, including 87 juveniles. Last month, we delivered lifesaving tactical first-aid kits to all frontline police officers, giving them the tools they should always have had to enable them to do their job to keep our communities safe.

We want to invest in the safety of our police and give them the capacity to protect themselves and the public in critical situations. I want the police, Queensland and my electorate of Mundingburra to know that we are not done. We know that the youth criminals continue to commit those brazen acts but we will not stop. We will continue to do the work needed to fulfil our commitment of having fewer victims and making Queensland a safer place.

Vocational Education and Training

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.19 pm): I stand here tonight a little perplexed about the previous debate on the Trusts Bill, which was declared urgent, that just dragged on and on. I did not rise to talk about that. I rose to talk about something far more important: putting on the record my sincere thanks and admiration for Queensland tradies.

I encourage anyone considering career options, or a career change, to consider trying a trade, not in this place, obviously, but some members could probably do that. Tradies have never been more appreciated in Queensland. From the Big Build program that our former state Labor government invested in, to new home developments across the state and to the recovery works required when natural disasters strike, our tradies are constantly in demand, from chippies to concreters, plumbers, brickies and sparkies, like myself. I understand that we now have another sparky in the place. Welcome. I would prefer it if he were on the tools, but welcome. We can work together on some things. We need more tradies and we need them now.

I was so proud to be part of a government that invested in free TAFE for Queenslanders. It is an initiative that has been so popular—over 88,000 people have benefitted from it. According to the TAFE website, our general fee-free places in Queensland are full for this year.


Our need to train tradies is also why I was so pleased to see the Albanese Labor government pass legislation in February to lock in ongoing federal funding for free TAFE, a decision I know that our local candidates in the upcoming election—Rhiannyn Douglas for Longman and Ali France for

Dickson—both lobbied for. Labor governments invest in education and training because we understand the transformational power such investment brings, unlike the LNP, who said during the federal debate on free TAFE, ‘If you don’t pay for something, you don’t value it.’ We do not think that way.

I am interested to know if the Crisafulli government agrees with this sentiment. Many of the fee-free TAFE courses started disappearing once the Queensland LNP was elected. The disappearances have not gone unnoticed. My office has received emails from constituents expressing frustration that the course they were looking into suddenly was not available after the government changed hands. I am also interested to know if the Crisafulli government intends to continue the Labor tradition of co-investing in fee-free TAFE beyond the study of the training minister’s own profession, which is an honourable profession but we need other trades out there as well. I would like to hear a commitment from the Crisafulli government that it will safeguard the Certificate III guarantee introduced and funded by Labor.

With the short time I have left, I would also like to, once again, shout out to the tradies from Energex and Ergon and the people from the SES. My old workmates are still out there restoring power in a time that is really difficult for them.

Burleigh Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.22 pm): As Tropical Cyclone Alfred bore down on the Burleigh electorate, our community stood up and stood together. Whilst I know that many are still getting back on their feet, I want to honour those who helped our community weather the storm. Our school principals were absolutely incredible. I thank Scott Anderson at Palm Beach State School and Rob Templeton at Burleigh Heads State School who were in regular contact with me and who worked to get local kids back in class.

In Tallebudgera, St Andrews Lutheran College was ably led by principal Luke Schoff, who overcame significant odds to welcome back students. I want to thank the Treasurer for working with me to restore power at the school and local councillor Josh Martin who solved a particularly tricky wastewater issue.

Local churches threw open their doors and looked after the most vulnerable—the homeless, the infirm and the lonely. There were also places of refuge for parents whose children needed an outlet and for workers who needed power and connectivity. Let me praise Pastor Kevin Thomas and Ruth Arnold at OurChurch, Burleigh Heads Church of Christ service coordinator Ann Donnelly-Marshall, Reverend Ralph Mayhew at Burleigh Village Uniting Church and Father Morgan Batt at the Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish.


I am so proud of our small and family businesses that stayed open for as long as it was safe to do so and did so at considerable cost. The Burleigh Waters community was certainly grateful to the FoodWorks on Christine Avenue and I know that Palm Beach was touched when Scott’s Luncheonette & Bar refused payment for some meals.

That is what Burleigh does best—it sticks together. It seemed everyone rolled up their sleeves to help, whether it was neighbours at sandbagging stations or volunteer community groups. They turned up to sandbag the mighty Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and they turned up to open the sports club. They turned up at the Varsity Lakes Community Resource Centre and they turned up to clean up our creek. I want to single out Orange Sky for working with my team to offer Tallebudgera locals hot showers after long days without power. My sincere thanks to their team.

Speaking of teams, I really want to thank the Minister for the Environment and Tourism, Andrew Powell, for being in touch with me immediately to see whether there was something he could do for my electorate, Minister John-Paul Langbroek, Minister Laura Gerber—my adjacent MP—and Minister Sam O’Connor, for helping my schools get the repairs that they needed. Above all, I want to thank the Premier for treating Queenslanders like adults, setting the correct tone and working with local government.

To close, I want to acknowledge Councillor Dan Doran, Councillor Josh Martin, Councillor Nick Marshall OAM and Acting Mayor, Councillor Donna Gates, who did a phenomenal job looking after the Gold Coast when it needed it most. My thanks to her. Burleigh we came through it.

Homelessness

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.26 pm): Yesterday, the LNP Lord Mayor of Brisbane announced that any homeless person sleeping in a Brisbane park would be fined, would have their belongings confiscated and would be moved on. Let's ask ourselves: moved onto where? They are going to pay that fine with what? The mayor said—

Virtually every rough sleeper in Brisbane was offered secure accommodation before Tropical Cyclone Alfred, but shockingly the vast majority refused.

It is a barefaced lie to say that the majority of people sleeping rough have refused secure housing.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw. It is a blatant mistruth to say that the majority of people sleeping rough have refused secure housing. One has to be wilfully ignorant or plain cruel to buy into that kind of rot.

There are almost 50,000 people with very high needs waiting for social housing in Queensland—waiting for social housing that just does not exist. Thousands of these applicants, including children, retirees, young men and middle-aged women, are currently homeless. Thousands of others cannot even get on the wait list.

Sasha is a homeless woman who comes to the free meal that my office and our volunteer community put on in Guyatt Park each week. There are a number of genuinely terrible life events that have contributed to Sasha being homeless, not least of all the death of her eight-year-old son earlier this year. When Sasha was offered temporary accommodation in a hotel last week ahead of the cyclone she accepted it. Unfortunately, that has ended and she is back in the park. She is also now missing her belongings that the council threw out when they moved her into the hotel, including her son's picture books. The mayor has tried to paint people sleeping in tents as magnets for crime, violence and illegal drugs. Sasha is not violent. In fact, according to the Australian Institute of Criminology, she is 13 times more likely to be a victim of violent crime than the general public as a person who is homeless.

The overwhelming majority of people who are homeless are not criminal offenders. Some of the most common risk factors for homelessness include domestic violence, parental drug use, mental illness, trauma, workplace injuries, and cognitive and physical disabilities. Not everyone who experiences these challenges ends up homeless, but almost everyone who is homeless has lived with one of these, and poverty on top of that.


Of course, we want people living in safe houses. Of course, we want our parks to be safe places for everyone, but you do not do this by kicking people like Sasha in the guts. You do that by building public housing, by capping rent increases, by pushing down the cost of housing. You do it by supporting victims of abuse, supporting people with disabilities and supporting people in a housing crisis to live with dignity. If you want to solve homelessness, go after the billionaire developers, the land bankers and the real estate lobby donating to the LNP and Labor, go after Peter Dutton and Anthony Albanese who have profited millions from rising housing costs, but leave Sasha alone.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before you resume your seat member for Maiwar, I let you finish your contribution but you did use another unparliamentary term. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I withdraw.

Theodore Electorate, Weather Events

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.29 pm): Tropical Cyclone Alfred marked a significant event as the first tropical cyclone to cross the South-East Queensland coast in 51 years, having a profound impact on the Theodore electorate community. Even now, many residents remain without power, highlighting the ongoing challenges our community faces. The Theodore electorate, nestled along the ridge lines of the Gold Coast hinterland, is particularly vulnerable to storm events. We frequently witness rapid stream rises and then streams breaching their banks, damage to vegetation from high winds and too often persistent power outages.

I share the concerns expressed by many residents and by the member for Scenic Rim when it comes to vegetation overlays and their implications for both residents' safety and the integrity of our power network. We continually hear troubling accounts of requests to remove dangerous trees looming over houses being denied by council, only for those trees to later threaten lives and cause extensive damage when they fall on to houses. This endangers lives and escalates insurance premiums due to the significant damage incurred. The safety of individuals and the protection of one's property should

be prioritised and considered paramount. The same concerns apply to our power network, where trees towering over the lines frequently shed branches, causing frequent outages and disruptions to the network every time we have a severe storm. Energex themselves are also fighting these issues.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the volunteers, residents who selflessly cleaned their streets and their neighbours' properties, emergency personnel, our dedicated rural fire brigades and our volunteer SES who have worked tirelessly to support our community during this challenging time. Your efforts are truly commendable. Also, I give special thanks to Matt Walker, the First Officer for the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, and Brendan Gold, the First Officer of the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. Your volunteers are legendary and you are always there to assist.

To our Energex workers, your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated especially by all the residents in the Theodore electorate and across the northern Gold Coast. Only a few days ago the vast majority of the Theodore electorate was in darkness. Today we still have small pockets that are without power, but the Energex workers have been working day and night helping to get the power back on for these residents. I thank you for your dedication to your work, to your jobs. Many residents wish me to pass on a big heartwarming thank you.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, 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, 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