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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

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TUESDAY, 1 APRIL 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.

PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that on Wednesday, 26 March I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill and the Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill for royal assent and Her Excellency was pleased to subscribe her assent on behalf of Her Majesty.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: I have received from Her Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of the House.

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of assent: 17 March 2025

A bill for an Act to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

17 March 2025

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Appropriation Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of assent: 26 March 2025

A bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2023

A bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2023

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor


26 March 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 March 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 17 March 2025.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 March 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 26 March 2025.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the Deputy Speaker will be absent from the House this week due to a family bereavement. I am sure all members will join me in extending condolences to the Deputy Speaker and his family.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice that the member for Lytton will be absent from and including 1 April 2025. I am satisfied that the member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Speaker's Rulings

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have reviewed the *Record of Proceedings* from the previous two sitting weeks and believe it would be educational and useful to members if greater detail could be provided for the record in relation to some rulings. I have circulated a document adding commentary to rulings from the previous two sitting weeks and seek to have it incorporated in the record.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY TO RULINGS FROM PREVIOUS SITTING WEEKS

Relevance of answer

On Tuesday 18 February 2025 during an answer by the Premier to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, the Manager of Opposition Business rose on a point of order (ROP page 16):

Mr de BRENNI (p16): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the question under standing order 118(b). The question was very specific. It asked: did his personally drafted laws include attempted murder and rape? Did the Premier or the Attorney-General remove those? That is the specific nature of the question. Mr Speaker, I ask you to draw him back to the specific answer on relevance.

At the time, I simply ruled that I found that the Premier was being relevant to the question.

I wish to elucidate further.

The Premier was being responsive to the question. The Premier outlined that every matter promised to Queenslanders was in the new laws. The Premier was outlining that first was a commitment to implement the Making Queensland Safer Laws and what those laws would be and that an independent panel would look at future changes to the law.

There is an obligation on ministers to address the question, but the questioner, or any other intervenor, cannot seek to have the question answered in the way they want.

The Speaker cannot intervene to improve the quality of an answer or force the Minister to answer the question in the way that members asking would prefer. If a Minister does not answer the question to a member's satisfaction, the member can either ask further questions on the topic or make whatever comment in debate or elsewhere they believe is appropriate given the answer (Fouras (AS), 10 June 2005 PD p.2077).

There are rulings that the questioner has responsibility of asking the question, and the Minister can respond in the way they see fit (McGrady (S) 29 September 2005 PD p 2977; McGrady (S) 29 September 2005 PD p 2980; McGrady (S) 30 September 2005 PD p 3080).

This is tempered in that a minister may address the question how they deem fit, as long it is relevant, and the Speaker will only intervene if the Minister's answer drifts from the question and is not relevant. The more specific the question, the more likely the Speaker will intervene, so the longer the preamble the more latitude is provided to the Minister (Pitt (S) 27 October 2021 p 3283; Pitt (S) 16 November 2021 p 3470; Pitt (S) 22 February 2022 p 26; Pitt (S) 31 March 2022 p 828; Pitt (S) 30 August 2022 p 2236; Pitt (S) 31 August 2022 p 2332; Pitt (S) 31 August 2022 p 2333; Pitt (S) 15 March 2023 p 425; Pitt (S) 28 March 2023 p 612; Pitt (S) 16 November 2023 p 3595; Pitt (S) 14 June 2024 p 2330; Kelly (A/S) 23 August 2023 p 2887; Kelly (A/S) 24 August 2023 p 2395).

Ministers are allowed to give some context to the answer, but must come back to the specific question within the time allotted (Pitt (S) 30 November 2022 p 3731; Pitt (S) 28 October 2022 p 3255; Pitt (S) 30 November 2022 pp 3731-3732; Pitt (S) 25 October 2023 p 3194; Pitt (S) 26 October 2023 p 3293).

However, a Minister is able to respond to differing elements of a question as they see fit (Pitt (S) 30 November 2022 p 3728; Pitt (S) 10 October 2023 p 2797).

If a question has a preamble, the Minister is entitled to address the preamble, but should also address the precise question (Pitt (S) 12 October 2023 p 3008).

If members interject on a minister answering a question, the Minister can respond to those interjections and doing so is not objectionable (Pitt (S) 17 August 2022 p 2040).

Finally, I would add that when making a point of order, the member should get directly to the point and there is no need to repeat the question.

Relevance of answer

On Tuesday 18 February 2025 during an answer by the Premier to a question asked by the Member for Bulimba, the Manager of Opposition Business rose on a point of order (ROP p19):

Mr de BRENNI (p19): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question of the minister was about what advice she provided to the Attorney-General about the inclusion of those offences.

I ruled the question was being answered. It might not be quite the way the Manager of Opposition would like it to be answered, but broadly the question was being answered.

I wish to elucidate further.

The Minister was being responsive to the question. The Minister was outlining that the government took to the election five key offence areas that they promised Queenslanders would be law by Christmas. Adult Crime, Adult Time was law by Christmas.

They also promised Queenslanders there would be further changes and that an expert legal panel would be set up to consider those further tranches and those further changes that are necessary, including rape, including all of the attempted offences. There are a number of offences that they need the Expert Legal Panel to consider.

The Speaker cannot intervene to improve the quality of an answer or force the minister to answer the question in the way that members asking would prefer (Fouras (AS) 10 June 2005 PD p2077).

A Minister may address the question how they deem fit, as long it is relevant, and the Speaker will only intervene if the Minister's answer drifts from the question and is not relevant.

Imputations and inferences

On Tuesday 18 February 2025 a question was asked by the Member for Mansfield and the Leader of the House rose on a point of order (ROP p22):

Dr ROWAN (p22): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the term 'rushed' in the question. There is an imputation so I ask that the question be rephrased.

I allowed the question.

I wish to elucidate further and note that other points of order on the basis of inferences or imputations were raised and similarly dismissed (Wednesday, 19 February 2025 p124; Thursday, 20 February 2025 p206; Wednesday 12 March 2025 p313; and Wednesday 12 March 2025 p317).

Using the term 'rushed' in respect of a law is not an imputation or inference as we understand it in a parliamentary sense. It is in the nature of a viewpoint.

The rule against imputations and inferences relates to imputations and inferences against members.

Speakers will generally not intervene where the imputation is directed to philosophy, viewpoint or policy but are likely to intervene where the imputation is a phrase imputing, attributing, ascribing or charging someone with a personal motive, crime, misconduct, negligence or other fault (Wellington (S) 25 May 2016 p 2016).

An inference is the action or process of making a conclusion from a premise either by induction or deduction. In a parliamentary sense, it is essentially an assumption or supposition. Often it will be difficult for the chair to assess whether a fact is being stated or an assumption or proposition is being made. Again, in the parliamentary sense, Speakers will not generally intervene where the matters relate to philosophy, viewpoint or policy but are likely to intervene where the inference is about personal motive, adverse action, crime, misconduct, negligence or other fault (Wellington (S) 25 May 2016 p 2016).

Questions to Minister must be about responsibility as a Minister

On Wednesday 12 March 2025 p.317 the Member for Morayfield asked the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism a question (ROP p317). There was objection on the basis of inferences, imputations and authentication.

I allowed the question.

I wish to elucidate further. As the answer progressed, it became clear that the real issue was not inferences, imputations or lack of authentication; the issue was that the matter was not something for which the Minister being asked the question was responsible as a Minister.

Standing Order 113 provides questions may be put to a Minister relating to 'public affairs with which the Minister is officially connected' or 'any matter of administration for which the Minister is responsible.' It turned out that the question dealt with the Minister's role as a local member.

Matters of privilege raised in points of order

Throughout the last two sitting weeks various members have risen on points of order to then allege a matter of privilege (for example, the Member for Stafford on Wednesday 19 February 2025 ROP p118; the Leader of the House on Wednesday 12 March 2025 ROP p339 and p341).

I dealt with this matter in my statement regarding expectations in the House on 28 November 2024 (ROP pp24-27) but reiterate my position so that every member is clear.

A genuine matter of privilege, suddenly arising, may be raised by a member at any time under Standing Order 248. To satisfy the requirements of Standing Order 248, a matter must firstly be a matter of privilege and secondly, it must be a matter that has suddenly arisen and requires immediate redress.

The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Matters that may fall into that category include:

Members being unable or prevented from entering the Chamber, strangers being present in the House and interrupting proceedings, or required material not being available for proceedings before the House.

Unfortunately, as with points of order, some members attempt to use matters of privilege to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another member is misleading the House, or put the member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or other material.

These matters are not matters of privilege suddenly arising and are simply yet another example of abuse of the rules.

If any member believes another member has deliberately misled the House, then the appropriate procedure is contained in Standing Order 269. The member should write to the Speaker with all evidence available supporting the allegation.

I will not allow other members to simply rise and allege a deliberate misleading of the House during the course of business.

Persistent, deliberately disruptive or frivolous matters of privilege, being disorderly, may result in a member being warned under Standing Orders 252-254.

I also note that matters of order, dealt with on the floor of the House by withdrawals, suspensions or other remedies should generally not be escalated to matters of privilege.

Points of order containing argument

Throughout the previous two sitting weeks, points of order were raised and statements made which did not go to procedure but rather went to the merits of the matter, trying to get on the record their view (for example: Manager of Opposition Business on Wednesday 12 March 2025 ROP p313).

As I pointed out in my statement of expectations, a point of order is essentially a question as to whether the present proceedings are in order or allowed by the rules of the House or parliamentary practice and procedure generally. An attempt to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another member is misleading the House, or put the member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or other material, is not a point of order. A member's point of view is not a point of order and is merely disorderly (Weir (S) 28 November 2024 ROP pp 24-27).

Like Speakers before me, I warn that spurious arguments being put forth have to come to an end. Like previous Speakers, I warn that persistent, deliberately disruptive or frivolous points of order are disorderly and may result in a member being warned under Standing Orders (Pitt (S) 03 May 2018 p1067; and Wellington (S) 12 October 2017 p 3118).

Speaker's duty on the question, "That the question be now put"

Standing Order 88(1) provides that "Any member during a debate on a question may move a closure motion ("That the question be now put")."

Standing Order 88(2) provides a rider:

"(2) If the Speaker is of the opinion that the question has been sufficiently debated and a motion in (1) is not an abuse of the rules of the House or an infringement of members' rights, the Speaker shall put the closure motion forthwith without amendment or debate."

In debate on the Trusts Bill on Friday 14 March 2025 a motion was moved on two occasions under Standing Order 88(1) and on both occasions the Speaker refused to put the question under Standing Order 88(2).

On the first occasion only the Minister and the Shadow Minister had spoken to the Bill on its second reading and the Deputy Speaker stated they did not find that the debate had been sufficiently progressed (ROP p571).

On the second occasion, an additional four members had spoken to the Bill. The Manager of Opposition Business moved the closure motion on the stated basis that there was bipartisan support for the Bill, the Bill had been declared urgent and that there was repetition in debate (ROP p577).

I also refused to put the question under Standing Order 88(2). I noted that there was a lengthy speaking list, that it is not uncommon for bills with bipartisan support to be debated for lengthy periods and in my opinion, at the time the motion was moved, there had been insufficient debate. I also noted that the Bill, if passed, is law and members have a right to speak to proposed law and that right should not be treated lightly.

I wish to elucidate further.

Surprisingly, there is little guidance in previous Speaker's rulings as to the factors to be taken into account by the Speaker when deciding if a question should be put under Standing Order 88.

A ruling by Speaker Pitt (13 May 2028, ROP p1010) drew a distinction between debate on substantive motions as opposed to procedural motions. Speaker Pitt stated: "I have always had a view on motions that are of a substantive nature versus those that are about procedure and the workings of the House. My view would be that there has been sufficient debate on what is, quite simply, a procedural motion related to the timing of the ringing of bells. I would suggest that the motion be put."

In a similar vein, Acting Speaker Kelly allowed the question to be put to a reasoned amendment to the second reading debate of a bill (subsidiary question); as distinct to the substantive second reading question itself (24 August 2023, ROP p2406).

There is an old precedent for Speakers to reject motions that the question be put, when the mover is not 'a responsible member' such as a Minister, Leader of the Opposition or member in charge of the business (V&P, 1900, p.345).


Ultimately, the exercise of discretion by the Speaker will come down to a number of factors:

- (a) The nature of the question. The closure is far less likely to be allowed when the question is significant, such as the second reading of a bill or a substantive motion, as opposed to a subsidiary question, procedural motion or a question relating to scheduling in the House etc.
- (b) Whether the debate itself is subject to a time limit.
- (c) The number of members that have spoken and are likely to want to speak to the question.
- (d) Whether debate has been tediously repetitious or an obvious filibuster.
- (e) Whether putting the question is obviously tactical or obstructive, rather than genuine.

It is clear that the matter is discretionary to the Speaker (V&P, 1900, p345) and not itself subject to a motion of dissent (Pitt (S) 03 June 2018 p1067).

Furthermore, it is not in order for members to argue the matter when the motion is put, that is, members must not in fact argue the merits of the matter that the Speaker has to decide; that is, whether there had been sufficient debate (Pitt (S) 03 May 2018 p1067). When the Speaker makes a decision on the matter, points of order seeking clarification or restating the issue are at best obstruction and at worst disrespect to the chair.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Marist College Ashgrove in the electorate of Ferny Grove; Rainbow Beach State School in the electorate of Gympie; and Pallara State School and the Murri School in the electorate of Algeester.

PETITIONS

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

Coomera Connector

Mr Crandon, from 1,639 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the next two stages of the Coomera Connector project.

Highfields, Bus Services

Mr Watts, from 577 petitioners, requesting the House to amend local bus routes to ensure stops at aged care, over 50's and senior facilities in Highfields.

Mount Gravatt Nurse-Led Clinic

Ms McMillan from 1,568 petitioners, requesting the House to reject any reduction in operating hours at the Mt Gravatt nurse-led clinic.

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

E-Petitions

376 petitioners, requesting the House to modify the current e-petition system to allow signatory information by electoral divisions to be publicly available.

Animals, Protection

1,262 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to increase the protection of animals and stop social media platforms showing the torture of animals.

Animals, Shelter

1,202 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation includes mandatory codes for provision of species-specific shelter and consider each species' capacity to tolerate extremes in weather.

Dogs, Confinement and Tethering

1,160 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2007 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement and/or tethering of a dog.

Domestic and Family Violence

48,269 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately legislate a standalone offence of 'commit domestic and family violence' to make domestic family violence a crime every time.

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

650 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a full and independent investigation is undertaken to address the operation of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

Electricity, Rebates

1,615 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider energy relief by way of power bill rebates for pensioners and those recognised as living in poverty.

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

17 March 2025—

- [214](#) Document, dated 13 March 2025, from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Hon. Dale Last, regarding an extension notice for the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Scheme under the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011
- [215](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4105-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 8,850 petitioners, requesting the House to cease processing renewable energy development assessments along the Great Dividing Range and call for a moratorium until a comprehensive review with proper community consultation is undertaken
- [216](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 1, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 28 November 2024 and 18 February 2025
- [217](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 4, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 September 2024 and 6 December 2024
- [218](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4184-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,116 petitioners, requesting the House to change the age of criminal responsibility to match the Federal social media age of 16
- [219](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4188-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,049 petitioners, requesting the House to include cats in the *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- [220](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to a paper petition (4207-25) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4178-24) sponsored by a member, Mr Andrew, from 547 and 2,740 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reassess the strategy of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and to move towards a suppression program

18 March 2025—

- [221](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 28 November 2024

19 March 2025—

- [222](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Southern Queensland Correctional Centre Inspection Report, March 2025

20 March 2025—

- [223](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4194-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,305 petitioners, requesting the House to release COVID death data weekly with the normal COVID case and hospital admission data
- [224](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an ePetition (4198-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 792 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a scheme in Queensland where any residential property that is not used for full time residential purposes is taxed at 100% of the property value each year it is not used for full time purposes
- [225](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4187-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 436 petitioners, requesting the House to ban smoking in all government housing
- [226](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4185-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 292 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of wood and coal burning fires and stoves in all our towns and cities
- [227](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to a paper petition (4208-25) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4139-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 78 and 433 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to address the community's concerns for the water quality and flushing of the northern section of the Pumicestone Passage
- [228](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4181-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,133 petitioners, requesting the House to complete the bikeway along the disused rail corridor from Ferny Grove to Samford Village
- [229](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Veterans (Hon. Crisafulli), to an ePetition (4193-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), and an ePetition (4203-25) sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 1,529 and 3,360 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure parliamentarians have a right to introduce bills, amendments or any motion that seeks to express a view on any matter and to repeal the order that bans freedom of speech and allow members of parliament the right to move motions or amendments regarding the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018
- 24 March 2025—
- [230](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4199-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 7,573 petitioners, requesting the House to explain the benefits and risks of introducing genetically modified mosquitoes; why another mosquito eradication project is needed in this state; and why not ban the introduction of genetically modified mosquitoes in the state of Queensland
- 26 March 2025—
- [231](#) Letter, dated 26 March 2025, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a report by Professor Susan Harris Rimmer, dated 30 September 2024, titled 'Placing People at the Heart of Policy: First Independent Review of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)—Final Report'
- [232](#) Report by Professor Susan Harris Rimmer, dated 30 September 2024, titled 'Placing People at the Heart of Policy: First Independent Review of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)—Final Report'
- 27 March 2025—
- [233](#) Letter, dated 27 March 2025, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing a document, dated 19 December 2023, titled 'Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Associates: Independent Review' and a letter, dated 19 January 2024, from Mr Jonathan Horton KC and Ms Stephanie Gausson to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation regarding the suitability investigation of Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and associates
- [234](#) Document, dated 19 December 2023, titled 'Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Associates: Independent Review'
- [235](#) Letter, dated 19 January 2024, from Mr Jonathan Horton KC and Ms Stephanie Gausson to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation regarding the suitability investigation of Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and associates
- 28 March 2025—
- [236](#) Auditor-General Report 10: 2024-25—Insights on audit committees in local government
- [237](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade mission to Singapore and India by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, 20-28 February 2025
- [238](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025
- [239](#) Brisbane Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2024
- [240](#) Brisbane Grammar School—Annual Report 2024
- [241](#) CQ University—Annual Report 2024
- [242](#) Griffith University—Annual Report 2024
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- [260](#) Letter, dated 31 March 2025, from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Pat Weir, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding an addendum to the Code of Ethical Standards together with The Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members, February 2025
- [261](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Code of Ethical Standards together with The Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members, February 2025: Addendum

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 16
- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 16, explanatory notes
- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 16, human rights certificate

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016:

- Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 17
- Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 17, explanatory notes
- Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 17, human rights certificate

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, *viz*—

Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024'

Insert—

'Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2025'

Appropriation (Supplementary 2023—2024) Bill 2024

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—


'Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2024'

Insert—

'Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-2024) Bill 2025'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): To start 2025, Queenslanders in almost every part of the state have been impacted by severe weather. Monsoonal rain in North and Far North Queensland caused widespread damage. Only weeks later, Tropical Cyclone Alfred impacted large parts of South East Queensland. Now, as we speak, Queenslanders in the western parts of our state are experiencing widespread flooding, too. Torrential rain has turned large parts of Queensland into an inland sea, isolating communities and damaging property.

I was on the ground last week and the level of devastation is immeasurable. While the rainfall has eased in parts, the disaster is still unfolding as many towns continue to face the threat of flooding. Indeed, right now there is still the threat of rising floodwaters. Entire towns have been submerged as water from different systems travels downstream.

While these communities are small in number they make a mighty contribution to our state, not only economically but also to the social fabric of who we are. Floodwaters have destroyed homes as well as critical infrastructure like sheds, machinery and fences. As the waters recede, the devastation to agriculture and the economic impacts of those losses will flow through these communities.

One of the most devastating impacts will be to livestock, with significant losses to beef, sheep and goats exposed. To give Queenslanders an insight into the scale of the heartbreak, damage assessments have already revealed that over 100,000 head of sheep and cattle have already been lost during this event. That is an incredible amount. This number will rise further and it would already be many times this, if not for efforts to resupply communities with fuel and fodder. These losses will create a massive economic impact, but the social and personal impact to Queenslanders of this event cannot be underestimated.

The first step in the response has been to get people out of harm's way. This has resulted in several communities being evacuated. In towns like Adavale, all 28 residents were safely evacuated to Quilpie, where they are waiting for the floodwaters to recede and for the road to be reconnected to go home and inspect the damage. To give the House an indication of the extent of it, every single home in this proud little community will be impacted—every single home. Roads have been cut off and in many cases, the only way to get anywhere is by air.

I can share today that we have locked in two extra flights to and from Thargomindah to help locals impacted by flooding. The first additional flight will operate on Thursday and there will be another additional flight on the following Thursday. I want to thank the transport minister and the Deputy Premier for their work in securing this outcome. A short while ago I spoke to the local mayor, 'Tractor' Ferguson, who asked me to pass on his thanks and gratitude and that of his community, who are still doing it very tough with waters rising in the community.

One thing we know for sure is that when times are tough Queenslanders step up to help each other. One of the rallying cries from mayors and local communities has been the absence of accurate weather and river height data. They have been flying blind due to a lack of infrastructure for too long. I want to thank federal opposition leader Peter Dutton, who has committed \$10 million towards a new weather radar for the region if elected. We know there is also a real need for more river gauges to give locals better visibility of severe weather in the region, and in large catchments it can help them plan days in advance. For the last decade, regional mayors have been looking to ministers in this House to go in to bat for them in this regard. We are supporting them and we will answer that call.


We are supporting the communities to deliver fuel and fodder. We are working with the Australian Defence Force to establish hubs for fuel and fodder, critical supplies to keep livestock fed. I also want to express my thanks to the private chopper operators who have been delivering fodder in incredible situations. Their help has given hope that where there is dry land we will be able to keep those animals alive. In the long term, we are going to need to lead a big recovery and that starts with the appointment of our state disaster recovery coordinators.

Today I can announce the former mayor of Quilpie shire, Stuart Mackenzie, has been appointed state disaster recovery coordinator to lead the recovery effort in the west. Mr Mackenzie has a decades-long career in local government. He is also a fourth generation grazier and that makes him perfectly placed to understand the challenges that are being experienced on the ground. Stuart will be supported by Chief Superintendent Troy Pukallus, who will serve as the deputy state disaster recovery

coordinator for this event. The chief superintendent has spent over 30 years policing including specialist experience as the state coordinator for the Rural and Stock Crime Squad.

Disaster impacts vary from community to community and, given this flood event has impacted such a large area of our state, it is important we have support on the ground to lead the recovery. However, our commitment is to help every Queenslander through recovery and that commitment remains the same in the north and the south. We know the work is far from over, and we will be there to help communities pick up the pieces.

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.41 am): Approximately one third of our great state has experienced record-breaking flood conditions in this past week. Our Western Queensland communities in my electorate and in the member for Gregory's electorate have experienced rainfall nearly double the yearly average in just a few days, causing flooding the likes of which we have not seen in a lifetime. Communities have been left isolated and primary producers have been decimated with a catastrophic loss of livestock and destruction of infrastructure.

Just last night I returned from Thargomindah. They are not out of the woods yet. For two nights Thargo locals have slept at the airport and at the council depot as floodwaters have risen into the town. These communities are our state's heartland. They are communities I am so very proud to represent. Right now they need our help more than ever and I want them to know we are determined to help them through the immense and long recovery journey that is ahead.


This is the third major disaster to hit Queensland in as many months and the Crisafulli government has once again moved swiftly to ensure flood-affected communities get the help they need. We are delivering support in the form of the personal hardship assistance, fodder drops for primary producers and a disaster loans package to help these communities on the long road to recovery. We share the determination of Western Queenslanders that proves the strength of our Queensland spirit. When faced with adversity, we simply get in there and lift each other up.

I have had the honour of spending the past few days with some incredible people like Rob and Corey from Eromanga and Ted and the residents of Adavale. I caught up with Gina and Cameron, owners of the local butcher shop in Quilpie. They lost their stock and their fencing, but they pitched in to help the community as they faced rising floodwater. I also caught up with Thargo locals Mel, Alan and Nate. Mel and Alan helped coordinate a community barbecue and the council evacuation site. Their son, Nate, has been doing a great job reporting on the floods on his mum's Facebook page.

I also want to acknowledge the tireless work of our mayors: Sally O'Neil from Barcoo, Suzette Beresford from Paroo and many others. I also particularly want to acknowledge Mayor 'Tractor' Ferguson, who has had many a sleepless night, and also Quilpie Mayor Ben Hall, who doorknocked homes with his deputy, Roger Volz, and the member for Gregory late into Friday night to ensure their community felt safe and supported. I also want to mention the chopper pilots. They need a really special shout-out for their efforts. Without them we could not do what needs to happen in these communities. It is people like these, mates helping mates, who make these communities so special.

Our Western Queensland towns may be small in population, but they are mighty in the contribution they make to our great state. We want them to know we continue to have their backs and we will help them rebuild and thrive once again.

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.45 am): It is a sign of the unpredictability of Queensland's weather that this is my third ministerial statement informing the House about the impact of weather events on Queensland primary producers. This time it is those who live in the west of Queensland. In some regions the floods are historic, surpassing the levels seen in 1974. Some of these areas have received more than a year's worth of rain in a week.

The flood footprint covers more than half a million square kilometres. I acknowledge the members for Gregory, Sean Dillon, and Warrego, Ann Leahy, whose electorates have borne the full brunt of this flooding. Some properties have been completely inundated. In many cases, producers are yet to assess the damage, stock losses and issues with surviving stock. I cannot overstate the impact it will have on our primary producers.

There are more than two million cattle, sheep and goats in the region which are now under water. The losses will be catastrophic. There have been a significant number of livestock deaths from drowning, bogging and exposure. I want to reassure our primary producers the Crisafulli government has your backs. My department is receiving requests for fodder. It is imperative that we provide fodder to keep alive the livestock which have survived the inundation. Distributing this fodder is challenging. We are determined to do what we can to keep Western Queenslanders afloat.

Yesterday a Black Hawk helicopter arrived in Blackall and has already made trips to Jundah. By this afternoon 244 bales of hay will be delivered to Blackall and 450 bales to Charleville. This will go to Quilpie and the Thargomindah areas. Eleven smaller helicopters will then sling hay from four distribution centres in Thargomindah, Isisford, Jundah and Quilpie. Graziers need hope and support. This fodder will go some way to provide that.

As of 3 pm yesterday afternoon, 82 disaster impact surveys had been received. Those 82 have already provided estimates of 105,348 missing and dead livestock. It includes 50,348 cattle, 51,750 sheep and 3,250 other livestock such as goats and stock horses. There are estimates of 3,183 kilometres of fences and 4,076 kilometres of private roads impacted.

We have been in regular contact with primary producers and have provided advice on the disposal of deceased livestock. Merino sheep in the affected areas are currently in full wool and are at significant risk. Those that survive will be challenged in walking any distance to access feed and clean water. Wet sheep are at a heightened risk of significant flystrike, adding further to the animal welfare risk.

We are hearing reports that the recently completed \$92 million exclusion fencing project has also been severely damaged and washed away in sections. There has been significant damage to dams and property infrastructure. Many landowners simply cannot get around their properties to assess the damage. It will possibly take weeks before we know the full extent. My department has been communicating daily with producers, councils and communities to understand impacts on the ground and what assistance is required. We are working closely with the local disaster management group and the mayors.

The Crisafulli government and the Commonwealth are providing immediate support through loans and freight subsidies for producers in the council areas of Barcoo, Boulia, Bulloo, Diamantina, Longreach, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Winton. Disaster assistance loans of up to \$250,000 and essential working capital loans of \$100,000 are available to assist farmers with repair, replacement of damaged assets and loss of income. Freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 can be accessed to assist with stock movement, feed, machinery, fuel, water and building or fencing materials. Once the damage can be safely assessed, producers are encouraged to provide information to the Department of Primary Industry's disaster impact survey, and this can be done either directly through the department's website or by calling 132523.

This is a tough job for producers. They have watched their livelihoods wash away. Afterwards they will have to clear up and deal with the deceased livestock. This will be a massive impact on their mental health and the communities which rely on them. While fodder drops and the survival of remaining stock is our top priority now, we know the impact will be felt for years. We know that it takes many years after a natural disaster to repair, rebuild and restock. I again want to reassure those in Western Queensland that the Crisafulli government has your back. We are in this with you for the long haul.

Western Queensland, Weather Events



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.50 am): While we are still recovering from the North Queensland flood event and ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, we have again been confronted with record rains across vast areas of inland Queensland. Our Queensland disaster management arrangements facilitate planning for and responding to and recovering from these most extreme weather events, and the Crisafulli government is committed to doing just that. Transport and Main Roads was well prepared for this latest flooding event, which in some parts of the state is still unfolding. We are also preparing for more rain in the coming days from Western Australia's ex-Tropical Cyclone Dianne which is expected to add more water to the already sodden catchments out west.

Our road teams across both local and state government have been working tirelessly right across the weekend and yesterday to get Queensland moving again. They have been able to reduce the number of closed roads from this event from 144 to 120 from midday Sunday to just before eight o'clock this morning. These road crews are currently inspecting and clearing flood damaged roads and bridges

from the New South Wales border right up to the gulf. I want to acknowledge the very close partnership between the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Energy Queensland led by the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership.

When communities are recovering from disasters they need their roads and electricity restored quickly. This means our communities can get on with their mobile phone coverage communications, we can restore water and sewerage and we can get them working again. It means that hospitals, aged-care facilities and other essential infrastructure no longer need to rely on backup generators and it means that schools can return to normal, shops and motels can open and the important economic drivers of retail, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism can function again.


My department and Energy Queensland have again worked hand in glove to prioritise access to the hardest hit areas in some of our most remote parts of the state. It is humbling to watch our teams, often in the most gruelling of working environments, finding ways around otherwise impassable roads to expedite the return of services for those communities. Nowhere is this more apparent than the 210-kilometre stretch of road from the iconic town of Longreach to the flood impacted town of Jundah. I want to acknowledge the work of the Longreach Regional Council and the TMR RoadTek crews who are working to restore this critical link which is known as the Thomson Developmental Road.

My department is also providing direct assistance in rapidly opening freight routes to keep industry moving, to get life-saving fodder to starving livestock and to deliver much needed fuel for emergency operations right across much of inland Queensland. We have been hearing repeatedly of the urgent need to get avgas and Jet A-1 aircraft fuel to remote areas to keep the emergency aircraft operational and we have been prioritising freight into these areas. I thank Queenslanders for their patience as we prioritise the movement of emergency and resupply vehicles. I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Queensland Rail team who are again confronted with damage to our passenger and freight networks right across northern, central and Western Queensland. This work is ongoing and I know our crews will get the train network running again as quickly as possible.

I particularly want to thank the mayors and the councillors in the impacted areas, along with the member for Warrego and the member for Gregory. Queenslanders should feel heartened knowing that, when facing these severe weather events, we are one team. We work together—council, state and indeed the federal government—and we get the job done for the communities we represent.

Finally, I want to thank the community members who heeded the warnings not to drive through flooded roads. I am extremely relieved to report that, despite this incredibly widespread flooding event, no lives have been lost. However, the job is not done. The Crisafulli government will continue to stand with our local communities as we rebuild and we restore for the prosperous times ahead.

Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.54 am): This government is putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders and restoring safety where you live. Queenslanders should feel safe in their homes. They should feel safe when they go to work. They should feel safe in their communities. During a decade of denial, youth crime continued to grow year after year. Queenslanders were left with weaker laws and fewer police. As a result, the number of stolen cars jumped more than 101 per cent. Some 94 per cent of youth criminals released from detention reoffend within a year. Our government will not let those trends continue. We are serious about strengthening the Youth Justice Act. Victims must come first. Justice must be served.


Before Christmas our government took the first step, passing the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We made Adult Crime, Adult Time law for youth offenders. Already, early police data suggests our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are beginning to deter youth crime. The number of stolen cars, break-ins, robberies and woundings across the state has shown early decreases from December and February compared with the same period the year before—a small turnaround after a decade of decline. While it is early days, we are making progress and Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to deliver the change that Queenslanders need, but there is much more to be done.

Today we will introduce the next round of Adult Crime, Adult Time just as we said we would. The second tranche has been guided by our Expert Legal Panel and expands Adult Crime, Adult Time to additional offences. With these laws serious offenders will be brought to justice, but we also hope that they will be reformed. That is why we have paired these laws with early intervention and rehabilitation programs. An entire generation of Queensland kids have been deprived of the support and the structure they need to turn their lives around. Our Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs are designed to divert young people away from the criminal justice system and reduce reoffending.

We are also backing our police and making sure they have the resources and support they need to fight crime in this state. In January we launched the newly enhanced Queensland Police State Flying Squad—the largest rapid response unit in Queensland police history. Last month we welcomed 155 new police officers into the ranks. That is the state's largest graduation ceremony in 33 years. We have also delivered \$31.1 million in extra funding for high-visibility police patrols in high-crime locations to disrupt and deter offending. Initiatives like this are key to preventing crime and delivering on our commitment to drive down the number of victims of crime.

We promised to restore safety to our communities and to continue delivering strong youth crime laws. That is exactly what we are doing. The next stage of Adult Crime, Adult Time sends a strong message that there are consequences for actions, but it will not be the last stage, and I can assure Queenslanders that we will keep strengthening the Youth Justice Act just like we promised we would.

Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): The Crisafulli government made a promise to Queenslanders—a promise to restore safety to our communities, to turn the tide on youth offenders terrorising our communities and, ultimately, reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. We made a promise to strengthen our youth crime laws and to ensure there are consequences for actions. I am really pleased to update the House today that we are delivering on our promises. We are expanding our suite of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws to include an additional 20 serious offences based on the advice of the Expert Legal Panel.

We promised that the first wave of Adult Crime, Adult Time would be law before Christmas and we promised that an expert legal panel would be established to inform the next tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. We are delivering on that promise. It was all part of the plan that we took to the election—the plan that Queenslanders voted for—and I want to thank members of the Expert Legal Panel for their expertise and their hard work. They have engaged in consultations across Queensland with stakeholders and sector service providers, including workers in our youth detention centres, legal professionals and victim support groups. They have reviewed and analysed crime data, case law, harm indexes and the impact of these offences on victims and the broader community.

They have done the work to provide us with sound and considered advice and now we are acting on it—just as we promised. The panel's work and its advice to the Crisafulli government is ongoing. They have other offences that they are looking at to ensure our laws are the strongest they can be so that ultimately we can have fewer victims of crimes in this state. We will not stop strengthening our laws, unlike those opposite who consistently weakened them and allowed youth crime to spiral out of control for the last 10 years.

Queenslanders asked for tougher laws to keep dangerous repeat offenders off our streets and at the same time Queenslanders also wanted to see preventative action. That is why alongside Adult Crime, Adult Time we are making significant investments in early intervention and rehabilitation. There must be consequences for actions, but we must also ensure that youth get the support and the guidance they need to turn their lives around. Tenders have been open for three weeks now for our Staying on Track program and the Regional Reset program, both initiatives key to our Making Queensland Safer plan and vital to changing the course of youth crime in this state.


Queenslanders have backed this plan. They backed the Crisafulli government to take strong action because they knew they could not trust Labor to deliver change. My question to those opposite is will they back what Queenslanders have asked for? Will they back Adult Crime, Adult Time? We saw what happened last time when we introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws: we had a caucus comedy show, with the member for Cooper threatening to leave the party, threatening to defect to the crossbench, and the member for McConnel having to step in. It was a completely divided party; absolute chaos.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 62 sets out the provisions for ministers to make ministerial statements. I would ask you to ensure that the minister is delivering a ministerial statement in accordance with the intention of the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: There is relevance to that point of order so I would ask you to speak to your portfolio in your ministerial statement.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you. I am very pleased to update the House that the Crisafulli government will be initiating the next tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. The question for those opposite is will they support it?

Youth Crime, Data

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.02 am): It was just five months ago that Queenslanders emphatically booted the Miles government out of office—fed up with the watered-down youth justice laws that created a generation of untouchables. For a decade Queenslanders have lived with the consequences of Labor's weakened youth crime laws, yet the opposition leader and his former ministers denied there was a problem.


If I can give the House some facts. In Labor's last full year in office, 2023-24, there were nearly 17,000 criminal lodgements in the Childrens Court, the highest of any Australian state and territory. Shockingly, or perhaps not for those Queenslanders who had been a victim of this crisis, Queensland's youth crime figures were 46 per cent higher than the second highest state, being Victoria. In 2023-24 criminal lodgements in the Queensland Childrens Court per capita were 17 per cent higher than a decade ago in 2014-15. During that time, the total per capita rate for criminal lodgements in children's courts across Australia decreased 20 per cent, but in Queensland, under those opposite, they were 17 per cent higher. Those statistics are Labor's legacy and they are an absolute disgrace. For the thousands of victims, whether they are in Townsville, Cairns, Capalaba, Mount Isa or right across this state, they are no surprise. They have felt the impacts on a daily basis of Labor's crime crisis day in, day out for a decade.

Just five months into our government's term we are starting to see, very slowly, the tide turn because of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Court statistics show that defendants charged with Making Queensland Safer offences are allegedly committing more offences than defendants who are charged for other offending. I will say that again for those opposite, but in particular for the member for Gaven who really did embarrass herself yesterday by saying our new tough crime laws were not working. What that means, shadow attorney-general, is that the offences Premier Crisafulli took to the election, the offences that Queenslanders told us were a priority, are those offences that are being committed by the hardcore, the repeat, the untouchable criminals in this state.

Between 13 December 2023 and 14 March 2024 there were 2,105 cases containing specific offences targeted by the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. Over the same period this year, we have seen 665 fewer cases lodged. That is a 32 per cent reduction. Crime statistics and victim numbers in this state are heading in one direction under the Crisafulli government and that is down.

But there is more to do. We know that we must do more—we have always said that—and that is why there will be a second tranche of offences included in our Making Queensland Safer Laws. The question is will those opposite back them. We know the debacle they went through last time. Will they stand on the side of victims or will they stand on the side of youth criminals?

Youth Crime, Data

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): At last year's election, and in the years leading up to that election, the LNP made a commitment to the people of Queensland that we would tackle Labor's youth crime crisis, make offenders accountable for their actions and do everything possible to keep Queensland communities safe. I can report to the House that as a consequence of the measures introduced last year through our Making Queensland Safer Laws, early indications show some progress has been made in combating this criminal behaviour.


After a decade of exploding crime rates under the Labor government's soft-on-crime approach we may now have started to turn a corner. The latest police data indicates early reductions across key offences, including break-ins, stolen cars, robberies and woundings. These figures reveal there were 453 fewer stolen vehicles across the state over summer—December, January and February—compared to the previous summer. This amounts to an 8.2 per cent reduction in the incidence of unlawful use of a motor vehicle. The data also reveals there were 1,033 fewer unlawful entries in Queensland, an 8.4 per cent reduction. Across the state there has been a 16.9 per cent reduction in wounding offences compared to the previous reporting period, while the number of robberies has also decreased by 4.8 per cent.

While the level of crime is still far too high and there is a lot more work that needs to be done, the signs suggest Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to deliver the change that Queensland needs and that Queenslanders demanded. This sends a strong message about the consequences for actions, as well as furnishing police with the strong laws they need to hold young offenders accountable. People who demonstrate a blatant disregard for the law and the rights of others by committing serious offences are now having to face the consequences for their actions.

For a decade Labor ignored the desperate calls for backup by our police and communities right across Queensland who were under siege from offenders thumbing their nose at the law. There is more work to do and this week the government will be introducing legislation to give effect to our promise to review existing laws and add additional appropriate offences as part of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Among these offences will include ramming police and emergency service vehicles. It should be noted that last year there were 53 instances of ramming of police vehicles—that is one a week—endangering the lives of officers who are there to serve and protect the community. This new offence will be one of more than a dozen to be introduced this week.

The opposition will have the chance to nail its colours to the mast, right its previous wrongs and indicate to the people of Queensland just where it stands in relation to criminal behaviour and holding offenders to account. Last year, this bitterly divided and leaderless rabble was dragged kicking and screaming to support our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Soon they will have a second chance to demonstrate just where they stand: on the side of criminals or on the side of victims and Queenslanders. I call on the opposition to drop its partisan faction-based stand and do something for the people of Queensland: support these laws and support our police and communities demanding them.

Community Safety

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.09 am): The priority of any state government should be the safety of its citizens, and this government has put the safety of its citizens at the forefront of our policy development. Mr Speaker, you would be well aware that during the election campaign we promised that one of our top four issues would be community safety in Queensland. We promised that the first piece of legislation introduced under the Crisafulli government would be the Making Queensland Safer Laws, and we did what we promised we would do. Part of those laws is Adult Crime, Adult Time. Within those first Adult Crime, Adult Time laws was the policy announcement that the laws would be expanded after we had set up the independent expert panel to give advice to government. Expanding the laws is what we are doing this week. In the 156 days of the Crisafulli government we have not only introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws and given the police the resources, powers and tools they need to do their jobs; we have given them a police minister who actually knows what it is like on the beat—just ask him; he will tell you. We are also implementing the laws that we need to keep the Queensland community safe.

Many times, and not only during the election campaign, we heard from Queensland communities such as when the then leader of the opposition and I visited a pizza shop in Mansfield. We heard the feedback that senior citizens were afraid to go out at night or to go shopping in their local communities. We heard that small business owners were fearful that they did not have the appropriate insurance cover. We saw young untouchable criminal kids running amok in our communities. As I have said, we have taken the first step to right the wrongs of the previous 10 years of Labor government.

It is important to set the context of why we are doing what we are doing. We are doing it because we said we would do it. It was an election commitment. It was a promise. We also understand the seriousness of the issue within our respective communities. In this chamber, some more than others have paid the ultimate price and were elected to this place to make sure that the laws change and that communities and victims are put ahead of offenders.

Like many of my colleagues, for the past 10 years under Labor governments I have sat in this chamber and watched as the laws were weakened. Not only did I see the Labor government of the past 10 years weaken the youth justice laws; every time that we in the opposition asked about the weakening laws and the impact that had on victims and communities in this state, those opposite in the Labor Party defended their laws. Not only did they defend the weakening of the laws; they said it was better for communities. Former attorney-general Yvette D'Ath was quoted as saying that it is better to have those young criminals in our communities. The Crisafulli government says no, it is not. Our communities are safer because of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

I note the statistics that have been revealed today. There is another statistic that is of particular interest to me as a Sunshine Coast member of parliament. The police data released yesterday shows that on the Sunshine Coast and in the Wide Bay the number of stolen cars has fallen by 120 in the past three months compared to the same period last year. I repeat: 120 fewer cars were stolen in the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay areas in the past three months compared to the same period last year. As the police minister, the Attorney-General, the youth justice minister and the Premier have said today, more will be done. More needs to be done. I say to the community that this is a pretty good start and a serious approach to the issue of youth crime. We have always said that the LNP government will put


the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders. In the context of the debate on the new strengthened laws and the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time that we will introduce, the question that needs to be asked of the Labor Party is: where will they stand on it? Will they finally back victims or will they keep backing offenders and juvenile criminals in our state?

All eyes will be on the member for Cooper and other Labor members, including members of the shadow cabinet who backflipped on the Leader of the Opposition when the first round of these laws was debated in December. It is a matter of public interest where the opposition stand on these matters. The public want to know. Clearly, the Leader of the Opposition has lost the support of the majority of his shadow cabinet. On 12 December, Channel 9 reported about the Labor members for Mansfield, Cooper, Macalister, Kurwongbah, Miller, South Brisbane and Greenslopes, the shadow attorney-general, who apparently voted against her own shadow cabinet submission, and the member for Algester, who abstained. That is how divided the Labor Party was on the first tranche. Imagine what they will be like when we debate the second tranche—and wait until this afternoon when we see how big the second tranche is. We will see how big is the division in the Labor Party because of weak leadership under the Leader of the Opposition. Clearly, they are divided. Their only plan is a continuation of a decade of failed youth justice and soft-on-crime policies. This Crisafulli LNP government is righting the wrongs of the past 10 years. We will always put victims ahead of offenders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Today, the period for question time will expire at 11.15 am.

Federal Election, Jobs

 **Mr MILES** (10.15 am): My question is to the Treasurer. It is estimated that around 12,000 Queenslanders would be impacted by Peter Dutton's planned job cuts. Does the Crisafulli government support Peter Dutton's plan for Queensland job cuts?

Mr JANETZKI: I have a word of advice for the Leader of the Opposition: I know that he will be leaving this House shortly, but this is the wrong parliament in which to be asking that question. The Leader of the Opposition really should be paying more attention. In answer to the question from the Leader of the Opposition I say that we are rock solid on supporting Queensland's Public Service. I point to the record of this government already when it comes to backing in public servants to deliver more and better public services that we so desperately need.

I reflect on the gall of the Leader of the Opposition in asking a question about the Public Service when those opposite presided over the content of the Coaldrake review. The findings of the Coaldrake review outlined a culture of secrecy and intimidation of public servants. Who can forget what the Coaldrake review uncovered when it came to yelling at public servants and the intimidation of public servants? Those opposite oversaw a toxic culture in which public servants were unable to speak their minds. They were not able to speak freely or to give frank and fearless advice. That is what those opposite oversaw.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you are warned.

Mr JANETZKI: On this side of the House, we back in the recommendations of the Coaldrake review. Already, in the first five months of this government we have seen empowered public servants giving full, frank and fearless advice.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan.

Mr JANETZKI: I applaud the Public Service for the service that they have given to the new government. Across government we have seen the Public Service step up and support the Crisafulli government and we will support them.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I cautioned you. You continued to interject. You are warned.

Federal Election, Working From Home

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. Peter Dutton has announced a plan to end working from home, forcing Queensland workers back to the office. Can the Premier rule out any changes to the work-from-home arrangements for Queensland public servants?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The Leader of the Opposition is under immense pressure in this place. The reason—

Mr O'Connor: He'll be working from home soon!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for Bonney. By Christmas time he will be working from home. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: do better and do better for the state. Right now there are 93 people in this place who have the ability to effect change for a state that needs change. Instead, this desperate Leader of the Opposition is slinking into this House and trying to somehow inject himself into a federal campaign when his own job is hanging by a thread.

I have some suggestions. I know there is not a lot of strategy over there and I know I should not give them too much assistance, but here are my suggestions for the Leader of the Opposition. Work harder mate. Get out of bed a little earlier and do your job. The Leader of the Opposition's job is to keep this side of the House accountable. That is the way the Westminster system works.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I would ask you to come back to the question. You have strayed a little bit.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition asked me a question about public servants, so allow me to explain to the Leader of the Opposition my view about the Queensland Public Service. It is a good Public Service and it is getting better by the day. I will tell the House why it is getting better by the day. It is getting better by the day because it has ministers who administer and it has a culture where public servants are able to give advice free from the fear which existed previously. There are no little generals walking around. People are not being belittled, badgered, yelled at, intimidated or treated with contempt.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) relating to relevance. I note that you drew the Premier back to the specifics of the question, which were around working from home and work-from-home arrangements. I would ask you to remind him of his obligation to be relevant to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, the question was around the Public Service.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There will be no changes to arrangements. Also, there will be no yelling. There will be no screaming. There will be no throwing of staples. Without pointing the finger, I will say that it is a healthy working environment because no-one is presiding over a culture of fear. I say to the Queensland Public Service: today, those opposite have tried to stoke fear. There will be no changes to your work environment, aside from ministers who will treat you with respect and give you the vision you deserve.

Community Safety

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier explain what steps the LNP government is taking to restore safety to where Queenslanders live, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question and I thank him for asking a question that relates to the functions of this House. It is an important question, and I will tell the House why it is an important question. The member was returned to this place because he is someone who believes in his community. I saw the way that he advocated for his community very early on in his tenure. Members would recall what happened in November in Mareeba. They will recall what happened in the months leading up to an incident where a woman in her 70s had every single window in her property smashed and the community rose up and said enough was enough.

There will always be crime in communities, but when communities reach a boiling point because no-one is listening we know that governments have lost their rudder. The honourable member went in to bat for his community. After looking at the crime statistics today for the first full quarter, I can make this observation: there has been change in the right direction—eight per cent fewer stolen cars. As the Deputy Premier outlined, that means that dozens of families do not have to go through the heartache of walking to the front yard and realising that their vehicle has gone—the vehicle that enables them to earn a living to provide for their family, to take their kids to sport training, to connect with the community and to live a life of fulfilment.

There is more to do. There is a lot more to do. If members ask me whether or not I am satisfied where youth crime is at in this state, my answer is, 'No way. There's a long way to go.' We have taken the first small steps after 10 years of one-way traffic. There are two things Queenslanders can count

on. Firstly, every single change we make in this place will be about strengthening, not weakening, laws. That is the first thing. Secondly, I will never stand up in this position and tell people that what they are feeling is not right, that it is all in their imagination or that they are making up stories. I will never say that.

Every day we will stand up and fight for them. Every day we will drive change for the people on the front line, for the victims of crime. This afternoon we will take one more step in that journey. We will start the second round of change. I ask those opposite whose side they will be on today. Will they be on the side of victims or will they be on the side of the chaos, crisis and internal ramifications that we saw last time?

Hospital Infrastructure

Mr DICK: My question is to the Premier. The Premier said in this House that there would be no health cuts. When will the Premier release the Sangster review, which is expected to recommend delays and cuts to the 2,200 new hospital beds the Premier promised?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. The honourable member failed to fund health infrastructure when he had a chance, failed to support the frontline staff when he had a chance and has been running around the state trying to create fear in an environment where it simply does not exist. I make the following observation: yesterday in committee we heard from a career medico who is crying out for help, someone—

Ms Grace: Oh!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel, who has a way of aspersing people. A career medico was crying out for help. That career medico is trying to hold a broken system together ahead of the first budget of this Treasurer which will fix what those opposite presided over. I say to the honourable member: if he believes that all of the items in the forward pipeline of the health fund were there, he should go outside today and say two things. Firstly, he should say that every project that he is referring to was fully funded. Secondly, he should say that every one of those projects were due to be funded and completed by 2028 and that no documents exist that suggest that those opposite were told that it could not be done. They are the only two things that I want today.

I will tell the House what others are saying about the former government. Infrastructure Partnerships stated—

Queenslanders need to brace themselves for a dose of hard medicine ... The former Government's hospital delivery ambitions were commendable, but blind optimism and unbridled enthusiasm was never a plausible delivery strategy.

Then there was the Queensland Major Contractors Association, which said it was undeliverable. I make this observation to those opposite: you had 10 years and you failed badly. They failed very badly. What has to happen today is that one of the four who lead the factions over there needs to go out and answer the question—not the member for Miller, because I am going to give credit where credit is due, because he will go out and tell you it is raining if the sun is out. I give credit where it is due. I want one of the four to go out and say that no documents exist that suggest that they presided over a health crisis. Only this side can fix it.

Youth Crime, Legislation

Mr JAMES: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney update the House how the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are making Queensland communities safer, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What a great question from a hardworking member of this House—someone who lives and breathes all of the issues that are going on in his community. I acknowledge the member for Mulgrave and the member for Barron River for what they are going through in that community. As we have talked about, there are green shoots but there is a lot more still to happen.

Recently, I was in Cairns with the member for Mulgrave. He introduced me to Alf Di Salvo from Alfie's Towing in Bentley Park. This is someone who is talking about the real crime issues impacting his local business—something that those opposite denied was actually happening. Cars from his workplace were being stolen night in, night out. It was interesting that Alf said that 'the youth offenders do not get to suffer any consequences'. That is exactly why we have changed that under Adult Crime, Adult Time.

We have made sure that the judiciary can consider someone's full criminal history when sentencing. The member for Mulgrave, the member for Barron River and I—and, I am sure, everyone

in Far North Queensland—were very pleased when we saw a matter that went through the Magistrates Court, reported in the *Cairns Post* with the headline ‘New laws catch teenage thief out’. In this case the young offender, who was involved in 50 stolen car rides in Cairns, was sentenced to imprisonment because the new sentencing rules meant the magistrate was able to consider his juvenile criminal history. The article quotes the magistrate, who told the teenager he was ‘in a different world now’. He said—

You are the first person I have sentenced under the new regime which means that I do now look at the criminal history ... and you have an appalling history.

He went on to say—

There is ... a level of immaturity in your offending because you think you can do what you please, because you have not been subject to the adult sentencing world ...

Under those opposite, that criminal would not have been put in prison. He would not have suffered the consequences. He would have been back on the streets because his history would not have been admissible in sentencing. The shadow attorney-general can shake her head, but she should get with the program. We need to make our community safer, and this is what is doing it.

Bundaberg Hospital

Mr SMITH: My question is to the Premier. *9News* has reported that the new Bundaberg Hospital will be downsized and services cut, meaning my community will not get the more than 400 hospital beds they were promised. Can regional Queenslanders trust anything this Premier says?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question—an honourable member who campaigned for a level 5 hospital four years ago and then backtracked, similar to Homer Simpson, into the bushes. After making the commitment for four years, the honourable member refused to take up the challenge.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say to the honourable member that he is in luck. Queenslanders have voted for change and they have elected a government that will deliver a hospital in Bundaberg. He is very fortunate. This is a government that does believe in respecting people’s money, does believe in an infrastructure pipeline and does believe in doing things on time and on budget. We will deliver the hospitals that Labor could not. The reason Labor could not deliver the hospitals is that they did not have the attention to detail or the ability to control the militant CFMEU. As result, the former government knew—

Mr Smith interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member for Bundaberg knew, and indeed most of the former cabinet knew, that it was undeliverable. The pipeline of work was undeliverable. I am going to go back and quote this. It says, ‘The former government’s’—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the Premier is being responsive to the question. I think you would like to hear the answer since you asked the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to quote—

The former government’s hospital delivery ambitions were commendable, but blind optimism and unbridled enthusiasm is not a plausible delivery strategy.

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: The Queensland Major Contractors Association stated, ‘It is very much undeliverable.’ I say to those opposite that Queenslanders have voted for change and they have a government that will build hospitals. As a result of that change, the people of Bundaberg will get a new hospital. I say to the honourable member for Burnett, who has led the charge for years, that that community has had a hospital that is not up to standard. It is not up to standard for the doctors, the nurses and the allied health professionals. The Bundaberg Hospital is not up to standard for the patients who go there. It does not have the capacity to deal with the growth in that community. This side of the House will deliver a new hospital for Bundaberg. We must deliver a new hospital for Bundaberg.

What the report shows is that under those opposite it was undeliverable. They had no plan. Queenslanders have voted for change and they are going to get the hospitals they deserve.

Youth Crime, Data

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney provide any concrete examples where Adult Crime, Adult Time is already reforming Queensland's youth justice system?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is a really important question and I thank the member for Townsville for it. All areas across Queensland have suffered because of a generation of untouchables who have been bred because of the changes in laws by those opposite. It is an absolute disgrace what the people of Townsville, along with many other communities, have suffered. I would hate to just talk about Townsville.

There has been a 18.2 per cent reduction in break and enters since the Crisafulli government introduced the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. There are eight per cent fewer stolen cars in Townsville because of the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. I say to those opposite: get your heads out of the sand; it is working. There are fewer victims in this state because of Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Will we bring in more legislation? You bet we will! Are the courts going to have to sit up and take notice? They already are, because the laws are in place. Some incredible statements are coming out of our courts. The member asks for concrete examples. I can give the member some; I have a few here. One magistrate recently said, when sentencing a juvenile who had committed a Making Queensland Safer Laws offence—

Changes in maximum penalty are a signal to the court to take a more serious and strict approach.

The magistrate goes on—

... those changes in sentencing regimes for this offence, especially the substantial increase in the maximum penalty, are significant.

Another magistrate reflected on the new requirement to put the rights of victims ahead of offenders—something we on this side of the House live by. On that side of the House, they cannot even work out if they support the victims. When talking about the rights of victims ahead of offenders, another magistrate said—

It seems now that the legislature wants us to focus—not exclusively, but to a large extent—on the impact your offending will have had on victims. And I do that.

We have always said there is more to be done, but what are those opposite going to do? Will their heads remain in the sand when the second tranche of Making Queensland Safer Laws is introduced? Watch them scatter. We know that the shadow attorney-general is weak when it comes to crime and toughening up on crime rates in this state. I am not sure that the member even appreciates what victims go through. We on this side in the Crisafulli government do just that. The people of Townsville know that. That is why we are making Queensland safer.

Queensland Cancer Centre

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Premier. The Premier said the LNP would build hospitals on time and on budget, yet *9News* reports that the Queensland Cancer Centre will be delayed for years, with fears that it could be cut completely. Can Queenslanders trust anything this Premier says?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to very much thank the member for the question. I say to the honourable member that it is an excellent project and it must be delivered. Anyone who has been impacted by cancer and any families who have been impacted by cancer know that a facility like that matters and it must be delivered. I say to the honourable member—I do not blame the honourable member as he was out of the cabinet at the time—that the cabinet discussed this worthy program. Indeed, challenges were revealed about the delivery of this program. I ask honourable members opposite—I am not referring to the member for Miller—whether they believed this project could be delivered by 2028. That is a simple question that I put to those opposite. It would be important for them to reveal that.

What I say to people, particularly the honourable member who I know has an interest in health, is that the change in government has given Queenslanders the ability for these projects to be delivered. That is the only reason it will happen. What those opposite did before an election was deliberately say things that they could not deliver—and they knew it. Every one of them knew it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members on my left!

Mr CRISAFULLI: If I am wrong—and the fourth estate is here—all those opposite have to do is walk out today and say, 'No. The Queensland Cancer Centre was due to be delivered by 2028 by us and there were no impediments for that delivery.' That is all they have to do. If they were to do that—well if they were to do that I would suggest there would be an element of trouble. But if they were to do that then we have a contest of ideas. If they do not do that then what we have is the contest of a scare campaign. We have seen it around the state. The honourable health minister has been to places around the state and looked the frontline staff in the eye and said, 'You deserve better and we will deliver you better,' and that involves infrastructure. It is vital.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say to those opposite: we are doing everything possible to deliver the facilities that those hardworking staff need. We are doing everything possible to deliver the facilities that patients need. The best thing the opposition could do right now is to admit that for 10 years they did not deliver and that during the election campaign they said things they knew were not correct, and to get onboard and help us heal Labor's health crisis.

Youth Crime, Legislation

Mr FIELD: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister provide an update on how the Crisafulli LNP government is reforming Queensland's youth justice system, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. We all know why the member for Capalaba stands in this House today. We all know his story and his fight to see change in this state. We all know that the reason we have the tough laws in this state, the reason we have the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time is in part due to the advocacy of the member for Capalaba. At the outset I want to thank him for all of his work, his advocacy and his voice in support of victims.

I am really pleased to be able to update the member for Capalaba on the work that is being done by the Crisafulli government to reform youth justice in Queensland. We promised Adult Crime, Adult Time would be law before Christmas. We delivered on that promise. We promised an expert legal panel to review the next tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. We have delivered on that promise. The next tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time will be introduced in this House this week. We also promised early intervention and rehabilitation to turn young lives around. We have \$100 million to establish Gold Standard Early Intervention: \$50 million to expand programs that work and \$50 million to provide ongoing funding to those that are working.

We have a \$50 million Regional Reset fund, an early intervention program for youths at risk. We have \$175 million to deliver Staying on Track, to provide every single youth who goes into detention with rehabilitation and hope. We also have our youth justice and early intervention schools. On top of that, the Crisafulli government is delivering a professional victims advocacy service, to be able to walk with victims through the whole process so they never fall through the cracks, so they never have to feel alone or repeat their stories. That is the work that the member for Capalaba has advocated for. That is the Crisafulli government's plan—to be able to turn the tide on youth crime in this state.

What is Labor's record on this? It is 10 years of weakening our youth justice laws, of failing to intervene early and rehabilitate, of failing to have consequences for actions, and people like the member for Capalaba have paid the ultimate price for that. The question for those opposite today, the question for every single member of the Labor Party who sits opposite us today is: will they back the strong laws that Queenslanders voted for? Will they back the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time or will we see the same chaos and crisis that we saw with the first tranche—a divided Labor Party continuing to perpetuate chaos and crisis? That is the question for those opposite.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Health Services

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Premier. The Premier said the LNP would improve access to health services in regional Queensland, but the health minister has overseen a reduction to the planned operating hours for the busy Gladstone nurse-led clinic. Can regional Queenslanders trust anything this Premier says?

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that? You are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. The answer is that, categorically, the people who need treatment in regional Queensland and the people who work in regional Queensland hospitals will have a better facility and will have better services. In the short period of time since this government came to office, we are seeing a turnaround in Labor's health crisis. I love questions about the health system from those opposite because they enable me to do two things: they enable me to talk about the record of years gone by and they give me the opportunity to talk about the future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members on my left!

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to give some figures for those opposite. When they came to office ambulance ramping, which is a very important metric of the health system, was 15 per cent.

Mr Ryan: No. That's not the question. We're talking about Gladstone—cuts to Gladstone.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I just got an interjection: 'Do you want to talk about Gladstone?' Do you mean the fact that you wanted to close the maternity ward or just in general? Just in general. We will get back to the health system.

Mr BUTCHER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to that. The Premier pointed to me when he said it. I take offence and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence, Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I am referring to a time in history when a large, proud city like Gladstone was going to have its maternity ward taken away from it. The honourable member said that he was going to pull the pin. He was going to walk away. I can remember—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, you asked a question. I expect you would like to hear the answer.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—that maternity ward was closed for more than a year. I do have to give credit where it is due. Because of the advocacy of the local member, it was reopened. The member for Callide did a tremendous job when that community needed a strong voice. Returning to the hospital story, when this government came to office, ambulance ramping was at 45 per cent—the highest figure ever recorded. Mr Speaker, if you recall—

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone!

Mr CRISAFULLI:—those opposite said it would have been at 28 per cent six months before the election, yet it continued to increase each and every year. It started at 15 per cent when they came to office. It got to 45 per cent, which was the highest figure ever recorded.

Mr Butcher interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: For the first time in a long time, it went under 40 per cent. I want to thank the health minister for what he is doing. Just like with the youth crime crisis, if you ask me whether I am happy about ambulance ramping at 40 per cent I am absolutely not. There is more to be done. By the end of this term it will be 30 per cent or under, because that is what good governments do: they set targets and they hit them. By the end of this year we will see a stabilisation of surgery waiting lists. I will tell you what that means. It is really important for regional Queenslanders, because the people whom the honourable member represents have been waiting too long for the health system they deserve.

Youth Crime, Legislation

Mrs POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government is ensuring Queensland police are well resourced and have laws to do their job, and is the minister aware of any approaches that differ?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. The member dedicated 28 years of her life to serving on the front line in Townsville every day, and she has now put her hand up to further serve her community and to represent the people of Townsville in this place. The member and her former colleagues and others on this side know how bad crime got in Townsville. We know it was not a beat-up. Police in Townsville had been screaming for backup for 10 years. They were ignored by those who claimed the youth crime crisis was a beat-up. The stats speak for themselves. The stats are easily available to anyone. They are on the Queensland police website.

The stats show that in 2014 there were 2,542 break and enters in the northern region, which includes Townsville. By the end of 2023 there were 6,525, an increase of 156 per cent. It is similar with unlawful use of a motor vehicle—stolen cars. In 2014 there were 693 cars stolen. By the end of 2023 that had increased to 2,216, an increase of 219 per cent. We on this side know that the youth crime crisis in places like Townsville was not a beat-up.

It is not just the stats; it is also the level of criminality. It is a crime class that was created by those opposite when they watered down the laws. It is a crime relatively unique to Queensland. Young offenders steal cars, hunt police and ram them. A new crime has been created to combat that issue. Fifty-three of those occurrences have been in the last 12 months alone. That is one a week. We are going to tip the balance of power back in favour of police instead of young offenders.

When we were talking about these stats, I heard some of those opposite mutter under their breath that it was rubbish. There has been a slight improvement. There has been a tiny green shoot, showing that maybe we are heading in the right direction and we have done the right thing by giving police back the powers they need. Today I am proud to let all of our police and all members of this House know that ramming police vehicles will be included in the next list of offences we table.

I call on all of those opposite to end the rabble we saw just before Christmas. Queenslanders have been calling for this. Our police have been calling for this. There are former police officers on this side of the House who put their hand up to come here to advocate for backup for our frontline police and support the legislation we will be tabling today. It is not just the laws. Since being elected, as part of our Making Queensland Safer plan we are sending backup in relation to boots on the ground. I was in Townsville the other week when we swore in more police officers. The State Flying Squad has also been up there on a number of occasions, arresting hundreds of offenders for thousands of offences. I call on all of those opposite to support our tough measures on crime.

Youth Crime, Sentencing Options

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Katter's Australian Party has long advocated for bush sentencing as an incarceration option for judges when dealing with recidivist youth offenders. Can the minister outline if the government's proposed Regional Reset and Staying on Track programs will be court ordered, or are they destined to become another failed youth justice program?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for the question and the opportunity to inform the House about both Regional Reset and Staying on Track. Those programs have been open for tender now for three weeks. Consultation sessions have happened right across Queensland, including in the member's own electorate of Hinchinbrook, in relation to both Regional Reset and Staying on Track.

Regional Reset is a one- to three-week short-stay program for youths who have been showing signs of going down a path of crime. It will allow for courts, police or schools to refer a child into a reset program to reset those criminal behaviours and to ultimately ensure that youths aged from eight through to 17 have hope to change their trajectory. It is aimed at early intervention. It is aimed at youths who are not yet entrenched in our criminal justice system, who are not yet on Labor's merry-go-round of detention. It will be provided by community-led organisations in communities just like the member for Hinchinbrook's. They have the opportunity right now to tender for Regional Reset to provide one of these programs for their community which can be tailored to the community. We know that what works for Cairns may not work for Mount Isa, and what works for Mount Isa may not work for Toowoomba or the Gold Coast. Regional Reset is tailored for communities so we can provide the best intervention for those communities on the ground.

The member also asked about Staying on Track. Staying on Track provides \$170 million in order to afford 12 months of rehabilitation to every single youth who goes into detention. Yes, member for Hinchinbrook, every single youth will get Staying on Track. Staying on Track is essential to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. We know that under Labor youth received 72 hours of support when they were released from detention; that was it. After 72 hours they were sent back into their communities. What do you think happened? They reoffended. The reoffending rate out of our detention centres sat at 96 per cent in the member for Hinchinbrook's area. Ninety-six per cent of the youth released from Cleveland went on to reoffend. Why is that? Because Labor did not invest in rehabilitation. They spoke all the right words, but they failed to deliver the programs to turn these young lives around. The Crisafulli government is not just introducing strong, tough laws; we are also introducing early intervention and rehabilitation so we can turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

Residential Activation Fund

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the Crisafulli government's new Residential Activation Fund, including the regions that will benefit from this fund, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I can. It is such exciting news because the Crisafulli government is unlocking land supply right across the state to end the housing crisis caused by 10 years of former failed Labor government policies. I see them sitting across there. The former failed planning minister did not use a cent of the Housing Investment Fund to build a new home in the state, not one house—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the interjections. I am going to get to the weird TikTok videos they have been doing on vacant pastures across the state in a minute. We have announced the Residential Activation Fund, the RAF, which is designed to unlock land right across the state. It is a \$2 billion infrastructure fund for essential trunk infrastructure—stormwater, roads, sewerage—for councils that cannot afford it, developers, community housing providers, church and charitable. They may not be able to afford to unlock the land without that essential infrastructure. We will step in and help.

The best thing about this \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is that 50 per cent of it is going to be spent outside of South-East Queensland. That is \$1 billion to the regions. I am so excited when I meet with mayors in regional or rural communities and they come to me and say, 'Mr Deputy Premier, we can only unlock three to 10 lots.' Do you know what? Ten families moving into Western Queensland is a great thing. It is a great thing for our health workforce but we have to give them a roof over their head. That is why I am so excited about it.

I go back to the vacant land. I have been watching with interest over the last couple of weeks the former failed ministers all going to these vacant lots and doing these weird videos. The only reason they can do videos on these vacant blocks of land—which are basically pastures for grazing kangaroos—is that they failed to build a house on them for 10 years. They are going around to all of these vacant lots and what they are basically doing is admitting that they failed. What they ought to be doing is going to houses and saying, 'Our government built this. Our government unlocked it,' but what they are doing is proving that their count for housing supply and roofs overhead was a kangaroo count. They were counting the number of kangaroos grazing on this pasture land. We will unlock the land. We will build real roofs for real people because we will put people before kangaroos. We will not use the number of kangaroos on vacant land as an accounting measure for housing supply and stock. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of building homes for all of Queensland.

(Time expired)

Workplace Safety

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney tell Queenslanders, particularly Queensland women, when they can expect to feel safe from sexual harassment and respected at work after the Attorney blocked the commencement of respect at work laws?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It has to be April Fools' Day for getting a question from the Labor Party about respect at work. Seriously! We heard from the Treasurer this morning who talked about the Coaldrake review and the yelling, the abuse and the toxic culture from those opposite. Seriously! This is what happens to an opposition when they have nothing. I will address the member's question shortly and then I will get onto something else I am really keen to talk about. Like I said in my ministerial statement, we are putting a pause on it to consult, which is something those opposite failed to do.

Let us have a look at how they respect women at work. Listen to this headline of what happened under the Labor government: “‘Boozy’ Carne a pest to women’. The article said—

Numerous witnesses described Mr Carne’s workplace behaviour, including sexual harassment and bullying. It was claimed he made inappropriate comments about staff’s sexual orientations and made sexually suggestive remarks to female staff.

It went on to say—

He behaves even worse when he’s affected by alcohol. The sexual stuff comes out a lot.

Let us put it into perspective. When they had an alleged serial sex pest working for them, what did they do? They covered it up. Did they protect the public servants who were working there? No. Where was their pretence about protecting women at work? Seriously! Then what did they do? They got the CCC report and they sat on it for over 12 months.

We could even go to more bullying at work. What about how the former government treated the former premier? I will talk about bullying women at work; that is exactly what they were doing. Let me read a quote about that—

The first one, she was begging me to appoint him and the second phone call was yelling at me and telling me that I was going to pick up the pen and I was going to sign a document—

And the former premier said, ‘I’m not.’

This is one of the other ones where those jokers over there failed to protect women at work. They know they did. There are discrimination laws in place in the Commonwealth right now but these guys are just all about fear.

(Time expired)

State Schools, Funding

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister please outline how the Crisafulli government is committed to fully resourcing all Queensland state schools, and is he aware of any other alternatives to this agreement?

Mr LANGBROEK: It is wonderful to get a question from the member for Rockhampton. I have been there a number of times in the last month to announce a new school that we promised in the election campaign and an academy that we have had funded both after our announcement during the campaign and also from the federal government last week. It was a great pleasure to be up there with the member for Mirani and the member for Keppel who accompanied us. It has been wonderful to do that.

I want to thank the member for Rockhampton for her question, because after five months in office the Crisafulli government has achieved something in education that Labor could not do in their near 10 years in office. For the first time ever, Queensland state schools are on the path to being fully funded and resourced. To do this, the government has made an historic investment in state schools to reach 75 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard, or SRS, by 2028. Labor did a seven-year deal from 2018 to 2024 in which they only committed to increasing their SRS contribution from 69.26 per cent to 70.5 per cent over that period. The best they could do during a decade in power was to commit to fully funding Queensland state schools by 2032, so we have bettered their promise by four years. It is all very well to have a target but they got nowhere near it, and no wonder because we had three ministers on that side over the previous decade who could not get their funding up to anywhere near 75 per cent after approaching Treasury. We have been able to do that.

The Australian government has agreed to grow its contribution to 25 per cent of the SRS by 2034, providing an estimated \$2.8 billion in additional federal funding over the next 10 years. Those opposite could not get the federal government to go beyond 22½ per cent.

Mr O’Connor: Their own colleagues.

Mr LANGBROEK: And that was with their own colleagues. I was pleased to stand with the Premier, the federal education minister and the Prime Minister last Monday after we had to sign an interim deal for 2025 so we could continue negotiating this year. It begs the question again when we look at other portfolios. What about transport and main roads? Remember, we have an 80-20 deal restored by this government. We all remember the previous government which were going to fight Canberra for a 50-50 deal on health. How did that work? It did not work at all.

Getting the Australian government to commit to 25 per cent is a historic milestone, something the former government could not achieve. Let us look at what the mates of those opposite, the

Queensland Teachers' Union, said in their budget submission for 2025-26. They asked for fully funding of state schools and asked for the Commonwealth share to be up to 25 per cent. We have done it when those opposite could not.

Workplace Safety

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Youth. It was well reported as an outcome of the Jenkins review that young women in particular feel vulnerable to sexual harassment in the workplace. Can the minister explain why he has not advocated for young people, particularly women, in progressing the respect at work legislation designed to protect them?

Mr O'CONNOR: I think we have another contender for the federal parliament here in the member for Nudgee. This is a Commonwealth matter, is it not? I am unsure where the member for Nudgee is going with this, but these matters are within the realm of the Commonwealth. The Attorney-General was very happy to—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is only a few seconds into his response. Only one person has the call and it is the minister.

Mr O'CONNOR: I strongly encourage those opposite—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba, you are warned. I just gave a ruling.

Mr O'CONNOR: I strongly encourage those opposite to direct more questions to the Attorney-General on these matters. She is absolutely waiting to answer those.

During the election campaign, we saw how those opposite treat young Queenslanders. We saw their disgraceful treatment towards the member for Pumicestone, the youngest woman ever elected to this House, and we saw the way the unions acted. Most of those members elected did not call them out; they let them run rampant against the member for Pumicestone. However, she prevailed and we were proud to stand with her to achieve that historic milestone. We will continue to stand with young Queenslanders. We will not cop the hypocrisy from those opposite on these matters. We saw the way they allowed those unions who got them elected to conduct themselves. It was disgraceful. It was absolutely shameful behaviour and it is not something that any member should stand for or stand by.

We will see further changes to the Making Queensland Safer Laws this week which will include provisions—we have heard the Attorney and the youth justice minister outline them—that will help protect women, young women in particular, by the expansion of those laws, just as we said we would do. We will see changes in those laws that will help make Queensland safer for women in particular, and I look forward to my colleague introducing that legislation. All members of this House will have a choice on whether or not they will support those changes to protect younger women and women across Queensland by the offences that we will be adding to our Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Western Queensland, Weather Events

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. Will the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli government is providing support to Queenslanders impacted by heavy rainfall and flooding in the western part of our state?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for Gregory for his question. I want to acknowledge the absolutely tireless work he has been doing for members of his communities as they face this devastating event. He has been out going from property to property on the ground visiting primary producers. He has been with me in Eromanga, Quilpie and Thargomindah, and he has also been in those communities at Jundah and Winton. The people of Gregory are lucky to have such a dedicated member of parliament, who is also a cattle producer, who goes well beyond the call of duty to represent his communities.

To give the House some context, the impact of this event extends to an area twice the size of the state of Victoria. This includes inundated areas, roads cut off, fences destroyed, livestock lost or supply chains seriously impacted. While the floodwaters have receded in some communities, I want to reiterate there are many Western Queensland communities that are not out of the woods yet.

We want Western Queenslanders to know that the Crisafulli government is here for them. We have moved swiftly to ensure that flood-affected communities get the help they need through the joint

Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Eleven councils across the region are eligible and are receiving support which will cover costs such as counter-disaster operations, emergency road repairs, reconstruction and immediate clean-up works. Personal hardship has also been made available to residents in the Barcoo, Bulloo, Longreach, Paroo, Winton and Quilpie shires. These are grants of up to \$180 per person or up to \$900 for a family of five to purchase immediate essential items like food and clothing. We know that the people from Adavale who were evacuated with just the clothes on their back are working their way through getting access to those grants, which are really needed because some of them were evacuated and do not have even their identification.

We have also established a \$5 million DRFA emergency fodder support package to help with the extraordinary costs of undertaking urgent livestock support—and I do want to thank the helicopter operators who are helping to get that fodder out to communities. This is available to primary producers in the Barcoo, Boulia, Bulloo, Diamantina, Longreach, Murweh, Paroo, Quilpie and Winton local areas. Farmers needing this assistance can contact their local councils or the Department of Primary Industries.


We have also activated loans for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profits in nine flood-affected Western Queensland council areas and freight subsidies for primary producers. Prospective applicants are encouraged to access the QRIDA website but also to touch base with the Rural Financial Counselling team. The floodwaters cannot wash away our collective resolve, and the Crisafulli government is committed to helping these communities.

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 20 February (see p. 218).

Second Reading

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.16 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 will extend the trial of electronic monitoring devices under the Youth Justice Act 1992 for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. I introduced this bill into the House on 20 February 2025 and it was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for review. I thank the member for Nicklin and his committee for their hard work during the inquiry. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the stakeholders, organisations and witnesses who took the time to make a submission or appear before the committee to inform the committee's deliberations. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

Section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act allows a court, in certain circumstances, to impose a condition that a youth offender must wear a monitoring device while released on bail. However, the court's ability to impose this condition is a trial and, under the current provisions of the Youth Justice Act, the trial is set to expire at the end of this month, on 30 April 2025. This bill extends the trial for 12 months to allow for electronic monitoring to be properly evaluated in this state. To understand why this bill is necessary, we must first understand the history of electronic monitoring in Queensland. This trial has a long and complicated history.

On Australia Day 2021—it is a tragedy we all know all too well—Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son, Miles, were heinously killed by a repeat youth offender. He was 17 years old. He was in a stolen car. He was speeding, he was drunk, he was high and he was out on bail. The calls that followed that incident were deafening. Queenslanders were sick and tired of their lives being ripped apart by crime, and they were sick of seeing youth offenders with extensive criminal histories released on bail, allowed to reoffend with no consequences.

In response, the former Labor government introduced section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act to facilitate a trial of electronic monitoring from 2021 to April 2023, but they set it up to fail. Labor's original trial was incredibly limited. The youth offender must have been at least 16 years old, been charged with a prescribed indicatable offence, have previously been found guilty of at least one indictable offence, live in one of only five regions—Townsville, Moreton, Brisbane North, Logan or the Gold Coast—and must consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device. I think members can guess what happened.

In fact, the LNP predicted it and they warned about it at the time. Our collective warnings are aptly summed up by the member for Glass House in his contribution during the committee's hearing on 8 March 2021 when he said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

Guess what? That exact concern came to fruition. The number of youth offenders fitted with an electronic monitoring device was so low that in the first year of the trial only five youth offenders were actually ordered to wear a device as a condition of their bail. Townsville had just three, Brisbane North had only one and Logan also had only one. As for Moreton and the Gold Coast, there were zero youth offenders ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device.

Labor's electronic monitoring trial was an abysmal failure. This was confirmed in a review in 2022. The review found there was no meaningful data on which to base any further decisions and as such, the trial failed to confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending. The review stated there was a need for further research with a larger sample size. That brings us to where we are today. In 2023, as the sunset clause approached for the trial, the former Labor government introduced a bill, which they declared urgent, to expand the trial to include 15-year-olds and extend the trial for a further two years to the present sunset clause today which is 30 April 2025. They also added three new trial sites by regulation: Cairns, Mount Isa and Toowoomba.

This is an opportune time to remind the member for Springwood who criticised our pragmatic decision to declare this bill urgent and the members for Toohey and Bulimba, who signed off on a Labor statement of reservation for this bill protesting that it has been declared urgent, that they declared their own electronic monitoring bill urgent and, in fact, gave the committee less time to consider it than the Crisafulli government has given the committee. They gave the committee only two weeks. So the hide of those opposite to put in a statement of reservation criticising the method of this bill is quite frankly beyond belief.

In the year that followed, just 36 electronic monitoring orders were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. Despite all the tinkering around the edges, Mount Isa only had one, Moreton had three, Brisbane North had just nine, Toowoomba had only four, Logan had only 12 and the Gold Coast had just seven youth offenders fitted with an electronic monitoring device. The numbers were clear: the piecemeal changes that Labor made did not deliver results. Embarrassingly for those opposite, on 9 February 2024 the then police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, publicly called out the electronic monitoring device failure. She called on the former Labor government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders. The then police commissioner stated—

I do think electronic monitoring devices do need to be re-looked at," ...

"We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail.

"And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant.

"We're not of the view that every child should have an electronic monitoring device—we're talking about ... serious offending."

...

"We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending," ...

"These are one of the preventive measures.

That is the commissioner under the former Labor minister standing up against her own government to call on the Labor government to review electronic monitoring because it was failing under them. The former Labor government was forced into a corner by their own police commissioner. They responded to this in August 2024 by amending the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation and adding a further five trial sites: Brisbane South, Fraser Coast, Ipswich, Mackay and Rockhampton. Once again, they changed the parameters of the trial by expanding the list of prescribed indictable offences under section 52AA to include specified offences involving violence or threats of violence and expanded the criteria to include youth offenders who have been charged with a prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months, rather than just having a previous conviction.

But critically, this time, they failed to extend the trial. They failed to extend the sunset clause. This is the same sunset clause we are currently operating under. This means that there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the piecemeal changes that Labor made to electronic monitoring. Labor knew this when they made those changes in August last year and yet, they did nothing. Why? Why would the previous Labor government do this? Either they

were so incompetent that they could not do electronic monitoring properly, or they set it up to fail because they never really wanted electronic monitoring as part of our youth justice system. Labor's long history of failures in this trial has led us to the point where we are today—without any meaningful evaluation of electronic monitoring to confirm its effectiveness in deterring offending behaviour.

As at 28 February 2025, there have been 110 orders for electronic monitoring devices issued for youth offenders as a condition of their bail. This number is higher than the five youth offenders who were originally ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device in the review in 2022 and higher still than the 30 youth offenders from 2023. This increase indicates that with an extension to the electronic monitoring trial, there will be a sufficient range of data for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation to take place. This bill will allow us to finally get sound and considered evidence on the application of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail for youth offenders. It will ensure the trial can be comprehensively reviewed.

Throughout the committee process, there were stakeholders both in support of electronic monitoring and against it. Natalie Merlehan, on behalf of Voice for Victims, touched on the benefits of electronic monitoring in her submission to the committee. Natalie wrote—

As both a member of Voice for Victims, a victim survivor of youth crime ... I believe this measure could have been a positive impact on the incident in which I was involved.

I strongly feel, had the monitoring of serious repeat youth offenders through the use of electronic monitoring been in place at the time, it could have provided police and first responders with crucial real-time information about the offender—who was on bail and a known repeat offender. This could have enabled police and possibly other first responders, to intervene earlier, preventing greater harm and reducing the risk to innocent members of the public.

Natalie went onto say—

VFV strongly supports the government's proposal to extend the electronic monitoring trial period by an additional 12 months. We believe that this extension on the trial period will provide the necessary time to conduct a comprehensive review of the electronic monitoring program to inform future government decisions on its effectiveness, particularly in the context of serious repeat youth offenders.

Electronic monitoring can serve as a supervisory tool, allowing police to receive real-time alerts on a youth offender's locations. The Cairns Regional Council during the committee process submitted that they were supportive of the extension of the trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for youth offenders. They said specifically for Cairns an extended trial would 'address ongoing crime concerns', 'support law enforcement efforts' and 'contribute to long-term youth justice strategies'. They further stated—

Police resources are stretched thin in the region, electronic monitoring can serve as a protective tool to reduce re-offending while allowing police tacticians to relocate resources more effectively.

...

Given the high concentration of serious repeat youth offending in Cairns, this expansion has been much welcomed, and we look forward to hearing the evidence of its impact when results are determined.

There were also stakeholders who questioned whether electronic monitoring actually works to deter offending. To those stakeholders I can give some further information. I can say that we have seen the potential for electronic monitoring to reduce offending, to provide youth offenders with an opportunity to re-engage in education, training or employment and to improve community safety and here are some de-identified specific examples.

In 2022, a 16-year-old in the south-east was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods in detention. The court granted bail with conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to. They have not reoffended. In 2024, a 15-year-old complied with electronic monitoring conditions for the required six weeks and their parents acknowledged the positive impact of the device on their child's behaviour and family relationships. Late last year, a 16-year-old successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device. The sentencing magistrate noted their high level of compliance and that they have not gone on to reoffend.

Earlier this year, a 17-year-old was granted conditional bail with an electronic monitoring device curfew. The youth not only complied with their conditions but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services. This is an example of how electronic monitoring—when paired with the right support—can help youth offenders to make a positive change in their lives. Earlier this year, a 15-year-old charged with multiple offences maintained their electronic monitoring conditions for three months leading up to their sentence. The anecdotal evidence of success in helping these youth

offenders to stay on the right path warrants proper evaluation. That is what we are doing. We are committed to ensuring this trial has a proper and fulsome evaluation.

I will now turn to the dissenting report from the member for Maiwar. The member for Maiwar accepts anecdotal evidence that electronic monitoring devices can help youth offenders resist peer pressure to re-engage and instead stop offending and provide them with a physical reminder of their bail conditions. However, the member for Maiwar maintains that these devices are not having positive impacts and suggests they are ineffective. I would put to the member for Maiwar that those statements are in direct conflict with each other. He also expresses concern about 'breaches' relating to malfunctions. I can inform the House that the departmental figures show there have been reports of 30 per cent of call-outs relating to malfunctions, low batteries or technical issues. Importantly, call-outs of this nature are not breaches of bail; they are a response to an alert. The first response is to check whether there has been a breach of the youth offender's bail conditions. I can inform the member for Maiwar that the department has reviewed the case notes of youth offenders on electronic monitoring orders and there were no breach-of-bail charges as a result of an uncharged battery or technical failure.

We have committed to delivering a safer Queensland. The Crisafulli government has committed to delivering safety where people live—safety in people's homes, in their businesses and in their communities—and we are committed to seeing fewer victims of crime in this state. A meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of electronic monitoring helps us do that. That is why this bill extends the trial to 30 April 2026. This means we have the opportunity to collect, analyse and review data to make meaningful interpretations about how electronic monitoring as a bail condition for youth offenders is imposed to ensure we have fewer victims of crime in this state.

We understand there is no silver bullet to fix youth crime in Queensland and we are a long way off from where we need to be to restore community safety, to unwind the decade of harm that the previous Labor government caused by weakening our youth justice laws. They allowed youth crime to run rampant in this state and we will work every single day to fix Labor's youth crime crisis to make Queensland a safer place for everyone. That is why we are delivering our comprehensive Making Queensland Safer plan.

Electronic monitoring needs to be a part of a holistic approach with supports. Many submissions to the committee made this point. The Crisafulli government will do this and ensure its \$485 million investment in early intervention and rehabilitation programs—like Staying on Track, Regional Reset, Gold Standard Early Intervention, Circuit-Breaker Sentencing, our youth justice schools and our early intervention schools—acts to restore safety to our communities, and electronic monitoring as a trial and a full evaluation of that is part of that bigger picture.

During the last parliamentary sitting the Premier and I updated the House that tenders were open for two of our intervention and rehabilitation programs, Staying on Track and Regional Reset. We also released the latest youth justice data, from September 2024, which shows that under Labor 94 per cent of youth offenders released from detention within 12 months went on to reoffend. This is not a statistic Queenslanders should accept. This is exactly what our rehabilitation programs will drive down. Staying on Track will deliver 12 months of rehabilitation for every single youth exiting detention. This program will give youth the support they need to turn away from a life of crime and transition back into their communities. For Regional Reset we are delivering \$50 million for nine early intervention short-stay residential programs for youth at risk between the ages of eight and 17. This program is for young Queenslanders showing high-risk behaviours and will focus on ensuring those young people can have the tools to turn away from a life of crime.

Everything we do in this space is about making Queensland safer and reducing victims of crime. Extending this electronic monitoring trial by one year to allow a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation is no exception. It will allow the Crisafulli government the time to meaningfully and comprehensively review the evidence of this trial, both qualitative and quantitative. Once thoroughly analysed, the impacts of the review will have the potential to improve community safety.

The comments of the former minister for youth justice during the committee process made it clear that she and her Labor colleagues were more interested in misleading stakeholders on our commitment to early intervention and rehabilitation than actually delivering results that will improve community safety. Unlike the former government, we will deliver on our promises. Our strategically designed programs and initiatives will keep our community safe, and we will support young people at every stage of their journey toward a life away from crime, including those who are subject to an electronic monitoring order as a condition of their bail. This includes all of our programs: Circuit-Breaker

Sentencing, Gold Standard Early Intervention, Regional Reset, Staying on Track and our youth justice and crime prevention schools.

At the committee hearing we also heard from the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The commissioner stated—

Electronic monitoring has potential as a valuable tool for supervision of young offenders who have progressed through the judicial process, but the evidence base is currently limited. As such, I support the extension of the trial period as an opportunity to gain further data regarding the efficacy of electronic monitoring for young offenders.

...

There continues to be the need for an overwhelming shift in Queensland's youth detention approach and the prioritisation of early intervention, diversion, and supportive systems. Rehabilitation, family support, and community reintegration should be the core principles of such an approach. Electronic monitoring should be viewed as one tool within a larger framework that supports youth reintegration and helps reduce recidivism.


I could not agree more with the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner. The Crisafulli government is committed to providing wraparound support for the youth offenders to help them on their rehabilitation journey and turn the tide on the youth crime crisis. Our early intervention and crime prevention rehabilitation initiatives are strategically designed to support young people at every stage of their journey away from a life of crime including that wraparound support while being on an electronic monitoring device order as a condition of their bail.

Stakeholders also discussed with the committee the ability for the extension of the electronic monitoring trial to achieve its purpose, commenting on the several amendments and additions since the trial began in 2021, noting that it has not produced conclusive evidence about its effectiveness in preventing further reoffending. To those stakeholders I say that we recognise and acknowledge the fatigue they must be feeling around this. There has been a long history of Labor tinkering around the edges and making minor changes to the parameters of the trial without delivering any meaningful review or reform. Let me assure them that the Crisafulli government will deliver this for them. Our review will assess whether electronic monitoring deters offending, how electronic monitoring can be integrated with wraparound supports and the role of electronic monitoring in reducing victims of crime and ultimately improving community safety in this state.

This 12-month extension will provide time to: complete a proper evaluation of the trial, including analysis of as much data as possible from the recent changes and to consider the impacts on victims; consult with government and non-government stakeholders to inform a final decision on the longer term future of electronic monitoring; and return to parliament in good time before the new expiry date of 30 April 2026 with electronic monitoring as a well-informed approach to deter offending in this state. The need for hard numbers and more qualitative information and analysis was an important issue raised during the committee process.

With this extension we will be able to examine offending and compliance data for youth offenders who are on bail with an electronic monitoring device until just prior to the finalisation of the report. A mixed methods evaluation with independent evaluation will occur including qualitative research analysis and consultation with stakeholders in a number of the key trial locations. The department will conduct the qualitative analysis in conjunction with professional service providers who will provide input, peer review, oversight and validation. The impact on victim numbers and the seriousness of victimisation will be examined through the effect of electronic monitoring on reoffending while on bail and any reduction in the seriousness of offending. Extending the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year will ensure this meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. This will ultimately inform the long-term use of electronic monitoring in this state.

The Crisafulli government's goal is simple: a safer Queensland where fewer young people offend, where fewer families suffer the impacts of crime and, ultimately, where we have fewer victims of crime in this state. This bill is necessary to continue on that path to fewer victims of crime. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (11.39 am): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. We will not be opposing the bill. As we know, the bill amends the current trial of electronic monitoring by 12 months to allow time for sufficient data to be collected, as the government's cabinet submission says, 'to inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for child offenders'. By the way, it was good to read that cabinet submission because it has been a bit patchy about whether we get to see the cabinet submissions. I know we got to see this one, but we did not get to see it on the Making Queensland Safer Laws. It was interesting to hear the Treasurer this morning say—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members on my right, I think we have done well so far. Let us just keep the noise down please.

Ms FARMER: It was interesting to hear the Treasurer talking this morning about how much those opposite really supported the *Let the sunshine in* review in which one of the big issues was to release the cabinet submissions, but for some reason we cannot see the making Queensland safer ones. Those opposite obviously have something to hide there, but we know that this government picks and chooses what it wants to show and what it does not. However, as its cabinet submission that we were able to read on this particular bill says, the extension of time to gather more data is to inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for child offenders. We all know that EMDs—electronic monitoring devices—are devices that are fitted to a young person’s ankle that monitors their location using GPS and provides real-time alerts for any unauthorised movements.

The Labor government started the trial of EMDs in 2021 and they were ordered where appropriate as a condition of bail and at that time—and still—the national and international evidence of EMDs leading to a reduction in reoffending ranges from equivocal to downright clear that they do not make a difference. Submitter after submitter referred to this in the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, the JICS Committee, hearings. I acknowledge that many of those submitters had misgivings about this extension of time and where most of them did express any support it was for those young people on remand as an alternative to detention, but obviously this bill does not address that.

I want to acknowledge all of those submitters for their consistently outstanding work in delivering services but also in advocating for reform and bravely stating their position, which is often—in fact, very often—in defiance of this government, but this is such a vindictive government that those people are very brave to state those suspicions. There was discussion amongst submitters that, anecdotally, there was some evidence that for some young people EMDs do make them behave better. We heard stories from submitters about how young people might be being enticed by their peers to go and commit an offence and they will say, ‘I can’t because I’ve got the ankle bracelet on.’ Equally, there was concern expressed by submitters that it was very stigmatic, particularly if they were at school or TAFE or work, and that it would encourage people to reoffend. I recognise that. In fact, the director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support said that in their experience it would be about fifty-fifty. I stress that he was not quoting specific figures, but that was his assessment of it.

If the minister is truly going to do an evaluation, she needs to acknowledge both sides of that argument. We just heard a list of all of the reasons that we have to do EMDs—that is, that it is going to be good and we heard all of those stories. It is good to hear those, but a truly independent evaluation looks at all sides to see whether it is truly going to keep the community safe. I would urge the minister to keep an open mind until that independent proper evaluation has been conducted.

Youth crime was and remains a huge concern for Queenslanders and when in government we were willing to trial or adopt any evidence-based initiatives which we thought might help make a difference, and that is why we wanted to conduct those trials. We know that the numbers of young people ordered by the courts to wear EMDs have been consistently low and we have been back to the parliament several times to try to increase the possibility of getting sufficient numbers for an evaluation—most recently in August 2024 to make further changes, including to increase the range of offences to which EMDs might apply and also the number of locations.

The sunset clause was to expire on 30 April 2025, so that is four years for a trial, with several tweaks along the way to increase numbers sufficient to conduct a proper evaluation. There was eight months between the passing of that bill and the end of the sunset clause, which most people would say is giving something a pretty good go, but this bill seeks to extend that period by an additional 12 months. As I have said, we are not opposing that. According to the director-general of the department, Mr Gee, in his evidence to the committee, the tweaks which Labor made in August 2024 appear to have yielded comparatively higher numbers though. ‘Comparatively’ is the important word here and there certainly was not a glowing confirmation that we were going to get these enormous numbers to conduct a statistically valid evaluation. Rather, there was much talk about the fact that qualitative evaluation was going to be very important, because while the numbers have improved since the tweaks we made they have not been racing to the ceiling or anything and here we are with this bill.

We know that this bill is not a very big bill, as members can see. It is five pages long. The first page is the cover page. The second page is blank and the last page is also blank. That is good: that makes it look a bit bigger. The third page is the contents, the fourth page is the long title of the bill and

the final page is the list of the actual clauses. As I said, we have a couple of blank pages. In terms of those three little clauses, the first clause defines the short title of the bill, the second one outlines the act that the bill is amending and the third one changes the years from four years to five years.

My point is that we are coming back to the parliament this week to change one numeral in the Youth Justice Act—one numeral. That has to beg the question: why did the government not include this amendment when it rushed through its Making Queensland Safer Laws at the end of last year, only three sitting weeks ago? The sunset clause was always there in front of them giving them eight months, from the time they were passed to the sunset clause. Those opposite were in this parliament when those amendments were passed, but we are in the parliament this week debating a whole new bill which changes one numeral: a '4' to a '5', referring to the number of years that the independent trial will last and the date of the final sunset clause—one number.

There appear to be 15 government members speaking so far, though if they do not have much to do this week I assume there will be more, but they are all going to speak on this bill. There can only be two possible reasons that we are coming back to the parliament to change one number in this act—an act that we debated at significant length at the end of last year. Is one of those reasons that the government has no legislative agenda and it has to think up as many ways as possible to fill in the time? I bet all of those new members on the other side must have been so excited thinking they were coming into parliament and it was going to be just so dynamic with all of these new laws happening, but so far those opposite are really struggling for something to do. In fact, we were in the middle of debating the Trusts Bill, which has now been kicked down to the third order of the day. Surely one of the most scintillating and pertinent speeches many of us have heard for a long time and that was guaranteed to get the adrenaline flowing must have been the health minister's speech on the Medieval origins of trusts in the courts of chancery and how they were established to protect the property of knights during the Crusades.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I would ask the member to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would agree. Please keep it relevant.

Ms FARMER: I am sure all of those nurses were so pleased that the health minister is really on point.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I doubt that the health bill has much to do with this bill. You should try to keep it relevant, otherwise I am going to be taking points of order and we will be here for a long time.

Ms FARMER: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Going back to the issue about the House now debating a bill to change one number in the act—something which we referred to in our statement of reservation—I feel really sorry for the member for Moggill because we know that he did not want to be the Leader of the House. He wanted to be education and his friend—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance—118(b)—relating to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not need to explain it. Member for Bulimba, you have the call but try and keep it to the bill please.

Ms FARMER: I am referring to our statement of reservation. We know that those opposite are a bit short of things to do. The Minister for Youth Justice must be on the Christmas card list of the Leader of the House, because she came up with something for us to talk about: we could come and debate a whole bill to change one number in the Youth Justice Act. What an insult to the people of Queensland that those opposite are filling in time in this parliament.

Government members interjected.

Ms FARMER: It is okay; I am changing topic now. The other reason we could be having this debate is that the Minister for Youth Justice has just not been across her brief. That is one interpretation. If you were being unkind you would say that she was actually negligent. The Making Queensland Safer Bill had to be rushed through. She could have included this in that bill. It was there in front of her. She knew when the sunset clause was. They could have actually included that, but that bill—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members to my right, the member is not taking interjections.

Ms FARMER: This bill had to be rushed through before Christmas. It had to be done before Christmas because youth crime needed to come down before Christmas.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 236, tedious repetition. The member has already referred to this matter to which she is now referring again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed, member.

Ms FARMER: Youth crime was going to come down so we had to get these laws in before Christmas. This time last year the Premier said, 'Under my model, you will actually be able to turn things around immediately'. The week after we passed the bill the police minister said 'relief from crime will begin within days'. They have changed their tune and said it is going to take a bit longer. We all knew that. The bill had to be passed before Christmas, despite the director-general telling the JICS committee that they were not expecting to see young people on remand or convicted of these offences until the middle of 2025. The Attorney-General and the minister both told stakeholders privately that they did not expect anyone to be up on those charges until the middle of the year, but what they told parliament and what they told Queenslanders was that those laws had to be done before Christmas because they were going to keep the community safe by Christmas. They could have included these laws in that, for all the talk this morning in the minister's speech about how these were important to keep the community safe. Why not put it in there instead of wasting parliament's time doing a separate bill? They knew their claims were untrue. They had to rush through those laws. They would not listen to the experts who begged them to be more measured, who begged them to at least give it a few more weeks so they could look at unintended consequences and think of anything else that might need to be included. We even moved a motion to that effect. Those opposite were not having a bar of it. Not only did youth crime not go down; it went up, and in some significant areas in ways in which the new laws were targeted.

Those opposite have cherry-picked a couple of offences where the numbers have gone down. Let us have a look: unlawful possession of a concealable firearm, up 38.24 per cent; shop stealing up 7.61 per cent—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order remains with respect to relevance and the long title of the bill, and I would ask you to bring the member back to the long title of the bill. On a number of occasions you have provided that guidance and she is flagrantly disregarding those rulings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I would ask that you do at least bring the discussion back to the main bill. I know that some of this involves some explanation, but I would ask to you make it relevant to the bill, if you would.

Ms FARMER: Thank you for your guidance. I am trying to keep it to our statement of reservation. As I was saying, some of these figures are really high. Those opposite are trying to avoid these figures. In Far North Queensland, armed robbery is up 199.96 per cent. They are trying to claim that they have had success with youth crime. It is simply a furphy. The experts were right. They did know what they were talking about. Was all of this unnecessary rushing around the reason that the minister forgot to include the changes to the sunset clause, or was she just not across it?

With all that rushing around, they also forgot to include some other offences in that bill such as rape and attempted murder. They are trying to make it sound like that was because they needed expert legal advice. I do not think there is much doubt that rape and attempted murder are serious crimes. I am having a go at the youth justice minister, but that is probably a bit unfair because it was actually the Attorney-General who introduced that bill, so it was probably she who forgot about it and the poor youth justice minister is going to have to clean it up this time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I would have you address the Speaker, please, rather than the member across the floor.

Ms FARMER: I apologise. We know we are coming back another time to the Youth Justice Bill. We had one go just before Christmas, we are having another go now to change one numeral, and it was announced this morning that we are having another go.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order, again on relevance. The member continues to flagrantly disregard your ruling that Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation has nothing to do with the electronic monitoring device bill. I would ask the member to come back to the long title of the bill, which is about electronic monitoring.

Ms FENTIMAN: In relation to the point of order of the minister, the minister talked at length about these matters in her introductory speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I deal with this first. Member, I have asked you several times now to address the bill before the House. I do not think the Adult Crime, Adult Time legislation is relevant to this bill and I would ask you to address the bill before the House.

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Obviously, we have submitted a statement of reservation. I note that the member for Maiwar submitted a dissenting report to the committee report.

One of the other things I really want to go to—we raised this in our statement of reservation about the bill itself—is the matter of the rolled gold early intervention that the government promised in the lead-up to the election. The minister has spoken extensively about this today in her speech on the bill and a number of the submitters also talked about this. Submitter after submitter referenced the fact that we must have early intervention and prevention measures in place if we are to address youth justice. There are two ways that we need to look at that in the context of this bill. One of them is the bail support services that must be in place in order for EMDs to be fitted. Tom Allsop, the CEO of PeakCare, said in his submission—and I think this captured what most people were saying—

We believe you cannot simply fix a young person's problems by strapping a device to their ankle. Instead our systems need to be strapping support around each young person through effective services and interventions that address the driving causes of offending rather than just responding to their consequences.

The director-general of the department said—

I did say, and I have mentioned numerous times, there are bail support programs, the Intensive Bail Initiative—I could literally spend the next 15 hours going through all of them. I have a list in front of me just on the Intensive Bail Initiative across all those locations.

And later—

Those intensive bail initiatives have been evaluated.

All of those initiatives are Labor initiatives. There are no LNP initiatives in place to support EMDs. None of them plan to support EMDs that I can see, and the department was coming back to us. The department was going to come back to us because it is important to know if we are extending it for 12 months that those things are in place. Fortunately, Labor put all of those initiatives in place. They have been evaluated and they were evaluated very positively.

Submitters also talked about the broader approach to early intervention and prevention and they have done so consistently, including in their submissions about youth justice matters. We should bear in mind that the LNP did not just mention early intervention and prevention; one of their key slogans was 'rolled gold early intervention'. That was it. We heard it over and over again. You could not get any of them to explain what it meant. You could not get them to give any examples. In fact, there is a now infamous interview that the Minister for Police gave to the *Police Union Journal* in which he was asked what rolled gold early intervention was and he said that he had never heard of it. Anyway, I digress.

We now at least have a list of some of the names of their intervention programs: Making Queensland Safer Laws—tick that off; Staying on Track; Gold Standard Early Intervention program; Regional Reset program; Circuit Breaker Sentencing program—blah, blah, blah. The problem is that, out of all of that list, we have evidence of when only two will happen and they are not happening yet. They have let out tenders for them but we do not know when they will happen. I asked the director-general in the hearing and he was not able to tell me because of cabinet-in-confidence. That is not his problem, but I bet they made it cabinet-in-confidence given what a circus this whole thing is. You cannot get an answer out of the minister either as to when they are actually starting. They came to government in October and it is now March. It is not like they did not think about these things beforehand. It was a key slogan. They love their slogans and this was a big slogan. However, I do not think we will see those two until the end of this year and as for the others we have no idea. There is neither sight nor sound of them.

I can tell members what is in place. Again, I refer to the minister who talked about early intervention and prevention in the speech she just gave. When I asked the director-general, he said—

There are millions and millions of dollars spent on early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation in this state. That has not stopped ... the current programs that the member, as a former minister, administered have not stopped. We are continuing to do that work ... There are many evaluations on our website, as the member would know—

And I do know, Mr Speaker—

that show the efficacy of those programs.


I can tell the House what some of those evaluations say. With the youth co-responder teams, there was a 73 per cent reduction in the number of offences committed six months post engagement

for serious repeat offenders. That is a Labor program. With intensive case management there was a 51 per cent reduction in offending frequency and a 72 per cent reduction in the proportion of crimes against the person. That is another Labor program. With Transition 2 Success, 67 per cent of participants did not reoffend in the 12 months following program completion. Thanks to Labor, early intervention and prevention programs have been evaluated and have been shown to actually work. Thank goodness they are in place because we have no idea when all of those rolled gold early intervention programs will be happening. You cannot get a word out of those opposite. It is all very well to talk about them. It is all very well to put out tenders. Members should hear what some of the stakeholders say about the consultation on those programs. Boy! 'Flimsy' is one word that I have heard from quite a few people. Those are all Labor programs.

This morning there has been lots of talk, lots of drama and lots of cherrypicking of statistics about keeping the community safe, but we have to look at where the rubber hits the road because we have to see some results. They went to the last election promising that they would reduce youth crime. There were even quotes such as youth crime will go down to zero.

Mr LISTER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is highly irrelevant to the bill. A number of members have risen on this matter and I put it to you—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you do not need to explain your point of order. I agree. Member for Bulimba, I have given you plenty of opportunity and plenty of warnings. I ask you to take your seat and I call the member for Nicklin.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.04 pm): I rise to address the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025, which is a significant step in the Crisafulli government's ongoing commitment to enhance community safety and address youth crime in Queensland. I am sorry that, along with her colleagues, the member for Bulimba wants to complain about having to come back into parliament. They have had to drag themselves in here to work on amendments to the Youth Justice Act.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You have been very strict in your rulings in regards to that. I suggest we start off on a good note.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member is only 20 seconds into his speech. I give you adequate warning to remain relevant.

Mr HUNT: I have bad news for the member for Bulimba because there will be many more amendments to the Youth Justice Act. We know they do not like working past six or seven o'clock at night, but we are here to work for the people of Queensland and to protect Queenslanders and we will do so unapologetically. There will be more changes for which I am sorry, not sorry, member for Bulimba.

As the member for Nicklin and chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I have had the privilege of overseeing the examination of this bill and its implications for our justice system. I thank the members of the committee and the secretariat for ensuring this urgent bill was reported back to the parliament within the shorter timeframe provided to allow the extension to occur prior to the expiration date of the previous trial.

The objective of the bill is to extend the current trial of the EMDs for youth offenders by an additional 12 months, moving the expiration date to 30 April next year. This extension is crucial to allow for a comprehensive and meaningful evaluation of the trial's effectiveness in reducing offending rates among youth offenders and enhancing community safety. The journey of the electronic monitoring trial has been marked by challenges and learning opportunities, to say the least. Initially introduced as a two-year trial in 2021, the program aimed to assess the viability of EMDs as a condition of bail for certain youth offenders. However, the initial phase faced significant hurdles.

In its first year, only five youth offenders were subject to electronic monitoring orders and those limited numbers were insufficient to draw meaningful conclusions about the program's effectiveness. Early on, concerns were raised about the potential inadequacy of data for evaluation. During the committee's hearing on 8 March 2021, the member for Glass House expressed apprehension that the small cohort might hinder informed decision-making post trial. Despite these warnings, the previous government proceeded without adjustments, leading to a review that could not confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour due to the limited application of the devices.

In 2023, acknowledging the shortcomings, the former government extended the trial for another two years and implemented incremental changes, yet the application remained limited with 36 electronic monitoring conditions issued for 30 distinct youth offenders across various regions. These preliminary figures indicated that the piecemeal changes were insufficient in achieving the desired outcomes and the then police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, publicly highlighted the need to revisit

the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders, emphasising its potential as a constant supervisory tool over intermittent police checks.

In August 2024, further amendments were made to the youth justice regulation, expanding trial locations and altering some parameters. However, critically, the sunset clause remained set to expire on 30 April 2025, leaving inadequate time for a thorough evaluation of the new conditions. The failure to extend the trial period, alongside the expansion of its parameters, meant there was never going to be sufficient time to properly evaluate the impact of the changes before the trial's expiration. This oversight risked rendering the efforts ineffective and left our communities without clear evidence of the program's potential benefits.

As with everything, during the youth crime crisis created by the former Labor Miles-Palaszczuk government their heart was never in it. They knew they had to try something to overcome the crisis, but they just kept listening to the same advice that got us into the situation we are in today and we have to clean up their mess. Their half-baked efforts were to make it look like they were trying to do something but their half-baked efforts made the situation worse as a generation of untouchables was created. As a police officer for the past four years, I had a front-row seat and saw that unfolding.

The current government recognises the necessity of a comprehensive evaluation to inform future decisions regarding EMDs for youth offenders. By extending the trial to 30 April 2026, we aim to collect robust data on the effectiveness of EMDs in reducing offending. We aim to assess the impact on community safety and evaluate the potential for EMDs to assist youth offenders in re-engaging with education or employment opportunities.

Currently, for a youth offender to be granted bail with an EMD they must: be at least 15 years old; be charged with a prescribed indictable offence; have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months; and consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device. The list of prescribed indictable offences has been expanded to include specified offences involving violence or threats of violence, reflecting, again, our commitment to addressing serious crimes effectively.

Whilst comprehensive data is still forthcoming, anecdotal evidence suggests potential benefits of electronic monitoring, and the minister outlined a couple of those. In July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan, after several periods in detention, was fitted with an EMD as a condition of bail. The youth successfully adhered to all conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, and has not reoffended since. In November 2024, a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland completed two months of bail conditions with an EMD. The sentencing magistrate noted the youth's high level of compliance and absence of reoffending. In January 2025, a 17-year-old in Brisbane was granted conditional bail with an EMD and a curfew. The youth complied with all conditions, re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation. These instances highlight the potential of electronic monitoring to support rehabilitation and reduce recidivism amongst young offenders.

The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee has recommended that the bill be passed, recognising the importance of a thorough evaluation to inform future policy decisions. Stakeholders have expressed their support for the extension. Voice for Victims, for example, emphasised that electronic monitoring could provide crucial real-time information, enabling earlier intervention and potentially preventing greater harm to innocent members of the public. They strongly support the 12-month extension to gather sufficient evidence and longitudinal data to evaluate the true impact of EMDs on reducing offending rates among youth offenders.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission recognised the potential of electronic monitoring as a valuable supervision tool, but they highlighted the need for both quantitative and qualitative data evaluation. They stated—

Electronic monitoring should be viewed as one tool within a larger framework that supports youth reintegration and helps reduce recidivism.

The Cairns Regional Council also voiced strong support for the extension, citing the high concentration of serious repeat youth offenders in Cairns. The council stated that an extended trial would allow for a more thorough assessment of the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in enhancing community safety, deterring repeat offending and improving the supervision of high-risk youth offenders. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities while ensuring youth offenders have the opportunity to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society. Electronic monitoring, when applied effectively, has the potential to achieve both of these objectives.

We acknowledge the concerns of some stakeholders regarding the limitations of EMDs. As the QFCC noted, strapping on a device is not as important as strapping on support. This government understands that electronic monitoring alone is not a silver bullet. That is why it forms part of our comprehensive Making Queensland Safer plan. The programs, as outlined by the minister, include: Gold Standard Early Intervention, Regional Reset, crime prevention schools, youth justice schools, Circuit Breaker Sentencing, Staying on Track and a victim advocate service—a total of \$485 million in funding. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, businesses and communities. This government makes no apology—

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance. You sat me down earlier because I was speaking about the same things. I am seeking your ruling on the content of the member's speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Take a seat, member. If you have an issue with my direction, you know that should be done in writing. The member may proceed.


Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The debate is outside the long title of the bill. One of our members was sat down for addressing the same issues.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, could you explain how your current contribution is relevant to the bill?

Mr HUNT: Mr Deputy Speaker, many of the stakeholders during committee hearings expressed that electronic monitoring was one thing but it needed to be coupled with youth programs and early intervention. It was brought up in committee hearings and it is covered in our report as well.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you may continue your contribution but please go back to the bill.

Mr HUNT: This government is listening to the concerns of law enforcement, victims of crime and local communities. We recognise, as the minister outlined, the fatigue surrounding the constant modifications to this trial over the years, and we are committed to ensuring this extension delivers clear and conclusive evidence on the role electronic monitoring devices can play in our youth justice system. This bill is about ensuring accountability, supporting rehabilitation and, above all, protecting Queenslanders. We are proud to do that. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (12.15 pm): The LNP were very keen to talk about crime in opposition but now it appears that they are not so keen to be scrutinised in government. The opposition will not oppose this bill. We will not stand in the way of its passing. This could be law within hours if the government put this to a vote, but I suspect they will not. It is just like the Trusts Bill, which was apparently urgent until it was not urgent because they do not have enough legislation to be debated in this House.

A government member: That is the member who tried to gag debates.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the minister, who just had a go at us for gagging debate. When members on that side made points of order about the shadow minister's speech, she was sat down as a result. The LNP wanted to gag debate because it did not suit them to be scrutinised.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the member for Gaven's contribution, I would submit to you that she is reflecting on rulings of the chair and I would ask you to consider that matter.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Gaven took the interjection from the minister and was referring to that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member to my left, you may proceed.

Ms SCANLON: This bill changes just one word in law. It amends '4 years' to '5 years'—one numeral. That begs the question: why did the government not include that one amendment in their signature laws last year? The sunset clause was always there in front of them, giving them eight months from the time the August amendments were passed. We are in parliament this week debating a whole bill which changes one numeral—'4' to '5'—referring to the number of years the EMD trial will last for, the date the final sunset clause will come into effect.

Queenslanders deserve more than weasel words, slogans and one-word changes. Clearly, the LNP have no legislative agenda and they think that putting this bill before the House will make up for the fact that, clearly, the minister forgot. She forgot.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, the member is not taking interjections.

Ms SCANLON: I will acknowledge one thing: at least we have seen the cabinet submission from this proposed amendment—and that is more than we can say for the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which were supposed to be their signature laws yet the so-called Minister for Integrity is clearly trying to keep something secret. One of the reasons they are probably keeping that secret is that they made these big claims to Queenslanders that they were going to fix crime by Christmas and that did not happen.

Mr Stevens: Rubbish!

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection of the member who just said, 'Rubbish!' The member should tell Queenslanders who have been victims of crime that the LNP think it is rubbish to say that crime has not been fixed.

I take the House back to one of the comments made by the Premier when he was in opposition. He said—

Under my model, you will actually be able to turn things around immediately because you won't have that churn.

The police minister promised 'relief from crime will begin within days'. They have changed their tune now because crime has gone up in a number of areas.

Our shadow police minister made the point the other day that the LNP are just cherrypicking data that suits them and not talking about those offences where we have seen an increase. They include: unlawful possession of concealable firearms, a 38 per cent increase; shop stealing, a 7.61 per cent increase; Weapons Act offences, a 15 per cent increase; and armed robbery, a seven per cent increase. Yesterday, we effectively got an admission that the LNP had bungled the laws that they had rushed through. They rushed them through because they said they were going to fix crime, and yet crime is up.


As I said, we will not be opposing the bill, but I do think it is important to talk about some of the issues raised by some of the submitters. In fact, submitter after submitter said that we must have early intervention and prevention programs in place if we are going to address youth crime. Despite the rhetoric from the LNP, we have not seen a single new dollar actually go towards a youth justice program.

I have seen more money spent on slogan advertising by this new government than has actually gone towards programs that will help divert young people from the criminal justice system. We are nearly in the sixth month of the Crisafulli government and all they have done on early intervention and prevention is put out a tender. That shows us their priority. They are more interested in doing media announcements and pushing out media advertising to suit their political interests than getting money on the ground to support the incredible organisations that turn the lives of young people around.

Ms Grace: Which we have and which we did.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the shadow minister. That was something that our government was really focused on. We heard some of the success stories of some of those programs that were having an impact.

This bill changes just one word in law. This is continuing a trial that was started by Labor. As I said, the opposition will not be standing in the way of these reforms. We could have them heard and passed today—within a matter of hours. The government need not blame us for delaying their laws. If they want them passed urgently, like they told everyone they wanted, then they could do it right now.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to offer my wholehearted support for the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I commend the work of my fellow members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee throughout our scrutiny of this bill. I will speak to the chamber as adults. I would also like to thank those stakeholders who made submissions on this important community proposal.

My support of this bill reaffirms this government's commitment to ending the generation of untouchable repeat offenders who were emboldened during the previous decade of chaos, crisis and watered-down laws from those opposite. The aim of this bill is straightforward: to extend the trial of electronic monitoring devices, EMDs, for young offenders for a further 12 months so that the effectiveness of this initiative can be properly evaluated.

The trials of EMDs on youth offenders to date have not been broad enough to give the department of youth justice a chance to actively evaluate the effectiveness of this program, with several different amendments being passed since the initial 2021 introduction of section 52AA to the Youth

Justice Act. The LNP raised these concerns from the beginning, which went unheeded, and we saw an abysmal failure in those initial trials. We even saw the former police commissioner speak out about the abject failure of the trials, in an embarrassing incident for the former government, which prompted a further amendment in August 2024. However, there was never going to be enough time to evaluate the amendments of August 2024 as the trial was set to expire less than a year later.

We promised Queenslanders that we will do whatever it takes to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis, and a genuine evaluation of the available resources is an integral part of that process. The Crisafulli government has been unequivocal that we would end the culture of fear and intimidation within the Public Service—and we are doing just that—by listening to the frank and fearless advice received from our public servants. The director-general and the department have been clear that this extension of the trial period will be sufficient and is necessary for them to provide the parliament with comprehensive advice.

EMDs can help reduce the burden on our QPS officers in conducting bail checks on youth offenders, as compliance is able to be monitored electronically via GPS. At a time when we are striving to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis, we must give our police all the tools they need to do their jobs effectively, as well as bolster numbers of new recruits. I was delighted to see recently the largest graduating class of police officers in the state's history. I offer my profound gratitude to those who put their hands up to take on the job. I know what it is like to be part of a police family.

It has been encouraging to see that there are early indications that the implementation of EMDs applies downward pressure on the reoffending rate of young offenders, and I look forward to seeing the full findings upon completion of the trial period. It is important to bear in mind that throughout the trial EMDs are not operating as a standalone measure, but are working alongside the Crisafulli government's \$485 million investment into youth crime prevention and youth offender rehabilitation. This significant investment is a cornerstone of our plan to tackle youth crime that Queenslanders have backed resoundingly and seeks to prevent crime before it happens, as well as turn around the lives of young offenders before they turn into hardened criminals.

Another key element that ties into this bill is the introduction of breach of bail as an offence, which was a measure long championed by the Liberal National Party. We are already hearing that EMDs can play a key role in the enforcing of bail conditions, while also alleviating pressure on frontline police.


Communities have been inundated with youth crime and have been calling out for more to be done and more support for the hardworking police officers who are doing a stellar job in combatting youth crime. Among the trial sites for EMDs is a city at the forefront of the youth crime crisis—Cairns, where we know QPS resources are already stretched thin.

In their submission, Cairns Regional Council advised that EMDs will serve as a 'proactive tool to reduce reoffending while allowing police tacticians to allocate resources more effectively'. They also said that there is a significant burden on ratepayer funds from council crews having to remedy graffiti and other forms of vandalism, and they firmly believe that monitoring youth offenders on bail can curb the incidents of vandalism and other antisocial behaviour.

We delivered the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas last year, just as we promised Queenslanders at the election. I know that residents in my electorate of Capalaba have had enough of their homes being invaded, cars stolen, people assaulted and seeing the same offenders running riot after being released on bail.

This week we are introducing more than a dozen additional offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, on the advice of the Expert Legal Panel, in order to strengthen those laws further. This bill before the House is another step in the process of unwinding a decade of weak laws and certainly will not be the last step either. I am proud to be a part of the Crisafulli government that is committed and laser focused on improving and building these steps so we can drive down victim numbers in this state.

I urge the House to support this bill because we must continue to take strong action on youth crime. Queenslanders have made it abundantly clear that serious repeat offenders cannot be allowed to continue reoffending. I personally have a fair idea what is required. That is why I put my hand up to represent the people of Capalaba. It is clear community sentiment. That is why so many voters across the state placed their trust in this government. This is an issue we must address head on. This government will not shy away from that fact.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.29 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, as you have heard today, we will not be opposing this bill. When I started to do my homework on this bill—and I am glad the minister called it an 'amendment' bill because there is only one amendment in it—I looked at the

first page, which was just the cover page, the second page was the long title of the bill and the last page was a blank page. I finally found the amendment in this bill—it was to change ‘4’ to ‘5’. Here we are in parliament debating—probably all night—one single number. I spoke to the Deputy Clerk this morning and asked, ‘In the time you have been here, have you ever seen a bill that has changed only one number?’ He said, ‘Not that I know of,’ and I would not be surprised.

Ms Grace: Waste of time.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection. This is an absolute waste of time. I will talk about that in a minute. Having been a minister in the former Queensland government, I know the work that the drafting teams in the departments have to do to prepare bills. I can imagine the drafting team’s response when the now minister walked into the drafting office and said—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Departmental officials are sitting over there—‘We have to make an amendment to this bill,’ and the drafting team asked, ‘What does that look like?’—and it was one number. In the background they would have laughed their heads off at that.

As we know, most Queensland kids are good kids and they do the right thing. Also, as many of us know, causes of youth crime are very complex. They are difficult to understand, and a lot of it revolves around the environment those kids live in and the way they grow up. I think everybody in this House knows that a very few of these young offenders continue to do the wrong thing. There are only a very small number of youth offenders who continue to do the wrong thing. Most people agree that Queenslanders do not accept and definitely do not tolerate that behaviour. That is why investing in prevention is so important. That is why investing in intervention is so important. That is why investing in detention facilities in this state is also so important. That is why the opposition is making sure we hold this government to account, to do the things they said they would do.

Early intervention is the key. Slogans just do not cut it when it comes to youth crime here in Queensland. You have to do what you say you are going to do. Saying that crime would be fixed by Christmas was exactly the opposite. Already we have seen an increase in crime under the LNP government. That is why we introduced the original bill to make sure monitoring devices were placed on children doing the wrong thing. Shop stealing is up in Queensland. Armed robbery is up. Rape and attempted rape are up. Weapons Act offences are up. Unlawful possession is up. Most concerning, concealed firearms and use of other weapons is up here in Queensland. It is time the LNP started listening to the experts, to the people with lived experience and to the stakeholders who have a wealth of information they can give the LNP.

The only amendment the bill proposes, as I said before, is to change a single number—a ‘4’ to a ‘5’—in the Youth Justice Act. This could have easily been done in a clause in the Making Queensland Safer Bill, which already amended the Youth Justice Act. It could be suggested that this was an oversight resulting from rushing those laws late last year.

Many stakeholders, including the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and the Queensland Family and Child Commission, offered support for the use of EMDs specifically as an alternative to remand, although this is not catered for in the bill. However, stakeholders also stated that in order for EMDs to be safe and effective they required additional wraparound support services. All I can say is: thank goodness for a Labor government that made sure those services were in place when we introduced the original bill.

While the LNP have announced tenders for Regional Reset and Staying on Track, as we have heard today, these programs are unlikely to be up and running until late this year, if that is what they intend to do.

Ms Farmer: Twelve months from when they were announced.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection—12 months from when they said they would be in place. The government will not provide details on any of their proposed programs. We would like to hear them. We are sincerely keen to find out what those intervention programs look like. Currently the government is completely reliant on Labor’s existing bail support, prevention and rehabilitation programs here in Queensland. Thankfully we had those programs in place because there has been nothing coming forward—

Ms Farmer: No investment.


Mr BUTCHER: No investment into any of these strategies moving forward other than those two programs which are out to tender. The explanatory notes and supporting materials for the initial

amendments allowing the trial and subsequent amendments expanding the trial provide that the criteria for EMD eligibility were designed to target those serious repeat offenders, as I said before. The Youth Advocacy Centre's submission identifies—

Paradoxically, the cohort that is labelled 'serious repeat offenders' is often unlikely to meet the suitability criteria.

This is information that we need, and that is why we are supporting this bill: to allow extra time to find these things out.

This bill changes one word in the law, amending '4 years' to '5 years'. This bill shows how the LNP has failed to plan for a proper legislative program. I would be very interested to see the record for the shortest bill introduced into the Queensland parliament. This bill speaks volumes about the LNP government and their lack of ability to deal with these important matters for Queenslanders through the parliamentary process, not through rushed laws. They could have easily included this one clause in previous legislation. This amendment bill is not only an embarrassment for this government but also a good reminder to Queenslanders that they just cannot believe a word they say.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (12.36 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill, a piece of legislation that extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. The opposition continue to talk about a one-word change in the bill. What about the one victim or the many victims who support the changes that this LNP government has made? We said we would be putting victims first and we make no apology for that.

The electronic monitoring trial has had a prolonged and complicated history since its two-year trial began in 2021. The initial trial was a total failure, as there were not enough youth offenders to enable a proper evaluation. One would have to ask the question: if the former Labor government went into this as another ad hoc smokescreen to try to fool the people of Queensland—that they were taking crime seriously?

In the first year of the trial's operation, only five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of their bail—and three of those were in Townsville. I can assure the House from conversations with the people of Thuringowa that they would expect more than this, considering there would have been more than three cars stolen in one night in Townsville during this time. This is a classic case of forgetting the victims and protecting the offenders by the former Labor government—a government that made detention a last resort, abolished finding guilt while on bail and failed to make meaningful investment in early intervention programs or rehabilitation.

The previous Labor government did not extend the trial so that a proper evaluation of the new conditions of the trial could occur. There was never going to be adequate time to evaluate the data arising from the changes before the trial was set to expire. I must ask the question: will those offenders captured in the newest changes of the trial even finish their bail in this period of time for the study so that those results can be used in the analysis? I want to reiterate that this is not about providing justification for the use of EMDs; rather, the focus is on the need for the extension of the trial to identify whether they are relevant crime prevention tools to have an impact on our current crime climate—that is, repeat youth offenders. The trial is currently set to end in April 2025, and a lack of meaningful data is relevant when there is no clear understanding of the parameters of this trial—what the trial has been measuring and how, if at all, they are measuring the data. What is a study without clear objectives?


The use of EMDs could be substantiated by classical deterrence theory; that is, certainty of detection, swiftness of detection and related penalties, and severity of punishment acting as deterrents to criminal activity. Severity of punishment is not enough of a deterrent for these repeat youth offenders because punishment avoidance and swiftness of detection are downplayed through the perceived uncertainty of detection due to the thinly spread resources of our police. Therefore, we must look to solutions such as EMDs as preventative tools to target spaces where classical deterrence theory is not being upheld, particularly when resources have been limited and police are constantly having to have reactive, rather than proactive, responses to repeat youth offenders. Classical criminology theory is relevant and can be used to our advantage here in the use of EMDs, influencing choice and behaviour by making repeat offending less attractive by increasing the risk of certain detection.

During the public hearing we heard different views and outcomes for the juveniles who wore monitoring devices, and one story really stuck with me. One offender who was wearing a monitoring device really wanted to change. He suffered peer pressure in the past which caused him to reoffend, and on this occasion he was being encouraged by his mates to get into a stolen car. He was relieved that he could tell them he would be tracked, so he had better not get into the vehicle because the police could identify his whereabouts. This acted as a deterrent to him in relation to committing further criminal

activity. This is proof that in some cases EMDs work effectively to enable better choices and act as a nudge towards bettering youth offenders' behaviour.

The use of EMDs aims to reduce crime by increasing the presence or capability of guardians to deter potential offenders. The goal is to protect our community through making them less vulnerable targets by increasing the likelihood of guardianship and intervention. By monitoring the whereabouts of serious repeat offenders, electronic devices aim to deter criminal activity and provide assurances to the community regarding the whereabouts of these individuals during their bail period. The use of monitoring devices offers an alternative to detention, potentially decreasing the number of young people in custody. This approach aligns with the goal of keeping children out of unsuitable environments such as watch houses whenever safely possible.

Our commitment to early intervention and rehabilitation plays a crucial role in this as well. Our government has the tools and is committed to having fit-for-purpose resources that work alongside such tools to increase the safety of our community from repeat youth offending if this measure is found to be successful. The Crisafulli government is extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders for an additional 12 months until 30 April 2026 to allow time for a thorough and comprehensive evaluation. We will ensure this trial extension is not wasted. There will be a comprehensive review to ensure that our decisions are backed by evidence, focused on reducing crime and put victims first. It will be evidence-based, consultative and measured. I support the bill.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. As we have heard outlined by previous speakers, the aim of this bill is to make a simple amendment to the Youth Justice Act by changing the term '4 years' to '5 years'. On the surface this may seem like a minor change, but it reflects deeper issues within the youth justice system and the government's handling of this important matter. I should add that at this juncture we will be supporting the passing of this legislation.

Electronic monitoring devices, which this bill concerns, are designed to monitor youth offenders in the community by tracking their movements. These devices help authorities ensure compliance with bail conditions, offering an alternative to remand and allowing young people to stay connected to their communities, family and education. They also provide an opportunity for young offenders to break the cycle of criminal behaviour and distance themselves from peer groups that may encourage them to commit further offences.

In Queensland the use of electronic monitoring devices is conditional. The court may impose a monitoring device as a bail condition for young people who reside in a prescribed trial location and have a proven history of committing indictable offences. These devices are fitted by the Queensland Police Service and monitored by Queensland Corrective Services. However, before any young person is required to wear a device a suitable assessment is conducted by youth justice staff to ensure they are capable of understanding the conditions placed on them and that they have a stable environment in which to live. As part of the ongoing trial the program has already been expanded following Labor's 2024 eligibility criteria changes, which led to a rise in participants.

The bill before us is remarkably narrow. The only amendment proposed is the extension of the eligibility period from four to five years. While this may seem like a straightforward change, it raises larger concerns about the government's planning and commitment to meaningful reform. Stakeholders, including the Youth Advisory Centre, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and the Queensland Family and Child Commission, have expressed strong support for electronic devices as an alternative to remand or being placed in a watch house. They have noted, however, that for these devices to be truly effective they must be accompanied by wraparound support services, as these are critical to addressing the underlying issues of youth offending such as substance abuse, lack of education and exposure to family violence.

Unfortunately, the Crisafulli government's approach to support services remains vague. Programs like Regional Reset and Staying on Track are unlikely to be operational until later this year. While the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support continues to manage existing bail support, prevention and rehabilitation programs, there is a critical need for early intervention and prevention to complement the use of electronic monitoring devices. The absence of a clear time line for the rollout of these programs raises serious concerns. The Crisafulli government must provide the public with concrete plans for Gold Standard Early Intervention to prevent youth from falling deeper into the criminal justice system.

The bill serves as another glaring example of how the Crisafulli LNP government has failed to adequately plan and execute a meaningful legislative program. It is particularly frustrating that, despite


the wideranging impacts of this bill, it contains such a narrow focus. In reality, this bill addresses a single issue: the proposed extension of the term from four to five years. As we have heard from previous submitters, this could have easily and seamlessly been incorporated into previous legislation such as the Making Queensland Safer Bill that was introduced by the Premier and led by the Attorney-General.

While much of the legislation within that bill falls under different ministerial portfolios, the issue of term extension was curiously left out. This oversight may have been the result, as we have heard, of the previous bill being rushed through without sufficient consideration, or it could be due to the failure of the minister to bring the matter to attention. Unfortunately, the true reasons behind this oversight may never be fully understood, as the cabinet submission related to the Making Queensland Safer Laws has yet to be released by the LNP government. It raises questions about whether the LNP government is adequately preparing and planning for future reforms in youth justice.

This bill is not the bold step forward that our state needs. We need more than just a minor amendment to existing legislation; we need a comprehensive, long-term strategy that includes support services, early intervention and prevention programs. While it may be easy to look at young offenders and react with punishment, the reality is far more complex and far more concerning. Children who reoffend are often the victims of circumstances that we as a society have failed to effectively address. Research shows that these children are highly likely to have experienced family violence, poverty, neglect and trauma. They may have lived in unstable or unsuitable environments, faced substance abuse and struggled with disengagement from education and employment. These are not isolated issues; they are factors that are deeply intertwined with the children's ability to navigate life and make positive life choices.

That is not all. Many children who end up in the justice system suffer from serious disabilities or health conditions—conditions that are often undiagnosed or ignored. These challenges add layers of difficulty that prevent them from leading fulfilling, productive lives and make it harder for them to integrate into society in a positive way. Yet, despite the depth of these issues, the current approach often relies on reactive, punitive actions. They are quick to blame the child, to impose harsh penalties and to put them into a system that, more often than not, only deepens their involvement with crime. This approach does not reduce repeat offending, it does not address the underlying causes and, most importantly, it does not increase community safety.

If we are truly invested in reducing crime and making our communities safer, we need to shift our focus. We must stop punishing children for the circumstances they did not choose. Instead, we need to invest in the underlying factors that contribute to their offending. We need increased attention and resources directed towards support systems that address family violence, poverty, neglect, trauma and the unmet health needs of these children. We need to provide stable accommodation, better access to education and early interventions for those with disabilities or health conditions. These are the investments that will not only improve the lives of these children but also reduce recidivism in the long term. These are the solutions that will make our communities safer.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.53 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I know that many members are making a genuine contribution to this debate, but I was just saying to the Treasurer and the member for Lockyer that some of the contributions from those opposite remind me of collective African trypanosomiasis which is transmitted by the tsetse fly. It is a parasitic protozoan disease. The reason I raise this is that it is almost like the Labor opposition here in Queensland have forgotten that there has been a Labor youth crime crisis that has been burning out of control right across Queensland and there are many measures that need to be put in place to deal with that and they have not done that.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear members opposite interjecting—those ministers and members who failed Queensland in relation to the youth crime crisis which has burned out of control across Queensland. There are many measures that have been put in place that will continue to be put in place, and there will be more measures put in place as well to deal with not only youth crime but also recidivist offenders, prevention, rehabilitation and education—a comprehensive suite of strategies to deal with 10 years of failure by the Labor government here in Queensland.

Introduced on 20 February 2025 by the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 was subsequently referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for consideration. As articulated by the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee in its tabled report No. 6, the primary objective of this legislation is to extend for 12 months the expiry of section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act 1992.

It is section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act which allows a court, in certain circumstances, to impose the use of an electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail for a child.

I note that, having received both written and oral briefings from the department of youth justice, written public submissions as well as evidence from stakeholders at a public briefing, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee was satisfied that this legislation gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of parliament as required by the Legislative Standards Act 1992. Further, the committee was satisfied that the bill is compatible with human rights as defined in the Human Rights Act 2019. Accordingly, the committee in its report made one recommendation—that is, that the bill be passed.

The Crisafulli Liberal National Party government's extension of the electronic monitoring trial for youth offenders demonstrates responsible and decisive action to ensure that Queensland has the necessary data to conduct a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of electronic monitoring as a condition of bail. That is a very important consideration in Queensland—that there is meaningful data and a meaningful evaluation with respect to electronic monitoring. The Crisafulli LNP state government is having to act where the previous Labor state government failed time and again to properly implement a comprehensive electronic monitoring program, leaving Queenslanders vulnerable to the consequences of repeat youth offending.

Central to this legislation is the extension of the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders by 12 months, setting a new expiry date to 30 April 2026. This extension is important as it will provide the necessary time for a detailed and thorough review—one that is grounded in evidence and not in political convenience. By way of background and with respect to the electronic monitoring framework, a youth offender must meet the following conditions to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition. The youth offender must: be at least 15 years old; be charged with a prescribed indictable offence; have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months; and consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device.

The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is determined to ensure that a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of this initiative can take place, and to do that you have to ensure there is sufficient quantity and quality of data. It is what any good government would do, and for that the Crisafulli LNP state government makes no apologies. Unlike the former Labor state government's rushed changes and previous mistakes, the LNP state government is committed to conducting a thorough review because Queensland has already begun to see the potential of electronic monitoring when it is applied correctly. It has the ability to reduce reoffending, provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and ultimately improve community safety.

It must be said that the electronic monitoring trial has had a long and complicated history which has been consistently marked by abysmal failures from the former Labor state government. When electronic monitoring was first introduced as a two-year trial in 2021, it was doomed from the outset due to the former Labor state government's poor design and implementation. It failed to capture enough youth offenders to even complete a meaningful evaluation. As was often the case during Labor's time in power, the Liberal National Party warned the former Labor government that their approach was inadequate, but in typical fashion the former Labor state government refused to listen.

Labor's own review of the 2021 trial was a dismal failure. It could not even confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour because not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear electronic monitoring devices as a condition of their bail. It was an embarrassing debacle, yet the former Labor state government persisted in its ineffective and illogical approach. As we know, by 2023, when it became irrefutable that Labor's first attempt was a failure, the former Labor government extended the trial for another two years and made what can only be described as minor, piecemeal changes. True to form, Labor's approach failed to make any meaningful impact.

Incredibly, in a rare public rebuke, the then police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, in February of last year actually called out Labor's failures, urging the former Labor state government to re-examine electronic monitoring for youth offenders, stating—

I do think electronic monitoring devices do need to be re-looked at... We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail. And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant. We're not of the view that every child should have an electronic monitoring device—we're talking about ... serious offending.

...

We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending. These are one of the preventive measures. I've already spoken to the minister so that we revisit what is happening in this space.

In effect, the writing was on the wall, yet the former Labor state government, desperate to appear as if they were taking action, responded in August 2024 by amending the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Regulation. These changes by Labor added further trial locations and made adjustments to the parameters yet again. Importantly, the former Labor state government deliberately chose to alter the trial and expand the parameters, but did nothing to extend the timeline to ensure a full and proper evaluation. Expanding the parameters of the trial without extending the trial period meant that there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. It was a deliberate oversight—one that put political expediency over public safety.

Ms Grace: Wrap it up.

Dr ROWAN: Again, when those members opposite interject, they fail to listen to their legacy, a legacy of harm that has been caused to Queenslanders, harm that has been caused by their youth crime crisis here in Queensland. Labor still does not accept the fact that Queenslanders judged them and judged them decisively at the last state election. That is why they continue to not listen to the evidence which happens there. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing victims of crime—

Ms Grace: You can come back. Come on, wrap it up.

Dr ROWAN: I hear again the shadow minister saying, 'Wrap it up'—

Ms Grace: Yeah, come on. It's lunchtime. You can come back.

Dr ROWAN:—because the shadow minister does not want to hear the failure under the shadow minister—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Excuse me, members. It is my call. There is one minute and 46 seconds to go. Minister, you have the call.

Dr ROWAN: The shadow minister opposite is continuing to interject and wants to wrap it up because she does not want to have the changes here in Queensland when it comes to the youth crime crisis. I say to the member for McConnel: apologise to the people of Queensland. Apologise to those who have been the victims of crime here in Queensland, those who have been the victims of youth crime—youth crime created by the former Labor government. They are all sitting there opposite, all denying it. As I said in my earlier contribution, it is like having a collective case of African trypanosomiasis sleeping sickness which is infecting all of them right across there.

Ms Grace: Relevance!

Dr ROWAN: It is a real tragedy to see here—a once great Labor Party in Queensland, on the decline. They are complete deniers when it comes to all of the crime crisis—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I have made the decision to go to the end of the time on the clock. Please, if you could just give us the decency of getting there, or I will continue to stand up and make it longer.

Dr ROWAN: I was saying in relation to those Labor members opposite denying their own youth crime crisis here in Queensland, the Liberal National Party state government will continue to implement measures to clean up Labor's mess across the board, whether that is matters to do with this legislation or other measures also investing in prevention, rehabilitation and education programs. We know that is vitally important for community safety. As such this is important legislation—

Ms Grace: You haven't done any.

Dr ROWAN: I know the shadow minister, the member for McConnel, does not like to hear it, but the reality is this is Labor's youth crime crisis. We will clean it up. We will do that on behalf of Queenslanders. We will restore community safety. The Labor opposition has done nothing when it comes to trying to rebuild after their devastating election loss. We know they are in pain. We know they are hurting. We know they are divided—

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.


Dr ROWAN:—and I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.04 pm to 2.00 pm.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Cameras in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that television pool cameras will be filming portions of matters of public interest and government business this afternoon.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Western Queensland, Weather Events; Federal Election; Comments by Leader of the Opposition, Clarification and Apology

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders are tough. Unfortunately, this year we have had to be tougher than most. Our thoughts are with the communities of Barcoo, Bulloo, Longreach, Paroo, Quilpie and Winton. The flooding we have seen has been historic as will be the impact it will have, particularly on our farmers. I want to acknowledge the hard work of our emergency services and volunteers who continue to be on the front line for each and every natural disaster we experience. Our community recovery teams will now be with those who have been impacted every step of the way. I speak on behalf of everyone on this side of the House when I say: we are with you for the long haul.

In just 31 days, Australia is faced with a choice—a choice between Anthony Albanese, who will build Australia's future, and Peter Dutton, who will cut everything except taxes. Peter Dutton has done what most LNP leaders do not: he said the quiet part out loud. He admitted he has a plan to cut tens of thousands of jobs—more than 41,000, in fact. Thousands of those would be Queensland jobs. That is people in our hardworking Service Australia centres, in health centres, at Medicare and in Defence. The impact on Queensland's economy will be huge and the impact on the everyday lives of Queenslanders will be even greater. That is a cost Queenslanders cannot afford. In this House this morning, the Treasurer took glee in weaselling out of answering questions when he was asked if he supported these cuts. Instead, the Treasurer talked a tall tale about the Queensland Public Service. It was a simple yes or no question: will you stand up to Peter Dutton and stand up for Queensland jobs?

This morning the Premier ruled out changes to the work from home arrangements for Queensland workers. That put him at odds with Peter Dutton's plan to force public servants back into the office. Meanwhile, we learn he would prefer to work from home from Kirribilli House. Why could those opposite not speak out against these planned cuts? Of course, we know that Peter Dutton has form. He was the health minister who cut \$50 billion in funding from our hospitals. He was the health minister who tried to end bulk-billing. He was the health minister who tried to make medicine more expensive. There is nothing scarier than the thought of this Premier and his puppetmaster, Peter Dutton, doing it all again: by cutting access to free, accessible health services; by cutting our new and expanded hospitals; by sending Queensland Health backwards; making it harder to see a GP; and increasing wait times at our busy emergency departments.

Just last week *9News* revealed what we already knew: the Crisafulli LNP government was going to cut our new and expanded hospitals. It was set to be a multibillion dollar pipeline to deliver 2,200 beds, and last week the health minister admitted he would not deliver it. This morning the Premier agreed. He announced he had decided it was simply 'undeliverable'. It has been reported that the Queensland Cancer Centre has been delayed until 2031. This dedicated facility would have delivered critical cancer care to some of our sickest and most vulnerable patients. It was set to be a game changer, but now it is on the backburner. Health insiders have told us that the team that was doing the planning work for this critical project has been disbanded and reassigned.

9News also reported that the Bundaberg Hospital is being cut back and services downgraded. It was due to have more than 400 beds and deliver level 5 services for the region—now it is being watered down. It is a far cry from the media release the LNP issued on 16 October last year in which the now Deputy Premier claimed that 'only the LNP will deliver this hospital so residents of Bundaberg have access to world class health services'. The same media release said it would have 121 new overnight beds, a larger emergency department, new operating rooms, research spaces and more diagnostic services. Now the people of Bundaberg do not know which of those elements will be cut, and they have a right to know.

In my community, the Redcliffe Hospital expansion has been put on hold. The site has been cleared of all machinery, materials and workers. Workers for the subcontractors on the site, including Multiplex, have all been made redundant. When you are trying to build hospitals, you do not sack the

tradies who are there to do the work. It has been almost two weeks since this revelation and Queenslanders are still in the dark about what will happen at Redcliffe Hospital.

We know that those opposite commissioned a review to determine what they should cut. We know that review cost Queenslanders \$4,000 a day. Media reports tell us that it has been sitting on the health minister's desk for more than 20 days, but it is being hidden from Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve to know which hospitals are being cut by those opposite. Before the election the Premier said there would be no cuts to health, but he has broken that promise. Queenslanders are just starting to see the cuts to projects and services coming from those opposite. It speaks to a broader issue within the Crisafulli LNP government—an issue of integrity. Before the election he said, 'When I say something it means something.' He said, 'I'm a big believer that if you say something on one side of the election, you follow it through,' but on so many fronts Queenslanders have been let down. It is like with their promise of rail to Maroochydore—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. Now we learn that their plan is really just a bus to Maroochydore. That sounds a lot like a 'shortcut' to me! In fact, those opposite might like to know that the Sunshine Coast already has buses. It is clear that, day in and day out, the Premier was willing to mislead Queenslanders. He knew he never intended to keep those promises but he continued to mislead Queenslanders.


What is next? Is it Peter Dutton's nuclear power plan? They said that was 'not part of our plan', but rail to Maroochydore was part of their plan and building the hospitals that were promised was part of their plan. It sounds to me that you cannot trust a single thing they have said. Of course, Peter Dutton has been very clear that he will override them. He said himself that he would override them. That is what we should expect if the LNP are successful at the federal election. We know that Queensland law currently requires a plebiscite of Queenslanders if there is evidence of a plan from a Commonwealth government to build a nuclear reactor here. Those opposite should confirm whether they will comply with that existing Queensland law or whether they will try to change the law to allow Peter Dutton to build those reactors.

Ms Grace: We can't believe them anyway.

Mr MILES: I will take that interjection from the member for McConnel. As if anything they say is worth the words or the paper it is written on. As I have said, this election is a clear choice. In Peter Dutton's own seat of Dickson, which is my own community, 80,000 people would pay higher taxes under Peter Dutton than under Labor. You have to at least give him credit, though. At least he has been honest about his plans, and that puts him one up on the Queensland Premier.

While I am on my feet, I say that on 19 February, when talking about the member for Kawana's register of interests, I made reference to the fact that the member did not disclose his conflict. It has been brought to my attention that the statement was incorrect because the member did disclose it on their register of interests, something that I did note in my contribution, as outlined in *Hansard*. For the benefit of the House, my contribution was in respect of the member for Kawana's direct disclosure of the conflict to the people of the Sunshine Coast as opposed to the register of interests document. However, for the dignity of the House, I retract the statement and apologise for my inadvertent error.

Leader of the Opposition

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.10 pm): Isn't it fascinating that we have an opposition leader who has an opportunity to let his team know what his plan is, to let his team know how long this opposition leader is actually going to stay in that job and to actually talk about issues that are relevant to the people of Queensland? I will acknowledge that the opposition leader did talk about the people of Western Queensland and the hardship they are going through for one minute but then he concentrated on 'Peter Dutton, Peter Dutton, Peter Dutton', and then there was about six months of 'Bring on Peter Dutton.' Honestly, if Albo is as good as this guy, come on!

I will say that this opposition leader refuses to acknowledge his and his entire team's contribution to Labor's youth crime crisis that has riddled this state. There is one question that we on this side would really like to know: how is the caucus meeting going? We know what happened last time: we know how many of them—there were 16 it was reported—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Actually, opposition leader—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Only one person has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This has to be a test for the opposition leader. The last time we had Making Queensland Safer Laws before the House we know the shadow attorney-general went against her own submission in—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I just asked for order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—the caucus meeting. Then it was reported there were 16 members of the Labor Party who decided not to support the opposition leader or not to support the shadow attorney-general; we are not quite sure. Here is a test for the opposition leader: does he think he can beat 16 this time? Is he going to support the victims across the state? Is he going to support the people of Queensland? Is he going to support the Crisafulli government and our strong action for making Queensland safer? We were elected with a very much humbled—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Are you kidding? We are hearing from a failed police officer over there—

Mr Minnikin: Minister?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Of course, Mr Speaker. I misspoke and I apologise to the House. We are hearing from a failed police minister who oversaw the reduction of coppers out there on the street keeping us safe. Instead, what has the Crisafulli government done? We have actually put more police out there protecting communities just like mine that had to go through the absolute debacle on the main street of Kingaroy and then going into Wondai on New Year's Eve. What was happening? What did our police minister do? He sent in a flying squad.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Honestly, what your police minister did was nothing. Instead, what we have here is a police minister who sent in a flying squad—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, thank you, member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—and tidied up the mess. Guess what? They were also charged under the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: So beat that!

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove, I cautioned you. You are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In all honesty, what we have seen and what we are looking for from the opposition, the laziest, most resourced opposition that Queensland has ever had—I just want them to work out whose side they are on.


Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, that is enough of the theatrics.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Are they on the side of Queenslanders or is the failed opposition leader not telling this House that he is heading to Petrie in the federal election, because he spends more time talking about federal politics than Queensland?

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for Veterans, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): The Premier has said that when he says something, it means something. The problem is, time and again Queenslanders see the opposite from the Premier. That is because Premier David Crisafulli says one thing and then does something entirely different afterwards. No wonder Queenslanders are confused and increasingly suspicious about this LNP government. 'Who is this person who was elected

Premier?', they say. Is the member for Broadwater a chameleon? Is Premier David Crisafulli a bad faith, bad actor from a B-grade Hollywood movie? Is the Premier just a cheap snake-oil salesman?

Let's look at what the evidence tells us. On health, the Premier said in this House, in this place, that there would be no health cuts, but the expanded Bundaberg Hospital is now in jeopardy. 'Undeliverable' is how the Premier described it in the House this morning. When the Premier says the LNP says something is undeliverable, it means that the Bundaberg Hospital is going, going, gone. The Kilcoy Hospital no longer has after-hours doctors and Premier Crisafulli has cut incentives to get frontline health workers into the regions. At the Gladstone nurse led clinic the Premier has reduced the operating hours from what the previous Labor government had announced. Since their election, Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP have proven that when they say something, it means absolutely nothing.

There is a report into new and expanded hospitals on health minister Tim Nicholls' desk and it is about time he released it to Queenslanders. Delivering new hospital beds is just too important. The LNP have walked away from their promise to deliver 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. And it is Queenslanders who always pay the price for LNP cuts.

On housing, the Premier said he would 'heal the housing crisis'. Then Queensland's ultimate NIMBY, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, became the first planning minister in recent history to repeal a ministerial infrastructure designation, stopping the immediate delivery of nearly 100 new, affordable homes in his own electorate of Kawana—NILBY, not in the LNP's backyard. On his biggest promise, the Premier said he would have crime fixed by Christmas, but that did not happen. On the weekend the government announced more changes to the LNP's rushed community safety laws—laws that were drafted by the Premier before the election, laws that he refused to release publicly before the election and laws in relation to which the Premier would not listen to expert advice.


On the Olympics, the Premier said time and time again there would be no new stadium—absolute, clear, unequivocal. However, after the election it was, 'Well, there will be one,'—another broken promise. For the last 150 days Premier David Crisafulli has not shut up about the Olympics. My hope is that the LNP will now stop obsessing about it and actually focus on what matters to Queenslanders. People do not want to hear about the glitz and the Premier glorifying himself, sitting at the big media table seeking the reflected glory of real Queenslanders, achievers and champions like he had won a gold medal himself.

Queenslanders are sick of listening to this Premier publicly wrestling about his own conscience, about all of his broken promises, about all of his dishonest statements—the statements the Premier made over and over before the election that he has now had to admit were false and wrong. Queenslanders are absolutely sick of it. Queenslanders want the LNP to focus on things that matter to them including more hospital beds, more homes, better schools and reducing the cost of living—an issue about which the LNP has said absolutely nothing.

The evidence is overwhelming. The Premier does not mean what he says. While it is clear the Premier wants Queenslanders to believe that he occupies the high moral ground, it has become equally clear that no-one bearing the name 'member for Broadwater' actually lives there. On Premier Crisafulli's trip to the high moral ground, the Premier's moral compass failed. Premier Crisafulli took a wrong turn and ended up back where he began—in the moral abyss where the LNP wallows, revels and resides. The moral of this sad story for Queenslanders is: do not listen to what David Crisafulli says. Do not listen to what this Premier says; watch what he does. What Premier Crisafulli says is not what he means. What the Premier does—his backflips and his broken promises—that is what Premier Crisafulli really means.

(Time expired)

Queensland Police Service, Female Officers; Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.21 pm): I take this opportunity to acknowledge an important milestone that the Queensland police celebrated yesterday: 60 years since the first sworn female officers were inducted into the Queensland Police Service. The induction ceremony of eight female officers took place on 31 March 1965 at Petrie Terrace depot in Brisbane, heralding a significant step forward in the evolution of the Queensland Police Service. I offer my personal congratulations to all female officers who have served or continue to serve with distinction.

Today is an important day in the Crisafulli government's continuing commitment to the fight against crime in Queensland. In line with our promise to Queenslanders last year, we will be introducing

legislation to extend the range of offences included in our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Relying on expert legal advice, we believe there are valid and compelling reasons to take action against further criminal behaviour to ensure that those who commit offences face the consequences. After a decade of watering down laws, creating a generation of untouchable offenders benefiting from Labor's derelict approach to crime, it is now time to reverse the trend and put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders.

There are two proposed offences that I want to draw to the attention of this House: using a motor vehicle to damage an emergency services vehicle; and endangering police while driving a motor vehicle. Both proposed offences cover the situation where motor vehicles, mostly stolen, are used as weapons against police or other emergency services workers. Those who are seeking to protect the community become the victims of criminal behaviour. I recall that on a recent visit to a Townsville police station at lunchtime a traffic branch officer was rammed by an offender in a stolen vehicle and taken to hospital. Previously there have been incidences in Townsville where a VKR comms call has sent every police officer in the district code 1—that is, the most urgent duty driving—back to the station to hide from young offenders in stolen cars who were hunting them. That is unacceptable and it has to change. It is not normal.

In what civilised society is such behaviour accepted? In what civilised society should the rights of these offenders take precedence over the rights of those they sought to injure or intimidate? The answer is simply none. Once again, while situations such as these became normalised under the former Labor government, we are committed to turning the tide on recidivist young violent offenders. As I have indicated, there have been 53 instances in the past year of the ramming of police vehicles—the targeting of police with deliberate acts by thugs with little regard for the safety of those under attack. These laws will protect frontline emergency services workers from being ruthlessly targeted by juveniles who have no fear because there were no consequences for their actions.


Our incredible emergency services workers deserve better protection from those who recklessly and intentionally use a motor vehicle as a weapon. We support our police and will ensure those who endanger their lives are held accountable. Only the LNP can be trusted to strengthen our legal and youth justice systems. We know that this next tranche will help bring down the number of victims of crime. This is just the next step in our comprehensive plan to make Queensland safer. The Acting Police Commissioner has reiterated his support for these reforms, saying—

We see this behaviour all too often, and while our officers are tactically trained to respond, a motor vehicle can cause serious harm to anyone in its path. The Queensland Police Service welcomes the proposed new law holding reckless juveniles to account.

I challenge those opposite to support these measures, and in particular to put their support behind those who have pledged to protect and assist the community and admit that the policy prescription of the last decade failed to restore the balance in favour of victims, not the offender. This is a challenge to the Leader of the Opposition to show some leadership and bring his rabble of a team with him. We saw what happened just before Christmas when those opposite, as has been reported, were tearing each other apart when it came to giving the people of Queensland the tough laws they had been calling for, to give our police the tough laws they have been screaming for.

The former government was the creator of the youth crime crisis in Queensland. Those opposite did not just sit by and watch it happen; they continually watered down the laws and caused it to happen, tipping the balance of power away from police, victims and communities and towards young repeat violent offenders. I call on the Leader of the Opposition and all those opposite today to support our police and support our laws.

Health System

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.26 pm): We remember Premier Crisafulli saying in this House on 10 December that there would be no health cuts. We remember him saying that he would sign up to the budget last year—2024—holus-bolus, before he even saw it. We heard him being clear about putting doctors and nurses back in charge, to use his own words. Remember those words. Remember them, because since those words all we have seen is cuts to the health sector: the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, cut; funding to the Transfer Initiative Nurse program in emergency departments, cut; nurse-led clinic hours, cut at three different locations; gender-affirming care, suspended; pill testing, cut; funding for the perinatal unit in Townsville, cut.

The Townsville Hospital expansion—a very significant thing for the people of Townsville—has been put back on the never-never by this government. When asked yesterday at the health committee, the deputy director-general of Queensland Health said that he was unable to say when the expansion

would open and that it was unknown when it would open, despite the protestations of the health minister. It has been put on the never-never; it is a cut. There is no confirmed timeline there, yet we have not heard a word—not a peep—from those Townsville MPs who have just been elected backing in their hospital, defending their hospital and defending the health of their constituents.


Last week *9News* released a leak about the Queensland Cancer Centre being put back by three years, yet what we saw today in question time was the Premier clearly foreshadowing that that would be the case. However, yesterday at the health committee his director-general was not aware of any delays and the deputy director-general said that construction would start midyear this year. So who is telling the truth: the Premier or the Queensland health department? Somebody is not telling the truth and the Premier needs to clarify. If his own department can say that the Queensland Cancer Centre construction will start midyear, how is that consistent with the Premier's comments in the chamber today? Who is telling the truth? I suspect it is not the Premier.

The Bundaberg Hospital was also subject to a leak to Channel 9 News last week—that it was being descoped. Also yesterday morning at the health committee the deputy director-general said that there had been no descoping and that there had been no change to the scope, yet today what we saw was the Premier clearly foreshadowing that there would be changes to the Bundaberg Hospital scope. Again, who is telling the truth—Queensland Health or the Premier? They cannot both be telling the truth. It is up to the Premier to clarify this contradiction between his words, his previous commitments and the words of the Queensland health department director-general and deputy director-general to the parliamentary health committee.

Pill testing is being cut. We know it saves lives. The AMAQ knows it saves lives, the Royal College of GPs knows it saves lives, as does the Pharmaceutical Society. Remember what the LNP said about doctors being back in charge? It seems it is only when it is convenient for them. When they want to cut the pill testing, they do not listen to doctors. Recently on Radio National we saw a train wreck of an interview with the health minister. There were 49 ums and ahs in about six minutes. He was clearly not across his brief when he said there was not a lot of evidence to show pill testing is effective. There is clear evidence from the Canberra trial, interstate trials and international trials. There is ample evidence that they are very effective in reducing illicit drug use and stopping deaths and harm. It is something that should be retained in this state.

Nitazenes—very powerful opioids—are being detected in Queensland and other states. Pill testing is the first identification of that drug to warn people and issue alerts. That is another reason we need pill testing. The minister is totally clueless. He thought it had been identified by the department. It had actually been identified by CheQpoint, the pill-testing service. Again the minister was not across his brief in terms of this issue. He said it would not help in Rockhampton and Townsville. I met with CheQpoint—unlike the minister and director-general of the department—and they said they could go to anywhere we want them to. Any regional city would benefit from this preventive health measure. This side believes in harm minimisation and protecting lives, not cutting health services as this Premier is doing regularly.

Western Queensland, Weather Events

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.31 pm): Today I rise with a heavy heart to speak about the current devastating floods in Western Queensland. I wish to share with this House, for the benefit of all, the deeply moving words of one of our fellow Queenslanders whose words reflect the profound emotional toll of these floods. They were, in part, shared yesterday by the *Courier-Mail*. Unashamedly these are the direct thoughts and emotions of Adavale resident, Emily Green, used with her permission—

I always thought grief was pretty straightforward.

Reserved only for the mourning of the loss of family members, friends and pets.

Relationships, friendships, life stages even.

I didn't realise you could feel such immense grief for innate objects and moments in time.

Grief for the places that felt like home, smells and sights that transported you back to alternate realities.

The thousands of cows, horses, kangaroos, lizards and birds that survived the driest of times and now won't make it to see the green grass growing.

Camp kitchens that lured long-faced and baggy-eyed crew in with its aromas of bacon and eggs each sunrise.

Fuel bowsers that we leant on each morning, weary eyed and exhausted from the days gone and the days yet to come.

Avgas drums that once sat full and ready to be emptied into the bellies of thirsty choppers, the smell of it seeping into your shirt sleeves.


Shed walls that housed endless arguments, late-night repair jobs and ever-changing plans for the day unfolding.

Vehicles that safely carried our babies, ringers, truckies and the boss alike over kilometres of mulga and drought-stricken land.
 Trucks that tackled treacherous terrain, delivering breeders to calve out and grow the operation year by year.
 Building on the legacies of the generations gone before us.
 Helicopters that became our eyes in the sky, from guiding first year ringers through their first muster to carefully casting eyes over growing concerns of dwindling feed and struggling stock.
 Motorbikes determined to buck even the most talented rider off at any given moment, and afternoons spent idling along the tail of a mob...

Welcome mats and front doorsteps that greeted friends, family and colleagues with open and inviting arms, toddler's first footsteps and hungry horses waiting at the gate for a carrot.
 Living room floors where children played and bickered, kitchen benches once covered in flour from a fresh batch of scones for the freezing mustering crew to warm their bellies with...
 And that same damned gutter that you had to drop back to first gear for.
 Every...time.
 All of it gone.
 The water came and went, washing away every milestone, memory and moment in its wake.
 Leaving behind inches of mud and miles of destruction.
 Shaking even the sturdiest and strongest of mindsets.
 The flood, like an unfamiliar and ferocious monster of the river beds managed to wrap its ugly tentacles around every community, township and station in its path.
 Pulling them under and dragging them into the depths of raging water with incredible force.
 As the water begins to recede and the boneyards of our communities and homes emerge from the earth, good-intentioned people offer words of encouragement.
 'All replaceable', they say. 'At least your family are safe', they say.
 And while this is truthful and obviously the indisputable positive to derive from a dire situation, the reality is that no, not all of the victims to this water are replaceable.
 And while yes, my family and the broader community are safe and dry and for that I'm eternally grateful, we are allowed to feel the sting of the chaos left behind.
 We should be able to express our despair for the loss of objects and items that shaped our lives.
 We can recognise and mourn the loss of the livestock that we spent our lives caring for.
 Repairable? Yes.
 Fixable? Mostly.
 Replaceable? Never.
 Day to day routines became memories overnight.
 Favourite belongings now muddied and mouldy.
 Multi-millions of dollars worth of improvements, infrastructure and livestock swept up and discarded like scrap metal and rubbish.
 And the financial burden yet to even materialise and rear its repugnant head.
 The heartbreak for the hundreds of years of graziers hard work poured into the land gone before me.
 The realisation of the significant rebuilding, finances and effort that has to eventuate to ensure stability for the futures of our next generation...
 The torment of remembering the stock that we couldn't protect and their final moments before succumbing to Mother Nature herself.
 She's a powerful lady, and this event has shown our nation what she is capable of.
 What she gives, she can just as soon take away.
 Our Western Queenslanders are begging her now to give us a break.
 We know we asked for some rain ol' girl,
 And we don't want to sound ungrateful,
 But you couldn't have gone a bit easier on us Mother Nature?

Members, Emily Green.

Gladstone Electorate, Services

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.36 pm): I take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Gregory and the contribution he made. They are doing it tough out in Western Queensland.

Today I rise to talk about the repercussions and serious consequences for the people in the Gladstone region from the actions of the LNP government. These repercussions are not good for Gladstone. Let me start by talking about the nurse-led clinic that we have in Gladstone. I acknowledge the former health minister, Shannon Fentiman, when she came to Gladstone and announced that we were getting one of the first nurse-led walk-in clinics in Gladstone. My community was super excited

about the opportunity, after you had finished a long day at work, to walk in with your family to see these nurses who could help you out from 8 am through to 10 pm, seven days a week.

When the LNP got into government, it opened the clinic. The first cut that it made as a government was to the nurse-led clinic in Gladstone, opening only six days a week in business hours. The people of Gladstone live in an industrial town. They want to be able to go and see specialist nurses after hours. The first cut that this government made, in its plan to cut health services here in Queensland, was in my community of Gladstone. The people of Gladstone will not forget that.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: Moving on to the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme, we acknowledge what the member for Callide is saying. We did do it tough trying to attract specialists to come and help us deliver babies during that critical time when you could not even get one to come to Australia, let alone find one on the market to come to a regional community. It is a shame that the member for Callide continues to talk down the health service. They have been in government nearly 150 days and still cannot get the Biloela clinic back open to deliver babies.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, I am struggling to hear you for the noise that is coming from my left.

Mr BUTCHER: This attraction fund that was set up was designed to get specialists to come to regional Queensland. The first thing that this government did was to cut that program in regional Queensland. I would have thought the member for Callide would have been cranky about this. Where is the anger now? Where is the debate on why we cannot get doctors out to Biloela? There is none!

Turning now to the Port of Gladstone, a fantastic port that delivers for the communities of Queensland and, in particular, South-East Queensland, in terms of the amount of bulk that goes out of there that delivers back into the state to help us with our health and our education.

What did the LNP government do to the Port of Gladstone board? Five members of that board, including the chair, were sacked. Not one representative on that board comes from the Gladstone region. Not one person on the board of the Gladstone Ports Corporation can speak for Gladstone—what it means for Gladstone and what it can do for Gladstone. The LNP stand for getting rid of the people they do not want and putting their mates on boards. We in Gladstone know how disgusting that is.

I move on to Powerlink and the cuts to the training hub in Gladstone. A stakeholder sent me a letter about Powerlink in which she states—

Powerlink is currently reviewing the design scope of the Gladstone Hub—
and we know what that means; it means cuts—

after deciding not to pursue the funding commitment made by the previous State Government. This decision ensures the project progresses and provides certainty to the industry, to the region, and our people.


I do not know how, when they are going to cut the project. This is disgraceful. She continues—

We remain steadfast in our commitment to a permanent presence in the region, growing our employees and capabilities, including apprentices.

How on earth can you maintain apprentices in an environment where they will not be able to learn, as the project that was being delivered by the Labor government has now been cut? I remind the new members that the LNP ran against me a candidate who worked at the Gladstone Ports Corporation. He said that his experience as a sustainability specialist allowed him to understand what it would mean for the port to be leased. That is their legacy.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.41 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering exactly what we promised we would deliver. We promised Queenslanders that the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time would be law before Christmas. We promised Queenslanders that we would deliver on a further five categories of offending before Christmas. We also promised Queenslanders that there would be an expert legal panel to review further tranches and continue to strengthen Adult Crime, Adult Time. This week we are delivering on that promise, with the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time. The Expert Legal Panel

has worked methodically in considering additional offences to be included in Adult Crime, Adult Time. They have engaged stakeholders and undertaken a thorough consultation process. They have provided the Crisafulli government with advice and we have accepted that advice. This week, 20 further serious offences will be added to the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

We always said there would be further tranches of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. We will not stop strengthening our laws, because we promised Queenslanders that there would be fewer victims of crime in this state. We promised Queenslanders that we would work every single day to unwind a decade of Labor watering down our youth justice laws, creating a generation of repeat young offenders who knew that their rights exceeded the rights of victims—a generation of repeat young offenders who continued to terrorise our communities.

The latest statistics show that our strong laws are beginning to reveal some green shoots. The latest police data shows small decreases in the number of stolen cars, break-ins, robberies and unlawful wounding incidents across Queensland. From 1 December 2024 to 28 February 2025 in this state there were 453 fewer stolen vehicles than there were under Labor in the previous year, an 8.2 per cent reduction in the number of stolen cars. There were 1,033 fewer break-ins, an 8.4 per cent reduction in the number of break-ins. There was a 4.8 per cent reduction in robberies and a 16.9 per cent reduction in unlawful wounding. This data shows us that we are on the right path, but there is so much more to be done. That is why the next round of Adult Crime, Adult Time will be introduced this week.

We are seeing the green shoots in our courts. We heard the Attorney-General speak of magistrates starting to reference our tough new laws when sentencing youth offenders. All of this is really important. Anecdotally, we hear that offenders in youth detention centres are talking about having to do adult time for their crimes.

Today, the question for the Labor Party opposite is: will they support Adult Crime, Adult Time? Will they stand with Queenslanders who backed in these tough laws and cried out for this change? Will they support Adult Crime, Adult Time or will they continue to be dysfunctional? Will they continue to disagree amongst themselves? Will we see the same chaos and crisis that we saw when the member for McConnel had to step in and save a caucus meeting as about six of their members threatened to walk out and the member for Cooper threatened to leave the party and go to the crossbench?


Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs GERBER: Will we see the continued factional infighting, with members of the left at war with one another? When the opposition leader stood up, all he could talk about was federal politics that had nothing to do with Queensland. Maybe it was an audition for the federal parliament.

The question for those opposite is: will they support these tough laws? Will they support the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time or will they continue to talk crime down in this state? Will they continue to perpetuate fear? Will they continue to deny the voices of victims and deny the crime crisis that they started 10 years ago when they weakened our youth justice laws, when they removed detention as a last resort, when they put 17-year-olds into our youth detention centres and when they closed the courts to victims and their families, locking victims out of justice. Adult Crime, Adult Time is everything we promised for Queenslanders and it is showing good signs.

(Time expired)

Health Services

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.46 pm): When Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP say something, it means nothing. I think the QNMU found that out this week. At least, that is the conclusion I drew today when I read their open letter to the *Courier-Mail*, which states—

Mr Crisafulli made this promise to Queensland because he knows it's key to having enough nurses and midwives to provide safe, quality care.

David Crisafulli and the LNP have walked away from their promises to nurses and midwives. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Image, undated, of a letter from the Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, Ms Sarah Beaman, to the Premier and Minister for Veterans, Hon. David Crisafulli, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Tim Nicholls, regarding Queensland's nursing and midwifery workforce.

I stand here proudly as part of the team that delivered safe nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios. In fact, I stand here as the only nurse in this parliament to have voted for those laws.

Hope over fear: we all much remember that slogan. When I speak to parents of teens who are transitioning, they have another slogan they would like the LNP to adopt: evidence over ideology. Cutting the services at the gender clinic has to be one of the cruellest cuts. I met a mum and her teen at a clinic on the day that the health minister made the decision to cut those services. They had been waiting for an appointment for months. They were sent home and have been offered a quarterly psychology appointment instead. The mum and the teen were devastated. The impact on the teen has been immediate and severe. The mum asked me to pass on to the House the message that she would rather have a live son than a dead daughter. That is how serious this is.

Was this cut based on evidence? I could not get a straight answer from the Health director-general yesterday in a committee hearing. While it is very normal to review clinical practice and update it based on the latest evidence, it is not normal to stop a treatment while that is occurring. That might occur if there is evidence of serious safety concerns, but the Health director-general would speak only in generalities and gave no specific evidence of any harms to any young people who are on this form of treatment in Queensland, so I guess the decision was based on ideology and not evidence.

However, the Health director-general did answer a few other questions that we had for him. He noted that unfunded health commitments were his biggest concern. I wonder what is being prepared for the chopping block. Is Labor's hospital big build facing the chop? How will you fix ramping if you do not deliver more hospital beds? We have already done all the heavy lifting in the Queensland Ambulance Service: employing more paramedics and patient transport officers; building more ambulance stations; providing more vehicles; guaranteeing funding for LifeFlight for the next 10 years; establishing transfer nurses, which you folks want to cut; and setting up medical support hubs and the virtual ED, which every QAS officer I meet raves about.


In order to fix ramping, more beds need to be built. The director-general confirmed cabinet is considering the Sangster report, which reviewed the health infrastructure program. What is at risk? Perhaps the member for Bundaberg should tell his community not to get too excited about a new hospital. I wonder if the member for Toowoomba North's mate with the money from the southside will take away his hospital. Remember, that is the one he bellowed about over and over again at a million decibels for 10 years in here. What about the member for Coomera? When he was not pursuing his interest in amateur photography, he was in this very chamber bellowing about hospitals. Is his hospital safe from the Deputy Premier, the bloke who really seems to be running the party?

There was good news for the member for Redcliffe yesterday in the committee. Queensland Health confirmed that the rumours she has been spreading about the new hospital and the car park not going ahead are absolutely false. That is good news, yet her electorate might be the only one on that side of the House that actually gets some completed infrastructure. The Townsville University Hospital, the Cairns surgical centre, the Mackay Hospital expansion and the Prince Charles Hospital—are all these projects under threat? When the member for Mackay makes his next exciting video, we might find out the answer to that.

Let's be clear: in order to fix ramping, more beds need to be built and more infrastructure needs to be invested in. Not all of our Big Build was about fixing ramping. The Queensland Cancer Centre would have had 150 beds at a cancer excellence and research centre. That would have put us on par with Peter MacCallum in Melbourne and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. I seriously hope the Sangster report does not take the centre away from the people of Queensland.

As with the hours of the nurse-led clinics, as with pill testing, as with the gender clinic, I suspect that, if cabinet releases the Sangster report, the executive summary will contain just one word—'cuts'. I suspect it will be somewhat out of character that when David Crisafulli and the LNP say 'cuts' they will mean it!

Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.51 pm): I stand here proud to be part of a team that puts victims front and centre. We are working together each day to make our community safer, and the introduction of the next stage of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws this afternoon will continue that work. In my maiden speech, I spoke of the families who were failed by the former Labor government's weakening of the youth justice laws. My family lives with loss every day and I am here to do everything I can to prevent other families going through the same thing.


I have sat with members of the Capalaba community and with other victims across the state. I have witnessed not only the devastation that crime has caused in their lives but also the injustice, anger and bitterness that is left when they watch these young offenders walk out of court with no remorse, no

regret and no real concept of what they have done. Why? The weakened laws gave them a slap on the wrist. The last 10 years of the former government's weak laws have led to this youth crime crisis—a revolving door youth justice system that has created a generation of untouchables who have been taught their actions do not matter.

I will tell the House otherwise, as will every victim. They will talk of the sleepless nights, the grief, the pain—both physical and emotional—and the fight they have to put in each day just to keep going. There were days when my wife and I would sit out on the patio and we would watch the sun come up, we would look at the yard and, before we knew it, we would watch the sun set. Time was passing us by, and so many victims live this same experience.

Adult Crime, Adult Time restores consequences. It is a crystal-clear message that these offences mean something. They mean something to the people who have been injured and they mean something to the community which have had their sense of safety shaken. The new offences to be introduced today are just the next stage of our team's commitment to put victims first. Queensland, we will find our way back. This team will keep working every day and every hour to make our community safer.

Feral Pigs

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.54 pm): I have raised this issue before in the parliament about one of the most environmentally destructive pests we have in North Queensland—feral pigs. The last rough estimate on feral pigs put the number at 24 million in Australia, with the majority located in North Queensland. Feral pigs can produce up to 20 piglets per year, which is why the numbers are in plague proportion. In 2020, a study by Australian Pork was conducted as part of the federal government's feral pig action plan. In a news article, study coordinator Dr Heather Channon stated that 70 per cent of feral pigs need to be culled annually to keep the population size from expanding. She also said if the culling of feral pigs stopped the feral pig population would increase up to 85 per cent each year.

Without substantial funding and resources allocated to the feral pig problem, primary producers in North Queensland will continue to fight a losing battle. The last time I spoke about this, the previous government were congratulating themselves on acquiring another property to convert into a national park. Recently in the media the federal environment minister announced that they were going to lock up another 30 million hectares of bushland. The problem is these acquisitions are never properly managed and become breeding grounds for the feral pigs and noxious weeds.


Locking up more land equivalent to the size of New Zealand is an eco disaster in the making. It is a death sentence for North Queensland's agriculture industry and native wildlife. Ask any property owner who borders state and national parks and they will say that the government are the worst land managers, letting these parks go to ruin. North Queensland is overrun with feral pigs destroying farmland, wiping out our native species and spreading deadly diseases like Panama, which could wipe out a local \$600-million-a-year banana industry. The federal government is throwing a pathetic \$1.4 million in funding at the National Feral Pig Action Plan, while splashing out \$250 million to lock up land for an unrealistic and delusional climate change goal. Feral pigs are killing our cassowaries, digging up our turtle eggs and creating mass soil erosion and destruction to riverbanks, rainforests and primary agricultural land.

I acknowledge our recreational pig hunters who do a fantastic job in their own time and at their own expense to combat the feral pig problem with one hand tied behind their back. Not only do governments waste millions of dollars in creating more breeding grounds for feral pigs; they refuse to allow access to recreational hunters to clean out the feral pigs. If the state government are truly serious about protecting our farmers and our native flora and fauna, they must increase funding to wipe out feral pigs. Whilst I acknowledge the state government's recent \$2 million investment into new control methods and regional plans, this is nowhere near enough and will barely scratch the surface. We need 20 times this funding to make a serious dent in eradicating this destructive pest.

I call on the state government to: invest significant funds to properly manage state forests and coordinate with surrounding property owners; issue special permits for recreational hunters to access state forests and national parks to kill the feral pigs; establish a feral pig bounty; and establish a grant program to assist farmers to manage feral pigs. This then will be a step in the right direction.

MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.59 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am proud to stand and introduce the next stage of our Making Queensland Safer Laws, because this government is committed to turning the tide on the youth crime crisis left behind. We are committed to victims. As the member for Capalaba has just bravely shared, we will keep putting them front and centre.

Before Christmas, we passed the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws to implement Adult Crime, Adult Time for youth offenders. This was a direct result of this government listening to victims and listening to the community who were crying out for change—genuine change that will drive down youth offending and reduce the number of victims in our community.

The new laws implemented the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme that ensures young offenders who commit serious offences face adult level consequences for their actions. Establishment of these tough penalties demonstrates youth offending is treated seriously by those on this side of the House. When I first introduced our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws last year, I said that our government's top priority was bringing Queensland's youth crime crisis to an end. That remains true, and the bill I present today delivers on our commitment to further strengthen the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Exactly as promised, we established the Expert Legal Panel to advise government on what additional offences should be included under the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions. The job of this panel is to provide advice to this government so that we can continue to implement our commitment to making Queensland safer. That is what they have delivered in this stage.

The Expert Legal Panel recommended the addition of 20 serious offences. This bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 by adding these new serious offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions, making young offenders liable to the same penalties as adults. These amendments will be in addition to the initial 13 serious offences that commenced on 13 December last year, further implementing the government's commitment to making Queensland safer. More advice from the panel will follow in the coming months. Several minor and technical amendments are also included to ensure the intent of the Making Queensland Safer Laws is delivered.

The explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights emphasise that the purpose of adding further serious offences to Adult Crime, Adult Time is to ensure community safety. The amendments send a strong message to the community that youth offending will be treated seriously and ensure that courts can impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations.

We went to the election promising to deliver the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Those laws make sure that detention is no longer a last resort for youth offenders and that the impact on victims is a primary consideration during sentencing. The laws are bolstered by investment in early intervention and rehabilitation to break the cycle of youth crime and ultimately reduce the number of victims, because that is what this is all about. We are starting to see the green shoots of change in the right direction. It is only the beginning, but it is the change we need to be seeing.

Across Queensland between 1 December and 28 February, compared to the same period the previous year, we have seen an 8.2 per cent reduction in stolen cars, an 8.4 per cent reduction in break-ins, a 4.8 per cent reduction in robberies and a 16.9 per cent reduction in woundings. This is just the beginning. We have a lot of work to do. We must turn around 10 years of the former government weakening the system and a generation of offenders being told again and again there are no consequences. No more. No more will victims be put last on that consideration list. No more will offenders be told there is no consequence.

The amendments in the bill presented today are strong and necessary and give effect to the government's promise to the people of Queensland that Queenslanders will feel safe in their communities because they deserve to feel safe. We have chosen an approach that allows for the targeted inclusion of certain offences that meet a threshold that is directly related to the seriousness of

harm caused, the use of violence associated with the offending behaviour and the risk of serious consequences to the victim and to the community.

I turn to the bill itself. Clause 5 adds 20 serious offences—including the three where only certain aggravated forms of the offences are prescribed—to section 175A of the Youth Justice Act. This means that the following sections will now be subject to the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme: section 69, going armed so as to cause fear; section 75, threatening violence; section 306, attempt to murder; section 307, accessory after the fact to murder; section 313(2), assaulting a pregnant person and killing, or doing grievous bodily harm to or transmitting a serious disease to, the unborn child; section 320A, torture; section 328C, damaging an emergency vehicle when operating motor vehicle; section 328D, endangering a police officer when driving motor vehicle; section 349, rape; section 350, attempt to commit rape; section 351, assault with intent to commit rape; section 352(2), sexual assault involving any part of the mouth; section 352(3), sexual assault while armed, in company or involving penetration; section 354, kidnapping; section 354A, kidnapping for ransom; section 355, deprivation of liberty; section 398 item 12, stealing of a vehicle; section 398 item 14, stealing a firearm for use in another indictable offence; section 412(2), attempted robbery, armed or in company; section 412(3), attempted robbery, armed and with violence; section 461, arson; section 462, endangering particular property by fire; and, from the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, section 5, trafficking in dangerous drugs.

The amendments work the same as the previous tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, removing constraints upon courts in the sentencing of young offenders who commit serious crimes. This focus on consequences for offenders is crucial to ensuring the number of victims in our community decreases. The impacts of these offences are deep, long-lasting and often have serious consequences for the victims. We heard about that a moment ago. We have heard this from the member for Capalaba, and we have heard it time and time again when victims have raised their voice for change. The grief, loss, fear, anger—they live with that every day.

Inclusion of these new offences into the Adult Crime, Adult Time scheme shows a priority by this government for community safety and community expectations being met. Governing is about choices: denying a crisis or acting; weakening laws or strengthening them; prioritising criminals or prioritising victims. We choose fewer victims.

Importantly, this bill does not remove the remit of courts to apply sentences proportionately; it simply makes children who offend seriously liable to the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as adults. Many of the offences we are introducing into the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions are life offences. This means that where a child is sentenced to imprisonment for life they must now serve a minimum non-parole period of 15 years. This is an important aspect of protecting the community from serious violence and harm. I must be clear that we have not taken these decisions lightly. However, the commitment of this government to victims and the safety of our community is paramount.

I now turn to the second purpose of this bill, which is to make minor and technical amendments to ensure this government is consistent in its implementation of legislative provisions related to the Making Queensland Safer Laws. These technical amendments ensure the purpose of the Youth Justice Act is clear to our courts and to our community. That is important.

Clauses 6 to 9 amend a part of the victims register provisions. This will ensure that victims will have a right to nominate a person to receive information on their behalf. Where it is not appropriate for a victim to be on the register—for example, where there is a domestic and family violence situation—they can opt to have any information sent to their nominated person. This amendment demonstrates this government's commitment to placing victims and their needs at the forefront of our criminal justice system, in a holistic manner.

Finally, clause 4 relates to an unrelated error in the legislation that was identified by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. It involves a simple removal of a part of section 50 of the Youth Justice Act so that it is not in conflict with the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, and the related section which is no longer operable after the decriminalisation of public intoxication.

Our government is putting victims at the heart of our plans for a safer Queensland. These new laws will make Queensland safer by ensuring young people committing serious adult crimes will serve adult time. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (3.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee


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

YOUTH JUSTICE (MONITORING DEVICES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 636, on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.10 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. The explanatory notes state that the bill is 'to impose on a grant of bail to a child who is at least 15 years, is charged with a prescribed indictable offence, and has either been charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding twelve months or has been previously found guilty of at least one indictable offence, a condition that the child must wear a monitoring device while released on bail'. I understand that the criteria were designed to target serious repeat offenders and that this is the third time this has been trialled. However, I also suggest that we will see the same predicted results. Youth criminals will still commit crimes wearing monitoring devices because they know that the courts will go soft on them.


The other side of it is that 95 per cent of those who come out of detention centres commit crime within the first 12 months. They are committing crimes to get into detention centres. We can introduce stronger laws but we need to ensure that they are tough laws so that they are not committing crimes to get into detention centres. While I commend the state government on at least trying to address the youth crime pandemic, which ran rampant under the previous government, I do not believe this bill will make any difference to reducing youth crime. We need to scare kids into not committing crimes by putting stronger deterrents in place to stop crimes from being committed in the first place.

The KAP has put forward a number of deterrents: relocation sentencing, castle law and minimum mandatory sentencing. Relocation sentencing is where you send them out to a remote location, teach them values, teach them skills, teach them how to drive graders and front-end loaders, and teach them how to build cattle yards and how to muster. You can guarantee that the last thing they will want to do is commit another crime and go back out to a remote location to do the same thing over and over again. That is a deterrent.

Another one of our policies we have been trying to put forward because we know it will make a difference to Queenslanders in regard to combating crime is castle law. It dates back to the 1689 Bill of Rights where your home is your castle. If anyone is entering your home without authorisation, they are entering on the grounds of causing harm. You have every right to defend yourself in your own home by whatever means necessary.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hill, that is not in the bill. That is not what we are discussing. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr KNUTH: We give credit to the government for introducing this bill. I also urge the government to implement minimum mandatory sentencing to force the courts to punish repeat youth offenders for committing serious crimes. This, along with relocation sentencing and castle law, will no doubt put fear into youth criminals and will see immediate results. I support the bill. However, until we start seriously putting victims and public safety ahead of young criminals, we will not see any change to the youth crime scourge.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is an act to amend the Youth Justice Act for a particular purpose. That particular purpose is to amend subsection 52AA(10) of the Youth Justice Act to extend the trial of electronic monitoring devices for a further year until 30 April 2026. This bill provides for the continued operation of section 52AA by extending the sunset clause to five years from the commencement of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021.

It is critical that we extend the trial of EMDs on youth offenders for a further year. This is because any credible and comprehensive qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the effectiveness of EMDs requires a sufficient cohort of youth offenders. An EMD is a device fitted to a young person's ankle that monitors their location using GPS coordinates. This is to provide real-time alerts about the location of youth offenders following unauthorised movements.

It is important to understand the legislative history behind this bill because it further highlights Labor's muddled and chaotic 'policy on the run'. In 2015, the Queensland Labor government substantially watered down the youth justice legislation removing detention as a last resort. This gave rise to a youth crime crisis including a generation of recidivist offenders. In 2021, section 26 of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act inserted a new section 52AA into the Youth Justice Act and subsection 52AA(10) provided that this section expires two years after the commencement.

Section 52AA provides that courts in prescribed locations have the option, subject to certain prerequisites, to order that a youth offender must wear an EMD as a condition of bail. The 2021 amendment act provided the legislative framework to implement a 12-month trial of the use of electronic monitoring on recidivist youth offenders. The offenders were to be aged 16 or 17 years old in prescribed locations for prescribed indictable offences who would benefit from intensive bail conditions.

Unfortunately, the 2021 amendment trial was flawed from the beginning. Labor just does not have the ticker to reform the youth justice system. Significant constraints on geographical locations and the trial sunset period and other possible factors had the practical effect of substantially lessening the potential cohort of youth offenders. It seemed that the EMD trial was set up to fail from the beginning. There were no surprises when the department of youth justice's electronic monitoring trial was inconclusive, citing the low number of trial participants and the lack of available evidence from other jurisdictions.

To fix up the mess, in 2023 section 14 of the Strengthening Community Safety Act increased the expiration of section 52AA for a further two years. This section now expires on 30 April 2025—less than a month from today. According to the explanatory speech for the 2023 act—

The review found that, while there are some benefits associated with electronic monitoring, a larger sample size is needed to determine its effectiveness in deterring offending behaviour, nor can any changes to offending be attributed to engagement with the trial. A larger sample size is required. To establish a more robust evidence base, the bill amends section 52AA to extend the sunset clause to 30 April 2025 ...

The 2023 Strengthening Community Safety Act also expanded the eligibility criteria by reducing the age from 16 to 15; expanded the trial to include Cairns, Toowoomba and Mount Isa; and, subject to further detailed work occurring on the resourcing of the extension of the trial, expanded the scheme to include electronic monitoring on sentenced young offenders in the community as a tool to assist with their supervision.


In an embarrassing and inconvenient moment for Queensland Labor, on 9 February 2024, former police commissioner Katarina Carroll said, 'I will always provide frank and fearless advice to government.' She then openly called on the Miles government to revisit the trial of electronic monitoring devices on teen criminals on bail, with only 33 devices issued but only five in use. Police commissioner Carroll described electronic monitoring devices as a 'very, very powerful tool'. Her comments came after the tragic stabbing death of Ipswich grandmother Vyleen White.

According to the Queensland Audit Office report *Reducing serious youth crime*, since 2019 the number of serious repeat offenders increased by 65 per cent, from 442 to 728 in 2023.

Currently, to be granted bail with an EMD condition a youth offender must: be at least 15 years; be charged with a prescribed indictable offence and have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months; and have consented to wearing an EMD. This bill will extend the sunset clause to 30 April 2026. The Crisafulli government is committed to a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of an electronic monitoring order as a condition of bail. The Crisafulli government sees the potential for electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending, provide an opportunity for offenders to engage or re-engage with education and employment, and improve community safety.

After a decade of Labor chaos and crisis, Queenslanders have backed a Crisafulli government that is committed to a calm and methodical approach to tackling the youth crime crisis—a Crisafulli government that is resolutely and unapologetically committed to putting the rights of victims first. Queensland Labor's chaos and crisis were patently obvious when they watered down the youth justice legislation in 2016, resulting in years and years of youth crime and muddled policy on the run. We had a five-point plan in 2016, a four-point plan in 2019, a five-point plan in 2020 and a 10-point plan in 2022.

All of these plans have failed. Only the Crisafulli government has the ticker to reform our youth justice legislation. I support the adoption of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.22 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. We heard in the minister's introductory speech the quite disgraceful history of youth justice policy in this state over the last decade as Labor, egged on by the LNP, strayed further and further from evidence-based approaches to preventing crime in favour of locking up traumatised kids in hellish conditions and only worsening the offending rates in Queensland. The content of this bill is brief. The LNP did not need to do much other than pick up Labor's policy and extend it by another 12 months.

What are we talking about here? This is a law that provides that a court can impose, as a condition of a child's bail, that the child wear a GPS monitoring device 24/7. There is no express intention within the trial that GPS monitors be considered as an alternative to remand. Instead, the court is supposed to: address whether the child has the capacity to understand the condition and whether they are likely to comply; and consider a suitability assessment report which includes things like access to a mobile phone and somewhere to charge the device. Let's not forget that we are not talking about the proven, effective use of technology. This whole concept is being trialled in Queensland. It is an expensive, restrictive experiment that, on the government's own admission, has yielded no conclusive results since it began in 2021, despite being extended and expanded a number of times.

As the Justice Reform Initiative pointed out in their submission, if the chosen research methodology is not working, a sensible government would not just extend the experiment to a broader pool of children. At what point will this government accept they are not going to find evidence that GPS monitors reduce reoffending and instead look elsewhere for proven solutions? There is limited evidence to suggest that GPS tracking devices on children are at all effective in deterring offending and ensuring compliance with bail conditions, but there are plenty of indications that they create adverse outcomes for these children.

Children are required to charge the device every day and keep a mobile phone with them to resolve any technical issues. That means, first of all, that they need access to a reliable power supply. This forces them to be at home, in some cases placing them at risk of domestic violence or exposure to drug or alcohol misuse. Worse still, this regime of 24/7 monitoring also means that kids are at an increased risk of criminalisation, in particular from breach of bail. Simply letting the device go flat—something that I am sure all of us in this place have been guilty of with our phones at some point in the past—is a technical breach of bail and an offence. This exposes these children to further negative interactions with police and the justice system for no good reason, all in pursuit of a policy that has not been shown to reduce their reoffending.

The introduction of an offence for breach of bail was strongly opposed by experts and stakeholders. Setting aside all of the studies and academic language, let's just remember that we are talking about kids here. I do not know about anyone else's kids in this place, but mine cannot remember to pack their lunch for school every day or bring their hat or football boots when they need them, let alone give me a permission slip to sign. Meanwhile, the kids this bill is dealing with have a whole host of things that they have to understand and remember and consequences that are so much worse than just missing out on the playground, your footy training or an excursion.

The minister claims that the trial and the criteria are designed to target serious repeat offenders, but the evidence from stakeholders who work on the front line with criminalised kids makes it clear that so-called serious repeat offenders are substantially less likely to be considered suitable for electronic monitoring. The committee heard that some clients of the Youth Advocacy Centre had themselves asked for a GPS monitoring bail condition to avoid being remanded in detention, but they were denied because these children do not have adequate stability or supports in their life to even be subject to one of these bail conditions.

On top of all that, monitoring devices will threaten the safety of these kids and their community. At a time when community tensions are high—spurred on by the LNP's rhetoric with the help of the *Courier-Mail*—these monitoring devices will identify kids as offenders. This will expose them to the very real risk of vigilantism and stigmatise them in positive social circles where we want them to re-engage. Conversely, we have heard time and again that these ankle bracelets might even reify the kids wearing them in antisocial circles. We have heard time and again that they can be worn as a badge of honour. This trial is isolating kids from the positive influences in their lives and driving them towards precisely those social groups and influences that we do not want them exposed to.

I have stood here time and again making reasoned arguments, pointing to the evidence and quoting the experts and statistics that prove the so-called tough-on-crime approach does nothing to prevent crime. In fact, it will ultimately make our communities less safe. This time I want to put it really simply: kids deserve better than this. They deserve to grow up in safe, secure housing, free from violence, with their families and communities, embedded in their culture. They deserve an education that caters to their needs. They deserve health care and disability supports and treatment for drug and alcohol misuse that serves their needs. They deserve safety, care and wellbeing, just like all of us. To be absolutely clear, it is the same kids who are deprived of these things who are in turn being branded as criminals for life and funnelled into institutions. These kids do not deserve to be in prisons, they do not deserve to be in watch houses and they do not deserve to be surveilled and tracked.

We have to change our response. It does not make economic sense, it does not make practical sense and it does not make any moral sense. Some really horrific things have happened in recent years, and no-one is going to deny that. I know that some kids have been responsible for some of the worst kinds of offending. Victim-survivors, their families and their communities have my deepest sympathies, and I have been clear about that every step of the way. The Greens want to see governments doing everything they can to prevent crime, not just punish young offenders with ever-increasingly severe penalties after the fact.


Queensland's treatment of children is an international embarrassment now, even warranting a mention in the Human Rights Watch *World report 2025: our annual review of human rights around the world*. QNADA put it succinctly in their submission—

Rather than allocating resources to repeatedly trial an approach which has only returned equivocal evidence, investment should focus on evidence-based policies that deliver measurable results and maximize public benefit.

For all the difficulties, this is not an intractable issue. We have examples where alternative approaches have worked. In Wales, the Ministry of Justice acted on the evidence that children with four or more adverse childhood experiences are 15 times more likely to commit violence and 20 times more likely to be imprisoned. They developed policies centred on preventing and minimising the impact of adverse childhood experiences and on interrupting those cycles of intergenerational disadvantage. Funding was diverted from policing strategies towards wraparound support for families and children in the early years of their life. Welsh police were required to engage with children in a way that treated them as children first and as offenders second. Since the implementation of a child rights approach, offending rates have dropped significantly.

We can look closer to home. The Youth Advocacy Centre, which works with criminalised kids and their families, has offered a comprehensive list of recommendations. These include: the implementation of long-term family supports; early assessment and treatment plans for developmental delays; investment in schooling to keep kids engaged; investment in safe, secure, sustainable and affordable housing options; expanded diversionary programs; and support for kids in place. It should not be a surprise that a response to crime that sees inherent humanity in everyone in our communities is a response that is proven to bring down crime rates.

I will very briefly note that I understand and I empathise with YAC's support for extending the trial, but I want to make this clear in here because they did in committee and so no-one can pretend otherwise. They only support this to the extent that it provides an alternative to incarceration for some kids on remand. Like every credible expert in this place, they do not support the government's policy position, they do not support the consistent tough-on-crime rhetoric we have seen from successive governments now and, like any decent person, they vehemently oppose the incarceration of children. Years of this trial have produced no evidence to support the use of electronic monitoring on children, but it seems clear that the absence of evidence—or even evidence to the contrary—is ultimately no obstacle for any policy position of this government. The tough-on-crime rubbish simply has not worked and the extension of this trial is just more of the same failed policy.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.32 pm): This is a very simple bill and it is put forward here for a very simple purpose—that is, to extend the trial of electronic monitoring devices for a further year. The good reason for doing that is to make sure the trial is meaningful because the way this trial was set up by the previous government—in a pattern that is so very familiar of everything they did in the youth justice space—was so poorly constructed and so minimal in its application that it did not draw up a sample of people on whom the devices were to be tested sufficient to tell us anything meaningful about whether or not they were having a positive impact on the behaviour of people who were subject to orders for bail.

It is useful at this time to track back through some of the history of how we came to be at this point. In 2021 Labor brought in a trial of these electronic monitoring devices and there is only one way to describe that initial trial. It was, without a doubt, a total and utter abysmal failure. That is because in the first year of its operation there were not 500, or 100 or even 50 people who were subject to orders of this kind. Just five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring device as a condition of their bail in that first year of operation. It meant that in the entire Brisbane, north Brisbane, Logan and Moreton area—the entire south-east corner—the grand total of two people on bail were testing the effectiveness of these devices.

Those opposite cannot say that they were not warned. The members of the LNP who were present in the parliament at that time warned those opposite at length that the framework they had established was not going to be effective and that it would not lead to a sufficient number of orders for bail, including this condition, in order for the trial to be effective. I can take the House to a quote from the member for Glass House from that time. He said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

Well, here we are, two years down the track and, despite an adjustment to the parameters by Labor a year into the piece—they made some adjustments in 2023 to extend the trial some more to make some piecemeal changes—the warning the member for Glass House shared with this chamber, along with many of the people whom I call colleagues today, was not heeded. Even on that greater scope, the sample of people involved was so small that we continue to have a problem of not being able to assess the effectiveness of electronic monitoring devices to improve people's behaviour whilst on bail, because even with those changes there were just 30 distinct youth offenders subject to those orders across the state. Not only was the initial scope ineffective, but even Labor's attempt to improve the scope of the system did not make a meaningful difference to the effectiveness of the trial.

I heard the member for Gladstone get up today and complain about the simplicity of this bill. Quite frankly, I wish there was more simplicity in the legislation that comes before this place. I think it is a good thing if people can understand the bills that come before this place because they are simple, in plain language and accessible to the people who need to use them. This very simple amendment is really just to clean up the mess left by those opposite to make sure this trial will actually yield some useful data.

On this side of the chamber, we are serious about doing something meaningful to reduce both the frequency and the recidivism that we see in the youth offending space. We need to know—indeed, all Queenslanders deserve to know—if the use of devices like this can allow for a situation where a person who has been released on a youth offence on bail conditions can live in our community in a way that deters reoffending while they wait for their proceeding to be dealt with. We need to know if that works. Despite two attempts, those opposite have failed to construct a trial that meaningfully illuminates that question.

I have noticed on my reading of the committee's analysis of this bill that not only did it recommend this chamber adopt this bill but many submitters similarly observed that, from the outset, they too had said the scope of the trial that was initially constructed by Labor was never going to work in the form that was originally proposed. I can point to many examples of those kinds of community contributions, but I think it is particularly telling that on 9 February 2024—so before the election—the then police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, publicly observed that the electronic monitoring device trial was not working. The then commissioner called upon the then government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders. She said—

We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail.

And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant.

We're not of the view that every child should have an electronic monitoring device—we're talking about ... serious offending.

We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending.

These are one of the preventive measures.

The commissioner then went on to explain she had spoken to the minister and asked the minister revisit what was happening in that space.


It is really quite important, I think, to observe that no-one is suggesting that every youth offender should have one of these devices. They should be used judiciously, in circumstances where it is

believed they will make a meaningful difference to the ability of the person accused to be law-abiding whilst waiting for their time in court in the proper process of the judicial system.

It is also true to say that this government, committed as it is to making our community safer and to dealing with the youth crime crisis that was allowed to flourish under those opposite, who seemed more interested in the rights of offenders than they ever were in the rights of victims, is prepared to look at any and all of the available options that can help to make a difference in this space. If it makes one Queenslanders safe in circumstances where they would otherwise have been a victim, then it is a worthwhile exercise to go through the process of assessing this program properly to determine whether or not electronic monitoring devices are going to meaningfully make our community safer.

I have a hunch that it will make a difference. I have a hunch that—the youth crime crisis was put in train by those opposite, who repealed and rolled back a system that was working some 10 years ago—it will make a difference, particularly when it is used in collaboration with Adult Crime, Adult Time and in collaboration with the programs we have in place to rehabilitate people who have not made good choices in their past, in conjunction with diversionary programs for at-risk people and in conjunction with a quality education system designed to keep people focused on the good things in life from the outset. The reality is that unless we have a program that is being used in sufficient number to get a meaningful sample over a meaningful period of time we will never know, so we are prepared to do what is necessary to make this trial work.

This extension makes sense. It is a simple bill, but it will make a big difference for us to properly understand the way this measure will help to keep youth offenders who are accused on track during their period of bail, and make our community safer.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.42 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. In Townsville right now, we continue to live under the siege of the youth crime crisis. Every night people are going to bed still expecting either their home to be broken into or their vehicle to be missing in the morning. You cannot go down the street without meeting someone who has had their car stolen or their car broken into, not just in their lifetime but perhaps even in the last 12 months. It continues to run rampant across North Queensland, and I know that other parts of the state are still dealing with this.

Everything must be thrown at this problem. Everything must be done. We have seen all sorts of monitoring going on out there, including the Polair helicopter flying around on a nightly or daily basis tracking these vehicles going around town, causing havoc. We saw these monitoring devices come into play in a trial back in 2021 under the Labor state government. There was an amendment to the Youth Justice Act that allowed this to happen in the form of section 52AA. It kicked off as a 12-month trial and cost the state \$3.8 million to find out where these youth offenders were. These are kids on bail who were fitted with these devices to track where they were going.

This 12-month review found that only eight youth offenders—recidivist youth offenders, I might say—were fitted with these devices. At that stage, the scope of children who could be fitted with one of these monitoring devices was too narrow. You needed to have—and still do, I must add—a stable home, and the child had to have means to charge the device for two hours a day. It was something that you could remove—ludicrous, if you ask me. These days, the children who are committing most of the crimes do not come from stable homes and do not come from places where they can charge these things. That only eight were fitted was a complete failure. In 2023, Labor expanded the scope and added new locations which included Townsville, Mount Isa, Brisbane and Cairns, to name a few.

Some of these children fitted with the monitoring devices saw it as a badge of honour. Some people are offended by the term 'tracking devices'. I call them tracking devices; I could not care less. They were saying they were using them as a way to monitor these kids. Most of the police out there knew where these kids were. They knew where they were because they were running around ramming police cars, chasing down ambulance vehicles. They knew where these kids were. They had a Polair helicopter chasing them around.

What we need is monitoring—and we will support this bill for another 12-month extension—but what we also need is harsh penalties for these youth offenders. I must say, I am impressed with the current legislation that is before the House. I will not go into that and stray too far from the long title of the bill—I can see you smiling right now, Mr Deputy Speaker, which shows I am on the right track—but what I will say is that we need consequences for actions. Locking these children up in the current incarceration method is not deterring any of these kids. As the member for Hill rightly pointed out in his contribution, some of these kids are trying to get into places like Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. Wearing a monitoring device and breaching their bail is not going to change their behaviour. You have

to change the incarceration method if you want to change the behaviour of these kids, especially if they are trying to get into Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

We hear that the Wacol detention centre for youth has been extended and is now open for business. Once again, that is too soft. The kids in this state need to understand that the game is up. I hope the incremental changes and tough changes that have already been introduced by this state government are an indication that there is going to be a further ratcheting up of the type of legislation that we use to control these youth offenders.


I am very interested in learning more about the current state government's Circuit Breaker Sentencing policy, and I look forward to meeting with the minister for a full briefing with regard to that. It has some stark similarities with the KAP's bush sentencing or relocation sentencing policy. We applaud the state government for maybe seeing some merit in that policy. If the Circuit Breaker Sentencing is to go forward, I encourage the minister to consult and work with the KAP because we have put at least eight years worth of work into this policy. We did not come up with these policies on the back of a post-it note. We sat down with our Indigenous leaders, we sat down with those people working in the youth justice system, and we sat down with people who were too scared to come out and talk to the media. They told what does and does not work in these scenarios. I applaud the state government moving forward on this. We hope to see they go out for tender on this process for Circuit Breaker Sentencing soon. As I said, I am very interested in sitting down with the youth justice minister to try to find ways we can share some of our intel and information to make sure this policy works. The fact is that monitoring devices and tougher laws do not work until we can deter these kids from offending in the first place.

Yes, there needs to be an opportunity for rehabilitation, and that is part of our relocation sentencing policy. We want to see these kids turn their lives around. We also want to see these kids going, 'Gee-whiz, I'm too scared to go out to that place,' or 'I'm too scared of that consequence and I'm not going to pull my balaclava on tonight or pull my gloves on; I'm going to think about my actions.' That has not happened in the state of Queensland for a long time. The youth have not been considering their options or the effect they will have on the community, because they have seen in the past that they have been able to get away with it.

As I said, monitoring devices—fantastic. I do not think it will pull any of these kids up, but it would not hurt knowing where some of these kids on bail actually are, because I can tell you where they are not. They are not at their resi-care house at night. They are not with their parents or their guardian where they are supposed to be. I can tell you where the recidivist youth offenders are: they are out on the street.

If there is a monitoring device to help police—fantastic. We could probably save a bit of aviation fuel by not having Polair following them around at night. I can tell you where you can put these kids where you will know where they are and that is locked up in either a detention centre or a Circuit Breaker Sentencing location when they are opened. We hope to see that in the future the people of Townsville, Cairns, Mount Isa, Brisbane—wherever these kids are running an absolute riot on the state right now—have reprieve. That is all we are asking for.

The KAP will continue to work with whoever is in government to try to deliver that. That is what we do in the KAP: we stand up for our community and we push back against the youth crime scourge. We will not stop introducing legislation and policy until we can see a change and a turnaround in this state. We will continue to push for policies like Castle Law, mandatory minimum sentencing and relocation sentencing. Even if it is rebadged, I am happy to have that nameplate on it.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (3.50 pm): Today, I rise in this House as the proud member for Redlands. It is a community I am honoured to represent and call home. In the Redlands, our community knows that we are only stronger if we work together to tackle challenges and to build opportunities for a safe and bright future. It is through this commitment to the Redlands that I speak strongly in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. It is not only about keeping our community safe and stopping our local residents and businesses becoming victims of crime, it is also about the safety of our local police who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe.

Just last month I met Brittany Faulkner, Redlands' newest police recruit. Brittany grew up in the Redlands and is now proudly serving the very community she calls home. It is a powerful reminder of the strong local spirit that keeps our region safe, and our government should commit to keeping her and her colleagues safe.

In the Redlands we face challenges that are similar to other communities across Queensland—challenges that require thoughtful solutions. That is why this bill matters. It proposes extending the trial

period for electronic monitoring devices for youth offenders by an extra 12 months until 30 April 2026. In simple terms, this extension gives us the time we need to fully understand how these devices work in reducing repeat offences and allowing youth offenders to safely return to the community. It is about ensuring we gather enough solid, long-term evidence to see whether this approach will help guide young people back onto the right path, while keeping everybody safe.

Let's look back on how this trial began in 2021. The trial was set up under the previous Labor government for a two-year period. But in the first year, only five young offenders were placed under electronic monitoring. This does not give comprehensive data on the outcomes of the trial. With only three cases in Townsville and one each in Brisbane's north and Logan, we have no idea of the impact this trial would have on any other areas, including in my own electorate of Redlands. With so few participants, critics quite rightly point out the inability to draw any meaningful outcomes of the effectiveness of electronic monitoring. These concerns are not unfounded. In fact, back in March 2021 during a committee hearing, the member for Glass House warned that with so few young people being monitored, the data would be too limited to prove if the approach was truly working. Despite these warnings the trial moved forward and following a review, no confirmation could be given that the devices were making a real difference in reducing offending behaviour. Fast forward to 2023 and rather than address the trial's failings, the previous Labor government simply extended the trial for another two years with only minor piecemeal changes. Yet, over that extended period, only 36 electronic monitoring conditions were issued for 30 distinct young offenders. This outcome told a clear story: the approach was not delivering the results needed.


In an even clearer suggestion on 9 February 2024, former police commissioner Katarina Carroll herself publically urged the former government to re-evaluate the use of these devices. She stressed that while electronic monitoring might offer continuous oversight compared to occasional manual checks, the overall trial data was not strong enough. Even when further amendments were made in August 2024 to expand the trial and tweak parameters, the clock was ticking with the sunset clause set to expire in April 2025. There was simply not enough time to properly evaluate these new measures.

In my electorate of Redlands, our community values practical solutions and real results. That is why extending the trial is not just a technical fix; it is a real opportunity to gather comprehensive data and learn how to better support our young people. In Redlands we have seen firsthand how important early intervention is. Our local schools, community groups and family support services are deeply invested in making sure our young people have the chance to get back on track.

Under the current rules, for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition, they must be at least 15 years old and be charged with a serious offence. There are also criteria related to past convictions or recent changes. Importantly, the young person must agree to wear the monitoring device. These conditions are designed not to punish but rather, offer a structured way for these young offenders to re-engage into society.

In Redlands, we are a community where spirit runs deep. We understand supervision can be paired with genuine support to help our youth succeed in life. This extension is not just about obtaining accurate data, it is about easing the pressure on our local police. Our officers in Redlands are hardworking and often go above and beyond to keep the community safe. By extending the trial, we reduce the need for constant manual bail checks and allow our police to focus on proactive community policing and urgent crime prevention.

Beyond the immediate impact on policing, the extra time provided by this amendment allows us to conduct a proper, thorough evaluation of the electronic monitoring scheme. Electronic monitoring is only one part of our government's plan to reduce youth offenders and support rehabilitation. We have backed it up with a comprehensive support system, the Making Queensland Safer plan, which has allocated \$485 million to early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. The Crisafulli government's commitment is clear: we are determined to restore safety in our communities, to reduce the number of victims of crime and to give our young people every opportunity to build a better future.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I will start by saying this is a pretty small measure to attack such a big problem. I do not suppose anyone is trying to make it much bigger than that. It has been talked about as a significant way to tackle crime but at the end of the day, it is just a tool that is used to contribute to a solution. It is by no means a solution in itself. In the KAP, we have often referred to it as 'tinkering at the edges' of this crime issue.

We acknowledge that the trial initially did not have many takers but fairly regularly in this place instructions are given by the government of the day to the department and others. All of the civil

libertarians and bleeding hearts will get their hands all over it and say you can't do this, you can't do that and its effectiveness gets watered down. It would appear that is what has happened initially in respect of this. Again, I am mindful that this is no panacea for solving youth crime, but it does help with monitoring and tracking people—knowing what they are up to and then apprehending them if they are playing up again.

When I am speaking about this, I am immediately applying it to real-life examples and stories that I get constantly in Mount Isa and those I hear about from talking to my colleagues here, particularly in Townsville but also from the member for Hill. We share those stories that we have and relate them to these examples. We picture those kids and the impact it would have on them, or otherwise. I feel that when people rush to the kids defence and say it will hurt their self-worth and it reinforces negative things—crikey, if you want to be kind you say they have suffered a lot of trauma to be where they are, but they are way beyond that point in my view. In terms of tools to try to effectively deal with this problem, we are way beyond worrying about being kind and measuring this up in equal amounts of compassion because it is a massive problem. It is so out of control that you have to throw some of the textbook stuff out the window because it is just not practical. It is that big at the moment that these academics and bleeding hearts who come in and block any effective measures you try to put in place are just not operating in the real world.

That is so plain to see in Mount Isa. Government keeps throwing resources, money and things at the problem, but the rubber is not hitting the road. If I play this out in Mount Isa in terms of kids having ankle bracelets for another 12 months, that would help; however, let's not pretend it will fix the problem. Like the member for Hinchinbrook just said, until the kids know—and regarding Adult Crime, Adult Time, we raised that initially before anyone else in the parliament. We agree with it, but do not pretend that is going to solve anything, either. We need a solution. We need the consequence on the back end of that kid committing the offence, the apprehending of the criminal and then giving them a consequence. If they are not provided with an adequate consequence, we just land back at the starting point where we are right now.

Cleveland detention centre is not working. There was 90-something per cent recidivism last time we checked. We have proved that bunching 100 to 150 kids in the one spot does not work. We know it does not work. Government members can talk about Adult Crime, Adult Time, but unless they are coupling that with another sentencing option we will be wasting our time again. They can throw those things on top—

Mrs Gerber: We are. It is called Circuit Breaker Sentencing.

Mr KATTER: I am hearing an interjection that the government are doing it. It is good if they are. We have been suggesting it for eight years. If they are doing it now that they are in government, that is good and we will be the first to compliment them. However, let's see it when it is operating. The things that need to be kept in mind are that they need to be smaller sized units. All the experts will say that it should be 10 to 20 kids with a maximum of 30 kids, not 100 to 150 in one spot. They need to keep it remote so it is a lot easier to manage. They also need to be sentenced and forced to go there. Too many of these programs have been done on an opt-in or voluntary basis or as part of bail conditions for people who are not worried about bail or who are not even worried about going to the Cleveland centre in the first place. All those things were, again, just tinkering at the edges, as this does.


Of course we will support these measures. We need better measures, but let's not pretend that this is really going to punch into that space and be effective. We still have kids doing all sorts of terrible things in Mount Isa at the moment. It is still happening in Townsville and Cairns. It still seems as strong as ever. We need to start really sending a signal to the kids that if they do this there is going to be a consequence. The best thing we could ever do for that kid to turn their life around is to give them a consequence so they can change their ways and have a platform to learn off. I have seen it with my own eyes. I have been out to places like Urandangi, where there were buggler-all people—sorry, unparliamentary language—where there was no-one out there—no services.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Just withdraw it.

Mr KATTER: I withdraw. There were not any services out there. There were just 12 kids, no phone reception, no skate park and no pool. They were running around catching fish and goanna on the weekend and having a great time, and that is how they described it to me. It is cheap to look after kids there. One of the kids there had burnt down the police station in Mount Isa, but out there he was a great kid.

I have seen how reform can happen in a remote place. Everyone says that sending them out there as a consequence is a terrible thing. Yes, we call it consequence, but it is also a gift to these kids

because it is a platform they can rise from and improve themselves. What we are saying is tough, and a consequence can also be the enabler for these kids. Until we talk about that—I appreciate there seems to be something in the works in that space from the government. Good on them if that is the case. We have been saying it since—and I was trying to work it out before—at least 2017. I think it might have even been from the election before that, in 2014-15; we were talking about it at that election. Certainly we have been here a long time advocating for the same thing in terms of policy. If that is being taken up coupled with this it can be really good, in which case this trial is effective and it should be supported.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (4.03 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I want to pick up where the member for Traeger left off. I acknowledge that he was very wise in his words in saying that this is not the solution to what we have been confronting in terms of the youth justice crisis in this state. Indeed, it may not even be a tool. It is something we need to continue to review, which is why this bill is here today. What is needed—and he sort of alluded to it—is a comprehensive package to turn this state around, to turn around this crime crisis that we have inherited from the 10 years of Labor state governments weakening the laws. I would say to the member for Traeger, as I would say to all members in this House: that is exactly what we are doing. That is exactly what the minister is doing, in partnership with the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police, the Premier and, indeed, all of the cabinet and all on this side of the chamber. Our comprehensive package starts with the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Again, honourable members have heard an introduction today that looks to broaden and strengthen those. They heard an answer from the minister in question time this morning about the work we are doing around Regional Reset and Staying on Track, two of our early intervention and rehabilitation programs—and, again, we made a commitment around Circuit Breaker Sentencing. That is another part of the comprehensive program that we will put in place to restore our community's faith that we are tackling this from every single angle, that every single opportunity we have we are diverting kids before they head down a path of crime. For those kids, those hardened criminals who have been created by the weak laws that those opposite kept delivering this state, we have to get tougher. That is why we have had Making Queensland Safer tranche 1 and why we have now brought into this House today tranche 2.

I turn to the elements of the actual bill. It has been quite flattering to hear how many of my colleagues in particular have researched my committee contributions from 2021. That is impressive. It is something that my kids hate hearing from me, but 'I told you so' has actually come to pass throughout this whole entire sorry saga, from the time the bill was first introduced back in 2021. At the risk of boring everyone, I am going to quote myself, given everyone else has. During that committee hearing I said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

Mrs Frecklington: You were way ahead of us.

Mr POWELL: I was way ahead of myself.

Mrs Frecklington: And here we are.

Mr POWELL: Before we even got here, those opposite had to reconsider the sunset clause back in 2023. They—

Mrs Gerber: Tinkered around the edges.

Mr POWELL: That is exactly right. They very much tinkered. That was based on some of the feedback they received, even from the likes of the then police commissioner.

Mrs Gerber: Their own commissioner stood up against them.

Mr POWELL: She did. She stood up against the government of the day and said that this was not going to produce any meaningful data and that it was not going to lead to any meaningful aspect around these youth monitoring devices unless they changed the parameters. They did that in 2023. Again, they really have failed to provide a system where we have anything meaningful on which to determine whether these electronic monitoring devices actually do what we want them to do. That is why we are here today and why we are extending the deadline for one more year. I can guarantee honourable members that, unlike those opposite, we will undertake—

Mrs Gerber: Meaningful evaluation.

Mr POWELL: I was just getting to that. We will undertake a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the program. We want that to be thorough. We want it to see the potential of electronic monitoring—to see whether it specifically does reduce reoffending, whether it does provide offenders with an opportunity to engage with things like employment or education and whether it does improve community safety. I want to focus on those three aspects, because that is what this is all about.

Firstly, we have to improve community safety. That is what this side of politics took to the election. It is what the people of Queensland voted for back in October last year. They want to feel safe again: safe in their homes, safe in their cars, safe in their communities and safe in their public spaces. We must deliver that. In doing that, we also need to reduce reoffending. I know that the minister has been to a number of settings and a number of programs where they are working really hard to re-engage, through education and through employment, to get these kids early on and turn them around—divert them from a life of crime, divert them from detention, give them some hope, give them an education, give them that apprenticeship or traineeship that can make the difference in terms of putting food and drink on the table and having a car and the ability to put fuel in it.


All of us who are parents know the importance that our kids' education has had on their future and their opportunity. My eldest son went off and became a tradie. He has become a carpenter and has been out in the workforce now for a number of years. I have a daughter studying at uni. As parents we want to give those kids opportunities that they can grasp with both hands and run with because they then find enjoyment and fulfilment. They become—

Mr Dillon interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Gregory, although he probably should not be interjecting as he is sitting in the wrong seat. They find that self-fulfilment. They find a way to contribute to not only themselves but their immediate family and the broader community, and that is what we want these kids to be doing, too. If these monitoring devices can assist in that, then great.

It is that tool that the member for Traeger was talking about that I mentioned earlier—that is one aspect of his program—but at the moment we just do not have enough data, we have not had a big enough cohort and we cannot really tell whether it is working or not and so we need this extra time to do that thorough review to determine whether this should be a tool moving forward.

Whether or not it is, does not detract from what we will do as a government in terms of ensuring that we address this problem more comprehensively. As I said, that will involve legislative reform. It will involve our prevention and early intervention programs. It will involve the courts. It will involve sentencing. It will involve rehabilitation. It will involve education. It will involve employment. We need to make sure that we leave no stone unturned to deliver what we have been saying all along and what the Premier reiterated again just a matter of hours ago—that this is about ensuring our communities are safe and that they have a government that will deliver that for them.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (4.11 pm): One of the most important responsibilities for any government is to ensure the safety of its citizens, but sadly under the previous government this was not occurring, with crime being one of the biggest issues that was facing Queenslanders at the last election. This never should have been allowed to happen. The Crisafulli government gave a commitment to the people of Queensland to fix this—to stop people being fearful in their own homes—because of how rampant a problem crime had become in this state. We are committed to fixing the youth crime crisis that we inherited and helping people feel safe in their own homes once again. People should not have to be worrying if when they wake up in the morning someone has been in their house or they have had their car stolen.

The previous government put their fingers in their ears when it came to crime. Our communities were living in fear, crying out for help, and they voted for change to fix the mess. When the youth justice monitoring device bill was originally introduced in 2021 for a two-year trial, the trial was a failure. It failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be completed because of the strict conditions that were required to be met for it to be applied. It was so bad in fact that within that first year of operation only five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of bail. The LNP had warned the former Labor government from the start, with the member for Glass House—and we heard this again today several times—raising these concerns in the committee's hearing on 8 March 2021 when he said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

The worst part of this is that, after the two-year trial, because of the lack of offenders who had electronic monitoring devices put on them, there was not enough data to know if they had acted as deterrents. Despite being warned this was the case, the previous government did not adjust its cause. Is it not the point of a trial to find out that something works as intended? After the conclusion of the initial trial period in 2023 it was extended for another two years, to April this year, with a few piecemeal changes. We saw the former government make changes in August 2024 to expand the number of trial locations and change the parameters, but they failed to extend the sunset clause to ensure that there was enough data to make a proper evaluation of the scheme. Those opposite knew that this was never going to be enough time following their changes to determine the effectiveness of the monitoring devices at deterring crime, but they still did not extend the deadline.


Queenslanders were calling out for solutions to fix the crime crisis, but Labor was not taking it seriously. While Queenslanders were living in fear and while more families were experiencing the trauma of break-ins and car thefts, those opposite sat on their hands. It should not have taken a change of government for them to hear the cries of the Queensland people. However, we are committed to fixing the mess. We are extending the time for the trial again to make sure that we have enough data to evaluate the effectiveness of the monitoring devices. We want to make sure that in the Queensland context they help prevent youth offenders from reoffending.

We have seen the potential of electronic monitoring devices to reduce reoffending and to provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment. We want to make sure that we have set the right constraints for this to happen. We do not want kids stuck on an endless cycle in and out of prison. We want youth offenders to learn from their mistakes and become productive members of society and to contribute to their communities, not take away from them. If we apply the right conditions on the electronic monitoring devices we have the potential to help improve community safety and give our youth offenders a chance at a better life. This is why we need to make sure we have the data to know if they are working properly.

Even though we only have limited data for Queensland so far, a positive takeaway is that of a small number of offenders who have had monitoring devices as a requirement of bail have not reoffended. This is why we need to make sure that we get the data we need to ensure that this is not a situation of isolated cases but something we can use to help reduce crime in this state. These devices cannot be seen as the be-all and end-all solution to our youth crime crisis. They are a cog in the wheel and that is why the LNP committed \$485 million in funding for early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs as part of our Making Queensland Safer plan. We need to be getting on to these problems before they become ingrained, before there is no hope of rehabilitation, before they get stuck in a circle of crime.

Our police have been overworked in this state trying to manage crime in a system that was stacked in favour of the perpetrators. Many of our police will have stories of catching youth offenders, only to be arresting them a couple of weeks later while they are out on bail. This is a needless strain on our resources, but electronic monitoring devices can help reduce this. It is unfortunate that, despite bringing in the trial in 2021, the previous government did not take the feedback on the scheme seriously and build a scheme that could be evaluated properly, but we will work with stakeholders to make sure we are seeing the results that Queenslanders expect.

The Crisafulli government is committed to fixing the crime crisis that we inherited in this state and putting victims first. We are going to use every tool in our arsenal to fix it. We are taking it seriously and continue to work with local communities and continue to review the evidence on what is working to ensure that Queenslanders can feel safe in their own homes again.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.19 pm): In October last year Queensland overwhelmingly voted for safety where we live, so it is with great pride that I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is critical in ensuring we take meaningful steps towards improving community safety while also addressing the challenges related to youth reoffending. This is part of our commitment to protecting our communities, and now my community of Pumicestone will have reassurance that we will have safety where we live.

This bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one more year, allowing for a comprehensive and thorough evaluation of the program's effectiveness. The importance of this extension cannot be overstated. It provides the necessary time to assess the outcomes, gather reliable data and make informed decisions on the future of electronic monitoring of youth offenders. The history of this trial has been long and complex. When the trial was initially introduced in 2021 as a two-year program, it was unfortunately an abysmal failure. Despite the LNP raising concerns about the limited

scope of the trial from the outset, the former Labor government pressed on. As predicted, the data collected was insufficient, with only five youth offenders being fitted with electronic monitoring devices in the first year. This included three in Townsville, one in Brisbane North, one in Logan and none in Moreton Bay or the Gold Coast.

Our concerns were not without foundation. In a committee hearing on 8 March 2021 the member for Glass House explicitly stated his concern that the cohort of youth offenders eligible for electronic monitoring would be too small to generate meaningful data. The former Labor government chose to ignore his caution, and their subsequent review failed to confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring as a deterrent simply because there were not enough youth offenders participating in the trial.

In 2023, after acknowledging the failure of the initial trial, Labor extended it for another two years. However, they made only one piecemeal change resulting in minimal improvements. Even after these changes the numbers remained unconvincing, with just 36 electronic monitoring conditions issued across the state including three in Moreton, nine in Brisbane North, four in Toowoomba, 12 in Logan and seven on the Gold Coast. Once again, the trial fell short of delivering results.

In February 2024 then police commissioner Katarina Carroll publicly acknowledged the failure of electronic monitoring, calling for a review and improvement of the system. She pointed out that electronic monitoring devices provide constant oversight, unlike periodic police checks, and emphasised the need to revisit the approach to using these devices, particularly for serious offenders. Despite this, the former Labor government amended the Youth Justice Regulation in August 2024 without extending the sunset clause, effectively setting the trial to expire in April 2025. This left no time for meaningful evaluation—a glaring oversight that the Crisafulli government is now rectifying.

The Crisafulli government is committed to fixing this situation. This bill will extend the trial period for another 12 months, to April 2026. This additional time will ensure a comprehensive and robust evaluation can be conducted, allowing the government to assess the effectiveness of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for youth offenders. It will also consider the impact on victims and will allow us to return to parliament with electronic monitoring as a well-investigated deterrent for reoffending.

We know that for electronic monitoring to be effective it must be targeted at the right cohort. Under the current parameters, a youth offender must be at least 15 years old, charged with a prescribed indictable offence, have a relevant criminal history and consent to wearing the device. These criteria focus on serious repeat offenders where monitoring can have the most impact. There is anecdotal evidence that when used appropriately electronic monitoring can support youth in rehabilitation. For instance, in July 2022 a 16-year-old from Logan successfully complied with bail conditions and did not reoffend after being fitted with an electronic monitoring device. Similarly, in November 2024 a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device, earning praise from the magistrate for their high level of compliance. In January 2025 a 17-year-old from Brisbane not only adhered to their bail conditions but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services.

We have seen firsthand the tragic consequences when youth offenders on bail are not adequately monitored. In March 2020 a 15-year-old, Angus Beaumont, was tragically killed in Redcliffe by youth offenders who were out on bail. One can only wonder whether, if electronic monitoring had been in place at the time, the tragic loss of this young life could have been prevented. If the offenders had been wearing monitoring devices, authorities could have tracked their movements and potentially intervened before the fatal incident occurred. This heartbreaking event highlights why we must do everything possible to improve public safety and hold offenders accountable.

The LNP remains focused on reducing youth reoffending, protecting the community and ensuring youth offenders have a pathway to rehabilitation. We understand that electronic monitoring is not a silver bullet, but it is a critical tool in our broader strategy to reduce crime. By extending this trial we are demonstrating our commitment to evidence-based policy and taking decisive action to keep Queenslanders safe. We are determined to ensure this trial produces meaningful results. That means collecting data, assessing outcomes and making decisions based on facts rather than assumptions. This comprehensive review will inform how electronic monitoring can be utilised effectively to ensure community safety while supporting young offenders in making positive changes. Community safety is a top priority for the Crisafulli government, and this bill is a clear demonstration of our commitment to reducing crime and supporting effective youth justice strategies. As the minister outlined, this bill is

necessary to continue on the path to fewer victims of crime. I commend the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.26 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. It is really good to follow the member for Pumicestone. It is fabulous to have such a young, vibrant, in-touch-with-her-community local member in Pumicestone talking about something that is vitally important to the good people of Bribie Island and surrounds. It is a beautiful part of the world that was dismally let down by the former Labor government. Thankfully, we have a youth justice minister who is doing what she set out to do—that is, ensure a strengthened youth justice system in this great state of ours. I want to congratulate the youth justice minister. She is also the minister for victims—the first ever victims minister in the state of Queensland. What a great job the victims minister is doing. She is front and centre, looking out for the people we said we would look out for—that is, the victims here in Queensland.

The youth justice minister is not only fixing up the mess that is Labor's youth crime crisis but also fixing the electronic monitoring mess left by those opposite. We have heard on numerous occasions in this House today that it was our side, through the committee process and through the leadership of the member for Glass House, that pointed out what was going wrong.

Mrs Gerber: It was in 2021!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection: it was back in 2021. So far there have been only two speakers opposite, which I think is a little embarrassing. Given that this is a 'Labor fix-up' bill, one would think they would be standing up and defending their trial with honour like a good comrade would but, no, their silence is deafening. I note that the member for Glass House said—

My concern, though, is that, given all of that, the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

Welcome to 2025. One is only meant to make April Fools' Day jokes until midday, but come on! History will talk about April Fools' Day and the former Labor government in one breath. It was pointed out to them it was going to be a problem. What did they do about it? Nothing! Did they listen? No.

Listening is what an effective opposition does, I say to the current opposition. That is what we did when we were in opposition. We did not just worry about whatever it is that they are worried about. I do not know what they are worried about, although I am certain that one thing is what Peel Street says they should say in question time.

Mr McDonald: They weren't listening to the victims.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. He is a former police officer who serves his community. He looks after victims in the Lockyer community. When I talk about the Lockyer community, I must say that we work together very closely to ensure that the people of Somerset and the greater Nanango electorate are kept safe.

In the Nanango electorate, the crime rates under the former government were abhorrent. For years, my community has lived with the consequences of Labor's youth crime crisis. I met a couple from a town in my electorate. I will not say the name of the town because this is a well-known matter involving an elderly couple. The gentleman told me that he sleeps with his eyes open because the last time he slept with his eyes shut his wife, who was lying in bed beside him, was beaten by a youth offender. Since the crime rates have skyrocketed, I have met countless victims who have shared their frustrations and their heartbreaking first-hand encounters with youths in the South Burnett, in particular. It is deeply concerning and I talk about it almost every time I stand in this place.

In government and in opposition, we have long advocated for tougher measures to be put in place to address repeat youth offending. We have talked about the measures that are needed to keep track of high-risk individuals to ensure that they are kept accountable for their actions. For all of those reasons, extending the trial of electronic monitoring devices offers Queensland a chance to grasp, track and monitor the youth crime crisis in a different way and to monitor a small cohort that we have not been able to track before. Apart from cleaning up Labor's mess, through this bill the Minister for Youth Justice is proposing a one-year extension of the trial to guarantee that a thorough evaluation can be carried out to assess how solutions can be incorporated into Queensland's legal system relating to when a youth offender is granted bail.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Absolutely, Minister for Youth Justice; calm, considered, methodical and evidence based. We are going to make sure that the legal system is listening to those people who should be listened to, that is, the victims. Victims deserve to have peace of mind while they wait for justice. They deserve to feel safe in some limited capacity while they cope with the trauma that youth offenders have caused them.


I put it on the record that in the Nanango electorate our incredible police officers are often stretched thin. Tracking monitors will provide law enforcement with real-time oversight. Extending the trial will enable the Crisafulli government to conduct a proper evaluation. We see the potential to reduce reoffending. If that is the case, let the trial continue. Let us clean up Labor's mess. Let us extend the trial for another year and make those kids accountable.

I thank the member for Nicklin and his committee for the huge amount of work that they do. Theirs is one of the busiest committees. I acknowledge the member for Nicklin, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Capalaba who are working so hard. The Minister for Youth Justice, the Minister for Police and I are doing all we can to ensure that we are listening to Queenslanders, that we are keeping Queenslanders safe and that we are reducing the number of victims because each victim is one victim too many in our books. I thank the committee.

I also thank the many members on this side of the House who get what we are doing here today, which is supporting the youth justice minister in cleaning up Labor's mess. We are fixing what the member for Glass House predicted about 2½ to three years ago.

Mr Powell: Nearly four years ago.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Nearly four years ago. We are standing up and we are trying to keep our communities safe. Granted, there are green shoots, but is there more to be done? You betcha! There is a huge amount of work to be done and we are up to the task. As the member for Lockyer always says, this is all about people over politics, which is something that the former Miles and Palaszczuk governments did not understand. They completely lost their way because they refused to think about reducing the number of victims in Queensland rather than standing up for some senseless ideology. Today, we are fixing up Labor's mess. Again, I congratulate the youth justice minister for doing what she said she was going to do, that is, not only doing something about Labor's youth crime crisis but also fixing up Labor's mess.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.35 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I add to the compliments that the member for Nanango passed on to the Minister for Youth Justice. I also congratulate her on five years since her great win in the by-election. She has proven to be a great member in this House. I am sure that she has ahead of her many years of great service to the Gold Coast and to Queensland.

This bill seeks to extend the trial of electronic monitoring devices for youth offenders by an additional 12 months. The bill is not merely an administrative measure; it is a commitment from this government to take decisive and meaningful steps to address youth crime and enhance community safety. It is about giving our police, judiciary and rehabilitation services the tools they need to keep our communities safe. The bill comes at a time when Queenslanders have seen the need for effective tools to curb youth crime. The original trial, introduced in 2021, was a catastrophe. In its first year, only five offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of their bail. This limited scope hindered the ability to fully evaluate the effectiveness of this technology as a deterrent and rehabilitation tool.

From the very beginning, my LNP colleagues advocated for a more robust approach to electronic monitoring and, yes, I am going to mention the member for Glass House. During a committee hearing on 8 March 2021, the member for Glass House rightly predicted that the cohort of offenders would be too small for meaningful data collection and analysis. It was clear then and it remains clear today that a more comprehensive strategy is needed to make electronic monitoring a functional part of our justice system. Following this failure, in 2023 the former Labor government made changes that yet again failed Queenslanders, with only 36 uses of electronic monitoring. This highlights that we need a government that uses commonsense and follows a well-planned approach, which is something that our government has proved it is committed to doing.

In 2024, the then police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, publicly acknowledged the potential of electronic monitoring devices and the failures to implement them. The then police commissioner stated that the devices offer continuous monitoring, a capability that far exceeds the intermittent checks police can make on offenders. She stressed that the devices should be more widely used to prevent serious reoffending.

Despite previous limitations, our government is committed to making electronic monitoring a success. Under this bill, the Crisafulli government will extend the trial period by 12 months to 30 April 2026. This extension will allow for a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of the program. It will provide time to gather robust data, analyse outcomes and ensure that future decisions are based on evidence.

Currently, for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition, they must meet specific criteria. They must be at least 15 years old, be charged with a prescribed indictable offence, have either been previously found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months, or have consented to wearing the electronic monitoring device.


We want to see a reasonable and comprehensive evaluation, so we will conduct a review because we have seen the potential benefits of these devices. We have already seen promising anecdotal evidence of the benefits that electronic monitoring can offer. In July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan successfully adhered to conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, while wearing an electronic monitoring device. They have not reoffended. In January 2025, a 17-year-old in Brisbane who had been granted conditional bail with a monitoring device re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services. The evidence shows that when we apply these monitoring devices correctly they are an invaluable tool to reduce reoffending and provide offenders the opportunity to re-engage with society.

Unlike the previous government, we also acknowledge the importance of listening to the views of stakeholders. At the public hearing, Natalie Merlehan, on behalf of Voice for Victims, stated that, had electronic monitoring been in place at the time of her incident, it could have provided crucial real-time information and potentially prevented greater harm. She emphasised the importance of ensuring the trial had enough time to be properly evaluated.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission also made valuable comments, highlighting the need for not just quantitative but also qualitative data evaluation. They rightly pointed out that electronic monitoring should not be viewed as a silver bullet but rather as one tool within a larger framework that supports youth reintegration and prevents reoffending.

We recognise that electronic monitoring alone is not enough, and that is why we are investing \$485 million into a comprehensive plan for early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation. This includes: \$100 million for Gold Standard Early Intervention; \$50 million for Regional Reset; \$40 million for crime prevention schools; \$40 million for youth justice schools; \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing; \$175 million for Staying on Track; and \$40 million for our victim advocate service. We are determined to not only monitor youth offenders but also help them turn their lives around and become contributing members of society.

The committee's recommendation that this bill be passed demonstrates the commonsense approach that we are taking. This extension will allow us to gather sufficient evidence and longitudinal data to make informed decisions. It is about doing the job properly—something the previous government struggled to achieve. This government is committed to restoring safety to our communities. We will not stand by and let the mistakes of the past continue. This bill will continue to help ease the pressure on local policing resources, and the extension will provide us with the data and insights necessary to make decisions that will genuinely improve public safety and reduce youth offending. The Crisafulli government are not only doing what is necessary to keep Queenslanders safe; we are delivering a fresh start to Queenslanders, and this bill is part of that commitment.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will enable the current trial of electronic monitoring devices underway at sites across Queensland, including Townsville, to continue for another year, until 30 April 2026, and ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Electronic monitoring devices provide real-time alerts about the location of youth offenders. These devices support our police officers working to ensure young offenders who have committed crimes and have been released on bail are complying with the conditions of their bail, including residence and curfew requirements.

This bill pertains to the electronic monitoring trial and allows it to be used under certain circumstances. In 2021, a two-year trial of electronic monitoring devices was introduced by the previous government; however, the conditions it was operating within meant the data collected offered very few insights into the efficacy of the devices in deterring young people from reoffending and breaching bail conditions. The initial trial by all accounts was an abysmal failure.

In the first 12 months of the initial trial's operation, only five youth offenders—three of whom were from Townsville—were ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device as a condition of their bail. The 2021 trial failed to even confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour because not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear electronic monitoring devices as a condition of their bail. Bowing to pressure in 2023, the former Labor government extended the trial for another two years and made piecemeal changes to electronic monitoring; however, once again, Labor failed to make use of electronic monitoring and only 36 monitoring conditions were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. It took six months for Labor to respond after the then police commissioner publicly called out the electronic monitoring failure in February 2024, calling on the Labor government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders.

In August 2024, further amendments were made to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation to add additional trial locations and, again, change the parameters, but, critically, the previous Labor government failed to extend the sunset clause, which was set for 30 April this year. That meant there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation.

Put simply, we need more time. We need time to evaluate and assess the data to determine the efficacy of these devices. The additional data and information are critical, as they will shape our future position on electronic monitoring and ensure our conclusions and evaluations from the study are well informed. Electronic monitoring devices, when applied correctly, have the ability to reduce offending and provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment whilst keeping our communities safe. A well-executed system of electronic monitoring could be an important tool in reducing youth crime, supporting rehabilitation and fixing Labor's youth crime crisis.

The Crisafulli government will ensure that this trial extension is not wasted. We want to see a comprehensive review to ensure our decisions are backed by evidence and focused on reducing crime and reoffending rates. After a decade of weakening laws, Labor's youth crime crisis will continue unless we can implement consequences for actions and address the skyrocketing reoffending rates.

The Crisafulli government are not wasting any time. We have passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which includes Adult Crime, Adult Time. We appointed an expert legal panel to monitor and advise further changes and strengthen our laws going forward. We have opened up the courts to reporters and put the rights of victims ahead of the offenders. We have made sure detention is no longer to be used as a last resort. We have announced additional funding to open up two new courtrooms in Townsville, which will reduce the wait time for victims to see justice carried out. We have given the judges the ability to hand down sentences in line with community expectations. We have given our police more tools so they can do their job more effectively, as well as initiated Queensland's first dedicated rapid response unit, the Flying Squad. Additionally, we are investing in early intervention and rehabilitation by putting the Staying on Track program and Regional Reset out to tender.

Electronic monitoring devices are another tool, another string to our bow, which provides an opportunity for young offenders to engage in education or work with a view to being rehabilitated. They are a tool our courts and police can use to help keep our community safe. Queenslanders want to feel safe where they live. People in Townsville want to feel safe enough to put the bins out at night. They want to be able to go to bed at night without having to consider whether to hide their keys or keep them in an easy place for an intruder to find. We need to address the youth crime crisis to help residents like Mal, from Belgian Gardens, who said that his wife does not feel safe driving in certain parts of Townsville for fear of getting carjacked.


Our police are working hard, and we have given them more resources to crack down on repeat youth offenders. Police know who these young people are and we have given them the tools to do their job: enforce the rule of law and bring these young people to account for their crimes. Electronic monitors which show the whereabouts of known youth offenders are an extremely valuable tool for police. If we are to turn around the reoffending rate of 94 per cent, we need to continue with rehabilitation. These devices are not just about punishment; they are about prevention, supervision and giving young people a chance to change whilst protecting the community.

It will take time to break the cycle of crime, but we will not hesitate to put victims of crime first. Unlike those opposite, we will work every day to make sure we fix Labor's youth crime crisis. The use of monitoring devices on repeat offenders is about helping young people turn their backs on crime by keeping them from behind bars and offering them an opportunity to get back on track. That is exactly what our government's Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs are all about.

Staying on Track will deliver a 12-month rehabilitation program for youth exiting detention. 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 under Labor. We need to make sure that they get the support and skills they need to build a positive future. Helping young offenders break the cycle is what our comprehensive suite of programs and policies sets out to achieve. Tenders for the Staying on Track and Regional Reset programs are now open. I encourage local providers and those working across North Queensland to make submissions.

The consequences of youth crime are felt deeply in my community of Townsville and across Queensland. It is felt in people's homes, in businesses, in parks and in streets. Almost every day I speak to someone impacted by crime. We acknowledge that crime is out of control and it is not where it needs to be. We will continue to work hard and make the changes necessary to continue to resolve the youth crime crisis until it is a distant memory that we look back on and never have to think about again.

Extending the trial of electronic monitoring devices is more evidence that this government is determined to fix the youth crime crisis and to deliver on our promise to reduce victim numbers and keep all Queenslanders safe. This bill proposes to extend for 12 months the expiry of section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act. It means that the expiry date would become 30 April 2026. It simply extends the trial so that a robust evaluation of the trial can occur, including time for consultation with stakeholders, to inform decisions by the government about the use of electronic monitoring in the longer term before the provisions expire. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (4.51 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. I thank my colleague the member for Currumbin, Laura Gerber, for her incredible work in this area and again congratulate her on her election in the by-election, which I was instrumental in.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BATES: Exactly. I take that interjection.

The purpose of this bill is to extend the trial of electronic devices for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted and to fix another of Labor's failures—their youth crime crisis. The electronic monitoring trial has had a long and complicated history from its introduction for a two-year trial in 2021. The initial trial was absolutely abysmal. It failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to even be completed. In the first year of the trial's operation, only five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of their bail. The LNP warned the former Labor government of this from the start. It would be remiss of me not to mention the member for Glass House—yet again—who raised the LNP's concerns in the committee hearing at the time, basically saying, 'How can you actually have meaningful data to base your decisions on if you do not have anybody in the cohort to count?' The LNP government is now fixing yet another one of Labor's failures.

Labor, of course, did not heed the warning of their own review in 2021. The trial failed to even confirm whether these electronic monitoring devices were effective in deterring offending behaviour because not enough offenders were ordered to wear them. These electronic devices were a condition of bail and yet people were not even wearing them. Members can imagine what the residents of Mudgeeraba thought about that. We finally had youth offenders in court. They were told to wear one of these devices and they did not put it on or could not be bothered putting it on. It was all too hard for Labor so that was the end of it.


Due to this failure, in 2023 the former Labor government had to extend their own trial for another two years because they did not have enough people to count. By extending the trial, the Crisafulli government is going to provide an opportunity to collect, analyse and review all of the data to inform how electronic monitoring conditions for youth offenders can be utilised to make sure that we keep our communities safe.

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing victims of crime. By extending this electronic monitoring trial and allowing time to meaningfully and comprehensively review it, we are prioritising community safety first. It means that the courts will continue to have the option to make an electronic monitoring condition for youth offenders in our community. It will hopefully continue to help ease the pressure on our local police resources. I know how under the pump my police are at Mudgeeraba, Robina and Nerang. There are not enough of them. They are absolutely exhausted. They are very glad to see the back of the former Labor government.

The LNP wants to see this meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen. The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending. We have seen from overseas that high-risk DV offenders should be fitted with these devices to make sure that women feel safe in the community. Electronic monitoring also provides offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety when it is applied correctly. This comprehensive review will inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make no apologies for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce victims of crime in this state.

I am so pleased to be part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is doing exactly what we said we would do before the election. The first tranche of our Making Queensland Safer Laws have already passed this place and the second tranche were introduced today. We will continue to listen to the experts on any future changes needed to continue to combat Queensland's youth crime crisis. We will be relentless in strengthening Queensland's laws, ensuring that the rights of victims of crime are put before the rights of juvenile criminals.

It is obvious that 10 years of weakened laws and dithering on strategies to actually address these issues under the former Labor government will not be fixed overnight, but we are making progress. After a decade of neglect, the Crisafulli LNP government is ensuring that there are finally consequences for actions in Queensland, and we will continue to work tirelessly to address crime across this state.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a safer Queensland and a safer Redcliffe—safety where you live. Tragically, on 13 March 2020, 15-year-old Angus Beaumont was murdered in a car park in Redcliffe. He was killed by a knife injury inflicted by two youths who were out on bail. There were multiple charges between them. The utter devastation of his death for his mother, Michelle Liddle, dad, Ben Beaumont, his brother and their extended family has been excruciating. Unspeakable grief—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member, one moment please. We are concerned that that matter may still be before the courts on appeal so may be sub judice. You and I do not know exactly where it is at at the moment. According to the standing orders, I warn you not to talk about sub judice matters.

Ms DOOLEY: This is grief that our own member for Capalaba has experienced. This is grief that Emma Lovell's family—Emma, who was also murdered by youth out on bail—has experienced. Having journeyed with the Beaumonts in their quest to find justice for Angus by coordinating meetings with our then shadow police minister and our now Premier and helping them fight for stronger laws, I have seen the Beaumont's advocacy, along with that of too many other victims of crime throughout Queensland, help shape the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which this bill sits alongside.

The Crisafulli government is extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders by 12 months, to 30 April 2026. This will allow the necessary time for the completion of meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. I mention these families as I cannot help but wonder whether if these youths had monitoring devices Angus Beaumont, Emma Lovell, Matt Field and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn baby might still be us with us.

Currently, for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition they must be at least 15 years old; be charged with a prescribed indictable offence; have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months; and consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device. These changes also expand the list of prescribed indictable offences to include specific offences involving violence or threats of violence. The LNP believes the expansion of the trial period will help provide the required evidence to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen.

The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce offending. It will provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety when it is applied correctly. There is anecdotal evidence already. In July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods in detention. The court granted bail with conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to. They have not reoffended. In November 2024, a 16-year-old youth in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an EMD. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person's high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend.

Half of the young people who were subject to EMDs did not reoffend. This is a positive outcome. We need another 12 months to gather more evidence so this comprehensive review can inform government decisions around electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make absolutely no apology for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and to reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. Natalie Merlehan, on behalf of Voice for Victims, said—

As both a member of Voice for Victims, a victim survivor of youth crime ... I believe this measure could have been a positive impact on the incident in which I was involved.

I strongly feel, had the monitoring of serious repeat youth offenders through the use of electronic monitoring been in place at the time, it could have provided police and first responders with crucial real-time information about the offender—who was on bail and a known repeat offender. This could have enabled police and possibly other first responders, to intervene earlier, preventing greater harm and reducing the risk to innocent members of the public.

Voice for Victims strongly supports the government's proposal to extend the electronic monitoring trial period by an additional 12 months. They believe that this extension period will provide the necessary time to conduct a comprehensive review and provide the evidence required to inform future government decisions on its effectiveness. The safety of our communities is of paramount importance. Voice for Victims, as an advocacy group, supports measures that strike a balance between rehabilitation and protection for the public. They go on to say—

Electronic monitoring provides an opportunity to closely monitor high-risk youth offenders while still allowing them to engage with rehabilitation programs. This level of oversight may prevent reoffending during the period of release on bail and provide an effective deterrent for those who may otherwise be at risk of reoffending.


...

The extension of the trial period will allow time to explore these rehabilitative aspects further and refine the program to ensure it serves both protective and rehabilitative functions.

At the public hearing reviewing this bill, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, commented on the need for not only a quantitative but a qualitative data evaluation. The QFCC further commented that 'strapping on a device is not as important as strapping on support'. That is exactly what we are doing with our comprehensive Making Queensland Safer Laws including the \$485 million in funds for wraparound services, early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs; \$100 million for Gold Standard Early Intervention; \$50 million for Regional Reset; \$40 million for crime prevention schools; \$40 million for youth justice schools; \$80 million for Circuit Breaker Sentencing; \$175 million for Staying on Track; and \$40 million for our victims advocacy service.

In speaking to this bill I want to put on the record the innovative program delivered by Redcliffe Area Youth Space with their Edu Space program, which is educating teenagers who are known to Youth Justice or on bail orders and providing them with an alternative education offering that they can flourish in. Edu Space at Redcliffe Area Youth Space is an innovation in schooling offering vulnerable, marginalised and at-risk young people the opportunity to discover their academic capability, to find their voice and to develop their identity within a safe, inclusive, empowering and transformative environment. I thank Amy Mayes, Allen Ellis and the whole team at Redcliffe Area Youth Space for their commitment to providing education and support for our at-risk and vulnerable teens.

The LNP believes in putting the rights of victims before perpetrators. We believe in consequences for action. We believe in putting an end to a decade of Labor's chaos and crisis and youth crime crisis. The LNP believes in Gold Standard Early Intervention. This bill, alongside our Making Queensland Safer Laws, will help achieve this—a safer Redcliffe and a safer Queensland for all. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.07 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025—a crucial piece of legislation aimed at creating a more effective and rehabilitative approach to managing young offenders within our justice system. The primary objective of the bill is to expand the use of electronic monitoring devices for young offenders who are on parole, serving community-based sentences or released under supervision. It acknowledges that many young offenders have the potential to be rehabilitated, but that requires not only supervision but also appropriate support. That is where technology plays a critical role in ensuring compliance with court conditions.

Under the previous Labor government, a trial was conducted where only five youth offenders had electronic monitoring orders imposed in the first year, despite rising youth crime rates. After extending the trial for another two years, only 36 monitoring orders were issued but youth crime continued to rise. Clearly, there was a lack of commitment to reducing youth crime. However, under the Crisafulli LNP government we have seen a shift. Recent statistics show that youth crime is down, and the use of


monitoring devices is proving effective in helping to prevent youth from committing further crimes while on bail. These positive trends indicate that we are heading in the right direction.

In my electorate of Maryborough, the community is still reeling from a tragic event two years ago when a 13-year-old stole a car and caused a collision that killed three innocent women and severely injured another one. Could this have been prevented? I would say yes. The punishment handed down left my community feeling that the justice system had failed to deliver a fair response to such a severe crime. This is exactly why the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 is so important. It provides a more constructive, rehabilitative alternative to incarceration, giving young offenders the chance to remain in their communities where they can receive family support, education and other critical services while still being held accountable for their actions.

By using electronic monitoring, we can ensure public safety while giving young people a chance to reform outside the isolating environment of detention. This bill also offers an holistic approach by integrating critical support services alongside monitoring services. Young offenders will have access to mental health services, educational programs and family counselling services that are essential to rehabilitation. This ensures that young people not only comply with the conditions of their release but are also actively working to build a better future.

The bill provides greater flexibility for judges, allowing them to tailor sentences to the specific needs of each offender. Courts will be able to impose monitoring devices as part of a broader set of measures, ensuring a personalised response to youth crime rather than applying a one-size-fits-all solution. Clear guidelines will be established for the use of monitoring devices, ensuring they are used appropriately and with respect to the young person's rights. There will also be ongoing oversight to assess the effectiveness of these devices and ensure they are contributing to rehabilitation. For the broader community, this bill strikes an important balance between public safety and rehabilitation. Long-term incarceration for young offenders does not always lead to positive outcomes. By keeping them under supervision with support services within their communities, we can reduce the risk of youth committing future crimes.

In conclusion, the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 represents a progressive step towards a more balanced and rehabilitative youth justice system. It ensures accountability through electronic monitoring while integrating support services that provide young offenders with the tools they need to turn their lives around. I fully support this bill and believe it will make a significant difference in how we approach youth crime and rehabilitation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.13 pm): Thank you, Minister for Youth Justice Laura Gerber, my adjacent MP, for introducing yet another piece of legislation that will mop up the sorry and sordid mess that is Labor's youth crime crisis legacy.

I have to believe that elections are about contrast, they are about choices and they are about giving the community back agency. What I took from the last election is that my community of Burleigh had had enough. They have had enough of young people skulking at the end of cul de sacs, prying open the doors of their vehicles. They had had enough of young people jumping fences to burglarise their homes and they had had enough of being terrorised in their commercial centres. They had had enough and they wanted change, but what chance was offered to them? There was a change offered: the Making Queensland Safer Laws. They offered the community back its voice, its agency—

Mrs Poole: A fresh start.

Mr VORSTER: A fresh start for Queensland. I am so proud to be part of a government that takes the safety of my community—of every community across Queensland—so seriously, because I can tell you that those opposite simply do not.

I know they do not because of their track record in my beautiful part of Burleigh. It is a track record that saw the former government cut six positions from the Palm Beach police district. I could not believe that, since 2015 in the middle of a youth crime crisis, they cut six positions. To add insult to injury, when they had an opportunity to amend laws to address the resources crisis they created they fumbled the ball. One of those laws—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Previous rulings in this debate have been very specific: to talk about the amending bill itself. I believe that the member is straying away and I ask that he be brought back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I will take some advice. Member for Burleigh, would you please explain how what you are saying is relevant to the bill? I ask you to be mindful of being relevant to the particular bill we are dealing with at the moment.

Mr VORSTER: Absolutely. In fact, I am sure *Hansard* will reflect that I was midsentence when the member rose with her point of order. I remarked that the former government had fumbled the ball when amending legislation, and of course I refer to the substance of what we are considering today; that is, their approach to youth monitoring through devices, which is what we are discussing at this very moment.

Ms Farmer: As opposed to the police numbers you were discussing.

Mr Smith: He's a talent.

Mr VORSTER: I will take that interjection. I appreciate the encouragement, because I am perhaps the only talent on this side of the chamber.

The former government had stripped resources, but to compound the woes in our community they fumbled important legislation. One thing they fumbled was their ham-fisted reform to the monitoring devices legislation because they failed to ensure that this trial—their trial—could run sufficiently long that they would have the data they would need to make an informed decision as to whether the trial failed abysmally or provided a method that could be used by police—under pressure because of cut resources—to do their job effectively. I have to support this bill because the former government had put our police under so much pressure that the only reasonable thing we can do is provide them with the tools and resources necessary to amplify what few resources the former government left behind.

The purpose of this bill is to give the police an extension of that trial so that their resources can be stretched and used as efficiently as possible to give us the time we need in government to correct other deficiencies in the approach to youth justice. We have to do that because we have heard today—and it has been remarked on by several members in this chamber—that addressing this extension in this bill is not the be-all and end-all of what will make Queensland safer. What will make Queensland safer is more police who are better resourced and backed with the laws they need to ensure that justice is done and that justice is seen to be done.

Justice was not seen to be done in the first incarnation of Labor's version of these laws, and it was certainly not actually done on the Gold Coast. I want to reflect on this. In the first year of the trial's operation—in that first year; in 365 days of misery in Queensland—only five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of their bail. I repeat: five across the state of Queensland. In my constituency and in the city that I love and care for on the Gold Coast, can you imagine what that figure was? What was our share of the five? Zero. Not a single youth offender had an ankle monitor attached to their person as a condition of bail. Not only was justice not seen to be done; in reality it was not done. That is what makes Labor's approach an absolute injustice.

When I was doorknocking my community, I had the fortune of speaking to good people who had the misfortune of being victims of Labor's crime crisis. I spoke to a lovely lady on Nineteenth Avenue in Palm Beach. She explained to me that she normally works from home but it was school holidays and she had left her two teenage children at home to look after themselves. That was a reasonable thing to do. That is the Australian dream: to live in a safe environment where once your kids are responsible and of an age you can duck out knowing that they will be safe. Unfortunately, their home was beset by some youth offenders who jumped the front fence and terrorised her two children in her home. Those offenders made off with goods but the trauma was not what was stolen—

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


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for McConnel, before I take your point of order, if you wish to interact with the chair of this House you will do so through a point of order. I will not accept whisperings and commentary from either side. Before I take your point of order, I was going to take some advice from the Clerk. Would you please take your seat, member for McConnel. Member for McConnel, what is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: My point of order is relevance. The shadow minister was pulled up in previous rulings for speaking on anything that was outside the long title of the bill. Others in this House are now doing exactly what she was pulled up for. There were points of order coming from that side and she was sat down at one stage. I ask that you address relevance and rule that the member be brought back to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the member is contextualising his contribution to his electorate—I hope that is what he is doing—and I am quite sure he will remain relevant. Member for Burleigh, can you assure the House that the matter you are ventilating is not before the courts as a criminal matter?

Mr VORSTER: I do not believe the culprits were ever caught, which actually brings me to my point. The woman with whom I had this conversation made it very clear to me that something needed to be done. She spoke very passionately about the need for repeat offenders to be properly monitored because she was concerned that those who were out on bail and not fitted with devices could get about the community with no consequences whatsoever for their actions. It is because of conversations like that which I had on Nineteenth Avenue that I was so motivated to support a government that wanted to change the laws and make sure that we had safety where we live and that we made good use of technology to ensure our police could get on with their job.

That is why I support this bill. I support it because it allows our police to amplify their resources. It will give us the data we need to decide whether we need to back this in or make improvements. It will give comfort to my community in Burleigh that we take their concerns and suggestions seriously, because they were not heard by the former government. My support for this bill is a demonstration that I hear their concerns, that I will act on their concerns and that I will support good legislation that backs in our police and restores safety where they live.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.25 pm): It is a privilege for me to be able to rise and speak on this bill tonight. I must say that this is another bill that does support our police. This is about electronic monitoring devices but it is another step in our Making Queensland Safer Laws. In fact, whilst we have put in place the first tranche of those laws, with another one introduced today, this was something we discovered once in government. I pay tribute to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support for discovering this problem. It was something that the wise counsel of the member for Glass House raised back in 2021. Unfortunately, the former government did not listen to it, and, as we have now heard, only five youth were put onto this program in the first year of its existence. The review of this legislation showed that it was poorly designed, with very poor implementation. Again, the former government was warned about those things.

I remember being in this House in opposition and also warning the then government, who were much more focused on the headlines from announcing another electronic device program and trying to give confidence to the community. What they were really doing was seeking headlines over operational outcomes. I know that the former police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, also warned the former government about these things. They had plenty of cause to change it but they did not heed that advice.

Through the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General, we are focused on reducing victim numbers. This is another part of that suite of measures to see a better outcome of electronic devices fitted to those youth. The substance of this bill is about getting an extension of time so that we can do a proper evaluation of the program and have further evidence going forward. Wouldn't it have been nice over the last 10 years to have a government that listened to the police, that listened to the advocates, that listened to those who said the current social experiment on crime was not working? Ten years later, here we are having to fix that mess.

We should never let Queenslanders forget that Labor weakened the laws back in 2015. We are now doing what we told Queenslanders we would do and we are implementing each of these outcomes. As my colleague the member for Townsville rightfully outlined earlier today, it is an enormous list. A couple of items are very pertinent to this issue of electronic monitoring devices, which is another option of bail for the judiciary to consider. That is a very sensible thing, but it is also part of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. Those laws looked at: removing detention as a last resort—we have done that; making sure there are consequences for action—we are doing that and this is part of that; and having Gold Standard Early Intervention. Those opposite criticised that terminology of 'gold standard'. I was pleased to be on the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee with the member for Currumbin and the member for Ninderry, and we were told that the definition of 'gold standard' is when something is measured.

The former auditor-general did a review on youth justice programs and found that 75 per cent were not being effectively measured. When you are putting government money into programs that are not being effectively measured, then that is an absolute poor outcome for our community. That backs up the need for this bill which sees an opportunity to properly review and make sure we have some good, meaningful and evidence-based outcomes.

I must say, sitting here and listening to some opposite, they are talking about politics over people and victims. That is really a very poor reflection on the opposition. They say they are supporting this

bill, yet they are making all manner of different criticisms about things. I say to them, please, get on board. On 26 October last year, Queenslanders voted for change and they voted for a Queensland where there is safety where we live. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering that.

I take this opportunity to give a shout-out to the local police in the Lockyer and Somerset area who I am very proud to associate with—the police in Helidon, Gatton and Laidley over in the Lockyer, and, of course, the unit formerly known as SARCIS—the Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad—as well as the CIB and the Child Protection and Investigation Unit who do a lot of this work around electronic monitoring, as well as the police in Lowood and Esk who come down into my region from time to time. I thank those officers for the great work that they do. I want to assure them that we now have a government in Queensland that backs our police and is giving them the resources they need and are going to put in place legislation they require. We have been doing that since being elected, with the first suite of those reforms going through our justice committee. I recognise the member for Nicklin, the chair of that committee, who is in the chamber. Now the second lot of the Making Queensland Safer Laws are coming through this House.

I want to stress again the early intervention matter and recognise the youth justice minister for the two new programs, the Regional Reset program and the Back on Track program. Who would have thought the former government, who believed and said they cared about these young criminals, was only giving 72 hours of support to those young offenders? We made the announcement in the lead-up to the election not only about Adult Crime, Adult Time and being hard on offenders but also to make sure we were giving those young offenders meaningful rehabilitation and support—

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The shadow minister and other speakers were the subject of rulings on points of order in relation to straying away from the long title of the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the long title of the bill in line with previous rulings.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Lockyer, I invite you to return to the substance of the bill. You were talking about matters which are associated with other bills.

Mr McDONALD: Thank you for your guidance, Deputy Speaker. I want to stress the importance of electronic monitoring as being part of the rehabilitation efforts of the young offenders. Many of those would be going into a watch house, which is not acceptable, because of poor planning by the former Labor government. They were warned about this.

To wear electronic devices is an option for young offenders who meet the criteria as an alternative to being incarcerated. Obviously, they need to meet the requirements that the Minister for Youth Justice outlined and rightly so—

Mrs GERBER: Wraparound support like Staying on Track.


Mr McDONALD: Absolutely!

Mrs Poole: Rehabilitation with purpose.

Mr McDONALD: And rehabilitation with purpose. I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra because she is a former police officer, as am I, and understands the challenges that these young offenders face. We are putting people before politics; I think that is the key to this whole debate. Whilst this bill may not be very complex, it is about giving that extension to make sure the review of the electronic devices is actually meaningful so that we can gain further evidence going forward. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government that is going to be calm and considered and an evidence-based, conservative government that Queenslanders can trust. That is a really key issue for us.

Queenslanders right across this state were fearful of cars being stolen, of the youth crime epidemic. Hearing victims say, 'Where AM I going to hide my keys?' is just not the right question. I implore all members of this House to support this bill, including the Greens' member for Maiwar, but I do not think he will, based on his contribution. This is evidence-based and required. As we know, the youth advocacy group even supported the bill because of the extension of time to have a proper and meaningful review. When you have them supporting it as well, I encourage all members of the House to do so. We are a government that are doing what we said we would do and putting in place things which are meaningful for Queenslanders so that they can feel safe in their home. Too many Queenslanders, including members of my community, are fearful of crime, and that is not the way to live.

I ask all members of this House to consider very carefully this bill. It is another little part of the solutions in regard to youth crime. It is not a silver bullet, but this is a silver buckshot because we are gathering all of the silver bullets that will change youth culture in Queensland.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. We have heard a lot of debate about why this should exist. It is really simple. We want to have evidence-based data to inform where we can potentially put people into a situation where they can be rehabilitated, rather than incarcerated, but we need to know if that is going to work because we do not want to keep putting victims at risk. I can give you an example. In the last three years in Toowoomba, prior to the change of government, there were 3,150 crimes committed by youth offenders, and those youth offenders, depending on the year, numbered 33 or 39. For example, one offender was charged with 114 different offences. Imagine what that has done to someone's concept of security in their own home, security of their possessions and security of their family. Imagine what it has done to victims' insurance costs. Imagine what it has done to how victims conduct their life potentially without a vehicle for an extended period of time, including simply trying to go to the shops. If the judiciary had had the option and we had the evidence to back it, many of these offenders may well have been given one of these monitors.

The added bonus of that is whilst they are doing bail checks, the police resources would be much more efficiently used in prevention of crime rather than going and checking up and seeing if someone who has already been charged is where they are supposed to be at the time they are supposed to be. Every evening, depending on the time of year, police are conducting attempts to monitor up to 39 juveniles in our community in Toowoomba. That is 39 visits for the local police. That is 39 times they have to check, and they literally check and then who knows what happens in the 10 minutes after. The fact that the offenders managed to commit 3,150 crimes between them over a three-year period indicates that not all of them were following their bail conditions.

Extending this trial so we can gather this evidence in a meaningful way and being able to provide the evidence to allow judges to use their discretion where there might be an opportunity for rehabilitation, and to allow the police to use their resources more efficiently and effectively in crime prevention, rather than monitoring someone who has already been charged, would be good outcomes. Of course, we do not know the outcome. Why don't we know the outcome? Because the first trial of this was a complete failure. The Labor government brought in a trial and certainly in my patch in Toowoomba, in the first opportunity, there were none issued out of the five that were issued across the state that year. Based on lots of people's insurance bills, I would suggest it would have been useful if more had been issued by the judiciary.

We know that later on, there were 36 monitoring conditions issued for 30 distinct offenders, four of which were in Toowoomba. I wonder if those four were in the group of the 39 who managed to commit 3,150 crimes over the three-year period. Imagine the number of victims who have been created because bail conditions were not being followed. We do not even necessarily know that they were not being followed until they were arrested again and then put out on bail, and then arrested again and put out on bail. If time permitted I would go through the 114 times that happened, but time does not permit.

I believe that this trial is very important because these are young people who have committed crimes. We want to try to put them back on track. We have some great programs where if the judge has seen a glimmer of hope and suggested the monitor and they meet the terms and conditions that are laid out in the bill, they may well be able to get onto one of the intervention programs. They may well be able to start rehabilitating their life. At the same time, after they have done whatever program has in store for them that day, if their conditions mean they are not allowed out at night or they have to be in a certain place across the weekend, the police can see that without having to send someone out in a police vehicle to knock on the door and check they are there and then not know what is happening for the next 24 hours—24 hours in which, clearly, people are out committing more crimes. The judiciary know it, the police know it and the victims certainly know it. The only people who seem not to have known it were those in the government. When they came up to Toowoomba in February 2023, the then premier was a bit too busy to come and talk to people. This is one of the ideas that was discussed at that forum.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the point of order that you raised earlier when the shadow minister was sat down by the Deputy Speaker in his ruling. I believe that the member is not addressing the long title of the bill and I ask that he be brought back to being relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I actually think the member for Toowoomba North was being relevant. I was listening closely to what he said. He is discussing youth crime, the implications of monitoring devices, the history around that and why he is adopting his stance in this House. You may continue, member for Toowoomba North.

Mr WATTS: For the benefit of the shadow minister, at that crime forum the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, failed to listen to the community, who were asking about bail conditions. They were trying to work out why people—39 of them—were able to commit over 3,000 crimes and keep getting out on bail.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. At the time that the shadow minister was sat down, she was speaking in relation to statistics about crime rates. That was raised as a point of order by yourself.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, please take your seat.

Ms GRACE: I am seeking a ruling on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, I am not going to be unduly constrained by what you say may have gone before or the circumstances of an earlier ruling by the Speaker. The member had only recommenced speaking and I find it disorderly that you should rise on the same point of order within a minute. I am listening to what the member has to say, and if he becomes irrelevant I will deal with the matter. Thank you.


Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the shadow minister has some concerns as Acting Manager of Opposition Business, there is a process to write to you about that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is noted, thank you.

Mr WATTS: I can assure the House and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the people of Toowoomba think I am very relevant.

The former police minister, the member for Morayfield, failed to listen to the community. In answer to one of the questions it was stated that, in most instances, people who are on bail do not reoffend. I find that difficult to believe when 39 people have committed 3,150 crimes across three years. Obviously, somebody is reoffending. It is clear that when the government introduced this legislation they were looking for a political fix to try to create the image that they were doing something. What they were doing, albeit very poorly, was giving a judicial option, but we need to know if that judicial option has an evidence base. That requires a trial and that requires data. Obviously, to get that data, we will need the judiciary to use this over a period of time and we will need to measure the outcomes, in conjunction with rehabilitation programs that are part of other bills that this House will see. It is relevant to this because if you are wearing the monitor you can attend those rehabilitation programs. That is why the judiciary may use their discretion to order a monitor.

If you do not have the monitor on and you are being held behind bars in a watch house because of lack of provision by the previous government for adequate accommodation particularly for youth offenders—a watch house is not a place for a youth offender. I have been making that point in this House for well over half a decade. If they meet all the criteria and they have a monitor on, they can access other rehabilitative programs. That data will go into the trial outcomes and all of a sudden the judiciary will have more confidence in suggesting to other offenders that the monitor is a good idea. At the end of the day, we want people who commit crimes not to be described as young criminals but to be described as young people who have committed crimes. We need to turn that around and make them young people who contribute to their community. If they need some structure, some support and some evidence-based programs to help them do that, gathering that data and presenting that data to the judiciary so they understand what is working is critically important to reducing crime in this state. I do not expect the Labor Party to do anything about it at all because if they had any genuine interest they would have been listening to us over the last decade as this crime crisis they created has been getting worse.

 **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) (5.47 pm): If this bill does not pass the House, the sunset clause kicks in and electronic monitoring as a bail condition for young people who have offended against the law of Queensland will fall over. This bill does matter. I have heard a number of Labor members try to discount it as not being significant. I have also heard a number of Labor members over many years, and even today, try to downplay the youth justice crisis in Queensland. Tragically, the high number of victims resulting from the youth justice crisis has rolled on for a number of years as a result of weak laws in Queensland.

The Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 is important if there is to be an appropriate assessment of electronic monitoring devices for young offenders who are out on bail where that has been set as a condition of their bail. As we have seen with many other aspects of youth justice laws, under the previous Labor government this was bungled. Initially, in the first 12 months, a total of

only five young offenders were fitted with these devices. To put it into context, there was not a lack of youth offenders—in fact, tragically, there were far too many youth offenders—but the laws of the land and the attitudes of the former government with regard to addressing that matter were weak.

This trial was rolled out in 2021-22 and resulted in only five of these devices being allocated. Since that time we have seen that small tweaks were made, but the clock with regard to a previous sunset clause ran down. Then there was another tweak of the laws and still there was a lack of meaningful evaluation because of the way this program had been bungled. The assessment so far says that there has been a lack of evidence so it has been successful. However unless you do an appropriate review with a cohort that provides enough numbers to do that effectively, what could be a very useful tool to manage those youths who are on bail and any offences resulting while they are on bail may be lost. We are supporting there being an appropriate trial, we are supporting that being extended and we are bringing this bill before the House so that may take place.

I have also listened to Labor members opposite who do not want to hear about the youth crime crisis in Queensland. They get very uncomfortable about that because it did happen under Labor's watch and it happened with so many extra victims. There were more than a quarter of a million victims of crime in Queensland under Labor's watch. We, as part of the Crisafulli government, are determined to put victims first and to take action to restore community safety, and we will look at the evidence base around how that can be effective.

I will not address legislation that is currently before the House and pre-empt debate in accordance with the requirements of our standing orders. However, I will say the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time initiatives, which have already seen significant legislative advancements, underscore our determination to hold offenders accountable and to ensure that justice is served as well as the complementary rollout of early intervention, because we do recognise we need a suite of answers. The Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill is a natural extension in that we do not want the sunset clause to kick in and for this to fall over if this could be used as an effective tool to address offenders who are out on bail so that offences hopefully will go down and victim numbers can also go down.

I want to address the fact that there is an overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in the justice system and that is certainly a matter of public record. However, we must also acknowledge that there is an overrepresentation of victims who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are, in fact, a disturbingly large cohort of the victims in Queensland who have suffered from Labor's youth crime crisis and a lack of timely and appropriate action and intervention. Here are some statistics. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are around 3.5 times more likely to have been victims of sexual assault compared to non-Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls are 2.5 times more likely to have been victims of rape than non-Indigenous women and girls. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and boys are 4.5 times more likely to have been victims of rape than non-Indigenous men and boys. Those victims deserve their voices to be heard. They also deserve to be safe and to feel safe in their homes and in their communities wherever they live in Queensland.

I will be continuing to work with the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support, the police minister and my colleagues in the Crisafulli government to reduce the rates of offending in Queensland and to see fewer victims. Regarding those terrible figures I have just outlined in regard to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who are victims of crime, we should not just say, 'Well that doesn't matter,' because they matter significantly. Those are people who have suffered the terrible impacts of those crimes that they have to live with for the rest of their lives.

It is important that we do not forget the victims. It is vitally important that we hear their voices, that as we balance the justice rights of the offenders, we put victims first wherever they are from in Queensland and whatever their background. That is why I support the extension of this trial. However, there has to be an appropriate review working in with all the other reforms that are coming forward to address the youth crime crisis.

This bill does extend the sunset clause to enable an appropriate review to be done. That review might decide to expand eligible offences or include additional trial sites and enhance data collection and evaluation. After that assessment the decision may be made that it should continue. We must do whatever it takes to have fewer victims in Queensland so that every man, woman and child lives a life where they know they can be safe in their communities, safe in their homes; and in the event of the tragedy where there is a crime, there are consequences for actions and government understands that their rights come first. We are listening to them. We are determined that their voices will be heard and

we are determined that there will be fewer victims and there is a system where early intervention will break that cycle of crime that has destroyed far too many lives here in Queensland.

Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (5.56 pm): I rise on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate to speak on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill. Just like the former Labor government, the use of electronic monitoring devices in the youth justice system has a long and messy history—four years. The former Labor government introduced the trial of the electronic monitoring devices four years ago and they have little to show for those four years. In 2021 a two-year trial was introduced to parliament. The purpose of that trial was to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be completed.

Sadly, Townsville is arguably the youth crime capital of this state. It is not a badge that we wear with pride. It is a badge that we have been given because the former Labor government weakened our youth justice laws in 2015. It is the epicentre of the youth crime crisis. With all that in mind, how many youth offenders in Townsville do honourable members think were court ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device under Labor's initial trial? I will give them a hint. It is between two and four.

Mr McDonald: Three?

Mrs POOLE: Three, I will take that interjection.

Mr McDonald: In the first year.

Mrs POOLE: Exactly. What did Labor do? They made some minor tweaks and then they ran it again for another two years. Usually when you do a trial and it has failed so miserably you would think some significant changes would be made in order to see it succeed. In the second trial, guess how many youth offenders from Townsville were monitored? Zero—not a single youth offender in the youth crime capital of this state wore an electronic monitoring device. I say: shame.

This trial, again, was an absolute failure. It failed the police, it failed the judges and the magistrates but more than anything it failed our community; it failed my community. Let's give credit where credit is due. In August of last year the former Labor government at least had the decency to acknowledge that their trial was failing. Either that or the pressure from the Queensland voters and the looming October election deadline made them finally do something. However, when those opposite finally made the amendments, they failed to then extend the trial period so that we could properly evaluate the impact of those changes.

Once again our government, the Crisafulli LNP government, is here to clean up the mess and get on with making Queensland a safer place—the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for on 26 October. This bill before the chamber will extend the trial of devices for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can and will be conducted. We have set out to correct Labor's four-year failure of a trial in just one year, and we will do it right. Labor's trial sunset clause is due to end on 30 April, just 29 days time. Its lack of planning would have meant that the use of electronic monitoring devices would have had to be paused while an evaluation was carried out. Our extension of the trial will allow our government to begin to review the data whilst the trial is continuing. There will be no pause in the use of the electronic monitoring devices, so our judges and our magistrates will continue to have this tool at their disposal whilst we evaluate its effectiveness, based on meaningful data.

Our police are screaming out for the laws, the tools and the resources that they need to do their job to keep our communities safe. One of those tools is electronic monitoring devices. In February of last year, then police commissioner Katarina Carroll publicly called out the electronic monitoring device failure—

Mr Lee interjected.

Mrs POOLE:—you would remember; that is correct—calling on the former Labor government to please revisit the use of the devices for youth offenders. She said—

We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending. These are one of the preventive measures.


Our government is listening to our police, and I want to ensure that our police know that we are going to give them the tools they need to do their job.

Mr McDonald: We've got their back.

Mrs POOLE: I take that interjection: we have their back. I want to highlight that those opposite have already said that they will be supporting this bill. Why? Although they have had four years, they too know that it is our government that will get this right and that we will finally deliver a meaningful trial.

The people in my community and my electorate of Mundingburra are frustrated. They are sick and tired of waking up every single day wondering if their car is going to be in the driveway or if it has been stolen, if their friends and their family are okay, if their co-workers are okay. It is not just them who are frustrated; our police are frustrated and our judges and our magistrates are frustrated because for too long they have not had the laws, the tools and the resources they need to keep our community safe.

My community has lived in fear for too long. This is not good enough. I know that the No. 1 issue in Townsville is youth crime and I am committed, as are my fellow members for Townsville and Thuringowa, to making the changes necessary for however long is necessary to keep my community and their friends, their families, their loved ones safe. To my community I say: I hear you and I will not rest until we make Townsville a safer place. This side of the House prioritises community safety, and this bill is one more step towards restoring safety where we live. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (6.04 pm): The Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for just one year to ensure a meaningful and a comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Our community was initially excited to hear of the electronic monitoring trial but then later disappointed to hear of the insignificant pool of eligibility for the trial. The trial was first introduced in 2021. With rapidly escalating crime rates being experienced in my community, families and business owners were beginning to feel the effects of the youth crime crisis—a crisis that arose resultant of Labor’s watering down of the Youth Justice Act in 2015, with a generation of repeat offenders having grown in their brazenness and lack of regard for a law that left them basically untouchable. The 2021 Labor-delivered EMD trial was a glimmer of hope that lacked credibility due to its small participant pool selection able to be collected within the time period of the trial. How could a proper evaluation even be considered when the test pool was less than adequate, with just five offenders across the entire state being eligible for fitting of the devices—not 500, not 100 but five, just five?

Mr McDonald: Five?

Mrs KIRKLAND: Just five. Shame. It is important to note here that during the committee’s hearing in 2021 the LNP member for Glass House had specifically warned the previous Labor government of this exact potential issue. During the committee’s hearing on 8 March 2021, the member mentioned this. Of course, because common sense was not implemented, the trial proceeded without taking on board relevant concerns raised by the LNP member for Glass House and the trial was a failure.

In 2023, as the youth crime crisis was engulfing our communities, particularly across regional Queensland, the then Labor government conceded and extended the trial for another two years. That again restricted the eligibility for fitting of the devices to a small cohort that was clearly misrepresentative of the magnitude of youth crime sweeping the state. What resulted was yet another complete waste of taxpayer dollars and precious time, with only 30 youth offenders being captured in that trial across the whole state. Within a youth crime wave, we recorded 6,225 juvenile offence charges at June 2024.

Because this trial was not being taken seriously by the then Labor government, crime statistics would continue to grow, with the Queensland police statistics revealing shocking data: in August 2024 Mount Isa had 4,000 offences per 100,000 people; Townsville, 1,541 offences per 100,000 people; Far North Queensland, 1,373 offences per 100,000 people; Capricornia, where I live, 1,081 offences per 100,000 people—and it went on. How on earth could a trial of just 30 offenders even begin to capture what was happening in order to prevent its continued escalation and criticality of the impacts on our communities?

These preliminary numbers were clear. The piecemeal changes the former Labor government made were not delivering results. To the wonder of victims of crime across the state, the then Labor government actually made a change. It added further trial locations and, finally, Rockhampton was added to the list. However, true to form, it did not extend the trial for a period that would enable proper evaluation of that data and trial success measurement, putting a sunset clause on the trial that would expire in April this year. There would never have been sufficient time to properly evaluate the impact of the amended trial before it expired.

There was some anecdotal evidence. In July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods in detention. The court granted bail with conditions, including residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to and they have not reoffended. In November 2024, a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person’s high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend. In January 2025, a 17-year-old in Brisbane was granted conditional bail with an electronic monitoring

device and a curfew. The youth not only complied with all of their conditions but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services.


These anecdotal results show that half of the young people that were subject to EMD orders do not reoffend. That is really positive. Imagine if this trial had been done right in the first instance back in 2021 with meaningful, comprehensive evaluations. Simply extending the conditions for offenders would have, according to these anecdotal preliminary observations, seen less victims of crime and perhaps even intercepted significant violations of families across Queensland.

This comprehensive review will inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. Only thorough, well-designed trials can advise decisions on permanency of electronic monitoring and that is what the extension of this trial will do. I am proud to be a part of a government that properly approaches government decision-making processes with a measured and considered mind to assure communities a comprehensive and evidence-based review has been conducted. We make no apologies for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce victims of crime in this state.

The outcome of the committee report was a recommendation that the bill be passed. At the public hearing the Queensland Family and Child Commission commented on the need for not only a quantitative but a qualitative data evaluation and that is what the extension of the trial will enable. It is important that the trial finds a balance between rehabilitation and the protection of the public. This Crisafulli-led government is focused on delivering that balance with our Making Queensland Safer Laws, including \$485 million for early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs.

I would ask how the fitting of just one electronic monitoring device over the last eight months within the Rockhampton region even comes close to a proper litmus test of its effectiveness, given the Rockhampton region saw a 253 per cent increase in assaults, a 216 per cent increase in robbery and a 226 per cent increase in car theft under the watch of Labor—most of these offences committed by repeat youth offenders. The extension of the EMD sampling period also increases the number of participants. The purpose of the trial is to test the probability of permanent implementation of a measure that has the potential to deter repeat offences and reform offenders from a life of crime.

The Crisafulli LNP government promised to bring in the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas, which we did. We promised we would bring in more tranches of these laws after consultation with industry experts; we have done this, with more to come. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing victims of crime. This bill reassures Vishal from Ram's auto repairs that we are leaving no stone unturned in making certain every potential lever is explored as a means to reduce crime in this state and in his business where he has way too many reels of CCTV footage of the same youths repeatedly committing offences at his business. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (6.13 pm): With a crime crisis still plaguing Far North Queensland we know more needs to be done. That is why we are continuing to expand our Making Queensland Safer laws. I welcome the announcement today to expand these laws to cover 33 crimes, which is another step in addressing Labor's youth crime crisis. We also need to extend the trial period for electronic monitoring systems. That is why I rise today in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025.

Labor's inaction with youth crime is evident across the state, no more so than in Far North Queensland. Let us look at the numbers: 400 is the number of hardcore repeat youth offenders responsible for nearly half of all youth crimes in the state. Youth crime has increased in Queensland by 88 per cent in the past decade under the misguided Labor government that cares more about youth criminals than keeping Queenslanders safe.

Far North Queensland is one of the hardest hit areas, with 78 repeat youth offenders residing in Far North Queensland—that is one in five youth offenders residing in Far North Queensland. According to Queensland Police Service data released last November, the Far North was officially named the state's youth crime capital. Youth reoffending remains a significant challenge in our region. However, our government's targeted initiatives, like the Flying Squad, have contributed to a 7.2 per cent reduction in serious assault offences and a 52.2 per cent reduction in grievous bodily harm reported offences.

The reality is that youth reoffending remains a significant challenge for our region. One would think, with the stats showing how bad the crime is in Far North Queensland, that the trialling of these monitoring systems would have been a really big priority for the previous Labor government, but guess how many were deployed in Far North Queensland in the trial during the past four years?

A government member: Two?

Ms JAMES: Zero—a big fat doughnut! Again the Labor government has failed North Queenslanders by not trialling this in our region. This trial has been going for four years and it is a disgrace that Far North Queensland was not included. No wonder we have the highest rates of repeat youth offenders in the state. It is shameful that our region was again neglected. Again Labor shows how it does not care about any region outside of Brisbane and South-East Queensland. Far North Queensland matters and it deserves to participate in this trial that has been shown to reduce youth on bail from reoffending. This time extension is imperative to ensure a comprehensive review of the program, ensuring enough data is gathered to assess its effectiveness. Low trial numbers across the state, together with the complete exclusion of the Far North, means we have no data to prove the effectiveness of monitoring these youth while on bail.

Last year in Cairns a teenage repeat youth offender who had an extensive criminal history, including 144 prior convictions, was responsible for a stolen car crash that resulted in the death of a 14-year-old friend. Would this have happened if this youth offender was equipped with a monitoring device or had not been released time and time again because of Labor's soft laws?


The 2025 bill does not introduce major changes but simply extends the monitoring trial for one more year to gather more data before a final decision is made about its future. Good policy is built on solid evidence. A similar GPS monitoring program in New Zealand identified that this program reduced recidivism rates by up to 77 per cent for high-risk offenders, demonstrating that electronic monitoring can be an effective tool in reducing repeat offences and improving rehabilitation outcomes. For our 400 hardcore repeat youth offenders, this equates to 108 youth going down a different path, one that does not involve terrorising our streets, our people or stealing our cars; 108 youth that could have had consequences for their actions even if they are on bail. Of course, there will always be the loud minority who are against it, but the silent majority needs to step up and be heard because we know a slap on the wrist is simply not enough for these youth. Further action must be taken to make our communities safer.

Our detention centres are close to capacity, with about 70 per cent of detainees held on remand. We have just opened a new 76-bed youth remand centre at Wacol, which has additional facilities planned; however, this will take time. The time extension for this trial will enable the government to properly evaluate the effectiveness of electronic monitoring, in particular prioritising and protecting our citizens. Most importantly, the extension of this bill will enable Far North Queensland to be a part of this trial.

Monitoring these repeat youth offenders is one part of the puzzle. Keeping them accountable while they are on bail conditions and tracking them is another step in the right direction to stop the cycle of reoffending. Real-time checking to better support our law enforcement is welcomed by our busy police who waste hours trying to find these youth criminals who breach their bail. We need a system that allows our police to do their job. We need real data, real evidence and real studies that support the use of electronic monitoring systems. We must support our hardworking police who are doing their best to monitor the movements of these repeat youth offenders. We must do what we can to ensure these youth criminals are compliant with bail conditions.

The community has called for stronger measures to address the youth crime crisis and this side of the House is listening. Far North Queenslanders are frustrated with repeat youth offenders, especially those on bail, who treat our court system like a fast-food drive-through. They want solutions that work. Enough is enough. Electronic monitoring is one such solution to tackling the youth crime crisis that has plagued our state for far too long. This is not the be-all and end-all solution but part of a holistic approach to youth crime that includes harsher punishments, stronger bail and sentencing laws, family intervention, expanding rehabilitation programs and more juvenile facilities for offenders. It also provides key data and statistics to ensure we are successful in tackling youth crime.

I have spoken to many of our hardworking police in Far North Queensland. I have spoken to the community. I have spoken to small business owners and community groups. We all agree that this program must be properly evaluated and trialled in Far North Queensland. The Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill needs to continue under the guidance of the Crisafulli government. I support the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 and I look forward to Cairns finally being a part of the trial, because we must continue taking action to protect our communities and support rehabilitation efforts. I fully support this bill.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (6.20 pm): I acknowledge the great contribution from the member for Barron River. She is a true champion for Barron River and, I dare say, the best member for Barron River this House has ever seen.

Here we are, cleaning up another mess made by the former Labor government. Not so long ago, Queenslanders were left to live in a state where crime was out of control and people were scared to go outside or, even worse, scared to become victims in their own homes. That is the legacy of the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments. In 2021, the former Labor government introduced a trial whereby a charged youth offender could be granted bail with a condition imposed that they wear an electronic monitoring device. The trial had a sunset clause of two years. The initial trial was an abysmal failure because not enough youth offenders were granted that bail condition. Given the two-year trial period, one would have thought that many youth offenders were affected, but only five were included as part of the trial.

Mrs Poole: How many?

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. Across the state of Queensland, in the middle of a youth crime crisis involving many youth crime offenders, in two years they could find only five.

Mr McDonald: They were worried about the headlines.

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. They were more worried about how things looked than how they really were, which meant that they were a government that chased headlines rather than youth criminals. Concerns about the lack of the bail condition being imposed were raised by an LNP member, the member for Glass House, in a committee hearing prior to the bill being voted on in parliament in 2021.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection; it was very wise counsel from the member for Glass House, a great Minister for the Environment and member of this House. Due to that failure, in 2023 the trial period was extended by another two years in an attempt to collect some data that might be helpful in deciding whether to make the trial permanent or do something a bit different. However—surprise, surprise—this was yet another failure by the former Labor government. During the extended trial, a few more youth offenders were granted bail with the condition imposed. This being the second time around, one might think they had learned their lesson and increased the numbers, maybe by 10 times, but no. In that period, only 36 offenders were issued with a bail condition involving an electronic monitoring device.

This is another example of poor communication and, frankly, mismanagement by the former Labor government. Their decisions and their administration of the government meant that these changes were not adequately adopted and implemented. As previous speakers have said, geographic restrictions meant that the trial could not be implemented in much of Queensland and communities were left in the lurch. Communities that could have benefited from the program were not included in the trial.

The main purpose of this bill is to extend by one year the trial period for electronic monitoring devices to be imposed on certain youth offenders, allowing more comprehensive data to be collected. Someone rightly asked why the government is extending a trial by another year when it has already been extended for two years. The difference is that we now have a government that puts the rights of victims in front of the rights of offenders and is not scared to take up the fight for Queenslanders and drive down victim numbers. While we do not back down from things that we think will work, at the same time we are a responsible government.

A government member interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection; it is a very much needed fresh start for Queensland. There are far too many victims of crime in Queensland and too many victims of crime in the electorate of Callide. Over the years, cars have been stolen and vehicles and businesses have been rammed. Frankly, it has been an atrocious experience that, in a developed nation and a state as good as Queensland, we should not be experiencing. The comprehensive data that will be collected will form part of our decision-making processes going forward. We need good data—

A government member interjected.

Mr HEAD:—and evidence-based data—I take the interjection—to make good decisions, which is what this government is doing. We are making measured and methodical decisions. To be eligible to be released on bail with the condition of wearing an electronic monitoring device, the youth must be at least 15 years old. In his contribution the member for Maiwar spoke about kids, and I think he said

something about getting lunch and things like that. Maybe I cannot relate to that because as a 15-year-old I did not ever forget my lunch. Maybe that was because I like food a little too much! As a 15-year-old, I certainly did not forget my lunch.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. The person can be a serious offender. That is who this legislation is targeted at. Many 15-year-old Queenslanders know right from wrong so, frankly, I find that argument absolutely ludicrous.


As other LNP colleagues have outlined, there is some early evidence that this program absolutely works. There is anecdotal evidence and evidence-based data that shows that it works. We want to ensure we give this a proper crack. In Queensland now we have a government, a cabinet and a Premier who are committed to getting crime under control. We have ministers who are going to administer their departments and hold them accountable to make sure these programs are rolled out in Queensland.

In the first sitting of the 58th Parliament, the Crisafulli government introduced the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which we had committed to. Following that, the Expert Legal Panel was appointed to provide advice and recommendations to the Queensland government. I note that the changes being made to the electronic monitoring device program could apply to the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws that we have passed. Because of our tough laws, there are now stronger offences that the magistrates and the courts have to uphold given the structure of Queensland's governance arrangements and the separation of powers. With this law on electronic monitoring devices and the previous laws that we have passed, youth offenders released on bail can be electronically tracked beyond the current expiry of the trial.

The LNP have listened to Queenslanders who voted for a fresh start. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. This amendment bill expands the indictable offences to include violence and threats of violence. An important benefit of electronic monitoring devices is to relieve pressure within the Queensland Police Service by minimising visits to youth offenders who are on bail and to ease the pressure created by 10 years of Labor's failures. The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee recommends that the bill be passed. As stated in their submission, Voice for Victims supports the proposed one-year extension for the trial period as it is both timely and necessary.

In her contribution the shadow minister said some things that I thought were a little strange. She talked about blank pages in the bill. I think she was trying to reflect on the fact that we were not doing our job properly or we did not have a job to do. She failed to mention that the only reason we are debating this bill, which has a blank page inside the cover page—every bill that comes before parliament has that, I might add—is another Labor failure. We would have loved to have the data to roll this out permanently or put this to a legal panel for further advice and recommendations; however, we did not have the data and are now fixing this problem. I am proud to be part of a government that listens to Queenslanders and puts community safety first. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.30 pm): I rise to give the Southern Downs' perspective in my contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. We continue to see this persistent, conceited rejection of the verdict of the people and the obvious truth that Queenslanders demand to live in safety and security. The criticism that has emanated from the opposition—the Labor Party and the member for Maiwar—really emphasises that bifurcation between those who understand what the people of Queensland want and those who are welded to an academic fringe perspective on keeping the community safe. This bill is necessary to clean up the mess that the last government left to ensure that the electronic monitoring trial is continued and that the necessary data is obtained. It is also part of a tranche of measures that this government put forward as its signature policies in the election to keep Queensland safe.

In speaking on behalf of the people of Southern Downs, particularly places like Goondiwindi where youth crime has reached appalling levels—

Mr Stevens: Cross-border issues.

Mr LISTER: Cross-border issues—I take that interjection from my friend the member for Mermaid Beach. Yes, the people of Goondiwindi have a great town but the town has suffered reputational damage because of the crime, which has received national attention on many occasions. The kinds of attitudes that we have heard expressed on the other side of the House in the course of this debate are

a direct affront to the understandable views of people in places like Goondiwindi, in fact of people all over the state.

I heard the member for Maiwar conflate the use of ankle monitoring devices as being akin to a backward step that will make us less safe, that it will disadvantage and be inconvenient for the poor citizens who are required to wear them. Somehow that inconvenience, that shame, will make us less safe. It comes back to the fundamental binary choice we have here: it is either one or zero. Either the interests and rights of good law-abiding citizens to live in peace and safety in their own homes, or to have their businesses not robbed or ramraided, are put above the interests of offenders or they are not. You cannot have it both ways. Everything that I have heard so far, apart from the concession from the shadow minister at the time that they will support this bill—I felt that she could have bitten her tongue off after she had said that—and from the member for Maiwar, shows the lack of understanding about the fundamental issue here.

Mr Minnikin: It's hard being green.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth—it is hard being green, yes. In all seriousness, though, if people are to be kept safe in their homes, offenders who are at liberty and reoffend must be restrained in some way. Using these electronic monitoring devices is one mechanism by which they can be restrained. It is not the only one. I am on record at length in this House as saying that, in order to put the rights of law-abiding citizens to be safe above offenders—and I do not think there would be a person in this room who would disagree that that is the properly ordained order of priorities here—offenders have to be restrained.

I have heard a torrent of righteous talk from the other side of the House that we cannot lock up or monitor offenders because they are just kids, it is not their fault or it will only make them worse. Tell that to Mrs Norman in Goondiwindi who over the years has been home invaded three times by youth offenders out on bail. These offenders have no fear of the law. They have no respect for the law, no respect for the community and no respect for themselves. If given the opportunity to reoffend, they will do so. Tracking or incarcerating those types of individuals is the only way to prevent Mrs Norman from being home invaded the night after they have been bailed.

I invite anyone in this House to disagree with me. Perhaps the Labor members might decide to add their names to the speaking list—which currently has no Labor members for the rest of the night—to tell the people of Queensland how wringing their hands over the rights and interests of youth offenders and saying that inconveniencing them or shaming them is somehow a more important consideration than Mrs Aileen Norman in Goondiwindi, who has had her car stolen and home invaded over and over again. That is the fundamental point.

From a political standpoint, it is advantageous to the government that the Labor Party maintain that backward position. It will keep them out of government for a long time, I suggest. When I speak to the people of Southern Downs, they are sick to death of the commentariat, the experts, the bleeding heart lefties and the lawyers who say, 'This isn't the way to go. This is punitive,' which is really code for 'consequences for action'.


Obviously I support this bill. I note that the dissenting report from the Labor opposition members talks fairly extensively about Gold Standard Early Intervention programs. We are seeing that now. We all accept that intervention and prevention is superior to incarceration. After 10 years of Labor going soft on youth crime, it is too late to say, 'You can't lock them up.' There is a generation of offenders, many of whom, I think, will never be rehabilitated. What do we say then? 'It's not their fault. They've had a hard life. We have to let them out on the streets so Mrs Norman can be home invaded once again.' That is nonsense. That is absolutely crazy.

Ms Marr: Victims first.

Mr LISTER: Victims first—I take that interjection from my friend the member for Thuringowa. The member for Thuringowa knows about this too because, whilst Goondiwindi is the hotspot of my electorate, Townsville is the hotspot of the state for crime, I would say. This bill is entirely deserving of support. The whingeing that we have heard from the Labor opposition and the Pius cant that came from the member for Maiwar about how this will make the community less safe should be seen for what it is: illogical, irrational and contrary to the very strongly expressed views of the people of Queensland at the recent state election.

I will be supporting the bill and I encourage everyone else to do as well. If Labor Party members disagree with what I say or want to advance the view that young offenders ought to be on the streets

so that they can reoffend because that is better for them, I would encourage them to doorknock in my electorate and tell that to my constituents. It would help me very much.


 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (7.38 pm): I rise in support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025 as a necessary and practical step forward in our ongoing work to improve community safety and reduce youth crime across Queensland, which is especially important in the part of the Gold Coast that I represent. My community has made it clear that they want to feel safe in their homes, on our streets and in our neighbourhoods. This bill is another tool to help us deliver on that expectation of safety. By expanding the use of electronic monitoring devices for high-risk young offenders aged 15 to 17, we are giving the courts and police more options to manage risk and prevent further harm.

This is not about punishing young offenders for the sake of it. It is about ensuring their serious and repeat offending is mitigated and managed and that community safety is put at the forefront of decision-making. For suburbs in my community, like Labrador, where local families and small businesses want reassurance that action is being taken, this will send a strong signal that we are listening and responding as Queensland's new government. The reforms are targeted, they are proportionate and they are subject to judicial discretion.

Monitoring devices will only be used where a young person meets strict criteria, where the risk is real and where monitoring can help reduce reoffending. Importantly, this also allows us to better connect these young people with the services that can help break the cycle of reoffending. This is part of our broader strategy, which includes new approaches to prevention and early intervention like the youth and community support services that we have been strengthening and expanding on the Gold Coast. Programs to keep young people engaged in school, supported in families and connected to community are just as critical as enforcement measures like we are debating tonight.

Electronic monitoring provides the opportunity to closely monitor high-risk youth offenders while still allowing them to engage with comprehensive rehabilitation programs. There are promising signs in terms of what has been occurring, with anecdotal evidence showing that around half of young people who were subject to electronic monitoring do not reoffend. The people in my community want practical solutions like what we are discussing tonight. They are sick of the excuses that we heard for years from the former government. This bill delivers a practical, commonsense way forward.

I commend the Minister for Youth Justice for taking this measured and evidence informed approach. These reforms build on what works while addressing the concerns that have been raised. They will give frontline responders the tools they need. They will send a clear message that serious offending will not be tolerated, but neither will we give up on the potential of our young people to turn their lives around. This is a balanced measure. It improves safety and accountability, but it also keeps the door open for rehabilitation and positive change. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (7.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill. There are two reasons Queensland needs this legislation: victims of crime and our communities deserve practical solutions to youth crime that are proven to make a difference; and the failures of those opposite. I was just talking to my colleague the health minister about how this trial was introduced. At the time, we were sitting opposite and we listened to the then government crow about how this was going to provide a solution to the crime problem in Townsville. They said it was going to make a huge difference. They forgot about simple things like telecommunications and network coverage, which are pretty important. We had young offenders running around with GPS tracking devices who could not be tracked because there was no reception. That made a mockery of the trial.

That trial was announced in 2021 in reaction to the death of Jennifer Board in Townsville. Following that tragic event, the now Premier and I called on then Labor government to get it right, but they did not. When launched, the trial only included 16- and 17-year-olds, meaning fewer than half of hardcore youth offenders were eligible. It took just a few months for it to become obvious that offenders under 16 years of age needed to be included. At the time, the *Townsville Bulletin* referred to four offenders in Townsville who were 'allegedly involved in a slew of incidents' not being eligible.

In the first three months of the trial only three young offenders in Townsville were even considered as potential candidates, despite an average of 300 young offenders being arrested in that locality each year. One of the key reasons was network coverage being inadequate. In other words, Labor failed to plan. This trial gave false hope to communities right throughout Queensland. More


importantly, it gave false hope to victims of crime. We have to question whether those failures were deliberate or another illustration of the incompetence of those opposite.

More than three years after the trial was announced, Labor again fiddled at the edges, changing the parameters of the trial but failing to extend the timeframe to allow proper assessment of the efficiency. People living in fear and people who have been victims of Labor's youth justice failures deserve a thorough approach to addressing youth crime. A thorough approach includes looking at what is available and properly assessing it.

In stark contrast to Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government has been quick to act on youth crime. In stark contrast to those opposite, we have continued to work on the issue, with updates to the Making Queensland Safer Laws. To date, we have seen some examples of monitoring making a difference, but a few examples do not overturn 10 years of weakened laws under the Labor government. Our community wants assurance. They want action. By extending this trial, we can conduct a comprehensive review to inform government decisions. We know that monitoring alone will not put an end to youth crime. Thanks to those opposite, we have 10 years of failures to address. Once the trial is complete, we can look Queenslanders in the eye and tell them whether monitoring belongs as one of the strategies to make Queensland safer.

Let us look at why a youth offender might be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition. They have to be at least 15 years of age, be charged with a prescribed indictable offence, have been previously either found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months and consent to wearing the electronic monitoring device. These are not angels. These are hardcore youth offenders who know that they are committing offences. These are the hardcore youth offenders who are tearing the hearts out of communities like Townsville. I have lost count of the number of times I have stood up in this place and talked about the impact that has had on communities such as Townsville. These offenders need to be held to account. This trial is about giving Queenslanders the truth they deserve, instead of the kneejerk reaction we saw from Labor in response to a tragedy.

Those opposite have no choice but to support this bill or it will confirm what we all know and think—that is, they do not believe their so-called solution stood a chance of making a difference. It will confirm the division within Labor and it will confirm that the Leader of the Opposition's days are indeed numbered. As the Premier has said, we are not focused on those numbers. We are focused on reducing the number of victims of crime. That focus means looking at all of the available options fairly and based on results. By supporting this bill, we are making a commitment to delivering the truth to Queenslanders. I call on all members to do just that.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. From the outset, I would like to thank the committee members for considering this bill and producing a report. I thank the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services for introducing this bill. It is something that should have been introduced during the last sitting of the previous parliament last year.

Crime is something that we look at in our areas. Victims regularly contact my office, regularly stop at my roadsides and regularly voice their dismay about what transpired over many years under the previous Labor government. Victims have felt frustration that their voices were not heard. In discussing this matter tonight, I find it interesting that the original incarnation of this legislation first appeared back in 2021. There was a trial period. There were only a very small number of participants. I believe that many other members have spoken in this chamber about the fact that there were only five participants. Interestingly, there was not a single individual from the Gold Coast region.

The Gold Coast region, like many other regions, has its fair share of antisocial behaviour. By making changes to these laws, we are empowering the police and empowering the courts to take reasonable steps to track these individuals. That is important because, as the member for Bonney said earlier, 50 per cent of individuals who had a monitoring device did not reoffend. Therefore, it will reduce the number of victims out there. This is part of the solution to the puzzle. This is part of a solution to make real generational change to the way certain young people behave.

A little while ago, I was at a school and some of the students wanted to express their dismay and disappointment at the behaviour of certain individuals in our society. This [antisocial behaviour does not represent all young people. The vast majority of young people out there do the right thing, like all law-abiding citizens. Pieces of legislation like this are designed to reduce victim numbers. That is the important part—reducing victim numbers. Individuals in our communities need to feel safe. If we have legislation that says these individuals will have a monitoring device fitted to them—which that means

that the police will know where they are at any given time—that creates an envelope of a certain degree of safety for the community.

It is about reducing victim numbers. We have to remember that it is about reducing victim numbers. That is what the Crisafulli government is about. We are determined to reduce victim numbers. As I say, they are our voters. We make laws in this place to ensure we reduce the chances of innocent people becoming victims of crime—whether it is legislation to do with youth crime or legislation to do with other crimes such as white-collar crimes. Laws are made to protect the majority of society from individuals who do the wrong thing. If this legislation gives powers to the police then it will go a long way.

As I stated, the previous Labor government introduced electronic monitoring devices back in 2021. Those devices had very little impact because only five individuals had them fitted. That very small sample size was not enough to show holistically how those devices were working. That is why we need to extend the trial period.


In 2023, the previous Labor government made piecemeal changes to the electronic monitoring device legislation. They extended the trial period by another two years. Let's fast forward to 2024. Former police commissioner Katarina Carroll attacked the Labor government's electronic monitoring device failures and called on the previous government to revisit the legislation. Therefore, in August 2024 the youth justice monitoring device conditions were amended again. It reminds me of the classic movie *Groundhog Day*. Bill Murray would be very proud of the Labor Party opposite. We have continuously revisited this issue.

Interestingly, back in August last year when the then Labor government amended the legislation they did not extend the trial beyond April 2025. Hence we are debating this bill tonight. To get a proper understanding of how the monitoring devices are working, we need to undertake a proper review process for an appropriate trial period. Therefore, having another 12 months for the trial period is important so we can better understand how this legislation is working and how it will potentially reduce victim numbers. It has to be looked at in the context of other legislation that has been introduced in the parliament previously and potentially in the future.

The simple fact that Labor did not extend the trial period in August shows that they really did not care about this legislation full stop. They were not interested. If the Labor Party were interested, they would have extended that date in August. You have to ask yourself: why didn't they do it? The simple reason is that they do not care about victims and they do not care about Queenslanders who are being pushed and shoved when it comes to crime in their areas.

We have crime in Cairns, Townsville, Gold Coast and Logan—it is all over the state. The member for Southern Downs talks about crime in Goondiwindi on a regular basis. This is a serious matter. Those opposite may find it a little amusing, but when it comes to victims and the rights of victims they need to come first. If it means that we extend the trial period to better understand how it is working so we can get better outcomes then that is what we need to do. That is what the now minister, who is fixing Labor's mistakes, is here today to do.

I say to the minister: thank you. We need a fulsome approach to ensure we get the legislation right to drop victim numbers because that is important. That is what the Crisafulli government is about. We want to drop victim numbers. We want to ensure that Queenslanders feel safe in their houses, feel safe driving to and from work and feel safe going for a walk at night. It is critically important that we get this right. I do want to say thank you to the minister. Thank you for your efforts today.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (7.56 pm): I would also like to make a contribution to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill. The first thing I did was ask for a copy of the explanatory notes. I note the 'Policy objectives and the reasons for them'. The explanatory notes state—

Section 52AA of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (the YJ Act) allows a court, in certain circumstances, to impose on a grant of bail to a child who is at least 15 years, is charged with a prescribed indictable offence, and has either been charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding twelve months or has been previously found guilty of at least one indictable offence, a condition that the child must wear a monitoring device while released on bail.

The next paragraph of the explanatory notes state—

Section 52AA was introduced in 2021 to facilitate a trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition and included a two-year sunset clause.

Other members have alluded to this. When I was considering talking on this particular bill, a couple of things came to mind. I also take this opportunity to thank the committee for their consideration. It is obvious that this is another tranche of our Making Queensland Safer Laws.

In the lead-up to the last state election, about two years before—and I have mentioned this in the past—I had a series of crime forums with local police men and women. They would go through a whole range of things. One of the things that continually came through time and time again was why was the then government was soft on crime and, amongst other things, why wouldn't they be serious at looking at electronic monitoring devices? This came through time and time again. I distinctly remember at one of the first meetings I had, which was at the Gumdale Progress Hall, a lady whose name I will not mention here broke down in tears because twice she had been broken into on her acreage property. She was almost pleading with me, with tears running down her cheeks: 'Why won't they do something including putting some kind of bracelet on these juvenile offenders?'

Here we are. We have arrived now at this place where it seems we need to yet again—and it seems to be a recurring theme with every speaker on this side of the chamber with every piece of legislation—fix up the deficiencies of the failed Labor administration, so we have to go back in time.

The trial of electronic monitoring has a long and complicated history. It was first introduced back in 2021. I will just pause and reflect for a moment on the number of speakers we have had from this side of the chamber compared to the opposition benches. I think that sends out a pretty clear message as to which side of the chamber is serious about addressing this issue and those members who sadly seem to still have their heads in the sand. If we look at the history of the initial trial, it was indeed an abysmal failure. In terms of a dataset, it failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be meaningfully completed. I will go through some of the stats. Some of them have been mentioned, but I would like to repeat them. In the first year of the trial's operation only five youth offenders had an electronic monitoring order imposed as a condition of their bail. There were literally three in Townsville, one in Brisbane North and one in Logan.

It is not as though the members who are now on this side of the chamber in government—yes, we were five months ago or thereabouts on that side of the chamber—did not warn the then Labor government from the get-go as to what the likely consequences would be. In fact, during the committee hearing back on 8 March 2021 the member for Glass House raised the LNP's concerns. It is certainly worthwhile to go back and repeat what he said. I quote directly the member for Glass House, who said—


My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

As other members have said, that sunset clause finishes at the end of this month, which is why the youth justice minister has done a cracking job to present this bill. While I am on my feet, I want to acknowledge the great work she has contributed in relation to not only this bill but also the tranche of reforms in relation to youth justice legislation in this state. All of us will have a finite period in this hallowed chamber. You would like to look back at your career and say with your hand on your heart, 'In some small way I played my role. I played a part.' The member for Currumbin, the minister, will be able to do just that. I hope that her sunset clause is many terms away. I hope that she is here for many years to come because this chamber is enlivened by not only her passionate speech delivery but also her intellectual capacity, intellectual rigour and intellectual contribution. Boy oh boy, does she owe me big-time! The fact of the matter is: I believe that the member for Currumbin, with her particular professional background and career, came to join this Assembly to make a tangible difference. Here is the rub, though. In the coming hours, hopefully this week, we will at some stage pass this legislation. This bill will in due course become an act. We need to make sure this is considered just another tranche of reform.

When we look seat by seat at the result of the election in October last year, we can see why there was a change of government. To be fair, it was more than just youth justice. There were a litany of failures by those on the other side of the chamber. You could pretty much pick any portfolio and tear them apart. If I had to bring it down to one critical area, it was specifically youth crime. Indeed, I would put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that most of the members on this side, whether they are returning members or candidates who are now privileged to be members of parliament, made absolutely sure—at every pre-poll and on the big dance day on 26 October—that Queenslanders, when they got the lead pencil and ballot paper, knew that one side stood for very little. They have been weighed, they have been measured and they have failed.

The lack of depth at question time and the lack of people on the speaking list for this particular bill says all we need to know. Hopefully, those opposite will be spending many years on that side of the chamber. The reality is that, no matter where I have gone in the last few weeks—in fact, in the last week and a half—I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who have spoken to me about two key areas. One is the great result with at least getting an Olympic plan out there; that is for sure. The other thing that has been a constant since we delivered the first tranche, as was promised before Christmas last year when we brought in the first tranche of reform, is people saying, ‘Keep on going.’

I will distil why the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill is of critical importance. It simply comes down to this: no matter which electorate you come here and represent, people on this side of the chamber, to a man and woman, will say that their constituents were absolutely scared. In the lead-up to the last election, grown men of 120 or 130 kilos were literally scared for their families. It was not just them; it was tradies, it was mums and dads—everyone. It did not matter which electorate it was, from the Gold Coast to Far North Queensland to out west, people were outraged. This bill is important. Well done, Minister!

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.06 pm): I listened and take the guidance of the member for Chatsworth when he says ‘keep on going’, so keep on going we shall. I do not know if I can keep on going with the effusive praise for the member for Currumbin that he started off with. There is very little in that respect left to say, member for Currumbin. To say it with such enthusiasm and passion as the member for Chatsworth did and with such heartfelt generosity I think is hard to do. I think I have sufficiently praised both the member for Chatsworth and the member for Currumbin and I will keep on going.

We are in fact dealing with a very serious situation that has been at the forefront of Queenslanders’ minds for the better part of half a decade. It goes back to the time of the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2016, when youth crime laws started to be watered down. At that time, those in the LNP warned of the avalanche of youth crime that would be coming our way because of those actions. We did it time and time again. I lost track of the number of times I visited Townsville. As opposition leader at the time, I think I went to Townsville 24 times in 16 or 18 months. As my good friend the member for Burdekin knows, it was the No. 1 issue we were asked about up there, and that continued under the leadership of the member for Nanango and also into the period between 2021 and 2024. Youth crime and the extent of youth crime was ever on people’s lips, as the member for Chatsworth has indicated.

Then in 2021 we had a series of terrible events. We do not need to be reminded too often of what those are. We have a representative of those events in this place now in the member for Capalaba, who has spoken so passionately, as he did earlier today, about the impact of this crime—of people stealing cars and repeat offenders being let out again. In Townsville, all too tragically in February 2021 we had the incident of Jennifer Board, who was a potential future police officer. She was innocently riding a motorbike and was killed while doing so in Townsville.

The member for Burdekin raised again in this place the discussions we had. I can well remember that we were sitting over there when the member for Morayfield was talking about this package of amendments that was going to solve the problem. The problem was not solved; it went on for another three years. It was only with a change of government to a government with the intestinal fortitude and the plans we are seeing being rolled out now—including even today with the addition of 20 new offences, adding to the existing suite of Making Queensland Safer Laws and our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws—that we have seen a government making a difference.

I think back to 2018 when a report prepared by former commissioner Bob Atkinson in relation to youth justice and what the youth justice system needed was handed to the member for Bulimba. He said that the youth justice system must be bookended by two things. I remember this, and I have said it so many times: public safety is paramount and community confidence is essential. What did we see over the period of the Labor government? We saw that public safety was not paramount. Putting the offenders first became paramount and public safety came a long distant second. What happened as a result? Community confidence in the system evaporated to the extent that we had people calling for vigilante groups in Mackay and Rockhampton to go out. They had public meetings calling for people to go out. That is a breakdown of law and order, that is a breakdown of the system and that is a breakdown that lies fairly and squarely at the feet of a failed Labor government. By failing to heed the warnings, by failing to take action and by in fact continuing to go the other way, they made the situation worse.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They were in denial; I take that interjection from the Leader of the House. They were in denial about that. They got to the stage where they said that there was nothing more that could be done about it. ‘The cupboard is bare,’ were the words of Mike Kaiser. Well, the cupboard was not bare. They just needed to look a bit harder and work a bit harder to find the steps to take, and they needed to be able to stand up and take the steps against the vested interests who wanted the cupboard to be bare and who only wanted one way of looking at it. They wanted to put the telescope to a blind eye and not look more widely at what was available.

That is what leads us to the position we find ourselves in now today. When that amendment was introduced in 2021, it was with a high degree of scepticism that we looked at this issue in relation to electronic monitoring of people on bail. We raised our concerns about it and we raised technical concerns about it: about having the necessary coverage so the devices could work, having the ability to plug them in to recharge them and having homes where people could go to recharge them with the necessary supervision to do so. What happened was that, because it was rushed, because there was no thought process behind it and because it was a kneejerk reaction—things we were all accustomed to in the last term of the Labor government—it failed.

Bob Atkinson was commissioned to do the review of it and he said, ‘Not enough information, not enough evidence. We can’t tell.’ It failed in even being a trial because it failed to produce any evidence of meaning that could determine whether it should be continued with or not. Time after time after time, amendments were coming back—all the way to August 2024. In the dying days of a dying Labor government, it came back again for changes to try to make it work, but even those changes were insufficient to be able to produce the evidence to say whether the system worked or not.

I note that a number of people have expressed support for it. Some people have said that it is not everything and I think we accept that it is not everything. It is part of the toolkit that we need to use. In this respect, I think of the comments by the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, Luke Twyford. There is no doubt that this commissioner does not always agree with everything this side of the House does, and we do not expect that. We expect a robust debate in a democracy and Mr Twyford participates in that democracy in the right way, I would suggest. He said—


Electronic monitoring has potential as a valuable tool for supervision of young offenders who have progressed through the judicial process, but the evidence base is currently limited. As such, I support the extension of the trial period as an opportunity to gain further data ...

He went on to say—

There continues to be the need for an overwhelming shift in Queensland’s youth detention approach and the prioritisation of early intervention, diversion, and supportive systems.

This is not something that we on this side disagree with; this is something that has been at the forefront of our Making Queensland Safer Laws since we announced them. That is why we have put another \$485 million in funding for early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs where we see those programs at work. They are programs that will be evaluated, as will the electronic monitoring program.

It is only wise, it is only sensible and it is only proper that a program like this is extended for the period that it is, until 2026, to enable a proper evaluation to take place, to allow the data to be brought in and to allow a sober, calm and methodical assessment. When I say the words ‘sober, calm and methodical’, I cannot help but think of the member for Currumbin in that respect and her very Zen way of going about assessing these matters, because I am sure she will do that. I know that the cabinet she brings it to will also be a calm, methodical and considered cabinet when it makes its decision and that it will do so with the evidence in front of it and in a proper way that will give Queenslanders confidence. It will restore us to the situation that Bob Atkinson said was the bookend of an efficient criminal youth justice system—that is, public safety is paramount and the community can have confidence in the system and that it is working. That is what this bill, the bill that was introduced today and the actions we took at the end of last year do. They are about making Queensland safer.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (8.16 pm): It is always nice to follow the 35th leader of the opposition in a contribution where he provided such an erudite assessment of the issues that we are looking at in this bill. It was a very good summary by the member for Clayfield. Those sorts of contributions really help to put meat on the bones of the debate we are having tonight and some of the principles we are talking about, instead of just the specifics about the youth justice monitoring devices that I have been hearing all day.

Importantly, I want to acknowledge the minister, the member for Currumbin, for what we are doing here. I heard the member for Bulimba somewhat dismissively say that this is just a bill about

changing one digit and that was the digit of the year this trial is going to go to. Importantly, this is about the facts we are deriving from the information and the cause of the situation that has led us to this. As I said, the member for Clayfield has just summarised some of that.

The former government continued to make numerous announcements about what they were going to do to improve things but then there was very little follow-up. I still remember being on that side of the House—and I am sure members will remember this as well—when former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk was asked about some of these terrible cases and she would say that the best thing we could do for these young people was give them a job. I am sure members would remember that. It was obvious that this was a person who was so out of touch with what was happening on-the-ground and with what police officers and the public were telling us.

We knew all of this around the time of COVID when it started to reach its zenith. I remember the member for Clayfield coming into one of our party rooms and talking about these gangs that I am going to refer to a little later in my presentation. I thought to myself that we had heard about some of these issues but not that they were happening in Clayfield. He had been at a public meeting where people were constantly complaining about these issues of youth who were out there stealing cars. They were fronting people in their houses and demanding and taking their keys, cars and possessions and then eventually committing some terrible acts of violence that have led to where we are now.

We have heard about the 2021 initial trial being an abysmal failure. We have heard about the failure to make meaningful use of electronic monitoring, including the fact that there were monitoring conditions for 30 distinct youth offenders. Subsequently, on 9 February 2024 the then police commissioner called out the electronic monitoring failure. Then in August 2024 we had the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation amended again but failing to extend the sunset clause, which was set to expire on 30 April. That is where the minister, the member for Currumbin, has brought in this bill, cleaning up that mess we inherited. Of course, there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation, so we are expanding the parameters of the trial.

It is interesting for us also to look at some of the history of Queensland eshays and what it is like inside a youth gang. As the Minister for Education, it is important for me to see where these issues have come from. Like many of the issues that happen in our communities, they bubble along with some people as constituents telling us, 'I think such and such is happening,' and then it happens more and more and you start to think, 'I just heard that from another source.' I think COVID was a period when we had a whole generation of kids who did not go to school and whose parents found it very hard trying to be teachers. They had possibly thought that teaching is a pretty easy profession. A lot of people found it is not. There was a generation of students who did not have to go to school and they went looking for trouble, and that ties into an article I wish to refer to from 2 December 2024. It says—

Drill rap, knives and graffiti tags—welcome to the world of eshays.

...

The term eshays was first coined in the 1980s to describe lower class youths in public housing who intimidate, rob and boast about drug use.

Importantly, they had been enlivened through a phenomenon that most of us have come to know in this place called social media, and that is what has really changed this issue about youth crime and gangs.

Youth crime and gangs have been synonymous with the Gold Coast for over two decades. In the time I have been in this place we have had the Palmy Army, Southside Soldiers and the Gold Coast Brotherhood terrorising the south of the city. We have had the Mexican Hoon Cartel terrorising the member for Mudgeeraba, the Minister for Trade, with some overt displays that showed they had no respect for her or for their community, and that has been happening over a couple of decades. A senior police officer, retired Superintendent Jim Keogh, has pointed these out over the years. We have had other feeder youth gangs, including the Mexican Soldiers and the Red Devils. Then at the southern end of the city and the Tweed shire there was D-Lux, BHQ, Keebra Krew, Dark Neo Soldiers and Coomicubs. A rivalry started between the Southside Soldiers and the Gold Coast Brotherhood. There was a fight between the gangs at a Burleigh surf shop in 2014.

There was also a time when the member for Clayfield mentioned this issue in our party room and there was a discussion about, as I recall, the Northside Gang, the Southside Gang, Southside Drillas and Swish gang. This is all in Brisbane. These were the sorts of youth who were feeling increasingly disillusioned, where there was no control over them in their lives and parental involvement was non-existent. They are the sorts of things that coincided where by March 2022 youth leaders expressed

fear that COVID may have played a part in the surge of gangs across Australia as young people lacking connection turned to violence.

It is interesting to look at the origin of the term of eshay. It comes from pig Latin for the word 'sesh', while the term 'adlay' is pig Latin for 'lad'. They would do things like hang out at a train station, at a shopping centre or in Queen Street Mall. We often see it in Helensvale where they have the changeover from heavy rail to light rail. We have had significant issues there.


Social media remains the primary channel for communication among youth gangs, with Instagram and SnapChat used to organise street fights, post videos of the violence and recruit. Queensland Police Detective Superintendent Brendan Smith said in July 2022 that chasing likes on social media was preventing young people across Australia from understanding the 'consequences of their behaviour'. We have all seen it. We have seen people stealing cars and using social media to promote their activities. Some of them are also being influenced by overseas drill rap culture, with shocking footage showing teens brandishing weapons in music videos. This drill rap music originated in Chicago in the late 2000s, rising to popularity in the UK in 2014. As criminal psychologist Tim Watson-Munro said in October 2021, youth gangs filming drill rap music videos appear to be a new and emerging trend. He said—

It is certainly a developing trend and I understand why they do it. The thing about social media, it gives them a voice.

That is something we have seen, whether it is Cairns, Townsville, the Redlands, Gold Coast, right across the south-east or across Queensland generally. Social media is not determined by where you are geographically. It has led to a generation of young offenders who increasingly were not getting any rehabilitation, nor were the penalties being imposed upon them. In March 2021, it was reported the romance of belonging to a rap subculture and filming acts of defiance for social media created a perfect storm for disengaged youths.

Here we are today and we know that the rise of these types of groups is a concern for Queensland. On 26 October last year, we on this side of the House won the election on a mandate to do something about it, after those opposite had said they would. They constantly said they were doing something about it yet failed in the follow-up.

Gold Coast lawyer Bill Potts said that young people were brought up on video games and movies featuring cartoon violence and glorified violent acts. It means that young people have to understand the consequence of their actions, whether it is in society generally, in schools or in their family connections. That is what this bill is about. I want to commend the minister for introducing the bill, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.26 pm): At the outset, I thank the minister, the member for Currumbin, for all that she has done in this space so far and all that she is going to be doing in this space going forward from here to resolve the issues of the youth crime crisis brought upon us, the people of Queensland, by 10 years of Labor.

The bill was indeed declared an urgent one, and I thank the members of the committee, headed by the member for Nicklin, for their hard work in very few days. I hear that they actually did manage to get to Townsville, which was an important aspect of things. I should say that my contribution is one that is directed towards the people of the northern Gold Coast, to explain to them what this is all about and what the failures of those opposite were all about.

This bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year, until 30 April 2026, to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Those opposite have commented that it is a change of one digit in an act. Let me explain something to those opposite: it is 356 days of additional data that will be collected. That is the important aspect of this.

The electronic monitoring trial was first introduced in 2021. It was an abysmal failure. It failed to capture enough youth offenders. Indeed, there were five in total—three from Townsville, one from Brisbane North and one from Logan. That was it—five in the state, in the first year of this bill in 2021. We warned the former Labor government of this issue right from the start. Indeed, the member for Glass House, who I see is in the House, raised the concern on behalf of those on this side of the House that the number of youth—and I am paraphrasing—who would actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be too small to provide any meaningful data to enable any further decision-making. That was way back then. Labor ignored the warnings and—surprise, surprise—there was not enough monitoring data to properly evaluate the effectiveness of electronic monitoring because not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear monitoring devices as a condition of their bail.

Because of this failure, in February 2023 Labor extended the trial for another two years and made other piecemeal changes. Again, Labor failed to meaningfully make use of the electronic monitoring data, with only 36 electronic devices fitted to 30 distinct youth offenders: one in Mount Isa, three in Moreton, nine in Brisbane, four in Toowoomba, 12 in Logan and seven on the Gold Coast.

The preliminary numbers made it clear: the piecemeal changes Labor made did not deliver the data needed to properly assess the concept. Embarrassingly for Labor, in February 2024, then police commissioner Katarina Carroll—who when she came in as the commissioner was the first one to see the need for the Pimpama Police Station which has now been built as a result of her direct involvement. As far as she was concerned, it was a no-brainer. We needed it. We had the population growth. We had the crime statistics. We needed that station. We now have more than 40 police officers based there, and I thank her for that. The former police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, at the time publicly called out the electronic monitoring failure, asking the Labor government to revisit the use of electronic monitoring for youth offenders. She said—

I do think electronic monitoring devices do need to be re-looked at ...

We spend an extraordinary amount of time checking on youth offenders that are on bail.

And that is only a point in time—whereas electronic monitoring devices are constant.

They can track them. She went on to say—

We're not of the view that every child should have an electronic monitoring device—
and nor are we, on this side of the House—

... we're talking about ... serious offending.

...

We look at all the tools that we can have to make the community safer to make sure that we stop reoffending ...


That is what it was all about. It is the pointy end of the youth crime crisis that we are talking about. That was 9 February. Finally, in August 2024, Labor made further amendments to the Youth Justice (Monitoring Device Conditions) Amendment Regulation conditions to add further trial locations and again, change the parameters. But critically, they failed to extend the sunset clause which was set to expire on 30 April this year—just eight months later. That meant that there was never going to be enough time for meaningful and comprehensive evaluation and Labor knew that when they made these changes.

As I said at the outset, this bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for one year—365 more days of data—until 31 April 2026 to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. Once again, the Crisafulli government has moved to fix the mistake made by Labor in extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders—not all, for certain youth offenders—to allow time for the completion of meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. Queenslanders want to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen as well.

The Crisafulli government will conduct a thorough review because we have seen the potential for electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending and importantly, provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety when it is applied correctly. For example, in July 2022, a 16-year-old in Logan was fitted with an electronic monitoring device after several periods of detention. The court granted bail with conditions that included residential arrangements and locality restrictions, which the youth successfully adhered to. They have not reoffended. In November 2024, a 16-year-old in South-East Queensland successfully completed two months of bail conditions with an electronic monitoring device. The sentencing magistrate noted the young person's high level of compliance and that they did not go on to reoffend. In January 2025, just a few months ago, a 17-year-old in Brisbane was granted conditional bail with an electronic monitoring device and a curfew. The youth not only complied with all of their conditions, but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services.

Half of the young people who were subject to EMD orders did not reoffend and that is a positive for the people of Queensland. When half of them are not reoffending, we are looking down the throat of less crime going forward from here. We have heard today about some of the drops we have seen around the state. It is early days, we have a long way to go. The comprehensive review will inform government about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We make no apologies for doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce victims of crime in this state. We are

committed to restoring safety to our communities and to reducing victims of crime. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (8.34 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill aims to extend the electronic monitoring trial period for another 12 months. This will allow for a comprehensive review to be completed to inform government decisions about electronic monitoring for child offenders. The history of this trial is testament to the failure of the former Labor government to deal with the youth crime crisis which it left Queensland. The youth crime crisis was a legacy of 10 years of the former Labor government because it was always reluctant to really deal with youth crime.

It was the former Labor government which introduced a trial for these electronic devices in 2021. The first year of that trial failed because only five youth offenders had an order imposed on them. Then two years later, in 2023, it extended that trial for another two years and made piecemeal changes to electronic monitoring. However, again, Labor failed to meaningfully make use of electronic monitoring. This time, 36 electronic monitoring conditions were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. Given the extent of the youth crime crisis in Queensland, it was a half-hearted attempt at trying to appear to be doing something. The truth is: the Labor Party did not have their heart in it. Its silence on this bill, and the lack of Labor members who want to speak on it, shows that Labor never had its heart in using electronic monitoring devices. It never had its heart in dealing with the youth crime crisis. That is why the scope and conditions were never enough to deliver a proper evaluation of the option of using them. My colleague, the member for Glass House, warned the former government in 2021 that this would happen. He said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

It was prescient that they were conducting a trial when they set conditions which meant there was no-one to count. In February last year, the former police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, publicly called out the electronic monitoring failure and called on the government to revisit the program. Under the shadow of an election and in an attempt to appear to be doing something, the government expanded the parameters of the program last August. Significantly, it did not extend the trial period, which meant the trial would have ended at the end of this month. While the numbers are low we have already seen a positive result, with half the young people who are subject to EMD orders not reoffending.

Electronic devices are only part of the tools we want to use to help make Queensland safer and to restore safety in our communities. We want, and Queenslanders deserve, to see meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen. We have already seen the potential of electronic monitoring to reduce reoffending. When it is applied correctly we have seen the potential to provide offenders with an opportunity to re-engage with education or employment and improve community safety. The Queensland Family and Child Commission told the committee—

Electronic monitoring has potential as a valuable tool for supervision of young offenders who have progressed through the judicial process, but the evidence base is currently limited.

It also said—

There continues to be the need for an overwhelming shift in Queensland's youth detention approach and the prioritisation of early intervention, diversion, and supportive systems. Rehabilitation, family support, and community reintegration should be the core principles of such an approach. Electronic monitoring should be viewed as one tool within a larger framework that supports youth reintegration and helps reduce recidivism.

When Labor watered down the youth crime laws in 2015-16, it created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders. I was on the committee when the government started its ideological campaign to water down the laws. A Townsville resident spoke about her frustration. She said—

The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime.

...

The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no effect if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.


That was after only the first year of what became 10 years of Labor. Nothing improved and the situation continued to deteriorate.

The more than 46,000 proven offences by young people in the last financial year represent a 12 per cent increase over the previous year, a 51 per cent increase over the previous five years and a 98 per cent increase over the previous 10 years. These offenders believe they are untouchable. In

many cases, they know they are untouchable. Natalie Merlehan of Voice for Victims told the committee in their submission that they strongly support the extension because, as she said, it will help inform the government decisions on its effectiveness, particularly in the context of serious repeat youth offenders.

Labor had no enthusiasm for, or investment in, addressing youth crime. It sees youth crime as a political problem, not a crime problem. For 10 years it treated crime as a management problem which would go away with announcements and carefully crafted media spin. Labor repeatedly said that youth crime was decreasing when it was actually rising. You cannot fix a problem if you do not admit the problem exists. The reluctance of those opposite to speak on this bill shows that they have no solutions.

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing the number of victims of crime. It will do this by extending the electronic monitoring trial and allowing the time to meaningfully and comprehensively review it. It means that courts will continue to have an option to make an electronic monitoring condition for youth offenders in our community. It will continue to help ease the pressure on local police resources. We are prioritising community safety. I support the bill.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.41 pm): First of all, I want to thank the minister and member for Currumbin for the work she has done. I know that she works particularly hard in this area, ensuring she is there to support victims but also ensuring those people who are perpetrators are actually brought to justice. I really want to thank her for the great work she does. She has seen firsthand what happens in our judicial system. Working as a prosecutor has given her the experience to see exactly what happens when laws do not work as well as they should and when governments are soft on crime.

The Crisafulli government is restoring safety for Queenslanders in this bill. The LNP are committed to ensuring the safety of our local communities—communities like some of in my electorate that have been ravaged for years by a crime crisis that Labor created when they watered down the youth crime laws in 2015-16. We have seen a generation of youth offenders coming through who know absolutely no consequences for actions, and I have seen them in my electorate over the last 10 years. They start off with minor things and then they escalate. They learn about the system and they continue. We saw a situation whereby youth offenders were breaking in with machetes and threatening grandmothers in their homes in the middle of the night. That is what happens when you are soft on crime.

I do not know how many cars we have seen stolen in communities in my electorate. I have seen youth offenders who have stolen cars five and six times. Under Labor they were just let back out on the street again. Our police were entirely frustrated by the weak laws and the weak Labor government that let crime run wild in this state. It meant Queenslanders were locking their doors and their windows in fear of criminals. I know the stories about people would had to wait with a hammer and actually stop people from climbing in their windows. There is another story about that in my electorate as well. People would have to defend themselves as they would see the fingers coming over the windowsills when youths were trying to break into their homes. It is really disconcerting for those people and those home owners.

We know all about it. Queenslanders knew all about it and they spoke very clearly last year at the state election. They knew that Labor would do nothing and they made sure there was change. They voted for change. I want to thank the member for Currumbin for the work she is doing. When I came into this House and mentioned these things, the members opposite would say that somehow we were making up all these stories. I hope that we—and Queenslanders—have absolutely put that myth from Labor to bed with the election result.


The bill is part of the process of strengthening our overall philosophy to keep Queenslanders safe with the Making Queensland Safer Laws. The bill has one thing in mind, and that is reducing the number of victims of crime. In making an effort to extend this electronic monitoring trial, we are putting the community and community safety first. An all-encompassing review of the trial is necessary, and the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queenslanders. In practical terms, it means that the courts will continue to have an option to keep our communities safe. It means that they will be able to make an electronic monitoring condition for youth offenders in our community. It means that we can ease the pressure on our local police resources and it means that Labor's youth crime crisis will not be left to run wild throughout the state as it has for the last 10 years under the Labor government.

Throughout my electorate, our police go well above and beyond. I had conversations with many of them and they were very frustrated with Labor's soft-on-crime laws. They were very frustrated that it was like a revolving door for them. They would pick up these youth offenders but they would be back out the next day. They felt like they were trying to do their job with one hand tied behind their back.

Throughout Queensland the police do a lot to keep us safe, and I want to make mention of those police who are on the front line of our disasters across Queensland. I know there are quite a number of them in the community of Thargomindah at the moment. They have been doing a tremendous job pretty much around the clock. They are there for us when we need them during those times. They do a tremendous job, particularly in those smaller communities. I know that in places like Adavale they have done an amazing job keeping the community calm and informed. This bill helps enable them to continue their good work. By extending the trial period, we are ensuring proper work can get done. It means there will be a full and meaningful evaluation of the program. Labor were letting this trial expire at the end of the month. They were just not committed. Their heart certainly was not in doing the work to keep the community safe.

Putting the safety of Queensland second is simply not good enough for us. By extending the trial we are helping to keep Queenslanders safe. Electronic monitoring has the potential to reduce reoffending when it is applied. When applied correctly, it can give offenders the opportunities they need to re-engage, particularly with education and employment opportunities, which we know is the best way to prevent that recidivism. We know that education is an absolute key to preventing that recidivism. This bill does just that. It has that goal. We want our young Queenslanders to have opportunities for positive outcomes. We know that young people are less likely to reoffend with systems like this and we make sure there are consequences for their actions.

This full review will inform the Crisafulli government's decisions about electronic monitoring for youth offenders. We are doing what needs to be done to improve community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. The initial trial was a total failure. The initial trial failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be completed. I commend the minister on the legislation she has brought forward and how she has handled this matter. She is there fixing up Labor's mess. We are addressing the crime crisis that Labor created over the last 10 years. By extending this trial, we can complete a real review in a calm and considered manner that Queenslanders can have confidence in. I support the bill.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (8.48 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. It is a critical rule by the Crisafulli government to strengthen community safety, restore accountability and fix years of Labor's failed handling of youth justice. This bill extends the trial of electronic monitoring devices for youth offenders by 12 months, to 30 April 2026, so we can finally conduct a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of their effectiveness. This is not just a policy fix; it is a public safety measure and it is long overdue.

Let us not forget the history here. Labor introduced electronic monitoring in 2021 as part of a two-year trial, but it was a complete failure from the start. In the first year, just five youth offenders across Queensland were placed under monitoring—only five. Despite early warnings from the LNP, Labor pressed on with a system that lacked scope, support and seriousness. When the numbers failed to stack up, it simply extended the trial, making placement changes that still did not deliver. Only 30 youth offenders were monitored in that second phase. Even then police commissioner Katarina Carroll publicly called for change. She understood what Labor ignored—electronic monitoring can be a powerful constant tool to support police, reduce reoffending and keep communities safe when it is used properly.

In August 2024, instead of taking real action, Labor again changed the parameters of the trial but left the expiry date untouched. It knew the sunset clause would expire in April 2025. It had eight months to evaluate and completely overhaul a program. That was never going to be enough time. That is why the Crisafulli government is stepping up and doing what Labor could not—delivering a fair, responsible and evidence-based approach to youth justice.

This bill gives experts, frontline agencies and our courts the time they need to determine if electronic monitoring is the tool we believe it can be, and we are not just speculating; we have seen positive results already. In Logan a 16-year-old fitted with such a device after time in detention has to date not reoffended. In South-East Queensland another youth completed their bail conditions under monitoring with full compliance. In Brisbane a 17-year-old met all conditions, re-engaged with school and participated in rehabilitation services.

This is not just our view; the support for this extension is clear. Voices for Victims has backed the extra 12 months to allow for real data to be collected and analysed. The Queensland Family and Child Commission recognises the importance of both quantitative and qualitative evidence and sees electronic monitoring as just one part of a broader support system. The Cairns Regional Council has


strongly advocated for this trial's extension, particularly in high-risk areas like Far North Queensland where police resources are already stretched thin.

This is not about punishing kids; it is about preventing crime, holding serious repeat offenders accountable and creating opportunities for young people to turn their lives around. The extension means courts can continue to impose electronic monitoring on serious youth offenders. It gives police another tool in their belt and it gives Queenslanders the confidence that we are taking real steps to reduce crime. Not only does it give the justice system and policing body an additional tool in their belts; it also gives parents, caregivers and wider society more support for a generation that certainly operates very differently to those who have come before them. We all know that each generation is different to the previous one and in fact we often laugh about it in the same way our parents and grandparents have, but decades of a lack of accountability in our government means that that filters down, in my opinion, to our impressionable young people. We have moved towards a culture without accountability in multiple ways. Wearing a monitoring device is a consequence for committing crimes and, when we collect meaningful data, can create a safer society for all.

Behaviours start earlier than serious crime. Behaviours are present when students try and retake exams to get better results and play the system, when they are not made to attend school as close to 100 per cent of the time as possible and when they have no consequences for their actions because they are led to believe that their rights are more than the rights of others. If these offenders—in fact, all young people and all people—who made mistakes are held accountable for their actions, this is our way of actually caring for them and their future. This is responsible governing from a government that cares. When our own children make mistakes, we show our love and we show that we care by putting boundaries in place for their own benefit. By turning a blind eye to these behaviours and putting all of our heads in the sand, we are not doing these kids any favours at all.

We already know a lot of these serious repeat offenders come from a disadvantaged background. We already know that they potentially have started life behind their peers. In order to fully support anyone in this situation, it requires clear and strong boundaries. From all over the globe we know that humans behave for their own best outcomes when clear boundaries are in place. A monitoring device is a clear boundary when all else has failed. If we do nothing, what does our world look like? If we do nothing, what does Queensland look like? What kind of future are we giving our kids and an entire generation?

Congratulations to the Minister for Youth Justice and also the Attorney-General on the power of work they have done to make positive social change. I believe it was a now-or-never situation and they have made history with this work. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank them and am proud to be on their team. The LNP will always stand up for safer communities. We will always support practical, evidence-based solutions and we make no apology for doing what needs to be done to reduce youth crime, protect Queenslanders and protect the future of generations to come.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.57 pm): Firstly, I thank the member for Caloundra for her contribution and for thanking the ministers involved and echo her comments. This bill extends the trial for electronic monitoring devices for one year to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation can be conducted. The importance of this debate has been explained by many which delivers a fresh start for Queensland, and we are delivering on making laws to make our communities safer a reality and could not be more proud.

Why are we moving quickly after a decade of failures? We know that the electronic monitoring trial has had a long and complicated history since it was first introduced for a two-year trial in 2021. The initial trial was an abysmal failure in that it failed to capture enough youth offenders for an evaluation to be completed. In the first year of the trial's operation five youth offenders had electronic monitoring orders imposed as a condition of their bail and the LNP warned the former Labor government many times that this would fail. Labor did not heed the warnings and its own review in 2021 failed to even confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour, but not enough youth offenders were ordered to wear the monitoring devices in the first instance.

Because of the failure in 2023, the former government extended the trial for another two years and made piecemeal changes to electronic monitoring. However, again, Labor failed to make those meaningful changes and only 36 monitoring conditions were issued for 30 distinct youth offenders. The former government responded to this in August 2024—you cannot really write this stuff when you start to put all of these dates and this fiasco together, but it continues—when it amended the youth justice monitoring device conditions regulation to add further trial locations and again changed the parameters but critically failed to extend the sunset clause, which expires on 30 April this year. This means that

there was never going to be enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation. Labor knew this when the changes were made in August but still kept the sunset clause expiring in April this year.

The Crisafulli government is extending the current trial of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for certain youth offenders for another 12 months to 30 April 2026 to allow time for a complete and meaningful comprehension of the evaluation. Currently for a youth offender to be granted bail with an electronic monitoring condition they must be at least 15 years old, be charged with a prescribed indictable offence and have either been found guilty of at least one indictable offence or charged with an unrelated prescribed indictable offence in the preceding 12 months and have consented to wearing the device. These changes also expand the list of prescribed indictable offences to include specific offences involving violence and threats of violence. The LNP wants to see a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation happen. It has been said many times by other speakers just how important community safety laws are.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

Mining Industry, Safety and Health



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (9.00 pm): As the opposition representative for our mining sector, I take the safety of our miners and workers in mines very seriously. That is why I am disappointed that after so many serious accidents in this industry we have not seen the minister take greater action on safety. I am calling on the minister to prioritise the safety of miners and appoint at least an acting resources safety and health commissioner. This was the priority on the desk of the minister from day one, but it has not been his priority. He has had lots of other priorities, including travelling to the United States and Canada, but this key statutory safety role has been left drift and drift.

I have called for action for some time now. I know that unions have also called for it. Some people in the industry are also quietly letting me know that this is just not good enough. I put out a release at the '100 days of inaction' mark, but now we are 150 days on and Mr Last is yet to advertise for a permanent position or appoint someone in an acting capacity. I am calling for that to happen right now.

For the benefit of the House, the commissioner is vital in chairing the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee that advises the minister on key health and safety issues. This committee has not been able to meet. There are agenda items before it that it has not been able to process to give that vital advice. The commissioner also chairs the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee that advises the minister on the safety and health of mineral mines and quarry workers. Again, there are things on the agenda to be put forward at meetings, but with no commissioner to chair the meetings there has not been a meeting for the entire length of this parliament. It is simply not good enough.

These committees give advice and make recommendations about protecting and promoting the safety and health of persons at mines and anyone affected by those mining operations. We know that this is absolutely vital for the safety of our workers but also for the strength of the industry. We saw that when there were failures of regulation and safety in South America and Brazil it was at an enormous cost to the industry. Ironically, the strong regulation within Australia helped keep Australian mining strong. The commissioner chairs those two safety bodies. They are yet to sit. It has been over 150 days. They would have been providing key reports that have not been taken before this House nor put before the minister. Now is the time for action. I urge the minister to get on with it to ensure the committees can meet and worker safety is not compromised. Do it today.

Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary; Bruce Highway; Hankinson, Mr WG



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.03 pm): Many members would have heard me speak of my late friend Joyce Newton OAM and the extraordinary legacy she has left. From her dedicated career as a teacher to her unwavering commitment to the community, Joyce's contributions were immeasurable. Her well-deserved Order of Australia Medal was a true testament to her lasting impact.


It is my privilege to honour Joyce each and every year through our annual bursary. Tonight I rise to acknowledge and celebrate our 2024 Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary winner, Amelia Claes,

who joins me in the gallery this evening, alongside her mum, Jaye, and Joyce's daughter, Jen Tunley. Now in year 12 at Beerwah State High School, Amelia took out the title after showcasing a strong academic record and engagement with extracurricular activities, including dance. She has since gone on to be anointed as both the school captain and the dance captain. In her application, Amelia detailed her love of the sciences, particularly chemistry, biology and physics, and next year Amelia hopes to undertake a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at James Cook University in Townsville. That is still the plan, isn't it, Amelia? Amelia won a \$1,000 gift voucher from Concept Computers in Maleny along with dinner here in parliament tonight. I do hope you enjoyed it, Amelia.

I turn to the recently announced alternative route to stage 4 of the Bruce Highway western alternative. Two weeks ago, TMR unveiled a new proposed alignment for the fourth stage of this future highway, a 12.6-kilometre stretch connecting the D'Aguilar Highway at Moodlu to Steve Irwin Way at Beerburum. As promised, we scrapped Labor's previous alignment and have prioritised utilising state and council owned land, minimising impacts on residents and creating an environmentally responsible solution. We have managed to reduce the number of affected property owners from 140 to less than 30. I fully appreciate that this continues to be a tough time for the 30 families that are impacted. I could see it when I met many of them at my mobile office as well as at the community consultation held in Elimbah last Saturday. I want them to know that I am only a phone call away and I am here to help.

Tonight I will finish with a short tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of William 'Bill' George Hankinson. Like Joyce, Bill has left an undeniable mark on the Maleny community. Born in 1940, Bill grew up on his family's 300-acre property in Maleny where he learned the values of hard work and determination. Bill was deeply involved in his community, serving in various roles including as president of Rotary and as a founding member of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club. A passionate campdrafter and devoted family man, Bill leaves behind a legacy of resilience, community spirit and kindness that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Federal Election, Working From Home

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (9.06 pm): Last month, like all electorate offices in South-East Queensland, the Waterford electorate office was forced to close due to the Cyclone Alfred weather event. Of course, other than during COVID, in my decade as the member for Waterford this was one of the only times that I have received an order to close the doors of the electorate office. However, my team and I knew we had a big job ahead of us in helping the community wherever possible. Whilst I was on the ground, my team were working safely from home. What a great thing working from home is. I know that, particularly for women with caring responsibilities, having flexible working conditions helps them return to and, more importantly, helps them stay in the workforce.


Recently, the Commonwealth public sector union conducted a survey of 5,000 women from across the Public Service. Some 96.7 per cent said that flexible work arrangements were important or very important, 65.7 per cent said they regularly accessed working from home and 68.2 per cent of respondents said that they had caring responsibilities for either children or elderly parents. With women making up 57 per cent of the public sector workforce, Peter Dutton's plan to remove work from home options for public servants will worsen the gender pay gap and send women backwards. Women's working conditions are on Peter Dutton's hit list as he will be forcing public servants to come back to work—that is, if there are any public servants left.

We know of Peter Dutton's plan to cut from the Public Service, including 12,000 jobs of hardworking federal public servants who work right here in Queensland. That means public servants ripped away from our federal health, education and even veterans departments. Will he cut jobs from disaster response agencies? Will he take the jobs of the 15 public servants who were operating out of a caravan in Hervey Bay to provide essential support while the community was inundated with flooding last month?

Providing support to flood-affected residents might not be something that Peter Dutton knows too much about, since as the cyclone was incoming he was heading to Sydney to a fundraiser held in a mansion in Vacluse. While the Prime Minister was on his way to help, Peter Dutton was flying to Sydney. Maybe that is why Peter Dutton has announced that if he wins the election he will work from his harbourside home of Kirribilli. Can you believe the hubris of Peter Dutton, who is already measuring the curtains at Kirribilli? I wonder if he will change his mind about people working from home given that he will be working from home in Sydney.

The upcoming federal election gives the women of this country an opportunity to move forward and not have our hard-fought-for rights wound back. Peter Dutton has made it known that he does not stand for women. He never has.

Chris' IGA Carina

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.09 pm): I would like to share an incredible story about a small family business in Chatsworth—Chris' IGA in Carina. Founded 70 years ago by Chris Nicolaou, this small general store was the only supermarket in the area until Westfield Carindale opened in 1979. It is no small feat for any business to remain operational for seven decades, and this remarkable achievement reflects the exceptional customer service Chris' IGA continues to provide to the locals of Chatsworth each and every day. Since opening the store in 1955, Chris brought his family on board and through hard work and tireless hours Chris' IGA has prospered into the icon it is today.


What makes Chris' IGA even more remarkable is the fact that the next generation of the Nicolaou family has continued the tradition of excellence, ensuring Chris's legacy lives on. Chris's son, Nick, now heads the business and his grandson Grayson is also part of the team. The family's passion for providing outstanding customer service has been passed down through the generations, and this is a testament to the strength and resilience of this small family-owned business.

Chris' IGA has played a significant role in supporting not only the local community but also the local economy. Chris' IGA has always been at the forefront of customer service. In the 1970s, I remember my mother coming home from Chris' IGA with grocery bags, knowing that there would be special little treats at the bottom of one of the bags thrown in for free. This kind of personal touch and generosity has set Chris' IGA apart and made it beloved by so many over the years.

I have known Nick since my school days at Carina State School and I can attest to his strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit—characteristics imperative to the survival of Queensland's small business sector. Nick's dedication to excellence in customer service is reflected in the entire Chris' IGA team, who embody the core values of good customer service through their dedication and teamwork. During the recent weather event that was ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the team from Chris' IGA were making deliveries to local homes when all other stores in the area had closed. They were not going to let a little old cyclone stand in the way of ensuring that the people in the community were looked after.

Recently I had the honour of presenting Chris' IGA Carina with a Customer Service Excellence Award in recognition of their 70 years of outstanding contribution to our community. This award serves as a small token of appreciation for the immense positive impact that Chris' IGA at Carina have had on the local area. Their story is a prime example of how small family businesses can thrive and adapt through dedication, hard work and a customer-first mindset. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nicolaou family for their generosity of spirit and for the vital role that Chris' IGA play in the local community. Congratulations again to Nick and the rest of his team on this fantastic business milestone, and happy 70th birthday to Chris' IGA Carina.

Belas, Mr S

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.12 pm): Tonight, I rise to speak about a legend of the QEII Jubilee Hospital, Stan Belas, whose dedication, generosity and resolute spirit has had a large impact on the QEII Hospital and the countless lives within it. Many years ago, Stan suffered a stroke, an event that changed his life. During his rehabilitation of 13 months at the QEII Hospital, he experienced firsthand the kindness, care, and support of the great hospital staff. Stan was eternally grateful and still is. Since then, Stan has been giving back to the institution that gave so much to him.


For 25 years, Stan has been the heart and soul of the QEII volunteer program. His commitment to this institute is nothing short of remarkable. Stan runs yearly raffles at the hospital and he always has multiple prizes—signed football jerseys, a trailer full of goodies and other interesting items, to name but a few. Stan always greets everyone with a smile and a hello, hoping that they will buy a raffle ticket from him, of course.

His tireless efforts have transformed the QEII Hospital into more than just a medical facility—it is a place of warmth, motivation and healing. Thanks to Stan's fundraising, patients and their families can enjoy: landscaped gardens; outdoor seating; a new large outside deck area for palliative care with a barbecue and a vertical garden; and an Indigenous healing ground garden. Stan's latest venture is at the front of the hospital but, unfortunately, a car park is being built there so Stan's Queen Elizabeth

roses have to take a back seat for a short time. Stan has promised everyone that he will reinvigorate the garden once the car park is completed.

What truly sets Stan apart is not just what he does; it is who he is. He is a humble man, never seeking recognition and always crediting others. It is only fitting that such a generous person receives an appropriate tribute. Late last year, as part of the QEII Hospital expansion project, over 100 staff and volunteers cast their votes in the 'Name the Cranes' competition. The clear winner was Stan. One of the four cranes bound for QEII this year will be proudly flying high this legend's name, Stan.

Rockynats 05

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise to highlight an event that embodies the vibrant and enduring spirit of Rockhampton—Rare Spares Rockynats 05. This is not just a car and bike festival; it is a celebration of our community's passion, pride and ability to shine on the national stage. It is kicking off this Friday, with scrutineering into Friday's Bill Blokker Spraypainting Street Parade—the largest car and bike parade in the Southern Hemisphere.


The festival showcases the roar of burning tyres at Buddy's Burnouts, the scream of engines in the Garrett Motion Drags, the shine of vehicles at Finch's Mitre 10 Show and Shine, plus exclusive unveils in the Lawrence Motors Elite Pavilion. Enthusiasts and families will gather, embracing the energy and excitement, while entertainment reaches new heights with Pete Murray on Saturday night, ensuring unforgettable memories.

This year marks the debut of a new presenting partner, Autoglym, alongside an array of national and local sponsors that make Rare Spares Rockynats possible. Their support underscores the commitment to delivering an event that brings people together and transforms Rockhampton into a buzzing epicentre of activity.

Since its launch as Rare Spares Rockynats 01 in 2021, the partnership between Rockhampton Regional Council and Summernats has exceeded expectations. Rare Spares Rockynats 04 drew over 57,000 attendees, injecting \$7.47 million into the local economy. Beyond the impressive numbers, Rare Spares Rockynats brings people together, inspiring a shared love for all things that roar and rev. Rare Spares Rockynats has also elevated Rockhampton's profile, earning recognition at the Queensland Tourism Awards two years in a row. It symbolises our region's ingenuity and determination, solidifying its reputation as a destination for world-class events.

As the current five year agreement with Summernats concludes, we look forward to Mayor Tony Williams's announcement at Sunday night's Full Throttle Awards. Securing another five years of this iconic festival would be a triumph for Rockhampton, safeguarding its cultural and economic contributions to our region. Rare Spares Rockynats is not just an event; it is our heartbeat, our roar and our pride. Let us celebrate this remarkable festival and the spirit of community and resilience it represents.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.18 pm): Last week our community experienced the trauma of losing someone we loved to homicide. I am mindful of sub judice and I will not comment on the justice response, but I want to take the opportunity to recognise Cecilia Webb from The Gap, and extend again my condolences to her loved ones. I wrestle with the contradictory responsibilities I have: recognising, having spoken to Cecilia's friends and family, just how private a woman she was that she would probably not appreciate the attention that her death has brought, while also recognising that Cecilia Webb is sadly the 15th woman murdered in Australia this year already and the obligation that I feel as a leader in our community, a parliamentarian, a mum, a daughter, a victims advocate and a woman to really keep bringing that statistic to attention.

Violence against women is our national shame. I do want to remind the House of the huge reform piece still underway in the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce reports and to encourage the government to please not deviate from those recommendations. The Gap is a really close-knit community and it is a really safe community. Last week highlighted that the reach of domestic and family violence is so great. It reaches into every community, and it brings great shock and incredible grief.

Cecilia was a daughter, a mother, a sister and a friend. She was a highly respected healthcare worker, and students of hers from Hong Kong attended the community vigil that we held for Cecilia on Friday and spoke about the impact she has had on their professional lives. She was a beloved


neighbour. I want to extend my thoughts and sympathies to the neighbours, some of whom were witness to the aftermath of the event. Violent events like these do cause ripples in communities and those ripples have been felt by many.

While this event will and has changed us, it certainly will not define us—a community that cares for and looks out for one another through good times and bad. I would like to place on record my thanks for Inspector Corey Allen from the Queensland Police Service and all of the officers from The Gap who continue to impress me with their care for our community. I also thank the services who attended our vigil—VictimConnect, the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, DVConnect and the Brisbane Domestic Violence Advocacy Service. I also acknowledge Reverend Ann Edwards from St Mark's Anglican Church who shared some beautiful words with us all on the day. Ann continues to be such a friend and ally of mine in our community. She is an extraordinary woman.

The events of last week encourage me to remind my residents that there is a parliamentary inquiry into elder abuse occurring at this time. Submissions close next Thursday, 10 April at 5 pm. For those folk who might be experiencing any form of family abuse and harm, please know that I understand the shame and the temptation to continue to suffer in silence. That is what violence does and we do not need to give into that. There is help available. I would encourage people to reach out and get the support that they are entitled to and deserve. Vale, Cecilia Webb.

(Time expired)

Buffel Grass

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.21 pm): Graziers in Queensland have relied on buffel grass to build their feedstocks and keep woody weeds at bay for generations. That is under threat, with calls for the Australian government to declare buffel grass a weed of national significance. Buffel grass is anything but a weed for Queensland graziers. If anything, it has been a saviour for Queensland's beef industry. It is an incredibly drought-resistant grass because of the bulkiness of its type and, when the rain finally does come, it is generally the first grass to respond and provide rich protein feed for our cattle. In fact, it is so good as feed for stock that it can provide good quality weight gains of up to 1.5 kilograms a day.

When buffel grass is managed correctly, it has the ability to compete with woody weeds like parthenium, which is one of the most aggressive woody weeds that was ever introduced into this great state of Queensland. Buffel grass can contain areas of erosion that are prone to flooding where other types of grasses can get washed away in large floods and, when you have serious fire, a lot of other grasses have trouble responding. If we want farmers to reduce their CO₂ impacts, we want our graziers to have big paddocks of grass available. Buffel grass is one of the grasses that can help to achieve that goal while also providing good quality feed to cattle.

Mr Lister: And great steak.


Mr G KELLY: And great steak! The fact that it has been submitted for consideration as a national weed of significance is a great worry to Queensland graziers. It is certainly not a weed for us. It is a good quality feedstock for our cattle and helps protect the quality of our land. It should not be listed as a weed of national significance not only because of the benefits it provides to farmers in feed but also because of its ability to compete with other noxious weeds that do impact our agricultural industries. While it may be seen as a weed in South Australia and in the Northern Territory, it is of great benefit to the beef producers in Queensland. As the National Farmers Federation's Mr Angus Atkinson has said—

Weeds of national significance status should only be reserved for where there is consensus for listing, national coordination or assistance for eradication. There is no consensus on buffel grass, farmers do not support this.

Queensland produces some of the best beef cattle in the world, and buffel grass helps our beef achieve the meat quality requirements that both the domestic and international markets desire from our world-leading grass-fed beef. If we want to keep being a state that is known for our beef and lamb, we need to make sure that farmers are still able to use buffel grass to feed their cattle and sheep.

(Time expired)

Western Queensland, Weather Events; Personal Mobility Devices

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.24 pm): With devastating flooding across our state, my community sends heartfelt wishes to all impacted, especially our farmers. Having gone through the 1991 inundation when I was on a property north of Julia Creek, I know that the losses are heartbreaking. Recovery will take years. The aftermath of snake and locust plagues, mosquitoes, heat, stench and tears are

something I will always remember. For anyone who can assist, there are multiple avenues to donate through, including via local council websites and CWAs and, of course, by purchasing gift cards online at local supermarkets, because every bit helps.

There is an ongoing issue in my community and others: e-bikes and e-scooters, also known as personal mobility devices, PMDs, and those illegal e-motorbikes. We have been raising the danger since 2022. Yes, there has been some action; however, it has not been enough. We know that these devices must meet Australian Design Rules, that there are laws on speed limits, that riders of PMDs and e-bikes must be over 12 and 16 respectively, that e-motorbikes must be licensed and that our police have been given the legislation needed for enforcement. However, all of this misses very important aspects. How are police expected to safely chase offenders—who are mostly without helmets—at speeds exceeding that of cars? How can they enforce infringement when there is no numberplate identification? What about retailer and parental responsibility? Who is monitoring to ensure adherence to Design Rules? Without licensing or registration or the ability to insure, how can we move beyond the status quo? Just recently we had another young Queenslander critically hurt. How many injuries or deaths will it take to resolve this?

Hoping for a fresh approach, I sought further action from our new government. However, the response replicated that of the previous government; that is, there are speed limits and police are responsible for enforcement. How can police enforce the law when they have outlined why they cannot in many cases? What we need are real solutions. We are an innovative, proactive state—one committed to reducing dangers and overloads to our emergency departments and increasing knowledge and accountability. The excuse that licensing and registration are too hard or expensive does not pass the pub test. This is about our young Queenslanders who one day will be driving a car and learning early how to abide by rules and laws when sharing space. Giving respect to yourself and others is an investment in the now and into the future. It is also a lifesaver for them and anyone who happens to be in their path, including pedestrians. I ask government to please listen to our communities on this issue and bring in some solid, innovative solutions to create greater safety now and into the future.

Vitrinite Highwall Miner



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.27 pm): The coal industry has been a cornerstone of Queensland's economic prosperity for more than a century. Our commitment to the resources sector is ironclad. As the largest industry in this state, the mining industry is important to Queensland. This sector contributes an impressive \$86 billion annually to our economy and supports more than 79,300 jobs.

Just last month a Central Queensland mine made history as the first in Australia to deploy an advanced highwall mining system to extract coal with unprecedented efficiency. I had the privilege of joining Vitrinite staff and community leaders at the Vulcan South mine in my electorate of Burdekin to witness this cutting-edge technology in action. The HW300 Highwall Miner, one of only 90 units worldwide, has now been brought online in Australia for the first time. It is machinery that extracts coal that is normally out of reach—a major leap forward for safety, efficiency and environmental impact reduction. It reinforces Queensland's reputation as a global leader in mining innovation.

Investment in technology like the HW300 is a vote of confidence in our government's long-term agenda which will see new and expanded mining opportunities across the state. It is another example of how Queensland is miles ahead of the other mining states in this country. We have not done this through luck; we have done this through innovation, through hard work and through the grit and determination of the men and women who show up every day in high-vis to get the job done. We know how important creating long-term jobs are for our people, strengthening the very communities that power our economy—communities like Collinsville, Clermont, Middlemount, Moranbah, Blair Athol and Dysart, all in my electorate of the Burdekin. They are all constant reminders that when the mining industry is strong so too are our regional mining communities.

That is why we are facilitating the creation of thousands more jobs in our mining industry. The Resources Cabinet Committee—made up of the key decision-makers across resources, environment, planning and energy—has met monthly since December. We are building a system that delivers decisions, not delays. We will continue to find ways to increase opportunities for jobs and opportunities for advanced technology. We will continue to be at the forefront of the mining sector, ensuring we are doing everything we can to unlock Queensland's potential.

The resources industry is what puts money in the bucket. The drillers, the diesel fitters, the engineers and the mineworkers—the high-vis heroes across my electorate—are the people who are keeping our lights on, fuelling our economy and helping us fund our essential services. The Crisafulli government is backing those workers, and we are backing our resources sector with real policy and real intent.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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