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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 29 April 2025

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TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2025

001

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

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 Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of assent: 9 April 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 for a particular purpose

A bill for an Act to amend the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 for particular purposes

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

9 April 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 April 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 9 April 2025.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Members



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Ferny Grove that he will be absent from the House from 29 April to 1 May 2025 inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

I have received advice from the member for Kurwongbah that he will be absent from the House from 29 April to 1 May inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 10 March 2025, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Woodridge and the member for McConnell deliberately misled the House on 19 February 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the members during debate of a motion put forward by the Leader of the Opposition.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated—

The member for Kawana did not disclose his conflict before the election when he was carrying out that con on the people of the Sunshine Coast.

He further stated—

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

The member for Woodridge stated—

He should have absolutely nothing to do with any decision dealing with the direct Sunshine Coast rail and he should have recused himself from this debate. Instead, he is desperately trying to hide his conflict of interest.

The member for McConnell stated—

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

The Deputy Premier argued that these statements were deliberately misleading because he had made a declaration in the House in December 2021, as well as declarations on the Members' Register of Interests in 2023, 2024 and 2025. His 2024 declaration was also reported in the media.

I sought further information from the members about the allegations made against them, in accordance with standing order 269(5). The members submitted, amongst other things, that they were referring to the absence of direct declarations made to constituents, while conceding that the Deputy Premier had made declarations on the register of interests and in the House. Standing order 269(4) requires that, in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note the Leader of the Opposition made a statement in the House in relation to this matter on 1 April 2025. However, I consider that the clarification and apology was not an adequate apology. Noting the considerable declarations the Deputy Premier has made in relation to this matter over the last several years, I also do not consider the members have made adequate explanations in their submissions.

I have considered all of the material put forward by the Deputy Premier and the members and am of the view that there is an arguable case that the members' statements were deliberately misleading. Therefore, I will be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I would like to reiterate that I have not made a conclusion in relation to this matter. Rather, I have assessed that there are sufficient factors at play to warrant further investigation. I remind all members that standing order 271 now applies and these matters should not be referred to in the House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Sandy, Uncle Des



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is with great sadness that I inform the House of the recent passing of Uncle Des Sandy. Uncle Des was a Yagara elder, with ancestral links to tribes across South-East Queensland. Uncle Des was often an invited guest here at the parliamentary precinct and known to many members.

Uncle Des was known for his humour and wit and was a knowledgeable custodian of stories about his people. Over the years, he shared that knowledge through many 'welcome to country' speeches and at community events. Our sincere and deep condolences go out to the Sandy family.

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 St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, in the electorate of Sandgate and St Bernardine's Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Algester.

PETITIONS

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

Vehicle Registration

Mr Knuth, from 904 petitioners, requesting the House to simplify the registration process and improve access for side-by-side vehicle owners and operators.

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

Speeding Fines, Roadworks

1,611 petitioners, requesting the House to rescind all fines in areas where there was no road work activity at the time of the alleged offence and ensure all roadwork and associated speed limit signs be removed or covered up at sites where there is no current road work activity.

Powerlines, Underground

1,839 petitioners, requesting the House to place all power transmission lines underground.

Cat Registration

1,174 petitioners, requesting the House to adjust state laws so that there is one law to govern cat ownership.

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—

4 April 2025—

[320](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official visit to Washington D.C., Toronto and New York by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Hon. Dale Last, 27 February-5 March 2025

8 April 2025—

[321](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Preventing harm to children with disability in Queensland—Report 1: Department of Education, April 2025

9 April 2025—

[322](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2023-24

[323](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on overseas visit to Malta by the member for McConnel (Hon. Grace Grace) and the member for Theodore (Mr Mark Boothman) to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Advanced Professional Development and Skills Building Residency Programme, 23 February-1 March 2025

10 April 2025—

[324](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 2, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 September 2024 and 28 November 2024

[325](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders health practitioners' (Version 5)

[326](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders health workers' (Version 3)

[327](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Indigenous health workers' (Version 4)

[328](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Queensland Ambulance Service' (Version 4)

[329](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Midwives' (Version 5)

[330](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Registered Nurses' (Version 6)

[331](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists' (Version 7)

[332](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Physiotherapists' (Version 2)

11 April 2025—

[333](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 5, 58th Parliament—Queensland Audit Office Annual Report 2023-24

[334](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Reports to Parliament

[335](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 5, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 7 December 2024 and 18 February 2025

- [336](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025
- [337](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025
- [338](#) Auditor-General Report 11: 2024-25—State entities 2024
- [339](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4213-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 706 petitioners, requesting the House to bring the not fit for purpose 'Code of practice for native forest timber production on Queensland's State forest estate' to the attention of the Minister for the Environment
- [340](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4163-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 465 petitioners, requesting the House to provide Wi-Fi services to all public housing and social housing for a fee of \$10 per week on a fixed data limit
- [341](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4197-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,071 petitioners, requesting the House to limit long and short term rental costs to 25% of the renter's income
- [342](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4189-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,096 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce the maximum speed for watercraft on the entire Pumicestone Passage to 20 knots

14 April 2025—

- [343](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 18 February 2025

16 April 2025—

- [344](#) Auditor-General Report 12: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024

17 April 2025—

- [345](#) Auditor-General Report 13: 2024-25—Local government 2024

22 April 2025—

- [346](#) Affirmation of appointment as Acting Integrity Commissioner of Queensland of Mr Paxton Booth, dated 22 April 2025
- [347](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Amendment Regulations 2024
- [348](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Amendment Regulations 2024, explanatory notes

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Gaming Machine Act 1991:

- [349](#) Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 15
- [350](#) Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 15, explanatory notes
- [351](#) Gaming Machine (Gaming Machine Licences) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 15, human rights certificate

Economic Development Act 2012:

- [352](#) Economic Development (Southern Thornlands PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 18
- [353](#) Economic Development (Southern Thornlands PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 18, explanatory notes
- [354](#) Economic Development (Southern Thornlands PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 18, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

- [355](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 19
- [356](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 19, explanatory notes
- [357](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 19, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998:

- [358](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 20
- [359](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 20, explanatory notes
- [360](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 20, human rights certificate

Queensland Community Safety Act 2024:

- [361](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21
- [362](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21, explanatory notes

[363](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 21, human rights certificate

Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

[364](#) Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 22

[365](#) Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 22, explanatory notes

[366](#) Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 22, human rights certificate

Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2025:

[367](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 23

[368](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 23, explanatory notes

Duties Act 2001:

[369](#) Duties Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 24

[370](#) Duties Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 24, explanatory notes

[371](#) Duties Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 24, human rights certificate

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Hospital Foundations Act 2018, Mental Health Act 2016, Public Health Act 2005, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

[372](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 25

[373](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 25, explanatory notes

[374](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 25, human rights certificate

[375](#) Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 25, impact analysis statement

Legal Profession Act 2007:

[376](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2025, No. 26

[377](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2025, No. 26, explanatory notes

[378](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2025, No. 26, human rights certificate

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[383](#) 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—

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024’


Insert—

‘Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025’

002

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Health System

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.38 am): Over the last decade, our health system descended into crisis. Under Labor’s watch, ambulance ramping hit record highs and surgery waitlists spiralled. Critical projects were plagued by poor planning, delays and cost blowouts. As a result, too many families waited too long to receive the health services they deserve and too many of our hardworking staff were under pressure day after day. These healthcare workers have been stretched beyond their limits.

Our population is growing and aging and our health system must keep up. We have a plan to save our hospitals and healthcare workers from the chaos and crisis of the last 10 years. The Hospital Rescue Plan is our plan for the future of our health system. Our government will build new hospitals and upgrade and expand existing ones to deliver 2,600 extra hospital beds, alongside more investment in a bigger health workforce. The Hospital Rescue Plan will be the largest investment in hospital infrastructure ever seen in Queensland’s history.

Experts called Labor’s hospital capacity expansion program undeliverable. That is why we commissioned an independent review into the program and the backlog of delayed maintenance. That

review found major issues, including a lack of adequate planning, delays, underfunded projects and design flaws, which resulted in cost increases of around \$7 billion. Our government has listened to the independent review and will deliver easier access to health services, as we promised.

The Hospital Rescue Plan will include three new hospitals, a new Queensland cancer centre, 10 major hospital expansions and upgraded and expanded health facilities right across the state. We will get our health infrastructure projects back on track with a credible plan to deliver them. We have listened to our critical frontline clinicians and empowered local decision-making to develop an investment plan. At hospitals like Redcliffe, our plan will deliver more beds and a complete redesign. In Coomera, our government has committed to delivering at least 600 new overnight beds. In Bundaberg and Toowoomba, we listened to clinicians and we will save around \$600 million per year by relocating all services and existing beds to the new hospitals. More beds and expanded services in Brisbane, Townsville, Mackay, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Logan and Cairns will ensure Queenslanders have easier access to the health care they need.

In rural and regional parts of the state, we will expand clinical services like dialysis and CT scanning. Our plan will also ensure there will be better staff accommodation, which is absolutely vital to attract and retain critical health workers. We are also investing in the largest expansion of Queensland's health workforce with 46,000 additional health workers by 2032. We are delivering a home-grown health workforce strategy to train and hire the clinicians needed for the next decade. It will make it easier for students to study, train and work in Queensland, especially in rural and regional areas.

We are only just getting started on fixing the issues in our healthcare system. We will deliver infrastructure right across the state and give our healthcare workers the resources they need. Queenslanders deserve to have a health system they can rely on and that is why we are delivering the Hospital Rescue Plan.

Health System



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.42 am): A cornerstone of the LNP government's vision for Queensland is to ensure that every Queenslanders has timely access to high-quality health care, no matter where they live in this great state. That is why this Hospital Rescue Plan is necessary to save the health system. It will save the system from the decade of mismanagement, chaos and crisis under Labor. What did that chaos and crisis look like? We had four failed health ministers in 10 years, record ambulance ramping, a record number of Queenslanders waiting for elective surgery and long waitlists for Queenslanders to see specialists. That was Labor's record after 10 years of failure.

Our plan will deliver. It will deliver new and expanded hospitals as well as the extra beds our communities need. It will ensure we are providing modern, world-class facilities across the state. We will build three brand new hospitals in Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg. Each of those hospitals will have more beds than Labor planned for and each of those hospitals will meet the needs recommended by experts, clinicians and the Hospital and Health Services—recommendations ignored by Labor. On top of this, there will be major expansions at 10 existing hospitals, and I know members on this side will be delighted to know that that will be occurring at Redcliffe, at Mackay, in Townsville and here in Brisbane as well with a new Queensland cancer centre.

We uncovered the disastrous state of the former government's failed capacity expansion program upon coming into government, which has had major blowouts and delays across the board. That is why I commissioned an independent review into the program. That review revealed the program was on life support. Sam Sangster's report laid out the cold, hard reality of the consequences of the panicked and too-late recognition by the Palaszczuk and Miles government of their failure to properly invest in, and plan for, hospital and health infrastructure. That report revealed that in one year alone the total capital spend by Labor was just \$117 million. That is all they were prepared to invest in one year alone in health infrastructure. Mr Sangster said that the \$9.78 billion capacity expansion program announced in 2022 followed 'limited ... new or expansion capital allocated to Health over prior years'. When he said 'limited', he meant 'almost nothing'. He went on to say—

In each case continuing with the currently scoped and programmed projects is an exercise in futility.


An exercise in futility. Labor's planning only ever extended to planning to get a headline. It did not worry about deliverability. It was headlines over deadlines, not about delivering health care. It is no wonder industry expert Adrian Dwyer said only last week that Labor's plan was 'little more than a mirage of media releases'. That is why we are doing the proper planning and taking the time necessary to

deliver more than 2,600 beds for Queenslanders. That will mean Queenslanders will have greater access to health services when they need them.

Our Hospital Rescue Plan represents a record investment by the LNP in the state's hospital infrastructure, and it provides a credible plan to achieve it. It reflects our government's unwavering dedication to the health and wellbeing of every Queensland, no matter where they live. These investments are not just about bricks and mortar; they are about delivering health security for communities across the state. The rescue plan is carefully structured, financially sound and informed by the voices of clinicians, healthcare professionals and community members across Queensland. It is also aligned, as the Premier has said, with our broader strategy to expand and support our health workforce.

This is an integral investment for the future health of Queenslanders. It will ensure our communities can depend on their healthcare system. Only an LNP government can be trusted to deliver the health services that Queenslanders need.

Best Practice Industry Conditions

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.47 am): Members will recall when this House sat last year that the new LNP state government pressed pause on the CFMEU tax—BPIC—on all new major infrastructure projects in Queensland. We know that Labor's sweetheart deal with the CFMEU meant that Queenslanders would have been expected to pay billions of dollars more for their essential infrastructure while having to accept record low productivity on their worksites. In some cases, under Labor, productivity fell as low as 2.8 productive days per week at major building sites across Queensland. That was Labor's record. Labor did a deal with their union mates and Queenslanders were the ones paying the price.

Queenslanders remember that Labor wanted them to pay more for their roads, more for their rail, more for housing and more rent, and now the extent of how much extra Labor wanted Queenslanders to pay for their hospitals is being uncovered by this government. BPIC—aka the CFMEU-Labor tax—would have had a \$1.4 billion impact alone on the delivery of the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. Queenslanders know Labor's record on cost blowouts and service delivery. Labor's CFMEU tax strikes again.

003 **Mrs Frecklington:** Oh, no!

Mr BLEIJIE: I know—believe it or not! As if the new government needed any more reasons to end Labor's sweetheart deal with the CFMEU, it was revealed last week by the independent Sangster review that under Labor's industrial policy—

Evidence provided to the Review illustrates that the major impact arising from BPICs is on-site productivity being around 20% lower than in other Australian jurisdictions.

Productivity is 20 per cent lower in Queensland than in other Australian jurisdictions! The review goes on to say that on working days New South Wales is 18 per cent more productive than Queensland; Western Australia is 17 per cent more productive than Queensland; and—are members ready for this?—even Victoria—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I could be accused of misleading the House but the review says it. Even Victoria, where the Labor Premier, Jacinta Allan, was forced to refer the construction industry union to the Victorian police and to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, is still 16 per cent more productive than Queensland—Victoria!

What Labor wanted Queenslanders to accept was that productivity on their hospital worksites would be a fifth worse than fellow Australians—a statistic the Crisafulli LNP government is not going to accept. That was Labor's record. That was their record that they so strongly supported and were proud of. Labor prioritised a sweetheart deal for their CFMEU mates over building new hospitals and providing more health services supporting our nurses, doctors, paramedics and health staff across the state.

Under Labor the industrial relations landscape in this state became unfit for purpose and meant that the plan they had for health infrastructure was undeliverable. This LNP government will do what Labor could not: we will heal the health crisis to ensure that Queenslanders get the health system they deserve. The biggest question of the day is: who in the Labor Party is to blame for their failed hospital and health plan? It will be revealed a little later today.

Productivity Commission, Referrals



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.51 am): Last week I referred the first inquiry to the re-established Productivity Commission—a comprehensive review of Queensland's construction sector. With the terms of reference for the initial inquiry issued, the commission is required to deliver a report to the government within six months.

The referral comes after Treasury estimated that best practice industry conditions stood to add \$17 billion to Queensland projects, increase rents by seven per cent and result in 22,000 fewer homes being constructed across the next five years. BPICs, regulatory imposts and other inefficiencies are a significant burden on our state's construction sector and merit close consideration by the Productivity Commission. We need a thriving construction sector to deliver vital infrastructure ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and we need a productive construction sector so we can get on with the job of delivering the hospitals promised under our Hospital Rescue Plan.

Costs, as outlined by the health minister, indicate that budgets doubled on several projects. Costs were impacted by Labor's mismanagement, poor planning and BPICs. On just one project—the new Bundaberg Hospital—the BPIC impact was forecast to add an additional \$130 million to construction costs. Overall, it is estimated that Queensland construction sites operate with 20 per cent lower productivity than other Australian jurisdictions. That must improve.

The second referral to the Productivity Commission will be a targeted referral to provide advice on energy policy and productivity. It will support the development of the Crisafulli government's five-year Energy Roadmap that will deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. Our five-year roadmap that will be completed by the end of this year will be pragmatic and geared towards economics and engineering. The roadmap must align with the priorities of Queensland families and businesses, encourage private sector investment to support the energy shift that is underway and focus on what the state government can practically and plausibly deliver.

The reliability of our government owned generators must be secured. The former Labor government failed to maintain them and that is why we introduced the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee late last year. It has already supported more than \$400 million in investment into maintenance of our government owned generators in 2024-25. However, a decade of Labor failing to invest in these generating assets will not be fixed overnight. We have again seen this last month—that this underinvestment leads to serious incidents and unplanned outages. The serious incident at Callide C3 highlights the work that still needs to be undertaken across our government owned generators and our government owned corporations.

In addition to the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland investigation, CS Energy is currently undertaking two formal investigations to identify the underlying causes. I am advised by CS Energy that the C3 unit is due back online by 30 May and investigations are ongoing. Once the seriousness of the incident had been disclosed by CS Energy the government took action. We introduced the obligation for government owned generators to disclose outages in real time. If Ergon and Energex can disclose outages in real time then our government owned generators can too. I table the 'Communication Protocol for Unplanned Outages of Electricity Generation Units', together with letters to each of the government owned generators—CS Energy, Stanwell and CleanCo—given earlier this month.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, Hon. David Janetzki and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, regarding the Communication Protocol for Unplanned Outages in Electricity Generation Units.


We also confirmed that a review into government owned corporations will be completed as part of the five-year Energy Roadmap. The \$1.4 billion rollout of the government's Electricity Maintenance Guarantee will continue and potential additional investments will be considered during the roadmap process. Queensland needs our government owned corporations performing at full capacity to deliver this roadmap. There is much work to do. As made clear by the Board of CS Energy, the 'deep-seated cultural problems' as contained in the Brady report still remain and they are 'determined to fix' them.

I am looking forward to working with all government owned corporations as we improve culture and performance, progress our Energy Roadmap and save projects that the former Labor government simply would have never delivered. We will save CopperString through leveraging QIC's infrastructure expertise and its ability to attract private sector investment, together with Powerlink's transmission experience. QIC will prioritise the Eastern Link with Hughenden at its heart and will undertake a full analysis of options to deliver the best economic value for the Western Link. CopperString should not cost \$13.9 billion, and we are determined to see the communities of North Queensland and North-West

Queensland flourish through unlocking the economic opportunities the CopperString project will bring—all the way from Townsville to Mount Isa.

The work the government undertakes this year on the five-year Energy Roadmap is important. We are committed to working with our government owned corporations and the private sector as we deliver what we promised—affordable, reliable and sustainable electricity for Queensland.

Youth Crime, Legislation

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.57 am): I want to reflect on and inform the House of some recent comments made by a magistrate sentencing a youth under the Crisafulli government's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. I quote—

... having more consequences is really what is meant by holding you to account—by ensuring that the courts have a different focus. The courts also now have to impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations.

Reintroducing consequences for actions is what we promised we would do. Protecting and supporting victims is a priority of the Crisafulli government. It is no wonder that the first piece of legislation introduced into this parliament was the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. The fact that it was the very first bill we brought into this chamber shows how seriously we take our commitment to Queenslanders that we would turn the tide on Labor's decade-long youth crime crisis. The Adult Crime, Adult Time laws we took to the election were in place by Christmas—just as we promised.


We always said it would take time. A decade of weak laws created a generation of hardened youth criminals who, for years, faced no consequences for their repeat actions. Five short months later, while we are seeing some green shoots, more must be done. We are seeing early signs that things are beginning to shift. From 13 December last year to 28 March this year there were 1,359 cases lodged with the Queensland courts with at least one Making Queensland Safer charge. Compared to the same period the year before, there were 756 fewer MQS related cases before Queensland courts. That is a 32 per cent decrease of MQS related cases before the courts.

We have given the judiciary the tools to impose sentences that do meet community expectations and changed the law to require them to put victims ahead of offenders. As another magistrate said recently—

You have provided me opportunity to send a very clear message to those children who may think that the behaviour that they go through is exciting or happy, or good. I can send them a very clear message through you that you will have very poor consequences for people who choose to live that lifestyle.

There is more to be done. We have always said that. There will be more to come.

Youth Justice, Programs

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.59 am): I am pleased to update the House that tenders for our Staying on Track program have now closed and we are another step closer to tackling Labor's youth crime crisis. We have had a strong response from service providers and communities who are committed to working with us to implement our Staying on Track program and make Queensland safer.

Under the program, youth exiting detention will be given 12 months of intensive rehabilitation support to stop them from reoffending. Each young person will be partnered with an organisation to: mentor and support them; plan for a productive future; help them get back to school; help them get into a job, education or training; and, ultimately, help them stop offending and get on a path to a brighter future so they do not fall back into a pattern of offending and so we see fewer victims of crime in this state. For a decade, youth offenders have not been given the rehabilitation needed to make a difference to help turn their lives around, to get them back on track. We know this because for the past 10 years the number of repeat youth offenders has gone up and up and up.


Mr Bleijie: Under Labor.

Mrs GERBER: That is correct. Queensland had the highest rate of recidivism in Australia at 91 per cent. In September last year, 94 per cent of youth offenders released from detention went on to reoffend in the first 12 months after they were released. Those figures do not lie. That is Labor's record on youth crime. They weakened the laws. They put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims, and they created a generation of young offenders who thumbed their nose at the law and knew that their rights went before the rights of victims.

We are starting to see the early signs of improvement when it comes to tackling Labor's youth crime crisis. The first stage of Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to have an impact. Let's be clear: while Adult Crime, Adult Time means that young offenders will now face consequences for their actions, they will also receive intensive rehabilitation programs inside our detention centres and upon release to help turn their lives around. Detention should not breed better criminals. The revolving door of youth offenders in our detention centres going on to reoffend in our communities must stop. That is why we have worked so hard to start delivering these programs as soon as we can to change the course of youth crime in this state.

On top of rehabilitation for our young offenders, we are out to market on two early intervention programs. Regional Reset and our Kickstarter program are two key crime prevention initiatives. We also have more police on our streets and we are starting to see green shoots in the courts, with judges starting to reference our laws. We have a long way to go. This is just the start of our journey, but we are heading in the right direction. Our promise to Queenslanders is that we will not stop until safety is restored in our communities. We will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime in this state.

Schools, Bullying


 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.03 am): We continue to grapple with the challenge of bullying—a scourge that undermines the wellbeing of our young people. It is online, in our workplaces, in our schools and in our sporting clubs. Schools are on the front line every day working to prevent and respond to bullying, but schools cannot do this alone. That is why the Crisafulli government has announced its first wave of new measures to provide more support for schools and families.

We are establishing rapid response squads comprising specialist staff who will provide on-the-ground expertise to schools and families in response to critical bullying incidents. We are expanding Parentline—a free, confidential counselling service available seven days a week—to all Queensland parents. We are also establishing a Queensland Anti-Bullying Stakeholder Reference Group, bringing together experts to inform the development of a statewide strategy focused on community awareness and joint action. We will be seeking the views of Queenslanders and provide opportunities for local communities to develop local solutions. We want every student to feel valued, heard and supported, so we are increasing funding to schools to engage wellbeing officers or chaplains. These key actions will be continuously reviewed to ensure they are having a positive impact. The government is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of students and will continue to work with experts and stakeholders to stamp out bullying.

Bullying is a complex social issue that affects all of us. It transcends boundaries, impacting individuals and rippling through families and communities, classrooms, workplaces and the digital world. Addressing this complex issue is one of my top priorities as the Minister for Education. Today I am asking every Queenslander to play a role in safeguarding our communities. The shared responsibility to address bullying extends from our classrooms to our homes—reaching into the heart of our society. The government is showing the nation that Queensland is leading the way and that combating bullying is a shared responsibility that requires all of us to work together.

We want our young people to thrive, which means our approach to address bullying will focus on community awareness and shared responsibility, prevention and supports for families, students and schools. Let me be unequivocal in my message: bullying is a complex issue. Our young people need us all to step up, work together and take action as a community.

Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.06 am): The 2024-25 disaster season has seen our great state experience extensive natural disasters in the north, the south, the west and the east of the state. Some 73 of Queensland's 77 local government areas have been activated for support under the joint Commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Tens of thousands of Queenslanders have been affected by these events in North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Western Queensland and here in the south-east. More than a century of flood records have been broken in many regions. Some locations have received more than a year's worth of rain in just days. Hundreds of homes were swamped in the north. Thousands in the south-east lost power for days in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. In the west, flooding covered an area roughly the size of Victoria.

In the face of these challenges, the Crisafulli government has swiftly activated joint state-Commonwealth disaster assistance. More than \$712 million in joint funding has already been established under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements in 2024-25 to address all aspects of recovery. The current estimate of the cost of reconstruction for the 2024-25 season is in excess of \$2 billion, and that number continues to rise.

This is a mammoth task and it calls for experienced local people to help these communities through recovery. State recovery coordinators have been appointed for each of these three major events: Andrew Cripps in the north and far north of Queensland; Colonel Justin O'Connor (Retd) leads the response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred; and Stuart McKenzie OAM in Western Queensland. Each of these people brings a lifetime of local experience to their role. The state recovery coordinators have worked tirelessly for these communities, providing the Crisafulli government with strategic advice for the state's recovery plan.

In the midst of all of this, attention must also go to tourism recovery—a sector often deeply impacted and essential for long-term economic resilience. We have told the rest of the country and the world that this great state is open for business. The Crisafulli government has worked with Tourism and Events Queensland to deliver statewide initiatives and campaigns to support this crucial sector. Queensland is still the No. 1 place to visit. The grass is green out west and it looks spectacular. Many of our beaches are back and the Tropical North is continuing to offer the world-class experiences it is known for. They are all great places to visit. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring that disaster-weary communities will receive the assistance they need, and we will be with them every step of the way.

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Anzac Day; Pope Francis



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.09 am): Last Friday for Anzac Day, Queenslanders right across the state gathered to honour our veterans and service men and women for their incredible contributions to our country. It was a privilege to lay a wreath at the dawn service in Townsville and stand with thousands of Queenslanders at the Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane.

This year marked 110 years since the Anzacs landed at Gallipoli. On 25 April 1915 during the First World War approximately 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders were part of the allied forces which landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. By the next morning more than 2,000 troops had been killed or injured, but they would not be moved, they held on and there the Anzac spirit was established. In honour of the Australian diggers, eight high school students and two teacher chaperones attended the Anzac Day dawn service in Northern France. They were recipients of the 2025 Premier's Anzac Prize, established by Minister Langbroek back in 2013. The group visited sites where Australian soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. The Anzac spirit is a defining part of our country's history and it is crucial it lives on in future generations.

Since Gallipoli, Australians have lived by the Anzac ethos of courage, mateship and loyalty. In the lead-up to Anzac Day, it was my pleasure to sit down with Roger North, a proud Queensland and a proud veteran. Roger applied to the Air Force on his 18th birthday in January 1940 just after World War II began. By December that year the Rockhampton teenager marched across the Story Bridge to depart for service. Roger is now 103 years old. More than 80 years have passed but he still remembers the events and the mates he served with like it was yesterday. His story is nothing short of miraculous—from receiving his wings in Ottawa to flying Hurricanes in Burma and surviving his aircraft being shot down 60 miles behind enemy lines. He received the Air Crew Europe Star, the Burma Star and the Pacific Star for his service. Roger's story is remarkable but his experience and his commitment to service are shared with veterans and service men and women right across the state.


Today Queensland is home to the largest population of veterans in Australia. More than 163,000 current or former Australian Defence Force personnel live here, and a couple serve in this parliament. Last week I was proud to announce our government's \$800,000 commitment to support veterans and first responders through the 4 Aussie Heroes foundation. The funding will help deliver a purpose-built facility in the Scenic Rim and has been well supported by the local member there. The state-of-the-art centre will become home to the foundation's Triumph over Trauma programs which support former first responders and members of the Australian Defence Force. It is just one of the ways we are standing by our veterans, as they stood by us.

Last week the world was saddened by the news of the passing of his holiness Pope Francis. Pope Francis had an impact on communities across the world, including right here in Queensland. He

dedicated his life to being a voice for the voiceless. Pope Francis was known for his compassion, his humility and his impact on the lives of millions through the values of faith, kindness and equality. His loss will be felt right across the world. I visited His Grace last Tuesday and attended mass along with the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday. On behalf of Queenslanders, I express my condolences to Catholics here and around the world. May Pope Francis rest in peace.


PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Hinchinbrook

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (10.13 am): On Good Friday 18 April 2025, I was photographed holding a full strength Great Northern beer on Curacoa Island, which is within the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council footprint. At the time I was unaware that I may have been in breach of the Palm Island Alcohol Management Plan. The incident was subsequently investigated by Queensland police. Following the investigation, an adult caution was issued. I can advise the House that the matter is now finalised.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (10.14 am): As chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table a report by the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Report 3: 2024-25: Administrative access to documents held in public schools: How the Department of Education implemented our recommendations: Follow-up audit on Report No. 2 for 2021-22*. I table the report in accordance with the requirements in subsection 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009 and subsection 193(5) of the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 3: 2024-25—Administrative access to documents held in public schools: How the Department of Education implemented our recommendations—Follow-up audit on Report No. 2 for 2021-22.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.15 am.

Redistribution Commission

 **Mr MILES** (10.14 am): My question is to the Attorney-General. Why did the Attorney-General dismiss the concerns of corruption-busting KC Tony Fitzgerald, the *Courier-Mail* and the opposition by appointing John Sosso, a former member of a political party, to the Queensland Redistribution Commission under the cover of the Easter long weekend?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much—

Mr Nicholls: Nothing new.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection straight up. They have nothing new so they will go here. Let me explain something to the Leader of the Opposition. Mr John Sosso is a well-respected public servant of 41 years in both federal and state governments, of Labor, of LNP. Let me inform the House of something in relation to Mr Sosso.

Mr Miles interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will answer your question in time, Leader of the Opposition.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We need to hear the Attorney-General.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If the Leader of the Opposition can recall his time in government, he may remember that matters go to Governor in Council, the Governor signs the document and it then goes to the *Government Gazette*. Guess what, I then released a public press release. I put it out straightaway. It was so secret that I actually put a media statement out immediately, and then what happened? It immediately went on news services. I did a press release. Once again, we are in this House and we are not talking about the policies of the opposition and we are not talking about the failures of the opposition when they were in government, which I am sure the health minister will get to in relation to the Hospital Rescue Plan. They are trying to trash the reputation of—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member for Aspley in relation to Mr John Sosso—someone who not even the *Courier-Mail* is criticising. I want to table a letter to John Sosso from Mr Fitzgerald. It states—

I am sorry to hear that your health has suffered and that you will be leaving us to return to your normal duties. You take with you the satisfaction that your efforts in the last months provided you a unique contribution to the physical establishment of the commission and hopefully its ultimate success. I hope that you recover.

Mr Tony Fitzgerald

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 June, from Mr Tony Fitzgerald to Mr John Sosso regarding the establishment of the commission.

Tabled paper: Media statement, undated, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, regarding the appointment of members to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission.

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for Veterans

Mr DICK: My question is to the Premier. Today the *Australian* newspaper reported that the Premier paid \$200,000 in compensation for insolvent trading while the sole director of SET Solutions. Has the Premier misled Queenslanders, and will the Premier face the media gallery today to make a full explanation?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you have been here for a long time. You know that this matter is before the Ethics Committee. Under standing order 271, I rule the question out of order.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me. That was my ruling. That is a longstanding standing order. It is before the Ethics Committee.

Health System

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will save Queensland's hospitals, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Redcliffe for the question. I want to thank her for her service to that hospital. She has worked there. She has had two of her children there. She has family who work there, and she lives and loves her community. The member asks how the plan has been received. I would suggest to you overwhelmingly very positively—by communities, by staff, by frontline clinicians—and if you want a barometer of it, in the first two questions the opposition did not even touch it. It is the same playbook they used the last sitting when they did not ask a question about the other mess we had to clean up which is the Olympic and Paralympic Games. If you want an indication of how things are going on our quest to clean up their youth crime crisis, there have been no questions about that. It tells you everything you need to know about an opposition that is in a hell of a lot of trouble at the moment.

The member asked me about the alternative approaches. I will say one thing: there is one member in this House where I have to give credit where it is due. He fronts up and he does the things that others do not want to do. That is the member for Miller. He was the one who had to come out 48 hours after the plan was overwhelmingly well received by everybody who looked at it, despite the fact that the three former health ministers did not want to stand up—not once. The member for Miller is the person they send out when it is raining to tell you the sun is out. That is what he does. But you have to give credit where it is due. He fronted up and he said things like, 'Hang on, that was only his opinion,' about Mr Sangster, an independent credible source. He said that it was planned as well as it could possibly be at the time. Then my favourite was that it was about the global pandemic. It was more important than doing thorough planning, because of the global pandemic. Some 2½ years after the start of COVID, that was their justification for steamrolling and not having a plan to unfold.

It was not about that; it was not. It was about using the heartache of people who had been victims of the health crisis to try to get a pressure release valve. We have seen the disgraceful scare campaign where the Leader of the Opposition went racing around the state. He had to come into this House and apologise for his statement on perinatal health at Townsville. Then in the election campaign they said that hospitals would be sold off. Can you believe the level of grubbiness?

Today is a very easy opportunity for the three failed health ministers: walk out the door, front up, release the secret health documents that show what they knew and when they knew it. What was the cover-up? What did they know? Why did it blow out? Why do they not have a plan when it comes to health services?

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Registered Training Organisations

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. Should Queensland registered training organisations meet their obligations to provide quality training, and what solutions will the Crisafulli LNP government implement to ensure dodgy training organisations are not trading while insolvent?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have seen this matter pursued by the Labor opposition previously—the dodgy strategy that they have alluded to—and I reference standing order 271 and your previous ruling.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am going to allow the question. However, Premier, you obviously cannot discuss anything that is before the Ethics Committee. I will let you answer the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. For all the things I will say about the Leader of the Opposition and the poor start he has made in this role, at least he can ask a question that does land. I have to give him credit for that, because the person sitting beside him, the deputy leader, is about one from four. He is not going really well. I suspect the questions are being written by somebody else sitting there on the frontbench: 'Here, ask this one. This one will go real well.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We have seen this strategy—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. I just called the House to order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We have seen this strategy rolled out before, without success, with a high level of grubbiness, but we have seen it. I will tell you where we have seen it. We saw it in the dying days of the last government when there was no opportunity for this place to be able to debate it. We saw it in the dying days then. We saw it when I first became Leader of the Opposition. We saw it when I returned to this parliament. All the while, there has not ever been one shred of evidence that those opposite have tried or produced—not one, and they know—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you are straying.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do want to answer the question, Mr Speaker. The question was about what action we will be taking against dodgy providers and people in the training space. We will take a lot. We have gone after the CFMEU. The CFMEU are the dodgiest training providers ever. I will tell you the difference between those on this side and those on that side. There is not one person here who owes their existence to a militant union, one who will stand over women and children on a picket line—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel, both verbal and gesticular when she recoils back. I know deep down in her soul she loves the CFMEU, but Queenslanders don't. I will tell you why they don't. They have seen the CFMEU marauding over people who just want to make a living. The days of them running roughshod over Queenslanders is over. The CFMEU does not have a place in this state. They do not have a place in training people. They do not have a place in regulating. The vast majority of unions do. They go to work and they want the same things that we want: they want workers to be safe and productive. The CFMEU do not. Those opposite cannot call it out. I will tell you why. They all owe their existence to them.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member for Waterford quoted them in her maiden speech. She is owned by them—lock, stock and barrel. Those opposite are owned by the CFMEU. On this side of the House, we are owned by Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, I have already cautioned you about interjecting. You were waving a document that is relevant to an Ethics Committee investigation. You are warned.

Health System

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will save hospitals in the Wide Bay, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr NICHOLLS: I will just go to my folder in respect to that matter and pull out the Hospital Rescue Plan in order to be able to answer the very hardworking member for Burnett's question. The member for Burnett knows, as do I, that if you look at page 25 you will see exactly what we are doing to save the Bundaberg Hospital from Labor's failures—failures, I must say, that were compounded by the member for Bundaberg, Mr Smith, who completely and utterly missed the mark in his prognostications about what the future for Bundaberg might hold. It is not just Bundaberg, as the member for Burnett knows, it is also Hervey Bay and Maryborough where we will be saving hospitals and delivering more beds across Queensland.

We will be delivering more than 410 beds and bed alternatives at the new site on one location—more than Labor were going to provide, member for Burnett. We are delivering 139 new overnight beds, including level 5 services. All of the services will be transferred to one campus rather than, as Labor would have had, two campuses—including the old hospital that was no longer fit for purpose—that would have cost the Hospital and Health Service an extra \$200 million and still be in a flood plain—that would have still continued to go.

In answer to the member for Burnett: yes, we have a clear plan and a credible pathway forward. I want to thank the member for joining me and the construction team from CBD onsite who are delighted to have certainty going forward. What was Labor's alternative, I am asked. Well we do not actually know because, as Mr Sangster points out, their alternative was unfunded and was an exercise in futility. It would never have been built. Their alternative is nothing. What we want to know—what the member for Burnett wants to know and what the people of Queensland want to know—is what did those on that side know? What did the three failed former health ministers know? Because they are all still sitting over there. They are all vying for the top job. They are all over there—the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodford and the member for Woodridge.

What did they know, and what didn't they tell the member for Bundaberg? Why did they keep their great mate the member for Bundaberg in the dark? He still believed the price was \$1.2 billion last year, when we know it was \$2.3 billion. What did the three failed former health ministers not tell the member for Bundaberg about what was happening up there? There are a lot of secrets. Here is the challenge—and I listened to the member for Woodridge's failed question—are the members for Woodridge, Murrumba and Waterford prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder and tell Queenslanders what they knew and why they did not tell them about it?

Redistribution Commission

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Who did the Attorney-General consult with on the appointment of Mr John Sosso to the Independent Queensland Redistribution Commission and what did the Attorney-General do with the feedback and advice provided?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am getting so many interjections, I do not know which one to take.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Silence in the House. There is only one person who has the call and that is the Attorney-General.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I say again to the shadow minister for integrity: is she serious? This member dares to question the appointment of Mr John Sosso, a gentleman who has 41 years of experience in both Commonwealth and state jurisdictions. I will not be lectured by each one of those opposite on integrity. This side has more integrity—so does Mr John Sosso—than all of you put together. Let's have a look at the integrity of the Labor government when they were in office.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Algester, you asked the question, I expect you want to hear the answer.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Remember, this was the party that had to announce a formal review into their own culture. This was the party that saw nearly \$400,000 of Queensland taxpayers' funds being spent to cover up the CCC report, the Jackie Trad report. This is the same party that saw the then deputy premier scream down the phone and now, we have a protection racket.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I appreciate the attempt at deflection. The question was purely about what the Attorney-General did with the advice she was provided.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I have heard the point of order on the consultancy around the appointment. You have 47 seconds remaining.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When I first took the job of Attorney-General, one of the first briefs that was handed to me on 14 December was in relation to what we should do about the Electoral Commission. They advised me that the best three appointments were an electoral commissioner, a retired District Court judge and Mr John Sosso as the former director-general of planning. As to the fact that I did not have a permanent director-general of the Department of Justice, they said 'director-general of planning' or 'director-general of justice', so there you go.

(Time expired)

Health System

Mr CRANDON: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver critical infrastructure for Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Coomera for the question, because I know how interested he is in health services in Coomera on the Gold Coast. I had my head in my own plan recently which was the 2032 Delivery Plan but now, we have a Hospital Rescue Plan led by the honourable Minister for Health. Yes, I can answer the question. The review answers those questions and there are alternatives which I will get to in a short moment. The member for Coomera will be glad to know that the Crisafulli government will deliver at least 600 new beds and a new hospital on the Gold Coast in Coomera. This will deliver easy access to health services to people living on the Gold Coast and ensure they get the world-class healthcare system they deserve; however, let's get to the alternative.

The Hospital Rescue Plan mentions, as the health minister did on page 18, the new Coomera hospital. It also talks about Labor's failed capital expansion program—an almost \$1 billion cost blowout delayed by at least six months which ignored the need for 600 new beds at Coomera. It had no pharmacy, no pathology and no outpatient's department. It failed to develop a feasible plan for Robina. It failed to consider a connection to the train station to improve access for patients. It sounds like it was going to be one of their satellite hospitals, rather than an actual hospital.

As I said in my ministerial statement, the biggest issue that the Labor Party had was obviously BPIC, the CFMEU tax. I heard the interjections when the Premier was talking about the CFMEU and still, they cannot sit still and listen to the CFMEU because they know their biggest donor, their biggest supporter, is at risk the more we attack the CFMEU and they hate it. They recoil in their seats when we mention the CFMEU. We recoil in our seats, as well, but we are taking action against the CFMEU which will save Queensland taxpayers' money. It will also make sure we can build hospitals on time and on budget through this rescue plan.

When we look at the former failed ministers for health—the members for Murrumba, Woodridge and Waterford—they have a lot of explaining to do. Do you know what, colleagues, I would be happy if they stood in front of the whole Queensland press gallery and did a joint press gallery about what they knew, when they knew it and when they misled Queenslanders about their hospital expansion program. Subject to the Health Minister's approval, I will even dust off the old Big Build hospital expansion pull-up banners they had and let them stand in front of their banners. They loved a banner, they loved a brochure, but banners and brochures will not help patients. This rescue plan is what Queensland wanted.

(Time expired)

Economic Development Queensland

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Premier. Why did the government accept the recommendation to appoint failed LNP federal member Julian Simmonds as Acting CEO of Economic Development Queensland while he remains politically active by authorising materials for the current federal election?

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Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question, and it is an important question because EDQ is an important organisation. If we are going to get housing going in this state after a decade of malaise under the Labor Party it is essential that EDQ is part of that mix. In relation to the appointment of Mr Simmonds, I can say he is someone who understands planning, he is someone who is very dedicated to Queensland and is a former member of parliament. I know that those on this side of the House do understand his competency. It is not just those on this side of the House who understand his competency; he is well regarded across a number of sections of the Queensland community. I can inform honourable members that he is well regarded, so much so that the honourable member opposite appointed him to the South Bank Corporation. So the honourable member was prepared to front up to—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: That was a bit over the top.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The honourable member was prepared to front up to Governor in Council and say, 'These are the people I recommend,' including Mr Simmonds. He was good enough for those opposite to appoint him. I am not sure who is drafting the questions for those opposite, but it is not the member for Woodridge, it is not the member for Murrumba and now clearly it is not the member for McConnel. Someone is out to get them.

To be clear, he was appointed by the member opposite—the member who asked the question—when the member was the minister. I have to say there is an independent source that can verify it, the minister's media release. It is in the media release of Grace Grace under the title 'New South Bank Corporation Board Appointed', unless there is another Julian Simmonds. There are some very good people on this board: Bruce Cowley; Michael Hill; Elsa Dalessio; Dr Aysin Dedekorkut-Howes; Ms Sperou; Queensland Under Treasurer Michael Carey, another independent appointment—I think he had another job before that, but we will move on—and Mr Julian Simmonds.

I will say a couple of things to the opposition. One, do not besmirch people who have good character and are regarded by both sides. Two, wake up earlier, work harder, do some research and do not be the worst opposition that has made a start in this Queensland parliament in a generation and a half.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to hand out a number of warnings unless I have silence.

Productivity Commission

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer explain how the Crisafulli government's Productivity Commission will return productivity to Queensland's construction sites, including hospitals, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. Like the health minister, I was also flicking my way through the Hospital Rescue Plan and I came to some interesting points about what lies ahead for Rockhampton. I am going to come back to the good news for Rockhampton in the health minister's Hospital Rescue Plan shortly.

Last week I announced the Productivity Commission was to receive its first referral. It was a pleasure to meet last week with, for the first time, the Productivity Commissioner—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I hope you are not using that as a prop. You can read from it or put it down.

Mr JANETZKI:—who is an outstanding appointment to that most important position as we seek to return a calm, methodical, sober and mature discussion to what drives and underpins our prosperity here in Queensland, and that is the Productivity Commission. The first referral to the Productivity Commission was important—we said it before the election and now we are delivering on our promises—and that first referral was an inquiry into the productivity of the construction sector.

The productivity of the construction sector has been under pressure for a very long period and we know why. BPIC, amongst other regulatory overlays, are proving problematic to productivity in the construction sector. We know Treasury estimated that \$17 billion in additional costs over five years was going to cost 22,000 homes and increase rents by seven per cent. That is why we paused BPIC. In the Hospital Rescue Plan we noted there would be a 20 per cent decrease in productivity to deliver these important hospital projects. We know that we must improve productivity across the sector in

Queensland. There is no other way for us to deliver what needs to be delivered with the Olympics and with the hospital plan.

If I turn to page 34 of the Hospital Rescue Plan, it is quite clear that under the former Labor government what was promised in Rockhampton would never have been delivered. It would never have been delivered. Now the health minister has announced that the master planning has continued for the Rockhampton Hospital.

Mrs Kirkland interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: 'At long last', I hear the member for Rockhampton say. We know the step up, step down mental health facility in Rockhampton that we committed to during the election will be delivered, and I know how much that means to the member for Rockhampton and also the member for Keppel. I know what it means for the Central Queensland community.

What was the alternative? Apart from a hospital and health plan that never would have been delivered, what did those opposite do when they had a chance to vote for productivity in Queensland? They voted against it. They voted against the re-establishment of the Productivity Commission. Worse than that, all the former health ministers who sit over there sat around the cabinet table at that time while these projects blew out time and time again. They have left a mess and we are cleaning it up.

(Time expired)

Callide Power Station

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer confirm that images of damage at Callide Power Station were provided to his office on the day of the explosion and, if so, why did the Treasurer not ask any questions after viewing those images and why were they not released alongside the prepared media releases?

Mr JANETZKI: I was getting worried that there were no questions today in relation to Callide. I was getting concerned that there had been no questions because there is a lot to say about Callide. There is a lot to say and the audacity of those opposite that they would come in here and ask questions about Callide after their 10 years in power is breathtaking. It is breathtaking that they would come in here and—I am not exactly sure where to start in terms of those opposite and the mess they left behind for us to deal with. The shadow treasurer may ask some questions. I have a number of things that need to be put on the record because those opposite failed to act for a decade. They did not just fail to act; they obfuscated and they refused to do anything about the cultural problems—and we know what the board of CS Energy has said.

Let's look at the record of those opposite. There was the former energy minister and the \$10 million Brady report that they covered up for three years. In fact, they did not just cover it up; they spent \$38 million on lawyers to try to cover it up. They spent \$38 million on lawyers trying to cover up the 300-page Brady report, which we knew revealed that there had been a lack of maintenance and an underfunding of that necessary maintenance at Callide.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) and relevance. The question was clearly about when the Treasurer received the photographs.

Mr SPEAKER: The member is giving some background. He still has one minute and five seconds left on the clock.

Mr JANETZKI: Do I wish that I had the full story sooner? Absolutely, because when I found out the true story I acted. I did not wait for 3½ years and a court appearance to start telling the truth. I did not wait 3½ years and a court appearance; when I found out the real story, I acted. I asked the board of CS Energy to hold people accountable and they took operational responsibility.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to standing order 118(b) and relevance. I appreciate the performance from the Treasurer, but he is still failing to answer the question about whether or not he received photographs on the day of the incident.

Mr SPEAKER: You heard the point of order, Treasurer.

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, they are matters of public record. What is also a matter of public record is the 1,200 days that C4 was offline because of the failure of those opposite that drove up power bills 19.9 per cent in one year. We have done more to address the deep-set cultural problems at CS Energy in one week than those opposite did in 10 years. We have done more to clean up their mess in a few days than they did in 10 years.

Health System

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan will ensure respect for taxpayers' money, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for Townsville for his question and I know how passionate he has always been about delivering world-class health services, particularly in his own electorate after a decade of neglect by those opposite. The member has asked how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will fix this mess and how we will ensure that we respect taxpayers' money given the current broken state of Queensland's health system thanks to Queensland Labor, and it is very simple: the Crisafulli LNP government will actually listen.

We have developed a Hospital Rescue Plan which will see the largest ever investment in hospital infrastructure in Queensland's history. It will build the new hospitals and upgrade and expand existing hospitals, delivering an additional 2,600 extra beds across Queensland, and it will invest in a bigger health workforce, with an additional 46,000 health workers by 2032. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will restore respect for the hard-earned funds of Queensland taxpayers and will help heal Labor's health crisis.

We know that the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge and the member for Waterford were out of their depth in this space with no plan, no idea and no money, leaving Queensland's health system on life support. However, what is truly breathtaking is how grossly mismanaged Queensland's capacity expansion program was under those opposite. The capacity expansion program was a hoax and was announced by those opposite in 2022 as a \$9.785 billion program, but extensive project delays and cost overruns saw costs blow out by approximately \$7 billion.

Mr Bleijie: Who was the treasurer?

Ms BATES: Who was the treasurer? I take that interjection. Despite \$7 billion extra, those important health projects were still nowhere near completion, and it was not \$7 billion spent delivering extra value for patients or expanded designs; it was simply poor planning, low productivity, rushed delivery and delay after delay. In fact, the independent review found that every project in the capacity expansion program was underfunded, delayed, did not deliver on critical service needs and was ultimately undeliverable.

Let us take the Townsville University Hospital, for example—a project with which my Townsville colleagues will be very familiar. The project was planned to cost \$530 million but has blown out to more than \$1 billion—more than double, a farce and a disgrace. This is another one of Queensland Labor's failed plans, so the three of them that I mentioned earlier should walk out the door and bring back the secret documents on hospitals, face the media and respect—

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Ms BATES:—Queensland taxpayers' money—

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Ms BATES:—because they have a right to know.

(Time expired)

Cairns, Health Services

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will save the Cairns Hospital project, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr NICHOLLS: Well, Mr Speaker, I must say that I was taken by surprise by that. Not only does Labor not even ask me any questions; those opposite do not ask any of us any questions! Not only is the member for Woodridge batting zero and two, as they say in America; the whole team over there is batting zero and six at this stage of proceedings. However, it is with a great degree of pleasure that I take the question from the member for 'Barron James'—the member for Barron River, Bree James. I in fact think we should call her 'Barron James' because she is doing far more for the electorate of Barron River than the former failed member up there whom I had the obvious displeasure of standing next to at a polling booth for a number of hours while he barely said a word to any constituents. So I do have an answer to the member's question in my small book of Labor's health failures, member.

Mrs Frecklington: There are a lot of failures.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection. That is only the introduction: there are more chapters to come.

A government member: Volume 1.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly: volume 2 is being written, let me tell you. Our Hospital Rescue Plan—

Mr Healy interjected.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: Our Hospital Rescue Plan identifies what we are going to do, which is 64 new overnight beds by 2027 and at least 40 new overnight beds at the surgical centre, so that will be delivering the services that the people in Cairns need and deserve. In fact, refurbishment works are underway and together with the member for Mulgrave we inspected those works only two weeks ago and had some very worthwhile discussions. We are going to work with the HHS to deliver the service that the HHS wants. We are going to collaborate with the local tertiary institutions up there so that we can deliver a future health and innovation precinct. That makes a change for the people of Cairns—their government working with their local government and their health and hospital service and their universities to deliver a hospital that they need, together with a new location for the Cairns Hospital helipad.

This would all not have been possible under the former Labor government, and why is that? Because it had no plans to do so and it had no money to deliver the project. That is the other thing: the cost blew out by over \$370 million. There was no money left in the till. To understand what the alternative was, perhaps the members opposite could go outside and release the documents that they have that showed where the money was coming from, because there was none left in the till. The member for Waterford, the member for Murrumba, the member for Woodridge—and here is something else, member for Barron River—the member for Cairns sat around the cabinet table—

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired, Minister.

Mr NICHOLLS:—when all of these decisions were being made. He was there when the costs blew out.

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Cairns needs to explain what is going on.

Mr SPEAKER: When I say time has expired, time has expired.

(Time expired)

Weapons Licensing

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Police. Firearms licence holders are reporting ongoing issues with the apparent change of procedure for the Weapons Licensing branch while assessing permits to acquire. Will the minister inform the House if the assessment process has changed and, if not, explain why licence holders are being denied PTAs or being made to answer previously unrequired questions to satisfy a PTA application?

An honourable member: The question is too long.

An honourable member: It is a long question.

Mr SPEAKER: It is a long question, but I will allow it.

Mr PURDIE: I want to thank the honourable member for the question—the constructive and legitimate question he has asked. I think it might be the first one we have had from that side of the chamber this morning. I also want to acknowledge the member for the constructive way he has dealt with me and my office in resolving some of these issues for his constituents, and I appreciate that it is an important issue for a lot of his constituents and other Queenslanders given that other MPs in regional areas have communicated with me about this issue verbally and in writing, as have members opposite who have also written to me about this issue. On every occasion I have worked as constructively and efficiently as I can to resolve those issues, and they are legitimate questions.

I want to categorically and unequivocally put on the record the response I have given in writing to a number of members that there have been no changes. There has been no change to the policies and procedures since we came to power after the election last October. I can report some data around weapons licensing which might flesh out the answer to the member's question. In 2022, under those opposite, there were 95,000 PTA applications outstanding at Weapons Licensing and a 24-week delay

in responding to those applications. In the short time we have been in government, the Weapons Licensing branch has the reply time down to seven weeks and the backlog is negligible. In fact, in the last 57,000 applications—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr PURDIE: You were the police minister in 2022 and there were 95,000—and you had been the police minister for some time.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will direct your comments through the chair. There will be no cross-chamber quarrelling.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr PURDIE: I appreciate that. I respect the member who asked the question and I want to give an answer. Of the last 57,000 PTA applications lodged with Weapons Licensing, 99.5 per cent have been granted. That is a rejection rate of 0.5 per cent. Only 270 out of the last 57,000 have been rejected. We have the reply time down, as I said, to a matter of only seven weeks—the best it has been in a decade.

To answer the question categorically, there has been no change. I appreciate that regional members and city members who have written to me about this have legitimate, law-abiding, licensed firearms holders in their electorates—almost 250,000 of them. By the fact of them having a licence they are law-abiding citizens, and we do support them.

Toowoomba, Health Services

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will save the new Toowoomba Hospital, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Toowoomba North for his question. I again refer to my increasingly bigger book of Labor's health and hospital failures in order to answer it. Page 16 of the *Hospital Rescue Plan* outlines the steps we are taking in order to save the Toowoomba Hospital from Labor's failures. The member for Toowoomba North knows exactly what was going wrong there. He for a long time, together with the member for Toowoomba South, knew exactly what was going wrong up there and how inappropriate the Health and Hospitals Plan was.

We are saving the Toowoomba Hospital. The people of Toowoomba and the downs are always ignored by the Labor Party. Let's face it: the only time those opposite can find their way up the hill to Toowoomba is when they want to go and play politics. It is not about delivering the roads and services the people of Western Queensland need. In fact, it was an LNP government that built the second range crossing. We funded it and made that deal go ahead. As we did for the second range crossing we are doing for the new Toowoomba Hospital.

We will be delivering 538 overnight beds. That includes 118 new beds. All of the services and beds will be relocated from the old Toowoomba Hospital, the city campus, to the new Baillie Henderson site. That will save the hospital and health service \$400 million a year. That is \$400 million a year that Labor had not budgeted for. That is \$400 million a year that was going to have to come out of the services delivered to sick and injured people turning up at our hospitals. That would have seen ramping getting worse—and under the former health minister it was already the worst it has ever been—and elective surgery waiting lists blow out.

That was the example and that was Labor's plan. No wonder Mr Sangster described continuing with that plan as originally scoped and costed as an exercise in futility, because that is what it was—an exercise in futility. There was a \$680 million cost blow-out—from \$1.3 billion to \$1.98 billion—a delay for at least six months and inadequate planning that ignored clinical advice. Missing under Labor were a transit lounge, cardiac services, operating theatres, dialysis, a geriatric rehabilitation unit and birthing suites. Member for Toowoomba North, it did not really even deserve the description of a hospital. We are wondering what it is all about. Here is the question: why will they not go outside and answer the questions about what they knew, why they pulled the wool over Queenslanders' eyes and when they were going to let people know about it?

Judicial Appointment Advisory Panel, Appointments

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General confirm why the government changed the appointment protocol for the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel which

enabled the appointment of John Sosso? I table a copy of the old and the new protocols for the benefit of the House and the Attorney.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding the previous and current Protocol for Judicial Appointments in Queensland.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was going to table the new one as well, so I will not have to do that now.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is such a Dixer. I am very pleased that the shadow attorney-general has worked out that the three failed former health ministers will never be able to be opposition leader—the job she wants—but she has to work out how to jump whenever there is a question. She did not miss just one; she missed two.

Which appointments is shadow attorney-general not happy with? Is it the Honourable Justice Thomas Bradley, who has just been appointed to the appeals court? Is it Paul Smith? Through Executive Council I have just appointed to the Court of Appeal the Honourable Justice Thomas Bradley, who was appointed by those opposite. Is it that appointment she is not happy with?

The shadow attorney-general asks me why we refreshed Labor's decade-old protocol, and I will tell her why. It is because the heads of jurisdiction asked me to. Not only that, but during the process I consulted with the heads of jurisdiction. I consulted with the Chief Justice, the Chief Judge, the Chief Magistrate, the President of the Land Court and relevant stakeholders. That is right: I also included the Bar Association, who supported the amendments, and the Law Society to ensure their views were considered. This is what consultation is about.

Mr O'Connor: Too much consultation!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the housing minister. There was too much consultation for the shadow attorney-general to understand.

We thought about it. We listened to the heads of jurisdiction. Do members know why we had to update the protocol? When in government, what did the now shadow treasurer do to the judicial appointments panel? She threw it out the window. Who did she appoint to her panel? That is right: her boss, Ros Atkinson. I table a photo.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 5 March 2019, from the Facebook page of the member for Waterford, Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP in relation to Justice Roslyn Atkinson.

What did the other former attorney-general, Yvette D'Ath, do? She had the failed protocol from those opposite and then did not follow it. She was given a list of 20 and she appointed her own three. She threw the old protocol out the window. That is why we replaced it.

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Appointments

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Minister for Integrity. The Premier previously said that there would be absolutely zero links to political parties and directors-general. How then does the direct appointment of John Sosso, a former member of the Liberal Party, Julian Simmonds, a former member of the Liberal Party, and Sarah Cruikshank, a former Liberal chief of staff to dodgy former New South Wales premier Berejiklian, pass the pub test?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are elements of the question which appear to use unparliamentary language. I would also say that there are some imputations contained within the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: If you would rephrase that question, member for Springwood, it would be helpful. There was a bit of language in there that could be removed.

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Minister for Integrity. The Premier previously said that there would be absolutely zero links to political parties and directors-general. How then does the direct appointment of John Sosso, a former member of the Liberal Party, Julian Simmonds, a former member of the Liberal Party, and Sarah Cruikshank, a former Liberal chief of staff to former New South Wales premier Berejiklian, pass the pub test?

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you have been here long enough to know that questions are heard in silence. You are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: While that is an extremely selective list, the Manager of Opposition Business failed to mention one very important appointment that the Crisafulli government has made.

He failed to mention that this side appointed a former politician and treasurer of this state. Indeed, that person held the mighty and high office that you hold, Mr Speaker, that is, Speaker of this House. He was a member of the Labor Party and I believe he was in this parliament for—how many years was he a member of this House?

Mr Crisafulli: He's still a member.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the honourable Premier; he is still a member of the Labor Party. We appointed the Hon. Curtis Pitt to the Ports North board.

Ms Grace interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I wonder why they have not asked about the Hon. Curtis Pitt. Are they reflecting on the former member for Mulgrave and his ability to be on the board of a government corporation?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The cross-chamber chatter will cease.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection; zero links. He is a member of the Labor Party.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) in relation to relevance. The question was purely about the connection between political parties and their membership and directors-general. It was not about anyone else.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Can I have silence in the House? The cross-chamber chatter by the leaders of both sides need to cease. There is one person who has the call and that is the Attorney-General. Attorney-General, if you would answer the question that would be wonderful.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was very proud to welcome the new Director-General of the Department of Justice earlier this week. I want to refer to just a short part of her resume. She has extensive experience in the public sector having most recently served in New South Wales as deputy secretary of the Department of Customer Service and deputy secretary of the department of the premier and cabinet. She has also held senior roles in the Australian Public Service including on the G20 taskforce in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. I also note that, importantly, according to her CV she has never been a member of parliament or a member of the LNP.

What did those opposite do when appointing directors-general? They appointed a former Labor member of parliament and state secretary of the ALP. Apparently that is okay; that is all right. Seriously! What do those opposite have against a capable public servant who happens to be a female?

(Time expired)

Mackay, Health Services

Mr DALTON: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan will save the Mackay Base Hospital expansion and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to respond.

Mr NICHOLLS: That barely gives me time to yet again open Labor's hospital failures folder and yet again pull out our Hospital Rescue Plan in order to address the issues. Mackay had been sadly and poorly represented by the ALP for far too long but now we have a representative who is standing up for the people of Mackay. He does not take that seat for granted but is intent on actually delivering.

We will be delivering 128 new overnight beds. That will include beds for services such as maternity, neonatal and paediatric services. We know how badly that was done in Mackay under Labor. We know of the appalling results in Mackay.

Ms Camm: Appalling.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. We will develop that plan with the Hospital and Health Service and the clinicians. We will bring the clinicians on that journey. The plan will include a new multistorey car park and a new helipad, which must be delivered as part and parcel of the program. The question is: are the Labor members responsible for the failed capacity

expansion program willing to stand up today and tell the people of Queensland what they knew, when they knew it and why they pulled the wool over people's eyes?

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

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

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

AYES, 53:

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

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

NOES, 30:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Order for Production of Documents



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.20 am): I move—

That this House—

calls on the Leader of the Opposition to approve by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 30 April 2025 the release of all cabinet and CBRC documents from the previous term of government, including all briefing notes, attachments, and any other related material concerning the Queensland Health and Hospitals Plan, including the capacity expansion program.

It has become evident in the last week that Labor are running from their history. They are running from their failures. It has been almost a week—six days—since I released the Sangster review and the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan. Remember, the Leader of the Opposition was wandering around Queensland like Chicken Little calling for these plans to be released, wanting to know about the Sangster review. I remember being in Cairns, in Townsville, at Redcliffe and at a number of other places and answering questions from journalists. They asked, 'When are you going to release the review?' And I said, 'Just you wait.' The member for Murrumbidgee will regret making that call—boy, oh, boy, will he regret it!

The 150-page Sangster review that has been provided to the government details the litany of Labor failures. It was not just the member for Murrumbidgee who failed; it was also the members for Woodridge and Waterford and the former member for Redcliffe. All those who sat around that cabinet table are complicit in the hoax that was Labor Party's failed capacity expansion program. Three of Labor's failed health ministers are still sitting on the other side and they are all running from the truth. They are running from scrutiny. That is why it is important that Queenslanders have confidence in the plan and know exactly where Labor went wrong. The program experienced an almost \$7 billion cost blowout and years of delay, leaving no project deliverable as announced.

What happened last week? Did any of the three former health ministers stand up at all? Not one of them did. They have been calling for the report to be released, so we obliged. We released the report.

A government member: It was on the news.

Mr NICHOLLS: It was on the news. It was everywhere.

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: A very good point! I take that interjection. What did they do? They sent out the poor old member for Miller—the one that no-one actually wanted on the frontbench in 2024, if you remember. They sent him out. What did the member for Miller claim? He said the projects were planned as well as they possibly could have been at the time. He left two words out—‘by Labor’. That was it. Their plan only ever extended to getting headlines because it was rushed, panicked and a failure. On top of that, we also had the Auditor-General’s report into the Sustaining Capital Program.

I will go through the questions that Queenslanders want to know the answers to, that the members and employees of Queensland Health want to know the answers to and that Labor is not standing up and answering. When was the former health minister aware none of the projects were on track? She got up today and asked the Treasurer a question about what he knew. If it is sauce for the goose it is sauce for the gander. Here is another question: when did then minister Fentiman know these projects were out of funds? Did she know it in July 2024 when she wrote to the then treasurer and the then premier seeking to move funds from the capacity expansion program to Sustaining Capital? When did they know about it? Did they know about it when they got the letter from the then health minister asking to move the funding around and telling them that there was insufficient funding to complete the capacity expansion program? Did they know in July last year that the program was going to cost \$17 billion, not the \$9.7 billion they had originally planned? Did they know that the project blowout times had extended?

Did they know that Toowoomba was going to be delayed two years? Did they know that Mackay was going to be delayed a year? Did they know that Redcliffe was going to be delayed three years, if memory serves me correctly? Did they know that Cairns would not be able to deliver the so-called surgical centre? Did they know that they had not even secured a site for the car park in Cairns? What did they know? When did they know it? Most importantly, why are they refusing to stand up, shoulder to shoulder, and front the people of Queensland with the documents in their hands and simply say, ‘We were misled.’ That is all they have to do. ‘We weren’t told about it. We didn’t know about it. Here are all the documents. We’ll release the cabinet documents, the HIQ documents and the briefing notes that show what happened.’

(Time expired)



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.25 am): I move—

I move that all words after ‘House’ be omitted and the following inserted:

1. acknowledges that Queensland is a growing state and Queenslanders deserve the health infrastructure and services that they need.
2. acknowledges that the former Labor government relied on the best available advice from the Queensland public sector regarding the hospital and health infrastructure plan.
3. notes that the current Queensland Health Director-General, then chief operating officer of Queensland Health, Dr David Rosengren, oversaw the former Labor government’s health capital expansion program.
4. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to provide Queenslanders clear timeframes and deliverable measures for their hospital and health infrastructure plan.

In just six short months there have been a lot of broken promises from those opposite, including, of course, that big promise that they would govern with integrity. This morning, we have seen on how many fronts they have broken their promise to govern with integrity. Last week, though, we had the biggest broken promise so far when the Minister for Health tore up the hospital expansion plan and said that the LNP would not meet the promise the Premier made of delivering 2,200 hospital beds by 2028 for Queenslanders.

The day the health minister commissioned that review we knew that they never intended to meet that promise. They always intended to break that promise to Queenslanders. They went to a consulting firm and said, ‘Give us a report that gives us excuses to not build these hospitals.’ They never wanted to build them. They were never honest with Queenslanders about them, and they are using the cover of this supposedly independent report to not build them to the timeframes that Queensland needs.

The Queensland population is growing and needs these new hospitals. Our healthcare workforce is growing and we need bigger hospitals to deliver services in. We need them in growing communities like the northern Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Cairns, Townsville and Mackay. In my own community of Moreton Bay, workers have already downed tools at the really important Redcliffe Hospital expansion. The government tore up that plan that had been years in the making. There were detailed business cases. Work was done by the capital board of management alongside the HHSs and clinicians, which was overseen by highly experienced clinicians like David Rosengren. He is so highly experienced that the health minister personally selected him to be his director-general. Dr Rosengren

chaired the Health Capital Board of Management that oversaw the creation of that plan. I table the minutes of the Health Capital Board of Management outlining the role that Dr Rosengren played.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 21 February 2023, titled 'Queensland Health: Capital Board of Management, Meeting Minutes—24 January 2023'.

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The government are relying on this report to say that they cannot possibly build these hospitals. It turns out that the experts in building hospitals say that they can build these hospitals. This is what the Australian Constructors Association—the peak body wanting to build those hospitals—said, 'While rising costs are a challenge, ACA believes the program can still be delivered within budget ...' These are the very contractors who have been contracted to build these hospitals, who had staff engaged, who have declined other work on the expectation of this pipeline. They said—


Work is already underway. Contractors have structured their businesses around these projects—many have turned down other opportunities to focus on this program,

I table that statement from the Australian Constructors Association.

Tabled paper: Article from Australian Constructors Association, dated 23 April 2025, titled 'Government must work with industry on Hospital Rescue Plan'.

There is nothing here other than politics and other than the determination of those opposite to not deliver on the promises they made to Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.30 am): How dare the failed opposition leader, one of the three failed Labor health ministers, stand up in this House and talk about the health system with a straight face after misleading Queenslanders for almost a decade when he was sitting around the cabinet table and they failed Queenslanders day in and day out on health. We know this. When we were in opposition, so many members talked about the failures of the former Labor government in the health system. We talked about the fact that regional women were giving birth on the side of the road because of those opposite, because they refused to provide maternity centres. They refused to staff our hospitals properly. They refused to support those good nurses and doctors and people in our regional hospitals. We had to sit here and watch Labor's health failure week after week after week. We had to sit here and watch ramping going up. We had to sit with people who had lost family members on the ramp because of the failures of the former Palaszczuk government. That is why we are so outraged.

How dare the opposition leader come in here and tarnish the good name of not one but two people who have worked so hard. Honestly, Dr Rosengren—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you are about to have your turn.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: How can they even attempt to say something bad about a man who has saved more lives in Queensland in the emergency department than those opposite would ever dream of trying to help in our hospital system? Then, as if that was not enough for the opposition leader, if that was not enough to attack a respected public servant—they have form. They love doing that. We know that. That is all they have. They have no policy, so they denigrate public servants.

What did the opposition leader lower himself to do today? He is now criticising the respected Mr Sangster—the independent reviewer of the Sangster report. What is it about Mr Sangster? They are going to criticise the independent Mr Sangster, who uncovered the rot that those opposite were feeding to Queenslanders. This is a gentleman who has delivered \$25 billion worth of hospitals across Australia including in New South Wales and in Western Australia. Where is he working now delivering hospitals? He is in South Australia.

It defies belief that those opposite come in here and have the hide to talk about the health system. That is why we are calling on them, for all of their rudeness and for all of their immaturity, to come in here or go out there and release the cabinet documents. That is not too hard. If the opposition leader believes the rot that just came out of his mouth, he would table the CBRC documents—he would table the cabinet documents. If he did not want to speak on this, he should have let someone in his backbench do better. Honestly, the hide of this man to come in here with a straight face and talk about the health system while sitting beside two other failed health ministers who refuse to go out in public and stand shoulder to shoulder and answer the questions!


Mr Crisafulli: Where are the documents?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Where are those documents? I am going to repeat what they are because I know the opposition leader did not listen to the esteemed health minister—the esteemed health minister who has delivered a Hospital Rescue Plan that means that Queenslanders will get health services where they live. They will be able to attend a hospital, including Murgon Hospital. I thank the health minister because regional Queensland deserves to have the health services that these people who sit in their ivory towers have. People living in Toowoomba and Bundaberg deserve places to go when they are sick. They deserve places to go where they can give birth—just like we delivered when we were last in government. That is what we are delivering again. I call on the opposition leader, ‘Mr Giggles’, who is over there laughing at me in his immaturity—

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He is laughing away because that is how he treats Queenslanders. That is why Queenslanders have had enough of this opposition leader. I say again: go out and release the documents. If you are planning to do that, you are welcome to go out and stand shoulder to shoulder and answer the questions from the health minister. Release the documents.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.35 am): I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I want to start where the Leader of the Opposition ended because this motion moved by the government today is politics pure and simple—top to bottom, left to right, up and down—because that is all this government has.

I remember a time when another premier was in this House moving similar motions. That premier was Campbell Newman. He did exactly the same thing after the 2012 election. He was not interested in governing. He was not interested in delivering. He was not actually interested in doing good things for Queensland. He came into this House and sought to relentlessly chase the opposition, thinking that they were still in opposition and not in government. This is a memo for the Premier and the Deputy Premier and the finance minister and the health minister: you are in government now. Your job is to deliver for Queenslanders.

Mr Crisafulli: And we are!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Premier. He says, ‘We’re delivering.’ The Premier says he is delivering. No Queenslanders know from the pamphlet the LNP has issued, when the hospital beds will be delivered, how they will be delivered and how much they will cost. It is a pamphlet without substance—just like their Olympics delivery plan. Mr Sangster goes on and on about measuring twice and cutting once, about doing the planning. Where are the business cases for the Olympics? Where is the business case for the National Aquatic Centre? Where is the business case for that? They did not seem to worry about that in the 100 days. They rushed to deliver that for Queenslanders. There the Premier was on the big table with all the sports stars, loving the glitz and glamour of the Olympics. My other memo to the Premier is this: stop worrying about the Olympics. Stop lauding yourself to Queensland with how great you are, with the glitz and glamour of the Olympics, and start delivering hospital beds.

There is one thing that Queenslanders know about this L-plate LNP government, and that is they cannot deliver. They cannot deliver on their promises. They cannot deliver on their commitments. They cannot deliver on hospital infrastructure. They sure cannot deliver hospital beds, and they cannot deliver an honest explanation for their failures. The only thing this L-plate LNP government has delivered is a bucketful of disappointment and more questions than answers. Ask this government a question and you get a question mark. Ask this government when you will get more hospital beds—they do not know. Ask how much those hospitals will cost—they do not know. Ask the government why it is not being up-front with Queenslanders—they will not say.

Ask the member for Toowoomba South about the Callide Power Station explosion—his shameful conduct speaks for itself. Ask the member for Broadwater any question—that is hard because he does not like standing in front of the media which leads to more questions. Is the member for Broadwater afraid of scrutiny? Does the member for Broadwater have a glass jaw? Everybody on this side of the House knows the answers to those questions. There is a question hanging over every Queenslanders’ head about this government, and that is: why won’t they deliver for us?

Queenslanders will remember at the last election when the then opposition leader, now Premier, issued the LNP’s health policy. He said it was the most detailed health policy ever taken to an election by an opposition. He said it was ‘a seismic shift’. What have we seen on the delivery front? We have

seen nothing. The health hopes of Queenslanders were smashed between the tectonic plates of LNP duplicity and LNP dishonesty. That is where the health hopes of Queenslanders went.

On 8 October, the next day, what did the then leader of the opposition say? Before the election he promised to deliver 2,200 beds by 2028 and 3,300 by 2032. We have heard nothing about that promise since—nothing; not a single word. They cannot run away from it fast enough. They are caught up in the glitz and glamour of the Olympics, sitting with Olympians and tennis Grand Slam stars, celebrating themselves but not delivering on the healthcare needs of Queenslanders.

People are working you and your character out, Premier: lack of integrity, lack of commitment, lack of honesty and lack of ability to deliver. That is what they are working out about this Premier. They know they are pushing this health plan off to the never-never. That is what they are doing. The people of Queensland will be the losers.



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.40 am): The people of Queensland worked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition out in October last year. I have never seen such an angry Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Why is he so angry? Why is he whingeing and whining about everything? We have great news to sell. Mr Deputy Speaker, can you recall that when they were on this side of the House they would go on about the 'whingeing and whining' opposition leader? Well, look at that: there he is, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

I heard he was on eBay the other day trying to buy an old Ford Fairlane just to relive his ministerial days—touch the leather in the old Fairlane LTD—because he has to drive himself now. That is why he is so angry—because he does not get chauffeur driven around. I feel for the member for Woodridge! I feel for you that you have to clean your own gutters now when you look out over Woodridge, as you said the other day. What a whingeing, whining deputy opposition leader! What a disgrace! Where are their plans for Queensland?

The opposition leader quoted one stakeholder; let me quote three. Industry expert Adrian Dwyer from Infrastructure Partnerships Australia said that Labor's plan was 'little more than a mirage of media releases'. Do you want another one, opposition leader? Here we go. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia also said—

The former Government's hospital delivery ambitions were commendable, but blind optimism and unbridled enthusiasm was never a plausible delivery strategy.

Do you want another, opposition leader? Here we go. The CEO of Queensland Major Contractors Association, Andrew Chapman, said—

When the Queensland hospital Capital Expansion Program was first announced in 2022 at \$9.8 billion, the construction industry voiced concerns about the deliverability of the program—11 builds planned at the same time was always going to over commit the sector.

That is what the industry said about their plan. When you look through their plan it was undeliverable, and that is what Mr Sangster said in the independent review of the hospital expansion plan. The report said it was undeliverable and that they never committed funds. This motion is so important today so we can get to the bottom of what the former failed health ministers on that side of the chamber knew and when they knew about it.

Interestingly, the opposition leader tabled some minutes of a meeting. The motion calls for the opposition leader to table the cabinet meetings, the briefing notes, the CBRC submission notes—all of those. If he is prepared to table one little document, he should be prepared to table the rest. Go on, tell us! What was the financial planning behind Labor's hospital and health plan? We know that the plan Labor had was an absolute dud. It is this government that had to fix it and rescue the hospital and health services.


We talked about the CFMEU earlier. We know that the Labor Party and their jobs are so connected to the CFMEU. Do Queenslanders know what the Labor Party's policy was on their hospital and health plan as far as it relates to the CFMEU? The Labor and CFMEU were more interested in their wealth and not health; that is what they were doing. More wealth for the CFMEU with the BPIC provisions—

Mr Baillie interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—the CFMEU tax—thank you, Adam. That is what they were interested in; not the health or safety of Queenslanders. I would ask if there is a public servant in Queensland who has not been attacked by the Labor Party today. What a disgraceful attempt! I ran out of paper listing the public servants they have attacked today. I think it shows the deplorable state we have got to with this

whingeing and whining opposition. The real issue here, colleagues, is that it shows how desperate the opposition leader has become. He now has to use public servants as his excuse for why he is under pressure from his colleagues. We know the backbench want to get rid of him in the Labor Party and we know the frontbench want to get rid of him in the Labor Party, so today he has to attack all of these public servants. I think it is an absolute disgrace.

Talking about disgrace, let's go to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who brings into this motion the Olympic and Paralympic Games and has the hide to lecture this government about business cases when 1,400 days were wasted under the Labor Party. It was this government that again had to deliver a 2032 plan to get it back on track. Their plan to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games was to issue press releases. Oh, isn't that so similar to what happened here: press releases, pull out banners, do not build hospitals, do not build Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure. It is the Crisafulli government that is getting on with the job and rescuing our health system.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (11.45 am): I rise to speak on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. After that contribution it really has become clear to me. The deputy leader spoke about why the Premier does not like getting up and answering questions from the media. Perhaps he is hiding from scrutiny, but I do not think that is it. I do not think the Deputy Premier will let him. He has to be the star of the show. That is why the Premier is sitting there not contributing to this debate. It is all about the Deputy Premier. Everyone knows—it is the talk of the Public Service—that the Deputy Premier is running the show. He is in charge. After that performance, it has become pretty clear that he is calling the shots.

I want to ask the Premier, who did not contribute to this debate, three things about this so-called Hospital Rescue Plan: how are you going to deliver this, for how much and by when? The people of Queensland just want to know when they are getting the hospital beds those opposite promised by 2028. The health minister released a report that says 'we're delaying all of these projects, all of these beds'. Every single one of the hospital expansion projects and the three new hospitals are indefinitely delayed.

I note that the Deputy Premier criticised the Leader of the Opposition for quoting the Australian Contractors Association, but they are the contractors building these hospitals. They are the ones who matter. Those opposite say, 'We want to consult with industry. We want to be deliberative,' but the people who are building these hospitals have urged the government to get on with this at speed. Do you know why? The construction is already underway—delivered by Labor—and they have completely reorganised their businesses to deliver these projects. The Australian Contractors Association also said, 'ACA is calling for these recommendations to be implemented in a way'—Mr Speaker, I do want to be heard here—that minimises delay and disruption.'

The Australian Contractors Association, the big business that is building these hospitals, is saying there are delays and disruptions, and that is exactly what we have been saying. These companies have reorganised their workforce but they have all been sent home from Townsville. The good people of Townsville, who elected LNP members, are now left without construction happening on their hospital.

It is not just complete delay and complete breaking of a promise when it comes to health infrastructure. What else have they broken their promises on in health? What about the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme? How are they going to get people to work in these new hospitals when they have slashed the scheme? They have slashed the operating hours of nurse-led clinics. Those clinics that are supposed to be open on weekends and after hours for working mums and dads to get their kids seen are now closed on weekends.

What about the health minister who refuses to answer questions about women's health? He will answer questions about elective surgery and colonoscopies, but when it comes to answering questions about women's health that is too burdensome. That is what the health minister had to say. We have all heard the rumours about how the women's health package—a billion dollars delivered by the Labor government—is on the chopping block. Those policy officers in the department are so concerned about their future.

The fact is that Queenslanders need these beds and they need them by 2028. That is what Queenslanders voted for when they voted for that Premier when he stood up and told them he would deliver the beds by 2028. It is interesting that the health minister runs around Queensland taking credit for some of the health projects that, thank God, were too close to completion for him to delay. He has been up to the mental health facility in Cairns claiming credit, which was delivered by Labor. He has been down to the Gold Coast at the mental health unit claiming credit, which was delivered by Labor.

He has been to the Tara Hospital, a wonderful project, which was delivered by Labor. He has even been to the Hervey Bay modular ward, with 24 new beds delivered by Labor. He is absolutely happy to take credit for those projects—thankfully, they were too close to completion—because the rest of them all across Queensland, all of those beds, are now delayed.

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

AYES, 29:

ALP, 29—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Power, Pugh, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

NOES, 51:

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

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Miles) negatived.

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

AYES, 51:

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

NOES, 29:

ALP, 29—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Power, Pugh, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Relevance of Debate to Second Reading of Bills



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, before I call the Clerk for the next order of the day, I want to clarify a statement made last sitting regarding debate on bills. Before calling on members to resume debate on bills, I want to alert members to the rules relating to relevance of debate on the second reading of a bill.

The traditional test for relevance of debate on the second reading of a bill is whether the debate is within the long title of the bill. Since 2011 the scope of debate is now set out by standing order 139. That standing order provides that debate on the second reading may address the principles of the bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report, and any amendments recommended by the committee. It means that the portfolio committee's examination and report and any amendments recommended by the committee are able to be canvassed in debate. This would include alternate policy positions canvassed in the committee inquiry and/or report. Statements of reservation or dissent form part of the report are also able to be canvassed. The relevance of statements of reservation or dissent are matters for the portfolio committee chair and ultimately the committee to regulate.

However, I wish to stress that standing order 139 does not mean that one phrase or sentence in a written or oral submission to a committee or the committee's report or statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to the debate on the bill. I have circulated a detailed statement on this matter so that members can read and absorb the statement. I seek leave to incorporate the statement in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT—RELEVANCE OF DEBATE TO SECOND READING OF BILLS

Honourable members, before calling on members to resume debate on bills, I want to alert members to the rules relating to relevance of debate on the second reading of a bill.

The traditional test for relevance on debate on the second reading of a bill is whether the debate is within the long title of the bill. I remind all members that the second reading debate on bills must be relevant to the long title of the bill.

On 17 June 2009 (PD p1933-4), Speaker Mickel outlined the traditional rule as follows:

The starting point for determining what is relevant to the Bill is the long title of the Bill. A long title which is specific and limited in scope is known as 'restricted', and one which is wide in scope as 'unrestricted'. More latitude is given to Bills with an unrestricted title, simply because the possible relevance of other matters is wider. An example of an unrestricted long title is a title ending in 'and for other purposes'. Another example is where an Amending Act simply states that it is an Act to amend the Principal Act, without any further limiting words. In the latter case, any matter relating to the Principal Act is relevant.

An example of a restricted title is where the long title ends with 'for particular purposes', in which case debate or amendments are restricted to those 'particular purposes' that are in the Bill under consideration. When a Bill has a restricted title and a limited subject matter, debate is restricted to that limited subject matter.

On 16 June 2011, the Legislative Assembly amended the Standing Rules and Orders in part by replacing Parts 5, 6, and 7, Standing Orders. The amendments to these chapters were to cater for the function of the then new portfolio committees to, by default, consider legislation and report to the Assembly.

As part of those amendments new standing order 139 was inserted:

139. Scope of second reading debate

Debate on the second reading may address the principles of the Bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report and any amendments recommended by the committee.

This means that whilst the traditional rule still subsists, it is expanded by the matters contained in SO 139.

It means that the portfolio committee's examination and report and any amendments recommended by the committee are able to be canvassed in debate. This would include alternate policy positions canvassed in the committee inquiry and/or report. Statements of reservation or dissent form part of the report and are also able to be canvassed. The relevance of statements of reservation or dissent are matters for the Chair, and ultimately the committee to regulate.

However, I wish to stress that SO 139 does not mean that one phrase or sentence in a written or oral submission to a committee or the committee's report or statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to the debate on the bill.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 20 February (see p. 237).

Second Reading



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.00 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today we take an important step forward in restoring trust, integrity and transparency in government which was trashed under a decade of the Palaszczuk-Miles government, with nearly a decade of secrecy, cover-ups and backroom deals. Even worse, it was a government that saw fit to use taxpayer funds to fight the release of corruption investigations into their own government. The shadow treasurer, as Attorney-General, approved legal indemnity funding for her best mate and skiing buddy, Jackie Trad, which has now cost taxpayers upwards of \$380,000. We said it was not right. Queenslanders said it was not right, and in October they made their voices heard.

The Crisafulli government made an election commitment to release the Trad and Carne reports those opposite fought so desperately hard to keep hidden and to restore the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The CCC's investigation into Trad, we now know, found she had inappropriately interfered in the independent recruitment process for the recruitment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll. Queenslanders were denied the opportunity, while Jackie Trad served as a senior cabinet minister in the Labor government, to judge for themselves her actions and conduct throughout that recruitment process. In interviews with the CCC, former premier Palaszczuk revealed she received phone calls from Ms Trad demanding an appointment. Ms Palaszczuk said—

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

Labor knew what would happen if that report was released, and they chose to bury it to protect former deputy premier Trad. In fact, they went further and abused their majority on the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee to suppress the CCC's legal costs incurred fighting Jackie Trad about the release of the report.

As I mentioned, the Crisafulli government has also finally released the Trad and Carne reports. The Carne report revealed Labor's senior public servant was regularly drunk at work, harassed office

staff, misused taxpayer funds and even enlisted his staff to write his university assignments. Perhaps the most important revelation was the CCC's finding that staff in the Public Trustee's office were reluctant to report their concerns about Mr Carne's behaviour because of a perception that he was 'untouchable' due to his connections to the Labor government. The fact Labor fought to keep these findings hidden tells you everything you need to know about why we are here today debating this bill.

The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 will remove the muzzle from the Crime and Corruption Commission by restoring its powers to publicly report on corruption. I introduced the bill in this House on 20 February 2025, and it was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. I would like to thank the chair, the member for Nicklin, and the other committee members for their hard work during their inquiry into this bill. I would also like to thank the organisations and individuals who made submissions or appeared before the committee. The committee's report made one recommendation: that this bill be passed.

The Crisafulli government has taken decisive action. We have turned the lights back on so corruption risks can be called out in Queensland. Since taking government, we have moved swiftly to introduce a clear and effective framework to allow the Crime and Corruption Commission to report and make public statements about corruption in Queensland. When corruption thrives in the dark, it weakens our democracy and undermines public confidence.

I am also pleased to note that the CCC has endorsed and welcomed the bill. This bill returns to the CCC the powers that it was widely understood to possess prior to the High Court's decision. In line with anti-corruption bodies around Australia, the CCC will have the power to report publicly on its corruption investigations. The public benefits that will be derived from independent public reporting by the CCC are immeasurable. Transparency breeds trust—in the CCC, in our public institutions and in our system of government. Queenslanders deserve to know that their government and public institutions operate with integrity and fairness. The CCC's ability to report openly on corruption sends a strong signal: if you break the trust of the public, you will be exposed.

I will now turn to consider the ways in which the bill achieves its important objectives. Put simply, the bill amends the Crime and Corruption Act to clearly state that the CCC may prepare public reports and may make public statements about corruption matters in performing its functions. This vital restoration ensures that Queenslanders know when corruption is happening and what is being done to deal with it.

I note that some submitters to the committee took issue with the broad scope of a 'corruption matter' because it will allow the CCC to report or make a public statement about matters that do not ultimately amount to corruption. A 'corruption matter' is defined in the bill as 'a complaint about, or information or matter involving, corruption, made or notified to the commission, or otherwise coming to its attention, or a corruption investigation'. It does not matter if the CCC has yet to assess the complaint or take any action in relation to the complaint or if a corruption investigation has not been completed.

On this aspect of the bill, as part of a public hearing, the CCC chairperson referred the committee to the CCC's longstanding policy to neither confirm nor deny that a matter is under investigation. He reflected that, in line with this policy, it is not expected that the CCC will ordinarily report or make public statements prior to the conclusion of an investigation, but that there will always be exceptional circumstances where the public interest dictates that information should be released publicly.

The power to report at any time is achieved by the definition of 'corruption matter' under the bill and will allow the CCC to accommodate exceptional circumstances if or when they arise. The scope of the term 'corruption matter' is also broad enough to ensure the CCC can report or make a public statement in respect of a matter that the CCC has assessed or investigated and decided to take no further action. For example, the CCC's assessment of a complaint may reveal that it does not raise a corruption issue. However, because of significant media and public attention about the fact that a complaint of corruption has been made against a person or persons, the CCC may consider it appropriate to make a public statement clarifying its assessment of the matter in order to correct the public record and prevent any ongoing harm to the privacy and reputation of the individuals involved.

Importantly, the bill does not make it mandatory to report on every corruption investigation. The power to report on a particular corruption matter will be at the CCC's discretion. If the CCC proceeds to prepare a report and the chairperson signs the final report, then the bill rightly requires the CCC to table the report in the Legislative Assembly.

While the bill gives the CCC a broad discretion to report or make a public statement, it also introduces a set of strong safeguards which apply to the power to report or make a public statement. These are designed to ensure that the valuable objectives of transparency and accountability do not

come at the cost of significant harm or prejudice to the individuals involved or other related investigations or proceedings.

Firstly, the bill includes an express limitation on the findings, recommendations and statements that may be included in a report or public statement. The bill provides that the CCC must not make any finding or statement in a public report or statement: that a person has or has not engaged in, or is or is not engaging in or about to engage in, corruption; that a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or be the subject of disciplinary action; that prosecution proceedings or disciplinary action should be considered in relation to a person; or that there is evidence, or insufficient evidence, supporting the start of a proceeding against a person.

I note that submitters to the bill expressed different opinions about the need for these limitations. One submitter considered them unnecessary, arguing they may frustrate the work of the CCC, particularly in terms of its ability to use its reports or public statements to make a case on the need for reform or prevention actions to be undertaken. Others supported the limitations, with one submitter suggesting the bill should go further and make it a legislative requirement that each report or public statement should include a statement about these limitations.

As I indicated in my explanatory speech, this provision is an important recognition of the fact that the CCC does not have the power to make findings of corrupt conduct itself. This fact has now been made crystal clear on the face of the Crime and Corruption Act. There is nothing in the bill which prevents the CCC from carrying out its important investigative role and making decisions about whether to report confidentially on an investigation to a prosecuting authority or another appropriate entity for the purpose of prosecution proceedings, or disciplinary action being considered. What the CCC cannot do is state publicly its views about whether or not a person is guilty of corruption or should be prosecuted or disciplined for such conduct. This is not its role. This is for the appropriate authorities and ultimately the courts.

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The bill's limitations on findings, recommendations or statements should also not prevent the CCC from painting a clear and compelling picture about corruption and corruption risk. A report which sets out in black and white particular behaviour uncovered during a corruption investigation should, if the behaviour clearly and objectively fails to meet accepted standards, be sufficient to illustrate issues of concern. The extent to which the CCC may choose to make a report that publicly exposes the conduct of a particular person or persons will depend upon a range of factors.

This leads me to another important safeguard introduced by the bill in the form of new mandatory criteria which must be considered before exercising the power to report or make a public statement. Under the bill, the CCC must consider a range of matters such as: the need for accountability and transparency in government and the public sector; whether the report will be for the public benefit; and whether the report may prejudice any proceeding that the commission is aware of, or any reasonably foreseeable future proceeding in relation to the corruption matter. Specific additional criteria apply where a person's identity is readily apparent, or can be reasonably ascertained in a report or statement and include: whether the standing and status of the person warrants greater public scrutiny; and whether the report may unreasonably damage the person's health, safety or wellbeing.

While I note that some submitters considered there should be more guidance for how the criteria are applied or some kind of specific hierarchy imposed, this would run counter to ensuring the CCC has the flexibility it requires to respond to the particular circumstances of a given case. Moreover, it runs the risk of introducing unnecessary complexity and producing unintended consequences. The criteria are, however, mandatory. They will have to be rigorously applied by the CCC every time it chooses to exercise its discretion to report publicly or make a public statement about a corruption matter.

The bill also expands the scope of the existing procedural fairness framework under the CC Act in a way that is consistent with natural justice obligations at common law. This includes clearly requiring the CCC to give a person a copy of the evidence upon which an adverse comment is based. Significantly, the bill enhances the independence of the CCC by amending the current process for the tabling of reports so the decision to table rests solely with the CCC. As I outlined earlier, this amendment does not mean the CCC must prepare a report in relation to every corruption matter or investigation.

I now turn to the provisions in the bill which retrospectively validate past reports and statements of the CCC and actions taken by the CCC in relation to these, ensuring they are taken to have always been lawful and valid. Some submitters raised concerns over the retrospective validation as amounting to endorsement of any past public statement of the commission as lawful, regardless of its content. The purpose of these provisions is to ensure the CCC and its officers are not liable for actions they took on the basis of the common understanding that the CCC did have the statutory power to make past public

reports and statements at the time of making them. These provisions do not deal with the substantive content of such reports or statements. It must also be recalled that past reports that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly have remained publicly available in this way. Such reports have continued to attract parliamentary privilege. Ultimately, the committee examined the objections raised and the bill's provisions carefully and was satisfied that the provisions are appropriate and have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.

Before turning to the matters in the bill that are unrelated to reporting, I want to highlight a clarification made by the CCC in its appearance before the committee. The CCC identified a list of 32 reports and 256 public statements of the CCC and its predecessors as impacted by the High Court decision. As part of the committee's public hearing, the CCC clarified that these numbers were based on an expansive interpretation of the High Court decision that encompassed the CCC's corruption prevention and research functions; that is, not just its corruption function. At the hearing, the CCC chairperson further advised that it consequently made the decision to remove all reports, other than annual reports and reports about public hearings. If the bill is passed by this House and the validation provisions come into force, the lawfulness of these reports and statements will be no longer in question. The bill also includes several amendments to improve the efficiency of the CCC's operations. These are to enable the CCC to engage agents for an extended period and to deal with operational issues that arise in relation to the electronic service of notices.

At this juncture, I would like to touch on the amendments that I have circulated and will move during consideration in detail. Further thought has been given to the approach in the bill that has regard to the CCC's operational requirements. To this end, the amendments I intend to move make additional changes to ensure there is a responsive and appropriate framework for the service of all CCC notices by email. Another amendment in respect of the operations of the CCC relates to the tenure of CCC commissioners, including the chairperson. Specifically, the amendment will omit the uncommenced amendment made by the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 to establish fixed, non-renewable terms of seven years for all commissioners. While this amendment was made in response to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's 2021 recommendation, it plainly did not implement the recommendation in full.

The PCCC recommended in *Report No. 106* that consideration be given to amending the Crime and Corruption Act to provide for single, non-renewable appointments of the chairperson and ordinary commissioners for up to seven years. Instead, the amendments passed last year do not effectively support or facilitate a bipartisan approach to the nomination of persons to these appointments within the CCC. The amendment will remedy the issue by implementing what the PCCC's recommendation specifically identified, ensuring government or non-government PCCC members alike have the flexibility to support an appointment for a term that is less than seven years.

I will now move away from the CCC and discuss other amendments that will be moved that I have circulated. Firstly, there is a minor and technical amendment to the Evidence Act 1977 to put beyond doubt that preliminary complaint evidence is admissible in sexual offence proceedings started prior to 23 September 2024. Incidentally, that is my dad's birthday. My dad is not well at the moment, so I just want to give him a shout-out. Secondly, a number of amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 are to be moved to clarify the scope and transitional approach to certain entries on a child's criminal history to better align with the position pre commencement of the Making Queensland Safer Act 2024 reforms.

Thirdly, there are amendments to the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act, which I foreshadowed in this parliament some time ago, to postpone and pause the commencement of the remaining provisions, which are due to commence on 1 July 2025, to a date to be fixed by proclamation. As I have previously announced in this House, this is necessary to allow for further consideration and consultation on these reforms. The decision to delay the commencement of the RAW Act was not taken lightly. The government remains—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the shadow attorney-general. I was not going to because she has had a tough day already. What I was going to say is this. I have now met with the Human Rights Commissioner, who has acknowledged that there are amendments and issues that could be fixed in this, so if I were the shadow attorney-general I would be very careful in shooting off at the mouth about something that she obviously does not really understand.

The decision to delay the commencement of the RAW Act was not taken lightly. The government remains fully committed to fostering safe, respectful and inclusive workplaces across Queensland.

However, the postponement was necessary to ensure that the implementation of the act is as effective and impactful as possible. Additionally, the amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 will be also moved to rectify the inadvertent commencement of a 'shared burden of proof' in the Anti-Discrimination Act.

Fourthly, there is another amendment, importantly, to fix up Labor's DNA debacle, which was an absolute disgrace. We need to move amendments urgently to the Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024, which I understand was another act that was rushed in by the former government just prior to caretaker mode, to clarify the operation of transitional provisions which govern the employment terms and conditions of FSQ employees during an initial transition period.

In accordance with the announcement that I and the Premier made yesterday, we intend to move amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in relation to the retention and use of DNA samples and the results of DNA analysis. The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act provides for the destruction of DNA samples taken from a person suspected of having committed an indictable offence and the results of the DNA sample analysis. To address the impact of ongoing testing delays, amendments will be moved to extend the current retention periods from three to seven years and to permit the retention of new DNA material taken from suspects between 14 June 2025 and 14 June 2027 for three years. The goal of the amendments is to ensure sufficient time for crime scene samples to be analysed and compared against suspect profiles in the course of the investigation of offences. This will help ensure that investigations into serious criminal offences can be conducted with all available information and will help preserve the confidence in our criminal justice system.

This is just one of the many proactive ways that we, the Crisafulli government, are protecting victims of serious sexual crimes, victims of serious domestic violence and victims of serious family violence. We do not just wave a press release around and say we are going to do something to protect women; we actually do it and that is exactly what we are doing with these amendments.

It is a shame that the former government spent 10 years, too busy looking at themselves instead of supporting and protecting the women in Queensland. It was through the former opposition along with renowned journalist Hedley Thomas looking into the Shandee Blackburn case that we continued to highlight in this House Labor's DNA debacle, and what did they do? They said we were scaremongering. When we got into government we acted within the first week, the first seven days, to appoint renowned forensic scientist Dr Kirsty Wright. We have now appointed Dr Bruce Budowle, a renowned FBI scientist, who is looking into Labor's DNA debacle and how we can fix it. Thank goodness we did start that review because what have they uncovered? They uncovered that if we did not act urgently, if we did not act today, those DNA samples that will provide victims of crime with better and faster access to justice through the court system would have been destroyed. What did the Labor government do while they were rushing all those bills through just before caretaker mode? Did they care about those victims of crime? Did they care about those women who were suffering from family and domestic violence? I say they were not. If they did, they would be the ones moving this amendment.


I call on those opposite to stand up today and explain why their heads were in the sand while they sat around the cabinet table and made a pre-parliament decision regarding question time to say, 'Let's say the opposition is scaremongering.' No! What we were doing was standing up for victims, ensuring victims have a right to go through a criminal justice system in Queensland that works, that is efficient, that is fast, that gives victims justice through the system, not delay after delay, which is what we are seeing right now because we are still fixing up Labor's DNA debacle. We have had to give extra money to the DPP—\$6 million—so they can undertake that work in assessing the cases that can be moved quickly through the Magistrates Court to ensure those victims get heard and have their matters dealt with before the courts. Unlike those opposite, we do not just put out a press release saying we are protecting victims of domestic violence; we are actually doing something. We have provided more money to the DPP. We have provided more help to FSQ. We have enlisted the support of not one but two renowned forensic scientists to conduct and review how we can get through the historical cases, how we can get those DNA samples to the courts quicker, how we can not destroy those vital pieces of evidence and how we can provide better access to justice for those victims.

It defies belief that the former Labor government still have their head in the sand about the failures of FSQ. It is a disgrace that we are here today moving urgent amendments to make sure the staff that they moved over from the Department of Health to the Department of Justice are actually paid properly. We know all about Labor's payroll debacle, but this is another level. Seriously! This is what we find when we get to government. What do we do? We move an amendment to ensure those people are looked after properly within the Department of Justice. Those opposite talk about what they are going to do, but they never actually did anything. The other amendment is about saving those vitally important

bits of DNA. We need to save them because who knows how many other Shandee Blackburns are out there? I hope none, but I know there will be many. That is why it is so vitally important that these amendments are before the House today.

I really want to thank both Katheryn and Jaimie in the Department of Justice for their hard work particularly in relation to this very extensive bill. I know that they and their colleagues in the Department of Justice have worked extremely hard on ensuring that we restore the powers back to the CCC just like we said we would. During the election we said that we would restore the trust, integrity and transparency in government, and that starts with this bill today—the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. It gives me great pleasure that I get a chance to talk on this bill today because, unlike those opposite, restoring integrity in government is vitally important to the Crisafulli government.

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 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (12.29 pm): I am pleased to follow the Attorney-General because clearly those words that she just said are not true because since the Crisafulli government was elected we have seen so much evidence that it does not take integrity and transparency seriously. I rise to address the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. In her introductory speech the Attorney-General said—

It will be interesting to see how they end up voting on this bill.

I can advise that the Labor opposition supports a strong and an independent Crime and Corruption Commission that is empowered to do its job on behalf of Queenslanders, and the actions of successive Labor governments to strengthen the integrity landscape in Queensland are strong proof that we on this side of the House believe in integrity. That was evidenced by the fact that the Labor members on the committee did not provide a statement of reservation because we have been acting in good faith, unlike those members of the government who have effectively now just circulated a whole range of amendments completely outside the long title of the bill, which is ironic given that this bill is allegedly supposed to be about integrity and transparency, but those opposite do not want integrity and transparency over the bills that they are trying to rush through the parliament now. There has been no oversight by the committee on any of those amendments. This is shambolic and a last-minute attempt to make changes by a government that has no integrity.

These last-minute changes are to the Youth Justice Act which, frankly, is an admission that the LNP had unintended consequences from its first bill and clearly botched the laws. We warned of unintended consequences and we are here today cleaning up its mess at the last minute. What I find particularly offensive and what committee members frankly should find offensive is that these amendments have come in here while there is a committee process underway for the next tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Instead of doing the right thing and referring those to the committee for proper examination, once again the LNP is trying to ram through changes without anyone seeing the detail and being able to examine the impact of those changes.

The most egregious of the changes that have been circulated at the last minute by the Attorney-General are the changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act and the respect at work act. Indefinitely delaying protections for women at work—domestic violence victims, people who are experiencing homelessness—is disgraceful. Given the staggering number of women in this state and country who have been the victims of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace, God only knows why the LNP wants to let discrimination run unabated.

Last night I saw the Premier at the workers' memorial ceremony and thought that maybe this government was interested in protecting working people in this state, but based on these amendments it is clear that members of the government do not care about working people, particularly working women. Indefinitely delaying strong protections is akin to condoning this sort of behaviour. It was interesting hearing from the Attorney-General about the Human Rights Commissioner, Scott McDougall, who said, when asked about these changes when the Attorney-General just randomly got up and said that they were going to change them which really—

Mrs Frecklington: I did it in a ministerial statement.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member's interjection, but it was still fairly random given no-one had heard about it. It was the first time that anyone had heard about those changes. The Human Rights Commissioner said that he was 'bewildered'. He said—

To pause the implementation of all these changes due to a concern—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I would have thought that the minister would be interested in the comments of the Human Rights Commissioner. I will repeat that again for the benefit of the Attorney-General. The Human Rights Commissioner said—

To pause the implementation of ... these changes due to a concern about one aspect of the reforms, with no notice and no concerns previously having been raised with us, is a disproportionate response. To claim the reforms were rushed and not consultative enough is additionally misleading.

The Queensland Council of Unions also said that it was an outrageous betrayal of Queensland workers. It said—

We don't need any more consultation. We have been consulted to death over important reforms in this space on sexual harassment. We just need to get on and act on the legislation and do it.

I know the Attorney-General does not like it when I talk about the Queensland Council of Social Service, but Matilda Alexander from the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network said—

Queenslanders with disability have been waiting too long ...

She went on to say—

... for the first time:

- Hate speech would be unlawful on the basis of disability
- Victims of crime, victims of domestic ... violence ... would be protected from discrimination

...

Justice delayed is justice delayed.

They are direct quotes. She goes on to say this delay—

... will mean people with disability will continue to experience unfair discrimination, hate speech, abuse and harm.

Mrs Frecklington: Rubbish!

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General saying 'rubbish' to Matilda Alexander.

Ms Bush: Shame!

Ms SCANLON: That is shameful for the first law officer of this state.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence that the shadow attorney-general is trying to put words into my mouth and I ask her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member, the minister has taken offence and I would ask you to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. Equality Australia CEO Anna Brown said that these are 'uncontroversial changes' that had already been through a—

... full and comprehensive consultation process that took many years and reopening it is a waste of time and taxpayer money.

She said—

Delaying these laws without any real justification is alarming given they offer strengthened protections for so many communities, including LGBTIQ+ people, the homeless and survivors of domestic violence ...

She went on to say—

Serious questions need to be asked about who is pressuring the government to pause these commonsense changes that simply modernise Queensland's anti-discrimination laws.

I would be interested as well to know what is going on there. Given all of those comments from very well respected bodies that are in some cases representing very vulnerable Queenslanders, it should come as no surprise that the Labor opposition will be moving an amendment in consideration in detail to oppose changes that deny women respect at work.

I also want to respond to some of the comments made by the Attorney-General about forensic services. The LNP needs to frankly stop looking for someone to blame and get on and deliver the work that Labor started in terms of the Forensic Services Queensland reforms.

I will come back to what this bill was supposed to be about, and that is the CCC reforms on reporting. It is disappointing that the Attorney-General used inflammatory language in her introductory speech on this bill particularly about public cases and the former government's actions on these matters. It is no secret that this area of law is complex and there needs to be appropriate time taken to

020 get it right. As the Attorney-General outlined in her speech, for many years it was widely accepted by government that the CCC did have the necessary powers to do this in respect of public reporting and, as such, to suggest that Labor did not want to restore reporting powers to the Crime and Corruption Commission in Queensland is just frankly false and misleading and pure politics from the member for Nanango. This is why the former attorney-general commissioned the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, who is a highly qualified individual, to do a full review of the matter to support the crafting of the new laws which, I note, form the basis of the laws which the LNP Attorney-General introduced into this House. It was the LNP that wanted to delay the passing of those laws by sending them to the committee, so it was not so fond of urgency motions then, was it?

While on the topic of history, what did the LNP opposition do at the first opportunity available to it? After Labor introduced the bill to restore reporting powers to the CCC, the LNP opposition, led by the member for Broadwater, voted against the first reading of that bill. For the new members of this House I will say that again. The Liberal National Party opposition, now the LNP government, actually voted against, at the first available opportunity, the former Labor government's bill to restore reporting powers to the CCC.

Actions speak louder than words. For those opposite to come in here, chest-beat and say that they are somehow the bastions of integrity and restorers of democracy is a complete laugh. At 5.12 pm on Tuesday, 10 September 2024 the LNP opposition, including the member for Nanango, voted against the first reading of the Crime and Corruption (Reporting) Amendment Bill, thus signalling that they wanted to delay the implementation of those reporting powers. It goes without saying that the laws introduced by the former government could have been enacted before the last election. That they were not was only because those opposite, in particular the member for Clayfield and others, wanted the matter to go to the committee. The fact that the LNP voted against enhanced reporting measures for the CCC at the first available opportunity did not assist, either.

The new Attorney-General could have introduced the private member's bill that was introduced by the then shadow attorney-general, the member for Clayfield, which in their view at the time would have apparently solved the matter, but she did not. It is interesting that they were really pro all of the reforms in that bill at that point but when they got into government they thought, 'We might want to wind some of this back a little bit.' They took their time—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. That is simply not the case on a number of fronts. They took their time and used Labor's homework to introduce the bill we are debating today. Openness and transparency matter. The Minister for Integrity said in her introductory speech to the bill—

Openness and transparency are essential if the public is to have confidence in the processes of government, its leaders and managers and the public sector as a whole.

We agree. That is why it is so disappointing that the so-called Minister for Integrity has still not released certain cabinet submissions such as on the Making Queensland Safer Bill, which was considered by this parliament last year. It is why it is so disappointing that the LNP government has not released the Expert Legal Panel advice on certain youth justice offences. It is why it is disappointing that the actions of the LNP in the past, like sacking the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee late at night, trying to circumvent—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I will give you the opportunity to establish relevance to the bill in your speech, please.

Ms SCANLON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am giving context to where we are now with this bill. The Attorney-General remarked on a whole range of previous actions under previous governments. I am simply following her lead.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask you to come back to the bill under standing order 139.

Ms SCANLON: The past performance of the LNP in the integrity space leads to only one conclusion: the LNP do not have a monopoly on positive integrity reforms in Queensland. In fact, in many cases it is the complete opposite.

This bill before us today will restore the public reporting powers of the CCC which, on the whole, is a positive thing for all Queenslanders. The legislation provides a discretionary power for the CCC to

report and make public statements regardless of whether or not they have completed their investigations. This will mean the CCC will be able to make a public statement at any time about corruption matters, with some safeguards attached to this. It should be noted that the bill also proposes a new definition of 'corruption matter' which is broader than the current understanding, as outlined in the committee report.

As members will see, the new definition and powers of reporting are large and diverse. In particular, this bill will enable the CCC to make public statements at any point in their investigation. I note that some stakeholders, such as the Queensland Law Society, have raised concern about that. It is also noted that the legislation does have provisions regarding what can and cannot be put in public reports and statements. While I know that members would have read the legislation, as outlined in the committee report a public statement may be made in any way that the CCC considers appropriate such as via a media release, verbal statement at a press conference or publishing information on its website, and a public statement must not include a recommendation in relation to a corruption matter unless the recommendation has been made in a report of the CCC published in accordance with section 69 of the legislation.

In respect of reports, the bill retains the current provisions regarding what can be included; however, it is noted that there are safeguards in this legislation which the previous legislation—that is, the Labor government legislation—also canvassed, albeit in a different form. These included mandatory criteria for public reports and public statements which is a non-exhaustive list including: the need for accountability and transparency in government and the public sector; whether the report or statement will be for the public benefit; whether the CCC has finalised its assessment of the corruption matter and any action taken in relation to it; the seriousness of the corruption matter; whether the report or statement may prejudice any proceeding that the CCC is aware of or any reasonable foreseeable future proceeding in relation to the corruption matter or an investigation by the CCC or other law enforcement agency; and, for statements, whether the statement is the most appropriate and suitable means of releasing information about the corruption matter to the public. In addition, if a person's name is readily apparent there will be further safeguards including whether the standing and status of the person warrants greater public scrutiny and whether the report or statement may unreasonably damage the person's health, safety or wellbeing, along with a range of other criteria.

As outlined in the committee report, there are also limitations on the types of findings, recommendations and statements the CCC can make. They cannot make any finding or statement in a public report or statement: that a person has or has not engaged in, or is or is not engaging in or about to engage in, corruption; that a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or be the subject of disciplinary action; that prosecution proceedings or disciplinary action should be considered in relation to a person; or that there is evidence, or insufficient evidence, supporting the start of a proceeding against a person. These safeguards are important and we note the reason for them.

It is also noted that this public reporting framework is different from that canvassed in the previous bill. It is important that we as legislators get the balance right. We need to ensure there are strong laws to enable the CCC to do its work, but we must also ensure that the rights of individuals are protected, particularly if the CCC gets it wrong.

It is noted that the Queensland Law Society raised concerns regarding the new definition of 'corruption matter'—that it is overly broad and will produce unintended consequences. We have heard that multiple times before. Unintended consequences are becoming the hallmark of the Crisafulli LNP government.

It is true that some stakeholders hold concerns with the CCC being able to make public comments on matters they have not fully investigated. These are legitimate points of view that have been raised and, when you consider that these laws do largely depend on the discretion of the chair at the time, who holds immense power, I appreciate why some submitters have put forward that concern. However, it is noted that this is the path the Crisafulli LNP government wishes to take and, as I said, we are supportive of increased reporting powers for the CCC. It is noted, though, that there are a number of safeguards incorporated into it and it is noted that the current chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission stated that the CCC has a longstanding policy to neither confirm nor deny that a matter is under investigation unless there are exceptional circumstances. The LNP chairperson during the public hearing said—

The recommendation of the Queensland Law Society, for example, that the CCC only be permitted to report at the end of an investigation seemed quite rigid and I challenged them on that in relation to the Fitzgerald inquiry and systemic corruption investigations.

The chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission stated in respect of public statements—

... I do not envisage that it is something that would be used frequently—and I think it is important to state that upfront—but to have the discretion to be able to do that in particular circumstances that might arise and which require that to be done in terms of fairness or ... the efficacy or appropriateness of an investigation is something that is important and that is why discretion is important.

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It all comes down to discretion, which is what I understand the Queensland Law Society is getting at. At the end of the day, it comes down to the individual who holds the position of chairperson of the CCC making informed decisions based on the safeguards and procedural fairness about what public statements or commentary should be made. It is, therefore, important that whoever holds the position of chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission exercises their powers appropriately and with due consideration of all the facts and circumstances. It is important that the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission ensure they have appropriate oversight of any public commentary moving forward and deal with matters as they see fit.

While it must be noted that this bill deviates from the previous bill, the Queensland Labor opposition will support the elements around increasing reporting powers for the CCC to ensure that the CCC is able to perform that function but does so on the basis of statements made by the current chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission about how these new powers will be exercised in the future. It is also interesting that the Attorney-General has modelled the current bill on elements of the former bill and the Holmes report. While this is good practice, it is interesting that the reporting for elected officials is different from what was in the LNP's original bill. It should be made clear that the Labor opposition believes that anyone, regardless of whether or not they are an elected official, should be held to account if they transgress the law and it is important that Queenslanders have faith in the process that holds elected officials to a higher account.

While ensuring that our system of government is beyond reproach, the rights of individuals also matter. While it is good to see that the bill enshrines into law processes and timeframes for the review of documents or statements by individuals who are adversely named, it does not include a final step, which is to allow that individual to look at it after the feedback was received. As outlined in the committee report—

The QLS also noted that the 2024 Bill was different to the current Bill as it provided that a person identified in a report was given an opportunity to review the amended report after that person had provided a submission and was given a further 14 days for consideration. However, as the QLS notes, '[i]n the current Bill, it does not appear there is provision for a final decision or copy of the report to be provided'. The QLS recommends that this should occur.

While it is welcomed that there are a number of review or consultation stages, it does seem odd that the final version is not provided to the person to enable them to be prepared for it to be in the public realm. While the CCC has said that it does not occur in other jurisdictions, that does not mean that it cannot happen here, particularly if you take into consideration some of the past actions of the CCC. However, it is pleasing to note that in the hearing the CCC said—

We will, however, consider this, along with any other matters, as a discretionary consideration in the development of our own internal policies about reporting following the passage of the bill.

That leads us back to the term 'discretion'. While this legislation is important to ensure that the Crime and Corruption Commission has the reporting tools available to it, we cannot hide from the fact that it stems from two cases that were litigated in the state and Commonwealth courts. While we on this side of the chamber want to ensure the CCC has its law restored, it is clear that those opposite just want to play politics. We heard that from the Attorney-General's introductory speech and we also saw it from the actions of those opposite before the bill was introduced when ordering that two reports be made public. If the Attorney-General was truly the integrity minister in this state, she would have restored the reporting powers of the CCC and allowed them to report on matters as they saw fit. There would have been nothing stopping the CCC from reporting on matters after the law had been passed, although through the prism of the new reporting laws. Queenslanders would have still been privy to matters contained in those reports but procedural fairness and respect for the High Court's decision would have been realised.

The previous bill, as outlined by the former attorney-general during her introductory speech, included a provision to extinguish civil liability in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and the making of public statements involving corruption matters or investigations. The former attorney-general stated—

It applies simply to actions that were undertaken in good faith and without gross negligence to protect the CCC, and by extension the state, from civil liability arising from the preparation or publication of past corruption reports or public statements.

That did not mean that those reports would never have seen the light of day again. Many were already tabled in the Queensland parliament. However, as was recommended by the Holmes review, only past reports and statements conforming to the new reporting requirements should be retrospectively validated as outlined by the former attorney-general.

While the Attorney-General might want to make out that the former government did not want to validate the work of the CCC, it is clear that under the former bill the CCC would have been protected by civil liability and there would be nothing stopping them from making reports or statements through the new reporting prism if the report was not already on the public record. However, it is noted that the new government has taken the step to retrospectively validate the past actions of the CCC, which is something that was raised by the Queensland Law Society and others during committee hearings.

It is always good to look at these new laws through examples of scenarios. Once these laws are in place, the CCC will be able to report or make public commentary through appropriate safeguards on corruption matters. For example, if a director-general is appointed to a body to undertake an independent review of, say, the electoral boundaries in Queensland and if the director-general's actions gave rise to a concern that undue influence or political interference by someone else via the director-general—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I also note that the shadow attorney-general is reflecting upon a public servant. I question the relevance to the bill. Mr Pat Vidgen is the very well respected Electoral Commissioner. I suggest to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the shadow attorney-general is trying reflect on Mr Pat Vidgen's career as the Electoral Commissioner.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): Member for Nanango, I ask you not to debate the point of order but just state your point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is on relevance to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, that was very broad. I ask you to bring it back to the relevance of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: I am providing context about how this bill would apply in a particular hypothetical scenario. I want to make it very clear that members on this side support Pat Vidgen. At no point have I ever referred to Pat Vidgen in the hypothetical scenario that I just put forward but I understand why the Attorney-General was triggered by that scenario. The LNP do not have a strong—

Mrs Frecklington: Pat Vidgen, the Electoral Commissioner.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. I do not know if you just heard what I said but I just said that the Labor opposition has been very clear that we support Pat Vidgen.


Debate, on motion of Ms Scanlon, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.57 pm to 2.00 pm.

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today, I would like to address the House on the greatest challenge facing Queenslanders: how to determine which member of the Crisafulli LNP cabinet is the most incompetent, the most negligent, the most lazy, the most bumbling or just plain dishonest. It is a crowded field with plenty of frontrunners. At the head of the pack is Treasurer Janetzki. What a treasure the Treasurer is when it comes to exposing the LNP's lack of transparency and, frankly, lack of simple and direct honesty. The Treasurer shunts his way from train wreck to train wreck: dissembling about an explosion at a power station and blowing up his and the Premier's credibility all at the same time; juicing up the numbers in the mid-year review; juicing up the cost of CopperString; and juicing up the savings he says he will make from cutting BPICs, government contractors and consultants. It is quite a conga line. The Treasurer earns the right to be a favourite in this field of also-rans, though what he really deserves is scratching.

Another strong runner in the race to the bottom of LNP ministerial incompetence is the member for Warrego. The minister lost her community recovery responsibilities at a time when the minister's own electorate faced its worst natural disaster in living memory. The minister is a special case, if ever there was one.

I would be misleading the House if I did not make special mention of the education minister, Mr Langbroek. It is fair to say the education minister is not a quick study. In fact, the minister does not study at all. He does not like to hit the books. The education minister keeps getting caught out principally because the minister seems to have no interest in the education portfolio at all and cannot be bothered answering the most basic questions about his ministerial responsibilities. He does not know about NAPLAN. He does not seem to care too much about abusive behaviour towards children. He does not seem to be too perturbed about bullying. He has a lazy and lackadaisical approach towards the needs of our most precious citizens. To be fair, in his own defence the education minister says, 'Don't blame me. I'm not a teacher.' Well he is not an education minister either.

Clearly, there is something a bit off about this LNP government. There is a whiff of something not quite right, and that emanates from the top. It starts with the Premier. Thanks to the media in this state, Queenslanders are finding out more and more about this Premier, about matters that raise questions about the Premier's transparency, honesty and character. The question Queenslanders are asking themselves is: did the Premier mislead us before the election and, for that matter, has he misled us ever since? The salient fact is the current Premier did not tell Queenslanders the truth about important matters before the election. The Premier must explain why he misled Queenslanders about these important matters.

It is about honesty and trustworthiness. It goes to character, and that is part of the problem with the LNP—their lack of character. They cannot avoid the deceptions, obfuscations and downright rotten appointments. The appointment of the politically compromised John Sosso to the Queensland Redistribution Commission is a case in point. Supreme corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald warned against this appointment, warned the Crisafulli government could be taking us back to the dark days of the notorious Queensland gerrymander.

The rottenness does not end there. While the LNP have a history of cutting jobs in this state, what they like even more is giving jobs to their LNP mates. First up, John Sosso's appointment to the Queensland Redistribution Commission was announced late on the Thursday before Easter, a transparently pathetic attempt to avoid scrutiny. The LNP were taking the trash out under the cover of Easter. We know that because on the same afternoon the Crisafulli government announced the appointment of long-time Liberal Party figure and hack Julian Simmonds as the Acting CEO of Economic Development Queensland. Talk about a job for the boy!

This government is not fit to hold office. These appointments are wrong and they will not be forgotten. These appointments will dog this government's integrity for the rest of its tenure. The Premier can keep talking the talk about integrity and all the rest, but, ultimately, in the public arena he will be judged badly by the people of this state.

Youth Crime; Leichhardt Electorate, Candidates



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.05 pm): Under Labor, youth offenders were left to run rampant through our North and Far North communities: stealing cars, breaking into homes, assaulting members of communities and leaving terrified victims of crime in their wake. Under Labor, the number of youth charged with stealing cars and robbery tripled in Queensland. The number of youth charged with breaking in and assault doubled. This is Labor's record in Townsville over the past 10 years: break-ins increased 109 per cent; the number of cars stolen rose 193 per cent; arson increased 228 per cent; robbery went up 347 per cent; and armed robbery skyrocketed 381 per cent.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: They are yelling and screaming from that side of the House. In Cairns, what was the record under Labor? Stolen cars increased 99 per cent, break-ins rose 51 per cent, armed robbery increased 94 per cent and robberies increased a staggering 185 per cent. Cairns and Townsville are sick of being the crime capitals of this state. We have heard a clear commitment from the federal opposition leader, Peter Dutton, to making our communities safer.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER: He has made a clear commitment to turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis that is ripping through the communities of North Queensland. The federal opposition leader, Peter Dutton, has committed to making the Crisafulli government's Jack's Law a national law—this is an example of how different levels of government can work together to keep our communities safe. Jack's

Law gives police the power to restore safety in our communities, and the federal opposition leader has committed to implementing it nationally. The LNP federal candidate for Leichhardt, Jeremy Neal, is a fierce advocate for restoring safety in his Far North Queensland community. Jeremy backs Adult Crime, Adult Time. Jeremy backs Jack's Law.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was my objective not to interrupt the member on her feet and allow a few interjections but they are getting out of hand. Calm it down. Take a chill pill.

Mrs GERBER: Jeremy Neal backs Adult Crime, Adult Time. He is prepared to work with the state government to restore safety to Cairns and Far North Queensland. Contrast this with the other choice the people of Leichhardt have right now—the federal Labor candidate, Matt Smith. What is his position on crime? He has not backed the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. In fact, he has completely abdicated his responsibility to work with the state government to help restore safety to Cairns and Far North Queensland. He said—

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David Crisafulli and the state government were elected to fix youth crime because it is a state issue.

The federal Labor candidate, Matt Smith, thinks he does not have to work with the state government to solve Labor's youth crime crisis that is ripping through Far North Queensland. He backs criminals over victims. Unbelievably, Labor's candidate for the seat of Leichhardt, Matt Smith, thinks Labor's approach to youth crime over the last 10 years has worked. A vote for the Labor candidate in Leichhardt is a vote for the same old failed Labor policies that Queenslanders overwhelmingly voted to change in the state campaign. Overwhelmingly Queenslanders rejected those policies. The federal Labor candidate for Leichhardt, Matt, does not back Adult Crime, Adult Time and he does not back the Crisafulli government's tough-on-crime approaches.

The people of Leichhardt have a really clear choice this Saturday: to vote for change—just like they did in the state campaign—to vote for a leader who will work with the Crisafulli government to restore safety to the Far North and the Cairns community, to get Australia back on track. The people of the North and the Far North—in particular, the people of Leichhardt—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Labor members on that side are yelling because they do not agree with it. They would unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time if they had the chance. The people of Leichhardt deserve better. They deserve a candidate who will work with the Crisafulli government to turn the tide on the crime crisis that is plaguing their communities. The people of Leichhardt have a clear choice. Jeremy Neal, the federal LNP candidate for Leichhardt, will be able to work with the Crisafulli government. He backs Adult Crime, Adult Time and he will restore safety to Cairns and to his Far North Queensland community.

Pope Francis; Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.10 pm): I want to start by placing on record my condolences for the passing of Pope Francis. He was a progressive voice who has set in train significant reform that will continue to have a lasting impact on the world. The opposition stands with Queensland Catholics in recognising his contributions.

It has been a long time since Queensland had a government that acted with such disregard for the people of this state. The Crisafulli government is treating Queenslanders like mugs. On Easter Thursday, the Attorney-General took out the trash but it was not just the trash. She filled the car and went to the dump.

Weeks ago in this House, Labor raised concerns about the proposed appointment of John Sosso to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, a body that literally has the power to amend electoral boundaries and to abolish or create seats—something that has a profound impact on the result of an election. That is why, since its inception following the landmark Fitzgerald inquiry, it has been fundamental that this commission be not just impartial but perceived to be impartial. The Crisafulli LNP government do not seem to agree though. They have rubbished the concerns raised by Tony Fitzgerald himself—concerns that Mr Sosso was susceptible to influence. They have rubbished the concerns raised by the *Courier-Mail*—concerns that Queensland may be returning to the dark old days of the gerrymander.

Late on Easter Thursday, we found out through a simple media release that Director-General John Sosso had been officially appointed to the Redistribution Commission. The appointment was quietly dumped out when the Attorney thought no-one was watching—deliberately before one of the only two days a year that newspapers do not print. Queenslanders are watching, watching this

government play puppetmaster with the next election and every election after. Today the Attorney-General argued she was acting on advice from her department but refused to table that advice. That Easter Thursday was a dark day for democracy. Whatever the commission now recommends, the opposition and other parties can have no faith that the upcoming election will be fair, because it is clear the LNP want to go back to the dark old days when Queensland elections were rigged.

I thought it could not get much worse, but today we see the plot thicken. Director-General John Sosso has quietly been appointed to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel, a body that decides the future judicial appointments of this state. The LNP literally had to change the guidelines of the panel to allow them to appoint him. Mr Sosso now not just controls a great number of public servants but will decide our state's electoral boundaries and will choose our state's judges—that is the judiciary, the parliament and the executive. It hands extraordinary power—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order, members! The House will come to order.

Mr MILES: It hands extraordinary power to one man and through him to the Deputy Premier. If you ask me, it stinks. This is a person the Attorney-General said herself has had multiple political party memberships—a person who corruption-buster Tony Fitzgerald questioned the integrity of, a person who was labelled as being integral to the LNP's transition to government, hand-picked by the Deputy Premier and appointed without a merit selection process.

As the *Courier-Mail* said yesterday, 'The Redistribution Commission is one of the most important bodies in our electoral system.' The actions of the LNP government will send a shiver down the spine of many Queenslanders. The Premier once said that director-general appointments should be above politics. He said that they should have 'Absolutely zero links, absolutely zero memberships. And the person has to be someone who the public service looks at and says, "that's fresh change".' John Sosso does not look like 'fresh change' to me.

Queenslanders would be concerned to know that on that same Easter Thursday, as the Attorney was quietly making those appointments, the LNP also appointed one of their other mates—Julian Simmonds, a former LNP MP, someone who proudly refers to themselves as a 'professional politician'. Mr Simmonds has now been made the acting CEO of EDQ after the former highly respected CEO was marched from 1 William Street. The appointment comes without advertising, all while Mr Simmonds is actively campaigning and authorising anti-government attack ads for the group Australians for Prosperity. That is a coal industry funded group campaigning against progressive candidates. Its links to the Liberal Party run deep. They even put half a million dollars into anti-Labor ads around Brisbane to support the Premier's campaign in 2024. Now the Premier has rewarded him for his loyalty.

On 26 April anti-Labor ads on Facebook were continuing to carry his authorisation even after he had been appointed to this plum job by the LNP. Mr Simmonds now reports to the Deputy Premier through none other than Mr Sosso. The Deputy Premier used to scream in this place about jobs for mates, but it was all a ruse for what he was preparing to do—bring in the boys' club ready to take an axe to housing and housing builds in this state. These appointments go to the Premier's integrity, because he is the one who promised Queenslanders he would govern with integrity; instead he is governing with none.

It is time we spare a thought for the embattled Treasurer. It was supposed to be his big day—his big speech ready to smack down Labor for our plans to connect the North West to the energy grid. He had been practising it all day, but instead his big day turned into a train wreck. The centrepiece announcement was an alleged increase in the cost of CopperString. Why? The scope had increased, except it had not. Much to his embarrassment, Powerlink, the GOC tasked with CopperString's delivery, had to come out and assure stakeholders that the project was still on track and curiously that the scope had not increased at all. The email to stakeholders was called a 'clarification'. It said the figure used by the Treasurer did 'not reflect an increase in cost against the original scope'.


So what is the truth? Curiously it was Queenslanders who learnt of the alleged cost first because the Premier was not briefed. The announcement was on the front page of the paper but the Premier was not briefed. I bet the Treasurer wishes he stayed in Toowoomba that day and I bet the Premier is wondering about the wisdom of letting his accident-prone Treasurer deliver his first budget. I cannot wait!

Then, just a day later, we learned of a major explosion at a Queensland power station—one that had actually happened a week before—and now we learn the Treasurer's office had photos of the explosion that did not see the light of day, nor did the statements CS Energy wanted to issue advising

the Queensland public. The Treasurer was nowhere to be seen and did not want to answer questions about it. Finally, they made their mate Jeff Seeney take the fall. Media reported there was an emergency meeting with shareholding ministers and CS Energy just before a statement was issued saying they were entirely to blame.

It tells you a lot about this government. They have no integrity and are willing to throw anyone and everyone under the bus to protect themselves. They are not worried about Queenslanders keeping the lights on. They are more concerned with keeping their LNP mates in good jobs, rigging the state's electoral boundaries and making sure they can screen judges to ensure they are all LNP aligned. Maybe the explosive Callide cover-up was really being kept quiet so the Premier's mate Peter Dutton could also get a good job. Callide is an integral part of the coalition's nuclear plan. If they are willing to cover up an explosion at a coal-fired power plant, imagine what would happen if one of Peter Dutton's nuclear reactors exploded in the Premier's face.

Youth Crime

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.20 pm): Today I rise to speak on the youth crime crisis that has been plaguing Far North Queensland for a decade now. The crime crisis was one of the big reasons I decided to step up and run for the seat of Barron River. Far North Queenslanders have had enough of the crime that is impacting our community. The deterioration of our city over the past few years has been very sad for our region. We have had enough of the stolen cars; we have had enough of the late-night and early morning break-ins; we have had enough of small businesses being impacted physically and financially because of their weak laws; we have had enough of our kids being robbed of their bikes—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Members to my left, I am struggling to hear the member on her feet.

Ms JAMES: We have had enough of children not being able to go to the park on their pushbike or scooter and, as a parent, not knowing whether they are going to come home with that bike or scooter. Some of those kids worked really hard and saved their money to purchase that item and they are devastated when they lose them. We have had enough of good people being traumatised, nurses not being able to walk to work without being impacted by crime and assaulted. A lot of us have had enough of not being able to walk in our streets or even just walk down the Esplanade—

Ms Grace: Stop talking North Queensland down!

Ms JAMES: I am not talking North Queensland down. This is the legacy of the crime crisis—

Mrs Kirkland: They don't want to hear it!

Ms JAMES: They do not want to hear it. I will take that interjection. They do not want to hear it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Just because I permitted a bit of argy-bargy during the earlier contributions, it does not mean that interjections are always welcome. I am struggling to hear the member on her feet. I will warn those members on my left of that. It is harder to hear a voice from the back corner of the House. If I cannot hear them, then it is beyond disorderly. The interjections will cease and we will hear the member in silence.

Ms JAMES: Thank you for your protection. The LNP did pass the Making Queensland Safer Laws in December. Many of the Labor MPs across the hall walked out of parliament snarling at us—especially us new MPs—saying that we were an absolute disgrace for pushing through these new laws for youth criminals. The Labor government weakened the youth justice laws a decade ago and made detention a last resort, so now we do have a decade of hardcore repeat youth offenders who have received slap on the wrist after slip on the wrist with very few consequences for actions.

Cairns has 78 repeat youth offenders. The police know who they are. The police do an incredible job, but the previous laws were letting them down. Let me be clear here. If Adult Crime, Adult Time was not made law, then repeat youth offenders would not be facing harsher consequences like they are now. What I want to know today is Labor candidate for Leichhardt Matt Smith's position on crime. He thinks the laws we have introduced should be weakened and watered down.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left, I will start warning members formally under the standing orders.

Ms JAMES: I want to know what Matt Smith's position is on crime. He thinks the laws we have introduced should be weakened and watered down. Unbelievably, he thinks that Labor's approach for the last 10 years worked. He thinks crime is a state issue. He said—

David Crisafulli and the state government were elected to fix youth crime because it is a state issue.

We have a different view. It is that it is everybody's issue. The local Cairns Regional Council also takes—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for—which one will I chose? The member for Pine Rivers is the first one to join the formal warning list and there will be others.

A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need anyone's assistance in managing the House, whoever said that.

Ms JAMES: We have a different view. It is that it is everyone's issue. Even our local Cairns Regional Council is extremely impassioned about reducing crime in the region. We work very closely with our local councillors, the mayor and deputy mayor. Jeremy Neal, our candidate for Leichhardt, strongly backs our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Matt Smith, however, has not backed our Adult Time, Adult Crime laws. Labor and Matt Smith would like to see us return to the dark days where the rights of young criminals are put before the rights of victims. Labor and Matt Smith would like to see our Adult Time, Adult Crime laws wound back. Queenslanders made their position clear when it comes to crime. The approach of the last 10 years did not work, and more of the same will not work. Queenslanders do not want to go back, but a vote for Labor and Matt Smith in Leichhardt will do just that. It will send us backwards—back to Labor's youth crime crisis—

Mr Healy: Get into it. You're trying to help him from here.

Ms JAMES: I will take that interjection from the member for Cairns, who could not even turn up to a crime rally in Cairns. When it comes to turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis, there is a long way to go, member for Cairns. We are starting to see some movement in the right direction. Early signs show that our new Adult Time, Adult Crime laws are working to keep dangerous repeat youth offenders off the streets. After a decade of their weak laws and their weakness, we will continue to deliver laws for Queenslanders to keep them safe where they live.

Crisafulli LNP Government



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (2.26 pm): I would be more worried about some of the comments being made by Jeremy Neal, if I were the member for Barron River.

The executive, the judiciary and the legislature are the principles that have been the foundation of democracies across the world to prevent one branch from wielding excessive power. Today in Queensland the separation of powers—the foundation of good, responsible government—is being dismantled by those opposite—a Premier and Deputy Premier and a contingent of yes men and women hell-bent on dismantling what so many have fought to establish. The appointment of John Sosso to key roles that can influence the executive, the judiciary and the legislature is a chilling development in Queensland. It is a new dawn of the same old dark, murky and crooked days we have seen under previous LNP governments.

This Premier made a virtue of openness and transparency. He said he believed in it—when they were in opposition, that is—but at the same time his Deputy Premier, Attorney-General and legion of lackeys were orchestrating for a former LNP member to take the reins of democracy in our state. Those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government, cannot utter the word 'integrity' ever again. Not only have they appointed the Deputy Premier's right-hand man to the Queensland Redistribution Commission; they have now appointed him to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel. This panel, let's remember, was set up because the worst attorney-general in the state, the member for Kawana, completely trashed the process—so much so that we needed to establish an independent panel to provide advice to government.

Ms Grace: I remember Tim Carmody.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member—Tim Carmody. We all remember what happened under the Newman government.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the former LNP treasurer who, of course, did a range of things under the Newman government, including things that the legal fraternity still talks about to this day. Those are the dark old days we are going back to.


Directors-general get a fair bit of face time with ministers. Despite that, the Attorney-General kicked off the Women Lawyers Association and has literally changed the rules to allow her to appoint John Sosso to the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel. This means John Sosso will have influence over who creates the laws and who enforces those laws. It means John Sosso can influence the judiciary, the parliament and the executive, making a complete mockery of the Westminster system. As corruption buster Tony Fitzgerald said, Mr Sosso is 'susceptible to influence', but the Attorney-General ignored those concerns from Tony Fitzgerald, media like the *Courier-Mail* and the opposition when she appointed him on the Queensland Redistribution Commission and now she has taken it to a whole new low.

Those opposite can say that Mr Sosso is beyond reproach, but the facts show he has been reproached on no fewer than three times—twice by Tony Fitzgerald and once by former Auditor-General Andrew Greaves. Mr Greaves was scathing of Mr Sosso's decision-making the last time he was Jarrod Bleijie's director-general, stating Mr Sosso asked his staff not to cooperate with the probe. That is who they have decided to appoint on the Judicial Appointments Advisory Panel and the Redistribution Commission.

This track record shows he has been reproached three times for impeding probes into the behaviour of LNP governments. The more Queenslanders learn about Mr Sosso and this government the more they should be worried about his appointment on the Redistribution Commission, as a director-general and now to the body appointing judges. It means these institutions have zero chance of being independent or at the very least perceived as being independent.

We saw on that same day that the Attorney-General decided to tell Queenslanders she had ignored Tony Fitzgerald that they also took out the trash and appointed Julian Simmonds, who as has been mentioned is literally authorising ads right now, jobs for the boys. It really begs the question. Premier David Crisafulli told everyone that when he says something he means it. Evidently, he does not. Evidently, his word means nothing. He made a song and dance about being open and transparent, but at every opportunity—such as in relation to appointments and the disclosure of materials; we still do not have the Independent Expert Panel advice—those opposite decide to be dodgy and secretive.

Youth Crime

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (2.31 pm): Queensland has suffered for a decade under Labor's failed youth justice laws. Every year for 10 years under Labor, the critical crime statistics rose by an average of about 10 per cent per year. From break-ins, assaults and car thefts, peaceful towns and suburbs turned into war zones. Law-abiding long-term citizens were subject to random and continual harassment and trauma by an ever-increasing enclave of young offenders who had no respect for person, property or laws.

Since I was a fresh faced young lawyer many decades ago, juvenile offending has been a feature of our society, so why the breakout in the past decade? Whilst youth offending is a complex issue, the reason for the escalation is simple. The Labor Party over the last 10 years has gone soft on youth crime. There have been no consequences for action as the youth justice laws were softened and the powers of police and magistrates were watered down. Detention as a last resort was a recipe for disaster.

In my electorate in Mareeba, car thefts and break-ins became a feature of daily life. The police became disillusioned and the magistrates frustrated as serious and repeat offenders were simply turned back on to the streets. On Mossman streets, crime went unchecked, with the same offenders smashing shop windows and destroying property night after night unchecked. Sharon, whose front cafe windows were smashed in senselessly nearly a dozen times even while she was present, was desperate for some action. Stories abound of people's personal suffering. As the crimes continued unpunished, the cohort of young offenders included an increasing number of 10- to 12-year-olds and in particular girls. A worrying trend was—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Cook, can I just ask you to resume your seat for a moment. I need to take some advice from the table. Member for Cook, it has been brought to my

attention that you are speaking about topics which are contained in a bill which is upon the table of the House. You are free to do so as long as you do not discuss the merits of the bill in particular or debate the bill substantively.

Mr KEMPTON: Absolutely, thank you. A worrying trend emerged with increasing threats of vigilantism and the Katter party's ill-founded Castle Law. Something had to give as the community reached breaking point. Similar to my friend in Barron River, when I decided to contest the seat of Cook after a 10-year absence, I was attracted to the Crisafulli LNP position on law and order. In fact it became the centrepiece of my campaign as the sitting member had fallen silent on the issue. The polling in the highly impacted areas proved that the issue was front of mind to many.

My electorate was not disappointed, as in the six months since taking office the Crisafulli LNP government has done what it said it would do. We have enacted the Making Queensland Safer Laws in our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy. We have boosted serving police numbers, with the biggest intake of new recruits in decades. All of the police stations in my electorate of Cook are now fully manned with the exception of Weipa which will have a full complement of officers by the end of May. We have empowered magistrates and judges to order detention of repeat and serious offenders according to the seriousness of the offence and community standard and not as a matter of last resort. We have improved remediation and rehabilitation of offenders whilst in detention to give them the best chance of avoiding a life of crime upon release. We have made Jack's Law permanent, allowing police to detect weapons in public places. We are attaching electronic devices to serious and repeat offenders when on bail or parole.

The Crisafulli LNP government got tough on crime. It put victims' rights before those of offenders. It had a plan and stuck to it, notwithstanding the bleating criticism of the usual suspects who championed Labor's soft approach to youth crime and put the offenders' rights over those of victims. In six months there has been reason to have cautious optimism as we begin to see offenders thinking twice about committing offences in the face of these tough laws.

In my seat of Cook which overlaps the seat of Leichhardt, I have had the pleasure of travelling around with my friend and colleague Jeremy Neal, the coalition candidate for the seat of Leichhardt. He has been a continual and vocal supporter of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws in the north, as he has been into the communities with me and listened. This is in stark contrast to the disinterest of the Labor candidate for Leichhardt, Mr Matt Smith, who I have not seen in the electorate at all in the last six months. I have not heard from him on the issue of youth crime and he has shown disinterest. A vote for Labor and Matt Smith in the seat of Leichhardt is a return to the old ways of Labor putting victims last.

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (2.37 pm): The Premier and the LNP promised Queenslanders that they would govern with integrity and transparency and that there would be ministerial accountability. Like so many of the promises that have been given by this LNP government, they were hollow words that meant nothing because all that we have got when it comes to the explosion at Callide Power Station's C3 unit is cover-ups, blow-ups, deflection of blame and avoidance of any responsibility or accountability.

The energy minister was briefed on the explosion on the same day that it occurred, according to the information that has been provided to the opposition. However, the energy minister failed to mention it at the time as well as at a speech on 8 April at the Queensland Energy Club. Worse still, at this speech in front of the energy industry here in Queensland, the energy minister not only failed to mention the explosion but deliberately did not mention it when in that speech he spoke about the Callide Power Station. This was an absolute cover-up. We know that photos were sent to the Treasurer's office and we know that media statements were sent to the Treasurer's office, yet this Treasurer and energy minister has continued to sidestep questions. He actively avoided telling the Queensland public what he knew and when he knew it, including when he notified the Premier about the explosion at Callide C3.

What we have seen from this government is deflection and blame-shifting, and there have been many who have been thrown under the cover-up bus that was driven out of Callide under LNP. We have seen the CEO of CS Energy lose their job. We have seen two urgent board meetings that were called in the wake of the explosion—actually, let me be more specific—in the wake of the revelations that the explosion had been covered up. There was a first board meeting on 13 April where the plant

manager at CS Energy then lost their job. Then there was another extraordinary board meeting on 16 April when the board itself took the blame for the explosion.

This cover-up bus, it turns out, is being driven by none other than former deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, who is on the CS Energy board. Probably most extraordinary about the statement that the board issued is that it cites inadequate reporting of serious issues to senior management, the board and the relevant ministers. Take a moment to consider that. They are blaming the workers at the power station—not the senior management, not the board, not the minister, but the actual workers who work at the power station. That is who they are throwing under the bus. That is what we can expect from this LNP government.

Mr Head: The CEO and the general manager is senior management. He is calling the CEO and the general manager 'the workers'.


Mr McCALLUM: I can hear a low incomprehensible rumble, so that is probably the member for Callide trying to interject, the member who has the very power station that exploded in his electorate and has not done a thing about it—

Mr Head interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Callide, you have had a good go.

Mr McCALLUM:—which is absolutely indicative of this government. It is absolutely disgraceful! So what we have here is an energy minister who refuses to answer questions. He has refused to answer what advice he gave CS Energy about releasing those draft media statements in relation to the explosion. He has refused to answer or reveal any role that he had in the sackings at CS Energy. He has refused to answer today when his office received photos of the explosion. Under the LNP, power prices are going up, while our power stations are blowing up.

Youth Crime

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (2.42 pm) I rise on behalf of the electorate of Mundingburra, the people of Townsville and the people of North Queensland to talk on the crime crisis which has engulfed North Queensland and Far North Queensland. Just over half an hour ago in this chamber, we heard the member for Woodridge say that he was going to address the greatest challenge facing Queenslanders. Like everybody else, I was waiting with bated breath. Was it going to be the cost-of-living crisis? Was it going to be the health crisis? Was it going to be the housing crisis? Was it going to be the crime crisis? He addressed none of those—absolutely nothing. It was the 'incompetence of the LNP Crisafulli government'. Let me tell you what that 'incompetence' looks like.

Yesterday, the front page of the *Courier-Mail* said, 'Youth crime rates plunge'. It is true; the new figures do show that Adult Crime, Adult Time is starting to have an impact. In Townsville, we have seen those green shoots, in the offending data and in court cases. Approximately two hours ago, the officer-in-charge of the Townsville CIB, Detective Senior Sergeant Chris Caswell, spoke to the media in relation to recent property crime arrests and charges in Townsville. Since 1 April 2025, Townsville police have charged 17 people with 125 property crime offences. Townsville police charged three teenagers with 81 offences—I will say that again—three teenagers were charged with 81 property crime offences alleged to have occurred over the long weekend. That is an average of 27 charges each. But crime is still down under this LNP Crisafulli government. These youth offenders will be charged under our new Making Queensland Safer Laws. They committed an adult crime and they will receive adult time.

This progress comes on the back of the changes we have made and the commitments we have delivered on. We committed to putting in place the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws before Christmas, and we delivered on that promise. We committed to appointing an expert legal panel to advise on the next tranche, and we delivered on that promise. We said that we would give our police the resources, the laws and the tools they needed to do their job, and we are continuing to deliver on that promise. We are making Jack's Law, allowing our police to use metal detectors to combat knife crime, permanent and we are expanding it to all public spaces. We introduced the new State Flying Squad made up of additional permanent police positions, so we are not pulling and stripping officers from other units to conduct that work.

We are seeing the benefits of that support with our police. We have a healthy QPS recruitment pipeline. People now want to join the Queensland Police Service because, for the first time in a long time, they have a government who backs them. But we are not finished. We are continuing to do the

work needed to fulfil our commitment to fewer victim numbers and a safer state. Our early intervention programs will be introduced to put an end to the cycle of crime—the cycle that those opposite created.

We know it will take more than six months to unravel 10 years of Labor's chaos and crisis, but to that we say, 'Bring it on!' With nearly 30 years of service with the Queensland Police Service under my belt, I have seen firsthand how the weakening by Labor of the youth crime laws created that chaos and crisis, and Townsville was the first city to call it out.

Those opposite created a generation of untouchables. Those opposite created the youth crime crisis, and now those opposite will watch us clean up their mess. We will not stop. We will do whatever it takes to reduce victim numbers and make Queensland a safer place.

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (2.47 pm): What a month for the—hang on, I just have to check my political strife scale here—oh, the embattled Treasurer. April Fools' is usually just a day, but for him it has fast become April Fools' month—an explosion, a cover-up, a budget blowout and a man in hiding. Now Queenslanders are asking themselves, 'How can we trust this bloke to deliver the budget for this state when he cannot even manage his own portfolio? How can we trust the Premier when the Treasurer still has his job and still has to hand down the budget?'

I am sure just before the start of April, the Treasurer was really looking forward to the month ahead. It was his chance to show the Premier that he finally could do it, after being hidden through the election campaign and choosing to go on holiday rather than delivering MYFER last year—this was his big chance. He had his keynote speech scheduled in front of the entire energy sector, but just like that, it all went up in smoke. Callide exploded the Friday before and, instead of being open and accountable, just like the Premier said his ministers would be, he absolutely failed to mention it in his speech. He was caught juicing the figures on CopperString, so much so that Powerlink, the government owned corporation responsible for delivering the project, had to correct what he said. He did not even tell the Premier until the morning after the media got the drop.

So embarrassed—as you would be—he tried to hide. While the health minister fronted the cameras previewing his plan to delay thousands of hospital beds beyond 2028, the Treasurer's office was telling journalists, 'No, he will not be standing up today'—until he was dragged out of 1 William Street at 4.30 in the afternoon. It was not a good idea, after all, because his performance was so bad he was sent back into witness protection. He was not even allowed to stand up for his hospital in Toowoomba, the project just down the road from his electorate office. It was myself and the member for Woodridge who had to go up to Toowoomba and say to the community, 'We do not stand for these cuts to your hospital.' He would not even come out of his electorate office and answer questions. It was only when CS Energy was forced to take the blame that he decided to stand up—20 days after the explosion and after his creative accounting when it came to the cost of CopperString.

How can Queenslanders trust this man? He has refused to answer when his office received photos of the explosion, refused to answer when he told the Premier. He stuffed up on cooking the books to avoid building CopperString. As they say, it is never the crime, it is always the cover-up that gets you. There was a meeting with CS Energy before they took the blame. Who was in the meeting? What was the advice that was given? Did the board endorse the statement where they took the blame in an official board meeting? I have no doubt that the Treasurer will use every shortcut and staircase to avoid the gallery this week but if the Premier had an ounce of decency—any belief in his own mantra about openness and transparency—then he would tell the Treasurer to address the media, or at least this chamber, otherwise the only option is to move the political strife scale from 'embattled Treasurer' to 'former', although maybe that is something some of those opposite might want to see.

The member for Mudgeeraba is licking her lips at the prospect of taking the Treasurer's job. She is currently the minister for stationary and petty change. Nobody has asked the member for Mudgeeraba what she knew about the explosion. She is the other shareholding minister, although you would never know it. Nobody has asked her because nobody expects her to do anything. Let's be honest. Nobody has even asked the member for Mudgeeraba about what she has done about US trade negotiations or tariffs because nobody expects her to achieve anything. The Premier has been out there saying the member for Mudgeeraba has been doing a great job working with industry on these tariffs. What has she been doing? What have we heard? There has not been anything coming from the member for Mudgeeraba, the Minister for Finance. She is too busy licking her lips trying to take over from the Treasurer when he becomes 'former'. It shows that after a failing and flailing Treasurer, the whole LNP government is full of uninspiring and accident-prone MPs.

Thuringowa Electorate, Anzac Day; Community Safety



Ms MARR (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise today to address this House on matters that go to the very core of what it means to live safely and securely in our state—community safety and law enforcement. These are not just policies. They are the foundation of public confidence and the peace of mind of Queensland families who deserve nothing less than to feel safe in their homes, on their streets and during the community events that bring us together. Just days ago during the solemn and deeply respected Anzac Day parade in Thuringowa—a day that unites us in honouring our past and reflecting on the values of courage, sacrifice and unity—a disturbing situation unfolded. A stolen vehicle that had already been harassing and endangering the community throughout the morning, was reported rampaging dangerously close to the Anzac march. This was not just any street; it was a road lined with schoolchildren, families, Scouts, veterans, serving personnel and proud residents. Our entire community was there to pay their respects—not to fear for their lives. The behaviour of these thugs is unacceptable.

As the parade participants stood assembled ready to march the threat became imminent but in that moment of crisis, our Queensland police officers acted without hesitation. Their professionalism and decisive actions ensured everyone was removed from the roadway and taken to safety. Supporting them from above was the police helicopter which played a critical, strategic role in tracking the vehicle. This coordination allowed officers on the ground to act swiftly with full awareness and to bring the incident under control. This was a textbook demonstration of modern policing at its best—technology and frontline expertise working seamlessly together. Harm was prevented.

On behalf of my community and all Queenslanders, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Queensland Police Service. Their commitment to public safety continues to make a meaningful difference every single day. I also want to commend the organisers and the people of Thuringowa who, in the face of fear, frustration and disruption, showed nothing but calm, respect and unity. An alternate parade route was found and the event continued. Since Anzac Day, I can report that 17 individuals have been charged with 125 offences, including the three juveniles who were responsible for 81 of those charges.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 231 in relation to the anticipation of debate. There are a number of bills on the *Notice Paper* which go to matters that the member is traversing in her speech. She is alluding to offences which could be included in the list of offences there and I ask you to urge her to ensure her contribution does not anticipate debate on the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Thank you. I will take some advice. Member for Thuringowa, you are free to speak about the matters you have been mentioning but you must not do so in reference to, or in anticipation of, debate of the bill which is upon the table of the House in respect of these matters, so I ask you to be mindful of that when you continue your contribution.


Ms MARR: I will be very mindful, thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is a clear indication that the rule of law is prevailing and the police are not merely reacting to crime; they are dismantling the networks and the individuals behind it. We are also beginning to see the results of our efforts statewide, with a recent decline in offences across Queensland. In Townsville, there has been a small decrease in the unlawful use of a motor vehicle when compared to the same time as last year. These are encouraging signs but let me be absolutely clear: although we welcome this progress, one short-term gain does not mean our long-term work is over. We are coming off the back of a high crime rate from the former Labor government.

In Townsville, we have seen the consequences of legislative weakness. What began as opportunistic crime, escalated under Labor. The weakening of the Youth Justice Act by the former Labor government has given a generation of youth offenders the impression that there are no consequences. Under the former Labor government we experienced more offences, more violence and a community left feeling vulnerable, even under siege. We will not hide when times are tough—like those opposite did—while the people of Townsville continue to beg for the right to be safe in their homes and on their streets. They were told it was a beat-up, yet every night the fear of lying in bed waiting for a thug to enter your home, sometimes with a weapon, and demand your keys, kept people awake. Our Making Queensland Safer laws and the first tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Crime laws was our strong commitment to our community. We will continue to listen and continue to be tough on crime, to be firm on accountability and consequences for actions and to act with the strength and determination that Queenslanders expect and deserve. We will not shy away when the path gets hard and we will not back down in the face of challenge or confrontation because this government is committed to restoring order,

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rebuilding trust and ensuring every Queenslanders in every community can live without fear and is putting victims first. This remains non-negotiable.

Leadership

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.58 pm): Pope Francis made positive change in so many realms through equity, compassion and collaboration without creating division. It is a wonderful example of leadership and what we should all aspire to. It is six months since the state election, a federal election is looming and more than ever Queenslanders are frustrated by what appears to be an inability of governments at any level to manage their responsibilities in a respectful and factual manner. Having fought for better behaviours in politics, which I raised in my maiden speech in this chamber in 2018, to say I have been deeply disappointed by the toxicity between the two sides since October is an understatement.

Everyone says they want to see better behaviours in our youth and communities and an end to bullying in our schools and yet we cannot lead by example and debate in a civil and respectful manner. This does not pass the pub test and neither does the fact that our resource-rich country is nowhere to be seen in the top 10 indices of sustainability or that our power, fuel and housing prices are unaffordable. Hardworking Queenslanders and our retirees want to know why. They are not interested in the bickering, whitewashing, blame and cherrypicking of data, nor in bandaid slogans. They want evidence-based solutions, transparency, facts and simple answers to simple questions.

As an independent MP, that is what I am requesting in answer to the many questions they raise on the street, including the following. Where is the independent inquiry into Queensland's COVID response in order to prepare for the next pandemic and to fix the fallouts we continue to see, including mental health? Why is the hoodwinking on those postal vote applications allowed to continue? How can governments talk of transparency when data provided is selective to suit a narrative, not in efforts to remedy the reality? Where is the review into our flawed committee system? Why are those who derive the greatest wealth from resources owned by all Australians pay so little in comparison to the taxes paid by low- to middle-income workers? Another one is: why do we acknowledge in this chamber our First Nations people and previous MPs yet not those who lost their lives for the freedoms we enjoy?

When can we have a decent, factual debate on realities, including the failings in our systems and economy, so we can move beyond the bandaiding to get to the resolving? Just one example is housing and its contributors to our crisis. As honourable members know—and I have spoken about it in this chamber before—we have homes being used commercially in residential areas, yet for years we have heard that injurious affection laws prevent these homes being returned to the long-term residential rental pool. Why do we say that a threshold of under \$800,000 is acceptable as a gauge of affordability when our banks will only loan a maximum of \$450,000 to the working couples who come to my office? How about getting rid of stamp duty on all homes for first home buyers, not just new builds? In all of this housing chaos, where were the analysts who are paid vast sums by governments to forecast the ramifications of decisions made? They obviously have gotten some things very wrong, or again has this been a case of governments ignoring independent, evidence-based expert advice for their own interests? These are just some examples of the many questions asked.

It is time for leaders to answer Queenslanders with integrity and transparency without getting personal, blaming others or looking for sensational media grabs. It is time for our state and country to have leaders who will collaborate and move beyond the combativeness of our immature parliaments to deliver a roof over everyone's head, water security, affordable, nutritious food, flexible education and medical care. That is in order to pass the pub test, as Pope Francis did. May he rest in peace knowing the legacy he left moved beyond religion to one of a template for all politicians.


The last federal election saw over 30 per cent of votes going away from the two major parties. What will be interesting is whether Australians are going to use their vote to send a very clear message that more of the same is no longer going to work and that they want candidates and parties that are able to pass the pub test, or the 'Pope Francis' test.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 927, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.04 pm), continuing: I finished on a hypothetical that clearly touched a nerve of the Attorney-General. For the LNP government to come into this chamber now and try to rewrite history as them being some bastions of democracy and integrity is laughable. The LNP chairperson of the committee stated in his foreword that he was proud to be a part of a government that seeks to restore public confidence, transparency and important reporting powers to the CCC. I wonder if he was proud of the actions of the previous LNP government in respect of matters related to the CCC or the then Crime and Misconduct Commission. We all remember the member for Kawana as the then attorney-general during the Newman LNP government when he supported the removal of their members, the then PCMC, the now PCCC, on Christmas Eve. We all remember the involvement of the member for Kawana as the then attorney-general in the Ken Levy affair. Of course, John Sosso was the director-general of the justice department during that time working for the member for Kawana. There seems to be a theme here: the member for Kawana, the worst attorney-general in our state's history, and his sidekick John Sosso.

Labor has a strong track record of integrity reforms in this state, whether it is corruption reform, Integrity Commissioner reform, oversight body reform, electoral reforms, implementation of protocols to ensure the independent appointment of judicial officers, enhanced donation law reform, four-year fixed terms—I could go on. I have to say it was pleasing to note that the chairperson of the committee did raise the Fitzgerald inquiry in the public hearings a number of times because, as has been mentioned, the outcomes of that reform sparked a number of really positive integrity enhancements and, indeed, democratic enhancements across Queensland in the years and decades subsequent. It is important we still remain truthful and faithful to the recommendations of Fitzgerald, even in our modern times.

Mrs Frecklington: Eighteen minutes notice, optional preferential voting.

Ms SCANLON: I can hear the interjections of the Attorney-General. I suggest that she listen because clearly she has not been listening to the words of Tony Fitzgerald.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I have given you a bit of latitude but I cannot see much of a link between the themes you are exploring and the purposes of this particular bill to do with reporting by the CCC. Can you explain to me how what you are saying is relevant to the bill, please?

Ms SCANLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, as mentioned, these were remarks made by the LNP chair of the committee about the Fitzgerald inquiry. They are very relevant to this bill given the CCC was created as a consequence of the Fitzgerald inquiry recommendations, but I will continue on.

It is important that we remain truthful and faithful to the recommendations of Fitzgerald, even in our modern times. That is why it is so disappointing that the Attorney-General, as the Minister for Integrity in Queensland, failed to heed the recent calls of Tony Fitzgerald to ensure that our electoral redistribution process is beyond reproach.

Mrs Frecklington: Mr Speaker—

Ms SCANLON: I know the Attorney-General does not like me talking about it. If I were her I would not like me talking about it either. The chairperson of the committee raised the Fitzgerald inquiry and the chairperson of the CCC, so it is important we talk about the origins of these integrity bodies. There were two very significant recommendations from those reforms, which were the establishment of the Criminal Justice Commission, the CJC, and the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, which was to review electoral boundaries. We all know that the Criminal Justice Commission morphed into the Queensland Crime Commission which morphed into the Crime and Misconduct Commission which then morphed into the Crime and Corruption Commission and then subsequently was enhanced by Labor governments.

This history lesson is important because we owe a lot to Tony Fitzgerald for his report and to bring Queensland into the light from those dark days, the dark days—

Mrs Frecklington:—of the Palaszczuk-Miles years.

Ms SCANLON:—that Tony Fitzgerald warned about in the paper recently because of some of the reports and actions taken by the Crisafulli government.

Mrs Frecklington: Let the sunshine in.

Ms SCANLON: So it is hard to take the Attorney-General seriously when they are acting on Fitzgerald inquiry recommendations on one hand to ensure we have a strong investigative body such

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as the now Crime and Corruption Commission to which the laws before us today relate, but on the other hand they are determined to go against the multiple warnings including from Tony Fitzgerald.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask for your ruling again in relation to the contribution from the member for Gaven with respect to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you a counterpoint, Manager of Opposition Business?

Mr de BRENNI: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The matters to which the shadow attorney-general refers were matters of substantial discussion and appear in the transcripts from the committee inquiry and, as such, are consistent with the Speaker's ruling that he circulated earlier today—definitely very consistent with the Speaker's ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, you have some latitude to explore and elucidate the history behind Fitzgerald and the origins of the CCC, but I think you have exhausted that avenue and you should come back to being relevant to the bill. In response to the point of order by the Manager of Opposition Business, the Speaker's ruling today was quite explicit in ruling out selective uses of the odd sentence here and there in a submission or in transcripts to divert debate away from the long title of the bill, so while I am in the chair we will proceed on that basis.


Ms SCANLON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am happy to move on, but I think the contents of the committee report are relevant and these matters were mentioned multiple times in the committee process.

Government members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I will move on. I know those opposite do not like talking about it, so I will move on. In conclusion, I reiterate that the Labor opposition believes and supports laws that empower the Crime and Corruption Commission and indeed any integrity body to get on with their important job. However, these laws need to be appropriate to not only empower them to do their job but also ensure the rights of individuals are protected.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. The government did not support his bill and he seems to have rewritten it, so I would not be interjecting given the new Attorney-General did not introduce the bill that he had drafted. As I have mentioned previously, the LNP has form in trashing democracy and we will continue to monitor the LNP government and hold it to account. It is really important that we have oversight bodies to ensure these laws are put into effect appropriately. As I have mentioned, we support enhanced reporting powers of the CCC. We are disappointed though that the so-called Minister for Integrity has rushed through amendments with no proper consultation and destroyed any integrity this government may have had left.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.12 pm): I rise as chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to speak in strong support of the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 and the amendments as put forward by the Attorney-General. I want to place on record my thanks to the committee members and the secretariat. We have indeed been a very busy committee and the secretariat has been outstanding in its assistance in ensuring our reporting timeframes to the House are met, and I thank it for that.

This bill is an important milestone. It restores to the Crime and Corruption Commission the powers it needs to uphold integrity in Queensland—powers that had been weakened by a combination of legal rulings and political gamesmanship by the former Labor government. It also fulfils a core election commitment made by the Crisafulli government to restore transparency, accountability and integrity to our public institutions. Queenslanders voted for change. They voted for openness. They voted for an end to the culture of secrecy that had taken hold under the Palaszczuk-Miles government. This bill is a direct response to that call. It ensures that never again can a government hide important CCC findings and the truth from the people of Queensland who deserve to know.

The committee received 11 submissions from key stakeholders including the CCC, Queensland Law Society and other legal experts and also heard evidence at public briefings and hearings and considered detailed material provided by the Department of Justice. Many stakeholders recognised the urgent need to restore the CCC's public reporting powers in a way that balances transparency with individual rights. Importantly, the CCC itself supported the bill, noting that restoring its ability to report publicly was vital to maintain public confidence in Queensland's anti-corruption framework. After thorough consideration, the committee made one recommendation, and that is that the bill be passed.

The bill strikes an appropriate balance between empowering the CCC to act and protecting individual rights through strong procedural fairness measures. This bill responds to serious failures under the former Labor government. We know that Labor fought tooth and nail to keep reports into misconduct by senior officials hidden from the public. It spent taxpayers' money to mount legal battles aimed at suppressing the truth. Most notably, the CCC reports into former deputy premier Jackie Trad and former public trustee Peter Carne were withheld from public release for years. Jackie Trad was found by the CCC to have inappropriately interfered in the recruitment of the Under Treasurer, applying aggressive pressure to change the outcome of a merit-based process. Peter Carne, meanwhile, was reported to have presided over a workplace where serious allegations including drunkenness, harassment of staff and misuse of public resources occurred. Rather than confronting these findings honestly, the former Labor government tried to bury them. Jackie Trad herself launched Supreme Court proceedings to prevent the release of the report into her actions. It was only the election of the Crisafulli government that finally brought these reports into the public domain, as we had promised the people of Queensland we would do. The public has a right to know when corruption risks arise in government. This bill ensures that right is protected going forward.

The bill restores and strengthens the CCC's role in a number of ways. Firstly, the bill grants the CCC an explicit power to report publicly about corruption investigations at any time. This corrects the uncertainty created by the High Court's 2023 decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* which found that the CCC lacked clear authority to publish investigation reports under the Crime and Corruption Act. The CCC will now have a firm legal foundation for releasing reports, media statements or updates when it considers it appropriate. Of course, with power comes responsibility. That is why the bill introduces a clear, robust set of criteria that the CCC must consider before releasing information. These include weighing the public interest in disclosure against potential harm to individuals, risks to ongoing proceedings and other relevant factors. The safeguards ensure that the CCC's actions will be principled, fair and responsive to each individual case without handcuffing the commission's ability to inform the public when necessary.

The bill also contains enhanced existing procedural fairness requirements. Where a person may be subject to adverse comment in a CCC report, they must be notified and provided with relevant material and given a fair opportunity to respond. Clear timeframes are set and the right to seek review by the Supreme Court is enshrined, ensuring that individual rights are respected without compromising the commission's efficiency.

The bill also fixes an important structural weakness. Previously the tabling of CCC reports required political approval via the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. This introduced the risk of political interference. The new process requires that CCC reports go directly to the Speaker, the Attorney-General and the PCCC chair. The Speaker must then table the report on the next sitting day, ensuring transparency and respecting the CCC's independence.

Finally, the bill validates all past CCC reports and public statements, removing any uncertainty caused by the High Court's ruling. This ensures that reports into the actions of figures such as Jackie Trad and Peter Carne remain publicly accessible and beyond legal challenge. Queenslanders will be able to read those reports and any others, secure in the knowledge that their validity is guaranteed.

This bill presents a sharp contrast in values between this government and the one that came before it. While Labor hid CCC findings, we are enshrining openness in law. While Labor fought to keep the public in the dark, we are legislating for the public's right to know. Labor's legacy was secrecy; the Crisafulli government's legacy will be accountability. We believe that Queenslanders deserve nothing less than the full truth, even when it is politically inconvenient—especially when it is politically inconvenient. We believe integrity in public office is non-negotiable and we believe that sunlight is the best disinfectant.

The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 restores the CCC's ability to do what it was always intended to do—that is, to independently investigate corruption, to report fearlessly and to uphold public trust in our institutions. It gives the commission clear authority, appropriate safeguards, stronger procedural fairness protections and absolute independence from political interference. It validates past reports, it protects Queenslanders' right to know and it ensures that the cover-ups of the past cannot be repeated. This bill is a victory for transparency, a victory for integrity and, above all, a victory for the people of Queensland. I commend the bill and the amendments to the House.



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.21 pm): I rise to support the bill in my capacity as a member of the Crime and Corruption Commission's parliamentary oversight body, the PCCC. I am sure

that all members of this House agree that it is vitally important that the CCC is able to report and make public statements on matters that may not result in a finding of corruption, and I will get to some of the reasons for that later. The Queensland opposition supports empowering the Crime and Corruption Commission to undertake its important work. Of course, that includes the ability to report or comment on those previously outlined matters. As we know, until recently the CCC genuinely believed that they had the legislative power and ability to publish those kinds of reports. However, that was found not to be the case. That is why it is important that the CCC has clarity on how they can operate moving forward. As members know, the High Court of Australia found that the Crime and Corruption Commission did not have that public reporting ability and this legislation will remedy that.

Today, as we have throughout history, this Queensland Labor team will support enhanced integrity measures in Queensland, in particular through increasing the powers and ability of the Crime and Corruption Commission in a measured and considered way. Earlier today, in her speech the Attorney-General mentioned that the CCC may need to make a statement in order to refute reputational damage that may have occurred and I could not agree more.

I cannot help but reflect on a previous CCC report into Operation Workshop, which was published because those opposite came into parliament and for months made allegations that there was a raid on the Office of the Integrity Commissioner. Those allegations were made for political purposes. The CCC felt moved to issue a public report to refute the allegations made by those opposite in parliament. For months, in the parliament those opposite asked, 'What's on the laptop?' The inference from the LNP opposition was that the former premier was engaged in wrongful behaviour against the Integrity Commissioner and that her office had involvement in a raid on the Integrity Commissioner's office for the purpose of suppressing some kind of information.

The CCC had a very different view of what happened and wrote a report to clear up what they referred to as misinformation in the public domain courtesy of those opposite. The CCC drafted a report and an explanation of why they elected to release that report. As stated in its report, the CCC investigated—

- i. Whether there was any improper disclosure of information by an officer working in the Integrity Commissioner's office
- ii. The circumstances surrounding the 'raid' on the Integrity Commissioner's office and the 'seizure' of laptops from that office
- iii. The information security arrangements in relation to the confidential information held by the Integrity Commissioner.

The report continues—

In relation to those three matters, the investigation concluded that:

- i. There was no evidence of improper disclosure.
- ii. The circumstances in which the laptops were retrieved from the Integrity Commissioner's office were entirely ordinary, and the descriptions of 'raid' and 'seizure' do not reflect the reality of what occurred. Further, the circumstances in which one laptop was 'wiped' are wholly unremarkable.

Under the proposed changes, those kinds of reports would continue to be able to be released and I think that is really important. In my view, members of this House have a responsibility to verify the information that they release into the public domain. While it is useful that the CCC can elect to release a public report to clear up misinformation, the fact is that they should not have to waste their time and precious resources not only investigating but also drafting and publishing reports to clear up political misinformation peddled for political gain.

As I stated earlier, the Labor opposition supports this legislation. However, I do have some questions. In almost 10 years in opposition, the LNP introduced just one private member's bill, which I have a copy of. It was the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023. Considering that they introduced only one bill, you would think that they would have taken the time to get it right. Indeed, I do recall that, in hearings with the committee at the time, the CCC endorsed that 2023 private member's bill. According to the CCC, that bill met their needs for the purposes of being able to release reports. The private member's bill introduced in 2023 by the then shadow attorney-general, Tim Nicholls, contained increased transparency measures when compared to this bill. I would be interested to hear from the Attorney-General why those provisions have been removed.

In addition, I note that the LNP government has diverted from the Holmes review, which is surprising as they did take the time to redraft the original private member's bill that they now somehow consider to be inadequate or not fit for purpose. I recognise that some of the suggestions made in the Holmes report were not supported by the CCC, which is something that Holmes herself anticipated when she noted in the report that she expected that not everybody would be happy with the

recommendations. However, her report was very considered. It deserves respect and it deserves to be considered in line with these legislative reforms. The fact that the Attorney-General has rejected some of the specific Holmes report recommendations begs the question, as I asked earlier: why not simply proceed with the original 2023 private member's bill as drafted, which could have been introduced to the House at any point because it had already been through a committee process?

I turn briefly to the amendments that were introduced this morning, giving us very little time to consider such important aspects of the legislation. The amendments circulated by the Attorney-General need closer examination. Some of these amendments are sensible and reasonable. However, others are an abuse of process and a blatant attempt to circumvent the committee process.


The Queensland opposition believes that the Crime and Corruption Commission needs to have the ability to make public their findings and to make public statements on their work to ensure that Queenslanders have confidence not only in the Crime and Corruption Commission but also in the democratic system as a whole. The bill enables the Crime and Corruption Commission to make statements at any time in their investigation as opposed to previously where that could be done only at the end. The Queensland Law Society has raised some issues with this. While it is noted that there is a discretionary power to make those comments at any point throughout the investigation, it is important to note that that discretion sits with the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission.

Members of this House will recall that that discretion has not always been used appropriately in the past. I became a serving member of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee part way through the Logan inquiry. It was a very long process. I would describe it as quite gruelling but the general view that we reached was that—

Mr Krause interjected.

Ms PUGH: I am not sure what that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim is about. He was the chair at the time. I would describe it as a gruelling inquiry that went on for a number of months. The discretion that is afforded the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission can have adverse consequences, as we saw in the Logan inquiry. People were impacted by that, as stated in that report, and that is something we all need to consider very seriously.

The opposition fundamentally believe that the Crime and Corruption Commission need to be able to make public statements and release public reports but it has to be fairly balanced. While we do support the legislation we have questions that need to be answered, and I look forward to hearing the Attorney-General answer those very important questions.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (3.31 pm): I am pleased to give my contribution to the House on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 as part of the Crisafulli LNP government that is committed to transparency and integrity in government. This bill was introduced by the Attorney-General and Minister for Integrity on 20 February 2025 and referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. The committee heard from a number of stakeholders regarding the operations of the Crime and Corruption Commission. As stated in the tabled report, the committee was satisfied that the bill complied with the Human Rights Act 2019 and made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

This bill seeks to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 in order to restore the power of the CCC to make public reports and statements. This will return the operations of the CCC to the prevailing understanding that was held prior to the High Court's decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*. That case found that the CCC did not have the power to release reports and statements to the public, other than in very limited circumstances.

The significant negative effects of this outcome became clear when the CCC removed 32 investigation reports and 256 media releases from its website. The court's decision even went against the understanding that the CCC had about its own operations, so it was essential that a bill be introduced to clarify the functions of the CCC and restore public confidence in our state's corruption watchdog. These amended powers will be implemented with mandatory safeguards, limiting the publishing of reports to a strict criterion where the risks of releasing information to the public regarding corruption matters do not outweigh the benefits that can be derived from publishing that information.

There are also requirements for the CCC to consider a range of matters before making the decision to include identifying information relating to individuals contained within a published report or media statement. Importantly, the bill before the House clarifies that the CCC does not have the power to make findings of corrupt conduct, as has always been the case. Instead, the commission is responsible for investigating allegations of corruption and presenting all relevant material to the

decision-making authority, which is then tasked with determining whether any further action is necessary. These restored reporting powers are vital to the functioning of the Crime and Corruption Commission, which at its core is there to provide Queenslanders with the assurance that their government is working transparently in accordance with the rules and in their best interests.

In September last year, the former government introduced the Crime and Corruption (Reporting) Amendment Bill 2024 just weeks before the parliament was due to be dissolved by the governor for the election. In the sneaky fashion that Queenslanders have come to associate with the Labor brand, it was clear that the bill would lapse before it had any chance of being debated. It was just another attempt to shut down any mention of their Labor pal former deputy premier Jackie Trad. This was rightfully called out at the time by the member for Glass House as 'a protection racket of the highest order'. I could not agree more with my colleague.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the former shadow attorney-general and member for Clayfield, who introduced the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023 to the previous parliament. That bill laid out the LNP's position on bringing the CCC back to a functionality consistent with the expectations of the public. I would also like to commend the Premier on appointing the first ever Minister for Integrity, who has been unreserved about our focus on bringing back accountability and transparency to government. It is the standard of a good government that works for the people of this state and shows respect for the trust that was placed in us by our electorates.

We know all too well that the Labor Party do not like Queenslanders being able to read reports of investigations into alleged corrupt conduct and make their own judgements about them. The former member for Redcliffe and the member for Waterford forked out wads of taxpayers' money to prevent reports into the Trad and Carne sagas from being released. They were more than happy to pay with the public purse as Jackie Trad took her matter to the Supreme Court and Peter Carne took his matter all the way to the High Court in order to keep those reports hidden away. Why were they so anxious to keep these reports secret? Why did they feel that Queenslanders' hard-earned money should be tipped in to help their Labor mates while hospital ramping skyrocketed, tens of thousands remained on the public housing waitlist and repeat criminals tore our communities apart?

Those reports have been published now, with thanks to the Attorney-General, and they do not paint a pretty picture of those dark years under the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. The report found there was aggressive pressure from Jackie Trad over the hiring process of her good friend and former under treasurer Frankie Carroll, who was found to be not appointable during the initial independent recruitment process. The CCC report also found that Anastasia Palaszczuk's director-general Dave Stewart had removed this reference to the candidate's lack of suitability following a significant increase in communication with Ms Trad. Mr Stewart even told the CCC that those 'extremely aggressive' conversations with Ms Trad influenced him to change his view on Mr Carroll's appointability. Not even former premier Anastasia Palaszczuk was safe from this torrent of abuse from Ms Trad. She detailed a phone conversation where she was yelled at and told in no uncertain terms to pick up the pen and sign the document.

The Attorney-General also released the CCC report into the conduct of former public trustee Peter Carne, who would often boast about his connections at the highest levels of the former Labor government. The allegations laid out in the report are emblematic of the culture of fear and intimidation that was rife throughout our state's public sector under those opposite where staff were scared of speaking out for fear of reprisal.

The allegations do not stop there. It was alleged that Mr Carne was frequently drunk at work, would harass his staff with remarks of a sexual nature and misused his corporate credit card to pay for boozy lunches at exclusive venues. They say that sometimes fact is stranger than fiction and the next allegation is truly the icing on the cake. The report states that, while in the role of Public Trustee, Mr Carne was alleged to have tasked public servants with writing his university assignments for him. The Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government spent \$1 million of Queenslanders' money on attempting to hide the report on this outrageous behaviour. It is a disgrace and simply unconscionable.

I believe that the foreword included in the Trad report from the CCC chairperson Bruce Barbour is particularly pertinent to this discussion. Mr Barbour warned that, if the Labor ministers failed to learn from the report, 'public cynicism about them will only increase, and we will all be the worse off for that'. As we know, those opposite did not listen to public servants when they were in government, so it should shock no-one that Mr Barbour's warning went totally unheeded. I have heard it constantly from residents in Capalaba since I put my hand up to represent them that they were sick and tired of a Labor government who had not listened to them and tried to avoid scrutiny at all costs.

After reading these reports it is clear why the Labor Party was so desperate to hide the truth from the public—because it would expose that these Labor governments were truly rotten to the core. Funnily enough, it brings to mind my high school days in English class—‘No legacy is so rich as honesty.’ The legacy of those opposite certainly falls short of that mark. That line comes from Shakespeare’s play *All’s Well That Ends Well*. It is fitting, given Labor seemed to be hoping the same would happen if they kept hiding the truth from Queenslanders.

Queenslanders could be forgiven for being shocked recently when the Premier did something with the announcement of our fantastic 2032 games plan—

(Time expired)



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (3.41 pm): As we have heard, this bill addresses a longstanding issue with the operation of the Crime and Corruption Commission, or the CCC, where the Australian High Court have found that the Crime and Corruption Act provided no power for the CCC to publish reports on investigations that do not end in corruption charges. This had the effect of stopping the release of reports such as the one into former MP Jackie Trad. Hence, this new bill addresses that court decision and provides a broad discretionary power for the CCC to report and make public statements about ‘corruption matters’, regardless of ultimately whether there are corruption charges.

A key issue found by the Queensland Law Society with the bill is the definition of ‘corruption matter’ in that the definition is overly broad and could produce unintended consequences. The department simply responded that it was government policy to bring in such changes. However, the unintended consequences must be considered, such as the definition covering frivolous or vexatious matters, cases that do not rise to serious or systemic corruption, and cases not yet finalised. While overall this is an important yet small reform of our public administration in efforts of transparency, the government needs to tackle a much wider set of issues to move Queensland forward and build trust in this arena.

First, I will go to controversial appointments. It is important that all appointments should have no conflicts and to avoid even the appearance of conflicts. Second, as I have been advocating for many years, the committee system of parliament needs an overhaul to properly fulfil the role as a parliamentary review system as envisaged in the Fitzgerald report. Currently we still have continual complaints by stakeholders that they have not had time to properly scrutinise proposed legislation, that government chairs have casting votes and that there is no routine publication of decisions and voting within committees—which all do not create the needed environment for bipartisan agreements or the transparency sought by Queenslanders.


Despite having public works in portfolio committee terms of reference, we see little to no examination of public works or effective oversight of subordinate legislation. Potential reforms have been submitted numerous times, including for a more efficient chamber where minor legislation could be handled by reformed committees, as is done in other unicameral parliaments effectively. The government can demonstrate a commitment to better decision-making and collaboration by sending a public inquiry terms of reference to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, instead of us still waiting—I think it has now been two years—for the CLA to make a decision as to whether a review is to be held.

Additionally, as part of better resource management and outcomes, we need to invest in addressing the public sector capability gaps identified in several reports. *Fault lines*, the independent COVID-19 review report, identified particularly the need for seeking broader advice and collaboration as well as greater transparency. The Coaldrake report identified a loss of capacity, compounded with a culture unwilling to give unfashionable points of views and dominated by short-term political thinking. I am sure we have heard this before! Given all of this, no wonder we have ended up in many crises—housing and otherwise.

We must—I reiterate—we must improve the transparency in government based on the Coaldrake blueprint. Yes, some recommendations have been implemented such as the release of cabinet documents. However, as seen in recent cabinet meetings, the use of ‘oral briefings’ means no briefing documents. There have been at least five oral briefings in the short life of this new government. Coaldrake also stated that he hoped greater scrutiny over what is deemed commercial-in-confidence will provide the impetus for a cultural shift towards much more openness in government, yet we have not seen any reforms to the right-to-information regime to address this. Information should be ‘pushed’ out versus the current ‘pull’ model.

The new government has a real opportunity to make much needed improvements to the operation of this chamber, and government, and to take Queensland into a new era of efficiency,

transparency and integrity. May they take the bold step and not replay what occurred this morning with these last-minute amendments that have not gone through the appropriate process. Thank you, as always, to the committee, the secretariat and submitters to the inquiry into this bill.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise today in support of the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill, a critical step towards restoring the accountability that our communities rightly expect and deserve. This bill is a direct and necessary response to the 2023 High Court decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*, which significantly restricted the CCC's ability to report publicly on matters arising from its corruption investigations. That decision raised serious concerns about whether the commission could continue to fulfil its role in keeping Queenslanders informed, especially when misconduct or wrongdoing was uncovered within our public institutions. The public expect more and they deserve more.

Transparency and accountability—two cornerstones of public trust—were severely undermined by the former Labor government. Under their watch, integrity in public office was not just neglected; it was dragged through the mud and disrespected. This was a total disregard for those they are meant to represent—not Labor mates but the people of Queensland. The *Trad* and *Carne* matters were not just controversies; they were a complete failure of leadership and a disgraceful public spectacle. The Crime and Corruption Commission, once empowered to act decisively and keep the public informed, was instead turned into a political pawn, stripped of the very tools it needed to maintain integrity in our institutions.

By addressing the legal limitations imposed by the court, this amendment bill restores clarity, balance and confidence in the CCC's reporting powers. Most importantly, it ensures that transparency is not sacrificed to legal ambiguity and that Queenslanders are never left in the dark when matters of public interest arise. We are restoring the powers necessary for the CCC to do its job.


The referral of the CCC amendment bill to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee was an important step in strengthening Queensland's oversight and accountability framework. The submissions received by the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee in relation to this bill reflect a balanced engagement from across the community. What is clear from the breadth of submissions is a shared commitment to strengthening public trust in our institutions. This bill responds to that call by striking the right balance and restoring essential powers, while embedding clear responsible checks. Many submitters strongly supported the restoration of the CCC's reporting powers, recognising the importance of transparency and public accountability in our integrity framework. Others raised valid points about the need to ensure that safeguards are robust and that individual rights and the integrity of investigations are not compromised.

Crucially, the amendment bill introduces firm safeguards to prevent the release of corruption related information when the risks or potential harm outweigh the public's right to know. This marks a deliberate and considered balance between transparency and the integrity of investigations. Under the bill, the CCC's powers to report or to issue public statements are now subject to a new set of criteria, criteria that give real weight to existing legal obligations to act independently, fairly and in the public interest. These safeguards reinforce the CCC's duty to ensure impartiality and protect the fairness of proceedings. Importantly, they also provide the CCC with flexibility to determine when disclosure truly serves the public interest without being boxed in by a rigid framework. The criteria are broad and non-exhaustive, allowing the CCC to consider all relevant factors before deciding whether to publish or to speak publicly. One of the core objectives of the Crime and Corruption Act is to strengthen integrity and reduce corruption within the public sector.

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During the public hearing, in response to a question it was noted that this amendment bill imposes a higher standard on elected officials. I personally welcome that. I stand in this parliament because I believe in genuine change that holds members of parliament to account and lifts the standards of integrity expected in public life. For the residents of Thuringowa and the Townsville region, confidence in government relies on knowing that decisions are made transparently and that misconduct is not hidden from view. My community expects openness from those in power and they deserve to be informed, not left in the dark. People in our region of Townsville deserve to know that when wrongdoing occurs within public institutions it will be investigated thoroughly and reported transparently. Restoring the CCC's ability to report on corruption strengthens the public's faith in this government's commitment to integrity. This bill is not just about restoring powers; it is about rebuilding public confidence and sending the clear message that this government—the LNP Crisafulli government—will not tolerate corruption, it will not be ignored and it most certainly will not be hidden.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Attorney-General for her unwavering dedication and passion in bringing this important bill before the House. Her commitment to strengthening the foundations of integrity within our public institutions is evident in both her words and her actions. As she rightly stated, the Crime and Corruption Commission must be equipped with all the necessary tools to effectively raise standards and uphold ethical conduct across the public sector. I could not agree more. Her leadership on this matter reflects a clear commitment to the high standards of conduct and accountability that public service demands, and I commend her for driving this critical reform with purpose and conviction. As a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I am proud to stand in support of this bill which upholds transparency, accountability and trust in our public institutions.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (3.52 pm): This is the first opportunity I have had to rise as a Catholic to express my condolences on the passing of Pope Francis. I extend my condolences and sympathies to all of the Catholics here in Queensland and around Australia and the world.

The Queensland opposition supports empowering the Crime and Corruption Commission to conduct its important functions, including restoring their ability to make public statements and reports. We have never shied away from that, but of course it must be in a structured and balanced manner. The CCC legislation operated under a number of successive governments of all persuasions, particularly in relation to the understood position regarding reporting; however, the High Court of Australia, the highest court in the land, determined otherwise with respect to the public reporting ability of the CCC.

This came about because when people are referred they have basic rights. They have the right to question the investigation being conducted against them. These rights were exercised by those under investigation and we must respect those rights. We must also respect their right to appeal to the High Court because, at the end of the day, in order to protect their rights they appealed to the High Court as they were rightly entitled to do. Neither Labor, the Premier nor any government or person determined the outcome of the High Court decision. This came about as a result of people exercising their rights, which were found to be correctly exercised.

In 2023 the High Court determined that what was occurring was not in line with the legislation, so we commissioned the Holmes review. Because these were complicated matters, it was undertaken by a respected former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland. The High Court decision changed things. No matter what anyone says about fixing or whatever, we were confronted with the decision of the High Court and we took it to a respected former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, our No. 1 justice person. There were recommendations that came from the review, but we now find that the government has not only diverted from those recommendations but they have also diverted from their own private member's bill. They had one position before the election, but now the Attorney-General has come in with another position in relation to this bill. It is very interesting in such a short amount of time because they could have introduced their original bill and just got on with it. This demonstrates these are complicated issues that require great scrutiny.

I would also point out that, when members get up and speak about Jackie Trad or Peter Carne, there were no findings against those two individuals. The finding of the CCC was that there was insufficient evidence in relation to Jackie Trad to constitute any criminal offence or misconduct. In spite of what the highest court in the land said in relation to that report, this government took the bold view that they would release it. That was unprecedented and quite unbelievable. Now we find that a number of other amendments have come at the last minute. Intentionally or as a result of incompetence, this government has included last-minute amendments to the bill, bypassing committee scrutiny and not giving Queenslanders the opportunity to comment on these amendments. Those opposite changed their position from when they were in opposition to government. They are complicated issues. Questions must be asked as to why some of these provisions were not included in the original version of the bill or other relevant bills this government has put forward. That includes changing the CCC chairperson appointment length from 10 years to one seven-year term. Where has that come from? Two five-year terms now revert to seven years. Where is the scrutiny around that? This should have been in the bill originally. Whether it was as a result of incompetence or otherwise, it has been left out and the committee cannot now provide adequate comment in relation to it.

Similarly, this government has now introduced amendments to the Youth Justice Act to address what we always claimed would happen—unintended consequences—during the debate. Why was this not included in amendments that are now currently before the committee? Where is the scrutiny? Where is the integrity of the Minister for Integrity and Attorney-General in bringing these amendments in? They have now realised that orders could be misinterpreted and put into the criminal history of young people.

The LNP went to the election with a slogan. These are complicated laws and we need time to scrutinise them—not play politics. We are coming in here, time after time, playing politics on something that affects people's lives—the victims, the perpetrators, the courts, the families and every single one of us in here. There is a bill before the House and now they are rushing in amendments because of unintended consequences, just as we said would happen and as the shadow attorney-general said on a number of occasions. This is a government that is not fit to govern and a minister who does not know what she is doing. It is clear in what we have before us—

Government members interjected.


Ms GRACE: Those opposite may laugh but they know that there is truth in what I am saying.

Every day, Queenslanders are seeing these laws that were supposed to fix everything by Christmas doing anything but. The media have cottoned on, rightfully asking the Premier what are his KPIs and why is he refusing to tell Queenslanders. The government's ongoing failures continue to be on show with amendment after amendment being introduced and rushed in this House. They are not up to the job and Queenslanders are waking up to it.

Not only are they introducing rushed amendments; they also continue to fail to listen to the experts, with this bill delaying respect at work laws. You would have to be bewildered, just as the Human Rights Commissioner said he was. Why would the government be delaying strengthening the definition of sexual harassment? Why would the government be delaying laws around subjecting someone to a work environment that is hostile on the ground of sex and making businesses responsible for proactively ensuring a workplace is free of sexual harassment? Why would anyone want to delay that, particularly after what the Human Rights Commissioner said? The commission heard from many people. Across the course of the review, the commission conducted more than 120 stakeholder consultations, four public consultations and six round tables and received 159 written submissions and over 1,100 responses to an online survey. That was still not enough consultation and we have to delay it. I table that statement for the benefit of everyone in the House.

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 14 March 2025, from the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Scott McDougall, regarding the delay on anti-discrimination law changes.

On the amendments regarding Forensic Science Queensland, we wanted this thing to be fixed. A timeframe was given; clearly they have not met that. Of course we would have extended the timeframe before destroying DNA. That was said at the time. Those opposite should stop rewriting history. We would have continued to have kept that and we said this was a reform journey that would take time. We wanted those victims to be handled quickly and exponentially, but of course we would never impact those victims and we will not be lectured to by those opposite in relation to it. They are not the only ones in this state with the ability to feel for victims. I take umbrage every time they get up and make out as if they are the only ones who care for victims. It is insulting, it is embarrassing and they should be ashamed of themselves for continuing to do that. On this side we will always support strengthening the CCC, but there are measures that you have to take to make sure they are correct. That is why we are supporting this bill.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.02 pm): I am pleased to be able to rise and make a contribution to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. It is quite an interesting opportunity to be able to rise after the member for McConnel criticised this government for introducing amendments when she was the racing minister who introduced 327 amendments in the one bill. That is quite an astounding record. Basically, there were so many amendments that they were almost voting against their own bill. That is an interesting reflection on some of the history from the former government.

I would like to place on the record that I welcome the youth justice amendments. We had a Labor government with 10 years of a social experiment that just did not work. There are some promising figures with regard to victims at the moment, and we look forward to that continuing. I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli government that is restoring integrity in Queensland, and this is one of the vital parts of that journey. This government is doing what we said we would do. This is largely a commitment that we made leading up to the election and I am pleased to see another one of the sets of legislation coming into this House to make sure we get accountability and transparency right in Queensland.

I would like to place on the record my appreciation for the ministerial governance structures that were put in place by our leader, the Premier, by having a minister for integrity. I know our Attorney-General who introduced this bill has done a lot of work to get it right and has proudly led the charge for the government in this case. I think those opposite who are talking about unintended consequences should reflect back on the 10 years that they had to be able to make changes. I

remember listening to some of those opposite talking about letting the sunshine in when they talked about corruption. This is a government that is truly letting the sunshine in and we are going to restore confidence for the Public Service and restore confidence with the CCC.

I also place on the record that I am proud to be a government member of the PCCC. The PCCC plays a very important role and I recognise my colleagues on the PCCC: the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Coomera who filled in recently for us and the member for Scenic Rim, a former chair of the PCCC, who did a sterling job uncovering some of the reports that we find ourselves considering and deliberating here. We are not so much deliberating the reports but the reporting mechanisms for the CCC. Some people might say that this is unusual. The former shadow attorney-general, the member for Clayfield, submitted a private member's bill that the then government did not want to know anything about over the last two years but we are now delivering on that commitment. This bill goes a long way to seeing some confidence restored.

It is important for us to highlight to the community and to those opposite who do not understand that this bill is largely technical in nature. The High Court made a decision regarding the CCC's powers. The High Court held that section 64 of the CC Act was limited to reporting about corruption issues generally and did not allow the CCC to report about a specific investigation because section 49 of the CCC provides the sole source of power to report in respect of those reports.


I appreciate the AG bringing these amendments to give clarity around what reports the CCC may release and report on—in terms of it being under certain circumstances and considering natural justice, procedural fairness and the interests of the public. That is a very sound proposition for us so that we can again restore the community's confidence that the CCC has the reporting powers that it needs if it sees fit. I recognise the issue of procedural fairness and natural justice. We do not want the CCC releasing reports if somebody is in a kangaroo court type situation. If somebody has not faced a court and been found guilty, they should have that right to innocence until proven guilty so I am certainly interested in keeping a watchful eye on this. The former government released reports and information before there were any convictions, so I think it is very wise for our Attorney-General to include this in the bill.

The bill refers particularly to the Trad report and the Carne report but I am not going to go into a great deal of detail on those. I want to paint a contrast between this government—with the fresh start for Queensland that we are employing by making sure there is accountability, transparency and openness for Queenslanders—and those opposite who spent nearly a million dollars to keep these reports secret. Once in government and when we were informed that we were able to, the Attorney-General proudly admitted that those reports would be released. So, we did see this new government let the sunshine in and reflect the true nature.

It brings me to a point that I think is very common in our community. People say it is great to see a government that is putting people before politics. Whether it be health matters, transport matters, housing matters or crime, we are putting people—victims—ahead of politics. Those opposite talk about unintended consequences for youth justice issues and reforms. They had their social experiment and it did not work. I am proud to be a part of this government that has put in place changes and is indeed seeing some great outcomes.

I will just go back to the CCC's consideration of some of their reporting powers. Again, it is important for us to highlight that the CCC does have to take consideration of the public interest test and also natural justice and procedural fairness. There are very often appropriate times for the CCC to report on matters that does give this House and, in fact, the community in general a great level of confidence because of the transparency and the openness that that allows.

I think also having our independent Public Service Commissioner is another great step that this government has taken to see our public service recognised and supported in a meaningful way, growing a home-grown public service that Queenslanders can be proud of. We all know that just throwing money at things is not the solution. It is about ensuring that we have service, that we have appropriate things being measured—because what gets measured gets done. We are a government that does want to support people. We want to make sure that we do get the outcomes that Queenslanders expect. Again, this was one of the commitments that we gave coming into the election, and I am pleased to be standing here as part of a government that is doing what it said it would do. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. I was not actually going to speak on this bill because I felt that the views of the opposition on the CCC amendments would be amply represented by our speakers, and certainly they have been, but then I saw the amendments that were circulated this morning and now I

do have to speak because I cannot let the occasion, of this government yet again sneaking things in, covering things up and hoping we will not notice, go by without noting it in this House, without putting it on the record.

We have already seen quite a lot of sneaky things and cover-ups in this House since this party came to government. We have come to expect it of them. It is a bit of a pattern of behaviour, like the hiding the dismantling of the Truth and Healing Inquiry, the Olympics Bill, springing on the House the stifling of debate on anything to do with termination of pregnancy, the sacking of the IMAC as Cyclone Alfred was just about to come upon us, the announcement about John Sosso on the day before the Easter long weekend where there would not be any media the next day, and the list goes on.

Today I want to talk specifically about the amendments they have put in at the last minute to the Youth Justice Act and the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act. What are they hiding in the YJ Act amendments? I am not even suggesting that there could be anything wrong with those amendments. What I have a concern about is their incompetence, because it is proof yet again that they should have taken the advice of experts when they rushed through those Making Queensland Safer laws before Christmas; to just take a bit more time to consider them, to consider unintended consequences, possible loopholes, that possibly things were not wrapped up and tied with a bow. They should have accepted our amendment to delay even by just a couple of weeks. We moved that amendment to delay to make sure that everything had been done properly, that there were no unintended consequences, just so they could get things right. But, no, they had to rush those laws through because crime was going to go down by Christmas, if they rushed those laws through. It was going to go down and they had to do it straight away. They could not even wait two more weeks, even one week; they could not wait one more day because the youth crime was going to go down to zero.

Of course, they did rush the bill and clearly they botched it. In the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer laws—and I am very conscious of not speaking to that bill as it is currently going through committee—that bill has things in it that they clearly forgot, things they mucked up, and they have remembered even more. Even since they introduced that bill a couple of weeks ago, they appear to have remembered or realised even more things that they forgot to put in the first bill and then the second bill. So, we see these Youth Justice Act amendments today which could have been included in the first bill or in the new bill so that we could actually scrutinise them in committee, so that stakeholders could see them, so we could make sure there were no unintended consequences, and so that there were no loopholes, as is the proper process.

A couple of weeks between these amendments and when that other bill was introduced—you just have to ask: what is this about? Is it that they did not think it through? Is it that they did not realise? Is it that they are sloppy? Did they sneak things in because they were so embarrassed that they had stuffed up yet something else and they were hoping that no-one would notice? Or is there something that we do not know about the amendment? That is why we have the scrutiny process that we do through committee so that we can look at any amendments and we can look at legislation.


Youth crime, we all know and acknowledge, is a very big concern for Queenslanders. It is a very big concern for victims. We owe it to those people to do things properly. However, here we go again. It is a bit of, 'Oh, we remembered this,' 'Oh, we might do this,' 'Oh, we forgot this other thing.' When is it going to be that they can send a message to Queenslanders that they are actually in charge, they have an agenda and they will be thorough about it, it will be evidence-based and that they will make sure things actually work?

On the respect at work act amendments, it was very good to see Premier Crisafulli at the workers' memorial event last night, a sign that I thought the Premier had respect for workers who had been killed or harmed at work, and I do not doubt his sincerity in being there. No-one in this House wants to see a worker killed or harmed or injured in any way. However, the very day after that memorial event, we see this amendment which puts in place that pause that the government announced on the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill that they had already flagged. This is a bill which is aimed at preventing injury to workers, and I am not talking about physical injury. Injury takes many forms, and this bill would have established a positive duty on employers to prevent discrimination in their workplace. It would have prohibited sex-based harassment. It would have prohibited creating or facilitating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or offensive environment on the basis of sex. Most women and one in four men have experienced sexual harassment at work, and these numbers, as was said last night at the workers' memorial event, these numbers are not just about statistics, they are actually about human beings.

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What is really perverse is where we see these amendments going through in such a hotchpotch fashion since the first Making Queensland Safer laws were introduced—amendments here and there and things they forgot. No scrutiny, no discussion. In the very same bill, they are saying, 'We need to do more consultation on a process that has taken years in the making—a 3½-year consultation process conducted by the QHRC, backed by inquiries by the AHRC, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and two prior inquiries by the Parliamentary Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

They want to do more consultation—even more—but on youth justice they want to do none. They want to do absolutely none. They are just going to stick things in when they think of it. I must put this on record: people talk about the role of the opposition. The most important role of the opposition is to hold the government of the day to account. I am not going to let this go past on any occasion without calling it out because we owe it to the people of Queensland to call those opposite to account and to call out this kind of behaviour—this irresponsibility and lack of transparency. We will call it out to the bitter end.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.19 pm): This is the CCC bill that Queensland had to have, but it is the CCC bill that Labor refused to back in a timely manner in government. They refused to give the CCC back the reporting powers that Queenslanders always thought they had, even back as far as when the CJC was instituted after the Fitzgerald inquiry. There was an understanding about how the CJC, the CMC and now CCC operated and what their powers were, but the Labor Party refused to back those powers in after a High Court decision in 2023.

Why did they refuse to do this? Why did they allow the CCC to be muzzled and unable to report anything publicly for more than two years? That is how long it has been. In fact, at the end of this week when I assume this bill will pass, it will be over 1,000 days since the CCC was able to publicly report on corruption allegations—1,000 days since the Court of Appeal decision in Queensland which changed a situation that Queenslanders had understood for more than 30 years. Labor's failure to fix this through legislation for over two years, from August 2022 when that Court of Appeal decision was handed down until they were booted from office last year, is a stain on the integrity of this parliament—a stain that today the LNP is removing. As a former PCCC chair, I had a close-up view of that entire saga. It was as clear as day from August 2022 that legislation was needed to fix that decision and preserve the understanding of how the CCC worked in Queensland—and the CMC before that and the CJC before that.

I want to acknowledge a couple of people who have been steadfast on this issue throughout that whole time. I firstly want to acknowledge Bruce Barbour, the chairperson of the CCC, because it takes courage to tell the government they have got it wrong. The chairperson of the CCC did that and called for urgent legislative reform from the start. I also want to acknowledge the former shadow attorney-general, the member for Clayfield, for his work in advancing this argument and for the bill that was introduced last year and, of course, the Attorney-General, the member for Nanango, who has brought this bill into the House.

This party on this side of the House will not be lectured to about integrity in government by those Labor MPs opposite who transparently refused to fix this problem because they were covering up for their Labor mates. I think I heard the shadow attorney-general over there claim before that the Labor Party enhanced the CCC. I have rarely heard, in all my time here, such a bald misstatement of fact from a Labor MP. Far from enhancing the CCC, the shadow attorney-general was part of a cabinet that allowed the CCC to remain stripped of their reporting powers for over two years. The hypocrisy of those opposite knows no bounds. We will not stop pointing it out. We will point it out day in and day out because the Labor Party showed, through their actions in failing to remedy this issue around the reporting powers of the CCC, that when the chips are down they will cover for their friends and put political expediency above doing the right thing and enhancing integrity and our chief integrity body in Queensland.

In doing so, they were prepared to muzzle the reporting powers of the CCC—or allow it to remain muzzled—and overturn what we understood the situation to be for 30 years. They brought a bill to the House last year that they said would have done the job and given the CCC its power back, but the reality is that that bill would have still put a straitjacket on the CCC and, importantly, kept the damning reports into their Labor mates secret. Labor was prepared to trash the post-Fitzgerald integrity framework to protect their mates for the two years, two months—nearly 1,000 days—that the CCC has been stripped of its public reporting powers. It is a disgrace. We will not let you forget the shameful episode that has only been remedied because Queenslanders woke up and threw the Labor Party out of government last year.

I have heard the arguments about it being the High Court's fault—that really, the Labor government could not fix it because the High Court created the problem and the High Court is the highest court in the land. I have news for Queenslanders and the Labor Party: this could have been fixed. The reporting powers could have been enshrined in law and put in place on the grounds that we thought they were for more than 30 years by the end of 2022—just after the Court of Appeal decision. It could have been done but the Labor Party chose not to. It could have been done because this parliament is supreme. If a court decision is made that does not accord with the policies of this parliament and the government, the parliament can fix it.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: That is what we are doing here today, thank you member for Lockyer. The Labor Party chose not to do that. Their actions scream far louder than any of their words when it comes to this situation and this bill. They considered, they delayed and they waited for the High Court. They ultimately started the Holmes review that kicked the can down the road again just to get them to the election. If there had been a different result in the election, I have no doubt that there is no way those two reports into their Labor mates would have seen the light of day. Shame on you all for denuding the CCC like you did for the basest of political reasons—reasons that were transparent to everyone in Queensland who observed this over a period of time.


I want to also talk to the particular amendments being brought in by the Attorney-General related to the appointment process for commissioners of the CCC. The amendment amends a provision that was amended by the government last year, but when the Labor government amended it last year, they did not do it in the way that the PCCC recommended—that is, for there to be a single, non-renewable term for commissioners, including the chairperson of the CCC, of up to seven years. Instead, the Labor government changed that and said that all commissioners must be appointed for seven years. There is an inherent inflexibility in that because many people cannot commit to serving in a single position for seven years, particularly some of the part-time positions which exist at the CCC. More importantly, it also removed any flexibility for the PCCC to be involved in that appointment process. Maybe not 'any flexibility' but a great deal because the commissioners of the CCC are in a unique position in the way that they are appointed.

This goes back a very long time. Those appointments require bipartisan support of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. That is not just for the appointment of a particular person but it also gives the committee the ability to have influence over how long people are appointed for. The provision enacted by the Labor government last year would have taken away the ability of the PCCC to be a part of that. That chips away at the bipartisan support for the CCC as an institution to fight crime and corruption in Queensland. I do not know why the former government went away from the recommendation of the former PCCC in that respect, but I wholly support the amendment being brought in by the Attorney-General to put that right and to legislate those appointment provisions in line with the recommendation made by the PCCC back in 2021.

The member for McConnel had the gall to stand up and make accusations about people being unfit for government. She made some statements around the appointment provisions and the fact there could be two five-year terms of appointment for the CCC chairperson. The member for McConnel does not even know that her government—of which she was a member of cabinet—actually changed that law last year. So who is unfit for government? When the member for McConnel makes comments like that she shows she is completely out of touch. She was a member of the cabinet that signed off on those changes that were legislated in September last year and which we are amending again today. Members opposite in the Labor Party should hang their heads in shame for the dillydallying and muzzling of the CCC in terms of their reporting powers. They have shown today in some of the comments that they have made that they are absolutely unfit for office.

I commend the bill to the House and the amendments sought to be made by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. We thank you for those efforts in fixing some of the issues which the Labor Party refused to fix for nearly 1,000 days.

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 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.29 pm): I rise to contribute to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. I want to begin by addressing not the substantive bill but the significant changes to completely unrelated legislation which were circulated just this morning. These late changes are not minor, technical or administrative amendments; they are really substantial changes.

Given the limited time I have now I will just flag very quickly that I will not be opposing the changes to the Evidence Act in relation to the admissibility of preliminary complaint evidence, nor the changes

to ensure that certainty in A samples can be retained for longer periods of time to deal with the testing backlog. Of course, I would have liked to hear from stakeholders and experts in the area of forensic testing and privacy to understand if that extended retention period is, in fact, appropriate in all the circumstances. However, I guess I, like everyone else here, will just have to do without that because clearly these clowns do not give a toss about proper parliamentary process or scrutiny. We are left with a short period of time to consider such significant amendments.

The most egregious amendment was tacked on to the very back of the amendments that the AG circulated. In just two months time really significant and overdue protections under the respect at work legislation were set to commence and now the LNP wants to indefinitely delay those protections coming into force. Stakeholders have been anxiously expecting this, but they certainly have not been sitting on their hands waiting around. They have been preparing to weigh in and share their critical perspective about what the changes would mean for working women and for all Queenslanders who face discrimination within the community and when seeking to access government services. However, the LNP just does not want to hear it because they know that Queenslanders have fought hard for these protections. First, they had to push Labor hard to do the right thing and now the LNP is going to pull the rug clean out from underneath them without even affording the community a chance to be heard.

These changes would have protected Queenslanders from discrimination where it arises as a result of experiencing family violence and homelessness or because of a person's physical appearance, an expunged conviction or an irrelevant criminal or medical record. They would have protected people experiencing intersectional disadvantage and discrimination, recognising, for example, that a woman who is First Nations and who is subject to family violence may be experiencing compounding and unique discrimination.

These changes would have modernised the definitions of direct and indirect discrimination to bring us into alignment with other jurisdictions. Significantly, the changes that were due to commence soon would have prohibited harassment on the basis of sex and put in place protections for women in work environments made hostile on the basis of sex. Not just that, they would have placed a positive duty on workplaces, service providers and governments to take all reasonable steps to eliminate discrimination and sexual harassment with specific powers granted to the Human Rights Commission to publish guidance, to investigate and to seek undertakings in relation to noncompliance with that duty.

They would have updated the meaning of vilification and expanded criminal laws in relation to serious vilification consistent with the recommendations of the inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. These changes could have radically transformed our communities, encouraging a culture of non-discrimination and preventing sexual harassment and vilification rather than just responding to these harms. Moreover, the changes would have granted complainants a critical additional 12 months to bring complaints. For many people who have experienced discrimination and sexual harassment, it can take years to recover enough to feel ready to take action.

Delaying these changes is plain despicable. It is unjustifiable. The LNP just keeps showing us its true face without batting an eye. They do not govern for the most disadvantaged or the most vulnerable people. They do not govern for First Nations people or communities. They do not govern for women exposed to harassment in their workplaces. They clearly do not govern for our kids, who need safety and protection, nor do they govern for people who are homeless or who are experiencing domestic and family violence. If they will not govern for them, they sure as eggs will not govern for you either—that is unless you are a mining CEO, a gambling lobbyist, a developer or a supermarket executive.

I firmly support the objects of the Crime and Corruption Act to continuously improve the integrity of, and reduce the incidence of corruption in, the public sector. Moving on to the substantive bill, I can say that is why I stand here as a member of the Queensland Greens, the only party that refuses corporate donations. We refuse to be influenced by multinational conglomerates, fossil fuel companies, the racing and gambling sector and property developers. If there was a single Labor or LNP member in this chamber who was serious about corruption, they would not be representing a party that accepts corporate donations and accepts corporate influence over their party.

Amendments to this bill will allow the Crime and Corruption Commission to publish and report on its investigations, which is a welcome change. I want to acknowledge at the outset the concerns raised by some submitters that there is no strict requirement for the CCC to make any substantive finding before it can report on a matter and the potential opportunity this represents for weaponising mere allegations without evidence. The commission is proposed to have a broad discretion to make public statements and publish reports, though it would be bound by the Human Rights Act and under this bill would be required to take into account a list of factors before exercising this discretion. I am somewhat

inclined to agree that it would be preferable to see stricter criteria and a more constrained discretion, especially where information is being released before a matter is finalised. The potential impact on the subject of an allegation is immense and any release should carefully weigh the public interest or public benefit against any potential harm. Nonetheless, the requisite considerations and the effect of the Human Rights Act, I believe, provide the necessary safeguard and I consider these are adequate for the purpose of allowing the passage of the bill in the interests of improving transparency.

This bill, though, has to be considered in light of the limited investigation powers of the CCC, which flow directly through to the commission's reporting powers. So long as corporate donations to political parties exist and so long as Labor and Liberal politicians continue to accept not just free lunches, corporate boxes or cash for access, but cushy post-parliament jobs in boardrooms and as lobbyists, corruption will continue to exist in Queensland.

Both the major parties have accepted huge donations from the gambling industry. Between 2013 and 2023 Tabcorp donated more than \$1 million to the two major parties, and since June 2020 Sportsbet has donated upwards of \$600,000 to Labor and the LNP. I would say it is not surprising then that Labor's second Senate candidate is a former Star casino lobbyist and that government funding to racing has quadrupled in the last decade. In the last 10 years across the state and federal levels, mining, energy and resource companies have donated \$26 million to Labor and the LNP. It is not surprising then that Labor and the LNP continue to approve new coal and gas projects.

Let's pause to reflect for a moment on the Cormack Foundation, an investment group set up to fund the LNP that has itself now made a \$500,000 donation to Advance Australia in an attempt to take down the Greens, matching donations made by billionaire Gina Rinehart. The major parties and their big money influencers are desperate to take out the Greens because they are desperate to keep the gravy train rolling. They are desperate to keep the revolving door between politics and cushy executive officers and boardrooms well greased and spinning as fast as it can. In fact, I would suggest—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I know you are talking on the theme of integrity, but you have strayed into areas I have not heard covered yet. I remind you to keep on target with the speech. Please resume.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you for your guidance. Those of us who participated in the committee hearings in the inquiry on this bill heard a substantial amount of commentary about the limited powers of the CCC and the hard limits that exist on their investigative powers as a consequence of the definitions of 'corrupt conduct'.

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It is arguable that the revolving door between politics and those post political roles does not even exist anymore. The corporate mates of these big parties are almost operating out of the same shopfront: former Labor leader Anna Bligh is now the head of the banking lobby in Australia and, until last year, former Liberal minister Ian Macfarlane literally ran the Queensland Resources Council—the industry's lobby in this state—and he followed a similar path to Labor's former federal resources minister Martin Ferguson who, just six months after leaving office, was the chairman of the national oil and gas lobby. Labor and the Liberals say that they care about transparency, but the details of government dealings are always shrouded in secrecy under commercial in confidence. They have been stretched well beyond the point of meaning anything, so not only do we not know what dealings are going on but we are not even entitled to use the Right to Information Act to access them. If these guys want to get serious about integrity, let us go beyond reporting and look at the Crime and Corruption Commission's powers.

(Time expired)



Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (4.40 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 which provides a fresh start for Queenslanders who have wanted their Crime and Corruption Commission to be open, transparent and accountable. Our government is taking important steps to restore the openness that Queenslanders expect, the transparency that Queenslanders deserve and the accountability that Queenslanders need from their governments. I acknowledge the work of the Attorney-General and of members and thank the member for Nicklin and all members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee which has provided its report with just one recommendation—that the bill be passed.

This bill provides a series of changes: strengthens the CCC's reporting powers; confirms the role of the CCC in investigating corrupt conduct; expands the procedural fairness requirements of the act; revises the approach for the tabling of CCC reports to ensure that the decision to table reports rests solely with the CCC; and also makes clear that all past reports and public statements with the CCC are


valid. These provisions within the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 deliver a key election commitment for our Crisafulli government.

This bill strengthens the CCC's reporting powers. As we all know, previously the CCC had reported on and made public statements about corruption investigations. However, the September 2023 High Court judgement held that the CCC had no power to release its reports. The silence of the CCC since that time has been detrimental to Queenslanders' trust. This bill provides an explicit power for the CCC to report at any time about corruption matters. This bill also provides an explicit power for the CCC to make a statement to the public about a corruption matter in a way that the CCC considers appropriate. It is only right that Queenslanders can hear directly from the CCC.

The bill confirms the role of the CCC in investigating corrupt conduct and making it clear that the CCC does not have the power to make findings of corrupt conduct. This provides a safeguard that Queenslanders can respect. This bill also expands the procedural fairness requirements of the act and clarifies the obligations on the CCC to provide procedural fairness to individuals and organisations in line with the common law and includes clear timeframes for these processes and also includes a right-to-review request provision. Queenslanders expect nothing less.

This bill revises the approach for the tabling of CCC reports to ensure that the decision to table reports rests solely with the CCC because Queenslanders want to know that the CCC is independent and has the protection required to ensure that it has the discretion to table its reports in our Queensland parliament. This bill also makes it clear that all past reports and public statements of the CCC are valid. This will allow the CCC to restore past reports and statements to its website and provides legal certainty to the CCC and its officers in respect of these reports and statements, filling a void that has left more questions than answers for many Queenslanders.

Our government is taking important steps to restore the openness that Queenslanders expect, the transparency that Queenslanders deserve and the accountability that Queenslanders need from their governments. I commend this bill to the House and the Crisafulli government for bringing this bill into the parliament.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption Commission (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is the third piece of legislation which the parliament has seen that relates to the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission. This bill is, without question, a response to the genuine concerns raised by the 2023 High Court decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne*, as was the Crime and Corruption Commission (Reporting) Amendment Bill 2024 that was introduced by the previous Labor attorney-general, the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, in September 2024. The government has made clear its intention to restore the Crime and Corruption Commission's reporting powers to what they were widely understood to be prior to that ruling in the High Court.

We on this side of the House acknowledge and unequivocally support the vital role of transparency and public accountability in the fight against corruption. These principles are essential to maintaining the public's trust in our democratic institutions, but we also bear another solemn and inescapable responsibility to protect the rights, reputations and fundamental liberties of individuals. It is in that spirit that the opposition must express reservations regarding certain provisions contained in this bill while, as outlined by the shadow attorney-general, we will support the bill. As the LNP does not hold a monopoly on integrity, we firmly believe in transparency and accountability across all levels of government. That is why we support the Crime and Corruption Commission having the ability to publicly report on its activities, provided there are appropriate safeguards in place to protect the integrity of investigations and the rights of individuals.

I draw the House's attention to proposed section 48B(1) (c) of the bill. This clause expressly prohibits the Crime and Corruption Commission from making any statement or finding as to whether there is or is not sufficient evidence to commence proceedings against an individual. At first glance, such a provision might appear to be a protective measure, but in practice it creates a troubling imbalance. Under this clause, the Crime and Corruption Commission may issue public comments about a corruption investigation—potentially before it has concluded—yet it is prohibited from clarifying whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute. This disconnect is not merely academic; it risks fostering uncertainty, casting public suspicion and inflicting reputational damage, all without the individual concerned having any clear path to exoneration or finality.

These concerns are not speculative. During the committee process multiple stakeholders raised this precise issue. The principal policy solicitor for the Queensland Law Society said it best when she said—

... there are reasons you wait to the end of a process to make a statement on it.

Without finality, reputational harm becomes not just a possibility but a likelihood. Public perception can harden into judgement long before due process has taken its full and fair course.

The bill does introduce a checklist of factors to guide the Crime and Corruption Commission in determining whether to make a public statement, but I say clearly that a checklist is not an enforceable safeguard. It offers guidance, not protection. Discretion, no matter how well intentioned, must be bounded by enforceable principles if we are to maintain public trust. Even the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission acknowledged during the committee proceedings the inherent risks of making statements during ongoing investigations. He referred to 'unique circumstances' that might warrant public comment such as when a matter is already in the media, but such discretion is dangerously broad. The potential for political pressure, media influence or institutional overreach cannot be discounted.

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We can reflect on the lessons of our own history. The Fitzgerald inquiry is rightly held to be a landmark in Queensland's political evolution; an inquiry marked not only by its outcomes but also by its integrity, rigour and careful adherence to due process. What made the Fitzgerald inquiry effective was its restraint, not its noise. This bill will take us in a different direction where public comment risks eclipsing judicial process and where reputations may be irreparably damaged without resolution.

I draw the attention of the House to a particularly concerning example raised in multiple submissions to the committee. On 26 April 2019, six former Logan City councillors were charged with aggravated fraud following a recommendation endorsed by the then chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission. In a submission to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee dated 26th July 2021, their legal representatives stated—

Great care must be taken in any public statements made by those responsible for the investigation of crime ... The capacity for such statements to prejudice the fair trial of any accused is well known.

They further stated—

... to describe the probationary process itself as dishonest and disingenuous and later, describing Ms Kelsey as a "poor woman" subject to "disgraceful" conduct by the Former Councillors in the course of the industrial proceedings was, at its lowest, gravely in error, in its prejudgment of the issues to be determined ...


On the day that the charges were laid, the then chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission held a press conference, naming the individuals and outlining the charges, all before a single finding had been made in a court. He stated—

There is significant public interest in these matters and that is the reason why I am taking the rather unusual course of conducting this press conference today ...

That is precisely the scenario we must guard against. It is a scenario in which the Crime and Corruption Commission becomes not an impartial investigator but a public commentator, where perception overtakes process and justice is conducted in the court of public opinion.

I support the core intent behind this bill to restore clarity and ensure the Crime and Corruption Commission can operate with confidence and transparency. However, I must also sound a clear note of caution: we must not sacrifice the presumption of innocence, the right to a good name and the integrity of a justice system in the name of perceived transparency. I urge the government to reconsider the breadth of these powers, particularly the implications of section 48B. Let us build a system that protects both our institutions and our citizens. Let us restore not just the power of the Crime and Corruption Commission but also confidence in our collective unwavering commitment to justice, fairness and the rule of law.

If these laws go ahead as is, it will be important that the oversight body, being the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, monitors the implementation of the laws and how the Crime and Corruption Commission uses them. It will be important to ensure that the Crime and Corruption Commission only uses these powers for good and to ensure that individual rights are maintained and balanced against the need to discharge their duties and functions.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will provide new powers to the Crime and Corruption Commission to report and make public statements at any time about matters of corruption. This bill is about putting a bite in the watchdog's bark, because we need a CCC with both a bark and a bite.

Labor fought hard to conceal the release of reports into investigations concerning allegations of corruption against former public trustee Peter Carne and the former deputy premier Jackie Trad. It is time to let the sun shine in on Labor's cover-up. Labor did not think Queenslanders deserved to read

the Trad or Carne reports and make their own judgements. The Crisafulli government believes Queenslanders have that right. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Attorney-General Deb Frecklington and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for its work in preparing this bill. This bill is about taking great strides to restore the openness, transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect and deserve from their governments.

The objectives of the bill are to, firstly, restore the power of the CCC to report publicly about corruption investigations and to ensure that the CCC can also make public statements about these matters; secondly, safeguard against the release of information to the public about corruption matters in circumstances where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits derived from releasing the information; and finally, to remove any residual legal risk that might be attributable to the CCC in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and statements. The bill also responds to principle 8 of the Fundamental Principles of Australian Anti-Corruption Commissions, which provides that an anti-corruption commission must have the ability to report on investigations and make public statements.

This bill is primarily informed by a decision in the High Court case of *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* that was inconsistent with the prevailing understanding about the CCC's reporting powers. At that time, the CCC operated on the mistaken assumption that section 69 of the Crime and Corruption Act empowered the commission to table and publish reports regarding corruption investigations. Reaffirming a decision of the Queensland Court of Appeal, the High Court held that section 64 of the Crime and Corruption Act was limited to reporting about corruption issues generally and did not allow the CCC to report about a specific investigation. That was because section 49 of the act provides the sole source of power to report in respect of those reports. Throughout the drafting of this bill, special care has been taken not to diminish the CCC's residual reporting powers that have not been impacted by the High Court decision.

I now turn to some of the important provisions in the bill that correct the sections 64 and 69 reporting power issues raised in the High Court case. Clause 12 of the bill will introduce a broader definition of what constitutes a corruption matter and includes the types of matters that the CCC is able to report on and make public statements on. In clauses 14 and 15, the bill also includes a set of non-exhaustive criteria that must be considered by the CCC prior to making a report or statement regarding a matter of corruption.

Further to the general criteria, specific matters must be considered by the CCC prior to publication when a person's identity is readily apparent or can be reasonably ascertained in a report or statement. In cases where the CCC finds that it is reasonable and appropriate to name the subject of an investigation and make adverse comments about them, the CCC is bound by the requirements of the current act to give that person procedural fairness.

Clause 18 of the bill will amend the process for the tabling of CCC reports, further enhancing the independence of the CCC. How does it do that? Firstly, the bill provides that the CCC must give a report directly to the chairperson of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, the Attorney-General and the Speaker for tabling. Secondly, after receiving the report, the Speaker must table the report on the next sitting day or, if the Legislative Assembly is not sitting, the Speaker must deliver the report to the Clerk of the Parliament who must authorise the publication.


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This bill will also operate retrospectively and validate past reports and statements. Unlike the approach taken by Labor in their lapsed bill, this bill makes it clear that all past reports and public statements of the CCC are valid. This will allow the CCC to restore past reports and statements to its website and provide legal certainty to the CCC and its officers in respect of those reports and statements. The Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity in her introductory speech stated—

The bill makes it clear that all past reports and public statements of the CCC are valid. This extends to any action taken by the CCC in relation to the report or public statement, including any preparation work undertaken by CCC officers. There is no requirement for these reports or statements to have complied with the new criteria set out in the bill or the enhanced procedural fairness requirements. They are validated as they are in accordance with the existing framework of the Crime and Corruption Act.

This bill also expands those procedural fairness requirements and the Crisafulli government has worked closely with the CCC on this. It includes amendments to clarify the obligation to provide procedural fairness in line with the common law and to include clear timeframes for these processes and a right to review requests for an extension of time to the Supreme Court. An express provision is included in the bill limiting the CCC's ability to make findings or recommendations relating to: a person engaging in corrupt conduct; whether a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or the

subject of disciplinary action; or whether there is evidence or insufficient evidence to support the start of proceedings. That is an express provision provided in the legislation limiting the CCC. I commend the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.01 pm): Labor believe that restoring the positive reporting powers of the CCC is important for all Queenslanders. Labor have a history of enhancing integrity measures in Queensland. We introduced laws that increased the powers and ability of the Crime and Corruption Commission. In continuing this work, the Labor opposition support this legislation; however, we do so with some reservations. The Labor opposition hold reservations about the broad discretion that this bill allows.

This bill will enable the Crime and Corruption Commission to make statements anytime in their investigation whereas the previous bill made findings available once the investigation was finalised, and we all know how that turned out in the Logan City Council matter. We note that stakeholders, such as the Queensland Law Society, have raised issue with this. While it is noted that this is a discretionary power, the discretion rests with the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission. Past experience has shown that this discretion has not always been used appropriately—and I, again, highlight the Logan City Council affair as an example. The Queensland Law Society took issue with this and stated this application is ‘overly broad and will produce unintended consequences’. They have advocated for commentary to be made once the outcome is finalised—an issue that certainly was raised by the member for Toohey and other members on this side of the House.

The opposition also holds reservations about the procedural fairness of publishing the final report before the respondent has seen it. We recognise that procedural fairness provisions are maintained in that those who are adversely named are provided the opportunity to respond and make comment and may apply to the Supreme Court of Queensland for further time. However, the bill does not provide the ability for the person to see the final report before it is published. We understand there needs to be a balance to ensure the CCC has the powers it needs to do its job, but this needs to be balanced with the rights of individuals.

The opposition also has reservations about the process, with amendments being thrown in that should have been included in the bill. The LNP government continue to show their disregard for transparency, for integrity and for the process of this parliament with the raft of amendments they have introduced here today. They are cleaning up their own mess, patching over the rushed youth justice laws. They are amending the Youth Justice Act again after the Making Queensland Safer Act led to unintended consequences, as we said it would at the end of last year. Once again, they are rushing through changes without referring them to the committee.

We called the LNP out at that time last year, saying that there would be unintended consequences for their legislation. Look what happened—they botched it. We are starting to see a pattern here: ignore advice on unintended consequences, rush through legislation, panic and then amend—rinse and repeat. Let me be clear: we are reviewing the amendments and, of course, we support any measure that ensures victims receive the justice they deserve.

This applies to the DNA matter and other matters in the amendments circulated by the Attorney-General. The more egregious part is delaying protection for workers, protection that would place a duty on employers to ensure workplaces are free from sexual harassment and discrimination. I know for many years the former minister for industrial relations worked hard with our union colleagues to make sure that this was part of legislation going forward. I commend the shadow minister, the member for McConnel, for the work that she has done in relation to workers’ safety.

Why is this government delaying the right to feel safe at work? Why is the Attorney-General delaying these respect at work laws? These are not the actions of a government acting with integrity. It is clear that the so-called Minister for Integrity has none. I endorse the comments by our shadow attorney-general in respect of the bill and the reservations and matters she has raised today. We pay respect to and honour the work of corruption buster Tony Fitzgerald KC which led to the establishment of the Crime and Corruption Commission in its many forms over the years. We must continue to rely on experts like Tony Fitzgerald, which we know those opposite fail to do.

I and the Labor opposition believe that there needs to be laws that empower the Crime and Corruption Commission to report. That is why we introduced a bill last year, which, as noted by the shadow attorney-general, those opposite voted against at the first available opportunity. It is utterly shameful. With those words, I support the bill but acknowledge the reservations that I have made during my contribution.



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.07 pm): It is my pleasure to rise and speak in favour of this bill and also in favour of the amendments that have been put before this House. There have been some really good contributions on the floor today, particularly on this side of the House, about the importance of equipping the Crime and Corruption Commission to effectively fulfil its functions.

It is quite sad to see those opposite talk about how important integrity is to their way of operating when they had plenty of opportunity over a number of years to correct the problems that were caused by a decision of the Queensland courts in relation to the former public trustee. The LNP called on them to deal with the problem. The LNP proposed a bill to deal with the problem. On neither occasion did Labor grasp the nettle and take steps to correct that problem—to give the CCC the powers it needed to be able to fulfil its function—yet on the eve of an election, knowing that the bill would never reach the point of being debated and voted upon, they introduced a bill purporting to solve the problem. In many ways, they did all the window-dressing that could suggest they cared about fixing this problem, but they knew in their heart of hearts that nothing was actually going to be done to remedy the situation. It sounds a little bit empty to hear them talking about integrity today.

I want to focus instead on some of the really good things that will be done by the amendments that have been put before the House today. As at 20 April last year, when those opposite were in government, when they had had for a very long time the results of two separate inquiries into the function of the DNA testing lab here in Queensland—I say ‘function’ but maybe ‘dysfunction’ is actually the right word—there was a damning article published on ABC News. It said that, as at 20 April last year, of the 41,000 serious crimes that had been in the backlog of cases that had been identified for review over a 15-year period stemming from 2007 following that inquiry—and of course that inquiry found that a defective methodology had been used in the testing of DNA in a way that meant so many victims of crime were not going to have access to justice in the way that they absolutely deserve—less than two per cent had been retested. That is 445. It is an appallingly low work rate, reflecting a lack of diligence from those opposite to ensure that people who are victims of crime have access to justice.

Of those 445 cases that had been retested as at that point, 23 per cent of them revealed new evidence that had not been identified through the examination process to date. So there was real value in the retesting process—almost a quarter of those retested had something to reveal for the justice process, something to assist victims in the process of getting a fair hearing and justice for those they have lost or those who have been seriously harmed. Yet those on the other side plodded along failing to do what was necessary in order to ensure victims of crime had the chance to access the fairness they deserve.

What this bill does—which I think is really important—is that it extends the timeline for the storage of DNA samples so that that ridiculous, long and quite negligent, to be honest, backlog can be retested and it can be retested at a much more sensible pace. Many of the samples were due to be destroyed from mid-June this year. Their right to be stored under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act was up. The law would have required that a huge swathe of those 41,000 samples would have to be destroyed before they had reached the point where they could be retested. That is obviously an unacceptable scenario. This bill and its amendments will make sure that there is an appropriate extension of time that allows for the retesting of those samples to occur.

We are serious about doing government well. We are not going to plod along at the two per cent per two years rate that those opposite were prepared to accept. What we have done is implement the recommendations of Dr Kirsty Wright, the whistleblower who continues the DNA lab review. We are going to back in her expertise and we have put in a \$6 million boost to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions so that victims’ cases that have been impacted by the DNA backlog can be finalised and they can be finalised sooner. That is part of the way we are showing respect for victims. It is one of the many ticking time bombs that have been left behind by the former government that the LNP has committed to tackling and is, in fact, tackling in even these very early days of a new government.


Another important thing that the bill does is that it gives effect to the pause on the implementation of the respect at work law that was passed by those opposite in the dying days of the Miles government. That is a really important move because there were many stakeholders in our community who felt like they had not been heard as that bill rushed through the parliament. There were many organisations that were deeply troubled by the fuzziness of definitions that were included in that bill and what that would mean for their ability to hire staff, to manage them well and to make sure that organisations are able to operate according to the ethos for which they established. They deserve to have the opportunity to be heard. They deserve to have a legal framework that offers them the clarity they need to be able to make decisions and to put in place procedures for the operation of their organisations that are going to comply with the law.

It is really good to see that pause being implemented. I hope that it will be seen by the community as a sign that we have listened. While those opposite were not listening—they were on an ideological trajectory that meant they were prepared to ram things through whether or not the community had been heard and whether or not the community supported it—we are prepared to work with them to get the law in these difficult areas right.

Finally, I want to speak a little to the importance of implementing a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government, and that is to strengthen the reporting powers of the CCC. What is good about that is that it is a sign that the dark chapter we faced in Queensland's history under the Palaszczuk and Miles government and its legacy of cover-ups and secrecy—where protection rackets were run for deputy premiers who behaved poorly, where public officials who faced allegations of great seriousness about their ability to fulfil their duties were covered up and hidden away as the government ran its operations more in the interests of protecting mates than providing fundamental transparency and, indeed, just basic operation of key services like the Public Trustee for the wider community—is over.

It is really important to see the difficulties that were established by the decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* back in September 2023 made right so that the problems that were caused by its finding—that is, that the CCC had no power under the Crime and Corruption Act to publicly release the report that it had prepared on its investigations into, in that case, the Public Trustee in relation to allegations of corrupt conduct and maladministration—can be put right.

It is appropriate that when the CCC has conducted an investigation and it has reached conclusions those conclusions are able to be made public. There are important safeguards in this bill like providing for procedural fairness and some rights to be able to appeal timelines and the like. Fundamentally, this is about enhancing the transparency Queensland can expect from the Crime and Corruption Commission, and that is a principle that we are prepared to stand for every day of the week. We will not be lectured to by those opposite who had more than enough time to make this right but they sat on their hands and they covered up for their mates.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.17 pm): I am compelled to speak on this bill after reviewing the amendments introduced today by the Attorney-General. I would hope that even our newest elected members would recognise that the introduction of amendments during the second reading is a chance to make important and clarifying last-minute changes to a bill before it passes, but this government is already making a habit of introducing ACIDs that have nothing to do with the bill whatsoever but will guarantee that their changes go through without committee scrutiny and probably without attracting too much stakeholder feedback or media attention. The irony that these amendments have been introduced within an integrity bill by the Minister for Integrity makes a mockery of this House. This government is treating transparency as a nuisance, integrity as optional and Queenslanders as an afterthought.

There are two important issues before us in these amendments today and both reek of arrogance, secrecy and failure. First, the government has moved an amendment today that will formalise the government's decision to indefinitely pause the respect at work reforms. These reforms were essential protections for Queensland workers, particularly for women, to ensure safe, respectful workplaces free from harassment and discrimination. What has this government done without warning, without consultation and without a plan to move forward? They have hit the pause button, leaving Queensland workers vulnerable. The Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Anna Cody, has warned—

There is strong community expectation that workplaces are safe, respectful and equitable. Every delay in implementing these reforms leaves workers vulnerable to harm.

The Independent Education Union-QNT Assistant Secretary Nicole Kapernick stated—

These *Respect at Work* reforms were the result of wide consultation and a clear finding that better protections were needed. Pressing pause on these protections without any clear justification is a shameful political act. While the government dithers, there are working women and survivors of family and domestic violence who are not adequately protected from harassment and discrimination.

Yet this government, with all its spin about the safety of Queenslanders, with its rhetoric about putting victims first, has thrown Queensland workers under the bus.

The Attorney-General has stated there has not been enough consultation, which we know is not true. Equality Australia CEO Anna Brown said the changes were uncontroversial and had already been through a full and comprehensive consultation process that took many years. She said—

Reopening [consultation] is a waste of time and taxpayer money. Delaying these laws without any real justification is alarming.

She further stated—

[The laws] offer strengthened protections for so many communities, including LGBTIQ+ people, the homeless and survivors of domestic violence. Serious questions need to be asked about who is pressuring the government to pause these common sense changes that simply modernise Queensland's anti-discrimination laws.

We all know who has been pressuring the government to indefinitely pause this important legislation. I table a statement from the Australian Christian Lobby from September last year which states—

Queensland Labor pulled a death blanket over Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression of Religion with the late-night passage of 'The Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill'. The Australian Christian Lobby calls on the Queensland Liberal National Party to commit to repealing the worst Anti-Discrimination Laws in Australia's history if elected on 26th October.

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 11 September 2024, from the Australian Christian Lobby, titled 'R.I.P. Freedom of Speech and Expression of Religion'.

Queensland deserves better. It is time this government remembered they are here to serve Queenslanders, not Christian lobby groups. It does not end there, because at the same time, in a stunning display of incompetence, this government is today rushing through further amendments to the Making Queensland Safer Bill. Why? Because they rushed their first bill through the House without proper consultation. They ignored the warnings from experts who cautioned them about these exact issues and now, in a desperate scramble to cover their tracks, they are sneaking amendments into an existing bill, bypassing full committee scrutiny. Laughably, there is a current parliamentary committee inquiry open right now on the making Queensland safer bill 2.0 because they rushed through the first bill and, as we now see, made a range of errors in that bill that we are now having to fix through amendments in consideration in detail.

I heard a number of speakers in the MPI earlier today—the members for Cairns, Nicklin and Mundingburra—criticise others for winding back tough laws. What those speakers today failed to say is that the Attorney-General is today winding back their own Making Queensland Safer Laws. I wonder how the people in Cairns, Nicklin and Mundingburra would feel about the Attorney-General today moving amendments which will remove the admissibility of restorative justice diversions made before the February commencement date as part of the sentencing considerations for judges sentencing young people who offend.

I am not saying that I disagree with the amendments. In fact, submitters at the time warned the government of precisely these clauses and that these issues would happen, but, of course, the government did not listen to those experts—probably because they were part of the problem, as the Premier keeps stating—which is shameless. It is not good enough to say, 'We made a mistake, but trust us to fix it behind closed doors.' Queenslanders deserve better than a government that hides from scrutiny and makes the rules up as they go along. They deserve a government that treats integrity as a principle, not a PR line. At its core this is about respect—respect for workers, respect for those working in the justice system and respect for the Queensland public. On both fronts, this government has failed today.

We support the objectives of the CCC Act; however, rushing through substantial amendments relating particularly to the safety of workers in this manner is incredible. Queenslanders are starting to see through it.



Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (5.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. This bill is about what was wrong and making it right again. Through this bill the Crisafulli government is taking important steps to restore the openness, transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect and deserve from their governments.

In the 2023 case of Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne, the High Court ruled that the Crime and Corruption Commission Act 2001 indeed did not empower the CCC to make public a report about a particular corruption investigation or complaint other than to report to a relevant entity et cetera. The immediate impact of the High Court decision was that past reports about the CCC's corruption investigations were now invalid. An excerpt from an ABC News article dated Wednesday, 13 September 2023 states—

CCC chair Bruce Barbour said he was seeking urgent law changes in light of the ruling and had written to the attorney-general.

"The CCC and its predecessor agencies have historically reported on significant matters relating to their investigations," he said.

"Reporting has occurred when there has been a strong public interest in doing so and when there are issues uncovered in investigations that the public, public sector agencies and elected officials should be made aware of to raise integrity standards and to reduce corruption risks in Queensland.

"It has done so on the understanding that it was empowered to report under its governing legislation, the Crime and Corruption Act.

"The High Court found that the CCC has no such power. The inability to report on matters uncovered in such investigations reduces transparency and is clearly not in the public interest."

In the same article then shadow attorney-general, now Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, with regard to the non-release of the reporting to the public, was reported as saying—

"The antiseptic of sunlight will not be shone on the actions of executive government.

"The lessons learnt will not be learnt by the wider public sector, they will not be learnt by the government and most importantly Queenslanders will not find out what is going on behind closed doors."

Today we are here to make this wrong right again. On fulfilling our election promise to release the Trad and Carne reports, the validation of the necessity for the bill was clearly illustrated. This bill will bring to a close what has been a dark chapter in Queensland's history with the Palaszczuk-Miles government's legacy of secrecy and cover-ups. Those sitting opposite us today fought for years to keep these reports hidden and, even worse, spent taxpayer dollars doing so.

The revelations from these reports expose to Queenslanders the poor character and reprehensible behaviour of the government representatives they had placed their trust in. Without the power to report to the public the corruption and failings of government representatives in particular, government officials become a law unto themselves with their misdeeds veiled from public scrutiny and the all-knowing pub test.

The objectives of this bill are: to restore the power to report publicly about corruption investigations; to safeguard against the release of information where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits; to remove residual risk from the CCC; and the inclusion of additional amendments to help improve the CCC's efficiency.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption, opened for signature 21 October 2003, states in the preamble that corruption poses a serious threat 'to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardising sustainable development and the rule of law'.


This bill provides new powers to the CCC to report and make public statements at any time about corruption matters—powers that were found to be lacking in the High Court decision in 2023. It is important to note the bill provides that only recommendations included in the CCC report which have been tabled may be included in a public statement. The bill contains safeguards and enhanced clarifications around the scope of procedural fairness, ensuring decisions are made in a way that is compatible with human rights and the proper consideration of human rights.

The safeguards instilled in this bill will provide the CCC with the flexibility to independently determine when and how releasing that information will be in the public's interest. It has been made clear within the bill through the inclusion of a clarification provision, highlighting that the CCC does not have the power to make findings of corrupt conduct. The CCC's role is to conduct investigations only, handing over all relevant material to the decision-making authority. As mentioned earlier, the High Court's previous ruling impacted previous CCC corruption reports, making them invalid. As stated in the explanatory notes—

The Bill retrospectively validates past reports which were prepared or made, tabled or published and public statements which were prepared and made, ensuring these are taken to have always been lawful and valid.

This is in contrast to the approach taken by Labor in their previously presented and now lapsed bill. This inclusion within the bill allows the CCC to restore past reports and statements to its website and provide legal certainty to the CCC and its officers in respect of those reports and statements. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government will respect the independence of the CCC and protect their discretion to table reports in the parliament. The transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect was abused by the former Labor government. They took it upon themselves to keep Queenslanders in the dark. Today it is time to right that wrong and via this bill allow the light to shine through. I commend the bill to the House.

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 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise today to speak to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill delivers a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government: to strengthen the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC. Queensland's crime-fighting and anti-corruption bodies began with the landmark Fitzgerald inquiry of the late 1980s. Since 1989 there has been a constant commitment from a series of organisations to fight corruption and major crime in Queensland. The Crime and Corruption Commission came into being on 1 July 2014 with the introduction of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

This bill will restore the openness, transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect and deserve from their government and will go towards restoring trust—something that was sadly lost under the previous government. Trust was lost after the previous government, among other actions, muzzled the CCC on multiple occasions—namely, during the Trad and Carne CCC investigations. Former deputy premier Jackie Trad was found to have aggressively and inappropriately interfered in an independent recruitment process to appoint her friend Frankie Carroll as Under Treasurer. Under the former Labor government, the contents of that CCC report were kept secret for several years, with hundreds of thousands of our taxpayer dollars being spent, and they would still be a secret today if the government did not change.


Then we have the numerous allegations substantiated by the CCC relating to the former public trustee, Peter Carne. Those allegations included regularly being drunk at work, harassing office staff, keeping a breathalyser on his desk, misuse of the corporate credit card, getting staff to write his university assignments and creating a culture where staff were fearful of speaking up. The CCC has previously reported on and made public statements about its corruption investigations. A 2023 High Court decision in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* found that the CCC did not have the legal power to publish the report on its investigation on the allegations of corrupt conduct and maladministration. This decision struck at the heart of open government and transparency. It meant that Queensland's anti-corruption body, charged with upholding integrity, was effectively silenced when it came to informing the public. The very body designed to shine a light on corruption could no longer speak to the people it served.

Corruption, or even the perception of it, erodes the public's faith in government. When corruption happens in silence, it spreads, because no-one is being held to account. Queenslanders deserve to know when people in positions of power misuse that power. The two cases I referenced earlier raised many questions, including: how could the public never see the details, why was no statement issued and why was no clarity provided? However, the issue is not whether we have answers to those questions but the fact we need to ask those questions in the first place. The fact we have to ask those questions in the first place is dangerous in a democracy.

This bill restores the CCC's ability to publish reports about corruption matters, make public statements when it serves the public interest and help prevent future corruption through transparency. This is not done without appropriate checks and balances. This bill includes these clear safeguards: before naming anyone, the CCC must weigh the seriousness of the matter and the public benefit; individuals are given a fair chance to respond to any adverse comment; and privacy and wellbeing are considered carefully. It is a balanced approach, one that upholds the rights of individuals while protecting the integrity of public institutions.

This bill also validates past CCC reports that were cast into legal doubt by the High Court's decision. This provides certainty for the commission and for Queenslanders who rely on those reports to stay informed. It guarantees that the CCC can speak and be heard when it matters most. This bill restores integrity to the anti-corruption process. It brings to a close a dark chapter of Queensland's history—the Palaszczuk-Miles government's legacy of secrecy and cover-ups. This bill strengthens accountability, protects procedural fairness and, most importantly, ensures Queenslanders are not left in the dark when it comes to how corruption is handled in their government.

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge the contribution from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity as well as the contribution from the former shadow attorney-general and member for Clayfield. I also acknowledge the work of the committee and the committee chair for seeing this through which has resulted in such a comprehensive and fulsome report. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that delivers on a vital commitment by the Crisafulli LNP government to restore the openness, transparency and accountability that the people of Queensland rightfully expect from their elected representatives. This bill is fundamentally about one thing: restoring public trust—trust that was seriously damaged under the former Labor government. During the Trad and Carne CCC investigations, Queenslanders witnessed what happens when transparency is cast aside in favour of political self-preservation. We had a Labor government that not only fought to keep reports secret for years but also used taxpayer dollars to fight against the public's right to know the truth.

Thanks to the leadership of the Crisafulli LNP government, those reports were finally released. We fulfilled our election commitment and in doing so we showed Queenslanders what real transparency

looks like. Now we understand why Labor fought so hard to keep them hidden. Queenslanders deserve to know the role their politicians play in public projects. They deserve a government that serves them, not one that serves itself. If we expect the public to trust us, then we must be willing to be held to account every step of the way.

My priority is to serve my electorate and the people of Maryborough. I am here to ensure that Maryborough is represented with strength, integrity and dedication. That is what my community expects, and it is what I am proudly working on delivering every single day. This bill not only fulfils a promise to strengthen the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission; it also brings to an end a long and shameful chapter in Queensland politics—one marred by secrecy, cover-ups and the erosion of public confidence under the former Labor government.

Let's not forget this is not the first time the LNP has tried to make improvements. In 2023, we introduced a similar amendment bill to address the same laws that had been identified by the High Court, but Labor ignored it. They ignored our efforts and, worse, they ignored the voices of everyday Queenslanders calling for honesty in government. Only in the final days of the Miles government did Labor introduce their own version of the bill, and even that lapsed when the parliament was dissolved.

The Crisafulli LNP government is now doing what Labor would not. This bill restores the CCC's power to report to the public, but does so responsibly. It introduces a clear set of criteria that the CCC must consider before releasing any information, whether in a report or a public statement. The safeguards ensure the CCC continues to: act independently, impartially and fairly, always in the public interest; operate with transparency and purpose; and make decisions consistent with the Human Rights Act 2019. These new considerations will apply to both reports and public statements, including media releases and web publications. This ensures the CCC can inform the public, when it is appropriate and it is possible to do so, without compromising fairness or integrity.

Let's be clear: the CCC is not a court. Its job is to investigate and hand over evidence to the appropriate authorities, whether for criminal prosecution or disciplinary action. This bill expressly limits the CCC's ability to make findings on whether someone is guilty of corrupt conduct or whether a prosecution should follow. That is not their role. However, if the CCC finds it necessary and appropriate to name someone and make adverse comments, the person involved must be given procedural fairness, as is required under the current act. To reinforce that, this bill clarifies the procedural fairness provision, introduces specific timeframes and provides a right to review time extension requests in the Supreme Court. It also revises how CCC reports are tabled, placing the decision solely with the CCC, not politicians. That is what independence looks like.

Unlike Labor, we will respect the CCC's independence and protect its discretion to make decisions without political interference. This is not just sound policy, it is essential governance. We, as elected representatives, have been entrusted with a great responsibility. The people of Queensland placed their confidence in us, and in return they deserve a government that is honest, transparent and accountable. My electorate is expecting that from me. I know how important it is for my electorate that their member be transparent and honest with them. For this short time, I have earned their trust, but I will continue to earn it because I will never stop fighting for my electorate.

Importantly, unlike Labor's lapsed bill, this legislation makes it clear that all past CCC reports and statements remain valid. This means that the CCC can restore those reports on its website and give legal certainty to the commission and its officers.

This bill is not just another reform, it is a promise kept—a promise of accountability, a promise of leadership and a promise that the Crisafulli LNP government will always put Queenslanders first. I commend the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.43 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025.

It is about giving the people of Queensland the government they deserve—a government that is fair, open, transparent and accountable. We owe it to Queensland.

Those are the words of the member for Mount Coot-tha on 7 May, 2015.

Since then, a few things have happened. Firstly, the member for Mount Coot-tha then became the member for Murrumbidgee, and then the member for Murrumbidgee became the deputy premier and then he became the premier. I can tell you what did not happen: he did not deliver to Queenslanders what he himself said they were owed. The Crisafulli LNP government, on the other hand, will deliver all of those things and more when it comes to transparency. The delivery will be made via this bill. While the

member for Murrumba and those opposite talked about transparency, we now know that what they meant was transparency when it suited them. They fought tooth and nail to keep reports hidden and spent taxpayers' money in the process. Not only did they fail to deliver transparency, they actually slugged Queenslanders to avoid it.

You can just picture the scene on 13 September 2023 when the High Court handed down its judgement that the CCC could not publicly release a report about a specific investigation. Hollywood would betray it as an evil villain rubbing his hands with glee, but in actual fact it was probably more about relief for those opposite. As we know, it was a relief because when the LNP introduced the bill to restore the CCC's powers, those opposite spoke strongly against it and the current shadow minister for health jumped to the defence of his former colleague, citing their human rights and saying there were no findings against them. What we now know is that the report that those opposite fought to keep secret revealed that the CCC found the former treasurer had in fact inappropriately interfered in the appointment of her under treasurer. In short, their claims that there were no findings against the former treasurer were only true because they kept the findings hidden.

The objectives of this bill are to restore the power to report publicly about corruption investigations as it was considered to exist before the High Court decision and to ensure that the CCC may also make public statements about these matters, to safeguard against the release of information to the public about corruption matters and circumstances where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits to be derived from releasing the information, and finally to ensure that any residual legal risk that might be attributable to the CCC and its officers in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and statements is removed. This bill is about delivering what the current opposition leader promised to deliver almost 10 years ago—a promise that was not kept. It is completely ironic that members opposite are attempting to claim the moral high ground during the course of this debate. Queenslanders will never forget that, while in power, those opposite talked a big game when it came to transparency, and they have done their best to do that again during this debate.

Queenslanders will also never forget that it was the Crisafulli LNP government that revealed the truth. It was the LNP who ended the protection racket that Labor ran to protect the former treasurer. It is important that this bill enhances the independence of the CCC by ensuring that the CCC must give a report directly to the Speaker for tabling, at the same time providing the report to the Attorney-General and the chairperson of the PCCC.

Let me be clear: there is no place in Queensland for corruption, and when commitments are made, they need to be honoured. Our commitment was to transparency for Queenslanders. Supporting this bill will send a clear message that our duty is to Queenslanders, not to our political mates. I call on all members to vote for transparency and to support this bill.



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (5.48 pm): I stand today to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. The Crime and Corruption Commission is an important legacy that originated out of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. It has had a number of different formats, but it goes to the very heart of ensuring that the public can have confidence in government and public officials, and that there is transparency and openness with regard to their interactions and their behaviour.

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr MANDER: I cannot quite hear the member for Toohey, but he is mumbling something over there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): If you have some comments you would like to make, member for Toohey, you can do it from your seat, thank you.

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Mr MANDER: I would appreciate if the comments could at least be literate so I could understand and respond. Moving on, these are incredibly important principles that underline the public's confidence in government and in all of the processes that are associated with it—that is why this bill is so very important. It is giving it the power to do what it is meant to do; that is, to reveal to the public actions that may have been questionable, behaviour that might have been inappropriate and sometimes criminal behaviour so that that can be punished. There is no other way of saying it. We know those opposite talk a big game when it comes to fighting corruption and transparency, except when it relates to themselves. When it relates to themselves and it might be potentially embarrassing, they go running for the hills.

Mr Lister: Or running for the lawyers!

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Their efforts to hide the truth has cost taxpayers a lot of money and that is entirely inappropriate. Queenslanders need to be reminded of the extent they will go to to hide their own behaviour or protect their mates. There was no greater mate than the former deputy leader and treasurer of previous government, Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, there have been enough comments without you.

Mr MANDER: I will not take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you did not take the interjection and I have asked him to be quiet.

Mr MANDER: Exactly. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. Wherever she seemed to go, controversy followed her—whether it was the appointment of a principal at one of her local schools, whether it was failing to declare a property that she could have benefited from with the Cross River Rail, or whether it was calling the CCC chair on the weekend when he was ‘in his trackie daks’—his quote—to let him know ‘I just want to assure you that I am going to cooperate with you’ after she had referred herself—I think we referred her as well. I think it was a double referral.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the Minister for Water. He was quite explicit about what he was doing that afternoon when he was interrupted by that phone call. The point being, whenever the former member for South Brisbane went, controversy followed. This is just another example of where there were serious allegations about interference in the appointment process of a public service position. Again, for all the cries for transparency and making sure we go through the right interview process, there was a lot of smoke and it would appear that there was more than smoke. This is all about making the CCC investigation into that public. The former government for months and months spent money on making sure that it did not become public. Now why do you do that? Well, you do that because you are trying to hide something, and that is exactly what was happening here. We know that the former member for South Brisbane was one of the left-wing factional heavies—or the factional heavy—who headed up that faction of the Labor Party. Her factional colleagues did everything possible to protect her, and it was only this side that said ‘no that is not right’ and we fought it in opposition. I think we tried to introduce a bill. We tried to pass motions to make sure this type of information was exposed to the public. The CCC asked for it, as well. They were frustrated by this, which was the incredible thing. They wanted to be transparent and they were not allowed to be because of the High Court ruling so the change of law was necessary. That is why we are here today—to bring that about.

It was not only the former member for South Brisbane, there was Mr Peter Carne, as well, who was the Public Trustee boss and a known Labor Party associate—had been for years. Again, they were trying to hide conduct that he was accused of. It was quite unbelievable that somebody in such a prestigious and high position of power could try to get away with this type of behaviour. His friends from the now opposition tried everything in their power to hide that behaviour as well. I can only have great empathy and sympathy for the staff of the Public Trustee. That office was mired in controversy for a whole range of other reasons and now, we have insight into why that might have been the case. The leadership of that organisation was obviously not up to scratch, both in terms of competency and appropriateness. When this behaviour became open and public, it again explained why those opposite tried to hide how these public officials operated from everyday Queenslanders.

This bill tonight goes to the heart of those situations, it goes to the heart of transparency. I congratulate the Attorney-General who is also the Minister for Integrity. It is important that these types of things are transparent. Those opposite like to quote Mr Fitzgerald when it suits them, but they are not happy to quote Mr Fitzgerald when it does not suit them. These are the type of things that I would have thought he would be aghast at. Maybe I should ring up Mr Fitzgerald and see what he felt about these things, like the then deputy opposition leader did, to see what sort of comments she could eke out of him. Maybe that is something we should try one day to see if we can get some comments but we do not do that type of thing. We let judges retire in peace and the tranquillity of the lifestyle they are enjoying—

Mr Bennett: And earnt.

Mr MANDER: And earnt—I take that interjection from the member for Burnett—for a service well done to the Queensland community.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!


Mr MANDER: Hear, hear. Thank you. As I draw to the end of my contribution, I would like to say how important this bill is. I want to thank the government whip for allowing me this opportunity. I appreciate that.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr MANDER: You, as well. Member for Toowoomba North, you have done an outstanding job allowing yourself to be dropped out and me in and I appreciate that.

Mr Hunt: Me, too.

Mr MANDER: The chair of the committee, Mr Marty Hunt, deserves a mention as I get down to my last 10 seconds. I am quite proud of my own contribution, as well. Thank you.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill that we are looking at and amending. This restores reporting powers. We have to ask ourselves, what does a government do? A government takes people's money and then spends it on their behalf. The question is: what should motivate members of the government to make decisions around that money? Obviously if there is corruption in that decision-making process, we should have an institution that is able to investigate that.

Another thing government does is it makes rules and regulations to control the lives of populations, hopefully for their benefit. Again, what happens if those rules and regulations are made in such a way that government is corrupt and they are not made in the best interests of those populations? We would want a body to be able to investigate that. Of course, it would be very important that when that body investigates these things, it would be able to report back its findings in a suitable way, potentially through this House, so that the people of Queensland who elect us to serve and represent them can be assured that that service and representation is to them and not because of some ulterior interference, aka corruption.

Another thing government does is it establishes institutions. It sets up institutions to try to help administer the state and it appoints people to those institutions. One of those appointees was Mr Carne, who was appointed as the public trustee. There were a number of allegations made against the public trustee Peter Carne and those allegations included being regularly drunk at work. It is probably not an expectation of those people whom we tax and for whom we make rules to govern their lives that we would appoint somebody or allow somebody with such behaviour to continue. However, it went on much further than that: harassing office staff, keeping a breathalyser on his desk and misuse of the corporate credit card. Some would say the former government's treasurer might have been misusing the public purse by not being honest with everybody but certainly misusing a corporate credit card is a serious breach of people's trust and the fact that it was a public trustee official—the public trustee—who was doing that was obviously very disappointing. There was also an allegation that he got his staff to write his university assignments. I would have thought in the days of ChatGPT that would not even be necessary, but here we are.

This surely shows someone with a lack of integrity, creating a culture where staff were fearful of speaking up. Then Mr Carne was boasting of his connections at the highest levels to the Labor government. That report was put together and it was ready to be shown to the people of Queensland, who paid for it, who had the institution set up on their behalf to ensure integrity in decisions of the people they elect to serve and represent them. What happened? The government of the day decided, I speculate because of those connections at the highest level of government, the Labor government—maybe because he was so well connected to the Labor Party leadership, they decided not to release that report. However, the CCC wanted the report released so they pushed. Then it started to go through a legal process, and it is very important to have a legal process. The High Court was not looking at whether the report should or should not be released. The High Court was looking at whether the legislation allows it to be released. It is not whether it is in the public interest or anything else, but whether it should be allowed. The government of the day, with their mate and his connections at the highest level of the Labor government, then spent \$397,182 of taxpayers' money—that is the people whom we are elected to serve and represent—to keep secret the report that the corruption watchdog felt should be published because it highlighted the terrible misconduct of the then public trustee.

If there is an institution that is led by somebody like that who is behaving as the allegations were substantiated by the CCC and then the government spends nearly \$400,000 to try to keep that secret, people are going to rightly ask the question, 'Is there something in that report they don't want people to see?' Long story cut short, we ended up in a situation where we have taxed people, we have set up

institutions, we have rules to govern their lives, we set up a corruption watchdog to make sure that is done in an ethical, a moral and a just way and then that institution is gagged. It has the gaffer tape put over its mouth. It is not allowed to tell people what it knows about what is going on in that institution when that watchdog is supposed to be governing their lives in a fair, equitable and just way.

That is the mess that the Attorney-General, the Crisafulli government Attorney-General, is trying to clear up here. It is to make sure that our corruption watchdog has the power—no matter who it is, no matter which institution—to both go and investigate that in an appropriate way and release that information. That is fundamentally important to the conduct of this democracy. What has gone on in here should not in any way be underestimated. It is disgraceful that the previous Labor government behaved this way and spent taxpayers' money to hide such a person's conduct from the public view. That destroys confidence in all of our institutions and it is not serving and representing the public of Queensland. That is why our Attorney-General is here fixing Labor's mess.

Before my time runs out, I want to talk about one of the amendments that is very important, particularly to one young woman in my electorate, and that is the one that relates to the DNA lab. This is a complete and utter debacle and a complete injustice. People have gone through a very difficult process of submitting DNA because they have been deeply wronged and they want somebody to do something about it. Because of the complete ineptitude of the former Labor government, that lab was not conducting itself appropriately and not providing the level of DNA analysis required for the evidence to be used to ensure people got justice for the crimes committed against them. These are the most heinous of crimes committed against them. I have had a constituent sitting down in front of me describing what happened and the injustice she felt based on the investigation of her DNA. It was disgraceful that the lab was conducted that way. It was disgraceful that the former government did not pick it up, did not fix it and did not manage it. It is even more disgraceful that unless we bring forward these amendments, some of this evidence, because of the complete ineptitude and lack of funding to process all of these samples, will be destroyed and justice will never be served for those victims of these heinous crimes.


These amendments are fundamentally important to make sure that people who have been wronged in the most terrible ways have the opportunity—and the results so far show that nearly one in four, 23 per cent, will have that evidence come forward and be able to have justice served. That is why the amendments are urgent and that is why that evidence needs to be protected. That is why I support this bill, because I am here to serve and represent the people of Queensland and not some Labor apparatchik.

Ms ENOCH: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I call the member for Pumicestone.

Ms ENOCH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I was on my feet. I made the call several times.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. You are not on the list. The protocol would be that you let me know.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (6.08 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that. I do apologise. I was not on the list to speak tonight. I did not intend to speak tonight because the crime and corruption amendment bill is something that this side of the House has acted on in goodwill and, of course, we have heard speakers previously speak favourably with regard to some of the aspects of that bill.

Unfortunately, what we have seen once again today is a government introducing amendments without any warning—amendments that have a huge impact on working people in Queensland and in particular on women, on people who are living with disability, on people who every day are dealing with discrimination. This Attorney-General has decided to introduce amendments at the last minute, but this is a government that has form in this space. On its very first day in this parliament we saw it introduce legislation that removed the Path to Treaty legislation without any warning, without any consultation and without any ability for a committee to do work in that space, and we are seeing it again now.

The respect at work act is a really important one. The Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill and the anti-discrimination laws have been worked on for many years—in fact, about 2½ years of consultation has been undertaken—and the fact that we are seeing amendments that will see an indefinite delay in the implementation of that is an absolute shame and it is a disgrace. Given that we are on the eve of domestic violence month and at a time when we need this legislation to protect women in particular in the workforce, this just goes to show exactly where this government is in terms of its headspace.

An article in the *Guardian* which referred to the amendments that have been brought forward today around respect at work and the anti-discrimination laws said that those laws were designed to protect victims of domestic violence, homeless people, women at work and others. The act was the most substantial reform to the state's anti-discrimination laws since they were passed in 1991. It was pretty clear that it was time to make some changes to modernise it after an absolutely shameful set of circumstances with all of that absolutely horrible stuff that came out of Citipointe where teachers were being discriminated against by a particular school that decided that it wanted to be able to sack people who might have a certain sexual orientation. That was an absolute disgrace. When we heard that the Attorney-General was going to delay the implementation of respect at work we heard people from across all sectors come out in absolute dismay and absolutely disgraced by the Attorney-General. The *Guardian* article quotes Matilda Alexander from the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network as saying—

Queenslanders with a disability had been waiting 'too long' for changes to discrimination and hate speech laws.

For the first time, hate speech would have been unlawful on the basis of disability. For the first time victims of crime and domestic violence would have been protected from discrimination ...

Justice delayed is justice denied. This delay will mean people with disability will continue to experience unfair discrimination, hate speech, abuse and harm.

As the shadow spokesperson for disability services in this state, I absolutely stand by the words of the Queensland Independent Disability Advocacy Network on this. The fact that we are once again seeing these amendments rushed into this place now—this is how this government operates; just rush it through with no ability to have any committee consultation on this matter—just goes to show what it thinks of people living with disabilities in this state: that it would be happy for them to continue to live with the potential to experience unfair discrimination, hate speech, abuse and harm towards them.

Why would those opposite do that? Why would any government create a situation where people living with a disability can be exposed to this? However, this government has form in this space. Respect at work also means being able to protect women who are experiencing domestic violence in their workplace. Why would those opposite delay that? That is an absolute disgrace. I think any woman in Queensland becoming aware of the fact that this government wishes to indefinitely delay the implementation of this work would be absolutely shocked, yet those opposite say that it is because they need a little more time to consult. It was developed after a 3½-year consultation process conducted by the Queensland Human Rights Commission. As I said earlier, all of that was sparked by this scandal at Brisbane Citipointe Christian College which required families to sign a statement declaring homosexual acts are immoral.

If this government and those opposite are standing for discrimination, then these rushed amendments are an absolute sign of where their heads are at on this issue. It is absolutely disgusting that those opposite would go ahead and indefinitely delay a really important piece of legislation that ensures that people are not being subjected to hate speech.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Absolutely; I cannot understand. There was 3½ years of consultation to ensure that we saw those changes. These laws needed to be changed. It was time for that change and we had done the work to make sure that that could change. After that process, we see those opposite absolutely turning their backs once again on the most vulnerable people in this state—

An opposition member: DV victims.

Ms ENOCH:—DV victims and people living with disabilities. To add salt into the wound for DV victims, we are on the eve of DV month. What on earth? Please stand up and do the right thing by the people of Queensland and the discrimination—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Everton, I will warn you if you continue to interject. They are not being taken.

Ms ENOCH: The member for Everton is constantly yelling over women, screaming at women—

Ms Fentiman: Kicking old ladies out of their social housing.

Ms ENOCH:—kicking old ladies out of their housing, complaining that there are too many women on the Parole Board. I mean, seriously—and now he is in here complaining that we are saying that it is not right to indefinitely delay legislation that would protect women. It is absolutely a complete disgrace.


Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango and member for Everton, the interjections are not being taken. Please desist.

Ms ENOCH: The government in moving these rushed amendments is showing its hand. It does not believe in the legislation. It does not believe in protecting people from discrimination, from hate speech and from the harm that that causes. Honestly, I would expect a lot better from a woman Attorney-General who says every day that she stands up for people and victims, yet today she is turning her back on victims.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (6.18 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of one of the most important pieces of legislation this parliament will consider—the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill marks a turning point for Queensland, a clear break from the culture of secrecy, cover-ups and political interference that thrived under the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government. It is about restoring the faith of Queenslanders in their public institutions, it is about rebuilding trust in the processes that are meant to protect the public from corruption and it is about making sure that never again can a government use its power to bury the truth.

This bill is a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government and we are delivering. We promised Queenslanders that we would shine a light on corruption and restore transparency in our institutions. We promised Queenslanders that we would empower the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC, to once again speak freely to the people of this state. We promised Queenslanders that we would bring an end to the Labor legacy of dodging accountability. This bill keeps that promise.

The need for this legislation is clear. It comes after a dark chapter in Queensland's history—a chapter defined by cover-ups, legal gamesmanship and a blatant disregard for public trust. Let us not forget that under Labor the CCC's powers were neutered. When the High Court ruled in *Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne* that the CCC lacked the power to publish specific investigation reports, Labor had a choice: they could act swiftly to restore those powers and uphold transparency but they did not. Instead, they dragged their feet. They allowed the CCC to go silent, unable to report publicly on corruption. For months, Queenslanders were kept in the dark. That was no accident; it was a pattern of concealing the truth.

I remind the House of just what those opposite tried to hide. Let me remind Queenslanders why this bill is necessary. Firstly, I refer to the case of Jackie Trad. The CCC found that, while deputy premier, Ms Trad interfered inappropriately in the recruitment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll. That was not just a case of political interference; it was aggressive lobbying and a deliberate undermining of an independent recruitment process. The panel tasked with assessing Mr Carroll's suitability, chaired by Dave Stewart, the director-general to the then premier herself, initially found Mr Carroll not appointable. But then, under pressure from Ms Trad, Mr Stewart changed his recommendation. He told the CCC—

The telephone conversations that I had with Trad were extremely aggressive ... she was extremely aggressive, very frustrated, and I have said to you that I was influenced by those conversations to change my view.

That is not how democracy should work. Our Public Service must be independent and it must be free from political interference, yet we saw a senior public servant bullied into changing his professional judgement.

Even former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk admitted to the CCC that Ms Trad pressured her. She described how Ms Trad first begged her to appoint Mr Carroll and later yelled at her, demanding that she pick up the pen and sign the appointment. When questioned by the CCC about those calls, Ms Trad denied ever yelling, but the evidence speaks for itself. This is not just about one appointment; this is about abuse of power at the highest levels of government. It is about a culture where political loyalty mattered more than merit, where backroom deals and aggressive lobbying replaced proper process and how those opposite fought to keep that hidden from the people of Queensland.

Let us turn to Peter Carne, the former public trustee. The CCC substantiated multiple allegations of misconduct, regular intoxication at work, harassment of staff, keeping a breathalyser on his desk—not to discourage drinking but because it became part of his daily routine—misusing his corporate credit

card, getting staff to write his university assignments and creating a toxic culture of fear where staff were too afraid to speak out. Carne boasted about his connections to the highest levels of the Labor government and it is no surprise why. It was because under Labor those connections protected him.

Those cases reveal a government that was more concerned with protecting itself than serving the people and a government that used every tool at its disposal to suppress the truth. Queensland deserved better. This bill restores what Labor took away. It gives the CCC the clear unambiguous power to report publicly on corruption matters. It ensures that no future government can silence the CCC as Labor did.

Key features of the bill include an explicit power for the CCC to report at any time on corruption matters; a power for the CCC to make public statements in any format that it deems appropriate; a new set of public interest criteria to guide those decisions, balancing the need for transparency with respect for individual rights; stronger procedural fairness protections for individuals named in reports, including clear timeframes and the right to review; the CCC's independence respected with the decision to table reports solely with the CCC and not the government of the day; and the validation of all past CCC reports and statements, ensuring legal certainty and access to historical records.

This bill makes it clear that the CCC is an independent watchdog, not a tool for political convenience. It reaffirms that, while the CCC can investigate and report, it does not make findings of corrupt conduct. That remains the role of the appropriate decision-making bodies. To those opposite who might try to defend their record, I say this: Queenslanders have seen the reports, they know the truth and they know that Labor fought to keep it from them.

This is a government that believes in the power of the people. We believe Queenslanders have the right to know what happens in their name and with their money under their laws. This bill is about respect: respect for our institutions, respect for our democracy and respect for the people. It is about ensuring that never again can a government hide behind legal technicalities to avoid being held accountable. It is about ensuring that those who serve in public office, whether elected or appointed, do so with integrity.

With this bill, the Crisafulli government is turning the page. We are putting Queensland back on the path of honesty, transparency and accountability. We are standing up for the values that matter most to the people we serve. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Doolan, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the government has circulated amendments proposed to be moved to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. Government amendment No. 15 seeks to amend sections 6 and 439 of the Youth Justice Act 1992, relating to criminal histories. I note that sections 6 and 439 were considered by the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024, which was passed in the same session of this parliament. Standing order 87 provides that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Standing order 150 provides that no amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with one already agreed to by the House.

Government amendment No. 15 proposes amendments to sections 6 and 439 in that they qualify and modify the provisions so they are inconsistent with amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to standing orders 87 and 150. See rulings from former Speaker Simpson on 6 August 2014, Speaker Wellington on 17 September 2015 and Speaker Pitt on 14 September 2021.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by government amendment No. 15. A motion to suspend standing orders 87 and 150 would be required for this amendment to be considered.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.26 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

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

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

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

AYES, 50:

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

NOES, 28:

ALP, 28—Asif, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 6.32 pm to 7.30 pm.


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CRIME AND CORRUPTION (RESTORING REPORTING POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 971, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. I wish to echo the words of the shadow attorney-general, who confirmed that the Labor opposition supports a strong and an independent Crime and Corruption Commission that is empowered to do its job on behalf of Queenslanders. I had the privilege in my first term in parliament to be the deputy chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and I saw firsthand the invaluable work that the commission undertakes.

I was 15 when Wayne Goss led Labor to power, and six years later I had the privilege of working for the Goss government. What I know, and what has been recognised, is this quote from Glyn Davis, who wrote—

A single animating value drove Goss as premier: The need for integrity in government. This required new anti-corruption institutions, an overhaul of electoral laws to entrench "one vote one value", freedom of information, administrative law reform and major structural changes to the public sector.

We, the Labor Party, led integrity in this state after more than 30 years of corruption, cover-ups and gerrymanders. Frankly, we will not be lectured to by those opposite when it comes to our support of the Crime and Corruption Commission. Those opposite are clearly taking our state back to the bad old days with their political interference of electoral boundaries.

Tonight, I want to specifically focus my contribution on the disgraceful changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act and the respect at work act introduced by the Attorney-General that are indefinitely delaying protections for women at work—domestic violence victims and people who are experiencing homelessness. This is an absolute disgrace. These laws would have placed a positive duty on Queensland employers to require them to take all reasonable steps to prevent sex-based harassment and discrimination. Sexual harassment remains prevalent, with one in three workers experiencing it in their workplace in the past five years. The reforms would prevent discrimination based on a person being homeless, a person being a victim of family or domestic violence or a person's physical appearance or due to irrelevant components of a criminal record, such as withdrawn charges.

The Attorney-General said she told everyone in a ministerial statement that she was going to move these amendments. At the time of her statement, she failed to inform the Queensland Human Rights Commission—the statutory body that led the 3½-year consultation process. Queensland Human Rights Commissioner Scott McDougall quite rightly said that the lack of consultation with QHRC—

... was in stark contrast to Mr Crisafulli's promise to uphold the Westminster system of government.

He also said—

It's concerning that the level of respect that our Westminster system the government relies upon to ensure we don't descend into chaos has not been evidenced ...

The Attorney-General did not even have the decency to raise her government's concerns with him. Aside from the review by the commission, the laws have been backed by inquiries from the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and two prior inquiries by the former parliamentary Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. The Human Rights Commissioner said—

To pause the implementation of all these changes due to a concern about one aspect of the reforms, with no notice and no concerns previously having been raised with us, is a disproportionate response.


To claim the reforms were rushed and not consultative enough is additionally misleading.

Pressing pause on these protections without any clear justification is a shameful political act. To say that further consultation is required is just ridiculous, given there has already been 3½ years of consultation. It was a wide-ranging consultation with a clear finding that better protections were needed.

While the government dithers, there are working women and survivors of family and domestic violence who are not adequately protected from sexual harassment and discrimination. The General Secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions, Jacqueline King, said the decision was 'an outrageous betrayal of Queenslanders workers'. She said—

We don't need any more consultation. We have been consulted to death over important reforms in this space on sexual harassment. We just need to get on and act the legislation and do it.

I have two daughters and, as a mother, I want to ensure that they are not only free from discrimination because they are women but also safe from sexual harassment when they enter a workplace. I know what it is like to be sexually harassed as a young woman starting out in the workforce. I worked in male-dominated industries where women were treated poorly and we did not have the confidence or agency to speak up for fear of losing our jobs. The lewd jokes, the touches here and there and the disgusting misogyny—I am one of many women in this state who faced this. Any woman who has experienced this disgusting sexual harassment should know that this LNP government will not protect them from this behaviour because they do not care.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (7.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. Restoring integrity, transparency and accountability to the public sector is a core focus of the LNP Crisafulli government. This bill seeks to create more transparent reporting powers and integrity in government. Queenslanders demand and deserve accountability of their elected representatives. This bill responds to the public demand for trust in our institutions.

The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 is consistent with the LNP's Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill, which was introduced into this House in 2023. This was the LNP's first attempt to restore the CCC's reporting powers after the deficiencies in the act were identified by the High Court. The LNP's bill was blatantly disregarded by the former Labor government and they continued to ignore Queenslanders' calls for accountability, even in the dying days of the former Palaszczuk-Miles government.

The CCC has been unable to publicly report on corruption matters since a High Court decision in September 2023, with Labor failing to promptly act to amend legislation to allow for public reporting. It is the Crisafulli LNP government that is acting to restore the CCC's powers and ability to release critical integrity reports. These landmark laws will end Labor's political protection racket that kept Queenslanders in the dark about the Trad and Carne reports.

The bill retrospectively validates the preparation and publication of all past reports and public statements made by the CCC. The CCC previously reported on, and made public statements about, its corruption investigations; however, this bill provides an implicit power for the CCC to report at any time about corruption matters. This will provide the CCC with the power found to be lacking by the High Court to make a statement to the public about a corruption matter in the way the CCC considers appropriate. Why is this important? We saw a disgraceful abuse of power under the former Labor government when then deputy premier Jackie Trad, who was referred to the CCC over an inappropriate public appointment on her watch, took legal action against the corruption watchdog to stop the release of the report into her behaviour and inappropriate appointment.

To add insult to injury, this was all at a cost to Queensland taxpayers. The Jackie Trad court saga cost Queensland taxpayers around \$400,000 in legal fees. That is disgraceful. I thank our Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Deb Frecklington, for her work and advocacy to see more

transparency brought back to the CCC. Thanks to the introduction of this bill, and ensuing motion, the reports that the Labor Party worked so desperately hard to hide were released to the public on 19 February this year.

The Crisafulli LNP government has delivered on a key election promise to see the release of the CCC reports into Jackie Trad and Peter Carne. We said we would deliver it, and that is exactly what we have done. After years of secrecy, Queenslanders deserve to know what these reports contain. What did those reports reveal? The former deputy premier Jackie Trad's 'aggressive advocacy' saw the appointment of a top bureaucrat, her first pick, who was actually deemed not appointable by an independent panel.

In 2020, the CCC revealed a complaint that Ms Trad had 'interfered' to ensure the appointment, her choice, of one candidate 'with whom she had a longstanding professional relationship'. In the ensuing 2021 report, the CCC chairperson Mr Bruce Barbour wrote that the 'forcefully expressed personal preference' of Ms Trad had influenced Mr Stewart. He wrote—

In the final analysis, it was not merit that carried the day, but aggressive advocacy by the Senior Minister and a Director-General acceding to that advocacy.

Meanwhile, the report about Mr Carne detailed allegations about his poor conduct while serving as the Public Trustee, of his inappropriate behaviour, his alcohol use and his misuse of the public credit card. These reports the Labor Party wanted hidden from the public. We say no more. We say no more to cover-ups—no more to gagging the CCC.


The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on our promise to bolster the powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission and restore its ability to release critical integrity reports through this bill. The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 provides clear powers for the CCC to issue public reports and make public statements at any time about corruption complaints or investigations. This includes 32 investigation reports and 256 media releases that had to be removed under Labor.

This bill's reporting and public statement powers are subject to a new safeguard in the form of a set of criteria. I welcome the new criteria which are designed to operate alongside and give substance to the existing obligations on the CCC. These include: act at all times independently, impartially and fairly; perform its corruption functions while applying the public interest principle; and make decisions that are compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019.

These criteria are not exhaustive and the CCC may have regard to any relevant factor in making its decisions about whether to report or to make a statement. However, these safeguards provide the CCC with flexibility to independently determine when and how releasing information will be in the best public interest. This will allow the CCC to have regard to the prevailing state of affairs and any need to accommodate unique or exceptional circumstances.

As the member for Redcliffe, the people of my electorate expect and demand of me to act with integrity at all times—to be accountable, to take ownership and to be responsible for my behaviour. That is expected and demanded of every single member here in this chamber.

In closing, thank you again to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, for introducing this bill to the House and for her leadership to drive this reform. Thank you to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee for their work, to those who made submissions and to the secretariat for their work in collating the report. The report made just one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I commend the bill and these amendments to the House to help restore accountability and transparency and to restore confidence and trust for all Queenslanders.

 **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) (7.45 pm): I am delighted to rise to speak in support of this legislation. At the outset, I would like to make some very timely comments, and they are to acknowledge the Attorney-General. Earlier I heard an appalling attack on our Attorney-General, Deb Frecklington, by a female Labor frontbencher who acted, I believe, quite disgracefully and personal in the way that she went after our Attorney-General. I not only want to call that out but I also want to acknowledge the Attorney-General's history of practically advocating and supporting women facing some of the most dire circumstances. I want to relay a story that was told to me by a constituent who at the time had been living in the area where the Attorney-General, prior to her time in politics, was practising as a local solicitor.

The story goes like this: this woman found herself in the most horrendous of circumstances where she was before the court having suffered from domestic violence and the perpetrator who had

committed offences against her was pushing back within the court setting and causing her great distress. She did not know what to do or how to answer questions. This was in a scenario of having faced domestic violence and she felt quite isolated and vulnerable in the legal system. It was the now Attorney-General but then local solicitor—not a member of parliament then—Deb Frecklington, who quietly slipped alongside her, even though she was not a client of hers, and provided some timely advice in her ear. Not only was it timely legal advice; it was comfort not only to someone who was in a terrible circumstance not of their creation but also to a woman in the legal system who had faced domestic violence and was feeling exposed, vulnerable and alone.

It really touched me when I heard that story. I relayed it to the member for Nanango when she was a candidate and then later became a member of parliament. It showed her inherent commitment and her integrity that she will stand up, and does stand up, for women who are facing some of the worst circumstances in life. In this case, it was family and domestic violence. I call out the attack by the former Labor minister, now shadow minister, who launched this appalling attack on our Attorney-General. She does care about women. She does care about the vulnerable. She does continue to advocate on their behalf using the office that she now fills not only ably with her professional skills but as someone who feels deeply and has a longstanding commitment. That is why this legislation before the House is so important: the same expertise and caring commitment is brought to bear.

Some further necessary amendments have been tabled to ensure that the DNA samples that have been collected which may be required to prosecute sex criminals are not destroyed. This is one of the very important amendments before the House that has been criticised by some members opposite. It is necessary for these amendments at this time because otherwise more women and men who have been the subject of some of the worst circumstances in their life as victims of a sex attack may find they never receive justice because offenders' samples are destroyed. These amendments are important for justice, they are important for the victims and it is important for the integrity of our justice system that the DNA samples are able to be tested. It is necessary for the extension because of one of the worst ever DNA forensic lab failures not just in Australia but in the world.


People watch so-called real-time crime movies these days and we have all seen the things that forensic labs can do, but in fiction you do not often see what happens when things go wrong and DNA labs fail in their fundamental duty to get it right and process samples accurately to ensure justice is served. There has been integrity in terms of the scientific testing of samples, but Queensland now has the unenviable reputation of being the scene of a crime itself: the failure of the forensic DNA testing lab in Queensland. As we now move to clear up the backlog of this horrendous failure there are still many samples that have yet to be tested. Contrary to the opposition we have heard, these amendments are necessary to ensure that not only can we have time to fix the DNA lab debacle but also that these samples are not destroyed so that hopefully we will see justice served. Currently there are offenders walking the streets who have not been brought before the justice system because of another failure and Labor's horrendous inability to get the job done and get it done right. I stand up for our Attorney-General, who is standing up for Queenslanders, standing up for our justice system and standing up for the victims of crime and victims of sexual crimes who were let down by the worst forensic testing lab failure. That should not be something those opposite are in any way proud of, but they are still in denial in terms of their chaos and division with regard to their appalling failures with regard to these critical issues.

With regard to some of other provisions in the legislation before the House, as my colleagues have alluded to, it is necessary for the Crime and Corruption Commission to have the power to publish reports of their investigations involving allegations of corruption. You would think that should be a given, but we did not realise that until the Jackie Trad saga. Protected again by the racket that was the former Labor government, with government funding to fight against the release of a report into her appalling behaviour, we did not think there was a problem with the CCC being able to report to the parliament on these allegations and their investigations—which were damning. In true Labor fashion, they unleashed chaos and crisis across so many areas, so many services and certainly on our justice system with the youth crime epidemic and the DNA lab failure. This was another instance where they covered up a damning report about the appalling behaviour of a former deputy premier of Queensland, no less, with the assistance of their Labor colleagues, who ticked off on funding to protect and prevent that report from being lobbed into the parliament and being put under public scrutiny. This legislation addresses that.

The corruption watchdog found that Ms Trad inappropriately interfered in the independent recruitment process for the recruitment of former under treasurer Frankie Carroll. The independent panel, chaired by Dave Stewart, deemed Mr Carroll not appointable for the position. However,

according to the report, Ms Trad was extremely aggressive in her lobbying and changed this recommendation to mark Mr Carroll as appropriate. The Labor Party continues to peddle this myth that somehow they are cloaked in integrity and light and they have never acted inappropriately, but this is one of the great stains on their time in government. The report was eventually tabled, but there needs to be a mechanism going forward because we do not want to see the circumstance again where reports which should have been tabled are prevented from being tabled. There still has to be natural justice. Just to clear it up so we are not left with any doubt, there needs to be provisions in the bill so those reports can be tabled after a full investigation. There was also the case of Peter Carne, the former public trustee who was alleged to have been drunk. There were a number of other allegations. He was also party to pushing back against those reports coming out publicly. It is time for integrity.

This piece of legislation will put beyond doubt the right of this parliament—the right of the people—to see those reports going forward and ensure there are appropriate safeguards against not only corruption but maladministration in such a form as this. Let us never forget that this is what the Labor Party did not want to see the light of day. I commend the bill before the House and I certainly stand behind our Attorney-General and her outstanding efforts.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.55 pm): I will firstly associate myself with the comments of the member for Gaven, our shadow attorney-general, with respect to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill and those that have been made by my opposition colleagues here today. I will focus my comments briefly on the same issue that my colleague, the member for Jordan, addressed just a short time ago and put on the record my strong opposition and concern to the amendments that were tabled in respect of the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act and the Anti-Discrimination Act.

I do note the Minister for Women's comments just then. I appreciate and respect the deep and passionate defence of her colleague, the Attorney-General, but this is a bill and these amendments go straight to the heart of protecting women in Queensland in the workplace. I would have hoped they would have also been mentioned in her contribution just now.

The amendments here, which will indefinitely delay the implementation of these anti-discrimination law reforms, designed to protect victims of domestic violence, homeless people in this state, women at work and others, represented the most substantial review of the act since 1991. They followed a very, very extended period of consultation—3½ years—conducted by the Queensland Human Rights Commission. I would respect those opposite if the new government had issues with what was proposed and they want to make amendments, if they want to address them, or if they wanted to have, I dare say, further consultation—not that we needed it. After 3½ years we had absolutely measured the concerns and intent of Queensland workers and Queensland stakeholders in this regard. To come in and indefinitely announce that they are just not going to happen, 'We are putting them on ice for evermore', is deeply disappointing to all of the stakeholders who put their heart and soul into the 3½ years of consultation.

We should not be surprised, because when our then government brought forward the least contentious elements of the bill in September, all LNP members voted against it. If the then LNP members, many of which have been returned, voted against the least contentious elements of it, how were we ever to expect that maybe the now government LNP members would support it. To quote our Queensland Human Rights Commissioner Scott McDougall—

To pause the implementation of all these changes due to a concern about one aspect of the reforms, with no notice and no concerns previously having been raised, is a disproportionate response.

My comments then go straight to that: I absolutely agree. Jacqueline King from the Queensland Council of Unions said it is an outrageous betrayal of Queensland workers. That was the announcement by the now Attorney-General. Who are the Queensland workers disproportionately impacted by this? Queenslanders with a disability; Queenslanders who have been victims or are continuing victims—I prefer survivors—of domestic and family violence; women in the workplace; disproportionately young women, young Queenslanders in the workplace—that is who we are talking about.


These laws were set to commence in July of this year. They would have ensured that workplaces were actively preventing sexual harassment and discrimination, making it a positive responsibility. Anyone who understands industrial relations and workplace laws would have understood that was a really important amendment, an incredible increase in the threshold for employers to actually have a positive responsibility and not just to respond when it happens. We should not be accepting it and we still have far too much of it.

These laws were in response to the Jenkins review, or the Respect@Work national inquiry report as many know it. We have all heard the statistics before, but not everyone in here seems to be learning from them. The statistics showed that nearly every woman and one in four men had experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. My colleague the member for Jordan spoke about having experienced it in the workplace. I experience it in the workplace repeatedly; it is not uncommon. There will be people in here who have experienced it and I hope they are not experiencing it in this workplace in parliament or even in their interactions out in the community. It is incredibly common and it is unacceptable. It is unclear to me and our opposition members why the LNP would stand in the way of better protections for workers. Why would they stand in the way of protecting disproportionately impacted young Queensland women in particular? I cannot understand it.

These amendments would have, as I said, strengthened the legal and regulatory frameworks relating to sex discrimination and shifted the focus to preventive efforts to eliminate sexual harassment in Australian workplaces and the trauma that comes from these experiences and to eliminate the number of times people who experience it actually leave the workplace due to the incredible trauma or because it is not addressed properly. It would have focused and refocused the conversation on actually preventing it in the first place and having the right procedures in place to do so. Queensland workers deserve that effort and that positive focus on it. Queenslanders living with disability deserve those protections. Young Queenslanders deserve those protections. Queensland women in the workplace deserve those protections.

This is a really sad day for every Queensland worker who could have had this experience prevented. It is an incredibly sad day for those who would have benefitted from the positive duty that was consulted on over 3½ years. This was deeply valued by many stakeholders and they cannot understand why the government just put the whole thing on ice instead of addressing one issue—and we all know what that key issue is for them.

I finish on the point that I made last sitting week when I asked a question of the Minister for Youth. Young Queenslanders and young women in particular said to me that they wanted and deserved these protections, that they wanted their voices heard in here and the Queensland parliament and that all parliamentarians should be making things easier for them and better for them, and I want them to know that some of us in here are putting their voices on the record. For all of the women who worked with me in the workplaces where I experienced it and they experienced it, and for all of the women or any worker who will continue to experience it in the workplace, I want them to know that we will continue to fight for them to improve protections. We will do that alongside Queensland unions who called for these protections and supported them and who will also find this a sad day.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.02 pm): I rise to contribute on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill. The Crisafulli government, through this bill, is taking important steps to restore the openness, transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect and deserve from their government—transparency and accountability that was trashed by the former Labor government. This bill delivers a key election commitment of the Crisafulli government to strengthen the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC. This bill provides an explicit power for the CCC to report at any time about corruption matters. The bill also provides an explicit power for the CCC to make a statement to the public about a corruption matter in the way the CCC considers appropriate.

The Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025 is consistent with the LNP's Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill that was introduced into this very House in 2023. The LNP's bill was then ignored by the former Labor government and they continued to ignore Queenslanders' calls for accountability until the dying days of the Miles government, when they introduced their own bill which lapsed just a few weeks later when parliament was dissolved.

This bill's reporting and public statement powers are subject to a new safeguard in the form of a set of criteria which the CCC must consider before releasing information in either a report or a public statement. The new criteria are designed to operate alongside and give substance to the existing obligations of the CCC to: act at all times independently, impartially and fairly, having regard to the purposes of the CC Act and the importance of protecting the public interest; perform its corruption functions while applying the public interest principle; and make decisions that are compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019. Importantly, the safeguards provide the CCC with the flexibility to independently determine when and how releasing information will be in the public interest. The criteria are also not exhaustive, and the CCC may have regard to any relevant factor in making its decision about whether to report or make a public statement.

It is important to note that a further clarification provision has been included in the bill to make it clear that the CCC does not have the power to make findings on corrupt conduct. This has always been the case; nothing in this bill changes the position under the current act. The CCC's role is to conduct investigations and hand over any relevant material it has uncovered to the decision-making authority which is responsible for determining whether further action is warranted. An express provision is included in the bill limiting the CCC's ability to make findings or recommendations relating to a person engaging in corrupt conduct, whether a person should be prosecuted for a criminal offence or disciplinary action or whether there is evidence or insufficient evidence to support the start of such proceedings.

In cases where the CCC finds it reasonable and appropriate to name the subject of an investigation and make adverse comment about them, the CCC is bound by the requirements of the current act to give that person procedural fairness. This bill expands those procedural fairness requirements, and the Crisafulli government has worked with the CCC on ways to do this.

This bill revises the approach under the current Crime and Corruption Act for the tabling of CCC reports to ensure that the decision to table reports rests solely with the CCC. Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli government will respect the independence of the CCC and protect their discretion to table reports in parliament. Under the bill, a signed commission report must be given to the chairperson of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, the Attorney-General as the minister responsible for the Crime and Corruption Act and the Speaker. The Speaker is required to table the report in the Legislative Assembly on the next sitting day after the Speaker receives the report. Where the Legislative Assembly is not sitting, the Speaker must deliver the report to the Clerk of the Parliament who must authorise its publication.

Unlike the approach taken by Labor in their lapsed bill, this bill makes it clear that all past reports and public statements of the CCC are valid. This will allow the CCC to restore past reports and statements to its website and provide legal certainty to the CCC and its officers in respect of these reports and statements.

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I would like to thank the Attorney-General, the Minister for Integrity and the Minister for Justice for the hard work that she has put into this bill to present it before parliament. I would like to thank the chair and the members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for their hard work in this bill as well.

It is important, as we move forward, to remember it is our duty to continue to uphold and act with integrity at all times and not just when it suits. This bill brings to a close a dark chapter of Queensland's history—the Palaszczuk-Miles government legacy of secrecy, cover-ups and integrity when it suits. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr J KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.10 pm): I well remember my first vote; I am sure many of us do. I missed out on the 1987 election. I followed it closely. I wished I had a chance to vote in that federal election. I just narrowly missed out on the Brisbane City Council 1988 election. I followed that one carefully. That one did not go so well for Labor, but I tell you what, that 1989 election was a special one! That was a good one to have your first vote in, and that was my first vote. I have to say I even had to spoil a relationship over that one, unfortunately. Someone did not want to go out with me anymore because I was voting the wrong way, but as far as I was concerned, I was voting the right way and I have been doing it ever since.

You can imagine, coming of political consciousness and awareness in that era, I had a deep understanding and a deep experience of Queensland of that era. I have been a great supporter personally of all of the various reforms that have been put in place to try to improve accountability and to stamp out any form of corruption or misconduct in our society. That is what I have done. I have been a good supporter of that.

That was further reinforced for me by a fair bit of travel in particularly Latin America where I managed to get to quite a number of different countries which were all at different stages of development. Some of them were under authoritarian dictatorships. When you go to a country like that, you see corruption flourishing and you see what that means for average, working people, and I can tell you it does not mean very good things for them. That again reinforced my views that having systems in place that stamp out corruption and ensure the highest standards of our leadership and our political systems is something that we should all be striving towards.

Little did I think in those days that I would ever be elected to be a member of parliament. It was not something that I aspired to or understood that you could actually do. However, I did get there and I found myself on the PCCC as the deputy chair. That further built my understanding around the


importance of this institution. I do want to acknowledge the chair, Lawrence Springborg, at that time. We worked together very closely. Can I say it was an absolute pleasure to work with Lawrence. He always looked to the good of community, the good of the institution, the good of parliament and tried to engage in the highest possible personal behaviour, even if sometimes that meant copping a loss for his side or forgoing a win for his side. He always sought to get the best possible outcomes.

I certainly associate myself with the remarks from the member for Gaven in relation to the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill.

Going back to the 1980s, that was the time I started work. My second job, not my first job, was at the Royal Brisbane Hospital as a nurse. It was a highly hierarchical institution, a very controlled institution, with very large numbers of very young women and a lot of very powerful men in that institution. You can imagine that there were a lot of not-so-great things happening during that time. I did see, unfortunately, a lot of colleagues who perhaps were not able to handle that on top of all of the other things that we had to deal with as nurses. Some fine nurses, unfortunately, would have left the profession due to those things. I saw that myself and at times experienced it myself, because if you were a male nurse in the 1980s, you were automatically labelled as being gay by many people and that automatically attracted some negativity in relation to yourself. The reality is that was nothing compared to what the women in that institution at that time had to endure. Unfortunately, I have seen that continue in a range of ways. It has improved; it has moderated over time. It is very far from perfect, and I can tell you from 10 years' experience as a union official, I certainly saw my fair share of workers who were being sexually harassed and intimidated in the workplace.

I think the parts of this bill which are delaying the Respect at Work Act changes are reprehensible and disgraceful, and continue this behaviour of the LNP of talking down workers and of stomping on workers' rights. The Deputy Premier likes to come in here and try to cosplay as a working-class hero. If he actually understood our movement, he would know that people do not go around wearing that as a badge of honour. What we want is all people to be equal and all people to be treated well, and that is exactly what was supposed to be happening at the core of these bills. They have been consulted up to the wazoo. The unions are happy with it. Employers are happy with it. We should just get on and do this. Unfortunately, yet again, we have seen another example of the LNP saying one thing and then walking away. 'Oh, we are going to be the workers' best friend,' but then when they are given the opportunity to do that, just as we heard last night from Stacey Schinnerl, the secretary to the AWU, we have put in place laws that would have given greater protection to workers from dust diseases, protections that would save lives, they are scrapped by this government. It should not surprise any of us that these are being scrapped.

I make the final appeal that we do not scrap these laws; that we go forward with them and we do not delay. There is no need to delay. Some of the things I saw in the 1980s continue to happen to this day. The potential is there. We can avoid that. We could have better workplaces. We could have more productive workplaces. Any time we damage anyone in a workplace, we damage productivity. That is terrible for society, but it is absolutely dreadful and heartbreaking for that individual. With those few words, I support the bill, but I wish the bill was doing a lot more than it currently is.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (8.17 pm): It is a great pleasure to rise to speak to this bill that the Attorney-General has brought in for the betterment of Queensland, to shine a light on issues that are very important to Queensland in terms of keeping our behaviour and corruption levels at the absolute minimum in a very important area, through the CCC, the Crime and Corruption Commission.

I go back a long way with the Crime and Corruption Commission. When I was a young councillor and the member for Greenslopes was a young nurse, I believe, back in 1989 and just after, the first iteration of the CCC was called EARC and it was run by a backbencher called Peter Beattie. He came through the mighty Albert Shire in those days. I happened to be a young councillor learning all about these things. I have supported, all the way through, the importance of a body to keep control of the behaviour of politicians. I have had 35 years in public life and I have seen some very greasy opportunists posing as politicians from both sides, to be honest. I mention Gordon Nuttall from that good side, and I mention Scott Driscoll from this side, and they have been appropriately dealt with—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr STEVENS: No, all clean, the Albert Shire. They have been appropriately dealt with by the bodies such as the Crime and Corruption Commission in terms of bringing them to justice for the betterment of the Queensland people.

What we saw in 2023 was a deliberate attempt by the Labor Party—a deliberate attempt—to hide the outcome of the CCC's investigation into corrupt—almost—behaviour and bad behaviour of certainly

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one Jackie Trad, leader of the left and deputy leader and treasurer, I believe at the time, in terms of her behaviour around the appointment of one Frankie Carroll, as we have seen now that the report has been produced for public consumption after much obfuscation by the Labor Party since 2023, despite the best efforts of the former shadow attorney-general Tim Nicholls to bring it to light.

Not even one of the leftie army that Jackie controlled has jumped up to defend her actions against David Stewart in supporting her friend Frankie Carroll to get this position that Dave Stewart said he was not capable of doing. I certainly do not think any of the AWU members supported Jackie Trad in the report, but they all supported the cover-up from 2023 onwards. Now we hear a few of them say that it was the High Court's decision. The decision came down later in relation to Peter Carne. They knew that the Carne decision would open the door for Trad, and they were correct. They spent a lot of taxpayers' money trying to hide the outcome of Jackie Trad's behaviour. I think a lot of Labor Party members should hang their heads in shame for trying to hide that report.

With this legislation, the Attorney-General is shining a light on bad behaviour and enabling the CCC to bring reports to this parliament so that we can keep Queenslanders safe, in terms of the behaviour of elected people and people who are in high-powered positions. The Attorney-General has also included protections, which are very dear to my heart, to maintain fairness and objectivity and the right of people to have their names protected until there is evidence of bad behaviour and corruption which then needs to be reported on and brought to the attention of Queensland people. That is not what the previous CCC did. We had a great chair of the committee at the time, the member for Scenic Rim, who brought this issue to light and to the attention of the previous chair, Mr Alan MacSporran, who basically destroyed the lives of Logan City councillors. Russell Luton, one councillor I have known for a lot of years—he is as honest as the day is long—was made out to be a criminal through their bad reporting. That will not happen under the Attorney-General's new legislation that will protect people's right to defend themselves and to have fair treatment, which is very important.

Through the Gold Coast City Council, I am aware of three CCC investigations that have basically found nothing after multimillion dollar investigations. In terms of one investigation, a staff member had his reputation damaged and yet the CCC and Mr MacSporran found that there was absolutely no corruption, but they did not like what he said to another staff member. That is ridiculous and a very poor outcome from a CCC investigation. Attorney-General Deb Frecklington's legislation will prevent that from happening because everyone will have fair and just treatment. Only proper prosecutions will go through to the DPP and appropriately qualified people will make those decisions.

It is all about integrity. It is critically important that the Queensland public has faith that their politicians behave in an open and transparent way. We belong to them. I have been in this game a long time and I have seen quite a few people who do not deserve that trust. That is case from my days in council right through to some of the characters I have seen in this House. This legislation is critical to ensure better behaviour of Queensland representatives. It is critical to the appropriate behaviour of the CCC. I will add that I am a member of the PCCC that has responsibility for the oversight of the CCC. It is a very good committee, chaired by the member for Ferny Grove. These are important steps in keeping the trust of Queenslanders at the forefront of the minds of all representatives in this House. I heard negativity coming from some of the Labor members in their presentations, but the fact of the matter is that this is good legislation. This is a new government shining a light and making sure that any dodgy behaviour is brought before this parliament so everyone can make their own decision about that particular bad behaviour.

If anyone thinks that the behaviour of Jackie Trad, outlined in that report, was worth hiding, I would like them to stand up and say that right now in this House. I have not heard one squeak from the opposition. It has all been about this, that and the other parts of the legislation. They have ducked the real point of this legislation, which is to shine a light on bad behaviour and almost corrupt behaviour by representatives in this House. I believe that the Attorney-General has done a wonderful job in bringing this particular piece of legislation before the House. This is a brand new government with an absolute commitment to making sure Queensland is a better place for all Queenslanders—even the new Queenslanders, who have come across the border in droves—and that Queenslanders can see their representatives in a better and more trusted light. I certainly support this new legislation that is a wonderful addition to Queensland. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views in this House.



Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (8.26 pm): I rise to speak on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill—a bill we said we would support and that we have seen play out in our parliament as a shambolic act by this government. The member who just spoke described the 'this and that' components of the bill that are concerning us—well, that is our job. The 'this and that' components of bills are important and need to be given due consideration. They are not something that

you tack onto a bill as an afterthought; they are relevant to our interests in this place. That is what the government is doing with these amendments that have nothing to do with the long title of the bill—the ‘this, that and the other’ components that the member referred to.

We are again seeing this inadequate government that has an empty dance card desperately trying to find a partner so they can be seen on the dance floor, but no-one wants to dance with them because they are out of step. So, instead, they are dancing by themselves like Elaine from *Seinfeld* in a display that looks less like a dance and more like a warning signal—an uncoordinated and out-of-time attempt at governing. It would be laughable, if it was not so shameful. It is shameful that this government is actively and indefinitely delaying protections for women and vulnerable people—an act that is akin to condoning the very acts of harassment and discrimination that the protections are designed to prevent—protections that support women, victims of discrimination, victims of harassment.

Like many women, I have seen harassment and discrimination in the workplace. Those vulnerable to victimisation deserve protection from this behaviour and they deserve it now, not at some future time yet to be determined. Just a couple of days ago I was speaking with a woman who told me of the terrible treatment she received in the workplace, a woman who needed to take time off because of domestic and family violence. She needed to move so that she could stay alive and she needed time off from work to do that. She no longer has that job, which means she cannot afford her rent and is now facing homelessness. These protections would have protected her. She came to me to tell me her story because she wanted to be on someone’s radar. She did not want to be just another name on a list of victims if the perpetrator found her. On the eve of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month, now more than ever is the time to put these respect at work protections in place.

I have heard from young women in my electorate who are calling for their government to do more to protect them. I associate myself with the remarks of the member for Greenslopes. Like my colleague, I have seen the harassment that often took place in the workplace when I was a nurse. I witnessed quite extensive episodes of harassment and even sexual violence at the workplace that occurred over extended periods of time throughout the preceding years. Like most women, I have experienced this harassment firsthand. Harassment, particularly towards our vulnerable, needs to stop and we can do something about it. We need to make workplaces safe to ensure that our workplaces, through our positive duty, have procedures that will prevent occurrences rather than just responding to them.

Workplace victims are not the victims that this government cares about. They do not care that people are at risk of harm in the workplace, and this is evidenced by their delaying the very protections that protect the most vulnerable, the most at risk, from becoming victims in the future. There is a great deal that can be done, that should be done that this government has the responsibility to do, but they will not because they are out of step, because they do not care about workplace victims and it is time that they did. It is time for this government—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to two points of order if I may. The first is relevance to the long title of the bill and the second is that I take offence to what the member is saying and I ask her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O’Shea): Member for Inala, you were being relevant because you were addressing the amendment, but the member has taken offence to your comments so I would ask you to withdraw.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: I withdraw.

Mr RYAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I seek clarity about that ruling? I know the Speaker has been very clear with his rulings in the past that ‘personal reflection’ has to be a personal reflection; it actually has to be directed at a particular member. From my listening to the member speaking, she was making a general remark.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, in response to the honourable member’s contribution, it was very clear that the member in her statements was implying that I do not care about workers at work. I did let her go on for many times before I decided to stand on a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have made my ruling and the member has withdrawn, so we will just move on.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: The Attorney-General may feel like she is the whole of government, but—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is convention in this House that once a member withdraws, they cannot continue their speech with ‘but’ and then make an excuse for the withdrawal.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Inala, you can resume your speech. However, remember that withdrawals do have to be unqualified.


Mrs NIGHTINGALE: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, this is a government that has demonstrated that it is not serious about protecting workers, that it is not serious about protecting those vulnerable to discrimination and harassment in the workplace. If they were serious, they would not have added this amendment to a bill that is unrelated. I urge the government to show their interest in workers and to act now to protect workers.

Mrs Frecklington: Get some experience.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: This is a serious issue. This is not something that is laughable. This is a serious issue. There are people at the moment who are subject to harassment, and workplaces should have a duty to prevent that harassment. These protections would have ensured that there was a duty to prevent harassment, to put measures in place that protect our workers, that protect our women. They would have protected the very woman who came to me telling me she had lost her job, because there were no protections for her.

Mrs Frecklington: There's the Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination Act to start.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: I take the interjection because clearly the Attorney-General does not consider that there is anything additional needed to protect workers in Queensland. I am saying, just like many of the workers in my community are saying, that they want this government to do more, to stand up and support them and to protect their rights.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.36 pm): I rise to address the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. Introduced by the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity on 20 February 2025, the primary objectives of this legislation are to: firstly, restore the power of the Crime and Corruption Commission to report publicly about corruption investigations as it was considered to exist before the High Court decision in the Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne case, and to ensure that the Crime and Corruption Commission may also make public statements about these matters; secondly, the legislation will safeguard against the release of information to the public about corruption matters in circumstances where the risks or harms outweigh any benefits to be derived from releasing the information; and, thirdly, this legislation seeks to ensure that any residual legal risk that might be attributable to the CCC and its officers in respect of the preparation and publication of past reports and statements is removed.

Following its introduction, this legislation was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for detailed consideration, with the committee tabling its report on 11 April 2025 with just one recommendation: that the bill be passed. As articulated by the Attorney-General, the development of this legislation has fundamentally been informed by the decision of the High Court in the Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne case, which was at odds with the prevailing understanding at the time regarding the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission. This legislation represents not merely a legislative adjustment, but a fundamental restoration of public trust—a commitment to the principles of transparency, accountability and integrity in public administration that must be the cornerstone of any government that truly seeks to serve its people. For almost a decade, these principles were systematically and repeatedly eroded under successive Labor state governments. Under Labor, the people of Queensland were denied the openness, and honesty, that they deserved. That is why, under the leadership of Premier David Crisafulli, the LNP state government is determined to right these wrongs and to return transparency and accountability to the heart of government here in Queensland.

This legislation delivers on a key election commitment by the Liberal National Party—a commitment made to every Queenslanders who demanded an end to the secrecy, the cover-ups and the protection rackets that characterised the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor state governments. Importantly, this legislation restores the reporting powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission—powers that were gravely undermined by the decision of the High Court of Australia in Crime and Corruption Commission v Carne case. Following that decision, the Crime and Corruption Commission was left unable to publicly report on corruption matters, effectively silencing an institution that was designed to be a fierce guardian against misconduct in public life.

Let there be no misunderstanding: following this decision by the High Court, Labor had ample opportunity to act. As we know, in 2023 the then Liberal National Party state opposition introduced legislation into the Queensland parliament in order to restore the Crime and Corruption Commission's reporting powers. The then Labor state government chose to ignore this important legislation, just as it deliberately chose to ignore the calls by countless Queenslanders for greater accountability and

transparency. It was not until the final desperate days before the 2024 election when the former Miles Labor state government belatedly introduced its own legislation on this matter. However, this was nothing more than a hollow attempt to be seen to be doing something, with Labor's bill ultimately lapsing with the dissolution of the 57th Queensland parliament.

Labor did not act out of principle; it acted out of political expediency and, ultimately, it failed. The people of Queensland spoke clearly at the 2024 state election. They demanded a government that would respect their right to know and would not hide the truth. The people of Queensland demanded a fresh start, and today the Crisafulli LNP state government is delivering just that. This legislation restores the explicit power for the Crime and Corruption Commission to report at any time about corruption matters and to make public statements about those matters as the Crime and Corruption Commission considers appropriate.

Importantly, this legislation also introduces robust safeguards including a new set of statutory criteria to ensure that decisions to release information are made independently, impartially and fairly with full regard to human rights, procedural fairness and the public interest. Further, this legislation also carefully balances the public's right to know and the protection of individuals' rights during sensitive investigations. It reflects this Liberal National Party state government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that justice is not only done but seen to be done.

The need for this legislation is underscored by the shameful conduct revealed in both the Trad and Carne reports of the Crime and Corruption Commission, and these are reports that the former Labor state government spent years desperately fighting to keep hidden from the public. It took the election of the Crisafulli LNP state government to finally bring these matters to light because, unlike Labor, the Liberal National Party believes firmly in delivering transparency for Queenslanders. The evidence uncovered by the Crime and Corruption Commission with respect to both reports was damning and demonstrated the behaviour of a government that failed to respect both integrity and independent processes. The Trad report revealed that former deputy premier Jackie Trad inappropriately interfered in the independent recruitment process for the critical role of Under Treasurer. Such actions by the former deputy premier, as extensively reported by the corruption watchdog, underscored the behaviour of a government that sought to impose its will upon institutions and public servants that ought to be above and beyond political interference.


The report by the Crime and Corruption Commission with respect to former public trustee Peter Carne was no less alarming. The Crime and Corruption Commission substantiated multiple allegations against Mr Carne including regular drunkenness at work, harassment of office staff, misuse of the corporate credit card, directing government staff to complete his university assignments and fostering a workplace culture based on fear and intimidation. Mr Carne even boasted of his political connections at the highest levels of the Labor government—connections that, some may argue, protected him from proper scrutiny for far too long.

The content and conduct uncovered by these reports were not trivial matters. They were indicative of a culture of entitlement, arrogance and impunity that was left unchecked and only allowed to grow under the former Labor state government. This is precisely why strong, independent reporting powers for the Crime and Corruption Commission are essential. Through this legislation, the Crisafulli LNP state government is restoring the ability of the Crime and Corruption Commission to report openly—but always responsibly—on corruption investigations. The Crime and Corruption Commission's ability to make public statements in an appropriate manner, balancing the right to transparency with the obligation to uphold procedural fairness and human rights, will finally be restored.

The LNP state government is also validating past reports and public statements, ensuring that the Crime and Corruption Commission can once again make this information available to the public without fear of legal uncertainty. Critically, the LNP state government is also strengthening procedural fairness provisions to ensure that individuals who are the subject of adverse comment are given the opportunity to respond, including clear timeframes and rights of judicial review. In stark contrast to Labor's hollow gestures, this legislation enshrines true independence for the Crime and Corruption Commission in the tabling of reports. Where Labor sought to control what the public could and could not see, the Crisafulli LNP state government trusts the Crime and Corruption Commission to act impartially, independently and in the public interest.

The events of the past decade under Labor have taught us that strong public institutions, free from political interference, are not optional; they are essential. Without them, the risk of misconduct flourishes, public trust is eroded and democracy itself is weakened. With this legislation, the Liberal National Party Crisafulli state government is drawing a clear line under the secrecy and cover-ups of

the former Palaszczuk and Miles Labor state governments. With the passage of this legislation, Queensland can finally begin a new chapter—a chapter of transparency, accountability and restored public trust. This is incredibly important legislation for Queensland. The public has been calling for this. The LNP is delivering a fresh start when it comes to Queensland, particularly when it comes to restoring openness and transparency and, as such, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill seeks to restore openness, transparency and accountability that Queenslanders expect. I want to acknowledge the member for Greenslopes because he has given me the licence to speak a little bit off track in referring to traumatic experiences of his youth and, I suspect, a failed relationship or perhaps he was spurned by some young lady at some point. I want to share a similar experience that I had, although mine was not as disastrous.

My introduction to politics came through being invited to attend a rally at the Chermside shopping centre back in the early seventies when a bus load of machinists from a factory on the Gold Coast travelled to Brisbane to protest at an event where Gough Whitlam was speaking about the need to lift tariffs or to reduce tariffs that directly affected the clothing industry and destroyed much of the clothing industry in Australia. My experience was not quite so heartbreaking. I actually met a young lady who I had the pleasure of going out with for a year or two. As we were coming back from the rally the song that was playing on the radio that was very memorable, that wonderful love ballad with the lyrics 'everybody was kung fu fighting'. That was the beginning of my involvement with the then National Party and the conservative side of politics.

I want to move on from that romantic experience to another, and it was not so romantic! A few years later I became quite good friends with a young lady in Rockhampton whose father went on to become one of the discredited Labor leaders of the day, and that was Keith Wright. There were a litany of Labor leaders: there was Gordon Nuttall, there was Bill D'Arcy. Therefore, it is a little guiling I suppose to sit in the House and hear Labor members railing about the evil days of the Joh Bjelke-Petersen era when we have seen so many failures over so many years of successive Labor governments to adequately deal with and support the work of the Crime and Corruption Commission. I refer to the Kimmins report of the late 1990s—and I think it was the Labor government that was in power back then—which dealt with allegations of misconduct in the investigation of paedophilia in Queensland, and we have seen some dismal failures by successive governments to adequately support the work of the CCC, or the CJC as it was known back then. One of the issues that was raised in that report was that there were significant failures in supporting the investigations into paedophilia in Queensland and some of those investigations were seriously mishandled.

When I was first elected, a member of my local community came to see me. She was a former police officer whose life had been destroyed because of the mishandling of reports that she and a whole team of police officers had put together that looked into paedophilia around the time of Expo 88. On the day that they presented their reports to the then police minister, they returned to their office to find that filing cabinets had been removed and a lot of the evidence that they had gathered had disappeared. Sadly, her reputation and that of other very faithful and enduring police officers were destroyed because of the corruption of successive governments over the years. Therefore, this bill is important. In some respects, I wish that this was not a unicameral parliament so that every time there was a change of government we could not flip-flop around and change the rules.

I want to comment on the excellent contribution of the member for Mermaid Beach, Ray Stevens. He talked about some of his experiences. I have experienced similar things. I saw the Crime and Misconduct Commission used well. I think the report that they did back in the early 2000s into child safety practices across Queensland was an excellent report. However, over time I have also seen referrals to the varying bodies misused to discredit people unfairly and to cause reputational harm. In 2005, the Gold Coast city council was subjected to an inquiry by the then Beattie government, which basically ran up a dry gully. Nothing of any consequence came out of that, but it was a great way to distract people from the failings of the then Beattie government at a time when they thought that they were likely to lose the 2005 election.

We have seen many misuses of the Crime and Corruption Commission and its predecessors over the years. Therefore, it is important that we have legislation that does empower them and gives them a clear mandate to report to the people of Queensland through the parliament and to do that in a way that is fearless and frank, but also with sensible controls around making sure that they do not unfairly discredit people along the way. This bill secures many of the safeguards that I believe all of us in this House want to see put in place. It ensures that the CCC acts independently, impartially, with fairness and always with the public interest in mind. This should not be about punishment and it should

not be about politics; it should be about transparency and the public's right to know. The bill also strengthens procedural fairness for individuals named in reports. If the CCC intends to include adverse findings, it must give the individual involved the chance to respond, with clear timeframes and the ability to seek a review in the Supreme Court.

We are also ensuring that the CCC cannot and does not make legal findings of corrupt conduct. That has always been the case. This bill simply clarifies that the CCC's role is investigative. The decision to prosecute or take disciplinary action rests with the relevant authority. Importantly, this legislation respects the independence of the CCC.

The decision to table a report will rest with the commission itself and not with the government of the day. Once the commission provides a report to the Speaker and the PCCC, that report must be tabled at the next sitting of parliament or published by the Clerk of the Parliament if it is not sitting. Unlike Labor's proposal, our bill also validates past CCC reports and public statements. That means Queenslanders will once again have access to those reports, including the ones Labor tried so desperately to keep hidden.

We are restoring faith in our institutions, we are restoring the CCC's ability to do its job and we are restoring integrity in public office. At its core, this bill is about accountability, not just for those under investigation but also for governments themselves. It brings to a close a dark chapter of secrecy and political interference and it reaffirms the principle that no-one is above the law.

The Crisafulli government made a promise to clean up Queensland politics and we are keeping that promise. This is a necessary bill and it is a bill that puts Queenslanders first. My sincere hope is that it is a bill that will stick; that it will not be subjected to the changes and whims of governments of the day but that all future governments will respect the important role that the CCC plays and should play in looking after the people of Queensland in every respect. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025. As opposition members have identified during their contributions to the debate on this bill, we came to this debate with the view that we would take a bipartisan approach. We support a very robust integrity body that has very strong powers, with appropriate oversight by and accountability to the parliament. Unfortunately, in some ways that spirit of bipartisanship has been disrespected by the amendments that have been circulated at the last minute by the Attorney-General. That approach disrespects the spirit of bipartisanship around a really important issue.

I am the first to admit that I have much experience when it comes to bringing last-minute amendments to this House, but they were all very worthy amendments and they all needed to be appropriately justified in the circumstances. In many respects, the amendments that have been circulated here would be more appropriately put through the committee process and members should have had more notice of them so that they could make considered contributions. I will come to those.

The first thing that I want to discuss is the substance of the bill, which addresses the consequences of the High Court decision around public reporting by the Crime and Corruption Commission. I reiterate the contributions of my colleagues by saying that we support the response to that High Court decision to ensure that the Crime and Corruption Commission has the powers it needs to effectively conduct its work. However, I want to make sure that there is no confusion around the intentions of this legislative response because I heard a number of members of the government express the view that this was correcting a position where the Crime and Corruption Commission had no public reporting powers. This is about a very particular set of circumstances. It is about reporting powers in particular cases. The Crime and Corruption Commission has reporting powers right now.

Mrs Frecklington: That's not correct.

Mr RYAN: They do in respect of matters that are substantiated allegations. I take the interjection from the Attorney-General who said that they do not have any public reporting powers. They do have public reporting powers in respect of matters that are substantiated. In respect of matters that may proceed to a criminal charge, they have those. It concerns me that the minister sponsoring this bill does not have that appreciation. It concerns me that we are now rushing this through when the Attorney-General does not have a full appreciation of the powers of the commission. This is in response to a particular set of circumstances about reporting powers and we support the legislative response. In fact, we introduced legislation to respond to and correct that. This is a particular set of circumstances that we support. We support the legislative response in that respect.

We do have concerns about the introduction of last-minute amendments relating to substantial matters. In my contribution I want to address some of those amendments. Of course, the major amendment relates to the legislative pause on the Respect at Work legislation. That legislation has broad stakeholder support. That legislation is about protecting people in the workplace. I do not know why any government would want to prevent protections in the workplace from coming into place.

A government member interjected.

Mr RYAN: It is because these are additional measures to protect vulnerable people in the workforce. The government said they would pause it and now they are passing legislation to prevent those protections from coming into place.

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Debate, on motion of Mr Ryan, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

Ipswich West Electorate, Transport Infrastructure



Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.00 pm): I was elected to a seat that has some major infrastructure issues. Luckily for the residents of Ipswich West, I have rolled up my sleeves and am advocating hard for these essential upgrades in what is the fastest growing region. Every day I get at least one constituent, if not more, contacting me to inquire—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Just one moment, member for Ipswich West. I ask the chamber to come to order, please, so we can hear the speakers. Thank you.

Ms BOURNE: Every day I get at least one constituent, if not more, contacting me to inquire on the status of two important projects—the Bremer River Bridge and the Mount Crosby interchange. I place these two projects together as they are both as important as each other and they sit beside the Warrego Highway. I stood with the federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann, during 2024 and applauded their \$177 million commitment to these projects. The then Miles government ensured that there was already \$134.5 million for the Mount Crosby interchange and \$42.5 million to fix the Bremer River Bridge in 2024.

The Mount Crosby interchange upgrade has been ongoing since before 2017. The residents are sick of community consultation with no visible outcomes, and the bottleneck of traffic and the backup of vehicles is alarming and dangerous. The steel section of the Bremer River Bridge supports approximately 30,000 vehicles per day, including approximately 4,000 heavy vehicles. Commuters continue to grapple with delays on the Bremer River Bridge due to reduced speed limits and they have had enough. They just want to see this long, overdue project started.

The second river crossing is exactly the kind of investment our community needs. The community as far back as the 1960s has advocated for this crossing and growing community congestion in the city centre is creating more pressure on the capacity and service life of the existing David Trumpy Bridge. During the election in 2024, I helped to secure a commitment of \$146 million if Labor was to be re-elected—\$4 million for the business case and the remaining \$142 million to be invested in the construction of the bridge. The LNP at the time committed to invest in this business case alone and I say, 'Get on with it!'

These projects are long overdue and to get an update on their status has been nothing short of frustrating, leaving the community very frustrated. When I ask the minister for an update on these vital infrastructure projects, all I get is the minister looking in his rear-view mirror and not keeping his eyes on the road. I am not interested in the politics of these projects; I just want the job done—no more of the blame game. I am committed to delivering the road and transport infrastructure our growing community needs.

Mundingburra Electorate, Anzac Day



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.03 pm): At dawn, we gathered. At dawn, we fell silent. At dawn, we remembered. Townsville City's 2025 Anzac Day dawn service was a solemn and profoundly respectful commemoration, just as it should be. Townsville, as we know, is the largest garrison city in Australia and we are a proud garrison city. Our current and former service men and women are woven through the fabric of our community. Each and every person has a link to Defence, a tie, a connection—

their partner, their family member, their colleague or their teammate. It is our common bond. It is our badge of honour.

On Anzac Day, our city turned up. All along The Strand and up Melton Terrace, the people of Townsville gathered to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. This is a testament to the eternal legacy of the Anzac. Every Anzac Day is special but this year commemorated the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings during World War I. On the shores of Gallipoli, our soldiers fought against all odds with courage, endurance and mateship. This campaign was where the spirit of the Anzac was born.

For the centenary of Anzac Day 10 years ago, I was honoured and privileged to travel to France with my family and attend the dawn service on the Western Front at Villers-Bretonneux. We then travelled the Remembrance Trail through the Western Front, which is affectionately known as the poppy trail. It was a deeply emotional occasion not just for us Aussies and Kiwis but for the French men, women and children who joined us. The three-week tour left us with one important message—never forget the Anzac spirit.

I am proud to say that the Anzac spirit is well and truly alive in Townsville. The qualities of mateship, courage and endurance are everywhere in our great city. The Anzac spirit lives on not only at the big events but also in the quiet moments and small gestures. On Anzac Day, I was proud to stand alongside our Premier and Minister for Veterans as the Assistant Minister for Veterans, and I know that the entire Crisafulli government is committed to supporting those who defended, and continue to defend, our great country.

To our veterans and our current service men and women, we say thank you. Thank you for your sacrifice and thank you for your continued service that allows us to enjoy the freedoms that we have today.

Health System



Ms ASIF (Sandgate—ALP) (9.06 pm): Today, I want to talk about something that affects every single person in our community—our healthcare system. In my electorate of Sandgate, we know that access to quality, affordable health care is not just a policy thought bubble; it is about improving the wellbeing of our families, our elderly neighbours and our children.

Our healthcare system and Medicare suffered a decade of neglect under the former federal Liberal government. Health care is one of the main issues that got me involved in politics, and I believe access to health care should never be determined by one's postcode, income or background. In my maiden speech, I made a commitment that I will always be a fierce advocate for protecting and improving our universal healthcare system because health care is a right for all not a privilege for the few.


I am proud to see the federal Labor government committing to a historic investment in Medicare. They have already delivered 87 urgent care clinics, which provide free walk-in care. There are clinics in Chermside and Murrumba Downs and there are more on the way. These clinics mean you can receive care quickly when your child has a high fever over the weekend or if you cut your hand in the garden. I have spoken to many local families who have visited these clinics and received care quickly, all without the stress of emergency wait times or hefty bills. Federal Labor have also committed to expanding bulk-billing, so seeing a doctor will be free and all that you will need will be your Medicare card. They are making medicines even cheaper and dropping the maximum cost of a PBS script to just \$25. I know that this will make a genuine difference to household budgets. Being able to call 1800MEDICARE for a free telehealth consultation will be game changing.

What is the alternative? We have seen it before. When Peter Dutton was health minister, he cut \$11.6 billion from Queensland hospitals. He tried to impose a GP tax. He wanted people to pay for emergency care. He actually said Medicare has too many free services. He has confirmed that the health department is on his chopping block for cuts. They just cannot help themselves, can they? We have a state LNP government who have broken election promises when it comes to health care. They refuse to say how much they will invest in our healthcare system. All this government have done is jack up the cost of the big health build to justify taking the scalpel to Queensland Health once again.

We have a health minister who, rather than deliver the much needed hospital beds, says that these projects are 'undeliverable' and refuses to answer questions on women's health because it is 'too burdensome'. Could you imagine a Dutton-Crisafulli Queensland coalition? I shudder at the thought because I could not think of anything scarier. The choice could not be clearer: a Labor government that believes health care is a right, not a privilege, and a government that is already strengthening Medicare,

making medicines cheaper and expanding services; or a Dutton-Crisafulli Queensland coalition taking us backwards and cutting vital services our community relies on.

Redcliffe Hospital, Hospital Rescue Plan

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (9.09 pm): I rise tonight to support and endorse the health minister's Queensland Hospital Rescue Plan announced last week which will see an additional 210 beds added to my Redcliffe Hospital. The year man landed on the moon was the year I was born at Redcliffe Hospital. My first job as a registered nurse was at Redcliffe Hospital. Two of my four children were born at Redcliffe Hospital. Multiple members of my family work at Redcliffe Hospital. Redcliffe Hospital is in my DNA, and it is at the very heart of my electorate.


Since the minister's announcement and release of the independent Sam Sangster review, there has been radio silence from the opposition, including the member for Bancroft and the member for Sandgate, who led a desperate and disgraceful scare campaign. Redcliffe Hospital was first opened on 1 July 1965. It was one of five public hospitals in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service. Redcliffe Hospital currently has 205 beds. We have seen the population growth in the past two decades in surrounding suburbs like North Lakes and Mango Hill upwards of 30,000—one of the fastest growth areas in Queensland. Labor had a decade in government to deliver the critical upgrades that Redcliffe Hospital needed, but they did not.

Thank you to the executive director, Cang Dang, and to the incredible 1,600 health professionals, doctors, nurses, allied health, administration and ancillary staff who work hard every single day to provide critical healthcare services. To encourage positive staff culture at Redcliffe Hospital, their wellbeing team introduced a campaign #iamredcliffe. I am proud to join them saying, '#iamredcliffe.'

I want to congratulate Dr Alan Yan, Director of the Redcliffe Hospital Emergency Department, on his recent appointment to Chair of the Metro North Clinical Council. The LNP Crisafulli government made a commitment to put more clinicians front and centre of decision-making for our HHSs. Dr Alan Yan is an excellent choice. He is a familiar face at Redcliffe Hospital. I am 1,000 per cent committed to seeing the delivery of additional clinical services that my community needs. I look forward to the redesign process to ensure we get it right and to ensure we have increased clinical care for the people of Redcliffe.

(Time expired)

Allen, Mrs D

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.13 pm): The 14th of April marked 12 months since the passing of Desley Allen, beloved mum of Raylene and Wayne; second mum to so many others; life member and revered volunteer of the Morningside Panthers; friend to possibly thousands including me; indispensable and tireless organiser of the weekly bingo game at the club; the best hugger ever; a character—she was such a character: we were always laughing and laughing with her—and a person who left a huge hole in the lives around her when she was no longer with us.

I had dinner with her daughter, Raylene, not long before this first anniversary and we talked about her mum. I wanted to put on record in this House how much we all still miss her but also something of what she was like. When I was first elected I knew that the Morningside Panthers were a really important institution in our community and that Desley was an important part. She had actually first become involved there in 1979 with her husband.

She must have undertaken every single volunteer role going in that club, including running everything from the uniform shop to the weekly bingo game, which was for many people the most important thing in their week. She was selling tickets to win the meat tray. She was helping behind the bar. She was always there at the games making sure people felt part of things. She was making sure that the boys—and it was mainly boys at that stage—had a meal to go home to and felt looked after.


In 2011 I was absolutely thrilled to accompany her to the Queensland Sport Awards where she was honoured by the then sports minister, Phil Reeves, as only one of 12 statewide Valuing Volunteers in Sport Awards. In 2012 she was awarded life membership of the Panthers and she kept on going.

If you had all been able to come to the celebration of her life at the Panthers, you would have been in no doubt about how much she was loved. The place was absolutely packed. As so often happens at those events, so many individuals come forward with stories of what that person had meant to them or done for them. There were so many stories that those of us who had known her for a long time had never even heard of. I heard young men who came forward talking about how they had moved

to Brisbane from the country and they just would not have survived without Desley. I heard parents who came forward talking about how she had saved their kids from mental health issues because she just loved them and she took them into her family. That is why her children are now those same kind of people because that is how they grew up—you bring people into your fold.

I loved Desley as soon as I met her, as did everyone. I want to thank her family for sharing her with us and the entire Morningside Panthers, and for showing us what community is all about.

Member for Gladstone

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.16 pm): Labor Left faction members of this House, including former ministers, have at times thrown the term ‘NIMBY’ around which in my electorate is very well known, but would you know that they have a NIMBY in their ranks? The member for Gladstone, a minister in the former failed Miles Labor government, sat around the cabinet table that approved funding for capital works for a project in his electorate at Little Creek Boulevard, Kirkwood, in September 2024. That is when the funding was allocated by the department of housing.

He is also on record in the Ministerial Infrastructure Designations from November last year supporting this project. I quote, ‘Glenn has reviewed the project and is fully supportive.’ Further I quote, ‘He hopes the ground turning will take place in the near future.’ It sounds like the member for Gladstone was very supportive of this project. However, now that he has started to cop a bit of heat, like any good chameleon he has started to change his colours, writing in opposition to this project to the Deputy Premier. He has even gone so far as to support a petition in opposition to this project. This is NIMBY behaviour or, in this case, NIBBY—not in Butcher’s backyard!

The member for Gladstone has some questions to answer. Is he going to go on record in this House clearing up why he supported the project prior to the election but now has tried to change his spots? He has claimed that he would support working collaboratively for an alternative but, if he was supportive of this project in the first place, how can we trust him and take him at his word? This former cabinet minister sat around the very table that approved the funding for the capital works for this project in September last year. In regard to the statements in the Ministerial Infrastructure Designations, I table the first three pages of that for the record of the House.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled ‘Ministerial Infrastructure Designations MID-0125-0902-Appendix E’, JFP Urban Consultants report, Outcomes of Initial Stakeholder Engagement (first 3 pages).

On another issue that the member for Gladstone has been trying to point to failures on is the Gladstone nurse-led clinic. Labor made a promise to the Gladstone community about specific hours for the nurse-led clinic at Gladstone, but they did not appropriately fund it for the hours they promised. Those hours were meant to be delivered by the election. However, when we came to government the clinic was not even open. In July 2024 they promised that it would be open in September, but it was not until we came to government in December that that clinic actually opened.

They also announced the clinic would be open seven days a week, but Labor did not set funding aside to keep the doors open for those hours. Since opening in December, the clinic’s hours have been from 7.30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday and 7.30 am to 3 pm on Saturday. The member for Gladstone is once again misleading the people in his electorate and trying to blame others for the failures of the government that he was a minister in.

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Algester Electorate; Neighbourhood Watch, CCTV Cameras

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (9.19 pm): Over the past few years in my electorate of Algester I have had the privilege of working closely with the fast growing community of Pallara. Through community forums, planning meetings hosted in my office and local events in the park with the Queensland Police Service one thing has been clear: there is a real passion and dedication from local residents to make our community safer and stronger.

Across the Algester electorate I have seen firsthand the incredible work of local Neighbourhood Watch groups that work closely with the Queensland Police Service and local residents to ensure connectedness, safety and knowledge of local issues. The Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch, for instance, proudly holds the title of the longest running Neighbourhood Watch group in the state. It has had a real impact in reducing crime and strengthening that community’s security. They have hosted numerous community events, supported the community’s efforts to connect the community and provided trusted information and advice to help the community remain a safe place to live. Seeing the impact of the Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch, I have advocated for and been working with a variety of interested community members and the QPS to support the establishment of a formally recognised

Pallara Neighbourhood Watch group, and I remain committed to helping the community establish this important group.

More recently, I have been working alongside members of our community toward a significant step forward in local safety, securing two fixed CCTV cameras in Pallara. This meaningful boost to our security infrastructure is proposed as a direct response to the concerns and ideas raised by residents. On 31 August 2024, the former Labor Miles government committed to install two fixed CCTV cameras for the suburb if re-elected. These CCTV cameras are designed to increase community safety through real-time CCTV camera monitoring and recording, allowing the Queensland Police Service to identify offending vehicles and determine their locations as they travel between suburbs. When conducting mobile offices, calling residents, doorknocking and attending community meetings it was clear that the Pallara community supported this added layer of protection and welcomed the installation of this infrastructure.

During the 2024 election I called on all other candidates to match the commitment to ensure that, regardless of the election outcome, Pallara residents would have infrastructure that supported home and community safety. Unfortunately, the LNP candidate—who spent a lot of time talking about crime—failed to match this very practical, important local commitment and essentially left the Pallara community in limbo when it came to the strengthening of community safety. The LNP were obviously all about slogans but not interested in actual substance.

This week I wrote to the Minister for Police, formally requesting that the two CCTV cameras that I committed to Pallara be considered in the 2025-26 state budget. This would ensure that residents of Pallara have the same level of security as residents in other suburbs located in my electorate such as Forestdale and other areas of Brisbane and Logan so that the QPS can continue to monitor vehicles travelling across suburbs. I call on the LNP government to back away from slogans and deliver on substance for the people of Pallara.

Mackay Electorate, RISE



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise today to speak about a program making real and lasting difference to the future of Rugby League in Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Mackay. That program is RISE. RISE is more than just training; it is structured, evidence-based development pathways that support young players and coaches beyond the community level. It targets boys aged 13 to 15 and girls aged 13 to 16 through five face-to-face sessions that are focused on physical preparation, technical and tactical skills, strength and conditioning.

RISE challenges traditional biases in early talent selection, focusing instead on long-term development and inclusivity. Participants earn nationally recognised accreditation—bronze for under 13s, silver for 14s, and gold for under 15s—enabling them to contribute to back to the game as referees, League Safe trainers and community coaches. Coaches also benefit from a consistent, state aligned model of player development, ensuring that high quality training is accessible across Australia.

You might ask what RISE stands for. R stands for routine, building consistency and goals; I stands for identity, fostering pride, loyalty and gratitude; S stands for socialise, promoting teamwork and mateship; and E stands for evolve, encouraging resilience and growth. These are not just sporting skills; these are life skills that young people will have for the rest of their lives after leaving the field.

I am proud that Mackay hosts one of the largest programs of RISE in Queensland. There are 250 young players across five age groups, 60 per cent of whom come from state schools, demonstrating strong grassroots engagement. This success would not be possible without the tireless dedication of the volunteers and coaches who give their time and expertise to support the next generation. Programs like RISE have already helped produce Queensland and NRL stars like Tom Dearden, Reuben Cotter, Daly Cherry-Evans, Dane Gagai, Brittney Breayley-Nati and Renae Kunst.

RISE builds athletes, leaders and communities. It gives young people the skills and spirit to rise. The RISE program starts in Mackay on Monday, which is very timely following the NRL and NRL double matches this weekend. I commend all involved and look forward to seeing our young Queenslanders achieve great things both on and off the field.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Dungeness Enterprise Channel



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (9.24 pm): Everyone who lives in Hinchinbrook and visits Hinchinbrook knows it is the perfect gateway to not only the Great Barrier Reef but also Hinchinbrook Island, the Hinchinbrook channel and the Palm Island group—Orpheus and Pelorus islands—some of

the most beautiful waterways worth traveling halfway around the world to go and visit, but we need marine access.


Tonight I am happy and proud to announce that we have secured state approvals for the dredging and rock wall project at Dungeness Enterprise Channel. Today the Hinchinbrook Shire Council approved a change of application for the project so it can proceed. Having nearly all tidal access at Dungeness, Lucinda will mean that we will finally have the access necessary to build on our tourism industry. We will be able to get people over to places like Hinchinbrook Island to trek the Thorsborne Trail in all tidal situations. The coastguard will be able to get out and rescue people whenever they are stuck and need their help.

At a time like this I must acknowledge the hard work of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council mayor, Ramon Jayo. He has been working on this project for over nine years. I have been working on this project with him since I became the member. I did not wear glasses when we first started working on this project and I had no grey in my beard, but we got there with the help of \$400,000 from the previous state government to help us finish the sand movement study and I acknowledge the outgoing premier for that. I also express our sincere thanks to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation and his department for their support, which ensured this project was able to get the approvals necessary to proceed. The minister's support has been paramount for getting this project to where it is today. We want to acknowledge incoming government and the change of attitude within the department.

Now we must shift our focus from the approvals process to lobbying for state funding to make sure this project can be built. The rock wall will be there to make sure the dredging project is not a fruitless experience. Ensuring we can restore the historical spit there will mean we can retain the sand that we remove from Enterprise Channel. Madam Deputy Speaker, \$12 million is a drop in the ocean when you start adding up the boat regos that are paid across Queensland, and those boats and boat trailers are using Dungeness right now. Making sure that \$12 million is delivered in this year's state budget is a focus of mine and the focus of North Queensland boaties right now who are looking to explore the Hinchinbrook Channel, catch a barramundi and get over there and hike the Thorsborne Trail. I will continue to work with this incoming state government and Treasury to make sure we can deliver this project, which has been on the backburner for over nine years.

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Caloundra Electorate

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.27 pm): I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge two fantastic attractions that sit within the Caloundra electorate. Our beautiful Caloundra and these attractions contribute to making it a beautiful place to both live and visit. The first place is the Caloundra Air Museum, a spectacular collection of all things air related. The Caloundra Air Museum is certainly one of a kind because it is not only the largest air museum in Queensland but the largest air museum in the entire country. When you walk around the Caloundra Air Museum, you will see the most diverse collection of aircraft in the country, and all of the people within the organisation have their personal favourite. For me, my favourite is the DC-3 and I would love to know the favourite of anyone who takes the opportunity to visit.

The other thing that makes this place truly unique and special is that the Air Museum is run entirely by 188 volunteers. It is one of the few places where volunteer numbers are growing, not falling. These incredible volunteers actually contributed a total of 38,000 hours of service during 2024. The Air Museum has around 25,000 visitors a year and we are very lucky to have such a wonderful experience right on our doorstep. Next time you visit us in Caloundra be sure to stop in and visit Garry and the team. I would like to thank them for giving us the opportunity to visit and for everything they have done and continue to do. I wish them the best in their plans for the future of the Air Museum.

The second stop on your Caloundra visit is Aussie World. Jenny and the team there have created a magical experience from the time you walk in the door of this fantastic amusement park. The current owners, John and Kerry, have owned Aussie World for 30 years as a family owned business and welcome over 250,000 visitors each year. When entering the park, you will be greeted by one of the 260-plus employees bouncing and laughing in there to make sure your day is magical. With rides galore, music, food, water experiences and things for all ages, it is the best day you could ask for. The team employs talented young local performers and there is joy and colour everywhere you look. Many locals have fond memories of Aussie World, and their contribution to our tourism sector is significant. Thank you to Aussie World for being a Caloundra electorate icon, as well as investing into our future. How lucky we are to have this right at home.

Between these two icons, we have a connection to almost 500 employees and volunteers as well as the millions of people who have enjoyed time here over the years. Organisations like Aussie World and the Caloundra Air Museum provide interesting and enjoyable experiences that contribute to our economy and local experience, so I thank them both for their continued investment into our part of the world.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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