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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 1 May 2025

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THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today is the start of Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month. Cystic fibrosis is the most common life-shortening genetic chronic illness in Australia. It attacks the lungs, airway passages and pancreas, slowly shutting down the organs. A child is born with cystic fibrosis every four days. Most will not live past their 20s, there is no cure. Every May, our communities rally around the national campaign 65 Roses for Cystic Fibrosis, supporting the incredible work of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland. This movement brings communities together to raise vital funds and drive awareness for the challenges faced by those living with cystic fibrosis. For the next three nights, parliament will be illuminated red to mark the beginning of Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Shailer Park State School in the electorate of Springwood; Clayfield College in the electorate of Clayfield; Yeronga State School in the electorate of Miller; and Acacia Ridge State School and Watson Road State School in the electorate of Algeester.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pitt, Hon. W, AM



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.32 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Warren Pitt AM, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Today the House is paying its respect to the Hon. Warren Pitt AM. It was my honour to attend Warren's funeral in Cairns in February and to have been invited by the family to speak. Mr Pitt set a course, and he stuck to it, whatever obstacles he faced. Warren Pitt was born in Cairns on 14 March 1948. He attended state schools in Irvine Bank, Mt Isa, Cooroy and Charters Towers before completing a teaching certificate and a Bachelor of Educational Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Queensland. Warren started his teaching career in Ingham in 1969 and taught in the Queensland state primary and secondary school system for over 20 years. He undertook national service from 1967 and he served as a member of the Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975. A keen sportsman, he excelled at Rugby League, cricket, boxing, athletics and later, lawn bowls. So good a Rugby League player was Warren, he was one of the first players to receive payment for playing the sport in the Cairns competition.


In addition to playing sports, Warren also officiated at many of them for years as a referee and an umpire. He and wife Linda also appreciated the benefit of playing sport for young people. They contributed an extraordinary amount over the years to nurturing junior teams and sporting organisations

in the Gordonvale area, while also leading many junior teams on sporting trips. It is a testament to Warren that he was granted life membership to numerous sporting organisations. He was named Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year in 1983.

Warren made his first tilt at election to this place in the seat of Mulgrave at the state election of November 1986. While he was unsuccessful on this occasion, he contested the seat again at the state election in December 1989 where he was successful in helping the ALP form government under Wayne Goss for the first time in over three decades. In his first speech in this place, Warren set out his principles as an elected representative in that he would promote the interests of all sectors of the Mulgrave electorate, irrespective of colour, creed or political persuasion, noting that to do otherwise would be to debase the system of parliamentary democracy, whose ideals we hold so dear. In February 1995, Warren was elevated to cabinet by the then premier Goss to serve as the minister for business, industry and regional development. His parliamentary career was to hit a hurdle, though. He was defeated in Mulgrave by the National Party's Naomi Wilson at the state election of July 1995. Determined to once again represent his community, Warren contested Mulgrave at the state election in June 1998 and despite defeat, he returned following a by-election in December of the same year. As a consequence, Peter Beattie as premier was then able to govern with a majority of one.

Following the state election of February 2004, Warren returned to cabinet as the minister for communities and disability services. He would go on to serve in a series of ministerial portfolios until his retirement from this place in March 2009. As was noted by Warren's son and our former colleague Curtis at his funeral, Warren is the only person to have served in cabinet under premiers Wayne Goss, Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh. Warren Pitt was a man of integrity, fairness, resilience and wisdom. He was also a man of tremendous courage. After being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2005, Warren bravely battled and beat the condition while still conscientiously carrying out his ministerial and parliamentary duties.


In January 2016, Warren was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant services to the parliament through a range of ministerial responsibilities and indeed to his community. Whether as a teacher or a unionist, Warren Pitt was passionate about the Far North and its people. The list of local organisations with which he was involved was too long to repeat. I say with absolute conviction that the Queensland parliament, indeed every parliament, needs more members like Warren Pitt. Warren Pitt was a husband, a father and a grandfather. Whatever loss the political world feels, it pales into insignificance to the great loss his family suffers. I offer my condolences to Linda, to Curtis and to Dionne and their families. We thank them for allowing Warren to share time to us and to serve his community. Vale, Warren Pitt.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.37 am): I rise to offer my condolences on behalf of the state parliamentary Labor Party for the passing of the Hon. Warren Pitt AM. A titan of the Labor Party and a champion of the Far North, Warren was a friend and a teacher to many. To our mate Curtis he was just 'dad'. In this chamber, Warren served his community for 17 years and served Queenslanders as a minister. He championed small business, the regions, disability services, communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, seniors and youth. Warren's last portfolio before his retirement was main roads and local government. It is fitting then, that his memory will live on in the Bruce Highway—the Warren and Linda Pitt Way.

Linda is watching these proceedings on the iPad at home today, as I am sure Dionne is too. We are joined by Curtis and Heidi in the gallery. It was lovely to share morning tea with them earlier and to hear from Curtis about how while those final days with Warren were tragic, they were spent surrounded by family.

For far longer than he was a member of this chamber he was a husband and father. Warren and Linda married in 1970. In 1970 Gough Whitlam was the opposition leader, Brisbane was hit by a dust storm, Cyclone Ada hit Central Queensland, the Rabbitohs won the grand final and Margaret Court became the second woman to win the grand slam. I remember the first time I met Warren Pitt; it was in Young Labor while Warren was a minister under then premier Wayne Goss. He was generous with his time and advice to young Labor activists like me. More recently, Warren would join us at events in Cairns when we were in town for government business.

Mr Speaker, I know how proud Warren was to watch his son in various chairs in this place, including the one that you now occupy, and to see his son carry on his legacy in the seat of Mulgrave. I thank the Pitt family for sharing Warren with Queenslanders. On behalf of the Labor family and every person in this House I pay our respect to Warren and his enduring legacy. Vale the Hon. Warren Pitt AM.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.40 am): I first met Warren when I entered politics as a young alderman at Cairns city council back in 1994 when he was the minister for industry and regional development under then premier Wayne Goss. It was not until my second stint at council, after the amalgamation of Mulgrave shire and Cairns city to form Cairns Regional Council, that I got to know Warren Pitt. We attended several events together where he and his wife, Linda, were always present. At one of these events I discovered through our conversations that I am related to Linda, so the electorate of Mulgrave is still in the family.


Warren Pitt was an all-round, well-respected person, teacher, sportsperson and community leader with values above partisan lines. Born in Cairns in 1948, Warren excelled in sport at high school and in his senior year he was district athletic champion. He completed two bachelor's degrees and one master's degree as well as his Army national service obligations.

Warren and Linda married in Charters Towers in 1970 and moved to Gordonvale that same year. His first teaching job in Gordonvale was at Gordonvale State School and he then spent 25 years teaching at both Gordonvale State School and Gordonvale State High School. He was a great supporter of junior sports and community events. Warren and Linda opened a sports store called SportsFit in Norman Street, Gordonvale in the late 1980s. As well as selling to the public, they supplied equipment to local clubs they were involved in, offering them considerable discounts. They ran this business for almost 10 years.

Warren and Linda founded and wrote constitutions for Southern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club, Gordonvale Netball Association, Johnson Park Development Association, Mulgrave Little Athletics Club, Mulgrave Junior Cricket Club, Sunbird Lodge palliative care, Gordonvale Vigoro, Mulgrave District Chamber of Commerce and Mulgrave educational tours. Together, they were made life members of almost every organisation they were involved in.

Warren played Rugby League and cricket and was also a champion welterweight boxer. He was the member for Mulgrave from 1989 to 1995 and from 1998 until 2009, when he retired due to ill health. He was a business, industry and regional development minister and was minister for communities and disability services, seniors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, main roads and local government. Warren spearheaded and funded construction and completion of many local landmarks such as the Desmond Trannore Bridge over the Mulgrave River, Babinda bypass, Gillies Range upgrade, establishment of Bentley Park College, Gordonvale State School sports hall and upgrade of Gordonvale and Innisfail hospitals to name a few.

He was awarded Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year in 1983 and was awarded an Order of Australia AM by the Governor-General for community volunteer work and political services in 2016. Warren Pitt's contribution to this state, in particular to the electorate of Mulgrave and its people, will be remembered for many years. In fact, in a fitting tribute, part of the Bruce Highway from Gordonvale to Cairns was renamed the Warren and Linda Pitt Way.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (9.44 am): It is with great sadness and pleasure that I join in this condolence motion for the late Warren Pitt AM. Born on 14 March 1948 and leaving this world on 7 February 2025 aged 76, Warren was probably a little younger than we had hoped he would be when he left this world. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly for around 20 years all up, firstly from 1989 to 1995 and then from 1998 to 2009 when his son, Curtis, who we all know was a previous Speaker—and whom I welcome to the gallery along with Heidi—succeeded him in 2009. Of course I also welcome Linda, his beloved wife, who I am sure is online watching question time and this condolence motion. To Dionne, who I think will be doing exactly the same, and all of the grandchildren and the family, we extend our condolences.

Warren was a very proud North Queenslander and a very proud bastion for his North Queensland community. Born in Cairns, Warren became a schoolteacher before entering politics. He underwent national service and was in the Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975. He was always an active and functioning member of the local community, as we have heard others say, being recognised as the Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year in 1983. He was a proud family man and was proud of his distinguished political career, as we all are here in this House. He was elected to state parliament as the member for Mulgrave in 1989, defeating the sitting National Party MP Max Menzel. He was defeated two terms later, but he came back—and that was great to see—and obviously continued that distinguished and long career in state politics.

As was said previously, Warren was one of the only ministers to have served under three successive premiers—under premier Goss, premier Beattie and premier Bligh—and held some great positions: as the deputy government whip in 1992, government whip from 1992 to 1995 and then

minister for business, industry and regional development from February to July 1995. Under Beattie he was chair of the scrutiny of legislation committee and minister for communities and disability services. Then the seniors portfolio was added in 2004, youth in September 2006 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships in January 2007, giving Warren Pitt the very long title of minister for communities, disability services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, seniors and youth, which he retained until Beattie's retirement in September 2007. Under the Bligh government he was minister for main roads and local government from September 2007 until his retirement in March 2009.

Upon his retirement, which we know was a bit earlier than he had hoped for, his son, Curtis, was preselected, whom we know, and was successful in the 2009 state election, holding the seat until his retirement last year in 2024. It was an honour to have served only a couple of years with Warren in this House, but he was always a great mentor. He was always a fantastic person to talk to about the parliament. I will always treasure my memory of having served with him in this House. I will give some personal background about Warren.

Warren's father actually wanted him to be in the Police Service. However, his opposition to the Bjelke-Petersen government contributed to his decision to join the Labor Party. He joined the party in 1975 after the Whitlam government was dismissed, and we thank him very much for doing so. He had difficulties running for public office as a public servant during that era of the government. He was an energetic local member, as has been said. He said that the formation of the department of communities was one of the best things he was involved in during his political career, with the highlight being the focus on disability services. He also said his greatest achievement from his time in communities was the development of an inclusive and open culture. He ushered through the local government amalgamations and believed in their benefits. Given his busy portfolio with all of those ministerial responsibilities, one of his greatest regrets was not being able to devote more time to Indigenous affairs and to ensure that there was always a bipartisan approach to that issue because that is when we get the best outcome for vulnerable people.


As has been said, unfortunately he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2006, but he kept working as a minister the whole time. This demonstrates some of the achievements that Warren was able to continue to bring to his community in Mulgrave around Gordonvale and the surrounding areas. In terms of some of his greatest achievements—there are so many—let me pick out a few that I thought would be great to talk about: upgrading the Gordonvale and Innisfail hospitals; the establishment of the Bentley Park College, and he was particularly proud of that and I know that when I asked Curtis, 'What are some of the proudest things your dad talked to you about?'—and he is dad to Curtis of course and grandfather to Heidi—he said that the Bentley Park College was one of the things he would always talk about so that education kept going; developing the Innisfail school of tomorrow; commencement of construction of the \$48 million Mulgrave River bridge; construction of the Innisfail community sports centre, and we heard what a great sportsperson he was—he loved his sport and he wanted to make sure that others could enjoy that pastime; and the establishment of the St John's Community Care facility in Gordonvale for young people with disability, and his commitment to those with disabilities in the community has been unsurpassed. He opened the \$543 million Tugun bypass and the \$1.88 billion Gateway Upgrade Project. He also commented on—and I believe Curtis also said this—the wholesale reshaping of Queensland's disability sector. He was very proud of being able to do that.

We in this House also know that it is important that we communicate with our constituency and our electorate and I was always envious that I would get in my in-tray a newsletter that he put out in his electorate called *Pitt Stop*. I thought, 'What a great name for an electorate newsletter,' and I tried to come up with something similar and I was always envious that he had such a great title for his newsletter. I would often see that publication in my in-tray, but I have to say, Curtis, that I loved that title *Pitt Stop*.

It is always important when we are here to have a little bit of fun and enjoy our time in this House and I believe he mostly enjoyed being an active member of the Parliamentary Bowls Team, particularly with colleague MPs the late Don Livingstone and Tim Mulherin, who are both dear to our hearts. This was not just fun, I understand; they were serious tournaments and games were hotly contested. The dream team of Warren, Don and Tim did not win too many tournaments, but I understand they did win one, so congratulations to them for that.


Also for fun Warren liked to get up to a little bit of mischief and there is a story that with fellow opposition backbencher Darryl Briskey they noticed that a senior minister's speech was left on the lectern during the break. Well, they took great delight in shuffling the papers and watching the minister trying to deliver the speech that evening. I will not mention who the minister was, but I understand that

Warren and Darryl took great glee in making sure that they made it as difficult as possible and I believe it was a great show to watch when it happened. In all seriousness though, my sincere condolences to the family: to his wife, Linda; children Curtis and Dionne; and grandchildren Heidi, Phoebe, Tristan, Layla, Hugo and Kobi. May he rest in peace. Vale, Warren Pitt.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (9.53 am): I was fortunate to serve in this parliament with the late Warren Pitt. While we sat on opposite sides of the chamber, I can honestly say that he was a true gentleman of politics. I am sure there was a steeliness of purpose underlying his demeanour of kindness and grace, but he carried himself in life and in his work with character and integrity. I recall that he was a man of faith and values who cared deeply about people. Like his son, Curtis Pitt, the successor of Warren's political mantle, I was also a child of a former Queensland MP and I am sure I share some of the experiences of knowing what it is like to have a parent committed to public life and service and away from home so much. One thing this experience provides is to give you a very honest prior insight into what it is like to serve in parliament and to serve a local constituency of people from all walks of life and through times of great vulnerability when people reach out for help.

But sometimes there are amusing things which occur and I want to share a lighter moment of an interaction with a constituent which both Warren and I experienced at the 2007 opening of the Maroochy River bridge duplication on the Sunshine Motorway when Warren was main roads minister. Warren graciously invited me as the local MP to participate in the cutting of the ribbon on this piece of infrastructure which I had fought hard to have built. The new bridge was closed to traffic awaiting the official opening, with the public participating in the opportunity to first walk across it. As Warren held the scissors ready to officially cut the ribbon, a man in a fluorescent mankini rushed forward and, in a de Groot-like fashion, broke the barrier to be the first across the bridge. I still remember the way Warren wielded the scissors and I thought that this Borat look-alike was very lucky to escape unscathed as he ran past.

In drawing my reflections to a close, I would like to express my sincere condolences to all of the Pitt family and in particular to Curtis and to Mrs Linda Pitt. Amongst the many well-deserved tributes to Warren Pitt for his public life of service it is the legacy of love for his family that I am sure will leave the greatest ongoing impact. Vale, Warren Pitt.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.56 am): Today I rise to express my condolences to the family of the Hon. Warren Pitt AM—the much loved and highly regarded minister in successive Queensland Labor government cabinets, the local member and husband, the dad, grandad and family member. I pay homage to his devoted family: to Linda, and it is lovely to know that Linda is watching this online today; to Dionne and his beautiful grandchildren Heidi, Phoebe, Tristan, Layla, Hugo and Kobi; and of course to Curtis, whom we all know so well in the parliament, and I acknowledge Curtis and Heidi in the gallery today. We feel their grief.

It was a great honour to speak on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition at the celebration of Warren's life in Cairns not so long ago, and I acknowledge that the Premier also spoke at that service. I came to that service from Brisbane equipped with many stories from former staffers and from his former colleagues and I had my own from when I had first met Warren many years ago when I was a newer member of the Labor Party and from the years following. But once I had also spent some time amongst the very big audience who had gathered there—and it must have been wonderful for his family to see so many people come to pay their respects—and had some conversations with those who were there, I had an even greater sense of who Warren Pitt was. It was very clear that the public Warren Pitt was one and the same as the private Warren Pitt, which is not always the case.

I already knew how proud Curtis was of his dad—and of course Curtis succeeded Warren in the seat of Mulgrave—but his dad was equally proud of him. Amongst all the stories I had heard before and on that day, the themes that kept reinforcing themselves were that Warren was deeply caring, that he was always watching out for others, that he was strong on what was the right thing to do, that he was dedicated to helping others. I knew he had been a teacher; I did not know until that day that he had also been a champion boxer and a serviceman.


We know he was first elected in 1989 for the seat of Mulgrave but lost in 1995 and was re-elected in 1998 to 2009. For that by-election I had been tasked with going up to Mulgrave to get everything ready for the campaign. As you do when you have those responsibilities, you have to quickly get a sense of, 'Who is this person? What do we have here? What are we working with?' After half a day I thought, 'Is there anyone in the known universe who does not know this person?' I felt very confident

that Warren was going to win and, of course, he did. He was so loved and so well known. In the time since he had lost the seat he had not stopped working amongst his beloved community. We know he served under premiers Wayne Goss, Peter Beattie and Anna Bligh and colleagues have already talked about the various positions that he held.

He met Linda in school and they were clearly soulmates. I could see that even when I first noticed them as young Labor Party members at ALP events. Everyone could see it. That connection was clear right to the end. Where there was Warren there was Linda and where there was Linda there was Warren. I know that Linda greatly supported his community work. His colleagues would often refer to the 'Warren and Linda Show'. Colleagues would often hear him say that he would not be where he was without her. She would often represent him Monday to Thursday in the electorate while he was away as a minister and then when he was back they would actually do the electorate work together. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mulgrave have already referred to that part of the Bruce Highway from Gordonvale to Cairns that was actually renamed the Warren and Linda Pitt Way. If ever there was a story of the way these two worked then that was surely it. It was a great acknowledgement.

At the service I spoke to a number of his former colleagues to get a few quotes to share. The ultimate compliment was, 'He was a good bloke.' People said: 'If Warren Pitt said he was going to do something, then you absolutely knew it was going to happen'; 'Solid'; 'A gentleman'; 'Kept an eye out for everyone'; 'He was his electorate'. My predecessor, Pat Purcell, who was at one time the minister for emergency services, told me a story about going up to Cairns after there had been a natural disaster. As unfortunately often happens in Far North Queensland, it was pretty horrendous. He said that when he was in the electorate Warren was absolutely tireless, he just did not sleep. He said he watched Warren and the way he was with people. The comfort and relief and sense of support that people obviously had as soon as they saw Warren was a clear measure of just how much he cared, but also what a difference he made in the lives of so many people.

At that funeral service I had a chance to talk to many people. There were people there from so many walks of life and from years and years ago. One of the things that struck me most was that there were students of Warren Pitt's there and they said to me, 'He changed my life.' There were stories about something Warren said or did for a student and they were better people because of it or it was a point in their lives where everything changed for the better. Surely all of us want to know that we have made a difference. Clearly Warren Pitt made a very big difference. Vale, Warren Pitt.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.03 am): I am honoured to rise on this condolence motion and express my heartfelt condolences to Warren's wonderful family, some of whom have joined us in the gallery today. I was lucky enough to work for Warren. Twenty odd years ago he was my boss in my first post-university job. He created a wonderful and welcoming work environment for young people. I was very blessed to be given the opportunity to learn on the job.

When I first started working for Warren his shadow was none other than the member for Hill, who Warren was actually very fond of. He told me to always be kind and always be ready to assist him. Warren had a great respect for the member for Hill's knowledge of regional Queensland and was always keen to listen to his perspective and be both collegiate and collaborative. I could see from their interactions that the fond regard was mutual.

Over the years that I worked for Warren I came to think of him and Linda as adoptive parents because they were there for so many of the first major milestones in my young adult life. As we have heard, Warren deeply loved his family. He loved his wife Linda, his children Curtis and Dionne, of whom he was immensely proud and would never stop bragging about, and, of course, his grandchildren: Heidi, who joins us in the gallery today; Isabel; Tristan; Layla; Hugo; Phoebe; and Kobi. He would often have his grandchildren stop by the office, especially Heidi as the oldest. He frequently commented to the staff in the office that the reason he was put on this earth was to be a grandad. Every time a new grandchild was born his pride would grow. I remember how the birth of his granddaughter Isabel deeply impacted the entire family when she was stillborn. I would often think to myself that I aspired to have a partnership and a loving marriage like Warren and Linda because his open adoration of Linda was truly beautiful to see. He was not embarrassed for anybody to see how much he loved her. He would be the very first to say that Linda was the secret to his success.

Some time after I started working for Warren I became an assistant policy adviser—and then came the first reshuffle. I do not come from a political family. That day, unbeknownst to me, my parents became very concerned about my job security. We did not tend to communicate a lot during the work week, but during the middle of the working day my father called my mobile. He had never done that before. I thought somebody had died so I answered the phone while walking out with Warren to a

meeting. Once I realised he was just concerned that I might lose my job, I tried to reassure him quietly and get off the phone as quickly as I could, but Warren overheard me and he somehow got the phone out of my hand and said, 'Don't you worry, Mr Pugh, I'll take care of your little girl.' I heard my dad laugh on the other end of the phone and I knew Warren had another fan for life. When I got married a few years later dad insisted that both Warren and Linda be invited because he thought I was incredibly lucky to have Warren as a mentor.

I was very lucky as a young adviser with the local government portfolio to have the opportunity to travel extensively with Warren, including to his home region of Far North Queensland. The first time I went up I was booked into a hotel, but it was a long drive to Mulgrave so Linda insisted I stay in the spare room. I suspect part of the reason that Warren liked having female advisers is because he always had an array of items that he carried with him but had nowhere to keep them. He would hand us over his keys, his Blackberry, his sunglasses and his little notebooks—because he liked to do everything on paper. In his Monday morning meetings he would have his long, A4 list ready for the department because he always wrote everything down on paper. That is a habit that I have picked up from him and continue to this day.


When I first met Warren he was battling cancer and its aftermath. He was in treatment. Despite this he had a prodigious work ethic—even when he was at his most unwell. I could not believe how hard he worked in his long days as a minister. He would go back to the electorate later in the week and he would attend events all day and into the night with his beautiful wife Linda. He would often tell me that the secret to his electoral success was Linda because she would attend those events when he could not. Even if he could attend they would always insist that Linda attend as well. The only way that you would ever know Warren was even a tiny bit sick was he had this amazing ability to power nap. We would be driving to an event or going to a meeting, we would be chatting through policy in the car and then he would just stop responding. You would look over and he would be having a quick recharge—a little power nap. Five minutes later he would jump out of the car full of gusto and ready to power on. Until I met Warren every person I had ever known who had cancer had a really strict diet as part of their treatment, but not Warren. His dietary habits absolutely blew me away. He hated salad or anything green. He loved Bonox. He once regarded my dinner with great suspicion when I ordered seafood. He said prawns were the maggots of the sea. I could never look at them the same way again.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PUGH: I know, it's gross. I remember how proud he was when Curtis became the Speaker. Some people never want to be eclipsed by anyone, not even their own children, but for Warren there was not even a hint of envy in his beaming pride for his son's achievement. When you heard Warren talk about his children and his grandchildren, you would honestly think they had invented the moon so great were their talents.

The wonderful thing about Warren was that he proudly stayed in touch with many of his young team members and mentees long after we left his team or were no longer in day-to-day contact. Long after I left his team, Warren and I would regularly exchange calls and texts. He would always make a point of checking in or visiting if I was in Cairns or he was in Brisbane. Usually we would catch up about political issues and his views would always be infused with his trademark North Queensland flavour. Warren followed my life and that of my family, providing wisdom and advice when I needed it but never ever judgement. One memory I still cherish from more recent times is a letter that he sent to me right before my election in 2017. He expressed confidence in my electoral prospects and fatherly pride in how far I had come. As he was somebody I had looked up to all of my adult life that meant so very much.

Mr Speaker, you may notice that I have barely touched on Warren's significant contribution to this place, the parliament, in a variety of portfolios including disability services, local government and Main Roads. Others have done a wonderful job of that. His parliamentary career extended back before I was born. I wanted to leave the House with an understanding of the man Warren Pitt, but certainly he was also a wonderful parliamentarian. I do not use the word 'politician'; Warren was a parliamentarian. More importantly, he was a truly, truly wonderful person. Vale, Warren Pitt.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.11 am): It is a great honour to speak on this condolence motion. I pass on my condolences to Linda and the entire family. Perhaps I am not so much speaking on my own behalf, although I do have a lot of connections with Warren, but on behalf of the Greenslopes branch where Warren was a regular visitor due to his friendship with Gary Fenlon. On many occasions Warren was joined by Linda. Our branch was always happy to interrupt the business of the day, which at that time would have been plotting to get rid of the Howard government, and listen to all of the insights

that Warren brought from country Queensland. It was a real way of connecting the city to the bush. That tradition has continued to this day and we do try to get regional members of parliament to our branch meetings.

Warren was a member of the class of '89 and, as such, was very revered in our branch. Our branch held the people who had achieved success in that election in extremely high esteem. At that stage, I think a lot of our branch members, myself included, really did not have a lot of interaction with many members of parliament and we put them on a very high pedestal. While Warren always gave us great insights into the issues of the day during his visits, people used to really connect with him because he had been a teacher and a Rugby League player. Some people contacted me recently to pass on their condolences to the family and one comment really stuck with me. Someone said that every time Warren came to our branch we would be amazed that this person, who had been part of the team that had achieved amazing success and who had a great parliamentary career, was such a normal human being. He was someone we could relate to and he was very generous with the time that he spent with our branch.

Many other people have more connections with Warren through his policies, his politics and his time in this place. My insights come more through my interactions and engagement with his children and his grandchildren. When Dionne and David moved to Brisbane, they lived on Juliette Street, a few blocks from my house. They were at the exact same stage of life as myself and my wife. We all had young kids aged from one through to five, so we had a lot of interactions and became fast friends. Of course, they joined our branch. Those bonds were built around children and our shared interest in politics, but what really connected us was our shared values. It was clear where those shared values came from. That focus on family, that focus on community and that focus on trying to have a fair society for everyone were things that really connected Sue and I with Dionne and David.

Curtis also joined our branch. He had a bit more hair back then. We could see straightaway that he was going places. He was an exceptionally talented young man. For me to suddenly find myself, several years later, in the position of working closely with Curtis as part of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker team was a huge privilege and something that I will take forward forever. As you would know, Mr Speaker, at times it can be lonely in the referee sheds. Curtis led a great team that included not just the Deputy Speaker but also the temporary speakers. He encouraged us to be there for each other on the good days and the tough days. Curtis was a great parliamentarian in his own right and I think it is very clear that the values that he brought forward into this place had been instilled in him by Warren and Linda. With those few words, I again offer my sincere condolences to the entire family. Vale, Warren Pitt.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (10.16 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion debate for the late Hon. Warren Pitt AM, a former member of this House. I acknowledge the members of his family who are in the gallery today, Curtis and Heidi, and his friends, family and connections who will be watching the parliamentary broadcast. My sincere condolences go to you all.

As some of you may notice, today I wear the parliamentary mace badge. This badge is provided to members of parliament when they become former members of parliament. It is a badge that Warren's son Curtis would wear regularly in this chamber in honour of Warren. As one of the few people in this current parliament who can claim to be both a former and current member of parliament, today I wear my parliamentary mace badge to honour Warren. I note that it is probably one of the few things that I have in common with the Premier.

Over a lifetime, we are each afforded the opportunity to make friendships and build connections across many areas and in many ways. Warren Pitt seized that opportunity and, in turn, built a reputation that was not just respected and remembered by many people in many corners of our state; it was a reputation based on sincerity and genuine mutual affection. Some who come to this place are forever defined merely by their parliamentary service, which in itself is extraordinary, but not Warren. He is remembered beyond his parliamentary service for so many things.

My connection to Warren is through a microcosm of the vast friendships and connections that Warren acquired over his lifetime with branch members of the Labor Party. As we have heard, he attended many Labor Party branch meetings right across the state. Every time he did that he developed a bond in every single part of the state with those Labor Party branch members. I have connections with Warren through my family in the north; through his son Curtis, who is a former colleague; through my wife who, along with the member for Mount Ommaney, was a former ministerial staffer to Warren; and through my father who was a public servant in portfolio agencies administered by Warren when he was the minister.

In some respects, Warren's electoral experiences mirrored mine as he was a member of parliament who was defeated and then subsequently returned at a later election. Unlike Warren, I do not have the same ambitions for my children to follow me into this parliament. I do take this opportunity to say that today is the birthday of my eldest son, Daniel. Happy 8th birthday, Danny.

In talking about children who follow their parents into this parliament it would be remiss of me not to highlight that, in Curtis's first election to this parliament in 2009, the ballot paper read 'Curtis Warren Pitt'. Of course, while that was in honour of his father I think it was probably worth about five per cent of the vote. Such was the reputation of Warren Pitt that sometimes I think that if a number of my colleagues and I had his name on the ballot paper—'Mark Warren Pitt Ryan'—it may have been worth the five per cent I needed in 2012.

My father also has very pleasant memories of his minister, the Hon. Warren Pitt. He remembers a diligent minister but, most importantly, a compassionate person—a person who put the interests of others ahead of his own. Warren worked very hard to ensure that in his social services portfolio particularly—communities and disability services—he always put people first, and that was his reputation across the state. So many people in many different sectors—the disability sector, the community sector, the seniors sector, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector—respected him and so many of them still talk about him today.


For these and many other reasons, Warren Pitt has a special place in the hearts of many families, including mine. It could be said he is the reason my wife and I met, although the member for Mount Ommaney did play an important encouragement role in the matchmaking, as she will regularly remind us. My wife, Holly, was working in Toowoomba 20 years ago when one day she received a call from Warren offering her a job in his ministerial office in Brisbane. She was reluctant to accept the offer, not having ambitions to move to Brisbane, and noted to Warren that she did not have a great deal of ministerial advisory experience, having only recently completed her university degree in journalism and PR. Holly often recalls it was like the roles were reversed and it was Warren who was doing his best to convince her why she would be great at the job and why his office was the right path for her. I am obviously glad that she accepted Warren's offer.

She still maintains it was one of the best decisions she has ever made. I claim it is because it led to our meeting but it is also because Holly found a second family. Holly admits that she may also have had a contributing author role in *Pitt Stop*, so I am very glad that the member for McConnell enjoyed the *Pitt Stop* publication. Holly also notes that being a ministerial staffer for Warren had many different responsibilities, including sometimes collecting Warren's favourite lunch of cheeseburgers. Warren always insisted he did not want any of the 'green stuff' because he hated the green stuff, although I am not sure Linda was meant to know that!

Warren was renowned for treating his staff like family. In turn, his staff were fiercely loyal to him. Even after an election loss meant the team were no longer working together, Warren kept in touch through his yearly family newsletter, keeping everyone up to date on what the family had been up to throughout the year.

Warren was a true gentleman of politics. He had a way of bringing people together from all walks of life—a more passionate advocate you would never find, whether it was fighting for reforms in his portfolio sectors, like disability, or for a local football club in his own electorate. He was someone you wanted in your corner. His values transcended both sides of politics and he will be forever remembered for his integrity.

Above all, as we have heard from others today, Warren was a very proud family man. You could look forward to his pulling out his brag book at any meeting and getting an update on Linda's, Curtis's and Dionne's achievements, and eventually that extended to his grandchildren. Our hearts are with Linda and the rest of the Pitt family. I hope they take great comfort in the lasting legacy of one of the state's transformative and truly passionate advocates. Vale, Hon. Warren Pitt AM.


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (10.24 am): First of all, I would like to say that I am speaking on behalf of the KAP and offer our deep condolences to the Pitt family—in particular to Linda, their children Curtis and Dionne, and Heidi, who is hiding up in the gallery today. I got to know Warren really well when I was first elected to parliament in 2004. Warren was the minister for communities and disabilities and I was the shadow minister. I attended many forums and meetings with Warren relating to his portfolio. The thing that stood out to me with Warren was the amazing connection he had with the departments, the disabled and people from all different walks of life and backgrounds. I have to say that they all just loved Warren.

He was an old-school politician who was fully committed to helping people and serving his community. While I was a shadow minister, I also had an electorate to look after and numerous different issues to address. I would take them to Warren and he would say to me, 'Shane, you've been on my back about this and I want to make sure that you get the credit. Put a question to me in the House or at estimates and I will sort it out.' His actions spoke volumes about him and it was no wonder he had a long and distinguished career, which was then successfully passed on to his son, Curtis.

Warren was a very generous man, contributing his time, energy and personal finances to many community and sporting organisations during his time in parliament. When Warren left parliament, he continued to donate out of his own pocket to various sporting and community-based organisations. The Warren Pitt scholarship program, which took in seven schools in his community, was one of these. He also donated funds to a range of sporting organisations.

Warren was a lover of all sports and had a passion for rugby league, which we had in common. He was integral in getting the junior rugby league clubhouse built at Southern Suburbs and served as president and on the committee for decades. One thing I did find out about Warren was he played senior football for Southern Suburbs and was the first professional rugby league player in Cairns to be paid to play. I was informed he got paid something like \$1 per tackle, and he was determined to top the tackle count every game. Warren was a life member of 13 sporting and community organisations, which is incredible. Among his many other achievements, he was also named Mulgrave Shire Citizen of the Year, which I was told he was very proud of.

I visited Warren at his home a few years back and I was aware he was not well—he was battling another type of cancer. I renewed my connection with Warren, looking at and talking about the many political and sporting photos and memorabilia that he displayed in his man shed. Warren was tough and one of those blokes who just cherished life. I was in Parliament House when Warren was battling his first bout of cancer and I asked him how he was going and, 'Are you going to beat this?' Without hesitation, he looked at me and said, 'Yes, Shane.' I could hear the determination in his voice, and he did beat it. Some 20 years later he was battling another cancer and I asked him the same question and, again, without hesitation, he said, 'Yes, Shane, because I am determined to be around to see my grandchildren grow up.' Instead of being bitter or angry about it, he was hugely grateful for the extra time he had been given to share with his family and friends. This says everything about the type of man he was. He was a hell of a fighter, loved and respected by many, who had an amazing positive attitude and a deep love for family and his community. I believe that is how I and most people will remember Warren. Rest in peace, Warren Pitt.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.28 am): Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about Warren Pitt. Can I just say how lovely it has been to hear people's very personal reflections. One can always tell from the warmth that comes through people's experiences of someone in this House the sort of life they lived.

I start by acknowledging Curtis and Heidi in the gallery. This morning I said to Curtis, who of course is a very dear friend, that it must be with very mixed emotions that family come and watch these condolence motions—both a sense of celebration and pride in the people they loved and have lost but also sadness to hear these reflections and know again the finality of the loss of someone they loved so deeply.

I acknowledge Dionne and family. I know that the grandkids will be watching online. I warmly acknowledge Linda because, as everyone here has reflected, Warren and Linda were inseparable. They were this beautiful, beautiful force wherever they went and they were always kind and generous to everyone. Linda always had a hug and a kiss for everyone. I am sad that she could not be here today but I am very grateful that she is watching online.

I first met Warren in my early 20s when I was a ministerial staffer here. Like Jess, I did not come from a political family and politics was never the plan, but my very dear friend and predecessor, Neil Roberts, on his encouragement, very gently offered me a job as a ministerial staffer when I was at university. Then I think he had a very cunning plan to keep me, and of course here I am 23 years later.

Warren was always very generous to young staffers. He was always very encouraging. At the same time I was also running a forum called the Queensland Student Leadership Forum. There are a number of members in this House who have experience with that. I know Sam, who is across the chamber, was one of the students in that forum. I think I might have been the facilitator at the time—which just makes me feel older. Thanks for that, Sam! He was a participant and he is here, so we were obviously doing something very right.

My job in the Queensland Student Leadership Forum as a young staffer, and as someone who attended the National Leadership Forum, was to facilitate the involvement of members across the chamber. It was an interesting experience as a young Labor staffer turning up in the offices of Liberal and National Party members and members on the crossbench. Warren was a great encourager of me and one of the first Labor members who got involved in that because he did have such a great passion for working with young people.

I remember Warren was always kind and he was generous. I take the reflections of the member for Hill that he was tough too, but that was not a side that Warren ever showed me as a young woman. He was kind and he was a gentleman, and he was generous with his time and encouragement. He always saw the potential in young people. He saw the potential in young people and people in the community who others may not have seen or may have dismissed. He was always the person who leaned in to people who needed it most. He was a genuine community servant and he approached leadership from that servant leadership model. I had deep respect for him always.

He always had a smile when he was walking down the hallway. He was widely liked and respected in this place, and that is incredibly hard to achieve. It is really hard, I think, to be genuinely liked across the chamber in this place because it is a hard place, but he achieved that. He always reminded me of Vaughan Johnson, who equally achieved that. He was just a truly delightful human being and, again, always, encouraged me behind the scenes as a young woman to keep going in the profession.

Warren loved people. He loved the Labor Party. He loved his community more. But he loved his family most. You could always see that, and others have spoken about that. His enduring love and partnership with Linda was evident for all to see. It is inspiring. I am 22 years married. It is inspiring to see—they were like newlyweds always when you saw them—how they maintained that, and Linda was as loved as Warren.

His approach to leadership, as I mentioned, was one of servant leadership, and his community saw that and loved him. He was always genuine and authentic. I loved going to the electorate and afterwards when Curtis had taken over—and I do not think I ever shared this with Curtis—I always felt that he led the same way. Curtis always leaned in and saw the people that others in the community might have turned a blind eye to or may have dismissed or written off. He never gave up on people. Curtis, can I say to you in the gallery that you are a credit to him and I know he would be very proud of you. He certainly passed these values on to his children.

I put on record my thanks to Warren for his service to this place but also to his family for their sacrifice because our service brings sacrifice to the people we love most. They allowed us to have him here for a time and for the Queensland parliament to have him.

I will finish by sharing a few words by his former colleague and my dear friend Neil Roberts, who served with him for a long time. Neil is watching here today. Neil said—

It always saddens me when I think of Warren's passing. It was much too early. I had the privilege of supporting Warren as his parliamentary secretary for a short period during his illness. He was, without doubt, one of the most decent human beings I have ever met. His parliamentary career was exceptional. But underpinning that, along with his beloved Linda, was his longstanding commitment and involvement in so many local community and sporting clubs. He is an outstanding role model for parliamentarians and community leaders alike.

Vale, Warren Pitt.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (10.34 am): I was reflecting on the 1998 by-election, which the member for Bulimba brought up. I, like the member for Bulimba, was lucky enough to be up in North Queensland to serve and to learn in that process. My job was to be with Warren every second of the day and to go doorknocking through the southern suburbs of Cairns. Door after door we knocked and, like the member for Bulimba, as I spent more and more time in those southern suburbs, I learnt how deep his connection was to that community.

We have to reflect that that by-election was a pivotal point in our history in Queensland. In the previous election, 11 One Nation members came into this place. Warren had previously won the seat of Mulgrave on primaries but then lost the seat when One Nation was elected on preferences from the LNP. Then there was an extraordinary moment after a resignation when Warren got to run again, to make that argument again. It was the depth of his connection to that community that made that difference.


We all have learnt from others about how to be a representative of people. I reflect on how much I learnt from Warren during that period. One of the most profound things was his depth of connection to the Aboriginal people of North Queensland and especially to the Yarrabah community. He truly loved

every single individual there and was proud of the achievements of the young people he had taught or coached. That warmth and true Queensland spirit of wanting Aboriginal people to succeed and wanting the community of Yarrabah to be such a success was something that struck me profoundly.

He was also that pivot point between the old Cairns and the new Cairns. We doorknocked around Babinda when the Babinda mill was still running. It was a time of transition to the modern Cairns based more on new industries.

I also think that we cannot reflect on Warren without mentioning Linda—Linda and Warren, Warren and Linda. They were always together and always cheery. I know that Linda is listening, as well as Curtis and Dionne and the extended family.

I would like to say to Linda and Warren that you made a little history. You changed us at that pivot point when we were making a decision about whether to go back to an older Queensland that did not have the vision, the broadness, the acceptability and the confidence and openness that you had with the people of Queensland. You transitioned us through that community connection on the strength of your community connection to a better Queensland.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of former Speaker, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, and his niece Heidi Berry in the gallery today and formally extend my condolences on the passing of the Hon. Warren Pitt AM. I ask honourable members to indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

PETITION

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

Kirkwood, Social Housing

Hon. Butcher, from 223 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the proposed ministerial infrastructure designation process for the proposed social housing unit block at Little Creek Boulevard, Kirkwood, Gladstone [\[404\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for Veterans (Hon. Crisafulli)—

[405](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for Veterans (Hon. Crisafulli), to an ePetition (4179-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 376 petitioners, requesting the House to modify the current e-petition system to allow signatory information by electoral divisions to be publicly available

Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki)—

[406](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an ePetition (4210-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,615 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider energy relief by way of power bill rebates for pensioners and those recognised as living in poverty

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg)—

[407](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4211-25) sponsored by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,639 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the next two stages of the Coomera Connector project

[408](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4214-25) sponsored by the member for Toowoomba North, Mr Watts, from 577 petitioners, requesting the House to amend local bus routes to ensure stops at aged care, over 50's and senior facilities in Highfields

Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett)—

[409](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4190-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,262 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to increase the protection of animals and stop social media platforms showing the torture of animals

[410](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4191-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,202 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation includes mandatory codes for provision of species-specific shelter and consider each species' capacity to tolerate extremes in weather

- [411](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4192-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,160 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2007 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement and/or tethering of a dog

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Gladstone (Hon. Butcher)—

- [412](#) Nonconforming petition regarding opposition to proposed social housing unit block in Little Creek, Kirkwood, Gladstone

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.39 am): Six months ago the people of Queensland voted for a fresh start. After 10 years of chaos and crisis under Labor, Queensland voted for change and elected this LNP government. We inherited significant challenges: youth crime at an all-time high; the cost of living through the roof; our health system on life support; and Queenslanders unable to find, or keep, a secure roof over their head. We saw the challenges facing our state and we heard Queenslanders loud and clear.

Every community, from the south-east to the far north and out to the west, deserves a government that listens but, more importantly, Queenslanders deserve a government that delivers for them. I promised, as did every member on this side of the House, to work tirelessly to deliver the change that the people of Queensland voted for. For the last six months our government has been hard at work to deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders were promised.

To help keep Queenslanders safe we made the first changes and put in place Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. We have delivered more police and we are making sure they are well-supported by introducing legislation to protect more Queenslanders from domestic and family violence. We made Jack's Law permanent. We have taken steps to restore integrity in our justice system and clean up Labor's DNA debacle. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will save our health system from Labor's failures. It will deliver the biggest investment in hospital infrastructure in the state's industry. Most importantly, our plan is credible and deliverable. We axed Labor's patient tax.

We have unlocked more land for housing, cut red tape for builders and increased support for community housing providers. From today, first home buyers purchasing a new home will pay no stamp duty on that new home—that is another Labor tax axed. That is real cost-of-living relief that will help drive up property ownership rates. Two axed taxes, ending the \$37 billion Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro hoax, record investment in free public hospitals and health services, and the LNP's permanent 50 cent fares all help Queenslanders struggling with the cost of living. We have secured funding to deliver critical transport infrastructure and much needed upgrades to the Bruce Highway.

Our government has also put the Olympic and Paralympic Games back on track with our plan to deliver generational infrastructure ahead of 2032. Today the Deputy Premier will take the next step to action our 2032 Delivery Plan. We are doing what those opposite could not: getting on with the job of delivering the infrastructure we need for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

We have come a long way in six months, but there is still a long way to go. We will continue to deliver safety where you live, health services when you need them, respect for your money and a place to call home. That is what Queenslanders voted for; that is what Queenslanders deserve.

This weekend Australians have a choice on who will best deliver for them. From Queensland's point of view, there is no one better to deliver for our state than a fellow Queensland: Peter Dutton. Peter knows the importance of delivering for our state. He has done that his entire public life as a police officer, as a local Queensland MP and as a minister. His track record of keeping people safe is exactly the record that we need in a prime minister. It is an important election for Queensland, and I urge our state to support a Queensland this weekend.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.43 am): Listening to the Premier list the achievements of the new government, what a six months it has been delivering for Queenslanders! Honourable Premier, after six months I would say, as Ken said to Barbie, 'David, we're just getting started.'

Honourable members: Ha-ha!

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that, Deputy Premier. We will come back to your ministerial statement.

Mr BLEIJIE: My colleagues know that I am a big fan of Aqua. The Crisafulli government is getting on and delivering what we promised Queenslanders. Whether it is sorting out the chaos and crisis of the 2032 games or implementing our election commitment to give regional Queenslanders a say on renewable energy development in this state, we are getting on with it and sorting the mess out. That was denied them by the former Labor government.

In that vein, I can announce that today I will introduce legislation to do two things: first, deliver the 2032 games on time before 2032; and second, implement a process for renewing energy projects that will finally, through legislation, give regional and rural Queensland a say on what happens in their communities. We do not take this legislation lightly in terms of the powers given to the Games Independent Infrastructure Coordination Authority to override various pieces of legislation to ensure that authority venues are built before 2032. We promised it through our 2032 Delivery Plan, which I table a copy of.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled '2032 Delivery Plan' [\[413\]](#).

As we head towards 2032, the 2032 Delivery Plan sets out what is going to happen between now and then in terms of the infrastructure required as we promised, whether it is road or rail transportation projects not only in South-East Queensland but right across the whole state. In a moment I will introduce this legislation. In addition to the 2032 Delivery Plan, the legislation will also set the framework for renewable projects going forward in Queensland. It will introduce social impact assessments and community benefit agreements—binding agreements—between the developers of wind and solar farms and local governments. Assessments will be undertaken at the outset—not after—before the development application is put in. This will enable communities to have a say about what is important to them.

I want to thank honourable members of the Liberal National Party who have been listening to their communities. If they had not had the advocacy they did, we would not have taken that position to the election. I particularly thank all honourable members who were elected in regional and rural Queensland. I am proud to be the Deputy Premier in the Crisafulli government making sure this election commitment is done, and done today.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.47 am): The Crisafulli government is determined to deliver an Olympic and Paralympic Games that our state can be proud of. After 1,200 days of Labor inaction, the 100-day review and the 2032 Delivery Plan have put us back on track to do that. They spent 1,200 days going to red carpet events, press conferences and hobnobbing with the rich and famous instead of delivering a single thing for the games. While the announcement of new venues and locations for the games infrastructure captured headlines when the 2032 Delivery Plan was announced, it also included important changes to the governance of the games.


We have heard very clearly through the 100-day review that Labor's existing governance arrangements have been tying games delivery and coordination up in red tape with overly complex, bloated governance arrangements. Today the Deputy Premier will introduce a bill to create a leaner, more efficient and effective governance structure to support games delivery only 37 days since the release of the 100-day review. This is in stark contrast to the inaction of those opposite.

Among other things, the bill will amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act. There will be a Games Leadership Group to provide overall strategic direction, coordination and risk management for the delivery of the games. Modelled on the successful Olympic board deployed for London 2012, membership will be comprised of the three levels of government, the infrastructure authority and the organising committee.

This bill will also reduce the organising committee's board from the excessive number of 24 down to 15 to streamline the board and make it fit for purpose. Twelve of those positions are prescribed and will come from representatives of the three levels of government, representatives from the Olympic and Paralympic organisations and representatives from the athletes, both able-bodied and para. There will also be three independent directors; one of them will be the chair and that will remain as Andrew Liveris.

This reduction will allow for more efficient decision-making in the lead-up to the games. We are all looking forward to getting on with the delivery of a games that we can all be proud of.

Home Ownership

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.50 am): Today is an historic day for Queensland. Today we are delivering on our election promise to give Queenslanders looking for a place to call home a fresh start. From today, Queenslanders who make their first home a new home will not pay a cent in stamp duty—never again. When Labor's former treasurer Andrew Fraser promised to abolish stamp duty in 2008, he did so only for purchases under \$500,000. Where that policy failed, eventually imposing another Labor tax on first home buyers, our policy will stand forever. We have axed another Labor tax.

Queenslanders who make their first home a new home will not pay a cent in stamp duty. By focusing on new builds, our policy is incentivising a greater supply of housing. Queensland Treasury has estimated that this could deliver additional support to around 3,000 Queenslanders each year. For the past decade, Queenslanders had a government that did not believe in home ownership. On this side of the room we believe in home ownership; we believe that owning a home can be the foundation to a better, more prosperous society.

Labor's Homes for Queensland plan last year contained one lonely paragraph on home ownership. They did not believe in home ownership; they put up barriers to home ownership and had no plan to help Queenslanders get into their own homes. We are the party of home ownership; in fact it is that important to us that the Premier appointed me the first home ownership minister.

Under Labor, young Queenslanders lost hope in the great Australian dream of home ownership. For them, it turned into a nightmare and Labor had no solution. On this side of the House we believe we should aspire to a better future. We are delivering for Queenslanders by improving housing affordability, with more land supply and planning for the infrastructure and services to accommodate our growing population. Today is an historic day and an important first step in unlocking the door to home ownership for more Queenslanders.

Premier's Export Awards

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.52 am): I am pleased to announce that this week nominations officially opened for the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards, Queensland's highest honour recognising the achievement of our \$134.7 billion export industry. These awards recognise the innovation, the passion, the creativity and the determination of Queensland exporters. Whether exporters wish to promote their team's individual successes or highlight their trade accomplishments, the awards provide access to new opportunities and wider networks, helping Queensland businesses to reach their full potential.

With 14 national categories in addition to a Queensland specific award for women in international business, there is no shortage of opportunities for businesses of all sizes to participate in the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards. As we know, the recent seismic disruption to the trade landscape following the announcement of increased US tariffs caused worldwide alarm and some panic, as we saw across global stock markets. The Crisafulli LNP government is working hard to ensure Queensland exporters and our broader Queensland economy benefit from restoring trade relationships and renewing confidence with our international trade partners.


These awards provide a wonderful opportunity to highlight the achievements of Queensland companies within this space. The Premier of Queensland's Export Awards 2025 is a great and timely example of how we are showing our support for dynamic exporting businesses across the state. We want to acknowledge the innovation, the passion, the creativity and the determination of all of our exporters, and now is a crucial time to be raising awareness.

Accordingly, the awards are open to exporters across all regions, and applicants are encouraged to apply for more than one category. Winners of each category, along with Queensland's exporter of the year, will be announced in Brisbane at the awards dinner in October. The national category winners will then go on to represent Queensland at the Australian Export Awards in Canberra in November. Previous award winners, including Ryan Aerospace, have noted that winning the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards has been a really valuable tool to grow their brand, gain exposure and get on the radar of companies locally and around the world, and that winning the awards has helped build credibility for their business. Past winners have praised the awards for the positive impact they

have had on their businesses. I join with them in encouraging all Queensland exporters to consider applying.

Nominations for the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards close on Friday, 13 June, so I encourage all Queensland businesses who export products or services to apply. The team at Trade and Investment Queensland can assist with this process via their website so I encourage everyone to apply. I look forward to continuing to highlight our many export success stories throughout this awards season, as the Crisafulli LNP government continues to share our positive message that Queensland is open for business.

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (10.55 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's public transport networks. After years of mismanagement by the previous Labor government, we are getting Queensland's Train Manufacturing Program back on track. Earlier this month, we awarded a major contract to a local Gold Coast company to ensure the maintenance of Queensland's trains stays right here in Queensland. Gold Coast based company ADCO has been awarded a \$120 million contract to build a new rail maintenance building at Ormeau to maintain the passenger trains built under the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. ADCO will build a 20,000 square metre rail maintenance facility that will service and maintain the expanded fleet of 65 new six-car passenger trains being built in Maryborough to service the South-East Queensland rail network.

I recently visited the facility at Torbanlea and I am meeting regularly with the construction contractor Downer. To give members an indication of the size of the new facility, it is the equivalent size of three Bunnings stores back to back. It is a massive facility and work is progressing as we speak. It will certainly be something that we can be proud of when it is finished. The new contract on the Gold Coast will keep the maintenance of Queensland built trains right here in Queensland, supporting more than 100 jobs during construction and, importantly, around 140 jobs once operational. It will play a key role in supporting the growth and maintenance of our public transport network in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Queenslanders have not forgotten Labor's blowouts, delays and cover-ups when it comes to delivering the trains required for the network. Labor ran the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program off the rails and Queenslanders have not forgotten the role the minister for blowouts, Mark Bailey, played in this mess.


Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence with the comments by the minister during the ministerial statement and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to withdraw and remember to use correct titles.

Mr LAST: I withdraw. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program was subject to the financial mismanagement the previous Labor government is known for. We are getting on with the job, delivering a system that can meet the growing demand in the South-East Queensland train network over the next decade. We will be honest and transparent with Queenslanders about how their money is being spent and how we are delivering the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

Under a Crisafulli government we are focused on supporting local manufacturing jobs and securing the skills needed to grow the industry into the future. We are delivering on our commitment to grow Queensland's manufacturing sector, championing Queensland businesses, Queensland workers and the skills that keep Queensland competitive—like through the Crisafulli government's \$5 million boost to the Made in Queensland grants program. We are a government that will deliver the new opportunities and the support that Queensland's manufacturing sector has been calling for.

Waste Management

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.59 am): In October last year, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and the Crisafulli government has been calmly and methodically working through the mess those opposite left behind. When it comes to waste management, it is no different. Today I can reveal that under Labor, more has ended up in landfill than ever before and less is being recycled. Just like every other mess left by Labor, our government is up to the task of cleaning this up, and we will have a plan for less landfill and more recycling here in Queensland.

Today I can announce the Crisafulli government's new waste strategy: Less Landfill, More Recycling is out for consultation, and I table a copy now.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030: Less landfill, more recycling' [414].

This plan will be co-designed with industry, local governments and Queenslanders to chart a better course for our environment. The plan will focus on kickstarting construction of critical waste infrastructure, unleashing innovation and making sure we create new industries for all of Queensland. The waste industry is with us. They know we can do more with recycling and generate a wave of new jobs and industries as we move into the future of waste. Opportunity is knocking, and we are ready to answer.


As part of the consultation, we will also be reviewing the waste levy. Under Labor, we know the money has not been spent where it needs to be spent, and we are going to get to the bottom of what has gone on under those opposite.

I can also announce that we will be working with councils, with a new \$130 million Resource Recovery Boost Fund to help them build the infrastructure and programs they need to divert waste from landfill. Councils know we need to change how we deal with rubbish. Landfills are bursting at the seams, and to build more would rob us of vital land needed for greenfield housing developments and industry precincts. It is a bandaid solution that does not deliver the environmental and economic results we need. I look forward to participating in a series of webinars and workshops, starting next week, with the Local Government Association of Queensland, councils and the waste industry to construct our Less Landfill, More Recycling strategy.

While I am on my feet, I commend the parliamentary inquiry into the Containers for Change program. I reiterate the Crisafulli government's support for the program, but I rule out a future refund increase or decrease in the Coex Containers for Change Scheme. The inquiry is about examining ways to improve the scheme and its return rate. It is not about increasing the cost to Queenslanders. We need to help lift recycling rates, and I look forward to hearing from the parliamentary inquiry to help us chart the way forward.

As a father, I want to preserve our wonderful state for future generations, and more landfill is not the way to achieve that. We know Queenslanders want to do the right thing. We know Queenslanders want to preserve our amazing environment, and we know Queenslanders are ready to embrace the jobs of the future in an innovative waste sector. That is what Crisafulli government will deliver—cleaning up the rubbish left behind by the Labor governments.

Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (11.02 am): The Crisafulli government backs Queensland's small and family businesses to recharge, renew and rebuild during Queensland Small Business Month which starts today and runs throughout May. The LNP has always been the party of small and family business, and I look forward to the focus on our Small and Family Business First approach over the next 31 days.

To kick off this year's Small Business Month, we have delivered Better Local Business grants to 48 groups across Queensland. These grants will allow local groups such as chambers of commerce, industry organisations and regional councils to come together to tackle local challenges, spark new local opportunities and help small and family businesses to network and grow.

It is part of a bumper month for small and family businesses with more than 140 events across all parts of the state. Events being delivered by the Crisafulli government include: 'What is my bottom line telling me?' seminars; Business Recovery clinics in disaster affected areas; Big Partners for Small Business sessions; and Business Concierge Presents events. These events are designed to give small and family businesses the tools they need to thrive. It continues our record of supporting Queensland's almost 500,000 small and family businesses to grow and thrive, whatever the industry.

I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government, a government that is putting small and family businesses first every step of the way. On this side of the House, we understand that small and family businesses are the mainstay of our communities, driving employment and delivering local innovation and productivity. Don't just take my word for it, our funding boost will allow organisations like Food and Agribusiness Network to host a Meet the Female Makers event in the electorate of Kawana on the Sunshine Coast on 13 May, highlighting women-led food and agribusinesses. It provides—and I quote

the CEO of Food and Agribusiness Network's Nicole McNaughton, 'an opportunity to highlight their stories and products while fostering real connections across industries.'

I want to read a quote from the Malanda Chamber of Commerce which will host their event titled 'A Place to Belong' on 22 May. According to the chamber—

Queensland Small Business Month in May is great timing for this community in North Queensland as we come out of the wet season and utilise the support from the Better Local Business Grant to create a meaningful networking event, focusing on an important issue in our community.

Therefore, I urge everyone in this parliament to keep supporting your local small and family business. It can be as simple as choosing to shop locally the next time you are out and about. I look forward to attending several events across the state during May. To get involved and to find out more about what is on this Queensland Small Business Month, visit business.qld.gov.au and get behind Queensland's small and family businesses.

Corrective Services



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.05 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to providing our hardworking frontline prison officers and Community Corrections staff with the support they need to keep Queensland's communities safe. IOMS, the Integrated Offender Management System, is the system that QCS uses to track, monitor and manage vital information from victim notifications, domestic and family violence records, court outcomes and security incidences, to prisoner health information and movements. If this system fails, the impacts are serious and far-reaching: victims could be left without notification their offender has applied for parole or is being released; prisoners and offenders could be misidentified and incorrectly released from custody; and records could be lost or corrupted, affecting domestic and family violence victims in this state.

For the past decade, previous Labor governments have failed to invest in this critical piece of IT infrastructure, and now IOMS, a system that was once nation-leading and copied by other jurisdictions, is on the brink of failure.

In 2016, the Queensland Audit Office said that QCS's ability to undertake core business was compromised because IOMS cannot keep up with the changes and business operations. In 2018, the CCC called it out. The CCC raised issues around security and business functionality. The former government knew these risks. They were called out in both 2016 and 2018, but they refused to act. Labor waited four years before even looking at it in the budget and, as is the case with all IT failures under Labor, they undercooked and underfunded the critical upgrades to the central business tool of Queensland Corrective Services by \$14,430,000. That is the blowout. That is the undercooked investment by Labor in a critical IT system for Queensland Corrective Services.

Former Labor ministers for corrections—the member for Morayfield and the member for Pine Rivers—owe Queenslanders an explanation. They need to be held accountable. This happened under their watch. This is another example of their failed leadership. Why did Labor fail to invest in this system for so many years and risk community safety and victim support? This system, as it stands today, is outdated and does not meet the modern security or record-keeping standards to meet operational requirements, and it is at high risk of failure.

The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of fixing Labor's mess. Don't get me wrong—after years of inaction and underinvestment, it is going to take time to fix Labor's mess. It is going to take time. But we are taking the action necessary now to secure and modernise this essential platform because keeping Queenslanders safe is non-negotiable.

e-Mobility Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.09 am): Personal e-mobility devices such as e-scooters and e-bikes are being used more and more as a means for Queenslanders to get to work, school or university or to link with our public transport network. With that increased use comes an increased need to ensure public safety is upheld and risks are minimised while enabling Queenslanders to take full benefit of these new and emerging methods of transport.

Between 2021 and 2024 there was a 112 per cent increase in injuries to PMD riders and passengers and pedestrians, and, tragically, we have seen eight fatalities in the past year. We must do more to ensure no-one else is injured and not another life is lost. We cannot turn a blind eye to illegal

e-scooters and e-bikes or to dangerous behaviour. We do not do it with vehicles on our roads, and we sure will not stand for it on our footpaths.

While our government's view is that the existing laws in relation to the use of e-mobility devices are not adequate, the laws that are in place now are still being applied and enforced in the community. By way of example, I know of a young person in Kawana who was caught on an illegal e-bike on the road and fined \$1,200—as he should have been. The former Labor government left our police woefully understaffed. We want to support our officers to monitor and enforce Queensland's laws effectively. I want to thank our police for their increased focus on enforcing the existing laws—something the Minister for Police and I have worked together on to deliver.

Alarming, most of the devices that are causing problems are illegal and should never have been allowed into the country. We are doing everything we can to plug the hole in the dam wall, but we need the federal government to close the loopholes that are seeing illegal and unsafe e-scooters and e-bikes so easily imported into Australia. I have previously raised the need for strengthened importation enforcement of those devices with Minister King and at the cross-jurisdictional road safety ministers meeting, and I will continue to do so. Today we go a step further.

Today I can announce that the Crisafulli government will ask the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to commence a parliamentary inquiry into e-mobility safety in Queensland. The inquiry will hold hearings, accept submissions and consider the benefits of e-mobility devices, any key safety issues associated with ownership or use, suitability of the current rules and how to improve enforcement approaches including what has been tried and tested in other jurisdictions. I eagerly await the committee's findings and I encourage the entire community and all members to have their say by providing a submission to the inquiry. Together we will deliver a safe and reliable transport option which leaves a lasting legacy for Queenslanders while maintaining safety where all Queenslanders live.

MOTION

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly no later than 30 March 2026 on:

1. Benefits of e-mobility (including both personal mobility devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes) for Queensland;
2. Safety issues associated with e-mobility use, including increasing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and community concerns;
3. Issues associated with e-mobility ownership, such as risk of fire, storage and disposal of lithium batteries used in e-mobility, and any consideration of mitigants or controls;
4. Suitability of current regulatory frameworks for PMDs and e-bikes, informed by approaches in Australia and internationally;
5. Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches and powers to address dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices;
6. Gaps between Commonwealth and Queensland laws that allow illegal devices to be imported and used;
7. Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use; and
8. Broad stakeholder perspectives, including from community members, road user groups, disability advocates, health and trauma experts, academia, the e-mobility industry, and all levels of government.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (11.14 am): I move the following amendment—

Omit '30 March 2026'; insert '1 August 2025'.

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

AYES, 33:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 52:

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, 1—Dametto.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr de Brenni) negatived.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRUSTS BILL

QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL

Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.23 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137—

1. in respect of the Trusts Bill, having already been declared an urgent bill—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have been very clear about hearing motions in silence. Would you start again, please, Leader of the House.

Dr ROWAN: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137—

1. in respect of the Trusts Bill, having already been declared an urgent bill, the minister is to be called on to reply to the bill by 5 pm today and that all remaining stages of the bill be completed by 5.30 pm today.
2. the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill be declared an urgent bill, that the minister is to be called to reply to the bill by 8.30 pm today and that all remaining stages of the bill be completed by 9 pm today.
3. if all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 1. and 2., Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (11.23 am): What an extraordinary—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. She asked me whether I could make comments in relation to this motion with a straight face. Quite frankly, it is an incredibly laughable situation. The Leader of the House is now moving that the debate on this bill be guillotined. This goes back to the urgency motion when the Attorney-General said to the Queensland legal fraternity that the bill had to be passed urgently, that the proper scrutiny processes established within this parliament had to be dispensed with and they could not wait. They had opportunity after opportunity to debate that bill and pass it in this House. I came into this House and gave a contribution to that bill agreeing that because there was bipartisan support for the amendments that the bill could be passed at that time. We did that twice. We indicated that we would support that bill and that it should be passed at that time. At the time, there was vociferous argument from those opposite that they all had to have an opportunity to speak on that bill, that none of them could be silenced, yet they come in here this morning and throw away all of those principles that they said they stood for.

Government members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! There was no need for that outburst.

Mr de BRENNI: I saw many of members opposite, who from time to time sat in this chair, complain bitterly that they did not have the opportunity to speak on those bills. The moment they are on the Treasury benches—

Mr Miles: Not to mention the Speaker's ruling.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: not to mention the Speaker's ruling about the importance of all 93 members of this House having an opportunity to have

their say. Mr Speaker, they come in this morning ignoring your espoused statements that all members of this House should have an opportunity to speak on that bill. The hypocrisy is breathtaking from this government. We see their inability to plan their legislative agenda and the paucity of their legislative agenda. We have just heard the Minister for Transport talk about how important e-scooter safety is but they want Queenslanders to wait until next year to save lives and reject our urgency motion. It is clear that this is a government that has no agenda and no plan for Queenslanders.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.26 am): To channel the words of a former member for Bundaberg: how do you spell hypocrisy? A-L-P. I cannot believe the Manager of Opposition Business has just risen to contest this motion put forward by the Leader of the House. For those who were around in the last parliament, I want to draw their memory back to at least three occasions where those opposite not only moved motions such as this but also guillotined entire weeks. It became a weekly practice that the first motion we debated at the start of every sitting week was to guillotine debate for the entire week. If that were not enough, often within that week they would come in and move a second or third or fourth guillotine motion because they failed to get it right the first time. We spent more time debating guillotine motions that we actually spent debating the legislation. Those opposite have no right to lecture this side on guillotine motions. Their poor management led to them guillotining the entire week.


Let us look at the aspects of the motion moved by the Leader of the House. We will have finalised the Trusts Bill. Ironically, a bill that those opposite wanted to barrel through in the first place. They said that we have already had this debate, we have already had the parliamentary inquiry, let's just get it done. Now they do not want it finalised. Now they are unhappy.

In terms of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill—an exciting opportunity for us to prepare for that green and gold runway in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—it is important that legislation is passed today. Those opposite have no right to lecture anyone on this side about moving such motions as the one we are debating now. This is about ensuring people have an opportunity to have their say and that legislation is passed. I will point out that, unlike those opposite, we have respectfully had a condolence motion this morning. We are not getting rid of consideration of committee reports, we are not getting rid of private members statements; we are simply streamlining our legislative debate. I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We will have some silence.

Mr Lister interjected.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.29 am): I never understood the argument of the member for Glass House when he was the manager of opposition business—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on, member for Woodridge. I just called for silence. Member for Southern Downs, you immediately interjected. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. I never understood the arguments made by the member for Glass House when he was the manager of opposition business and I sure do not understand the arguments that he has made as a minister in the Crisafulli government today. I remember a time when the Premier said before the election, time and time again, that he was going to restore the dignity of parliament. Do honourable members remember that? He was going to come in as the leader of Queensland and he was going to restore the dignity of the processes of parliament. They were going to get rid of the guillotine, they were going to get rid of the gag, they were going to raise the profile of the parliament—

Mr Miles:—and have a say.

Mr DICK:—and everyone would have a say. Everyone would have the opportunity to have a say. What we did not realise is that secretly the Premier had gotten out the sharpening stone and he was sharpening the guillotine every time he said that. Today we see demonstrated a government without an agenda, without ideas and without a plan for Queensland.

I remember the night—and how could we forget it—when the bill was declared urgent, and we supported that. We were willing to support that. After all, it was Labor's good work that brought the Trusts Bill to the House. I remember the night when the bill was declared urgent. So urgent was the bill that the health minister rose in his place and took us back to the 11th century. There was the health minister—

A government member interjected.

Mr DICK: That was when the guillotine was a real thing in the community. There was the Minister for Health—I am old-fashioned; generally a health minister has a bit of work to do, but not that night. He was in the House telling us how important it was for knights to be able to protect their property in the 11th century. Fast-forward a thousand years and he is still talking about the importance of that principle.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, we are debating a motion. I would appreciate if you would fast-forward a thousand years yourself and debate this motion.

Mr DICK: I am just looking for consistency in rulings. That is all. We know why the government is doing this; we know why this motion is suddenly urgent today, and that is because the opposition is in a protection racket to protect Peter Dutton and his non-disclosure of trusts. That is the truth. The government does not want anyone to talk about the non-disclosure of trusts by Peter Dutton on the eve of an election when his campaign is faltering, collapsing and failing. They were happy to criticise our government for trying to bring order to the process of government and the parliament for 10 years, led by the Deputy Premier week in, week out, but the shoe is on the other foot today. It is a shameful approach by the government to silence members of the House. That is what they have done before and that is what they seek to do.


In concluding my comments, I would like to make a plea, I would like to make a request to the Premier: come on Barbie, let's go Barbie. We need to get this—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: I do not get any support from the ministry, but I have a bit of support from the backbench on that side and on this side. They want to get going with it, so let's get the bill passed.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will have silence before I go to the next speaker.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.33 am): I would say to the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition that if he is going to channel my theatrics he should get the lyrics right. If he is going to do it, he should do a little practice. We know he cannot put on a show in this place without checking in the mirror, taking a black-and-white selfie and posting in the fake rose garden. If he is going to do it, he should do a little more practice.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition talks about the sharpening of knives. The only sharpening of knives is happening around the member for Murrumba. Every member opposite is sharpening the knives because they know he is a weak leader. The other point—

Mr SPEAKER: Order. I will also ask you to come back to the motion that we are debating. Deputy Premier, talk to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am responding to the points made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I have had a lot to say about these types of motions over the years and I would simply say this is the orderly management of the business of the House. That is what this motion is all about; it is the orderly management of the business of the House to ensure that legislation is passed. I am just channelling former Labor members who for the last 10 years said that same thing time in, time out. Time after time they would come in here and talk about the orderly management of the business of the House, which is simply what this is. I find it interesting that members opposite are wasting their own question time and I suspect—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: We are happy to add time. We are happy to give you five hours of question time. The only question is—

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Speak to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you. The only question for the House is whether the member for Murrumba would turn up and do these jobs because we know he does not turn up to divisions. We know he does not turn up.

Mr SPEAKER: Speak to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: This is why this is important. It is important, as the Labor Party have said over the years—only last sitting week they were trying to curtail the debate on the Trusts Bill and now they are wanting it extended and are whingeing about it being extended. We are following their lead from last sitting week when on two occasions they jumped to their feet so no other member got to speak. We had a good debate last sitting week on the Trusts Bill. There will be a few other speakers and then pursuant to the practice of the Labor Party for the last 10 years, for the orderly management of the House it will pass this week.



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.37 am): I move—

That the motion be amended to insert—

‘4. that question time be extended to a total of five hours.’

Mr SPEAKER: Do we have a copy of that motion?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order while I sort out this motion.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (11.38 am): I rise to speak to the amended motion because this is a real question about the credibility of those in government. We will pose the question: when we look up the word ‘hypocrisy in government’ how is it spelt? When I looked it up I saw a picture of the member for Glass House and the member for Moggill and a huge picture of the member for Kawana. This is a testing point. This is a telling point. They have said that they will move to have five hours of question time. We welcome it. We are ready to go. We are ready to hold the government to account. We want to see whether they are legitimate in their words.

We saw—and the member for Kawana confirmed this—for years that the member for Glass House and the member for Kawana condemned any move to have good order of the assembly and to fix dates so all members could understand it. Instead, we see such hypocrisy in the fact that the member for Glass House and the member for Kawana had the temerity to even stand up to speak to this motion.

We now see further hypocrisy that they probably—but I am hoping that they will stand by their word—not stand by their word in terms of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition to have five hours of question time, because it is essential that we reveal everything that is wrong with this government—every single piece of it that is wrong. I noticed that there was a rude gesture from the Premier. He made a rude gesture across the parliament and I want to turn—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not correct and I ask the member to withdraw. I take personal offence.

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

Mr POWER: I did not notice. Did he take personal offence, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Are you questioning me? You will—

Mr POWER: I withdraw. He said in this place—

When I say something, I mean it.

Now we have a test. How many times did he come into this parliament and say—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr POWER: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. How many times did the member for Broadwater and now Premier come into this parliament and say, ‘When I say something, I mean it’? Now there is a test here. When he said that there would be no guillotines in terms of the management of the House, is he actually going to be true to his word or is he going to run a guillotine? From what we have seen so far, the member for Moggill seems to run more guillotines than the French Revolution. The little Robespierres on the other side seem to want to guillotine every debate when it gets inconvenient for them. I am on the speaking list for that debate and it is going to get inconvenient for them because I need to speak about those who have family trusts who are seeking the trust of Australians and especially Queenslanders. I want to say it very clearly and it is important that I say it, and these matters have come to light recently. They have come to light recently and that is why it is essential that all members—all 20 members, I believe—who are on the list get their say.


Further, this is a test: does the member for Kawana mean what he says or is it all just something that was said before the election to be thrown away afterwards? The people of Queensland are listening. The people of Queensland are watching to see how much was said before the election. We

know already that they have thrown away things in terms of our hospitals. Those opposite have thrown away integrity.

Mr SPEAKER: Come back to the motion, member.

Mr POWER: Coming back to the motion, are they true to their word? Are they going to live up to the statements they made before the election of, 'When I say something, I mean it', or is it all just hypocrisy?

Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order


 **Mr SPEAKER:** I have just received some advice from the Clerk. Honourable members, the Leader of the House's motion is about bills under standing order 137. The amendment is about more general items in the schedule of the day's sitting. Therefore, it is outside the scope of the motion. Nice try.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order for clarification: my understanding is that they could move a motion to that effect immediately after though?

Mr SPEAKER: Not in this motion we are debating now.

Mr POWER: Not in this motion.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.43 am): I want to address the motion as it was moved. This is an important motion with respect to passing important legislation today. We all know that the former state Labor government had failed to progress the Trusts Bill over many years. Needless to say, it had failed to do that on multiple pieces of legislation over a long period of time. I do think it is important to put on the record what the shadow attorney-general said in her contribution to the Trusts Bill. She stated—

The opposition has no intention of standing in the way of sensible legislation. We support the intention of this bill and support these changes being effected. We will not impede progress of legislation for partisan gain.

In fact, the Manager of Opposition Business had said words to similar effect as well, yet today we see the hypocrisy of them coming in here and opposing this motion, which is about ensuring efficiency in the House, so those opposite have been completely farcical in their approach. There is also important legislation with respect to the 2032 Olympics, particularly in terms of ensuring opportunities for young people to be able to have those sporting opportunities. What we see today is the puerile and facile approach when it comes to this Labor opposition in terms of trying to move an amendment despite the fact that its amendment has been ruled out of order. There are not enough members in this House to actually fill up five hours of question time, so those opposite do not even understand that. They do not even understand the basic—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members! Leader of the House, I have ruled that amendment out of order. We are not talking to that amendment; we are talking to the motion that you have in front of the House.

Dr ROWAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are seeing the Labor opposition not understanding the basic mechanics of the parliament and how it operates. The fact is that this government is going to deliver on its agenda for Queenslanders and, as such, under standing order 88 I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

After the division bells having been rung—

Mr SPEAKER: In amongst all of the excitement, we will have to get the boards back for the votes from up the back because the actual question is that the question be now put, not the motion, so we will get those sheets back from up there and we will send some new ones back down. Ring the bells for one minute.

Division: Question put—That the question be put.

AYES, 54:

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.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 32:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, 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.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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, 35:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, 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.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 2—Dametto, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 12.55 pm.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Train Manufacturing Program



Mr MILES (11.55 am): My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing. Can the minister guarantee all existing train manufacturing and maintenance will continue in Maryborough, including every one of the 525 jobs?

Mr LAST: The manufacturing of the 65 trains at the Torbanlea facility is on track. I recently visited that site. We are committed to continuing that program and the construction of those 65 trains which is so important for Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has the call! Nobody else.

Mr LAST:—which is so important for the future of Queensland and the rail network in South-East Queensland in particular. We know that the creation of the jobs at that facility is going to generate significant employment opportunities. I want to note the advocacy of the member for Maryborough in his support for that particular facility. He has taken a keen interest in this particular facility and continues to work with his local community to both promote and support train manufacturing at Torbanlea.

If the Leader of the Opposition had been listening to my ministerial statement he would have understood that in conjunction with the facility at Torbanlea we have the maintenance facility at Ormeau. I recently visited that site with the member for Coomera and was pleased to see that work has commenced on construction of the facility at Ormeau where all the maintenance will be carried out on these new trains and, of course, the hundreds of jobs that have been created in the construction of that facility, but also ongoing in terms of maintaining these new trains as they come online. It is an exciting opportunity for this state. It is one that the Crisafulli government has supported and will continue to support moving forward. We understand that the train network in Queensland has been left to languish under the watch of those opposite.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The minister was asked to guarantee the 525 jobs in Maryborough. I would like you to draw him back to relevance and an answer to that question.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was about jobs in Maryborough.

Mr LAST: We have said right from day 1 that those jobs that are attached to this new train manufacturing facility are secure. We need those jobs and the opportunities that come with this new facility in terms of skills and for those young school leavers in that community. I know the member for Maryborough has been working in this space. They are excited to see what this is going to mean for that community going forward. We support it and we will continue to support it.

Train Manufacturing Program

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing. Under the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program 800 jobs would have been supported in the Maryborough and Fraser Coast regions. Can the minister guarantee every single one of those jobs will be honoured?

Mr LAST: I thank the member for the question. It is the same question. I will repeat that the jobs that are being created at the new train manufacturing facility at Torbanlea are secure. They will be secure for the construction of those 65 trains and ongoing under this government. If you go to Torbanlea and you have a look at the facility that is being built at that particular location you would understand the enormity and the depth and how important that is to the future of manufacturing in this state. We are proud to support this facility. There is a lot of work going into the design and construction of these new-age, new generation trains. There is an enormous amount of testing going on at the moment to make sure that we get this right.

I want to commend the team that has come together to make sure that this program is delivered on time. I have stressed to Downer, who is the contractor involved in this project, that it is important that that project is delivered on time: important for the future of the rail network in this state, important in the lead-in to the 2032 Olympics. There are jobs in Maryborough. We visited the train facility in Maryborough recently where we spoke with management about the opportunities that are going to come out of this new facility and how those workers there will have jobs both now and into the future for train manufacturing in that particular location. This is an important issue for Queensland.

We know that transport is a major issue in the run-in to the 2032 Olympics. We need to get this right and we need to get this right now. This is not something that can wait. We need to plan for it and that is exactly what we are doing in conjunction with the Minister for Transport. He is working very closely with my department on this particular project. We are making sure that we have sufficient capacity in the run-in to the 2032 Olympics to meet the demands of the South-East Queensland network. We know integral to that is the completion of Cross River Rail. If we have a look at the debacle under those opposite regarding Cross River Rail and how we have been left to pick up the pieces and the blown out budget of Cross River Rail and what that means to Queensland, I can assure members that we are getting the job done. The Minister for Transport is getting the job done and that is an important component of getting this whole mix of public transport right.

Crisafulli LNP Government

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on how the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland and is the Premier aware of any differing approaches?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I sure am. The member for Mermaid Beach talks about delivering. The member has had a lifetime of delivering for his local community as a mayor and as a local member. I thank him for his service to this House, to the people of the Albert shire, to the Gold Coast council and, indeed, in his current role as the member for Mermaid Beach. I thank the member very much.

The member asks me about delivering a fresh start. There is no mistaking that we had four big crises that we said we would deal with and deal with them we have. We have been diligent in the way that we have started to address Labor's four big crises: youth crime, health, housing and the cost of living. I want to start by focusing on the cost-of-living element.

When it comes to respecting people's money, one of the most important things that any government can do is to make sure that things are done on time and on budget. That includes delivering projects and, in the case of our government, cleaning up the mess left to us by those opposite. Nothing highlights the mess that we inherited more than their failure to plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For 1,200 days those opposite could not deliver a plan.

We asked Queenslanders for 100 days to sort out the mess. If people want a barometer of how effective we have been in delivering a plan to clean up the mess and a plan for the Olympic and

Paralympic Games, they need look no further than what has happened in this House. Despite multiple sitting days since the delivery of the plan—those opposite have spent the better part of two months running around and talking to everybody in the gallery about the sort of things that would be missing from the plan—we have not had a single substantial question about the content of that document. That tells you everything you need to know. They know that we have cleaned up their mess with that plan and now it is on to delivery. We have to ensure that, despite Labor's wasted years, we find a way to get on with it and deal with the Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure that this state needs.

The question is: will they support the changes that the Deputy Premier has put forward? The member for McConnell has been the chief cheerleader on the side, waving the flag with her green comrades. Will the member for McConnell support it? The member for Murrumba still holds dear his QSAC plan for a temporary facility that would be ripped out. Will he support it? Will all of those opposite acknowledge that we are dealing with years of wasted opportunity? We have a plan. We must get on with it and deliver for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Waste Strategy

Mr MILES: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to the government's Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030 that was tabled today and specifically page 12, which commits the government to reducing advance payments to councils in South-East Queensland and seven major regional centres. Can the Treasurer advise how much funding will be withdrawn from local government and what impact that will have on rates bills for Queenslanders during a cost-of-living crisis?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the member for the question. As we go through the budget process, we are working calmly and methodically through the various issues that those opposite left for us. We have repeatedly described the challenges that we face as we prepare the budget. We have challenges on both sides. We have the challenge of the unfunded operating expenses that those opposite left behind and a capital expenditure program that has blown out. The expenditure side is one thing but on the revenue side we also have problems because those opposite never pick up the phone to call their mates in Canberra and fight for our fair share of the GST. What have they been doing during the federal election campaign to lobby the Prime Minister to make sure that we get our fair share of GST? It seems that the member for Waterford is quite happy that Queensland's GST goes to prop up the Victorian government following their policy failures during the COVID era.

This morning we heard from the Minister for the Environment about the plan that he is working on. He is doing a wonderful job of calmly and methodically going through the challenges in his portfolio. The funds that the Leader of the Opposition refers to will not be changing. We support it. There will be continuing funding, as has always been the case.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The question was very specific: by how much would rates increase?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have the call. You have one minute.

Mr JANETZKI: The fund as governed by those opposite will be continuing because we want to ensure our local governments are properly supported. I repeat: we want to make sure they are properly supported. As per the budget of those opposite, we will continue to support local government, as is appropriate. Through the plan that the Minister for the Environment continues to work on, we will see a contrast with our approach and that of those opposite when it comes to local government. I am happy to contrast their approach to local government with ours because we will back in local government. We have heard repeatedly from the Deputy Premier about the support that we will be giving to local government to deliver the infrastructure—

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, 2032 Delivery Plan

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the LNP Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any previous government which has not delivered for Queenslanders?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Caloundra for the question. She is tackling the issues in Pumicestone Passage and standing up for her community, which was neglected and rejected by the former Labor member for Caloundra, and I congratulate her. I also congratulate her because she has been steadfastly supportive of the Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan, which, I might add,

will deliver the Wave to the Sunshine Coast. From the Gold Coast, commuters will ride the Wave to the Sunshine Coast, and I declare my well-publicised conflict of interest for honourable members opposite, as I have done previously when I have talked about the Wave.

We have delivered the 2032 Delivery Plan. As the Premier said, we did in 100 days what the former Labor government could not do in 1,200 days. We promised Queenslanders we would end the embarrassment. We did not want to deliver a 2032 games that was an embarrassment to the world. We also wanted to take the games to regional Queensland, and that is what we will do. Whether it will be through a sporting event, infrastructure, roads, rail or Games On!, which the sports minister is responsible for, it will be right across Queensland, including at the grassroots community sport level.

The honourable member asked about the alternative. When I first stood up, I heard the member for McConnel interjecting. Her alternative is no Victoria Park and no new 63,000-seat stadium. I saw her holding protest signs against the Delivery Plan with Campbell Newman. They are buddies, mates. That is her alliance—Campbell Newman and the Greens. She is nodding! I take her gesticulating interjection. Her best mate Campbell Newman and the Greens are against the plan. They will have an opportunity to vote on it when I introduce the bill this afternoon and refer it to a committee. She will have a chance to vote for Queensland, not for the Greens and not for Campbell Newman. She can vote for Queensland. The member for Murrumba's big plan was QSAC.

Ms McMillan: Hear, hear!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Mansfield. QSAC—a \$2.25 billion temporary facility that had blown out by \$650 million. They are keeping this plan to themselves. They have a secret plan to bring back QSAC. We are getting on with the job. We are delivering for Queensland—in the south-east, in the regions, in the west and to the north.

Coal Royalties

Mr DICK: My question is to the Treasurer. Is the Treasurer considering changing progressive coal royalty tiers, as reported in the *Townsville Bulletin*, which quotes the resources minister? I table a copy of the relevant article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 22 April 2025, titled 'Miners want lower royalties' [415].

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the member for Woodridge for the question. There will be no changes, as we committed to before the election, and those opposite know it. The member for Woodridge did more damage to Queensland's economic reputation than any other treasurer in living memory. The fact that he would come into this House and ask that question today shows that he remains as out of touch with Queensland's economic future than he ever was when in government. He was the worst treasurer in Queensland's history. He promised no new or increased taxes 26 times and what did we find out after the election? We know that the former treasurer of Queensland collected \$70 billion more in revenue than what he forecast in his first budget. What did he leave behind? What did those opposite leave behind? They left behind: 289,657 victims of crime; 47,000 people on the social housing waitlist; and ambulance ramping at 45 per cent—the worst in the country. The former treasurer, who sits in opposition today, collected \$70 billion more in revenue than what he forecast in his first budget, yet that is what he left us. That is their legacy.

We have just heard from the Premier what we have accomplished in the first six months. We have heard about the mess that they left behind for us, and we are calmly and methodically working our way through the challenges. When I think about the former treasurer, I think about his failure to consult, the broken promises and the revenue that was collected and squandered. No-one knows where that \$70 billion went because it did not go to improving service delivery in our state. It did not go to building critical infrastructure for our state. It did not go to improving the day-to-day lives of Queenslanders, who depend on world-class services in our state. All that has been left behind by those opposite is a mess. We are up to dealing with the challenge in this year's budget, and we will continue that journey.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Sport Infrastructure

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Will the minister inform the House how the LNP Crisafulli government is delivering vital funding for grassroots sports, and is the minister aware of any previous governments which did not deliver for Queensland?

Mr MANDER: I thank the member for Gregory for his question. He represents a very remote area of Queensland but appreciates that everyone, no matter where they live in this state, deserves the best sporting facilities that we can make available for them. That is where our 2032 Delivery Plan comes in. If anyone is having a down day, if anyone has had a bad game of golf or if the Broncos have lost—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you can either read from the book or put it down. It is not a prop.

Mr MANDER: I will do that, Mr Speaker. If anyone is having a bad day and needs a bit of encouragement, I recommend going to the 2032 Delivery Plan and opening it up. It will gladden their heart as they read through the plan that we have for the major facilities for our Olympic and Paralympic Games. What really gets me encouraged, what really lifts my enthusiasm, is what is printed on pages 28 and 29. It talks about the 115 commitments we have made to grassroots sports right across our state, and people in remote areas will benefit from the greatest investment in sporting infrastructure through the \$250 million Games On! program.

I would like to mention some of those. I will start with the member for Gregory since he asked the question. The Longreach Showgrounds will get an upgrade, the Thomson River Rowing Facility will get a new pontoon, and there is \$75,000 for the Emerald All Sport Facilities Foundation to develop concept plans.

In Rockhampton, there is \$3 million for the Gracemere Junior Rugby League Club and Gracemere Netball. In the Burdekin, there is \$3.5 million to upgrade the Burdekin Netball Association and \$3.2 million to upgrade the Clermont Swimming Centre. In Hinchinbrook, there is \$973,000 for the Ingham Tennis Court Complex for stage 1 of major upgrades. In Keppel, there is \$4.5 million for the Capricorn Coast Netball to upgrade eight grass courts to hardcourts. In Mackay, there is \$800,000 for the Mackay Hockey Association. The list goes on and on and on.

What is the alternative? The alternative is the Labor members who are now coming out to lobby for support for their clubs because they did nothing over the last 10 years. They did not invest in the infrastructure at the local level. Now they have the hide to come and ask us to deliver that infrastructure. Only the LNP government has a plan for the games in 2032, both at the elite level and at the grassroots level. Now we are just getting on with it.

(Time expired)

Women and Girls' Health Strategy

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Treasurer. More than 12,000 women and girls contributed to the Women and Girls' Health Strategy. Can the Treasurer reassure those women and girls that the LNP budget will not cut funding to the Women and Girls' Health Strategy in Queensland?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the member for Waterford for the question. It is an important question. It is something that we are taking very seriously in the preparation of the budget.

I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Maroochydore and the member for Mudgeeraba, our relevant ministers who are part of our economic security team. We are working very carefully through the best way we can support women through the budget process. It is something that we are taking very seriously. We have met a number of times already, and we have a range of initiatives that we are progressing through the budget process.

The Premier has already announced our grants program to women returning to work, to support them back into the workforce. That is a commitment that we have made. We took it to the election and we are delivering it now in government. We will be continuing to work through the budget process—a series of processes that are going to be really important as we finalise them in the months ahead.

In respect of the strategy raised by the honourable member, that funding will continue and it will be outlined during the course of the budget process. I actually think that there is more that can be done. When we support women in the workplace, it is not just a statement written on a piece of paper, put in the budget papers and forgotten. That is not going to be our approach to supporting women in the workplace.

We have outstanding women in our team. It is going to be an important part of our process as we work through it. There is important work to be done. One thing I can confirm is that there will be more. The funding will be there and we will be undertaking additional initiatives. The member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Maroochydore, as part of the economic security team, will continue to do that work.

We need support for women in the workforce as part of the women's economic strategy to be more important than just a one-off. It is not a social media post for us. It is not a document in the budget. It is real economic empowerment and real support for women in the workforce. I am looking forward to having a lot more to say in the months ahead about economic security and the role that women play in Queensland's economic advancement and the role that they play in our economy.

Road and Rail Infrastructure

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on the LNP Crisafulli government's plan to deliver critical road and rail infrastructure, including for residents of Bribie Island, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Are you right there on the left? Are you happy to listen to the minister? Minister, you have the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: How good is it to have a hardworking, energetic member for Pumicestone in Ariana Doolan, a local member who has delivered more for her community in six months in this place than her predecessor did in the last three years! Last week I, alongside Ariana, had the privilege of visiting the Pumicestone electorate. We had a look at some of the work that the Crisafulli government are delivering in Pumicestone—upgrades to Bribie Island Road. We are fixing the section between Old Toorbul Road and Saint Road, increasing capacity and making it safer—something that those opposite ignored for the entire time they were in power.

What else did those opposite ignore for the 10 years they were in power? They ignored the Bribie Island Bridge. Those opposite had 10 years to deliver a solution for the Bribie Island Bridge and they did nothing. In the last days of an election campaign they made a hollow commitment with nothing to back it up. Contrast that with the new member for Pumicestone, who in her first six months in this place is getting on with the job.

Last week we released the summary business case for the new Bribie Island Bridge. We are committed to delivering a new Bribie Island bridge. We will put in a new bridge and we will ensure the existing bridge is safe. I want to reassure the community that the existing bridge is safe and we are getting on with the job of delivering a new bridge so they no longer have to sit in traffic every time there is an accident on the Bribie Island Bridge.

Unlike those opposite, we will not be waiting 10 years to get on with the job. We are getting on with the job now because we know it is important to get Queenslanders home sooner and safer at the end of a long day. That is why we have committed to projects like the Logan to Gold Coast faster rail, a project that they failed to get on with the job of delivering. Gold Coast commuters will get home sooner because of the LNP government. We are committed right across this state to getting on with the job of ending Labor's failures.

Mr Speaker, you may think this is not relevant to the question but I will get there. I have been married to my beautiful wife 15 years today. Mr Speaker, did you know that the member for Miller, Mark Bailey, was the minister for transport and main roads for more than half of that time? That is why I am still sitting in traffic on the Sunny Coast, on the Bruce Highway and here in Brisbane. The overrun overlord is the reason that Queenslanders do not get home sooner at the end of a long work day.

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles.

Mr MICKELBERG: We are committed to getting on with the job and ending Labor's decade of failure. Queenslanders know that Labor are not up to it, that they were not up to it and that they never will be. The LNP will deliver for every single Queensland.

(Time expired)

Budget

Mr RYAN: Mr Speaker, I am not sure if it is commiserations or congratulations to Mrs Mickelberg! Congratulations. My question is to the Treasurer. In light of the Deputy Premier posing with 'Make America Great Again' merchandise—and I table a copy of the photo for the benefit of the House—will the Treasurer confirm that the LNP budget will not include DOGE style cuts to the Public Service?

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, and Make America Great Again merchandise [\[416\]](#).

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to consider whether that is relevant to the Treasurer's portfolio—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order in silence.

Dr ROWAN:—in the way that the question is drafted and what is included in the content of the question. I ask you to rule with respect to that.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is fine. There is no point of order.

Mr JANETZKI: I have three portfolios and they have four shadow ministers shadowing me. I was not expecting that one as well from the member for Morayfield.

Mr Crisafulli: From the Stones Corner end!

Mr JANETZKI: That is right—from the very architect of the police lease at Stones Corner.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I cannot hear the Treasurer for the noise on my right.

Mr JANETZKI: I was not expecting that from the potential architect over there of the lease at Stones Corner. I get the feeling those opposite are off balance because they have seen how we have treated the Public Service with absolute respect, so they are dragged into ridiculous questions like the one we just heard from the member for Morayfield. They are off balance because we are treating the Public Service with respect and honouring them for the service they give to Queenslanders. Right across the government we have taken it very seriously. We have outstanding public servants across every agency of government across the length and breadth of the government. It has been really humbling to work with these outstanding public servants. We are rebuilding Queensland with their help because we know how those opposite treated public servants. Just open up the Coaldrake review: blocking officers, yelling at public servants, hollowing out the Public Service—

A government member: Locking them in a cupboard.

Mr JANETZKI: Locking them in a cupboard. We will continue to treat the Public Service with respect because that is the right thing to do and that is what Queenslanders expect. They deserve the very best Public Service, and the only way to deliver that is with public servants right with us. We need to build the infrastructure that we need to give world-class services to Queensland, so we need public servants right with us to deliver the infrastructure we need. We need our public servants to build a stronger, more prosperous Queensland.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister update the House on the importance of Domestic Violence Prevention Month and the importance of calling out domestic violence in all of its forms?

Ms CAMM: I thank the honourable member for her question; she is an advocate. I know the member is attending several events across her community of Central Queensland and Rockhampton, including a Rockhampton CatholicCare Domestic Violence Prevention Month event where she is also a guest speaker, and CQ Healthy Families Remembering Those Lost to Domestic and Family Violence Candlelight Vigil. Along with many on both sides of this House, I will be attending events over the course of the next month.

Domestic and family violence is not an issue we should only reflect on over one month of the year—it should be every single day. It is important. If women and children do not feel safe in their homes then we need to call it out. If people do not feel safe in their workplace then we need to call it out. When I look up there in the gallery I see the next generation of school leaders from Redlands College. I think young people are well-versed and advanced when it comes to understanding respect at school and in the workplace.

Yesterday the member for McConnel spoke in the House about protecting women, yet the member for McConnel will not protect the women in her own faction. Right now there are women on that side of the House—

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

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence and asks that you withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. It is alleged there are women on that side of the House who do not feel safe sitting next to another member of this House: the member for Stafford. The member for Stafford has the protection of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am speaking very plainly because everybody knows what is going on. The old guard faction and the females of that faction have the ability to call out the behaviour of the member for Stafford—the member for McConnel, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the member for Mount Ommaney—

Mrs Gerber: The member for Cooper!

Ms CAMM: The member for Cooper, I will take that interjection—but they will not because of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been named by the member. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn. It is completely incorrect.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. I take the interjection about—

Ms LINARD: I rise to a point of order. I have been named. I take personal offence and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Ms CAMM: For the benefit of the House, I withdraw. I also withdraw, member for Bulimba, member for Cooper and member for Mount Ommaney. We saw it here and now. The member for Murrumba, the opposition leader, the left faction—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you are warned after that outburst.

Ms CAMM: The left faction knows. What we saw here is the protection racket by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition holding the numbers with the old guard faction to make sure the left is protected. I will say—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been named by the honourable member. I take personal offence and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Ms CAMM: I withdraw. As the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I take offence that an alleged perpetrator has not been held to account—

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Public Servants

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Premier. Premier, how many hardworking SES-level public servants has the Crisafulli LNP government let go, sacked or terminated since coming to office?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question as asked by the Manager of Opposition Business, my point of order is that he directed it directly to the Premier and it is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: For clarity, would you please re-ask the question.

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise how many hardworking SES-level public servants the Crisafulli government has let go, sacked or terminated since coming to office?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I find it extraordinary that in the week they have sought to attack some of the most respected public servants in this state they would come in here—in the week they have attacked Dr Rosengren, Ms Cruickshank, Mr Sosso—

Mr Miles: Dodgy!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection. He has done it again. The member for Murrumba has had a very bad week, but he keeps overreaching. I am going to take it because he knows. The member for Murrumba is under a lot of pressure. He has had a very, very bad week. Do you know what they know? They know that if you cannot put a motion properly, if you cannot show up for division or if you cannot dress yourself properly in the parliament you cannot lead your party. They all know it. He leads a rabble—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's lift the standard a little bit.

Mr CRISAFULLI: He leads a rabble and he is living on borrowed time. His interjection proves it. If the Leader of the Opposition was milk at Woolworths, he would be one of the ones with a 50 cent logo—hanging on, clinging on for dear life, ready for the wholesale bin. Whoosh, out he goes! They know he is on borrowed time and he knows it. That is why he will interject. That is why he will attack public servants. He knows his time is up.

I say to the honourable member: the way that we have treated the Public Service is with respect, with decency and with leadership and we will continue to do that. I know that troubles the member because they built a narrative—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I asked the Premier to put a number on how many senior public servants he has let go, sacked or terminated.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, there was a question about staffing of public servants and sackings.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I have taken an interjection from the opposition leader who referred to them as 'dodgy'. A former premier of this state referred to three independent public servants as 'dodgy'. I named three independent public servants and he used the word 'dodgy'. We have seen the way they have sought to denigrate Dr Rosengren for the work he is trying to do to clean up their mess. They know the health plan that the health minister has done is good because they will not even ask him a question about it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I asked the Premier how many senior public servants he had let go or sacked. I would ask you to draw him back to a relevant answer to that specific question.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier heard the point of order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am answering the question from the honourable member who is lucky to have his question ruled in order after asking it directly to me, and I have taken an interjection from the opposition leader—an opposition leader who referred to public servants as 'dodgy'. They are three independent public servants and he called them 'dodgy'. He is not up to the job.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support. Can the minister update the House on the importance of standing up for victims of domestic violence, and is the minister aware of any examples where victims' rights have not been prioritised?

Mrs GERBER: At the outset, I want to thank the member for Oodgeroo for the question. I know that both in this House and during her time in federal politics she has been a fierce advocate for victims and victims of domestic and family violence. She has regularly stood up for them, spoken out and advocated for change. I want to thank her for not just her interest in this space but also her continued advocacy in state parliament, carrying on from her time as a senator in federal parliament.

Domestic violence is an epidemic in this country, and as the victims minister it is my job to make sure victim-survivors are supported after the failure from those opposite to protect them. We took to the election a commitment that puts victims first, that puts the rights of victims first and that holds perpetrators to account, and we are already taking tangible action to do this. Why? Because those opposite failed to act. They failed to protect victims and we saw—

Mrs Frecklington: All talk.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. We saw a lot of talk but we saw no action. Those opposite failed to stand up for victims when they were in government, and now they are failing to stand up for victims while they are in opposition. Yesterday when they came into this House we heard a member of the Labor Party, a member of the old guard faction, make disgraceful comments. I am going to read them out because their attitude needs to be called out. I quote from that member of the Labor Party—

We heard enough from the Minister for Youth Justice earlier today with her crocodile tears about domestic violence, sexual harassment, abuse and safety in the workplace—

This is what those opposite have to say when people stand up for victims of domestic and family violence. This is what those opposite have to say when women in this House stand up for victims—

'crocodile tears'. That is what they say to people who dare call out domestic violence in the workplace. Why were those comments made?

Dr Rowan: Because they're running a protection racket.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. They were made to run a protection racket for a member of their own party—the member for Stafford. The leader of the old guard is lending her numbers to the leader of the right to be able to keep him in the party. It is a disgraceful protection racket being run, and those opposite need to put their money where their mouth is. If they really do stand up for victims of domestic and family violence, then why are they continuing to support someone in their own party, the member for Stafford, who has been accused with police being called out to his house for a domestic violence dispute? It is disgraceful and they have no credibility in this space anymore.

(Time expired)

Public Service, Review

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Given the Coaldrake and Faultline reports and the recent Sangster review identifying failures in government's internal processes when investigating the Health Infrastructure program, will the government initiate an independent review into Queensland's public sector capabilities?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is a good question and it shows that she is fair dinkum about the importance of a world-class Public Service. I want to contrast the member's contribution with what we have seen from those opposite regarding the Public Service this week. As I have referred to, the attacks on public servants this week have seen the Labor Party go to a new low and that has to be called out.

What the member has asked about is very important. I say to the honourable member that there is one particular report where there is unfinished business, and that is the Coaldrake review. I have read it and there remains some very good insights into that report. It should be used to drive the cultural change that we need to see in this state. During the election campaign, we made a commitment on this side of the House to create the best homegrown Public Service in the country. I said it before the election and I believe in it after the election.

I know it hurts those opposite a bit because they spent a lot of time during the election campaign trying to portray a narrative about what this side of the House would look like, and the attacks are coming apart at the seams across a vast array of things but particularly when it comes to the Public Service, and I will tell members why. I have seen the health minister visit multiple health facilities that they said would be privatised and closed. I have seen the Minister for Training visit multiple TAFE centres and thank the people who work there after they said we would flog them off or close them. I have seen the Attorney-General in courtrooms where people are working in the most disgraceful conditions that need to be upgraded, and those opposite said we were not interested in faster justice.

I want to reflect on some comments that I have received from public servants. There was one in particular the other day from a public servant who said to me that in over two decades of working in her department she had never seen a minister engaged in the way that her minister now is, getting on a Teams meeting, walking the floors and showing a genuine interest—and that in fact is the housing minister. That is the culture we want, because the days of little generals running around and barking orders are over. The days of ministers yelling, screaming, throwing staplers, bullying, badgering, being a nasty person—

Ms BOLTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are running out of time and I respectfully ask that the Premier answer the question about whether an independent review will be held.

Mr SPEAKER: So your point of order is on relevance?

Ms BOLTON: Yes.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I say to the honourable member that we are focusing very heavily on the Coaldrake review, which is an independent analysis, and we will keep driving it. The cultural change will continue. I want public servants in this state to know they now have a government that values them and respects them and will provide leadership and drive the change that is needed.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mrs POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Will the minister update the House on the importance of funding TAFE courses to build the skills of Queenslanders working with vulnerable families and the importance of educating people about attitudes towards domestic violence survivors?

Ms BATES: I thank the honourable member for Mundingburra for her question. I know how passionate she is on this subject. She has spent most of her professional life combatting domestic and family violence. In fact, the member for Mundingburra has been on the frontline. She has walked into those homes and has seen firsthand what occurs there. Our Crisafulli LNP government is working tirelessly to tackle the prevalence of domestic and family violence across all of Queensland. It is why we moved really quickly to roll out the 500 GPS trackers for high-risk offenders, sounding an alarm if an offender is near a victim. We are sending a clear message to offenders that you have nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

Our focus is not just on protecting victims. We are committed to education as we tackle this issue from all angles. It is why we are funding TAFE qualifications, like the Diploma of Child, Youth and Family Intervention, making these courses fee-free for Queenslanders who wish to undertake the important job of supporting vulnerable survivors and families. The course supports students in educating others about attitudes towards domestic violence survivors.

We are on a proactive footing, unlike those opposite, who spent a decade in chaos and crisis, overseeing a 218 per cent increase of DV-related incidences while in government. That is a shameful figure for those opposite who let this stain on our society run out of control.

It was, of course, the LNP who funded the landmark *Not Now, Not Ever* domestic violence inquiry. It was the LNP who passed the toughest domestic violence laws, from opposition no less, to reverse the onus of proof for perpetrators applying for bail. During that debate, it was members of the LNP who supported the mothers of murdered women who became overcome with grief during that debate. I will never forget them sitting up there in that gallery. Not one Labor member had the decency to go and support those women crying in the gallery that night.

As a domestic violence survivor myself, I understand the reality of being re-traumatised every time you have to tell your story. It is why I have stood with mothers of murdered victims in their fight for reform, a mothers' club that no-one wants to join—mothers like Sonia Anderson, mother of Bianca Faith Girven; Natalie Hinton, mother of Tara Brown; Bonnie Mobbs, mother of Shelsea Schilling; and Dale Shales, mother of Teresa Bradford who was murdered in my own electorate.

What we have seen from those opposite is absolutely shameless. The leader of the old guard has the opportunity to stand up today and go in to see the Leader of the Opposition and demand that the member for Stafford stands down.

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Treasurer. In light of the revelation that the Deputy Premier posed in a photo with MAGA supporters, will the Treasurer advise the House if his decision to review Labor's emission reduction targets that are aligned with the Paris Agreement is because of the Deputy Premier's support for Donald Trump and his policies?

Mr JANETZKI: Can you imagine what a five-hour question time with those opposite would be like? Seriously! We have made clear our position in relation to our energy road map. We have a clear plan, and we are going to do the work this year. We will be doing the work this year because it is important. We are going to send off the emissions work to the Productivity Commission because it is important we get that right. We are absolutely committed to the target of net zero by 2050. We are going to be doing the work to make sure our five-year energy road map is reflective of a pathway there, and we will be doing the work to make sure we are putting downward pressure on power bills because we know those opposite never ever did the work. They never ever did the work. They never did the work.

Everything that they were doing was operating in a fantasy land. We know the Pioneer-Burdekin project was going to cut emissions, it was going to do everything, but it would have been a drag on the balance sheet and it would have made power bills more expensive for Queenslanders.

We are doing the work in our five-year energy road map because that is what we promised to Queenslanders and that is exactly what we will deliver.

Youth Crime

Mr BAILLIE: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney-General update the House on the impact of the LNP Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer laws tranche 1 changes, and is the Attorney-General aware of any contrasting views?

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you have one minute to answer.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was interesting to read the *Townsville Bulletin* today where there is a story, 'Ram raid teen loses appeal', 'Judge backs in new laws', and—hang on, this is an old article in *The Australian* which says, 'Steven Miles says Labor is too slow on crime concerns.'

We on this side are protecting victims of crime. We are making sure our judges and magistrates have the sentencing powers that they can issue out in this time of a youth crime crisis, brought on by a decade of Labor. Honestly, I thank the members of the Townsville area because, unlike the former three Labor ones that did absolutely nothing for a decade, we on this side have already done more than they did in a decade.

With the last 10 seconds I say go the women Maroons tonight. It is Queensland Women's State of Origin Day. To Ali, Tamika and to Tahnee and your team, go get 'em!


Mr SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

TRUSTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 30 April (see p. 1063), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.56 pm), continuing: Before I commence, I would like to advise the House that I am the beneficiary of a trust, and this has been declared on my Register of Interests.

To pick up from where I finished last night, trusts are a common mechanism for managing property and assets. Many Australians use them and, indeed, some members of this House have appropriately declared themselves as beneficiaries of trusts. But in an era where public trust is fragile, we must ensure our legal frameworks keep pace with modern expectations. Australians deserve confidence that trusts are being administered transparently and in the genuine interest of their beneficiaries, not used as vehicles to conceal wealth or evade scrutiny. That is why the alarming revelations involving the federal Leader of the Opposition, Peter Dutton, make this reform not only timely but essential.

The bill strengthens accountability by introducing clear, statutory core duties for trustees—duties to act honestly and in good faith, to maintain separate and accurate records for each trust, to keep those records for a set period after the trust ends, and to provide beneficiaries with access to inspect those accounts upon reasonable request. While these obligations exist under common law, the bill enshrines them in legislation bringing clarity, enforceability and consistency.

The bill also tightens restrictions on who can be appointed as trustees, disqualifying insolvent individuals and corporations in liquidation. This ensures that only fit and proper persons are entrusted with managing assets on behalf of others. Importantly, the bill grants courts enhanced powers to review and reduce excessive trustee fees, and to remove unfit trustees. Part 6 provides a trustee with defined powers to invest trust property responsibly and clearly outlines their duties and liabilities in doing so. This was an area of law that was definitely in need of reform.

The Trusts Bill 2025 brings trust administration into the modern era. It ensures that those who manage trusts, whether for childcare businesses, investments, or charitable foundations, are held to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

This bill is not just a technical adjustment to outdated laws; it is a vital safeguard for public trust and the integrity of our institutions. We owe it to the people of Queensland to ensure that our laws are not only modern and robust but also that those in public office uphold them with integrity.


The Trusts Bill 2025 represents a comprehensive and forward-looking reform of Queensland's trust law. It balances flexibility and certainty, modern principles and historical protections, and accessibility and accountability. It has been the product of more than a decade of work by legal experts, stakeholders, community advocates and committees of this House. It is a bill that will benefit families, businesses, charities, and communities across our state.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): There is much to be said for consistency. It means no surprises. It means a certain predictability in patterns of behaviour. The LNP Crisafulli government—or, as it is better known, the L-plate LNP Crisafulli government—is a model of consistency because it is a government that consistently breaks promises, a government that consistently strives, in its own bumbling and incompetent way, to cover up the bad news. Callide Power Station, anyone? The Treasurer is especially consistent, and we see it in the chamber each and every day. The Treasurer's dazed and confused attempts to understand the questions he is asked and then the Treasurer's bumbling, fumbling attempts to answer these questions are a model of consistency.

There is another consistent pattern of behaviour that defines this government: jobs for the LNP boys, jobs for the LNP mates, jobs for the usual suspects. Late on the Thursday before Easter, in a bid to avoid too much scrutiny, the Deputy Premier announced that long-time LNP mate Julian Simmonds was getting a plumb government job. Thankfully, scrutiny of this latest example of a 'job for the boy' has emerged. In the *Australian* newspaper today a report states—

The Crisafulli government did not advertise for a new chief executive officer for Economic Development Queensland before giving the taxpayer-funded job to a former Liberal National Party MP who ran an expensive coal-backed campaign advocating for the government's election.


Less than an hour before the Easter long weekend started, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie announced he had appointed Julian Simmonds as acting CEO of the EDQ, the government's property development agency.

Julian Simmonds, of course, is well qualified to be an LNP mate—an LNP councillor in the Brisbane City Council and then a one-time one-term MP for the federal seat of Ryan. Today's newspaper article goes on to say—

A spokesman for Mr Bleijie confirmed the position was not advertised before Mr Simmonds was appointed. He did not explain how the former MP was chosen, nor whether it was appropriate given Mr Simmonds' active role as a third party campaigner.

But there is good news. Mr Simmonds will not be lonely at the top of Economic Development Queensland. That is because there is another LNP mate on the board: the politically compromised Deputy Premier's right-hand man for everything, John Soso—the same John Soso who Tony Fitzgerald warned should not be appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, but he was. That is consistency for you. The government consistently puts its interests and the interests of the LNP mates and all of their mates before the interests of Queensland.

Labor Party Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.03 pm): It has been an extraordinarily bad week from the opposition. We have had a leader missing divisions, attacking public servants as dodgy, diminishing the experience of—

Opposition members interjected.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Members!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to focus on their rewriting of history around energy. I want to start with CopperString. I want to take stock of the opposition's questioning. Opposition members asked about cost blowouts under their own watch, on their project. A project that under those opposite started at \$1 billion turned out to be \$13.9 billion. They were asking when we found out about their blowout, their deception, their scam. The numbers kept getting bigger: \$1 billion, \$5 billion, \$9 billion, \$13.9 billion. The figure was unbelievable. That is why the Treasurer sought to have it properly verified, as you would expect. The Treasurer and his office tested this number, as you would expect—with Treasury, with energy officials, with my office, with Powerlink. Even after all of the time it took and the figure was finally confirmed, it remains unbelievable what those opposite had presided over. It is astounding that the project had blown out to that level.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is not taking your interjections. Could we hear the Premier in silence, please.

Mr CRISAFULLI: This Treasurer will deliver that project, which those opposite could not. I turn to Callide. The gall to ask questions about a power plant they ran into the ground! Does anyone seriously believe the opposition when it says that a government barely 100 days into its tenure could be responsible for the lack of maintenance required to cause a power plant to blow up?

This week the opposition has been obsessed with a photograph rather than with their failure to maintain an asset for a decade. The information that was initially provided to the Treasurer's office and to my office—and, I suspect, to the board—was not accurate. It did not represent the scale of the incident, nor the scale of Labor's inability to maintain the asset in the first place. Contrast that with the week of the government: stamp duty gone, historic domestic violence laws introduced, delivering for Queensland.

Finally, I want to speak about a fire in my electorate of Broadwater that caused significant damage to the home of a family in Hollywell, including a serving ambulance officer for Queensland government—an ambulance officer with three young girls. The devastation of that fire has been immense. That family has lost everything. I want to acknowledge the way the community has rallied behind them—from individual businesses in the Runaway Bay shopping centre to the Paradise Point Bowls Club. It has been a herculean effort. People have rallied around this family in their hour of need, and I assure the family and the broader community that the entire electorate is there for them at this very difficult time.

Health System

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.06 pm): Cutting health and hospitals is in the LNP's DNA. Australians do not trust the worst federal health minister in 40 years in Peter Dutton, two days out from polling day. However, running a dead heat with Peter Dutton for that title has to be a current Minister for Health, Minister Nicholls. In only six months, the cuts and broken promises have come thick and fast. In their first month in office, Premier Crisafulli and his health henchman, Minister Nicholls, stopped construction on many health sites right across Queensland as one of their very first priorities—one they hid from Queenslanders and did not share with them before election day. They did not share that. Nor did Premier Crisafulli share that he would sack the member for Mudgeeraba from health and install 'Mr Strong Choices' himself, the member for Clayfield, the architect of the failed policy to sell off \$35 billion worth of assets under Campbell Newman.

Why did the Premier choose him? It is very clear that he was committed to cuts by the person he appointed. With a cuts record that would put any logging company, scissor seller or butcher to shame, the member for Clayfield has been drafted unwillingly into health with the objective to cut. That is what the so-called rescue plan is all about. To be accurate, it should be called the LNP 'hospital cuts plan'. While they claim it to be comprehensive, it has no timelines and no funding attached in terms of actually getting things done. What does that mean? No timelines and no funding equals cuts. That is what it means: fewer beds, fewer facilities and broken promises.

We all saw the humiliating episode of Minister Nicholls trying to claim in the media last week that in fact they had never made that claim, but the member for Mudgeeraba, as then health spokesperson, was on camera claiming they were going to do as Labor did: 2,200 beds by 2028. This is a minister whose credibility is in tatters, not only because of that but also because of his inability and refusal to answer questions on notice. I draw the attention of the chamber to an article from the *Sunday Mail*. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, undated, titled '10 questions too hard for Nicholls to answer' [\[417\]](#).

There were 10 questions on notice that the minister refused to answer, hiding behind excuses. When asked the same question by a journalist, he answered it within 48 hours. We all know what the Speaker said yesterday. He said—

... I can rule the answers submitted as out of order and that the questions remain unanswered.

I have not seen such a thing in the 10 years I have been in this chamber. It is an embarrassment. While the minister is humiliating himself successively, we see the cuts flowing: the health workplace attraction incentive scheme, gone; transfer initiative nurse funding, gone; pill testing—I do not have enough time to go through the long list of cuts. They will continue under this government and under this minister.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Community Safety



Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (2.09 pm): Townsville voted for a fresh start, and the Crisafulli government is only just getting started on delivering safety where you live and the fresh start North Queenslanders deserve. In the first six months, our government has introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time to restore serious consequences for serious repeat juvenile offenders, with quarterly data revealing green shoots in the reduction of a number of key offences including stolen cars, break-ins and robberies. We have more police on the frontline to restore community safety and to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. We have deployed the state's flying squad in Townsville, which has resulted in 127 people being charged with 381 offences since February. We have boosted the capacity of the District Court with the appointment of a new Townsville District Court judge to ensure justice is delivered for victims sooner, and we are delivering \$1.8 million to allow Community Gro in Garbutt to continue its important work in providing an after-hours service to help young people at risk of offending.

This seems like a lot in the first six months but I want Townsville to know we are just getting started. Earlier this week, our brave and dedicated Police Service in Townsville apprehended three teenagers with 81 property crime offences, alleged to have occurred over the last long weekend alone. The alleged offenders included a 15-year-old boy who was charged with 32 offences, a 15-year-old boy charged with 25 offences and another 16-year-old boy charged with 24 offences. These three teenagers will be subject to Adult Crime, Adult Time. I acknowledge and thank the Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch and the Townsville Tactical Crime Squad who have been relentless in their pursuit to hold property crime offenders to account.

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have some concerns about sub judice and the rules that prohibit it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Townsville, could you advise if any of the matters you have raised are sub judice, or could you alternatively confirm they are not?

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can do without help, thank you. I am sure he understands what sub judice means.

Mr BAILLIE: To make it simple, I will withdraw, but I would like to acknowledge the Police Service in their pursuit to hold property crime offenders to account and put them before the courts. Regarding the courts, we are beginning to see green shoots there, too, with local lawyers advising that they have witnessed recent cases where young offenders are receiving sentences three times as long as under the previous laws. We are still a long way from where we need to be when it comes to youth crime but we are committed to seeing the number of victims reduce and we will continue to make changes as required. To that end, in January we established an expert legal panel to provide recommendations regarding further enhancements. They have recommended another 20 offences to be added to Adult Crime, Adult Crime. The expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Crime is currently—

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the anticipation rule. There is legislation currently before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you could be careful not to address matters that are currently before the House, member. You have 10 seconds left.

Mr BAILLIE: Thank you. I am simply referencing the process. We have the committee coming to Townsville. On behalf of my colleagues in Mundingburra and Thuringowa, I encourage the residents of Townsville to attend that committee.

Bundaberg Hospital, Construction



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.13 pm): There is a cloud of doubt cast by the LNP when it comes to the new Bundaberg Hospital. We know that the only reason there is any construction still continuing under this LNP government is because of the work of the Labor opposition, the brave whistleblowers from the construction site and the elements of the media who called out what was happening. We know that the LNP have put out a plan but there is no detail in the plan, there is no detail as to what specific services we will be getting. What will be the scope and the scale? Will there be more surgical wards or less surgical wards than what was promised under a Labor government?

There is no plan, but what we do know about the Sangster report is it brings into question the actions of the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Burnett and what they knew under this LNP government. When we look at the Sangster report it puts forward five options and option five

is to cancel the current construction—that was one of the options under the report commissioned by the LNP. What we need to know is how long did the LNP consider option five? How long did they consider cancelling the construction of the new Bundaberg Hospital? Did it go to cabinet and what did the member for Burnett know and what did the member for Toowoomba North know? The member for Toowoomba North said in this place—

He might want a six-level hospital to be built, but if we had \$9 billion we might be able to build him a six-storey hospital

...

Unfortunately, that \$9 billion is not available ...

What did the member for Toowoomba North know—the assistant minister to Premier and cabinet—when the Sangster report went to cabinet and option five was spoken about? How long was it spoken about? Was it a considered option? Is that why the member for Toowoomba North came into this place and made the accusations and the promise he put forward?

Did they consider one of the other options to downsize, is that why the embarrassed member for Burnett went live on radio and basically did himself out of a job when he said there would be 300 less beds at the newly-constructed Bundaberg Hospital? He said that there would be 120 new beds at the newly-constructed hospital. Then he said what you have to remember is that the bulk of the 400 beds would be at the old Bundaberg hospital. He cannot even get it right. What did he know? Did he know about a plan to cut? The member for Burnett and the member for Toowoomba North need to stand up in this place. The member for Toowoomba North needs to either say that he knew the secret plans or he has misled the House with his words and the member for Burnett needs to come to a realisation—did he know about a secret plan for cuts, or was he just incompetent? I reckon I know which it is.

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, the member is again misleading the House. There are no secret plans—that has clearly been stated. The budget was \$9 billion short.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you would be aware, if you have an allegation of misleading the House there is a proper process for that in writing to the Speaker. I call the member for Gympie.

Primary Industries Blueprint



Hon. AJ PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.17 pm): The Crisafulli Government is determined to supercharge primary production. Our agenda is to boost primary production output to \$30 billion by 2030. We are putting Queensland agriculture first. Part of the path to achieving that goal is our 25-year vision—our blueprint. In February more than 280 stakeholders came together to co-design a 25-year vision for Queensland's primary industries. It was the largest primary industries consultation in Queensland in more than a decade. The draft blueprint—*Primary Industries Prosper 2050*—is now open for public consultation and will continue until 9 June. The public can go online to view the document and complete the online survey at the DPI website.

DPI will also host 16 in-person sessions in rural and regional communities across our state. The first will be in Gympie on Friday. Sessions will be hosted in Cairns, Mount Isa, Longreach, Mackay, Emerald, Charters Towers, Rockhampton, Townsville, Bundaberg, Weipa, the Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi, Roma and Kingaroy. Three drop-in sessions will also be hosted at key industry events at the Rotary FNQ Field Days at Mareeba, FarmFest in Toowoomba and Hort Connections in Brisbane. Another three online webinars are available for those who cannot attend the in-person drop-in sessions. The government listens to and respects primary industries. We do not take primary industries for granted. We all know that we do not have all the answers.


We are committed to consultation. We know we can only achieve our goals by working together and consulting as widely as possible. February's consultation was with more than 100 organisations from industry, government, investment, academia, research and community groups. Now we want to hear from the grassroots, those who work, live and breathe primary industries.

I do not intend for this to be a plan for the sake of having a plan. The blueprint will be delivered through a suite of rolling five-year action plans which we can act upon. They will be tailored to meet local priorities and regional and sectoral needs. The first action plan will deliver on our commitment to a Queensland timber action plan.

The Crisafulli government is acutely aware that many issues which impact primary industries are adjacent to my departmental portfolio. That is why the whole of the government will take ownership of this blueprint. During successive terms in government, Labor eroded trust in the department. It took

primary industries for granted. We are returning to a culture where the department and industry collaborate. We are working with industry to help grow it. We do not take primary industries for granted.

Redcliffe Hospital Expansion

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.20 pm): Today we are talking about another broken promise from the LNP: that they will not deliver those 2,200 hospital beds by 2028 that they originally promised. We do not know what they will build, when they will build it or how many beds will be included. We do not know what they will do. All we know is that the minister said they are going to take their time. It will take years. We know that the LNP health cuts mean we will be years behind in our health infrastructure.


I do want to point out that the day they announced the new Olympic stadium and aquatic centre was the same day that the last piling rig was pulled off the site at Redcliffe Hospital—that very day—leaving behind 200 to 300 tonnes of steel frames for those piles. They also left behind \$200,000 worth of PVC pipe from the electrical contractors. That is millions of dollars worth of equipment left behind.

I also saw the redundancy letters sent to those workers on the day that work stopped at that hospital. For some of those workers it was their last job before they finished their career and they wanted to spend it working in their community, proud to be working on their local hospital. The abandoned Redcliffe Hospital expansion is the face of the LNP cuts to health in Queensland.

The fact is the LNP never intended to build that hospital as envisaged by my community, but they needed an excuse. The biggest excuse they could land on for stopping the Redcliffe Hospital expansion is the scar tree. This is an urban myth being perpetrated with great glee by the LNP. The tree has been at the centre of a building site at Redcliffe Hospital for years. Queensland Health managed to build a multistorey car park next door to that tree, working around it. We managed to expand and rebuild the Redcliffe emergency department by working around it. This tree has been on a construction site for years. We worked around it and took care of that tree. Workers are telling me that they could easily finish stage 1 without interfering with that tree.

Let me repeat: this excuse of the scar tree is an urban myth being perpetrated by the LNP to justify their cuts and I urge people to go and have a look at this massive abandoned building site with one tree on its edge. Remember this: when Labor was in government, the site was bustling and the hospital was going ahead. Once the LNP got in, it was abandoned; it is a whistling, abandoned building site.

Maryborough, Fatal Car Accident

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.23 pm): I rise today to speak about the tragic event that occurred in my electorate two years ago. Yesterday marked two years since the tragedy that forever changed the Maryborough community, a day we will never forget. On this day two years ago a 13-year-old boy made a devastating decision. He stole a car from another town and drove it to Maryborough. On the outskirts of the town he collided with another vehicle causing a fatal accident. The result of his actions: three women—bright, loved and full of promise—lost their lives; the fourth was left with serious injuries. They were: Kelsie Davies, just 17 years old, a young woman described as having a pure heart, a student at the Riverside Christian College; Michale Chandler, 29 years old, a pastor at Reach Church in Maryborough; Kaylah Behrens, just 23, also from Reach Church—Kaylah survived but with injuries and trauma that remain long after the physical wounds—and in the other vehicle, Sheree Robertson, aged 52, a nurse driving home after a shift caring for others, as she always did. All four women were local, loved and invaluable to our community. This tragedy did not just affect the victims' families; it tore through our entire community. They were daughters, sisters, friends and leaders, each contributing in her own meaningful way to Maryborough.

A memorial now stands at the entrance to our town. It is more than a stone and flowers; it is a shrine of memory, a symbol of our loss and a reflection of the deep sorrow we will continue to carry as a community. Despite the time that has passed, we have not forgotten, nor have we forgiven, the injustice because today the 13-year-old responsible for this tragedy will serve just 60 per cent of his sentence. In just 18 months he will walk free, still not even old enough to legally hold a driver's licence. To the families left behind and to our grieving community this feels like a slap in the face. The sentence he has been given does not meet community expectations.

We would like to thank our Attorney-General, the Hon. Deb Frecklington, for her support. That is why Adult Crime, Adult Time matters. When a young person causes the loss of three lives and the destruction of so many others they should face the full weight of the law. Accountability cannot be optional. Justice must mean something.

Mount Gravatt Nurse-led Walk-in Clinic



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (2.26 pm): The LNP Crisafulli government is slashing health jobs and operating hours at more nurse-led clinics despite telling Queenslanders there would be no cuts to health services. The latest clinic to face cuts is the Mount Gravatt Nurse-led Walk-in Clinic, which opened in late 2024 as a seven-day-a-week facility. It has had staffing reduced and opening hours dramatically cut to exclude evenings under changes by the Crisafulli government. The previous hours of 8 am to 10 pm have been reduced and the facility now closes at 6 pm. This drastically reduces the functionality of the clinic as those extended hours allowed residents to access care after work when their GP was closed without having to attend the already overwhelmed hospital emergency departments.

The Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic is essential for families, seniors and workers in my electorate who need timely health care. They offer free treatment to all adults and children aged over two years for non-life-threatening injuries, illnesses and common health concerns. Frequently I hear from community members, from my office staff after community members have contacted them and, of course, from members of my own family who live in my electorate who have accessed these services at the nurse-led clinic and satellite hospitals—now called health centres. Our community has received high-quality, personalised and speedy care at these facilities, care that allows them to return to their work and families sooner.

I have spoken with clinic staff and they are understandably worried about their job security and the future of the clinic. These staff members are so passionate about the important service they provide to our community and they do not want to see it cut. Labor's plan was ensuring all Queenslanders could get world-class health care close to home by building more hospitals and health services, and hiring and training more health workers. At no time prior to the election was my community told that their health facilities and their health care would be cut.

We invested a record \$28.9 billion into the health system in 2024-25. That included delivering our big health build: three new hospitals, 11 major expansions, a new Queensland cancer centre and seven satellite hospitals. The Labor government employed 21,000 more frontline health workers while in government, including the local nurse-led clinicians who work at Mount Gravatt. David Crisafulli promised Queenslanders there would be no cuts to the health system. The Crisafulli LNP government's latest move to reduce hours and staff roles at our nurse-led clinics is yet another broken promise to Queenslanders.

I call on the LNP to provide assurances that there will be no further cuts to the operating hours, days of service or staffing levels at the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic.

Gregory Electorate, Tourism; Anzac Day



Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (2.29 pm): Last sitting week when I rose to discuss the events of Western Queensland it was a sea of brown, literally, with water and mud. This week I can happily report that from the brown wasteland almost that appeared from the floods the green shoots of a new day and a new era for the environment of Western Queensland is emerging. With that comes the unique opportunity for people to visit Western Queensland to experience a landscape that they probably will not see again in their lifetime, because most people alive today have not. It is absolutely majestic.

I attended Winton for its 150-year celebrations. It was formed in 1875 when Mr Robert Allen travelled west from Aramac—not in an era as wet as it is right now, because he would not have done that with a team of horses and carts. Winton is a community that has withstood floods and droughts and it is calling for our help as Queenslanders: please visit. It unofficially kicked off the tourism season in Western Queensland. Fortunately, a sealed bitumen road in and out of that town has allowed access, but the road network is opening further to the south and the south-west. I really encourage people who are experiencing what is now some lovely weather here on the coast and for the next few months right throughout the central west to visit tourism destinations, whether it be the Saltbush Retreat in Longreach or the Jundah Roadhouse or the Birdsville Roadhouse and all of the aeronautical services that will support aerial tourism to really embrace something that Mother Nature does not give us very often. I really encourage members to encourage their constituents and visitors to their region to venture a little further west as well.


I also want to pay tribute to six very special school leaders in the community of Emerald who led one of the most fitting Anzac Day tributes I have been privileged to attend—Jaylin Kimmins, Priya Taylor-Sidhu, Nicholas McDonald, Hannah O'Donnell, Seth Williams and Gracie Gersbach. All

participated in a very large ceremony. I want to quote the words of Gracie Gersbach as she spoke to the assembly around providing purpose and direction learning from the Anzac spirit—

You know what work you have to do at school and what jobs your parents may have set you to do. No matter what difficulties you think are in the way, think of the Anzacs and others who have followed them. Push the difficulties to one side and accomplish your task.

This was done in a setting where the honour guard or the guard at the cenotaph was staffed by cadets from the Emerald school, so there was a really deep involvement in understanding and ensuring that the future of the Anzac spirit remains strong in the centre of Gregory. I thank those students and their teachers for the commendable work that they have done in this respect.

Ipswich, Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.32 pm): 'No matter where people are in Queensland, this is a delivery plan that matters,' he said. 'It is a plan for every Queenslanders, in every corner of Queensland. It is going to be great,' he said. When the Deputy Premier uttered those sentences in the last sitting week, the people of Ipswich collectively choked, because there is a corner of Queensland—a growing corner of Queensland—that barely got a mention in the Crisafulli government's delivery plan for the Olympics and Paralympics.

Under Labor, Brighton Homes Arena in Springfield, or Ipswich stadium as it was called for Olympic purposes, was a guaranteed venue for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to host the modern pentathlon. Currently, the stadium is the home of the mighty Brisbane Lions Women's AFL team—a fantastic facility supported and funded by Labor governments at both the state and federal levels. What we now find is that the same Ipswich stadium is on a list of existing venues which may be used—not will be used, may be used. Ipswich has not one guaranteed sport for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and no certainty that it will get a sport. There is also no other infrastructure announced for the Ipswich region—no transport infrastructure like progressing the Ipswich to Springfield rail line or funding for the Centenary Motorway, no other facilities, nothing. To be fair, there was \$2 million announced for grassroots sports in Ipswich, which is great, except when you look closer it turns out that was just the LNP's election commitments which its losing candidates announced and it now has packaged up those commitments to pad out its plan.

The person I feel really sorry for is the LNP mayor of Ipswich who is actually on the Olympic organising committee and was forced to defend this pathetic level of investment in our city. I mean, she was slathering lipstick on that pig and asking it to model. I would like the Deputy Premier to listen to our corner of Queensland about what people really think of their delivery plan, and these are some of the direct comments responding to the mayor's Facebook post on the delivery plan announcement—

I have been a supporter of you Teresa. You have however dropped the ball on this. The Premier giving you 2 million to keep quiet. It's pathetic and spitting in the face of all sports loving people in the Ipswich city council area—not one even secured, wow.

Another person said—


Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and even Toowoomba received major announcements and infrastructure upgrades and nothing for Ipswich.

Another person said—

So 2 million out of 7 billion—it's like me owning 1 share of woolworths and calling myself a co-owner. Is this like a deliberate mockery of Ipswich?

Plenty of people just commented, 'Pathetic'. I concur. It is pathetic, but the people of Ipswich should expect nothing less from the Crisafulli government.

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise with great enthusiasm and excitement for the small businesses of Pumicestone with today being the start of Queensland Small Business Month. We have announced our finalists for the Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards and, after an overwhelming response, I want to congratulate some of the businesses that are in the running for Business of the Year—All About Jerky, Poolwerx Bribie Island, Bongaree Bubbles and Clips, Annie Lane, the Gleaming Guys, Sandstone Point Veterinary Surgery, the Black Cat Eatery, Bongaree News & Computer Services and Bongaree Pet Food. I look forward to seeing the owners, employees and family members of these businesses, along with reps from the more than 150 other businesses that are finalists across other categories, at the awards night on 27 May at the Sandstone Point Hotel. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our small businesses across the electorate that work

hard every day to contribute to our local economy and provide the goods and services that we all appreciate.

I am also excited to announce the launch of our Pumicestone's Youth Voice—a platform for young people aged 16 to 21 to engage in our community, work alongside me to run events supporting local organisations and provide advice on how we can create more opportunities for young people in our area. If you are a young person and you want to create positive change in your community, this is perfect for you. We have already received many applications and I look forward to seeing even more come in.

Speaking of young people, I am proud to be supporting the Harrison Payne Initiative—a not-for-profit organisation created in memory of young Harrison Payne, who tragically lost his life on Woorim Beach. The initiative aims to create change around beach safety, four-wheel-drive safety and road safety while also providing support to families who have experienced similar tragedies. I am working alongside Harrison's parents, Kylie and Kent, and Minister Mickelberg to find new ways to educate young people about the dangers of driving on beaches. I look forward to updating the House in the near future on what we have achieved.

Minister Mickelberg and I are getting on with the job. To me and the Crisafulli government, a new bridge for Bribie Island is not an election promise that we wheel out every four years; it is a commitment to my local community to get them home sooner and safer. Last week the minister visited Pumicestone to announce the business case summary for the new Bribie Island bridge. This business case is a commitment to building the next generation of infrastructure in our community—on time and on budget—to make good on the promises that we made at the last election to ensure that our community has faith in our government to deliver our community's priorities and address local concerns. I look forward to continuing my work with Minister Mickelberg and the whole government to deliver a new bridge, because under Labor the Bribie Island bridge was just a pipedream.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I advise that we have students from Bundaberg North State High School legal studies in the gallery.

Western Queensland, Tourism; Back to Work Program



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (2.38 pm): If those kids want to come to Cairns, it will be far more exciting than what they are seeing here today. I also want to touch on the member for Gregory's comments. He made a very good point: there are some fantastic tourism products in Western Queensland. I would love to see a lot more support from Tourism and Events Queensland. There are hardworking people out there providing those tourism products.


I want to talk about the Back to Work program. It is delivering across the state. It is directly supporting small businesses in a range of initiatives. It is working with TAFE Queensland to deliver a range of impartial but tailored one-on-one supports for jobseekers to be ready and, more importantly, it is filling the jobs that are desperately needed. This is so vitally important once again in regional areas. Back to Work has delivered more than \$300 million in support of over 13,500 employees. Importantly, more than 80 per cent of those employers have been small businesses: the backbone of our economy.

In Cairns we have seen firsthand the benefits of Back to Work. It is helping small businesses thrive and giving jobseekers the opportunity to rejoin the workforce with dignity and with purpose. One great local example is Cairns Truck School, a family-owned and operated business in my electorate. I understand Back to Work has helped them provide employment and stability to their workers and has given them the financial certainty to continue delivering quality training and service. They said—

We have worked hard to deliver quality service and training, and we are grateful to be part of a program that genuinely supports Queensland and small businesses like ours.

Since 2016, Back to Work has directly supported over 29,000 new employees and employers through eligible incentive payments to businesses when hiring disadvantaged Queenslanders. A huge number of Queensland jobseekers are accessing a range of supports, as I said earlier, through TAFE. This is one of those programs that works and it works well in regional areas. I heard the minister this morning talk about TAFE and some time ago she talked about Back to Work. At this stage there has been no commitment to continue these initiatives. These are fundamental for jobs. They are fundamental in regional areas. I can guarantee that there are many people, in particular in the Far North and across regional Queensland, who are watching whether these initiatives will continue. For the party that claims to be the supporter of small businesses, it would be amazing if it did not. It would not be amazing if they cut it. This needs to be guaranteed. We need to ensure that the money is continued. I look forward to many more discussions in relation to TAFE.


Coomera Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.41 pm): On 25 April, Australia paused for the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day to commemorate our fallen and to recognise our returned service men and women. For the people of the northern Gold Coast, on the face of it it was a washout due to the heavy storms we had. Sensibly two of our events needed to be cancelled due to dangers around flooding and thunder and lightning. In fact, it was far from a washout. My brother Kevin, and his partner, Han, are in the gallery today. Kevin and I are part of a family with a proud history in this regard. I have three brothers and a nephew and collectively we have served almost 60 years in the Navy.

My brother Kevin, his partner, Han, my wife, Pauline, and I first of all joined the people of Woongoolba to lay wreaths. It was amazing. There was a huge crowd. The rain was bucketing down. There were people jammed into the Woongoolba Bowls Club and those who were outside were getting absolutely drenched in the rain but they were determined to stay there. There would have been in the order of 300 people who turned up.

Kevin and I then went to Pimpama. Many members would remember driving along the highway and saluting the soldier. We wanted to attend the event there but it was cancelled due to the heavy weather. There was an impromptu service at the site and we saluted the soldier. Many people stayed and laid wreaths at the site. We wanted to go on to Upper Coomera to the North Gold Coast RSL march. It was also cancelled due to the weather. One of Kev's life experiences was on the HMAS Sydney. We knew that many of his mates were down at Club Helensvale for the day and so Kev and Han went down and laid a wreath for us, which was a wonderful experience for him. All in all, it was a solemn day, with old mates getting together and having a yarn. To all of those service men and women, to my brothers Kev, Mark and Tony and my nephew John, thank you for your service. Lest we forget.

Transport, Gold Coast

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.44 pm): The Crisafulli government is lining up to create a mess on the Gold Coast. In terms of Gold Coast Light Rail, this transport project has been completely taken out of the hands of the transport minister, just as Sunshine Coast direct rail has—or the Wave as it is now called. I do not mind the transport minister—he seems to be trying his best—but it must be pretty hard to do your job when the member for Kawana keeps sticking his beak in. It is the same on the Sunshine Coast.

We have two concurrent reviews by two different departments underway into Gold Coast Light Rail. We have a \$30 million business case jointly funded with the Gold Coast City Council underway and now the Deputy Premier has kicked off his own review through his own director-general, John Sosso. For more than a week when the review started participants did not need to provide ID and could make multiple submissions. That changed mid consultation and participants then needed to make an account and log in. Then the Deputy Premier said they would be favouring people on the southern Gold Coast. This is chopping and changing as they go. We all know the purpose of this consultation is to line it up for a cut. Mayor Tom Tate has come out and said that the timing of these negative leaks, as well as the very broad consultation with a lack of information, appears to be setting it up to fail. I agree with the mayor. It is clear that the Crisafulli government is chasing a certain outcome and it is clear that the answers they were receiving did not fit their narrative. They are throwing away the answers they do not like and keeping the answers they do like. What is the purpose of the Deputy Premier's review? His own director-general said in a committee meeting earlier this year—


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

The Gold Coast wants light rail to go all the way to the airport. The LNP need to get on with it. I am glad the member for Burleigh is having a say here today because he has done a bigger backflip on this than Peter Dutton has on working from home. The member went from voting in support of light rail stage 4 as a Gold Coast city councillor to outright opposing the project as soon as he was appointed an assistant minister by the Premier. The member for Burleigh needs to tell the people of the Gold Coast what he really feels about light rail stage 4. As reported in the Gold Coast *Bulletin*, a state government MP is telling people it is a done deal. They are telling people that light rail is going to get scrapped. This is history repeating.

The LNP MPs on the Gold Coast have failed to deliver for the people they represent again and again. The Crisafulli government is clearly trying every which way it can to not build stage 4. The Crisafulli government is not committed to this project. If they fail to deliver this project to the border their legacy will be turning Burleigh Heads into a bus depot. They have floated buses; maybe they have floated a metro like they want to do on the Sunshine Coast. Their legacy will be a transport mess,

turning Burleigh Heads into a bus depot, incomplete light rail that does not go to the airport and failed transport on the Gold Coast.

Barron River Electorate; Barron River Bridge


 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.47 pm): Today I want to start by sending my heartfelt condolences to those in the Far North community who have been impacted by the heartbreaking news of a loss of a toddler this week. A young boy just shy of his second birthday has passed away following a choking incident at a local childcare centre. The weight of this loss is being felt far beyond the boy's immediate family; it has impacted his day care educators, the first responders who rushed to help and the countless parents across our community who are grieving alongside them. In the midst of this sorrow, this little boy's family made a selfless decision to donate this child's heart—giving another child the gift of life. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone impacted by this tragic loss of life and I send my condolences to the family.

Today I would also like to address the future of the Barron River bridge. Next week we are back to half a bridge. Thousands of vehicles and trucks cross the Barron River bridge every day. This bridge is a vital artery connecting the Cairns region to the Tablelands and cape, supporting tourism, freight, health, produce and daily life for thousands of residents. Heavy vehicles, including B-doubles, are banned from using it, forced to take a detour of more than 100 kilometres. Many businesses, through the cost of freight, are impacted. Weight restrictions on smaller trucks is costing some operators over \$1 million in lost revenue annually. This is not just about inconvenience, lost revenue and community frustration. The former Labor government did nothing to progress the bridge. They did not put any money in the state budget for it. They did not negotiate any funding from the federal government for the project and they did not have a plan, nor was it on their radar to do anything.

I have been advocating for this for over a year. We made an election commitment in September 2024 and I know the community is getting very impatient after being ignored for a decade. I promise that this is progressing. In March this year our government negotiated and secured \$245 million from the federal budget, which is a significant funding commitment that the former Labor state government failed to achieve in more than a decade. That money is in the budget no matter which party wins government at the weekend. We have finished the business case and look forward to sharing it with the community. I am fighting to ensure that the funding for the Barron River bridge is also in the state budget to be announced in June.

I have been the member for Barron River for 188 days and our government has done more to progress this bridge than Labor managed in over a decade. Let me be clear: I will not stop until the election commitment I made takes significant steps and we deliver a new Barron River bridge. To the people of Far North Queensland I say this: I hear you, I represent you and together we will deliver the infrastructure you have been promised for far too long.

Workplace Health and Safety

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohy—ALP) (2.50 pm): Today I rise to speak about an issue that should be above politics: the health, safety and dignity of every worker in Queensland. Workplace health and safety is not just a bureaucratic phrase. It is about ensuring that every worker—whether they are on a construction site or in a hospital, school, cafe or retail store—gets home safely at the end of the day and they also deserve a safe place of work that is free from sexual harassment.

In my address-in-reply speech, I expressed concern that this government was operating not from a position of principled integrity but from one of perceived political expediency. Sadly, those concerns have now been realised. The changes this government has made to the Work Health and Safety Act, along with the decision to halt the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act, are deeply troubling. Let us be clear: the amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act have stripped away essential protections. These changes put lives at risk. They weaken the safeguards that protect workers in dangerous situations. This is not just about unions; it is about our nurses, our teachers, our firefighters, our hospitality workers, our retail staff, our factory workers and every person who relies on the law to ensure they are safe at work. These changes wind back the clock on worker protections by a decade.

The Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act was meant to protect women in the workplace and finally implement the recommendations of the *Respect@Work* report, which was handed down in 2020. It was aimed at prohibiting sexual-based harassment, making it unlawful to create a hostile work environment and imposing a positive duty on employers to eliminate harassment,

discrimination and victimisation. Instead of showing leadership and delivering safety and respect for women, this government has halted progress. Their excuse? That the commencement date does not allow enough time for consultation. Really? The *Respect@Work* report has been in the public domain for four years. How much more time do they need?

Let us be honest: sexual harassment has not gone away. It is still happening and women are still suffering because of it. So I ask: who benefits from this delay? Certainly not the women being harassed in their workplaces. This is not leadership. This is cowardice. This is political calculation at the expense of people's safety.

(Time expired)

Rockhampton Electorate, Volunteers



Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.53 pm): In attending a number of events in the past month in my electorate, I was amazed at the number of volunteers I encountered. I was also amazed at the age of some of those volunteers. Today I rise to highlight volunteerism in our Rockhampton electorate. I smiled as I witnessed the joy with which volunteers conducted their work and as I acknowledged how old they are, which I have already mentioned. It is appropriate to always give honour where honour is due so today I am going to give honour to some behind-the-scenes people.

I honour people such as Marie Sweeney. Marie has been a keen hockey player since 1946, embodying decades of passion and dedication. She volunteered for the Park Avenue Brothers Hockey Club for 45 years where she was the assistant secretary and bingo fundraising convener. I have worked with her a number of times and she is a bit of a hard taskmaster. I attended the celebration for Marie's retirement at 95 years of age. I commend Marie, who exemplifies the power of commitment and community spirit.

I also honour Joy McCartney, who is the longest standing member of the Rockhampton volunteer branch of the Cancer Council. She joined in 1981 and has played a vital role in over 87 campaigns, helping to raise \$1 million for cancer support and research. I ran into Joy when she was handing out how-to-vote cards at a polling booth. She has been handing out how-to-vote cards for 50 years. That is commendable. Joy and her husband hosted afternoon teas and fostered love and generosity. I commend Joy for her unyielding dedication. She is an inspiration to all who strive to make a difference.

Finally, I honour Alex Limkin, who I saw at the Archer Park Railway Museum on the weekend. Alex is still driving the world's only functioning Purrey steam tram, which is quite amazing. For anyone who has not been to Rockhampton's Archer Park Rail Museum—I will give them a plug—it is well worth the journey. Alex has been a part of the railway museum since 2011, but he choofed off to Mackay for training to enhance his skills, which showcases his remarkable commitment and passion. He enthusiastically shares his history and stories, captivating visitors with his deep knowledge of the museum and the trams.

(Time expired)

Northern Iron & Brass Foundry




Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak on a topic I raised during the last parliamentary term but I am forced to do so again as poor government legislation continues to threaten the closure of a 90-year-old business that employs 70 workers in Innisfail. Established in 1934, the Northern Iron & Brass Foundry has been proudly operating in Innisfail, providing essential heavy-duty fittings and product to mining, rail, sugar and other industries that employ thousands of Queenslanders. However, the business is under serious pressure and is fighting to remain open because of changes to state government legislation and increases in state levies.

The first of those came in the waste reduction levy bill, introduced in 2019. Overnight, NIBF faced a 200 per cent increase in waste levy costs. At the time, I held meetings with the minister, the departments and NIBF and they were granted a financial exemption with the assurance that this would be fixed. However, more than five years later the issue has not been resolved. NIBF would be left with no other option but to transport waste nearly 300 kilometres to Townsville as it cannot be dumped locally. That would add hundreds of thousands of dollars of extra cost to their business, but that is not all the foundry has been punished with. The removal of electricity tariff 37 from July 2020 forced the foundry onto higher tariffs, increasing their electricity costs by more than 40 per cent and those costs are constantly increasing. Then the government had their hands out again, increasing the emergency management levy from \$16,000 to \$48,000 in one year. But wait, there is more. The Valuer-General's

recent valuations have increased NIBF's land valuation by up to 70 per cent, which they are fearful will lead to a substantial increase in council rates.

The owners of the business are saying to me, 'Does the state government really want us to operate because all we see is the government doing everything possible to force us out of business?' That is a fair question. The previous government would say that they were supporting manufacturing while every action they took was destroying it. I urge the new government not to do the same. Because this issue crosses various portfolios, I call on the Premier to urgently meet with NIBF and find solutions to keep that valuable manufacturing business open. What better motivation is there than to save a 90-year-old business and 70 manufacturing jobs in regional Queensland?

Hervey Bay Electorate, Small Business Insurance

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of our hardworking and generous small business community, some of whom have been devastated by the recent floods in Hervey Bay. I am calling on insurance companies to do the right thing and not hastily disclaim liability to flood-affected businesses.

On Sunday, 9 March at about 5 am, Hervey Bay experienced the destructive effects of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The Business Recovery Hub has reported that, between 17 and 21 March, 2025, businesses sought support and a further 77 businesses were engaged through direct outreach efforts. The main issues identified were insurance difficulties and mental and emotional anguish. Distraught business owners are being asked to complete hydrology reports, and they are reporting that insurance companies are either rejecting or substantially delaying their claims. Small business owners work incredibly hard. They are the lifeblood and backbone of our Hervey Bay community, and that is no mere cliché. It is not possible to share all of their flood-affected stories in this short time.

During the floods, Pialba Woolworths was extensively damaged and will be closed for 14 weeks, pending major refurbishment. Woolworths is an anchor, or freehold, tenant surrounded by several small businesses reliant on regular foot traffic to and from Woolworths. One such business is Scotty's Mad About Meats. Scotty's butcher shop has been extensively damaged and the estimated replacement fit-out cost is at least \$300,000. Scotty employs 10 staff, including three apprentices, three butchers and a driver. Scotty has had no income since 9 March and he is paying staff from his rapidly diminishing savings. Scotty has paid insurance premiums for nearly 20 years. Scotty gives generously to our community, including to the Dunga Derby Rally for a Cause, the Hervey Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, the AFL Bombers, the Wide Bay soccer club and Men's Walk & Talk Hervey Bay.

In all my engagements with flood-affected small business owners, they have expressed profound concerns about the diminishing prospect of success regarding their insurance claims. Some insurance companies have been great, whilst others appear to be hastily disclaiming any liability for flood damage. I urge locals and visitors to support our small business community. I am advocating for insurance companies to do all they reasonably can to provide a timely resolution to insurance claims without hastily disclaiming liability to flood-affected businesses.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The time for private members' statements has expired.

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee Report No. 5, 58th Parliament, *Queensland Audit Office Annual Report 2023-24*, tabled on 11 April 2025.

In examining the report, the committee held a public oversight hearing with QAO staff on 19 February 2025 at Parliament House in Brisbane. The committee found that the report satisfied the requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019 and the annual report requirement for Queensland government agencies.

The report detailed a positive financial result for the year ended 30 June 2024, returning an operating surplus of \$131,000. The QAO originally budgeted a deficit of \$191,000—a \$322,000 turnaround. That would be of no surprise, I would suggest, given the authority that we are talking about. The report detailed the QAO's key performance results in the 2023-24 financial year. The QAO formed 414 audit opinions, provided 15 reports to parliament and made 70 recommendations. The QAO gave four briefings to parliamentary committees covering the findings. The QAO received 79 requests for

audits and finalised 70 requests, which included completing 14 investigations. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.04 pm): I also rise to speak to the report that we have in front of us. I thank the Auditor-General and her team for their time preparing these reports and assisting the committee. As we know, the QAO is the parliament's independent auditor of all of Queensland's state and local government public sector entities. As we have heard, the QAO formed 414 audit opinions last financial year, tabled those 15 excellent reports and made 70 recommendations.

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: Planning and land acquisitions for the Coomera Connector project', regarding audit requested by the Member for Chatsworth on 10 September 2021 [\[418\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: State Government disaster funding to Bundaberg Regional Council', regarding audit requested by the Member for Burnett on 2 March 2023 [\[419\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: Management of the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program', regarding audit requested by the Member for Gympie on 12 October 2023 [\[420\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, title 'Requests for audits: Administration of the School Transport Infrastructure Program', regarding audit requested by Cr Hermann Vorster on 13 April 2023 [\[421\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: Funding for the expansion of the Queensland State Pathways State College', regarding audit requested by the Member for Moggill on 15 August 2024 [\[422\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: Contribution to Reducing serious youth crime', regarding audit requested by the Member for Coomera on 23 February 2024 [\[423\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office, webpage, titled 'Requests for audits: Government advertising campaigns', regarding audit requested by the Member for Toowoomba South on 30 August 2022 [\[424\]](#).

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee—the GEF committee—has now taken on responsibility for overseeing the proposals for any new expenditure for the Queensland Audit Office. I think that is quite a good move—a great move—because it vests the responsibility for these important integrity institutions in the parliament rather than in the executive they serve. I also note in their annual report that they had 79 requests for audits but they did not take them all up. I looked at the suggestions forwarded to them and I found some very interesting requests for audits from LNP members and what happened to them. I will just list some of these and table them.

The member for Chatsworth asked the QAO to review the Department of Transport and Main Roads Coomera Connector project, including the land acquisition process, and they said they did not find any matters of significance to include in the report to parliament. The member for Burnett asked the Auditor-General to investigate the Bundaberg Regional Council about its spending of government money for the Queensland Natural Disaster Resilience fund, and they found that that funding was spent and acquitted in accordance with the relative funding approvals. There was a request to the QAO from the member for Gympie for a full and further review into the management of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program, and the Auditor-General said—

We advised the member that we had assessed the information and determined that it did not contain any significant new information.


I have a good one here from a Councillor Hermann Vorster from the Gold Coast City Council—

An honourable member: Great guy.

Mr WHITING: He was obsessed with transport. He asked for an independent review of the administration of the School Transport Infrastructure Program. He raised concerns about submissions for funding made by Varsity College families. The QAO found that the department followed the assessment and approval process under the STIP program development guidelines, and they found that the ideas submitted by the college families did not proceed further. I look forward to listening to the member for Burleigh talk about future transport programs in this place. I do not know if he is for them or against them. I do not know if he knows if he is for them or against them either.

There was another interesting one from the member for Moggill, who wrote to the QAO and asked for an investigation of the Queensland Pathways State College, including allegations of nepotism, political interference, conflicts of interest and maladministration. That would have been interesting too. The QAO assessed that information and sent that elsewhere. The member for Coomera had another go. He wanted an audit of a youth program in his area, and that did not get up either. Finally, the member for Toowoomba South wrote to the QAO regarding three recent advertising campaigns conducted by the Queensland government. Based on all the facts, the QAO said they are not planning to conduct an audit of these three recent advertising campaigns. The report by the Queensland Audit Office is very interesting reading.

It is clear from my experience that the Auditor-General has a very important role in holding the government to account. The then opposition and now government certainly thought that, and I look forward to seeing the Auditor-General help hold this government to account as well. I want to commend the QAO on the work it has done. When I was chair of the committee, we always put in recommendations about audit and risk committees. It is really important that councils, water bodies and electricity bodies have those risk and audit committees to deal with significant risk issues. They need to better manage their risk, including things like cybersecurity, which is an area that they can really improve in. I commend this report to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.09 pm): As a member of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, I rise today to discuss the *Queensland Audit Office annual report 2023-24*. This report provides critical insights into the financial and operational integrity of our state's public sector. Thanks to the Auditor-General, Rachel Vagg, and her team for their work and their time in assisting the committee. Accountability and transparency are not just buzzwords; they are the cornerstones of good governance and our democracy. Queenslanders expect and deserve to know how their tax dollars are spent, whether public services are being delivered effectively and if government entities are operating with integrity and transparency.


The Queensland Audit Office plays a pivotal role in our system of government, acting as parliament's independent auditor of all of Queensland's state and local government public sector entities. Might I say that the need for such an auditor has never been more important. The Labor opposition fully supports the independence of the Queensland Audit Office. It is successive Labor governments that have worked to strengthen Queensland's integrity landscape. We, on this side, believe in and value integrity. Queenslanders deserve and expect nothing less.

I note the recent legislative amendments to the Queensland Auditor-General Act 2009 that came into effect under the former Labor government. These changes strengthen the independence of the Auditor-General. These changes formally recognise the Auditor-General as an officer of the parliament and enable the QAO to conduct performance audits of government owned corporations. These reforms significantly improve the ability of the Queensland Audit Office to provide robust and independent assurances to parliament.

In the 2023-24 financial year, the Queensland Audit Office issued 414 audit opinions and tabled 15 reports containing 70 recommendations for performance improvements. This vital work helps ensure the proper management of public resources and supports better service delivery for Queenslanders.

Members may also be interested to learn that the committee has taken on new responsibilities of overseeing proposals for new expenditure for the Queensland Audit Office—an important change bringing more transparency for new proposals. Our integrity institutions are vital. Ensuring they have the appropriate level of funding is a job our committee takes seriously.

While the Queensland Audit Office's report demonstrates a commitment to transparency and audit quality, it also underlines the need for ongoing vigilance to ensure public funds are managed responsibly. I commend the Queensland Audit Office for its work and urge all members to consider the findings of this report seriously.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.12 pm): I am very pleased to be able to contribute to the debate in this House in relation to the Queensland Audit Office annual report. I would like to start my contribution by thanking all staff at the Queensland Audit Office for the work that they do. We have heard from previous speakers about the important role that the Queensland Audit Office undertakes in Queensland as the independent auditor of decisions by government on taxpayers' money. It is an incredibly important role. I would also like to thank the Queensland Auditor-General and the staff who took the time to come and brief our committee. It was a fulsome and very comprehensive briefing where we traversed some quite interesting topics and some very important issues. Some of those I will talk about during this contribution.

One of the things that we discussed at the public hearing was the potential for an overlap of role or scope between the work of the Queensland Audit Office and the newly established—it has not been established but when it is—Queensland Productivity Commission. I think that that is an incredibly important and salient point. We have a longstanding independent Queensland Audit Office. The Queensland Auditor-General is an officer of this parliament. We are now going to see the LNP government establish their Queensland Productivity Commission. There has been a lot of commentary about that in this place particularly from the Treasurer.

I put it to the Queensland Auditor-General whether or not there was any concern from her perspective around a potential overlap or conflict in the work of the Audit Office and the potential work

of the Queensland Productivity Commission. I was heartened initially to hear that from the Auditor-General's point of view she believes that there should not be—should not be—any conflict or crossover between the roles of the Audit Office and the Productivity Commission. She then did raise a concern where she said—

It would absolutely be of concern if our work is directed by government. It is very important to have an independent office here providing oversight of the public sector and assurance back to parliament on the efficient and effective performance of the public sector. The independence of the Auditor-General and the office is critically important for trust of government. In terms of the government's own Productivity Commission, they can set that up how they please. Within which mechanism it sits, either within a government department or as a separate body, it has taken that form in various ways over the years and that would be up to the discretion of government.

Let's be really clear: it is on the government—it is on the Treasurer—to make sure that there is no undermining of the independence of the Queensland Auditor-General when it comes to how the Queensland Productivity Commission operates. That is extremely important for Queensland.

I must say I was a little bit disappointed at the hearing with a line of questioning from the member for Caloundra, who asked a question that inferred some negative things about the work of the Queensland Audit Office. I think it reflects very poorly. The member for Caloundra effectively attacked the work of the QAO saying, and I quote from *Hansard*—

It is, yes, except the language that you use is 'it should help'. The bit I am trying to figure out is you do all this great work, you make these recommendations, but are there outcomes from your recommendations at the other end that are being achieved and how do we ensure that you are not spending all of this time and resources making these recommendations and yet it is not having an overall impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service?

That is a very poor comment on the work of the QAO.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—*Consideration of Auditor-General reports to parliament*—tabled on 11 April 2025.

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of three Auditor-General reports: *Report 1: 2024-25—2024 status of Auditor-General's recommendations*; *Report 3: 2024-25—Central agencies' coordination of the state budget*; and *Report 4: 2024-25—Energy 2024*. On behalf of the committee, I thank the Auditor-General, the Deputy Auditor-General and the Assistant Auditor-General for assisting the committee in fulfilling our oversight. Of course, as always—I neglected to do this in my last contribution—I thank the Parliamentary Service staff for their hard work in putting these reports together for us and assisting members in their consideration.

For report No. 1, the QAO asked 84 entities to self-assess their progress in implementing 603 performance audits and recommendations from 40 QAO reports tabled in parliament between 2015-16 and 2022-23. Entities reported that just over half, 52 per cent, of the QAO recommendations were fully implemented, whilst 41 per cent had been partly implemented, four per cent had not been implemented and three per cent were considered no longer applicable. The most common type of outstanding recommendation related to workforce capability, planning and governance, followed by risk management. As stated in the committee report—

Report 3 examined how Queensland Treasury (Treasury) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) design and manage the state budget process to support the government's fiscal principles and objectives.

...

The QAO found that the current budget process guides new submissions towards the government's priorities and supports the government's objectives and fiscal principles.

However, while the process Treasury is using for preparing the state budget was found to be generally effective, the QAO also found there are opportunities for improvement in terms of improving the quality of submissions, evaluating costings and enhancing their capabilities to monitor the outcome of approved funding.


Report No. 4 summarises the audit results of the Queensland state owned energy entities and states—

The QAO issued unmodified audit opinions on all state-owned energy entities, indicating that their financial statements are accurate and comply with relevant reporting standards.

As you would expect. It continues—

All entities met their legislative deadlines for financial reporting.


The committee encourages the energy entities to continue addressing control weaknesses that require further action regarding the security of information systems and to strengthen their process safety controls and the safe operation of their critical and aging infrastructure assets, which have been the subject of much comment in this House as we learned from the Callide Power Station. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.21 pm): I am very happy to contribute to the debate in relation to this committee report, which covers three Queensland Audit Office reports. My contribution will focus on the QAO report *Central agencies' coordination of the budget* and the *Energy 2024* report.

When it comes to the state budget and the coordination of the state budget, the QAO findings did reveal some issues with the state budget process. The security of revenue models could be improved with better integrity controls around data and Treasury could further assist CBRC by clearly indicating whether it has reviewed, and agrees with, agency costings. It is very important that, when it comes to the budget, process costings are accurate and based on evidence and actual figures. Unfortunately, we did not see that from the Treasurer in the midyear budget update when it was delivered at the beginning of this year. That is where this government juiced up the midyear budget update with over \$20 billion debt, so is it any wonder that the QAO report is drawing out concerns with budget costings. I will get to more creative accounting when it comes to blowouts and fudging figures when we get to the second report around state energy entities.

Just to finish off in relation to the state budget, it was under this government that Standard & Poor's, an independent credit rating agency, downgraded its forecast for Queensland from stable to negative. As we head into the budget cycle this year—and do not forget that Queensland taxpayers fund the budget—the Queensland community needs to have confidence that the Treasurer and this government is up to the job. There has been an absolute paucity of any evidence to demonstrate that that is in fact the case.

Turning to report No. 4, it is interesting to note that at 4.1.5, 'Progress in renewable energy transition', the report found that Labor's Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act, which was introduced on 18 April 2024, was 'pivotal in steering Queensland towards its renewable energy targets'. These are the same targets this government is going to repeal. We have an independent finding from the Queensland Audit Office that Queensland was on a great path with the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, and the legislation that underpinned it is being torn up by the Crisafulli LNP government. We have seen CopperString basically cut and the Treasurer again inflating figures based on untruths, with \$4.7 billion of costings added for spur lines, to the point where Powerlink had to then—the very next day after he got up and made his speech at the Queensland Energy Club—send out a clarifying email. Can you imagine the potential customers for CopperString in the resources industry who would have been panicked by the Treasurer's statement? He was too busy trying to score political points and playing party politics than getting on with the job of being Treasurer and energy minister.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.26 pm): I rise today in consideration of the committee's report *Consideration of Auditor-General reports to parliament*, which examined *Report 1: 2024-25—2024 status of Auditor-General's recommendations*; *Report 3: 2024-25—Central agencies' coordination of the state budget*, and *Report 4: 2024-25—Energy 2024*. I would like to thank the Auditor-General Rachel Vagg and her team for the comprehensive and independent assessments they provide of Queensland's public sector performance.

Report 3: 2024-25—Central agencies' coordination of the state budget provides a comprehensive examination of how Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet design and manage the state budget process to support the government's fiscal principles and objectives. It highlights the significant roles played by Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in providing economic and financial advice to the government in managing the state budget. The report also identifies areas where improvements can be made—for example, the variability in agencies' budget submissions. The report makes constructive recommendations for

Queensland Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which I hope the Treasurer will take note of.

I acknowledge the importance of these recommendations and the need for ongoing enhancements to our budgetary processes. It is crucial that we ensure the efficient and effective allocation of resources to deliver the best outcomes for all Queenslanders. I am concerned with this LNP government's recent budgetary decisions and their potential to undermine these assessments. The Treasurer has already inflated Queensland's debt figures in the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review. Let's be real: their plan was to make the budget update look as bad as possible so they can use it as an excuse to make cuts in the upcoming June budget. We have seen—

Mr Crandon: The truth is the truth.

Ms ASIF: I take that interjection. Did you say 'true'?

Mr Crandon: The truth is the truth.

Ms ASIF: Yes, that is the truth; there will be cuts in the next budget. There you go—you have heard it here.

In review after review we have seen a lack of details that cast doubt on whether projects will be delivered. It is crucial that any cost-saving measures do not compromise the integrity and efficiency of our budgetary processes and, more importantly, cut the vital services and infrastructure Queenslanders need.

The *Energy 2024* report summarises the audit results of Queensland's state owned energy entities as well as insights into the state's progress towards its renewable energy targets up to October 2024. The Auditor-General's report noted that the former government's Energy and Jobs Plan was pivotal and that Queensland was on track to meet its renewable energy targets. However, this new LNP government came into government in October and things have changed.


The new government's decision to scrap the North Queensland pumped hydro project—a critical component of achieving net zero emissions by 2050—will significantly alter this trajectory. All of this is now at risk—not just renewable energy developments but also the jobs that were promised to Queenslanders. I urge this government to reconsider these changes and to reaffirm its commitment to renewable energy development. It is imperative that we build on the progress made under the previous government to ensure a reliable, affordable—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): The member is not taking the interjections.

Ms ASIF: I urge the government to reconsider these changes and to reaffirm its commitment to renewable energy development. It is imperative that we build on the progress made under the previous Labor government to ensure a reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supply for all Queenslanders. I commend the Auditor-General for these insightful reports and urge the government to consider the potential implications of its recent budgetary decisions.

With the time I have left and in order to be absolutely transparent: this government will hand down its first budget in June, so in order to make sure my community's voices are heard I am accepting submissions from my community about anything they would like in the budget that they feel our local community needs. The new state government's budget is in June and I want the voices of my community heard. My office is accepting community submissions to highlight local needs. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.31 pm): It is always a pleasure to talk about energy in this House. I thank the chair of the committee for his earlier contribution and the committee for their consideration of this audit report. The report looked at a period when there were many energy failures in the state. The audit report spoke about profits from government owned corporations and coal-fired power stations coming to the state. Let us paint a picture of the previous government's motives and what they forced those government owned corporations to do and what the result has been for the state. We have a government that took hundreds of millions of dollars of returns to shareholders—in fact, \$986 million—across CleanCo, CS Energy and Stanwell. I do not have the exact figures for the dividends that CS Energy had to pay from the Callide power station, but many reports have—

Mr Crandon: In the order of \$500 million.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Coomera and the chair of the committee: \$500 million in dividends taken out of CS Energy. In that same period, we had a Brady report that has painted a damning picture of a lack of maintenance and a lack of investment in a coal-fired power

station in the electorate of Callide that resulted in several incidents over the last few years. We know from the Brady report—and the former minister who is in the chamber would be well aware of this—about the blowouts, the failures and the cover-up that led to that being before the courts. I understand the minister said yesterday in the order of \$34 million—I think that is what he said—was spent in legal fees to try to hide that report which painted this picture of failures of investment into that asset.

As a result of that asset being down for extended periods of time in Queensland, power prices were jacked up, and that has been referred to many times. The former Labor government try to pat themselves on the back for handing out energy rebates. They have taken dividends from a coal-fired generator that has been struggling to stay operational because of a lack of maintenance, and they have forced that upon that power plant. They have given Queenslanders some money and said, 'Here you go, everyone. We're being really nice,' but in doing that the power plant has failed and the power prices for people in Queensland have been jacked up. That is another failure of the former Labor government. Those opposite have their heads down now because they know their record on energy in Queensland is appalling.

The Deputy Premier spoke about workplace incidents that have happened there. Many of the employees at Callide power station talk to me regularly and they have said that they very much appreciate the new direction of this LNP government in delivering a fresh start for Queensland because we are going to invest the money that they have been asking for for many years. The former Labor government say they are a party for the workers but since I have been here I have not seen the evidence of that.


Mr Stevens: Not the blue-collar workers.

Mr HEAD: Certainly not the blue-collar ones; I take that injection. We had the opposition leader in here yesterday trying to say we were putting the blame of a recent incident on low-level workers. It is clear through the Treasurer and Minister for Energy that we are holding the senior management of Callide to account over their failures that are well known in this place.

The Auditor's report also speaks about renewable energy targets, pumped hydro and CleanCo. Another thing the former Labor government did not want to tell us ahead of the election was the cost of Pioneer-Burdekin. It was about \$12 billion or \$14 billion, then it was \$24 billion and then it was \$28 billion. We were trying to get an honest answer before the election, but those opposite would not tell us what it was going to cost Queensland taxpayers.

Mr Crandon: \$37 billion.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Coomera; that pumped hydro system was meant to cost Queenslanders \$37 billion. If you think that would not jack up electricity prices in Queensland, you would be dreaming, or paying higher taxes, which is another thing a Labor government loves forcing upon Queenslanders.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.36 pm) I have never had the pleasure of speaking after the member for Callide, and today I now have that pleasure. I have to say that he has given me great things to ponder and think about. One of the things he talked about was the profits made by the state owned power corporations. Can I say that the LNP are going to need all of those profits if Peter Dutton gets in and makes us have nuclear energy. How is he going to pay for it? How is he going to find that \$600 billion, or whatever it is, to create his nuclear fantasy? Maybe he has got his eyes on the profits of the LNP's power corporations that are owned by the people of Queensland. He has to pay for his nuclear reactor somehow.

The member for Callide talked about jacked up power prices. All I can say is, if Peter Dutton gets in, wait until he gives us all nukes and makes us pay for building all of these nuclear power stations. Let us look at jacked up power prices then. I notice the member for Callide has never said whether he wants one of Peter Dutton's nuclear power plants in his own area. I am sure his constituents would have a lot to say about that, especially the farmers and miners who would find all of their water resources drunk up by a nuclear power plant in their area.

Mr HEAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to relevance under the standing orders and whether the member's contribution is relevant to this debate and the report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): There is no point of order.

Mr WHITING: Thank you, but I had exhausted that thought. It was good to hear the member for Callide speak, but I was looking forward to the contributions from the other members of our committee. I always appreciate listening to the members for Caloundra and Maryborough and it is a great shame they have not spoken on this. I was thinking about why the LNP were limiting the number of speakers

they have on this. Could it be that they are struggling with how they will meet the guillotine they have put in for later in the day? They cannot have too many speakers because it might cut down their time on the Trusts Bill. I am looking forward to hearing some of our contributions in the trusts debate. I will stop digressing and go back to what we were talking about.

The Auditor-General has delivered a report that looks at improving Treasury and budgetary processes. As we have heard here, they found that they are generally effective—no doom and gloom there from the Auditor-General. The report sends a great message to the Treasurer, and I believe the Treasurer would improve those Treasury and budgetary processes in Queensland if he did not juice up those figures. We heard the member for Bundamba talking about this before. Costings in budgetary processes need to be accurate. We know that. If you are juicing up your midyear review by \$20 billion worth of debt, that is not going to improve the processes. We heard recently of how ministers on the other side were juicing up the figures on Cross River Rail: ‘Let’s throw in a bit of additional operational expenditure to juice up those figures as well.’

What about CopperString? ‘Let’s juice up those figures as well.’ In fact, they were juiced up so much that Powerlink had to come out and clean up the mess afterwards to help satisfy the market and to calm the market down. We have talked about the health expansion plan recently as well. I think that certainly the Treasurer, in improving those budgetary processes, needs to make sure those figures are not juiced up as well.

We have talked about the renewable energy plan. I want to once again support what the member for Bundamba has said that it would be a shame to see the end of that renewable energy plan. In regards to that, the report states—

...that enactment of the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act ... was pivotal in steering Queensland towards its renewable energy targets ... the state is on track to meet these targets.

...

The QAO encouraged all energy entities to apply the lessons learned to enhance process safety controls and ensure the safe operation of critical and aging infrastructure.


It would have been great if they would have all said, ‘Do not cover it up. Tell the boss what is happening, and if there is a problem, do not cover it up.’ Thank you for the opportunity and allowing me to speak on this particular report.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.41 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Education, Arts and Communities Committee report on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 20 June 2025.

The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General’s *Report 11: 2024-25—State entities 2024* and Auditor-General’s *Report 12: 2024-25—Managing Queensland’s debt and investments 2024* be referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, and that Auditor-General’s *Report 13: 2024-25—Local government 2024* be referred to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.42 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 20 May 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.42 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Economic Development Act 2012, the Local Government Act 2009, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purpose. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [\[425\]](#).

Tabled paper: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[426\]](#).

Tabled paper: Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[427\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As I have tabled the explanatory notes, the bill outlines a range of important steps being taken to generate lasting economic, social and environmental benefits across the state through building legacy infrastructure.

At the state election, we made a clear commitment to Queenslanders: renewable energy projects would be subject to the same rigorous approval process as other major resource developments, and Queenslanders, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, would finally be able to have a say on renewable energy projects happening in their backyard. During that same election, the coalition of chaos that is Labor and the Greens paid lip service to regional communities, using them as the dumping ground for their farcical and undeliverable Energy and Jobs Plan. From their concrete jungle offices here in Brisbane, they dictated to regional Queenslanders about how their communities would be shaped. Without listening to regional Queensland and understanding the concern that wind and solar farms were causing regional communities, they doubled down and the results of the election show you how wrong the Labor Party were.

We have already taken the first step, implementing our election commitment. Wind farm proposals are now impact assessable. This means mandatory public consultation and third-party appeal rights, ensuring that every community, council and stakeholder has a voice. Something that Labor did not do for 10 years, we did within 100 days, and it gives proponents and investors certainty. Labor was aware of these communities' concerns, but they did not act. They ignored them. It took a change of government for regional communities to have their voices heard on the issues that mattered to them.

But it was not just impact assessment. We updated the wind farm code—one of the weakest planning policies which allowed for wind farm proponents to ride roughshod over regional communities. We now make sure that: any application will not result in any loss of prime agricultural land and put the people and the environment first; that workers' accommodation does not impact on the communities' housing market where rental vacancies are extremely low; that construction impacts on local infrastructure are mitigated or, if unable to be mitigated, remediated; and the decommissioning of wind farms becomes the sole responsibility of the wind farm operator and guaranteed through bonds or financial guarantees, no longer leaving private landowners at risk.

Those stage 1 changes are about fairness. Regional communities hosting large-scale renewable projects deserve the same awareness and engagement that suburban communities receive under planning laws for standard urban development in their communities.

This bill is the next step. It is stage 2 in the implementation of our election commitment. It introduces a new framework to ensure renewable energy projects, both wind and solar, are assessed for their social impacts and, by signed, binding agreements, deliver real, lasting benefits to the communities in which they are built. Our new changes take into account the cumulative impacts of a project, including those impacts that are not specific to a certain person, place or thing, but rather how the project as a whole from construction to decades of operation is mitigated.

Unlike resource projects like mining and gas, renewable projects have not been subject to consistent, robust consideration of the complex impacts they will have on local and regional

communities. There has been no clear mechanism to ensure communities benefit from hosting large-scale infrastructure, like a wind farm or solar farm. Some proponents engage well with local communities, but others do not. That is about to change.

This bill ensures renewable energy projects go through the same rigorous assessment processes as mining and other large-scale land uses. The bill will embed clear, enforceable requirements to assess social impacts and negotiate community benefits before a development application is even lodged with the state for assessment. Proponents will be required to undertake a comprehensive assessment of a project's social impact and enter into an agreement with the local council or councils about the benefits they will deliver for the host communities. This means communities will have their say early, and their needs must be factored into the project from the outset. This is the exact opposite of how the Labor government approached things in regional communities.

The new requirements for social impact assessment will identify and quantify the social impacts of a project, both positive and negative, and ensure plans are in place to manage them. The social impact assessment will inform the negotiation of a legally binding community benefit agreement. Having a binding agreement between a developer and the local council ensures host communities are empowered and can have certainty and trust that they will receive real legacy benefits from renewable energy projects if they want them in their communities. These agreements might include contributions such as support for community programs and activities, charity groups, local infrastructure, roads, rail, energy cost reductions or payments to landowners in close proximity to wind or solar farms. What is important is that the benefits are real, relevant, transparent and are targeted at those affected by renewable energy projects—locally led and tailored to the needs of that community or the region. This will bring greater accountability to the sector and greater confidence for communities.

The bill also provides a pathway to extend community benefit provisions to other land uses in the future, if they are identified as potential social impacts on communities. Initially the requirement to undertake social impact assessments and enter into community benefit agreements will apply to windfarms and large-scale solar farms, with the threshold for what constitutes a large-scale solar farm consulted on during the public consultation process. Importantly, with social impacts considered prior to any planning application, local governments will be empowered to negotiate the community benefit agreements without affecting their role in decision-making where they are not the assessment manager. The bill allows councils to recover costs associated with social impact and community benefit processes ensuring they are resourced to engage meaningfully and represent their local constituencies. Let me be clear: This does not change existing development assessment or appeal rights. Transitional arrangements will be established for existing applications to ensure clear and fair implementation.

The bill contains amendments to the Planning Act that will also necessitate further changes to the planning regulation and related legislation. These include: providing a clear definition on what social impact assessments and community benefit agreements are and how they will be implemented; requiring a proponent to perform a social impact assessment and have community benefit agreements in place before lodging a development application; to allow the planning regulation scope to include emerging future land uses to be subject to social impact assessments and community benefit agreements if the land use has the potential to have significant social impacts on communities; to establish a standard process for social impact assessments and community benefit agreements under the planning system, including the ability of the director-general of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning discretionary powers to exempt a development application from social impact assessment and/or community benefit agreement where there is reasonable grounds to do so, as well as the authority to impose conditions of social impacts; and provide transitional provisions to clarify how the Planning Act and planning amendment regulations will apply to current live development applications for wind or solar farms that have not yet been decided.

Amendments related to the legislation will also cover the application of local government fees and reporting, the relationship with alternative planning processes and declaratory jurisdiction. We have carefully considered key stakeholders in developing this bill and close engagement with stakeholders and formal public consultation on the regulation and instruments will occur during the committee process.

Right now in Queensland, the state government, through SARA, assess windfarm applications and local councils assess solar farms. With 77 local governments across Queensland, the rules for solar farms are not consistent, with some applications being impact assessable and some being code assessable. It is a lucky dip of planning laws, and it gives rise to confusion with industry with uncertainty for communities. As part of these changes it is now proposed that the state government assess solar farm applications, with the threshold being a project size of one megawatt or two hectares in size. With

the state government overseeing the assessment of solar farms, it will provide a one-stop shop with one set of clear rules for proponents looking to do business in Queensland—a much more consistent, assessable pathway than multiple rules for multiple councils. Under these changes, regional communities will finally be in the driver's seat when it comes to renewable energy projects in their backyard. Decisions will not be driven out of Brisbane, they will be driven locally, as it should always have been. As part of these changes, I also table the draft regulation also open for consultation.

Tabled paper: Document, dated May 2025, titles 'Consultation Version—Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025' [\[428\]](#).

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the multiple interjections. How novel that a state government has put on the table the draft regulations for community consultation during the parliamentary committee process. Labor rejected communities by never doing this. In fact, they would draft the regulation, hide it and then formalise it and notify communities. The regulation, alongside several other planning documents, are available for consultation now as the bill makes its way through the committee process. It gives me great pleasure to introduce those aspects of the bill to parliament that unashamedly back the interest of regional and rural communities over major renewable energy company interests.

The bill also proposes amendments to the Economic Development Act 2012, the ED Act. The ED Act includes provisions for the appointment and cessation of the chief executive and board members, as well as operations and attendance at economic development board meetings. The bill will amend relevant sections of the ED Act to clarify procedural requirements for the appointment and cessation of the chief executive and board members and to introduce the capacity to delegate attendance at ED board meetings for government board members. The amendments will promote increased administrative efficiency, flexibility and allow Economic Development Queensland to work effectively towards the government objective of releasing land across Queensland to deal with the housing crisis. We promised at the election to refocus Economic Development Queensland and to start turning the tide on Labor's housing crisis. With a sharp focus on making land attractive for development and bringing EDQ back to its core business of residential, industrial and commercial development, we can deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders and a place to do business.

The bill also details updates to the way in which we work together to deliver legacy infrastructure through our once-in-a-generation opportunity to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This government will deliver a world-lasting legacy from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, with a gold medal-winning plan for new and upgraded venues, villages and transport infrastructure right across the state. The former Labor government failed to initiate any significant preparations for the games, leaving Queenslanders concerned and major projects without a clear plan of delivery and no funding. After more than 1,200 days of wasted of Labor chaos, I can declare the games are back on track. Amending the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 ensures we make this historic opportunity count for Queensland.

Under the Olympic Host Contract, the IOC entrusts the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games corporation, the state of Queensland, the Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging for the games in accordance with the terms of the host contract and the IOC's Olympic charter.

In November 2024, amendments to the act were passed which established the role of the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority, GIICA, to undertake a comprehensive review and map out infrastructure and transport needs for the games within 100 days. The review was informed by more than 5,800 public submissions received from residents, infrastructure and planning experts and sporting and community organisations. The 100 day review was provided to the government on 8 March 2025. On 25 March 2025, the Queensland government released the games 2032 Delivery Plan—a plan which delivers legacy beyond the games as part of the largest infrastructure investment in Queensland's history.

I want to thank the honourable Premier and the honourable Sports Minister for their assistance in delivering the 2032 Delivery Plan. The plan puts Queensland back on track to deliver a successful 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games with communities right across the state reaping the benefits of games investment, long-term legacy and generational infrastructure. Regional Queensland will be ready to open their doors not only to games but to more tourists, more employment and more investment. The delivery plan secures a winning legacy of infrastructure, transport connectivity and tourism we can all be proud of through to 2032 and beyond. It will showcase all of Queensland on the global stage, maximising the benefits of the games across the whole state.

An important consideration as we move into the delivery phase, is governance, oversight and decision-making. Moving into the delivery phase warrants an improved coordination function of the Queensland government given its responsibilities under the Olympic Host Contract. Various departments of government will have central roles in supporting the Queensland government including the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning; the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games; the Queensland Police Service; and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, to name a few. So it makes sense that responsibility for key aspects of the games preparation, including the games coordination plan and the transport and mobility strategy, are made the responsibility of government.

The purpose of the games coordination plan is to provide assurance for games delivery partners in relation to the coordination and integration of the planning and delivery of state, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the host contract. The transport and mobility strategy will ensure transport infrastructure projects in the games delivery plan puts transport connectivity front and centre to get people moving to where they need to be, safer and sooner, before, during and after the games. Games governance arrangements need to be reflective of who bears the most risk in the delivery of the games. The Queensland government has significant responsibilities under the Olympic host contract, including underwriting the cost of the games delivery, and therefore requires appropriate involvement in, and visibility of, how the games are being planned and delivered.

Another key governance change in the bill is to reflect the important, overarching role of the new games leadership group as recommended by the 100-day review. This group will comprise the three levels of government, GIICA and the organising committee and provides the overall strategic direction for the delivery of the games. It will be the most senior decision-making group that can resolve important, cross-partner issues and provide direction and advice to GIICA and the organising committee.

Amendments to the act to establish the Games Leadership Group as the highest decision-making group mean that the organising committee board can be reduced from 24 to 15 in line with recommendations from the independent 100-day review report. This reduction will allow for more efficient decision-making and will result in a cost reduction of at least \$2.4 million in board fees in the lead-up to the games.

The bill also provides for streamlining the appointment process for independent directors on the organising committee board. I want to thank the honourable Minister for Sport and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and his department for the work they have done in committing to and drafting those amendments with respect to the 100-day review and the governance structure of the board.

The bill ensures GIICA's core focus is on the oversight and delivery of venues in accordance with the games delivery plan. GIICA will be responsible for the delivery of authority venues and the bill will ensure that GIICA must lead the design and construction of the authority venues, including funding and delivery. With the size of this infrastructure investment, it is important to ensure a clear pathway for delivery, with the appropriate oversight and clear accountability as outlined in the legislation. We have the time to deliver this plan as long as we get started now.

GIICA will monitor the delivery of the other venues on the Gold Coast, including the Gold Coast Arena and the hockey venue, by the City of Gold Coast, that were approved in the games delivery plan following GIICA's recommendations. GIICA will be responsible for ensuring it complies with relevant games agreements as they relate to authority venues. In performing its functions, GIICA will be required to have regard to the financial resources and identified parties, including the state and the local governments involved in the delivery of the games and the legacy outcomes for authority venues. The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 is amended to reflect this change in focus in the role of GIICA and the delivery of games infrastructure in time for the games.

The bill introduces a mechanism for greater collaboration and information sharing between GIICA and the government. This will be important as delivery progresses to ensure that we can deliver the essential games venues infrastructure on time. This includes the requirement that GIICA cooperate with nominated state representatives, including provision of information, reports and records on an ongoing basis and to have regard for venues as legacy assets that will be in state and local government control long after the games are over. It is important that the state has oversight of assets it will operate long after the games, and this role will also ensure the government can provide assistance to GIICA during venue delivery if required.

The bill makes amendments to the GIICA board composition to remove the limitations on who may be nominated. This will ensure that there is flexibility as to who can be on the GIICA board and ensure we have the right skills, knowledge and experience represented until the games are successfully delivered. The bill also provides that appointment of the chief executive officer of GIICA will be the responsibility of the minister, following consultation with the GIICA board and a recruitment process led by the GIICA board. GIICA's status will be changed to represent the state, and powers that already exist for the state, including the powers in the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 for land acquisitions, should they be required by GIICA, will be available.

In relation to venues being delivered by GIICA, it will be required to develop funding proposals and designs for these venues for consideration by cabinet or the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. To ensure that the venues, villages and games related transport infrastructure identified by the 2032 Delivery Plan can be delivered on time, the bill provides that:

- Any development for authority venues, other venues, games related transport infrastructure or villages listed in the bill are lawful and not subject to approval under the Planning Act 2016 or other relevant acts listed.
- All venues and villages will be required to comply with necessary building and safety requirements.
- The bill provides authorisation to access, connect to or use necessary games infrastructure.
- The bill also establishes a framework to enable the collection of contributions towards infrastructure costs in relation to development for the villages.
- The bill includes an alternative process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage matters. It sets out processes that incorporate engagement and consultation with relevant parties and preparation of a cultural heritage management plan.
- Commonwealth legislation such as the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 still applies, where relevant.

Villages will need to comply with the requirement to obtain necessary building works approvals under schedule 9 of the Planning Regulation 2017. The bill will list the authority venues and other venues. In doing so, the current list of the venues and villages contained in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Regulation 2024 is superseded. The bill repeals the regulation as it is no longer required.

It is intended that the act will continue to be amended in the future as transactions and design progress for the villages and games related transport infrastructure projects are progressed and listed. I will repeat that because when we add authority venues and other village venues to this legislation no doubt the opposition will say, 'Why are you amending the legislation all the time?' It is intended that this act will continue to be amended in the future as transactions and design progress for the villages and games related transport infrastructure projects are progressed and listed in this act.

The bill also removes references to the 100-day review, which is now complete and as we move forward into this important delivery phase. I want to make it clear to Queenslanders that the Crisafulli government does not take the introduction of these laws lightly, but they are necessary to ensure the legislation is fit for purpose and we reach our 2032 deadline. These amendments align with our election commitment to respect taxpayers' money, ensuring the delivery of these projects on time with a clear line of sight for accountability.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are the world's biggest event, which will bring a world of opportunity through large investment in infrastructure and public transport, tourism opportunities, business stimulus, as well as a significant workforce uplift. Queenslanders have trusted the Crisafulli government to get on with the job. In contrast to Labor's games, chaos and crisis, the Crisafulli government's delivery plan, guided by the experts, will deliver the best outcome for all Queenslanders. As I have already thanked the Minister for Sport and his department, I want to thank particularly my department. This has been a long, complex legislative amendment in order to make sure we can deliver the authority venues, villages and other venues and transport infrastructure before 2032. I look forward over the next seven years, with the mammoth investment in infrastructure in Queensland. We look forward to the workforce growing in Queensland and, as I say—we always commend the bill to the House—let the games begin.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.08 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report to the House on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment by Friday, 20 June 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER STATEMENT

Errors in Divisions

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been advised that there was an error in calculating the votes in division No. 1 earlier today. The division was on a motion moved by the Manager of Opposition Business to amend a motion moved by the Leader of the House seeking to establish an inquiry into personal mobility devices by the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote. However, the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was, in fact: ayes, 33 and noes, 52. In accordance with standing order 106(11) I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.


While I am in the chair sometimes I have to talk about disciplinary matters with other members. I am going to own up to one myself. I inform that House that last night I called for a one-minute division on a question. As there had been debate between questions, I should have called for a four-minute division. I apologise to any member who was affected by this decision.

TRUSTS BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1106, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (4.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Trusts Bill 2025. At the outset I note that I have an interest in a trust as a trustee which is declared on my register of interests. Nonetheless, to ensure compliance with standing order 260, I note that I am again declaring my interest as a trustee.

Trusts play an essential role in the lives of many Queenslanders as a way to protect and preserve assets, give to charitable causes, manage tax obligations or to provide for children or people with impaired decision-making capability. The Trusts Bill 2025 will repeal and replace the current Trusts Act with updated legislation suitable for the modern 21st century. I note that the Trusts Act was originally introduced in 1973—more than 50 years ago—and, as other members have said, it has not been significantly modified in that time. Just to put into context the amount of time that has transpired since 1973, back in 1973 the Opera House was opened, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18, the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam was underway and, as an old DJ having an interest in all things

musical, the No. 1 song in 1973 in Australia was *Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree* by Tony Orlando and Dawn. What a banger! What a classic!

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: And I had hair obviously; well, I was only eight! Back in 2012 and 2013 under the former LNP government the Queensland Law Reform Commission, the QLRC, conducted a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act with a view to reforming many outdated provisions. The QLRC, after extensive consultation with stakeholders, recommended replacing the Trusts Act 1973 with new modernised legislation to clarify and update trusts laws in this state. Since that time nearly a decade passed before the former Labor government belatedly introduced the Trusts Bill 2024, which lapsed when the 57th Parliament was dissolved. The Crisafulli government is finally beginning to deliver a modern and updated Trusts Act more than 10 years after the process began.


Similar to the current act, the bill does not codify all aspects of trusts law but rather supplements the common law. As is appropriate, where there has been this extensive consultation and broad support by key legal, charity and trust stakeholders, the bill is drafted to align with the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024 but does, I note, address several issues that were raised by stakeholders in submissions to the former committee's inquiry into the lapsed bill. Similar to the lapsed bill, this bill—the Trusts Bill 2025—grants broad powers to trustees to deal with trust property and imposes a new minimum statutory duty on trustees to exercise care, diligence and skill that a prudent person of business would exercise in managing the affairs of other persons. It also deals with a range of important matters under trusts law, including restrictions on the appointment of trustees; the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees; the devolution of trusts; trustees' duties; and the general powers of trustees. It provides guidance concerning the maintenance of trust property, indemnities and the protection of trustees and other persons and remuneration of trustees amongst many things, including gifts by particular trustees to philanthropic purposes.

The bill also includes an ability for the District Court to hear applications for particular matters involving trust property which does not exceed its jurisdictional limit, currently \$750,000. I also note from an examination of the greens and the white that the new laws will simplify the process for trustees of smaller charitable trusts to vary the purposes of the trust in circumstances where its original purposes cannot be fulfilled through the introduction of a new cy pres scheme.

The bill also responds to issues raised by stakeholders during the consideration of the lapsed bill by the former, as it was then known, Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee. Firstly, the bill guarantees that the restrictions on people who can be appointed as trustees do not impede a court's power to order that they hold property as a trustee. Secondly, the bill ensures that if a person is appointed as both executor and trustee of a will the person's renunciation of or failure to apply for probate of a will does not affect any express trust established under that will. Thirdly, the bill responds to the concerns of the Queensland Public Trustee and does not include provisions which would automatically vest trust property in the Public Trustee if the last continuing trustee has impaired capacity. Compared to the lapsed bill, this approach, it should be noted, retains the status quo. Fourthly, the bill addresses concerns initially raised by the United Grand Lodge of Queensland that the lapsed bill would change the requirement of the Board of Benevolence to obtain Grand Lodge approval prior to making particular investments under the United Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland Trustees Act 1942 by ensuring that the relevant amendments do not remove the requirement for Grand Lodge approval.

Finally, the bill responds to a technical issue raised by the Queensland Law Society by including a regulation-making power to ensure that particular entities can be prescribed as eligible recipients for the purposes of the ancillary fund provisions in order to ensure that the relevant provisions in the bill are consistent with Commonwealth legislation. I note that during the recent committee hearing the Queensland Law Society indicated that the approach taken in the Trusts Bill will address this all-important concern.

In considering the Trusts Bill 2025, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee made only one recommendation, and that was that the bill be passed. It is noted that the bill requires a lead-in time of approximately 12 months to ensure all Queenslanders are prepared for the new requirements. There is no reason to stand in the way of what some may say are long overdue reforms which are important for all Queenslanders.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.16 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this urgent Trusts Bill 2025. Trusts are a common method to manage assets, including family assets and therefore wealth. Trusts law plays an essential role in ensuring that funds, properties or assets held by trustees are

appropriately managed and used to advance the purpose of the trust for the benefit of the trust's beneficiaries.

The Queensland Trusts Act 1973 is more than half a century old. I acknowledge the former attorney-general the member for Waterford who initiated work on the earlier iteration of this bill to modernise the act in consultation with key stakeholders. Former attorney-general Yvette D'Ath introduced the Trusts Bill 2024 into the 57th Parliament which was drafted broadly in accordance with the recommendations of the QLRC review and considering feedback from stakeholder and public consultation.

The Trusts Bill 2024 was considered by the former Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, with the committee report recommending the legislation be passed. The Trusts Bill 2024 lapsed upon the dissolution of the 57th Parliament. The Trusts Bill 2025 seeks to simplify trust legislation by repealing outdated or inappropriate provisions in the current act, as well as eliminating powers that are no longer necessary in light of the bill's new provisions. At a time when public trust is fragile, we need modern trusts law that ensure trusts are administered transparently for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the trust.

It is well known that complex trust structures are frequently used to obscure wealth and evade oversight. The recent revelations involving federal opposition leader Peter Dutton revealed by *Four Corners* and ABC investigations underscore the urgent and critical need for these reforms. For two years opposition leader Peter Dutton failed to declare his interest in a family trust that operated lucrative childcare businesses when he was a cabinet minister. The RHT Family Trust, to which Peter Dutton was a beneficiary, benefited directly from millions of dollars in taxpayer funded Commonwealth subsidies. These were subsidies that were intended to assist families by providing cost-of-living relief for families struggling with the burden of the cost of child care. Instead, the RHT Family Trust has profited from this system intended to support these hardworking families.

This Trusts Bill will strengthen accountability for all trusts and provide clear minimum duties for trustees to administer a trust honestly and in good faith, maintain separate and accurate accounts and records for each trust, keeping these records for a minimum period after the termination of the trust and providing access to beneficiaries upon reasonable request for inspection of the accounts. This will ensure trusts such as Dutton's RHT Family Trust are administered transparently. Mr Dutton's failure to disclose his personal interest was not merely an administrative oversight, it represents a serious conflict of interest and a breach of public trust.

The bill provides clarity on who can be appointed as a trustee, including who is disqualified, ensuring that we maintain minimum standards for those managing a trust. The bill also grants enhanced powers to the court to review and reduce excessive trustee remuneration and remove unfit trustees. Relevantly to Dutton's case, the bill provides a trustee with power to invest trust property and provides for the duty and liability of a trustee in exercising the power. The investigation by *Four Corners* found Peter Dutton's father Bruce made almost \$15 million in profit from buying and selling private childcare businesses—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the topic under discussion bearing in mind the Speaker's ruling on Tuesday regarding relevance to this matter and the content of the bill and the clauses of the bill. I would suggest that the member is straying well beyond the content of the bill and is not relevant to it.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Mansfield, make sure you stick to the long title of the bill.

Ms McMILLAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. They do not like it.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In respect to the response made by the member for Mansfield, I believe you gave the member for Mansfield a direct instruction in relation to staying relevant to the bill and the member has actually taken umbrage at your direction.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, stick to what is contained in the title of the bill, please.

Ms McMILLAN: The bill modernises trust administration, streamlines decision-making and ensures oversight mechanisms are effective. This framework holds trustees to today's standards of integrity and transparency and it is a vital safeguard for the credibility and accountability of our institutions. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.22 pm): I rise to contribute to the discussion on the Trusts Bill. I

note that my partner has an interest in a trust as a trustee and a beneficiary which is declared on the Register of Related Persons' Interests. Nonetheless, to ensure compliance with standing order 260, I declare my partner's interest as a trustee and a beneficiary. Trusts are an absolutely fundamental part of law. They are a way to protect and preserve assets and support charitable causes. There are many volunteer organisations that are using trusts. They manage tax obligations and provide for family and friends. For many Queenslanders they are an essential part of life. They are an important structure for many family and small businesses, particularly across my electorate.

This bill repeals and replaces the current legislation with more fit-for-purpose legislation suitable for the 21st century. The Trusts Act was introduced more than 50 years ago. In 2012 and 2013 an LNP government started the process to modernise trust law in Queensland, but after nearly a decade of Labor's inaction the law remained largely outdated. The profession was calling for action and Labor sat idle. Now the Crisafulli government will finally deliver a modern, updated Trusts Act more than 10 years after the process first began. The bill builds on the current act. It does not codify all aspects of trust law. Instead, the bill complements the rich common law on trusts. The time and effort that stakeholders have gone to to comment in relation to these legislative changes will not be wasted. There has been extensive consultation and input with key legal, charity and trust stakeholders so that the bill accurately reflects the needs of the legal and broader Queensland community.

The bill affords broad powers to trustees to deal with trust property. It imposes new minimum standard duties on trustees. The duties include the need to exercise care, diligence and skill that a prudent person or business would exercise when managing the affairs of others. Building upon this, the bill supplements the existing common law and a range of matters, including the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees, restrictions surrounding this and the devolution of trusts. As well as this, it covers the duties and general powers of trustees, maintaining trust property and indemnities and protections of trustees, which is particularly important. In doing so, the bill provides a well overdue bolstering of trust law in Queensland and ensures that the legal sector can operate to the full extent of the law.

Queenslanders who use trusts can have confidence knowing that the Crisafulli government has stepped up where Labor sat on its hands for years. This bill goes well beyond the legal technicalities reserved for solicitors and barristers, it affects everyday Queenslanders where trust law plays a very pivotal role by codifying the elements of the law and simplifying the process for smaller and charitable trusts and their trustees who are delivering for Queenslanders. I congratulate the Attorney-General on the work that she has done to bring forward this legislation.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.25 pm): I note that I have an interest in a trust as a beneficiary, which is declared on my register.

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I move—

That the member for Logan be heard.

Division: Question put—That the member for Logan be heard.


AYES, 31:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Sullivan, Whiting.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, 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.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.30 pm): I note that I have an interest in a trust as a beneficiary, which is declared on my register of interests. Nonetheless, to ensure compliance with standing order 260, I note that I again declare my interest as a beneficiary.

Today I rise to speak in support of the Trusts Bill 2025, which is legislation that is long overdue and essential to modernising Queensland's trust laws. Trusts play a fundamental role in the lives of many Queenslanders, including many in my community, providing a mechanism to protect and preserve assets, support charitable causes, manage tax obligations and ensure the financial wellbeing of children and individuals with impaired decision-making capabilities.

Our current legislative framework, the Trusts Act 1973, has served Queensland for over 50 years. However, in that time our economy, legal landscape and community expectations have evolved significantly. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that our legislative framework keeps pace with these changes. This bill brings Queensland's trust laws into the 21st century, providing greater clarity, efficiency and fairness for trustees, beneficiaries and all stakeholders involved in trust management.

The necessity for reform has long been recognised. Under the former LNP government, in 2012 and 2013 the Queensland Law Reform Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act. Their extensive consultation with legal, charity and trust-sector stakeholders resulted in a clear recommendation: Queensland needed updated and modernised trusts legislation. Unfortunately, under the former Labor government nearly a decade passed before the Trusts Bill 2024 was finally introduced, only for it to lapse when the 57th Parliament was dissolved. That delay left Queensland behind other jurisdictions in providing a clear, modern framework for trust administration.

The Crisafulli government, however, is taking decisive action. Within the first year of this term, we have reintroduced and refined the reforms, ensuring that Queensland finally has a modern and effective trusts act that will be fit for today's needs. This bill carefully balances continuity with modernisation. It does not codify all aspects of trusts law but, instead, supplements common law principles with clearer statutory guidance. It grants broad powers to trustees, ensuring they can effectively manage trust property while imposing minimum statutory duties requiring them to exercise the care, diligence and skill that a prudent businessperson would in managing another's affairs.

The bill also provides necessary guidance on critical matters such as the appointment, discharge and removal of trustees; the devolution of trusts; trustees' duties and general powers; indemnities and protections for trustees and other persons; remuneration of trustees; and court powers, particularly regarding charitable trusts and philanthropic gifts. Importantly, it enables the District Court to hear trust related matters within its jurisdictional limit, currently \$750,000, reducing the burden on higher courts and expediting resolutions for smaller trusts. For trustees of smaller charitable trusts, the bill introduces a streamlined process to vary trust purposes when original objectives can no longer be fulfilled, ensuring that funds continue to serve community needs.


This bill is not simply a reintroduction of the lapsed 2024 bill; it is an improved and refined piece of legislation that reflects the concerns raised by stakeholders during previous committee reviews. Key refinements include ensuring restrictions on trustee appointments do not impede court powers to appoint trustees; clarifying that a person's failure to apply for probate does not affect express trusts established under a will; addressing concerns from the Queensland Public Trustee by maintaining the status quo on how trust property is handled when the last trustee has impaired capacity; responding to concerns from the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, ensuring the requirement for Grand Lodge approval for certain investments remains intact; and including a regulation-making power to ensure Queensland's fund provisions align with Commonwealth legislation, addressing concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society.

The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee conducted a thorough review of this bill and made only one recommendation, that it be passed. This strong endorsement reflects the high quality of the legislative drafting and the extensive consultation underpinning this reform.

Charitable trusts play an invaluable role in Queensland, supporting essential community initiatives, funding medical research and providing financial assistance to those in need. This bill strengthens the legal framework surrounding charitable trusts, ensuring they are administered effectively and that funds are used for their intended purpose. By streamlining processes for varying charitable trusts when their original purpose is no longer viable, this bill ensures that trust funds remain impactful and relevant. This is an essential step in adapting to the changing needs of our society while preserving donor intent and ensuring charitable giving remains a powerful force for good.

The Trusts Bill 2025 is the product of more than a decade of review, consultation and refinement. It is balanced, it is modern and it is necessary. This legislation ensures that Queensland's trust laws provide certainty, clarity and fairness for all stakeholders. It upholds the integrity of trust management, enhances trustee accountability and simplifies processes where needed, all while ensuring that charitable and philanthropic giving remains protected and effective.

The Crisafulli government should be commended for acting swiftly to introduce this bill early in the term. After so much time and effort from legal experts, charities and community stakeholders, it is time to finally deliver these long-overdue reforms. There is no justifiable reason to stand in the way of this bill. I urge all members of this House to support its passage.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.36 pm): It is interesting that we had a member speaking before who moved to guillotine this debate and yet insisted on taking a turn out of order and then ran the most anodyne and pathetic piece of boiler-plate just to engage in self-congratulations. That shows the kind of arrogant and out-of-touch government that is running this state.

From 2012 to 2013, the Queensland Law Reform Commission conducted a comprehensive review of the Trusts Act. As part of that review, the commission suggested clause 11, which is a new provision that implements recommendation 3-2 of the interim report. The report states that the commission considered it undesirable that a trust should, at the outset, or on the later appointment of a trustee, have a trustee appointed who is an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent or takes advantage of the laws of bankruptcy or is a debtor under the Bankruptcy Act or similar law in a foreign jurisdiction. While a person's bankruptcy or insolvency is not necessarily an indication that a person is unfit to be a trustee, a person's bankruptcy or insolvency has the potential to complicate and adversely affect the administration of a trust or make third parties less willing to deal with that trustee, in particular because the bankruptcy may affect the trustee's legal capacity to institute legal proceedings and, of course, to be sued.

We note from chapter 2.6 of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report, at page 20, that there is an amendment to the terminology in the 2024 bill regarding the exclusion of persons as trustees, from 'bankrupt' to 'insolvent under administration'. As noted in chapter 2.1 of the report, the bill provides that an individual who is insolvent under administration cannot be appointed as a trustee of a trust. At chapter 2.6 the report states—

A similar provision was also included in the 2024 Bill. It proposed to exclude 'an individual who is a bankrupt, or is taking advantage of the laws of bankruptcy as a debtor, under the Bankruptcy Act 1966 (Cwlth) or a similar law of a foreign jurisdiction' from appointment as a trustee.

The Department of Justice noted, 'For example, the lapsed Bill used the phrase "a bankrupt or is taking advantage of the laws of bankruptcy" whereas this bill refers to 'an insolvent under administration' or someone who is taking advantage of the insolvency. That brings us to an interesting point because we know that the *Australian* recently reported that member for Broadwater, the Premier, paid \$200,000 in order to skip court—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. I refer to the Speaker's statement on Tuesday regarding standing order 139 and the matters that are relevant in a second reading debate. It states the debate may address 'the principles of the Bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report and any amendments recommended by the committee.' In my submission, the member is straying well outside the confines of standing order 139 and the practice in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Logan, please confine your contribution to the long title of the bill or the committee report, as outlined by the Speaker. This is about modernising the legislation, so if you can keep your comments to how that relates to the bill you may continue.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is making reference to a matter which is before the Ethics Committee, which is totally prohibited in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a different matter. Member for Logan, please refrain from breaching the standing orders.

Mr POWER: I have carefully considered what is before the Ethics Committee and make no reference to the matter that is before the Ethics Committee. I am talking about other matters. In relation to the other point of order, I am addressing paragraph 2.6 on page 20 of the report relating to the 'amendment to terminology of the 2024 bill' and what unintended consequences it may have for a particular member of this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nice try, member for Logan. This is about the broad principle of modernising the bill, not specific matters, as the Speaker referred to.

Mr POWER: No doubt—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, we are not going to have an argument about this. This is a very clear direction. Yes, Attorney-General?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If you have made a clear direction, I will not raise the point of order.

Mr POWER: With due respect, I want to speak to paragraph 2.6, which relates to amending terminology under the bill, which interestingly did not say 'bankrupt' but someone who is 'taking advantage of the laws of bankruptcy' under a Commonwealth act or similar law. As MPs, we need to—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to the member for Mermaid Beach's point of order where he just informed the House about the matter before the Ethics Committee. It is clear the member for Logan is trying to use trickery with an issue that is before the Ethics Committee.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you have the call. I have given clear directions with regard to the Ethics Committee and also the specifics of this bill. Return to those matters, please.

Mr POWER: May I get a point of clarification?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of clarification?

Mr POWER: The matter before the Ethics Committee is strictly about declarations. It is strictly about whether an event was declared or not. I will make no reference to that whatsoever, and I wish to continue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me take some advice, please. Member for Logan, I have had clarification of my earlier ruling with regard to standing order 271. You cannot refer to anything that is before the Ethics Committee. You will be warned if you continue down that line.

Mr POWER: If it helps the House, I can speak hypothetically.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not be argumentative, member for Logan, or I will sit you down.

Mr POWER: I am in no way being argumentative. I was absolutely agreeing with you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In paragraph 2.6, we note that the amended terminology says that persons who are regarded to be excluded as trustees—and I am reading directly from the report here—has changed from 'bankrupt' to 'insolvent under administration'. In this case, if someone has taken advantage of the laws of bankruptcy to enter into an undertaking—and here I speak completely hypothetically—to make a payment to forestall some kind of action, then I am asking whether this section—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Logan is simply using a device of sophistry to get around your direction. In my submission, he is deliberately ignoring your direction and is being argumentative in doing so.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. I am listening very carefully, and there may be some merit in your suggestion that he is being very convenient. I am paying attention now to a hypothetical that probably has very broad relevance. I am listening very carefully. Member for Logan, I have given you some very strong advice, so please be careful.

Mr POWER: This change in terminology from 'bankrupt' to 'insolvent under administration' is also reflected in clauses 20, 23, 102 and 228 of the bill. Of course, we as members of parliament should carefully consider whether there are unintended consequences for somebody who had undertaken some kind of administrative payment to forestall some kind of bankruptcy under the act and whether that would affect their ability to be a trustee. If they were a trustee in their role as a public servant of any description, this would be of concern if there is an unintended consequence of the act. There are many trusts that governments, including ministers, have to be involved with, and if someone has undertaken some kind of agreement to forestall some kind of further—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, I draw your attention to standing order 139 and relevance. In my submission, the member for Logan is attempting to avoid the rulings that you made previously in relation to relevance to the debate of the main points of the bill by drawing tenuous lines, by misusing terminology and by using sophistry. He is yet to advance any argument in the debate regarding a philosophical difference that has been raised either in the committee report—and it has not been raised in the committee report—or in relation to the bill in respect of this matter.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the point of order, the member has outlined exactly which pages of the committee report he is quoting from and he has not gone anywhere near any of the matters that would activate standing order 271. To the point of order made by the Acting Leader of the House, the member cannot get to his argument because of the several points of order that continue to be made. You have ruled that you are listening carefully. In fact, the

member for Logan is being incredibly careful. I think the member for Clayfield might take a seat and let the member for Logan get his argument out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I have given you a very clear direction. Please stick within the orders given and the committee report. If you do stray, I will sit you down.

Mr POWER: Thank you very much for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I turn to page 21, paragraph 2.6—departmental advice. It states—

In respect of this change in terminology, the DoJ noted that this was a ‘minor and technical’ amendment to improve readability and consistency:

I further quote—

For example, the lapsed Bill used the phrase ‘a bankrupt or is taking advantage of the laws of bankruptcy as a debtor under the Bankruptcy Act 1966 (Cwlth) of a similar law of a foreign jurisdiction’. In the Bill, the phrase ‘an insolvent under administration’ is used instead, which is a defined term under the Acts Interpretation Act 1954 defined by reference to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and means the same thing.

In that way, I wish to pose the question to the House before we vote and legitimately discuss the unintended consequences of who else might be affected by this clause and how it would inhibit them from being a trustee of a trust that they are part of or a trust that they are required to be a part of in any role that they undertake. The QLRC review states—

2.19 The provision has been expressed in these terms to avoid any ambiguity that might arise from providing that the appointment is ‘void’.

2.20 The Commission considers that different considerations may apply in the case of a person who is bankrupted after his or her appointment as trustee has taken effect. As explained later, the bankruptcy of a trustee is a ground for the replacement of a trustee under clause 15(1)(g) and the removal of a trustee under clause 23(1), although the replacement or removal of the trustee on that ground is not automatic under those provisions.

The question is that those who have undertaken some form of payment to forestall a bankruptcy should not be able to—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill does not mention forestalling some form of bankruptcy in any way, shape or form. In relation to the amendment to the bill, the evidence to the committee quite clearly was that the change was driven because of advice from the Department of Justice and Parliamentary Counsel in relation to the Acts Interpretation Act. If the member were addressing the change and the evidence before the committee, he would be relevant—but he is not.

Mr POWER: I am not a lawyer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Logan, I am listening very carefully. I have had advice. I am being consistent with the advice that I have been given. Be very careful about trying to relate to something that is not within this bill.

Mr POWER: We note, on further reading, that the change in terminology from ‘bankrupt’ to ‘insolvent under administration’ is to deal with those people who should not be given the responsible role of being a trustee in this state. That is why this language was changed—to modernise it. We also note that the modernisation under the Commonwealth act, which it is making reference to, further expands that it is not ‘bankrupt’ in the sense that we might understand it but ‘insolvent under administration’—so anyone who is insolvent under administration or has made some administrative undertaking to forestall bankruptcy in the future.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWER: I have a question before these interjections—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that there have been a number of points of order made in relation to the contribution. There is what I would term deliberate obfuscation in relation to the content of the member for Logan’s contribution to this bill. Your directions have been very clear, but I would ask you, once again, to consider the ongoing contribution and what I would term the deliberate obfuscation in relation matters that are before the Ethics Committee under standing order 217.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that I think the member for Logan is engaging in tedious repetition with his contribution to this bill, in addition to the point of order made by the Leader of the House.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Government members have been interjecting with points of order—repetitious points of order—and not allowing the member for Logan to

make his contribution, which is directly relevant because he is talking about a change in terminology in the Trusts Bill. That is directly relevant to this bill. I have made this point of order before, but he cannot get his argument out because of the same points of order that continue to be made from government benches.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): For the benefit of the House, I have taken advice and the advice that I have got is consistent. If the member for Logan is being hypothetical sufficiently away from this but in line with the bill and quoting the bill then I will let him continue, although he is becoming repetitious, as the Deputy Speaker has outlined, and that will be another point for me to consider whether you should be able to continue. Member for Logan, you have the call but, if you could extend your argument of debate, that would be beneficial.

Mr POWER: I do wish to put some questions. In this debate we were going to have the ability to speak to the clauses individually. At that time I probably would have had many more questions. However, this debate was guillotined earlier which prevents those who wish to put more detailed questions, especially about this clause, to the Attorney-General. That means that these things are more difficult. I also wish to note that there has never been a motion that has had more points of order made than we have had in this debate. I think on reading the transcript it will be quite clear that I am making reference to the bill.

The questions I want to put are: did the Attorney-General give consideration—we know that it is not a fit and proper person who has made undertakings under the Bankruptcy Act. Were similar undertakings under the Corporations Act, which are to forestall these things, given consideration? Should there be greater clarity? If it was not considered, why was it not considered, and what further work could be done to put that into the bill?



Mr BAROUNIS (Maryborough—LNP) (4.56 pm): I rise today to speak on the Trusts Bill 2025, a landmark piece of legislation that will reform and modernise the legal framework surrounding trusts in our country. As we look toward the future, it is vital that our laws adapt to the evolving needs of society and the changing financial landscape. This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that our legal and financial systems remain robust, transparent and fair, benefiting all Australians.

Before delving into the specifics of the Trusts Bill 2025, let us take a moment to understand what trusts are and why they are so important to our society. Trusts are legal arrangements in which one party, known as a trustee, holds and manages assets for the benefit of another party or group of parties, known as the beneficiaries.

Trusts have long been a cornerstone of personal and corporate financial planning, providing a means to manage wealth, distribute assets and achieve philanthropic goals. Trusts are used in various contexts: family trusts, charitable trusts, pension fund, corporate trusts, amongst others. They allow individuals to protect their assets, minimise taxes and ensure that their wealth is distributed in accordance with their wishes. Trusts are also instrumental in providing for vulnerable individuals, such as minors or those with special needs, by safeguarding their inheritance. However, as we all know, the world has changed significantly since our current trust laws were first introduced.

The global financial system has become more complex, with new forms of asset management and international investments. At the same time, the demand for more accountability, transparency and fairness in financial dealings has never been greater. With these challenges in mind, the Trusts Bill 2025 seeks to modernise and enhance the trust framework to meet the needs of today's society.

Now I will go through some of the key provisions of the Trusts Bill 2025. These reforms will ensure that trusts can continue to serve their important purpose while addressing the changing needs of our society. One of the key aspects of the bill is the clarification of trustee duties. Trustees have long held significant responsibilities but, as the complexities of modern trusts grow, there has often been confusion around their obligations.

The Trusts Bill 2025 introduces greater guidelines for trustees, particularly around their fiduciary duties. Trustees are now explicitly required to act in the best interests of beneficiaries, maintain impartiality and avoid conflicts of interest. This clarity will help prevent legal disputes and ensure that trustees can confidently carry out their responsibilities knowing exactly what is expected of them. By reinforcing these fiduciary duties we are ensuring that trust administration remains in line with the highest standards of accountability and ethical conduct. The Trusts Bill 2025 also places—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Maryborough, I am sorry; thank you for your contribution. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call on the Attorney-General to reply to the second reading debate.



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.00 pm), in reply: I very much thank the member for Maryborough, John Barounis, for his contribution. In the short time he was given his contribution was relevant to the debate. We think that, if some other members of the House had stuck to the actual bill, he might have had a little more time. I would like to thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Trusts Bill. To ensure transparency, I would like the House to note that I do have interests in trusts, as is disclosed on my register of interest.

I will go straight to the member for Logan's question, because of course that is important. He asked for an answer in relation to that clause. I have been very well advised, and I thank you very much. I am advised by the Department of Justice that the changes are for consistency and the use of defined terms under the Acts Interpretation Act 1954. The changes are minor and technical and have the same effect as the wording in the lapsed bill. This reflects, member for Logan, a drafting standard to ensure consistency across the statute book by ensuring that words are used with consistent legal effect. This is a clear example of how those opposite are clutching at straws for relevance and trying to find something to debate.

Trusts are a fundamental part of modern society that provide for a range of functions, including wealth planning, asset management and charitable activities. It is an important area of law with a long history going back centuries. This bill is a once-in-a-generation reform, bringing 18th and 19th century legal concepts into the 21st century with modernised, plain English drafting.

As we have heard, the bill retains the effect of well-known and well-settled provisions while removing obsolete concepts and adding new commonsense provisions that will provide a great benefit to Queenslanders. The law will be much more accessible to trustees and their professional advisers who are subject to the obligations in the bill, while at the same time it will be more user-friendly for beneficiaries and others who deal with trusts.

As a number of members have noted, the reforms in this bill have been subject to extensive consultation—first through the Queensland Law Reform Commission's review of the Trusts Act 1973 through to targeted and public stakeholder consultation during drafting of the lapsed Trusts Bill 2024, including consultation undertaken by the former Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

As foreshadowed in my second reading speech, I will move an amendment during consideration in detail to address an issue identified with a transitional provision that could be seen as undermining the independence of the court.

Under section 113 of the Trusts Act 1973, a person who has suffered loss because a trustee wrongfully distributed trust property cannot enforce a remedy against a recipient of the trust property unless they have first extinguished all remedies against the trustee. However, section 113 also allows the court to grant leave for the person to pursue a remedy directly from a recipient without first exhausting all remedies against the trustee.

Clause 275 of the bill currently provides that a previous order of a court refusing a person's application for leave will cease to have effect after the commencement of the bill. The amendment I intend to move to clause 275 will instead provide that a person can apply to the court to have the order refusing leave set aside and that the court must set aside the order if satisfied that the person has not commenced proceedings against the trustee. The new drafting preserves the discretion and independence of the court in relation to a previous order made by a court. Once the relevant order is set aside, the claimant will then be able to exercise their rights directly against the recipient of the wrongful distribution in accordance with clause 143 of the bill.

I again thank members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for their review of the bill. Regarding concerns raised during the debate with respect to condensed consultation timeframes, I again refer to the significant consultation which occurred prior to the bill being introduced which was supplemented by the recent committee process. I will note that the amendments I spoke about have been circulated in the last sitting week or the one before, so if anyone wants to see those amendments, they have been circulated. No-one can honestly stand in parliament today and say there has not been sufficient consultation on these reforms, and I thank all of those who have done so. To that end, I thank the shadow minister for her contribution earlier in the debate. She said—

The opposition has no intention of standing in the way of sensible legislation. We support the intention of this bill and support these changes being effected. We will not impede progress of legislation for partisan gain.

Somewhat ironically, given the performance of the member for Logan in particular today, the shadow minister also informed the House—

We will be a productive opposition because our duty to Queenslanders is to make the most of the time we have in this House.

I thank the shadow attorney-general. The shadow attorney-general went on and said—

The opposition does not see any reason there should be unnecessary time dedicated to debating a piece of legislation that we have all said we agree with—a bill that has unanimous endorsement across the parliament.

It does indeed, because we have also heard from the Manager of Opposition Business in this debate. He stated—

As the shadow attorney has made incredibly clear, the opposition will be voting to support the passing of the bill this evening.

He continued—

Given that I am not convinced—and I do not think anyone in this House would be convinced—that further debate, which is likely to be entirely repetitious, would do anything—

The Manager of Opposition Business went on and said—

The opposition, for all of the reasons outlined by the shadow attorney, is very happy to support the passing of this bill tonight.

I thank the opposition, because schoolchildren and future university students who read this summing-up speech will see partisanship and a parliament that is working to ensure the Trusts Bill gets passed tonight. They will do it happily because after decades—I could say centuries—of the development in trusts in Queensland, we are seeing today the hard work of many people, including from the incredible Department of Justice, who have been working hard over numerous years to bring this bill to the House. We thank the committee, we thank the House for their consideration of the bill, and I thank the opposition for their bipartisan support of the Trusts Bill. The government welcomes this newfound sense of bipartisanship from the opposition, and I thank them in all sincerity in advance for their assistance in finally passing today these long overdue reforms.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 62, as read, agreed to.

Clause 63—

 **Ms SCANLON** (5.10 pm): My question is for the Attorney-General. Given the bill modernises trustees' powers and duties by including a core duty 'to act honestly and in good faith', what is the Attorney-General's view of a trustee in a position of public office failing to disclose their interest in a large family trust—say, in childcare centres? Would that be contrary to the core duty of trustees in this bill?

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection from the minister and seek your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker, on the offence of standing orders, particularly in relation to—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order! Member for Waterford, that is totally disorderly. I warn you under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—particularly in relation to the direction made and read out by the Speaker of this parliament in relation to a matter earlier this week.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Attorney-General, can I just clarify that you were rising on a point of order to do with relevance?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you just clarify what the relevance was that you were seeking to have ruled upon?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The relevance was to the debate of this clause.

Ms FENTIMAN: Point of order—

Ms SIMPSON: Point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will deal with these points of order one after the other. The first point of order came from the member for Waterford.

Ms FENTIMAN: The member for Gaven is being directly relevant. She is asking a question of the Attorney-General about clause 63 which modernises the duties of trustees, including ‘to act honestly and in good faith’. She has asked the Attorney-General a question about whether or not someone in a public position who fails to disclose their interests in a trust would breach this duty. It could not be more relevant to clause 63.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice before I take any further points of order. There was a point of order to my right from the member for Maroochydhore.

Ms SIMPSON: I refer to standing order 115, ‘rules for questions’, and in particular subsection (c) which says that questions shall not ask for ‘an expression of opinion’ or ‘a legal opinion’. I contend that the member was seeking a legal opinion or an opinion and therefore it should be ruled out.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thank the member. I note, if I am not incorrect, that the member for Waterford ceased her contribution on that particular clause. Is that right?

Ms Fentiman: Yes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a matter of whether the Attorney-General wishes to respond to the question raised.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to, and I thank my ministerial colleague. Of course it is asking for an opinion. I wonder why the shadow Treasurer and acting leader of opposition business did not ask the question herself, given she just handed the paper to the shadow Attorney-General.

What will always be in the Trusts Act is the duty to act in good faith. It is a trust’s duty to act honestly and in good faith. Shadow Attorney-General, it is in general law, it is in the Trusts Bill. If she brings out her law school books again and reads the Trusts Bill, maybe she would know that. It is obvious that the shadow Attorney-General is desperately trying to play politics with a matter that she really does not understand. It is clear: the Trusts Act has always provided a duty to act honestly and in good faith. I would submit, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the shadow Treasurer has just set up the shadow Attorney-General.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I proceed with further clauses, there was an interjection from the member for Aspley. I consider it disorderly to interject across my head while I am trying to listen to the member on their feet. Member for Aspley, you are also warned under the standing orders. I give a general warning to all members. I will not tolerate inappropriate or disorderly conduct while I am in this seat down here, any less than I would if I were up in the Speaker’s chair.

Mr POWER: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. It has been brought to my attention that early in the debate I may have inadvertently referred to a matter that may have been referred to the Ethics Committee. I was careful, I thought, not to contravene standing orders, but for the dignity of the House I apologise unreservedly for any unintentional error that may have strayed into it.

My question is in relation to clause 63 where it has the interrelationship of those definitions. What is the relationship between a trustee and a company the subject of a deed of company arrangements?

Clause 63, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 64 to 274, as read, agreed to.

Clause 275—



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (5.16 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 275 (Effect of order made before commencement refusing leave to enforce remedy for wrongful distribution of trust property in particular way)

Page 169, line 25 to page 170, line 16—

omit, insert—

275 Existing orders refusing leave to enforce remedy for wrongful distribution of trust property in particular way

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement—
 - (a) a person (the **claimant**) suffered loss because of a trustee’s wrongful distribution of trust property; and
 - (b) the claimant applied for the leave of the court, as mentioned in the repealed Act, section 113(2), to enforce a remedy against a person to whom the wrongful distribution was made without first exhausting all remedies that may have been available to the claimant against the trustee; and
 - (c) the court made an order refusing the application for leave (the **relevant order**).
- (2) The claimant may apply to the court to have the relevant order set aside.

- (3) The court must set aside the relevant order if satisfied the claimant had not, before the commencement, started a proceeding against the trustee to enforce a remedy in respect of the wrongful distribution.
- (4) Without limiting section 274(1), to remove any doubt, it is declared that, if the relevant order is set aside under subsection (3), section 143(3) applies to the claimant for the purpose of enforcing a remedy in respect of the wrongful distribution of the trust property.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Trusts Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments.

Tabled paper: Trusts Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Deb Frecklington's amendments.

This amendment, as I have noted, will omit the current clause 275 of the bill and replace it with an updated provision. The amendment will remove any possible risk that clause 275, as currently drafted, may interfere with the independence of the court, and that of course is extremely important. It is important to note that this one amendment to the bill refers to the Kable doctrine. As some members may be aware, the Kable doctrine is a Constitutional doctrine which clarifies that state laws cannot interfere with the integrity of our state courts. Clause 275 of the bill is a transitional provision which clarifies how an existing order of the court under current section 113 of the Trusts Act 1973 is treated after the bill commences.

The clause currently provides that an existing order of the court refusing a person's application to leave to pursue a remedy for a wrongful distribution of a property trust without first exhausting all remedies against the trustee who made the wrongful distribution will cease to have effect after the commencement of the bill. The amendment changes the clause to instead provide that the person who suffered loss can apply to have the order set aside and that the court must set aside the order if the court is satisfied that the person has not commenced proceedings against the trustee. Effectively, the new drafting preserves the discretion and independence of the court in relation to a previous order made by the court. It is vitally important across all jurisdictions—and it is no different in Queensland—that we maintain the independence of the court. Effectively, the new drafting provisions preserve that discretion and independence of the court in relation to a previous order made by the court.

I note that the potential issues with the drafting of clause 275 were also present in the lapsed Trusts Bill. I very much thank the many contributors to the discussions around the Kable doctrine, which is a constitutional doctrine. It is a doctrine that we all take extremely seriously. Departmental staff, Crown Law staff, Office of Parliamentary Counsel staff and my staff spent a lot of time ensuring that this is right. We would hate to see any breaches of the Kable doctrine.

It ensures that where we have landed with this amendment—the only amendment to the Trusts Act—is sound. I will say again in terms of the clause that is being amended and the issue that was uncovered that it was in the first bill which lapsed and in the new bill—and remember there were certain other issues identified in the lapsed bill that are fixed in the new bill—but is now being fixed. Therefore, we had to introduce the amendment to ensure there is no breach of the doctrine and ensure that section 275, as is noted and as I am discussing here today, can be considered properly through this debate today.

I note that, whilst we have had a decade at least to get this right and we were very much hoping to have a clean bill with no amendments, this is a very important doctrine that the lawyers in this House and all parliamentarians know about because it is the basis of the separation of powers. The independence of our parliamentarians, the independence of the courts and the independence of the judiciary are vitally important. That is why it is very important that this amendment is before the House and that we get it right.

Again, I thank everyone very much for their contributions. I say to the House that, importantly, this amendment removes any risk. We are very satisfied, as is Crown Law and the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. Everyone who has contributed to this bill understands the importance of the moving of this amendment to ensure that there is no breach of the Kable doctrine.

Mr RYAN: There is a level of complexity which I think is why this particular amendment was required and it was not included in the original bill. I take the very good point that the Attorney made in her introductory speech around law students and, more broadly, courts and the community at large needing to pay particular attention to introductory speeches and why particular clauses are put in place. The Kable principle is an important one. I think on the basis of the Attorney's statements around university students needing to have a good understanding, it would be insightful for the Attorney to further elaborate on the Kable principle and how it is particularly connected to this amendment, but also in particular around the 'may' and 'must' elements in the amended clause 275. So, 'the claimant may

apply to the court' and then 'the court must set aside'. That is the complexity for me: where there is a discretion around what the individual claimant may do, but then there is no discretion for the court, if the claimant exercises their discretion. Could the Attorney outline that? It is not just about the law students, this is about people getting ripped off by dodgy trustees, and I think there needs to be some clarity around the circumstances in which claimants can take the case forward and also, of course, the courts then take the appropriate action.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: As the honourable member for Morayfield rose, I actually received a message on my phone from someone—not a law student, but a potential one—who actually said, 'Did you just pay the member for Morayfield to filibuster on the Kable principle?' No, I did not. I have not had time to message my friend back. No, I did not pay the member for Morayfield to filibuster and I am not going to because that would be completely inappropriate.

What I would say to the member for Morayfield is this: I have explained it in detail. It is in the explanatory notes, but I am happy to go through it again. It is really clear that we must make sure that a person who suffers a loss because there was a wrongful distribution of trust property cannot take—cannot take—legal action against the person who received that distribution from the trust. First of all, they must extinguish any legal remedy against the trustee who made that wrongful distribution, unless the court has actually granted them leave to take that action against the recipient.

As I noted—I have said this a couple of times and I put it in my summing-up speech as well—this bill does change the law and does enable the claimant to enforce a remedy against the recipient without first extinguishing their remedies against the actual trustee—without seeking leave of the court. In the past, they must have sought leave of the court. Under this, they are not required to.

We must remember as well that clause 275 is a transitional provision that applies because if a claimant was refused leave of the court under the current Trusts Act, but had not start the proceedings against the trustee before the commencement of the bill, that person can enforce the remedy in a way permitted under clause 143 of the bill. The intention is to ensure that after commencement, all beneficiaries are in equivalent positions.


Amendment agreed to.

Clause 275, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 276 to 345, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.28 pm): I move—


That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.28 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Train Manufacturing Program

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.28 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. In question time today, the Labor opposition questioned the support of the government for the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program in Maryborough. Those questions were strange given our government has repeatedly reiterated our steadfast support—not only

for the program but for the train manufacturing workers in Maryborough. In fact, the people of Maryborough well know our government has given the workers a guarantee that the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will continue, as planned, because it not only delivers the trains needed for our transport network but it also delivers important jobs for the Maryborough region.

Given what was clearly a highly-politically charged and motivated question, we did some digging. What we found was very interesting, very interesting indeed. Lo and behold, we discovered none other than the former member of Maryborough has been surreptitiously whipping up a campaign of fear in his former community. In fact, the former member—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): I do not suppose that the member for Buderim or the minister needs my protection but the interjections were extraordinary. Member for Pine Rivers, I could hear you quite clearly. Tone it down and we will listen to the minister's statement.

Mr MICKELBERG: The former member has been attempting to suggest that recent decisions of Downer were somehow linked to the government—clearly untrue. It is shocking to hear such grubby mistruths coming from a former member of parliament.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt you, minister. The member for Waterford, did you just interject? You are, if I recall correctly, under a warning. You will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Waterford withdrew from the chamber at 5.31 pm.

Mr MICKELBERG: It then all became very clear. More digging revealed that the former member for Maryborough is actually on Labor's payroll. The Labor Party are now funding the former member for Maryborough as a political operative with the sole task of raking as much muck in Maryborough as he can. Labor, with the full knowledge and the full support of the Leader of the Opposition, has been paying the former member for Maryborough to run around spreading fear and mistruths in a deliberate and deceitful political campaign. Queenslanders know that there is zero truth to Labor's mistruths because it has even been confirmed by Downer themselves. Downer have today publicly advised—

There has been no change to any Queensland Government contracted work with Downer that impacts our current workforce in Maryborough. Our work on the Queensland Train Manufacturing—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, I will start warning you and all.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I will continue with my quote from Downer—

Our work on the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program is continuing as expected and we look forward to working with the Queensland government on potential future opportunities. The consultation we have commenced with our workforce specifically relates to the cessation of a contract with a private freight operator. We want to confirm no final decision has been made and we continue to explore opportunities to fill the gap in work in order to ease any impact on our people.

The Leader of the Opposition, in full knowledge that there is no truth to it whatsoever, is trying to run a deceitful campaign of smear in Maryborough for his own political purposes. He is weaponising the fear of train manufacturing workers in Maryborough for political gain. I can guarantee the House that this is more about the Leader of the Opposition trying to protect his own political job, rather than the job of any train manufacturing workers. Queenslanders know that they cannot trust a single thing that comes from this weak Leader of the Opposition. This is the same Leader of the Opposition who just last sitting week was forced to march into this place and apologise for misleading the House. The same Leader of the Opposition who marched around the state trying to spin a web of truths about hospitals when the truth is, he was only a risk to the hospitals being built himself. Our government, through the health minister—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers is warned under the standing orders.

Mr MICKELBERG: Queenslanders know that the Labor party has zero credibility and cannot be trusted. The only party that will deliver the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program and protect these jobs is the LNP. There has been no reduction in the amount of state government work being sent to Maryborough. We are proud that we are pressing ahead with building 65 new trains which are being built by Downer in Maryborough—supporting local jobs and supported by the local MP who has been a strong champion for the project and those local jobs, Mr John Barounis, a tremendous local member—unlike his predecessor.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The standing and sessional orders provide opportunities for ministers to make statements in this House under standing order 62 and the clear purpose of those is outlined. I have raised this in the House before—that the content of ministerial statements should be about public affairs or the minister's portfolio. The minister is straying very much into his political opinions about individuals. I would ask you to ensure he maintains the intent of the standing order and delivers a ministerial statement—not a political statement.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the House, you have a counter point of order?

Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House): In responding to the Manager of Opposition Business who has risen under standing order 62, the minister is correcting the record in relation to commentary and questions that were asked this morning. He is making a detailed response and explanation to those matters that is very fulsome in relation to all of the information to ensure the record is accurate in the House with respect to those issues that were canvassed this morning. I submit to you that the matters that are being canvassed are important. There is a broad nature to covering those and he is providing a detailed ministerial statement and explanation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will seek some advice from the table. There is no point of order.

Mr MICKELBERG: The Minister for Manufacturing said it this morning—and I will say it again now—the Crisafulli LNP government will fight for every single train manufacturing worker in Maryborough. Two things need to happen today. The Leader of the Opposition needs to get up in this House and apologise for weaponising workers' fears. He must come in here and he must condemn the mistruths and the deceptive actions of the former member for Maryborough. Anything less will be a failure of his leadership.

QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT BILL

Second Reading



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (5.37 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to speak again on the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. The bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 18 February this year and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for detailed consideration. Officers from the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games provided a briefing paper as well as a public briefing to the committee about the bill on 3 March, providing further information when requested by the committee. The committee received 10 submissions to its inquiry on the bill and tabled its report on 11 April. The committee's report made two recommendations and I table a copy of the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, government response.

I would like to thank the chair, the member for Lockyer, and all of the members of the committee for their prompt consideration of the bill. I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the committee secretariat and the organisations and individuals who made submissions in relation to the bill.

The first recommendation made by the committee was that the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for its support. The committee's second recommendation was that the bill be amended to require that board members collectively have qualifications, skills or competencies in both Olympic and Paralympic sport. The Queensland government supports this recommendation in principle. The bill enables the minister to recommend a person for appointment as a board member if they have qualifications, skills or experience in the areas of Olympic or Paralympic sport, or another area relevant or necessary to the board's functions. Given the main purpose of the act and some functions of the academy are specifically to support Queensland athletes to achieve success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is crucial to ensure that there is Olympic and Paralympic Games expertise on the board. Therefore, an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to include a requirement for the board to collectively have qualifications, skills or experience in both Olympic and Paralympic sport.

A further two matters for inclusion in the bill, which will require amendments to be moved during consideration in detail, were identified following introduction. The first relates to the application of the State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023 to new employees. A key feature of the bill is the strong employment protections it provides for academy staff as it transitions from a government department to a statutory body. Every staff member will move across with their current employment conditions and entitlements fully maintained. A number of current employees of the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games, who are to transition to be staff members of the academy, are employed pursuant to the Queensland Public Service Officers and Other Employees Award—State 2015 and the State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023. Following further consultation, it was determined that the bill does not explicitly provide that employees employed after the commencement of the academy as a statutory body on 1 July 2025 will be covered by the agreement. This is because the academy, once transitioned from the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games to a statutory body, is not a party to the agreement.

The agreement has a nominal expiry date of 30 June 2026 and the Office of Industrial Relations has advised there will be more than a 12-month period between the proposed commencement date of the proposed Queensland Academy of Sport Act 2025 and the operative date of a replacement agreement following extensive consultation and ballot of all employees covered by the agreement. Therefore, an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to ensure that new employees of the academy, employed post establishment of the academy as a statutory body in accordance with sections 150, 151 or 152 of the Public Sector Act 2022, are covered by the agreement until such time as the academy is a party to a replacement agreement or academy-specific industrial instruments are created.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Minister, could you pause for a moment? There is too much talk in the chamber. Please keep your conversations low or take them outside.

Mr MANDER: I cannot understand why people are not absolutely glued to every word I say during this particular speech. I would ask that they do pay attention.

I continue. This is to ensure that consistent employment terms and conditions are provided to all employees of the academy.

The second matter requiring inclusion in the bill relates to the academy's contracts and agreements. The bill currently provides for existing contracts for a person providing services for the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games in relation to the academy to continue as though a reference to the state is a reference to the academy. The contracts apply with any necessary modifications. The bill does not provide for the transfer of other kinds of contracts and agreements that the academy is a party to. An amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to provide for the transfer of existing agreements which relate to the ongoing operation of the academy as a statutory body. This includes contracts for the provision of goods and/or services to the academy, software licence agreements, funding agreements, sponsorship agreements, research agreements including university collaborative research agreements, student placement and other work experience agreements. This amendment will allow these contracts to continue as though a reference to the state is a reference to the academy.

I return now to the committee's inquiry into the bill. I am pleased to advise that there was overwhelming support for the bill from stakeholders who made submissions, with strong support for the change to a statutory body for the academy. The public submissions brought forward during the committee's examination of the bill included a number of matters that will be critically important for the academy to consider as it moves forward in its new form. I thank all those who submitted for assisting the Crisafulli government in reaching our goal of providing our athletes with the best support possible.

In his submission, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Commission and celebrated former Queensland Olympian Kieren Perkins OAM recognised that the academy is a critical part of Australia's high-performance sport system. He acknowledged that the relationship between the academy and the Australian Sports Commission and across the National Institute Network of institutes and academies of sport has never been stronger than now. Along with all other state institutes and academies of sport, the games partners—that is the Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia—and the Australian Sports Commission, the academy has signed on to the Win Well strategy, Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy, which focuses on optimising outcomes and sustainable success for Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports. Mr Perkins expressed that as a statutory body, the academy will have a responsibility to continue to engage in the national system.

I am pleased to advise that the bill has been drafted to recognise the importance of continued engagement by the academy in the Australian high-performance system and ensure the continuation of its well-established relationships with institutes of sport including the Australian Sports Commission and national and Queensland sporting organisations. Indeed, one of the main purposes of the bill in establishing the academy as an independent body is to enhance collaboration with institutes of sport, and national and Queensland sporting organisations, to maximise the success of Australian athletes at the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games. This approach aligns with the Crisafulli government's focus of keeping red tape away from the success of our athletes and organisations, a stark contrast to what this parliament saw under the previous government. I thank Mr Perkins and the Australian Sports Commission for their very considered submission on the bill.

I would also like to recognise the contributions from Mr Dane Cross and Ms Jacqueline Kelly of the Sporting Wheelies and Ms Michelle Moss of the Queenslanders with Disability Network. I am sure that all members will be pleased to support the amendment to the bill that I will move during consideration in detail to ensure that Paralympic—as well as Olympic—expertise is required to be represented on the board of the academy. The bill has a strong focus on the academy's continued support of para-athletes and identifying emerging talent in the para-sport sphere.

The academy has also done an enormous amount of work to date in championing para-athletes, which is an area the Crisafulli government feel strongly about. That is evidenced by the Paralympic element of my portfolio, which I am extremely proud of and would not discard under any circumstances, unlike those opposite who failed to recognise the Paralympic title for months and months on end. We want Australia to be a world leader in para-sport and this transition will help us on that journey.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge that the academy has made remarkable strides in advocating for and supporting women in sport. Fifty-eight per cent of all athletes supported by the academy are female, as well as 54 per cent of the academy workforce. The academy has also introduced several initiatives aimed at fostering greater involvement of women in coaching. The Gen2032 coach scholarship program has seen 12 exceptional women coaches, accounting for 52 per cent of all participants, engage in a two-year, full-time program. I think this clearly shows the academy's commitment to championing women in sport and I have no doubt that this will continue in its independent form.

My thanks also go to Ms Alison Quigley, Dr Aurélie Pankowiak and Dr Victoria Roberts for their submission in relation to ensuring that the academy creates child safe environments. The protection of children is a matter of utmost importance to the Queensland government and members of the community. As a Public Service entity under the Public Sector Act 2022, the academy will continue to be subject to the requirements of Queensland child safe legislation, which includes: the new Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, both the Child Safe Standards and the reportable conduct scheme; the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020, otherwise known as the blue card system; and the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020.

Additionally, clause 13 of the bill provides that a function of the board is to ensure that the academy provides a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment that aligns with national sporting integrity standards. This means that the academy will be required to align with Sport Integrity Australia's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, which is designed to protect children and young people in sport. Over the past two years the academy has placed a significant focus on strengthening its safeguarding practices, including the implementation of many policies, practices and systems. This work done to date, along with the forward requirements to continue to protect athletes and children, places the academy in a strong position to continue to foster a healthy and safe environment into the future.

In terms of the development of and access issues for regional athletes as raised by Ms Wendy Henning of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland and respected former Olympic athlete and hall of famer sporting identity Ms Glynis Nunn OAM, the bill seeks to provide for the effective operation of the academy and giving it the independence it needs to best serve athletes across the state, including from regional areas. The Crisafulli government knows that this state is built on the back of Queenslanders from well beyond the south-east corner. This will allow for additional focus to be placed on programs such as YouFor2032. The government is breaking down barriers and making sure that no young athlete is missed, no matter where they live across our vast decentralised state. Already the academy has tested young athletes in 40 locations, including 26 regional centres from Warwick to Emerald and the Gold Coast to Yarrabah. Some 5,700 potential athletes have been tested and over 2,000 of those have entered the three-month trial phase, 422 have progressed to a 12-month

development program and 40 have already been selected for state or national high-performance programs.

I want to thank all submitters to the committee's inquiry for their time in providing feedback on the bill and I thank them all for their support of the transition of the academy to a statutory body. Importantly, I want to emphasise that the bill provides the board with broad powers to do anything necessary or convenient in the performance of its functions. This provides the board with the independence, discretion and flexibility to consider and respond to matters relevant to the academy such as those raised by submitters. The board may consider, for example, investment, collaboration, consultation and partnerships as it sees appropriate in furthering the aims of the academy in supporting Queensland and Australian athletes to achieve success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The bill establishes the academy as a legal entity with control over its own funds, and that comes with strong, independent oversight.

The academy will be governed by a board made up of between five and eight members, with a chair and deputy chair. These members will bring a diverse mix of skills and experience—from business and financial management to corporate governance, law and, of course, Olympic, Paralympic and other high-performance sport experience. This blend of expertise will ensure that the academy is guided by people who understand both the sporting landscape and the demands of running a high-performing organisation. The academy's day-to-day operations will be overseen by a chief executive officer who is accountable to the board. The role of the CEO will see a significant uplift in responsibility under the new model. Responsibilities that have traditionally sat within the department, including corporate services, legislative compliance and operational delivery, will now sit directly with the organisation. As a result, the CEO will require a broad skill set—a robust understanding of, engagement with and experience in an Olympic and Paralympic context—and will need to be supported by skills stretching across these new responsibilities for the academy in order to effectively lead this organisation in this new structure.

The establishment of the CEO role reflects what we see in comparable statutory bodies and it is both expected and necessary to ensure strong, capable leadership in the next chapter of the academy's journey. I intend to move swiftly to appoint these critical leadership roles. This bill includes transitional provisions to ensure the academy is ready to hit the ground running, with a functioning board and a CEO in place from day one. Importantly, all recommended candidates, whether for acting or ongoing appointments, must meet the same high standards and eligibility requirements. This will ensure strong, capable leadership from the outset, setting the academy up for long-term success.

I now turn to the main purpose of this legislation which is to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport as an independent statutory body with a board. To provide certainty for staff and stability for our sporting community, the transition to the new academy structure is set to commence on 1 July 2025. Unlike those opposite, we know how important this transition is for our athletes and this timing ensures minimal disruption for athletes and sports in the crucial lead-up to LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032. Unlike those opposite, who wanted to take another year to deliver this transition, we are committed to doing what is best for our athletes. The QAS looks after the best of the best Queensland has to offer. To make those staff and athletes live with constant uncertainty for two years shows a lack of care and understanding for the high-performance environment by the former government. Athletes have enough variables to deal with without having two years of Labor government imposed front office uncertainty thrust upon them.

The academy's vision is 'inspiring extraordinary sporting success' and this bill, if passed, will help the academy achieve this focus. The academy has achieved a great deal, but its ability to fully realise its potential is constrained. Being embedded within a government department brings with it a range of structural and administrative requirements. While necessary in many settings, these processes can limit the flexibility and responsiveness the academy needs to best support high-performance sport. To truly thrive and deliver on its objectives, the academy needs the autonomy and agility that a dedicated statutory body can provide. Consultation with leading institutes across Australia shows that independence and autonomy are critical to sustained sporting excellence. When processes are not fit for purpose, they can slow us down, limiting the academy's responsiveness and operational efficiency.

Shared resources and rigid administrative systems may work in broader government settings, but they can hold back the unique, focused work the academy is here to do. That is why establishing the academy as a statutory body is the most effective way forward. As an autonomous legal entity, the academy will have the operational and financial independence it needs while still upholding public sector standards and accountability. It will be able to manage its own funds, tailor its governance structures and optimise its resources, all with a clear focus on delivering for Queensland's elite athletes.

The move from departmental business unit to statutory body is one that was publicly supported by many high-profile sports administrators and athletes including Mr Wayne Bennett, Mr Alex Newton, Ms Cate Campbell and Ms Shayna Jack. I pay particular homage to Renita Garard, Peter Conde, Wilma Shakespear and Alex Baumann—all people who are used to working in the high-performance sector who lobbied and lobbied and lobbied the previous government until the previous government had no choice but to listen to common sense. I thank those people for that fight that they fought and tonight I am proud to deliver their vision. The athlete journey is at the heart of everything the academy does and, as it transitions into a new form, that focus will not change. Supporting athletes to reach their full potential and achieve world-class success will remain the academy's driving purpose, both for now and into the future.

I want to express my sincere thanks to my department and the QAS for their support in delivering this important piece of legislation. They have pulled out all the stops under enormous pressure and constrained deadlines to make this happen, and I thank them for their hard work. This bill is testimony to that hard work. I once again thank those people in my department. I also once again thank the committee for its prompt consideration of the bill and all of the organisations and individuals who made submissions on the bill. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (5.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. The Queensland Academy of Sport Bill arises from sector feedback that the previous Labor government heard and took on board about the need for a more agile and responsive structure to supercharge Queensland's high-performance sport landscape. Following a review, the Miles Labor government committed to the structural reform now formalised in the bill we see today which will establish the Queensland Academy of Sport as an independent statutory body, determine its purpose and establish its board and procedures. At the outset, I can confirm that the opposition supports the objectives of this bill, especially as Queensland prepares for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The opposition has listened to the Queensland Academy of Sport and the high-performance sport sector and we support reforms that will help the academy maximise the success of our Queensland athletes as we embark on a new golden age.

However, as drafted, the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill misses key opportunities to make the academy the very best that it can be. In so doing, the bill misses the opportunity to grow Queensland athletes to be the very best that they can be. It misses the opportunity to support Queensland athletes with disability and ensure that their voices are heard. It misses the opportunity to support our amazing female athletes. Disappointingly, it fails to even mention regional athletes. Disgracefully, it misses opportunities to protect athletes, especially child athletes, from harm and abuse. As such, the opposition intends to move amendments to strengthen the bill. For the benefit of the House I table a copy of those amendments.

Tabled paper: Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, amendments to be moved by Hon. Glenn Butcher.

Tabled paper: Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Glenn Butcher's amendments.

Tabled paper: Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Glenn Butcher's amendments.

Despite surging popularity, only 10 per cent of sports funding nationally goes to women's sport. Transparency matters, and Queensland women and girls deserve to know how much of the QAS budget goes to developing women's sport and the sporting heroes that they look up to. That is why the opposition's amendments require the Queensland Academy of Sport to publish in its annual report each year the proportion of funding dedicated to women's sport along with activities it has undertaken and the objectives for women's sport for the year ahead.

One in four people with disability currently participate in sport, but three times that number say that they would like to. While one in four Queenslanders live with a disability, only a tiny proportion of sports funding goes to para-sport. The Queensland government committed that a legacy for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games would be an extra 500,000 people with disability participating in sport. As Mr Dane Cross, CEO of Sporting Wheelies, said to the committee—

We strongly recommend that at least one board position be designated for someone with lived experience in para-sport or disability inclusion. Representation at the table matters. It ensures that decisions are made not just about people but people with disability.

The opposition has listened. That is why our amendments will require that at least one member of the QAS board must, in addition to the other qualifying skills and experience, be a person with lived experience of disability. The Crisafulli LNP government can claim to care about hearing from people

with disability, but refuse to include even one person with a disability on the QAS board permanently. The government amendments do not guarantee this position on the board. It is important that we hear from them. Only by ensuring the QAS hears those voices can we create a pipeline of champions between now and 2032 that will make our Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games the most golden in history. Our amendment achieves just that. Only by baking in transparency about QAS funding and activities can para-athletes be confident that they are going to get the support they merit.

It simply is not good enough to leave the success of Queensland's women athletes and para-athletes to chance. The opposition's amendments will require the academy to publish in its annual report the proportion of its spending on women's sport and para-sport, the activities that it undertakes to foster women's sport and para-sport and the objectives of the previous year and the year ahead for women's sport and para-sport.

The Queensland Academy of Sport Bill is deeply relevant to children. Some future 2032 Olympians may be as young as 10 years old now and if they show promise as emerging athletes they could spend most of their childhood years under the supervision of the Queensland Academy of Sport. Sadly, we know that abuse can be common in high-performance sport settings and the risk is heightened for child athletes. As drafted, the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill does not require the QAS board to take concrete steps to protect those young athletes, and especially child athletes, from harm and abuse. This is a slap in the face of Queenslanders who have experienced abuse in a high-performance sport context and those who advocate for them—advocates like Dr Aurelie Pankowiak and Dr Victoria Roberts who spoke during the committee process about the severe impact of abuse on young athletes. The Crisafulli LNP government loves to talk a big game about how they listen to victims, but in the case of this bill they simply have not done the work. There is simply no excuse for not taking steps to protect children from harm and abuse, particularly in sporting applications.

In the absence of leadership from the Crisafulli LNP government to address the gaps in this bill that leave child athletes vulnerable, the opposition's amendments require the QAS board to establish a harm prevention and safety committee to advise the board and specifically task that committee with developing a charter of athletes' rights and a child-friendly complaints process. When it comes to protecting athletes and children from harm, the opposition will put in the work if the Crisafulli LNP government will not.

As a regional member myself, it is deeply disappointing that on legislation as important as the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill, the bill as drafted by the LNP government does not make a single mention of regional Queensland. Based on this bill as introduced by the Crisafulli LNP government, it is like regional athletes do not exist. That is why the opposition amendments require the Queensland Academy of Sport board to address in each annual report how they have supported regional Queensland events and backed the participation of athletes from our regions.

The Crisafulli LNP government like to build themselves up as hardworking but the bill before the House is, frankly, inadequate and lazy. The government did not do its homework on some of the most important aspects of running a high-performance sport academy in Queensland. They shamefully dropped the ball on children's safety. They failed to ensure women athletes are supported. They left people with disability without a seat at our most important table for para-athletes. They failed to consider the needs of regional athletes. The lazy Crisafulli LNP government did not listen and did not respond to what key stakeholders told them about this bill. It has taken the Labor opposition to step up and ensure the Queensland Academy of Sport is 'race ready' for 2032 and beyond.

Finally, as we debate this bill with its important role in identifying and developing the pipeline of young athletes who will deliver gold for Queensland in 2032, I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to make sure that all Queensland kids can participate in sport during the current cost-of-living crisis. Clause 3 outlining the purposes of this bill speaks to the importance of the academy's role in identifying and developing emerging young talent and athletes. Where do these emerging athletes get their start? They get their start from community sport.

When it comes to getting kids involved in sport, Labor's FairPlay vouchers have been a huge success. Hundreds and thousands of children have been able to participate in sport because Labor's FairPlay vouchers helped their family cover the costs. That is why today I call on the Crisafulli LNP government to save Labor's FairPlay vouchers. In a cost-of-living crisis, Queensland kids and their families rely on Labor's FairPlay vouchers. Many Olympians and Paralympians who stand on the podium in 2032 will get their start from FairPlay vouchers in Queensland provided that the LNP do not cut them. Labor knows that Queensland is the greatest country in the world and our future elite athletes deserve support to be the very best that they can be. It is time for the LNP to stop hiding and come


clean. During historic cost-of-living pressure on families and with the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, will they cut these FairPlay vouchers? I also thank the committee and the many stakeholders—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I am not taking your interjections. Mr Deputy Speaker, I cannot concentrate with the noise from over there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Gladstone, you have been skirting very close on the issue of relevance. If you come back to the bill full square, you will be right.

Mr BUTCHER: I also thank the committee and the many stakeholders who gave up their valuable time to inform the House of the wideranging implications of this very important bill. I particularly acknowledge the deputy chair, the member for Cooper, who championed the need for these critical amendments. I encourage members to support our amendments to this bill.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.09 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak on the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill as the chair of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. I thank the Crisafulli government for giving me the opportunity to chair that committee. I thank my colleagues on the committee, the member for Mulgrave and the member for Cook, for their assistance and deliberations. I also recognise the Labor members, the members for Cooper, Kurwongbah and Aspley.

At the outset, I thank the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games for his consideration of the submissions. I also thank his departmental and ministerial staff for their assistance throughout the inquiry process. I acknowledge the minister's recognition, through the amendments that have been brought into the House, of the committee recommendations that talk about Olympians and Paralympians being represented on the board. I thank him for his consideration of that.

Later I will address a couple of the issues raised about child safety and the current structures that are in place, in order to give the shadow minister some confidence and comfort that the existing structures cater for those issues. I particularly refer him to page 19 of the report. He may like to bring himself up-to-date with some of those things.

Whilst the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill is not just about the Olympics, the Olympics are a huge part of it. In fact, as is outlined, a year after an Olympics athletes ramp up their preparation for the next four years. Therefore, it is very astute of the government to fast-forward things, rather than delaying for two years as those opposite did when in government. We are fast-forwarding things and making sure that the changes that will come from the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill will be in place from 1 July this year, which will provide an ample runway for the Olympics in 2028. It is a pleasure to be part of a government that has the Olympics back on track, through both the QAS Bill that is before the House tonight as well as the GIICA review.

This bill is a really exciting opportunity. I ask: will the role of the QAS change because of this bill? The simple answer is, no. The academy will continue to both identify and support elite athletes from right across the state. It might comfort the shadow minister and those opposite to know that most of the athletes involved in the QAS are from regional Queensland. We punch well above our weight in terms of representation in the Olympics and the QAS.

We were very collegiate in terms of our approach to the bill and we came up with some really sensible recommendations. One area that we did not agree on was about being prescriptive. The opposition wanted to be prescriptive about the members of the board. There could have been up to eight or nine members on the board, which we thought would have been a bit over the top. I note that amendments are being moved around the other important Olympic committees, to make them more streamlined.

I place on the record my appreciation for and thanks to the secretariat for the work that they did throughout the inquiry. They coordinated the stakeholders. They gathered and discerned information for us so that we could come up with what I believe is a really sound report. This bill will establish the QAS as a statutory body, which was overwhelmingly supported by all of the submitters. It will have flexibility around employment, procurement and IP. It will be able to get on with the job and go for gold in 2032.

The QAS runs a really important project called YouFor2032, which is all about identifying elite athletes from right across the state. Again, those opposite and the shadow minister might take comfort from this: we could provide a number of submitters, including the Isolated Children's Parents'

Association, with a lot of information about how they could engage with YouFor2032 to make sure that regional athletes are identified. We also recognise that athletes from right across the suite of sports are identified very early in the education system and we cannot separate that. I recognise the Minister for Education in the House tonight. The school system does a wonderful job of identifying talent early on and getting children into elite programs.


It was a pleasure to be the chair of the committee that inquired into this bill and to meet some wonderful champions of the sporting landscape of Australia. The minister mentioned Mr Kieren Perkins, who made a really lovely submission on behalf of the Australian Sports Commission. He also gave great evidence about the importance of the QAS and the Australian Institute of Sport. All present recognised Wilma Shakespear, who appeared in person at our inquiry. Wilma was the founding director of the Queensland Academy of Sport and is well regarded as the godmother of the Queensland Academy of Sport. She is still involved today.

I must mention Mark Stockwell. Mark is a champion Olympian and a successful businessperson. He made a submission that covered about 11 different areas. We sought the Minister's response to that and were able to include most of the issues that Mr Stockwell raised. One issue that he felt very strongly about was employment contracts, suggesting that people involved in the academy be directly employed under the CEO rather than under the Public Service Act. For the benefit of Mr Stockwell and the House, I can say that in the administration area most of the employees of the Academy of Sport will be employed under the Public Service Act, but high-profile or elite coaches and coaching staff will be on contracts to get the best out of them and make that fit for purpose. As I said, it is wonderful that all of those great sporting people support the Queensland Academy of Sport and its establishment as a statutory body, which will be beneficial.

The opposition members raised concerns about the issue of child safety. The shadow minister raised that as well and has moved amendments in that regard. I draw his attention to page 19 of the report where the committee mentioned the issues of child safety. I acknowledge the doctors and professors who made a submission asking for a different inquiry to occur regarding child safety. I was very comfortable with the responses that the department gave. I note, in particular, the evidence of Renita Garard AM OLY, a dual Olympic gold medallist and former chair of the academy board. She gave the committee information about the existing structures of safety within the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill. Those standards of child safety are going to continue to increase over the years. I can assure the House that we were very interested in and concerned about that and believe that the existing structures cater for those issues.

It is a pleasure to recommend to the House the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill as it stands. Whilst those opposite have said they support it, they have gone to great lengths to move a couple of amendments, which I do not think will improve the existing bill whatsoever. It is very important for us to recognise what the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill is all about. We are establishing the academy as a statutory body so that we can get out of its way. The academy will be able to go forward and get the best outcomes for our Olympians so that they can achieve the best results possible in 2028 and 2032. Of course, along the way many athletes will benefit from these programs in terms of their involvement in the Commonwealth Games, world cups and other world championships. There will be benefits in terms of those events.

I would also like to recognise one of the witnesses, Glynis Nunn. She is a former Toowoomba girl. She actually lived down the road and her sister used to do my mum's hair. Glynis gave us some great information about the importance of regional coaches and she suggested having regional academies. I want her to know that that suggestion has not been lost and that the minister is certainly very interested in making sure that the Queensland Academy of Sport, whilst it may not be in separate regional areas—there is one up in Townsville—supports our regional coaches. It is the coaches, the parents, the volunteers and all those across our sporting landscape of Queensland who are there for our athletes, who start them off as grassroots champions and who help them make it all the way to the Olympics and other championships. All we should be doing here in this House is supporting them every which way we can.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.20 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill. As the deputy chair of the committee, I too would like to thank all the submitters who gave their time, expertise and insights to what I thought was a really robust and very interesting public inquiry and debate. I thank them for that. I also thank our fellow committee members. I think we are working very well as a committee, and I hope that that continues.

Unfortunately, I do need to say that the report, however, does not reflect the views of the opposition members, which was very disappointing for us. Given that we have a unicameral system here in Queensland, it is really important that committee reports are reflective of all views. Queenslanders have the right to see all of the disparate views that came up through that process, but they were not reflected in this report and they should not just be relegated to a statement of reservation. Moving forward, I hope that we will have the opportunity to have those views reflected in the report.

I am also disappointed that we have been given three hours to debate quite an important bill tonight. Perhaps the reason we have been contained to such a short timeframe is the government does not want to debate our amendments because they shine a light on some significant shortcomings in this bill. The government would prefer to move on and not focus on them. Please be assured that the opposition will put the spotlight on those tonight.

I do want to affirm our support for the QAS. They are a fantastic and reputable high-performance sports agency that has been operating for 30 years. They have been doing fantastic things for Queenslanders, and certainly none of the comments I am about to make is any reflection on the good folk who are, and have been, working there. I also want to affirm our support for the review and the recommendation. In fact, it was the former Miles Labor government that initiated the review of the Queensland Academy of Sport and made the ultimate recommendation that the academy be moved out of the department and created as an independent statutory authority, and this bill will enact that recommendation.

As the shadow minister has outlined tonight, we do have some concerns about the bill. It does, in fact, need more work. This is the first substantial review the academy has had in 30 years, so it is really important that we get these reforms right. The first issue we have is with the composition of the board. As drafted, the bill provides for the board of the academy to be hand-picked solely by the minister. Board members are not required to have experience in sports administration or sports at all. The board will set their own agenda, will control their own finances and are not required to publicly report on their priorities, directions, considerations or investments. So we will potentially have a board with no sporting experience whatsoever, with no transparency and no oversight.

I do support the amendment that the minister has spoken to tonight—that board members, collectively, have to have qualifications, skills and competencies in both Olympic and Paralympic sport. That is a great amendment and I thank the government for picking up our amendment. It just highlights the absurdity of the bill that, as drafted, the QAS could have a board with no sporting experience at all. The committee heard from the Chief Operating Officer of Sporting Wheelies, Dane Cross, who said—

The composition of the QAS board will shape its direction for decades ... Representation at the table matters. It ensures that decisions are made not just about people but with people with disability.

The opposition also believes that representation matters and that there should be at least one person with lived experience of disability on the board. The opposition also believes that the bill should specify that a further function of the board be to establish partnerships with disability sporting organisations to maximise participation. We know that the pathway to Paralympic representation begins long before an athlete enters a high-performance system and we need those strong grassroots links to enable them to get that far.

The second issue that we have with the bill, as drafted, is that the only reporting obligation placed on the board is for it to report on any ministerial directions it receives. There is no requirement for the academy to report on staffing levels or how it decides its priorities, its investments or which codes or regions to invest in. Queenslanders will have no oversight of, or even insight to, those decisions. We do believe that additional guardrails should be put in place to improve the transparency for Queensland.

As a minimum, the opposition would like to see reporting requirements placed on the board in three areas. We believe that there should be greater transparency of the academy's quotient of spending on para-sports and female athletes and the activities undertaken by the board in support of para-sports, female participation, regional athletes and events. The board already has section 48 annual reporting requirements. These proposed amendments are not onerous. They will not take away from the objectives of the board—in fact, they enhance them.


Importantly, those proposed amendments signal to the board that we must maintain the visibility of women's sport, our disabled athletes and regional participation. Women's sport nationally attracts around 10 per cent of funding of men's sport, despite unprecedented interest and participation in women's sport. In Paris, our Australian Paralympians outmatched Australia's able-bodied athletes three to one in the medal tally, yet Australia's Paralympians receive about 15 per cent of the national high-performance funding pie. That number drops when we enter the Paralympic arena—less than

10 per cent of funding goes to Paralympians. These are important inclusions and I would like the minister to explain how he will ensure greater transparency and reporting of these areas within the academy.

The issue of safety has come up, and we heard from submitters with PhDs and actual experience and insights, including from a former Olympian, about the importance of considering athlete wellbeing and safety, particularly child safety. This bill functionally is about child athletes. The IOC has sanctioned children as young as 11 for Olympic competition. These children are four years old today. The Go for Gold program targets children as young as eight. Without reflecting on the individuals of the QAS or the proponents of this bill, we have to accept the findings of multiple reviews, including the royal commission into institutional abuse, that children are vulnerable and institutions must be obligated to have clear systems to protect them from abuse and to ensure that when abuse happens it is detected and reported. None of that is apparent in this bill. We have a moral and a legal obligation to ensure our child athletes are protected. This bill does not go far enough and I hope tonight that the government shows Queensland that it does care about protecting children and votes with us on those amendments. We ask that the bill be amended to require the board to establish under section 32 a dedicated harm prevention safety committee. This is another non-controversial and sensible amendment that would signal to the QAS and stakeholders that it takes its child protection obligations seriously.

Finally, I have to mention regional representation. It is deeply disappointing for there to be not one mention of regions, regional athletes or regional representation. This Premier loves to associate himself with being from the regions and stands up and willingly talks about these games being for the whole of Queensland, not just South-East Queensland, but there is no mention at all about the inclusion of regional athletes. I heard the chair say that regional athletes are represented in the QAS. Respectfully, we just cannot take a politician's word for that. What gets measured gets managed and we need to have these reporting systems baked in to legislation so that regional Queenslanders can feel assured that they will be visible.

Today is a test for the government. There is no place for politics in sport. Will they put politics aside and agree with the opposition's proposals to ensure greater representation of disabled athletes and female athletes and ensure that regional athletes actually have a fair go? Will the government work with us to ensure greater visibility across all of those areas? The opposition supports the bill's objectives and intent, but we have perhaps the only opportunity in front of us between now and 2032 to actually get this governance right on the QAS.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (6.28 pm): As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, it was a pleasure to have the conduct of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. I commend the committee and the secretariat for the work they undertook in respect of it. Simply put, this bill will establish the Queensland Academy of Sport, which is a statutory body independent of government, with flexibility, efficiency and agility to ensure proper, effective and efficient sports administration in our great state. It takes this function away from the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games. Whilst this is not necessarily a reflection on the department, it is critical, as we approach the 2032 Olympic Games, that our athletes and institutions are ready for the performance and opportunity of a lifetime. The principal function of the academy is as a high-level sports agency, with responsibility for preparing Queensland elite athletes, teams and agencies for world-class success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, given that the 2032 Olympic Games are not so many years away, you might wonder why the establishment of this committee was left to this government. In 2024, the previous Labor government announced that the academy would transition to become a statutory body following a review of the organisation and consultation with key stakeholders and it would take two years to complete. Our government, by introducing this bill, accelerated the transition to be completed in six months, maximising our athletes' performance in the lead-up to the LA 2028 and the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. The former Labor government were in no hurry to form this essential component to the success of the 2032 Olympic Games. Our move will cut red tape and provide the academy with the independence and agility it needs to remain at the top of its game in elite sport. Importantly, the objectives and functions in the legislation are reflective of the academy's current role in developing and preparing Queensland athletes for Olympic and Paralympic success.

In the process the committee consulted with a number of high-performance sports intuitions as well as a range of Queensland statutory bodies who provided insights that have been incorporated into the academy's proposed legislation to maximise the benefits from the transition and ensure the

legislation can meet the requirements of the high-performance sporting sector. In particular, the committee was privileged to receive submissions from such greats as—and they have all been mentioned previously—Wilma Shakespear, the founding director of the academy; Peter Conde, the former CEO of the Australian Institute of Sport; Alex Baumann, double Olympic gold medallist and former CEO of Swimming Australia; Tracy Stockwell, Olympic gold medallist and former academy board member and chair; Andrew Trim, dual Olympic medallist and President of Paddle Australia; Bruce Hatcher, former deputy chairman of the academy board and former chairman of Queensland Rugby League; and Renita Garard, dual Olympic gold medallist and former chair of the academy board—who all provided practical life experience information in support of the objectives of the legislation.

The committee also heard from a group of researchers studying the prevention and response to athlete abuse in Australian sport. This group was keen to see that the bill was aligned to the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024 and sought the establishment of an independent committee of child safety to work with the academy to ensure the objectives of that legislation were front of mind.


Whilst the report did recommend the establishment of a committee to support the board, I had some difficulties with this process. I appreciate and acknowledge that extensive inroads have been made into dealing with abuse in sport, such as sexual and physical assault, bullying and coercion, and many safeguards have been put in place, but I cannot help but think that participation in elite sports at the highest level requires determination and commitment not only for entry but for success. For a young athlete, or any athlete, to perform at a world-class standard, they must achieve their personal best outcomes within a rigorous training regime and with the best available training. Elite sport training does not come without effort and in cases some hardship, both physical and psychological. I was concerned that systemic child safety as a precondition to engagement in high-level sport may have the undesired effect of hampering that development. In no way do I suggest that abuse, neglect or coercion should be encouraged or tolerated. However, I was not supportive of a further layer being created.

The academy has a high-performance strategy that will put our athletes, both Olympic and Paralympic, in a place for maximum success at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The establishment of the academy as a statutory body does not prevent collaboration with the department and will encourage both organisations to continue working together to ensure athlete support is provided across the full talent pathway. The establishment of an independent academy will allow for additional focus to be placed on programs such as YouFor2032. While winning medals is certainly at the heart of what the academy does, this enhanced support would not be limited to supporting performance at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The shadow minister and the deputy chair of the committee made mention of the committee's failure to address development of athletes and coaches in regional areas. Mr Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to 2.53 of the report and, in particular, in the recommendation where it says—

Fundamental aspects such as those highlighted by stakeholders during this inquiry, including development of talented future elite para athletes, actions related to the accessibility and inclusivity of QAS processes, programs, and facilities, development of partnerships and pathways for athletes in regional areas of Queensland, and athlete safeguarding, would each be a fitting focus for a QAS committee.

I support this bill.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. As a proud Queenslander and someone deeply committed to the future of sport in this state, I want to make it clear from the outset that I support the objectives of this bill. I believe in the value of high-performance sport, in the potential of our athletes and in the role a world-class academy can play in realising that potential. The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee in its report No. 6 made two key recommendations: the first being that the bill be passed; and the second being that the bill be amended to require that board members collectively have qualifications, skills or competencies in both Olympic and Paralympic sport.

The committee's work included a public hearing, featuring respected voices such as Kieren Perkins OAM, Glynis Nunn OAM, OLY, Sporting Wheelies and Queenslanders with Disability Network, as well as the receipt of 10 written submissions from the community. As Kieren Perkins OAM said—

Being really clear on the breadth of skills required across the board, that board needs to have governance, it needs to have risk management, it needs to have financial services, it needs to have legal and it needs to understand how to work with government ... but also have high-performance sporting understanding ...

That is the standard we should be setting for the board.

The Queensland opposition supports the intent to transform the Queensland Academy of Sport into a statutory body. I understand the rationale. I understand the importance of ensuring the academy

operates with greater agility, efficiency and flexibility, particularly as we prepare for one of the most significant events in our state's history—the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I acknowledge the hard work of those involved in bringing this bill to the parliament and appreciate the government's commitment to strengthening Queensland's sporting future. Let me be clear: support for the bill's intent is not the same as support for the bill in its current form. As someone who has listened closely to athletes, coaches, parents, experts and advocates, I must voice some serious concerns—concerns that are echoed by stakeholders right across Queensland. Let me address these key concerns in turn.

The first is transparency and accountability. At the heart of the bill lies a troubling lack of transparency. As drafted, the bill grants the minister extraordinary powers, specifically the power to personally appoint all board members, with no requirements that these individuals have any experience in sports governance, athlete welfare or high-performance sport.

The proposed board will enjoy sweeping autonomy, setting its own agenda, managing its own finances and operating with limited public reporting or scrutiny. While the minister retains a power of direction, that alone does not provide the level of independent oversight the public expects, especially when it comes to spending public money and safeguarding athlete wellbeing. If this bill is to inspire trust, then it must include clear provisions for transparency, public reporting and independent accountability.

Let me be blunt: high-performance sport is not always safe. The system has at times failed athletes, particularly children. We have heard harrowing stories of abuse, neglect and institutional silence. We must accept the truth: these are not just stories of the past. They remain present risks, especially in systems that lack strong oversight and safeguards.

The public hearings heard from researchers and child protection advocates who raised the alarm. This bill as currently written does not meet the standards set out in the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024. That is not just a technical oversight: it is a real risk. If we are serious about protecting the children who may one day represent Queensland and Australia on the world stage—children who might be in kindergarten today—we must legislate for that protection now. The bill must include: enforceable child safety standards; independent complaints mechanisms; mandatory training and reporting obligations; and clear lines of oversight and accountability. This is not optional. It is our duty to every child and every parent who places their trust in our sport system.

Another critical gap in the bill is the lack of enforceable provisions to promote equity and inclusion, particularly for women in sport and athletes with disability. Let's speak plainly. Women's sport in Australia receives just 10 per cent of the funding allocated to men's sport. That's despite record participation, record viewership and world-class success. Former Olympian Glynis Nunn was asked—

When supporting women in the regions and women throughout Queensland, would you like to see something baked in that would give them some greater protections?

She replied—

Absolutely. When we run programs for girls—with netball, for example, and other sports—we try to put forward the basis that, as a female, we are challenged with more pressures, medical issues and so forth that we have to deal with, and we try to face those and talk to the girls about those.

I could not agree more. This is our opportunity to embed gender equity into the DNA of Queensland's sporting future. That means: mandated gender balance on the board; dedicated funding streams for women's high-performance and pathway programs; and public reporting on gender equity outcomes.

Now let's talk about para-sport. In Paris, our Paralympians outperformed their able-bodied peers three to one on the medal tally, yet they receive just 15 per cent of national high-performance funding and less than 10 per cent for pathway programs. These are not just statistics: they represent real structural barriers and a stark failure to invest in extraordinary talent. As Dane Cross, CEO of Sporting Wheelies, said, 'Representation at the table matters.' He is right. That is why I support a designated board seat for someone with lived experience in para-sport or disability inclusion—not as a token gesture, but as a requirement of good governance.


It is also discouraging to see that the bill fails to address the specific needs of regional athletes. While there are broad references to Queensland athletes, there is not a single mention of those in regional areas or the unique challenges they face. Queensland, being the nation's second-largest state—which is larger than many countries—has vast regions where athletes encounter significant barriers to access, participation and funding which are simply not experienced by their metropolitan

counterparts. These challenges must be recognised and addressed. Therefore, I believe this bill should include specific provisions that acknowledge and support our regional athletes.

This bill sets the framework for how the academy will operate for decades to come. It will shape the lives, careers and futures of thousands of athletes from every corner of Queensland. While I support its intent, I cannot support its current structure. Let us take this moment to get it right—to strengthen transparency, protect children and legislate for equity and inclusion. Let us build a Queensland Academy of Sport that reflects the values of modern sport: fairness, safety, excellence and opportunity for all.

During consideration in detail the following amendments will be moved by the opposition: requiring the board to establish a child and athlete's safety committee to ensure athletes, particularly child athletes, are protected from abuse and harm; requiring the safety committee to develop a child-friendly complaints mechanism and a charter of athletes' rights; requiring that at least one position on the board be filled by a person with lived experience of disability; adding an extra function of the board, requiring it to establish partnerships with disability sports organisations to maximise participation, performance and strategic investment in para-sports; and requiring the board include in its annual report the amount of funding it directs each year to women's sports and para-sports and to outline the activities it has undertaken to support women's sports, para-sports and regional athletes and events.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Before I call the member for Mulgrave, I ask that everyone keep conversation to a lower lever in the House.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (7.46 pm): I rise in support of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. The primary objectives of the bill are to: establish the Queensland Academy of Sport as a statutory body, allowing the academy to act with agility, efficiency and flexibility; and establish a board for the academy to ensure it performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

Originally established in 1991, the academy has to date formed part of a Queensland government department. The role of the academy is to act as the government's high-performance sport agency with responsibility for preparing Queensland elite athletes, teams and coaches for world-class success on the world stage. To this end, it is critical to the success of Queensland athletes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Sorry, member, I have just noticed that the timer was paused. Mine says that you have done one minute so far. Can I ask that the clock start at nine minutes. Thank you, member; please resume.

Mr JAMES: To this end, it is critical to the success of Queensland athletes and events more broadly that the academy can function in an agile and responsive way. Given the structural and administrative requirements of a government department, the academy's delivery of its objectives can be hindered by system complexities and processes that are not fit for purpose for elite sports, directly impacting athlete competitiveness, medal chances and the overall agility and responsiveness of the academy.

A statutory body is a separate legal entity that operates autonomously to enable the academy to function with greater operational efficiency, flexibility and financial independence. On 12 July 2024 the previous Labor government announced that the academy would transition to become a statutory body. This followed a review of the organisation and consultation with key stakeholders. However, the previous Labor government then delayed the transition out to two years. The Crisafulli government accelerated the transition to be completed in six months. This move will cut red tape and provide the academy with the independence and agility it needs to be at the top of its game in elite sport.

The proposed commencement date of 1 July 2025 will provide certainty for the academy and ensure any potential disruptions for sports and athletes will be reduced as much as possible prior to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The legislation will not change the role of the academy. The main purpose is: to assist emerging and elite Queensland athletes to achieve success at the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games; to identify and foster the development of Queenslanders who demonstrate the talent to develop into future elite athletes; and to collaborate with institutes of sport and national and Queensland sporting organisations to maximise the success of Australian athletes at the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.

The transition of the academy to a statutory body and the development of enabling legislation has been informed through consultation undertaken with several statutory bodies in Queensland as well as interstate high-performance sporting institutes, including Economic Development Queensland, Health and Wellbeing Queensland, the Residential Tenancies Authority, Stadiums Queensland, the

Victorian Institute of Sport and the New South Wales Institute of Sport. The academy will be required to comply with all relevant Queensland legislative frameworks. The 2032 high-performance strategy serves as the blueprint that will supercharge Queensland's efforts to identify the journeys of talented athletes and coaches towards unmatched success at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.


The establishment of an independent academy will allow for additional focus to be placed on programs such as YouFor2032. The foreseen benefits of transitioning the academy to a statutory body include improved governance through an independent board with high-performance sports experience and improved operational efficiency for the academy. While winning medals is certainly at the heart of what the academy does, this enhanced support would not be limited to supporting performance at an Olympic or Paralympic Games. A more efficient academy will also maximise time and energy for ensuring the wellbeing of athletes, creating better partnerships with national and state sporting organisations and creating more commercial and/or philanthropic partnerships to benefit athletes.

In addition to this, several high-profile sports administrators have spoken publicly in favour of the transition which can build further confidence in the academy's ability to positively impact Queensland athletes. A cohort of former sports administrators and Olympic athletes provided a submission to the committee's inquiry on the bill, expressing their strong support. This cohort included: Wilma Shakespear, the founding director of the academy; Peter Conde, the former CEO of the Australian Institute of Sport; Alex Baumann, double Olympic gold medallist and former CEO of Swimming Australia; Tracy Stockwell, Olympic gold medallist and former academy board member and chair; Andrew Trim, dual Olympic medallist and president of Paddle Australia; Bruce Hatcher, former deputy chairman of the academy board and former chairman of Queensland Rugby League; and Renita Garard, dual Olympic gold medallist and former chair of the academy board.

The Crisafulli government is committed to addressing diversity and inclusion on Queensland government boards, committees and other government bodies, including gender equality. This commitment will apply to the board of the academy. These provisions enable board members to be appointed based on Paralympic sport and disability inclusion skills and expertise.

Support of Paralympic sport and Paralympic athletes is a key tenet of the academy. The academy recently announced a \$2 million investment to establish a new Para Sport Unit which will more than double the talent pipeline leading up to Brisbane 2032. The unit, delivered in partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport and Paralympics Australia, will reduce barriers for participation and talent identification, enhance performance pathways and develop world-class para-sport coaches. The Para Sport Unit aims to remove these barriers and create inclusive, visible pathways for people with disabilities to engage in sport by providing access to tailored programs and skilled coaches who can nurture their talent.

In summing up, the bill will achieve the objective of an agile and responsive academy by legislating powers and functions of the academy and its board that enable streamlined structures, delegations and processes that are specific to the needs of high-performance sports. The academy has all the powers of an individual and may do anything necessary or convenient to be done in the performance of its functions. The establishment of the academy as an independent statutory body and the establishment of the board to oversee the operations of the academy will achieve this. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.55 pm): The opposition supports structural reforms to the Queensland Academy of Sport. With the approaching Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, we understand that the QAS must be agile, efficient and flexible. Legislating the QAS to become a statutory body with a board will help ensure it achieves these goals. The previous government initiated this reform last year in response to sector and stakeholder feedback. However, the Labor opposition shares many concerns about the bill's current form raised by many stakeholders during the parliamentary committee process. Regarding the governance of the QAS, the bill legislates that the minister has full discretion to appoint board members and direct the board's operations. Additionally, the board sets its own agenda and controls its finances but is not required to publicly report its strategic priorities, decisions and investments.

We share stakeholder concerns that this structure has a lack of governance safeguards. I quote the CEO of the Australian Sports Commission, Kieren Perkins OAM. He said—

Whenever you are receiving taxpayers' funds you need to, very appropriately, ensure that the utilisation of those funds fits within good governance, appropriate risk management and the right operating policies, procedures and processes.

The current structure is not fit for the purpose to maximise both public trust in the body and sporting outcomes across our state, including women's sports, para-sports, regional athlete participation, and child and athlete safety. While women's sport continues to experience rapid growth across the state and country, the Labor opposition echoes stakeholders' warnings that, without clear outcome requirements, women's sports risks receiving diminished attention and funding. The fact that women's sport still receives only 10 per cent of funding nationally necessitates that the QAS must be focused on facilitating future growth and funding of women's sport statewide. In response to this, amendments from the opposition introduce annual reporting on activities and spending on women's sports. This enables a transparent benchmark from which the QAS can continue to reflect and improve.

In addition, the opposition supports the notion that the QAS board should include at least one person with lived experience of disability to drive disability inclusion and para-sport growth. As Dane Cross, CEO of Sporting Wheelies, a charity that focuses on empowering Queenslanders with disabilities to live a more active and healthy life, said—

The composition of the QAS board will shape its direction for decades. We strongly recommend that at least one board position be designated for someone with lived experience in para-sport or disability inclusion.

That is why I strongly support the opposition's amendments that will: ensure the QAS board includes at least one person's lived experience of disability; require the QAS to establish partnerships with disability sporting organisations; and improve transparency around para-sport funding and activities by the QAS. Furthermore, Queensland is the second largest and the most decentralised mainland state in the Commonwealth. That is why the opposition is extremely disappointed that regional Queensland is overlooked in this bill. This bill omits the real challenges that regional athletes face with funding, access and support. I quote from the submission of Ms Wendy Henning, president of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland, an association that is committed to advocating for opportunities for children living in rural and remote areas. She said—

We urge the committee to ensure that the bill explicitly includes children and young people from rural and remote parts of Queensland.

With the games fast approaching, it is essential that the QAS supports our regions to ensure all of Queensland can benefit from this once-in-a-lifetime event. I again quote Kieren Perkins OAM. He said—

... we need to have a national system that is well serviced and supported that enables us to find talent wherever it exists, nurture it, develop it, harbour it and then enable it to come together at the elite level ...

Unfortunately, high-performance sports can sometimes create environments where abuse can flourish amongst all ages. With future 2032 Olympians aged potentially as young as five years old today, it is essential that this bill ensures that our future athletes are kept safe through their journey to represent our country. To assist the QAS in keeping our next generation of athletes safe, the opposition's proposed harm prevention and safety committee will have ongoing responsibilities to advise the board as well as being mandated to develop protective structures. This ensures child protection is embedded in the QAS governance framework, not left to discretion, and aligns with national child-safe standards.

Before I conclude, I want to highlight that no child in Queensland should be disadvantaged from participating in sports due to the costs of sports memberships, registration and participation fees. That is why I call on the government to reintroduce the FairPlay voucher program. The program receives an unprecedented amount of demand from Queenslanders every time it is released, with almost one-third of children participating in their chosen activity doing so for the first time. This aligns with section 3 of the bill that specifies that the main purpose of the QAS includes assisting emerging Queensland athletes to achieve success at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to identify and foster the development of Queenslanders who demonstrate the talent to develop into future elite athletes.

In conclusion, the opposition recognises that with the upcoming Olympics, legislating the QAS to become a statutory body would have great benefits to sport in this state. We need a QAS that is agile, efficient and flexible. However, the current bill provides a governance framework that is not fit for purpose to maximise the public trust and sporting outcomes of this state.



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025. This is a bill to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport—the academy—and to amend schedule 1 to the Public Sector Act 2022. This bill is a fresh and invigorating boost for elite sport and a fresh and empowering start for the academy.

In athletic parlance, the starting gun has fired. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are just seven years away, and we do not have a minute to waste. The Crisafulli government has done more in

the last 183 days than an incompetent Queensland Labor Party that frittered away over 1,340 days. Queensland Labor was more concerned about red carpet events and recycled announcements than well-considered planning for our legacy games. If that was not enough, Labor continued to dither with the transition from an advisory body to a statutory body, so it will come as no surprise to hear Labor's confected and exaggerated criticisms of this proposed bill. Those opposite had their chance and they squandered it.

My Hervey Bay electorate backed a Crisafulli government and a fresh start for the Queensland Olympic and Paralympic Games. My Hervey Bay electorate welcomes the YouFor2032 talent search to match aspiring athletes and para-athletes with Olympic and Paralympic sports where they have the greatest potential for success. We have some talented athletes in Hervey Bay, such as Paralympic athlete Ethan Parry, golfer Lachlan Wood, swimmer Keira Stephens and Olympian triathlete Matthew Hauser.

The Delivering 2032 and Beyond Games will leave an enduring and memorable legacy for Hervey Bay and regional Queensland. A mission-critical building block in our preparation for the Delivering 2032 and Beyond Games is the establishment of the Queensland Academy of Sport as a statutory body. The academy was established in 1991 as an advisory body and in the first year supported 35 scholarship holders, including Susie O'Neill, Kieren Perkins and Steven Bradbury.

The academy currently operates as a business unit within the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games and supports more than 530 athletes across 21 programs. Operations at the academy will continue as normal during the transition.

The academy will be one of three high-performance statutory sporting organisations in Australia and is modelled on the New South Wales Institute of Sports Act 1995 which established the New South Wales Institute of Sports. This bill is specific to Queensland, and the academy is required to comply with Queensland legislation.

In July 2024, following representation from members of Queensland's high-performance sporting industry, including administrators, coaches and athletes, a review of the academy in consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken. The former Labor government then announced the academy would transition into a statutory body within two years—that is right, two years. Labor just loves bureaucratic red tape. It is no secret that Labor's red-tape obsession, delayed preparation for the 2032 games for over 1,340 days. Five-time Olympian Nat Cook said, 'The staff [at the academy] are amazing, but they've spent so much time cutting through red tape.'

Following the October 2024 state election and at the direction of Minister Tim Mander, the department of sport undertook a further review which considered the appropriateness of transitioning the academy from its current organisational form to operating as a statutory body, established under an enabling legislation. The academy will be established from 1 July 2025. This is necessary to avoid protracted uncertainty for the staff of the academy, and to ensure any potential disruptions for sports and athletes are minimised as much as possible prior to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Brisbane 2032. The academy needs to be a statutory body to gain greater independence, flexibility and efficiency in its operations, particularly in preparing athletes for the Brisbane 2032 games and beyond. This statutory structure allows the academy to be more agile and make timely decisions, bypass bureaucratic hurdles and focus on its core objectives. This is integral to the success of Queensland athletes as they prepare for LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032. It is critical that the academy is established as an autonomous contemporary and fit-for-purpose statutory body unfettered by departmental bureaucracy.

The academy will be a high-performance sports organisation, preparing Australian athletes, coaches and teams to become the world's best in 2032. The academy has a golden opportunity to improve support for regional, Olympic and Paralympic athletes.


The bill provides for the academy to be a statutory body as I said, for the purposes of the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982 and the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and will be a unit of public administration under the Crime and Corruption Act. Other Queensland integrity legislation, such as the Human Rights Act 2019, will continue to apply to the academy.

The academy is also considered a public sector entity pursuant to section 8 of the Public Sector Act. An explicit function of the board in subclause 13(1)(b) is 'to ensure the academy creates a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment that is consistent with all relevant integrity standards'. Subclause 13(2) provides that 'a relevant integrity standard means a standard or policy developed by Sports Integrity Australia and published on its website'.

This means the Sports Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework is incorporated into the legislation. The website provides a set of rules that all members of a sport need to follow when it comes to their behaviour and conduct in sport, including safeguarding children and empowering women and girls in sport. As a public sector entity, the academy is also required to comply with the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, including child safe standards and the reportable conduct scheme.

Renita Garard, a former chair of the academy's safety committee, has stated that the academy has put in place 'world-class child protection policies within the last 12 months'. Furthermore, paragraph (d) in subclause 13(1) provides a broader provision—'any other function given to the board under this Act or another Act'.

The Crisafulli government is supporting regional Queensland and improving access to the Paralympics. The academy recently announced a \$2 million investment to establish the new Para Sport Unit which will more than double the talent pipeline leading up to the Queensland 2032 games. The Para Sport Unit will be delivered in partnership with the Australian Institute of Sport and Paralympics Australia, and will reduce barriers for participation and talent identification, enhance performance pathways and develop world-class para-sport coaches. I commend the Queensland Academy of Sports Bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill, and I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for their work on this bill. As we know, the bill seeks to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport as a statutory body, something that the Labor government announced last year. We obviously conducted a review which has led to the structural reforms that we see in this bill. As many of the speakers have said—I say this in my speech, too, because I want the people from my electorate reading this to know—the bill is allowing the academy to act with agility, efficiency and flexibility and to establish a board for the academy to ensure it performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

I used to work for sport and recreation Queensland and so I have perhaps had more experience of the Queensland Academy of Sport and the department than the average person. We obviously support this bill—it is a really important bill. Firstly, the bill in itself is no reflection on the absolutely magnificent department of sport and recreation. I certainly found in my time there that the people who work in that department are there because they are not only devoted to the Public Service but to sport itself. The working relationship between them and the Queensland Academy of Sport has always been extremely professional; however, there is obviously a need for agility and for the QAS—the government's high-performance sports agency—to have the flexibility to work in partnership with sports, to make sure the right resources and the right support is going to athletes. By the same token, the opposition clearly has amendments that we are putting forward. That, in itself, is no reflection on the Queensland Academy of Sport, neither in its current or proposed future sense, because they do amazing work and they are incredibly important, particularly in the lead-up to the games.

As many of my colleagues have said, there is some great work being done. This new statutory body will be fantastic but there were some issues raised by stakeholders. The reason we are raising them is because they were raised by stakeholders. I note that the minister, in fact a number of LNP members, have acknowledged some of the quotes of the very same stakeholders who have raised some of these quite significant concerns—they just did not happen to mention the other side of what people were saying. For instance, we know that a number of the stakeholders raised governance concerns because the bill gives the minister full discretion to appoint board members. It enables the minister to direct the board's operations. I know that a number of members from the government have said they do not want any bureaucracy holding them down but there is a difference between 'bureaucracy' in a derogatory sense and actual good governance.

I notice that Kieren Perkins has been quoted a number of times by the government but not in terms of how important he believes good governance is for a body like this. We have many quotes from Kieren Perkins who, of course, is highly regarded. He is the CEO of the Australian Sports Commission. He says things like—

Whenever you are receiving taxpayers' funds you need to, very appropriately, ensure that the utilisation of those funds fits within good governance, appropriate risk management and the right operating policies, procedures and processes.


We know that stakeholders raised concerns not only about governance safeguards but also about a focus on women's sport, on para sports and on the participation of regional athletes. Regardless of portfolio we always say on this side of the House, no matter who you are or where you are in Queensland, you deserve the same access to opportunity as the next person. So whether you are a

person with a disability, whether you are a person living in Cloncurry—whoever you are, you deserve that same access.

Certainly after spending nearly 13 years in government, including seven or eight years as a minister after being a senior public servant myself, I intrinsically know that things do not happen just because you have good intentions, you must actually put processes in place in order for them to happen. You must set targets. You must set rules. You must set some processes in order to achieve targets. While we see incredible challenges, for instance, for people with disabilities to participate in sport—we know these figures—one in four Australians with disability participate in sport despite 75 per cent wanting to participate. Just saying that you want an increase and putting a few different things in place does not mean it will happen. We know if we have people around the decision-making table, then better decisions are more likely to be made. That is why our amendments propose that the QAS board includes at least one person with a lived experience of disability.

It is the same when we talk about the participation of women. Even though we have had a surge in popularity—we know what event is going on tonight in women's sport—women's sport still receives only 10 per cent of the funding nationally. We are proposing that there be annual reporting requirements so the board is accountable for making sure this is addressed. The same in respect of regional participation. The bill does not even mention regional participation. It does not acknowledge the number of young people who deserve to have the same opportunities as anybody in the city. It is really important that is said out loud and for that reason, we believe the board should report annually, as well.

I think the issue that is of most concern is child and athlete safety. We know that people who wish to abuse children—people who use their authority and their responsibility in amoral ways, despite all of the safeguards governments and bodies put in place—find more and more ways to bypass those systems, which is why it is not enough to just put one process in place, tick a box and say that has been done. There needs to be a proper process which says that we are evolving in our understanding of the opportunity for abuse and the vulnerability for abuse. We are seeing some incredibly young children who are being placed in the hands of people working in these positions through a QAS authority. That is why we are saying we want to establish a dedicated harm prevention and safety committee to advise the board and that we have a committee to develop child-friendly complaints mechanism and to create a charter of athletes rights—that is our responsibility. Those children rely on us to make decisions which will protect them and provide that kind of environment. It is really important. I am so excited about this new authority for the QAS. The new way in which it will operate will put us in such a good position. I cannot see why there could be opposition to these amendments because it only makes things better for all Queenslanders—no matter who they are or where they are.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (8.17 pm): The Olympics are coming, and we are so excited about it in the Redlands. There are a lot of good reasons to be optimistic about the plan for the road to 2032, not least of which is at last we have a government with a real plan to deliver it. It is incredibly exciting after over 1,000 days of dithering to see a concrete page-by-page ready to go plan to make sure we are able to do this, and do it at a world-class standard. Let's face it, we will have to do it in record time because of all of the dithering of those who have gone before.

Those opposite had no plan; we have got a clear delivery plan. Those opposite politicised the games, ensuing the model of independent planning that became the best practice model for the world after the Sydney 2000 Olympics did it so well. Every games since has adopted that strategy for organising the games but no, former premier Palaszczuk had to keep herself and her mates on the red carpet and share those opportunities with her successor. The consequence was to put their political interests ahead of the interests of our athletes, our economy, our tourism operators and our small businesses that come with having a successful games.

Those opposite had for many years left the QAS, the Queensland Academy of Sport, as a section that was internal to a government department and only announced a plan for it to become independent as at July 2024. Look, better late and slow than never, I suppose, but the implementation plan to do it was scheduled to take a full two years. This is yet another delay, yet another barrier to Queensland's athletes having access to the leadership and support they need to be able to be their very best come the 2032 games. I am so pleased to see that the Crisafulli LNP government were prepared to accelerate that so that our athletes—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Sorry to interrupt, member. Once again, members, there is too much conversation. It is on both sides of the House. Please keep your conversation to a minimum. Please resume.

Mrs STOKER: That failure to plan meant that the benefits of this changeover would not be felt by athletes preparing for the Los Angeles games. We have accelerated it to make sure we get maximum opportunity to Queensland's athletes. The inaction in ensuring that the QAS had the governance model and the structure it needed, on all the advice that is available, to maximise its impact for Queenslanders and the athletes who so well represent it is really just another example of Labor's failure to plan properly for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am so pleased to see that this has been accelerated, this is going to be delivered and it is going to be done in a timeframe to make a difference for the people who are putting so much of their heart and soul into preparation for competition at the most elite level.

I would like to make reference to a para-athlete from my part of the world. Her name is Caroline Baird. She is an extraordinary woman. Despite being legally blind, she is training to engage in the triathlete event. She is an athlete of great endurance and with the support of the Cleveland Rotary Club and many others in our community, she is engaging in what is a serious campaign to make an incredible and inspiring run to the 2032 Paralympic Games. I see inspiring athletes across a whole range of sports coming out of the Redlands—in softball, weightlifting, hockey and swimming. I could keep going, but the guts of it is this: across our communities we have incredible people of great talent. We owe it to them, because they invest so much in their performance, to give them every possible advantage in their preparation.


Another thing about the games that gives me great encouragement and great optimism for what is ahead is the way that the Crisafulli LNP government's strategy for delivery of these games is leaving a lasting legacy for local communities. I need only look to my backyard to see the way that this is going to make a positive difference. When I look to the high-quality grounds that are available at the Redlands Tigers cricket grounds at Wellington Point and think that they will soon have new women's change room facilities designed with a smart plan that means they can be flexibly used, whether as a training ground or in other capacities in preparation for the Olympics, I see that we will not just be able to play a part in the games, which of course is a wonderful thing, we will also have infrastructure that will serve our community for years and decades to come in a way that sees more girls than ever getting into competitive cricket and in a way that sees them benefiting from the elite cricket talent that already participates through the Redlands Tigers. I see similar examples from right across the community. The Wellington Point Bowls Club has support as part of this. I know my colleagues in Capalaba, in Redlands and right across the state have similar good news stories that will come from the games to their part of the world. To that I can add with enthusiasm the Birkdale whitewater rafting facility that is slated for the Redlands.

Under the previous government there was a bit of flipping and flopping, a bit of dillying and dallying about whether or not this thing would go ahead. There was an indulgence of rumour-mongering, poor evidence and fearmongering that surrounded this proposal. However, I can tell honourable members that on every single measure it just stacks up. For decades people in the Redlands have been crying out for family friendly facilities, places they can take the kids for a swim of an afternoon, places where they can allow them to stretch their legs in a great parkland. The Birkdale community precinct, which is going to be a part of the Olympics legacy, is exactly the kind of thing we want to see come out of the games. Not only will there be an international standard whitewater facility that allows elite athletes to train in best-in-class facilities in the lead-up to and beyond the games, but it will provide training facilities for emergency services; it will provide defensive swimming skills training opportunities for ordinary members of the community; it will provide the kind of adventure tourism that the Redlands region has been seeking to attract as part of its tourism strategy for a really long time. It will encourage people to get in the car and get out of Brisbane and head towards the bay where they can get a bit of adventure tourism on their way to North Stradbroke Island, where they can then go and enjoy some of the most beautiful beaches and waves and all the very best that Queensland has to offer within an hour of Brisbane airport. The Birkdale community precinct with the whitewater Olympic facility is going to leave a lasting legacy for the economy, for the tourism sector and for families who have been crying out for these facilities for so long. I can only see it being a real jewel in the community facilities that are available throughout the Redlands.

Of course, there have been some in the community who have been eager to cast doubt on the value of the proposal. I am sad to say that the former member for Capalaba, who not so long ago was standing up next to the then mayor and saying how great an idea this was, has now flipped over to the other side and started throwing rocks at the proposal. I am not sure he can quite understand whether or not he is in favour of it these days. The kinds of mistruths that have been sold around this are really disappointing because for every person who has heard claims that it would involve significant land clearing, I can say this is a site that has been cleared in all the relevant respects for over 90 years. For

those who claim that there are problems with water management of the water table on the site, I can say multiple environmental studies have said that this is good to go. For those who are concerned that it might end up being a white elephant for the taxpayer, relying on comparisons to the Penrith facility that has needed assistance from the New South Wales government to find its way to viability, this is a completely different model based on different technology and is modelled on the most conservative of financial information, so much so that two independent reviews have both run the ruler over it and given it the biggest of ticks.


I have great confidence that the ratepayers of Redland City are not going to be saddled with a problem but, instead, are going to be richly rewarded with the kind of legacy facilities that the games, quite frankly, is all about. So it is with so much enthusiasm that I say let's get this done. Let's do the 2032 Delivery Plan. Let's bring it home. Let's make sure the QAS has the structure it needs to take it into the future and let's deliver strong legacies for our community.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.27 pm): I rise to speak to this bill this evening because I am really keen to highlight some of the things that I have identified as holes and to support the shadow minister's amendments in this space. When we look at a structure like this, one of the really important things we need to look at is the diversity, the expertise and the structure that we are analysing here. Diversity, of course, is the existence of a wide range of characteristics, perspectives and experiences of individuals and groups. It also includes things like race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability and so many other attributes.

Aside from those opposite, diversity is generally viewed as a very positive thing. It can lead to more creative problem-solving, better decision-making and a more inclusive environment. So I was really alarmed to see the drafting of this legislation that had no seat at the table for our para-athletes. Thanks to the member for Cooper and the member for Sandgate, that was something that was brought to light through the committee process. We wanted extra functions for the board and equal partnerships for para-sports to maximise the participation, performance and strategic investment in para-sport. We want that to be by someone with a lived experience of a disability. That is very different to the minister's amendments here that speak to someone who may have been a coach, administrator or member of a support team within para-sports—a big difference in that regard.

I want to talk to the glaringly obvious problem that exists here with women's participation, both in funding and oversight. I think that speaks to this minister's views around women's participation. We have heard from him in the past that there is a major gender imbalance if there is 68 per cent of women on a board to 38 per cent of men. We know that this is a government that does not believe in diversity. This is a government that does not back it in. This is a government that does not put a seat at the table for diversity, both with our para-sports and with our women, so we are moving amendments to support both women and our Paralympians in sport to ensure there are safeguards, to ensure there is reporting, to ensure we can see how much money is spent in those regards. We know that, despite them hauling in a lot and doing the heavy lifting, they are terribly underfunded and we want to see more in that regard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (8.30 pm), in reply: Winning medals is the key ingredient that will define whether Brisbane 2032 is a successful games or not. We will deliver the games that Queenslanders deserve, and this means that we want Queenslanders to dominate the podium—just like they did in Paris where 40 Queensland athletes brought home 28 medals from the Olympic Games, representing more than half the national total, and a record 28 Queenslanders brought home Paralympic medals. Most of those athletes have been supported in some way by the Queensland Academy of Sport—a world-class institution committed to the development and pursuit of excellence amongst our elite athletes.

As we know, high performance is always evolving and it is now time that the academy transitions to an independent entity. Importantly, high-performance experts and athletes have publicly advocated for this change and backed it up with facts and research, and here we are just six months since Queenslanders elected the Crisafulli government and we are delivering on a recommendation a full 12 months ahead of when Labor said that it would do it. High performance is about going faster and further for longer. It is about being at the cutting edge of technology and science, yet those opposite wanted to drag this process on for a full 18 months.

Regarding the opposition's proposed amendments, it is clear that those opposite obviously were not paying attention during my second reading speech because if they had they would have known that

we have addressed every issue that they have spoken about—every issue. We are working to make the QAS more agile while those opposite are trying to bury it in bureaucratic nonsense, going against exactly what we are trying to achieve—trying to remove the limitations that come with being tied to a government department and give it the agility and the efficiency that it needs to be able to respond. What do those opposite want to do? More reports, more bureaucracy, add more to the annual report, add more people to administer all of those things.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order!

Mr MANDER: It is the most typical Labor thing you will ever hear: 'Let's make it more complicated.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock for a moment. Members on both sides of the House, that was disorderly. The interjections are not being taken either from the right or the left.

Mr MANDER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is ironic in terms of what we are trying to achieve—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER:—and what high-performance athletes and coaches have called for. That is why they lobbied for this for this exact reason—to get away from this ridiculous bureaucratic overlay. We want to make sure that our athletes are free from these bureaucratic limitations and allow them to achieve their potential, yet those opposite want to drag them backwards. They did not want to do this. They really did not want to do this and that is why they tried to delay it. They only did it because they were forced to and were embarrassed by those high-profile elite coaches—people like Wayne Bennett. That is what shamed them in the end to make this happen. When we came into government and I saw the timetable that those opposite had set, it proved that they were not fair dinkum, and these amendments just prove that. They are not fair dinkum about wanting this to be an independent entity.

One of the key priorities of my portfolio is strengthening the pathways to take Queenslanders from grassroots participation all the way to elite competition, but that is not what we are talking about tonight. Our track record shows that we care more about community sport, but what the remarks from those opposite demonstrate is that they do not understand the basics of the Queensland Academy of Sport and they do not understand this bill. They make the assertion that we are going to leave para-sport behind with this bill, but let me tell you: the Crisafulli government has delivered in the past six months and those comments are an insult to the Queensland Academy of Sport and what it is doing with para-sport and para-athletes.

In the short six months that we have been in government, I think I have gone out to the QAS every second week to talk about another para-sport initiative. I recently announced a \$2 million investment to establish the new Para Sport Unit at the academy which will more than double the talent pipeline leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I think we currently have 75 para-athletes in that program. We want to increase it to 200 so that we have more para-athletes reaching their potential. This will help build upon what was an historic performance by Queensland athletes at the Paris Paralympic Games and continue to cement the importance of para-sport for Queensland across the nation.

Earlier this year I announced the first 11 coaches to join the Gen2032 Project Para Coach Development Program to nurture a new wave of high-performance experts. It is an incredible program where we bring coaches over a four-year program where they work in industry related locations and at the same time they are being coached to be better coaches. It is a brilliant program and something that we are proud to be associated with. Additionally, the Crisafulli government has committed funding towards the Imagine Education program delivered by Paralympic athletes within the academy. The Imagine Education program is designed to create behaviour change by giving learners practical tools to make the world a more inclusive place. It challenges learners' perceptions and attitudes towards people with a disability by inviting Paralympians into schools around Queensland. I went to, I think it was, the member for Stafford's electorate at Stafford Heights to see one of those programs in action, and it was brilliant. It educates students about the Paralympic movement and obviously the Paralympic Games and para-sports as well.

In a world first—and this one is a secret that we have to get out there—we have a YouFor2032 talent identification app, which I launched last month, available to para-athletes. If we want Queensland to be a world leader on para-sport and this transition, this legislation will help us on that journey. Let me

tell members about the YouFor2032 app. YouFor2032 is a program where people from the Academy of Sport travel across the state. They have gone to 40 locations—30,000 kilometres. They have been to every town that one can think of to try to identify the talent that we have out there that has not yet been discovered. Out of that journey, 5,700 young people have gone through that program. Some 2,000 of those have gone on to a three-month program. Some 400 of those—422 actually—have gone into a 12-month program and 40 of those people identified are now in state and national teams or titles because of the YouFor2032 program. It gets better: there is now an app where young people between 13 and 23 can go to the app.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: Download it now—the YouFor2032 app.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: Do not put your age in because you will be out straightaway. If you are 13 to 23, there are 12 tests. You go and do the test and film yourself and it has this AI, which is just spooky. It is out of this world. It can see what people do. What happens then is that that testing goes straight to the QAS sports scientists and they can do an analysis and work out what potential you might have in different sports. Not only that, it is the first talent identification app that is designed for para-athletes. Now you can have a QAS sport scientist in your pocket and talk directly to them. The member for Lockyer has the app up.

Let me give members an example. There is a guy from Proserpine called Mac Rogers. Proserpine is not known for its rowing. This guy was a gymnast. He went and did the YouFor2032 program which identified he has some potential. He is a man mountain. This bloke is big. I am pretty impressive, but he is bigger than me. They identified that he could be a pole vaulter or a rower. He has never done either of those sports in his life. After a while a guy that has never touched an oar in his life—there are no rowing facilities around Proserpine—is now doing interstate and national titles because he was identified by YouFor2032. It is not only about para-athletes it is about the regions. It is about going out to people where they are. We recognise the fact that we are a decentralised state.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, let us take a breather—both sides. There have been a lot of interjections. It is verging on the disorderly.

Mr MANDER: I am determined to make sure that our government oversees the most successful period in para-sport in Queensland history. If those opposite were paying any attention they would realise that we have made all the proposed amendments that they are now trying to bring in themselves. Our amendments allow the minister to recommend a person for appointment as a board member if they have qualifications, skills or experience in the area of Olympic or Paralympic sport or any other area relevant or necessary to the board's functions. We have proven this already. The Stadiums Queensland board has a Paralympian on it. We have another member on that board who has a severe disability. We do not need to be told what the right thing to do is.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you are warned under standing orders.

Mr MANDER: We do not need to be told what the right thing to do is. It is bleeding obvious. It is self-evident that if you have Olympic or Paralympic skills or qualifications there is a very good chance you are going to have a Paralympian on the board. You do not have to have some bureaucratic clause telling you you need to do the right thing.

As the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I am incredibly proud of those initiatives I have mentioned. Unlike those opposite, we want 2032 to be our most successful Olympic and Paralympic Games ever. That begins with identifying and supporting young Queenslanders with big dreams and even bigger potential. I want to acknowledge, in relation to the YouFor2032 app, the RACQ for their support and sponsorship. It has been a great partnership. We are the most decentralised state and it shows how initiatives like this are so very important. Who knows who might be discovered next. It might be a future Matt Denny, a Mollie O'Callaghan or a Chris Bond honing their skills and waiting for their opportunity to shine. The other day I watched Chris in a wheelchair rugby game. I have seen some tough athletes in my days. If you want to see the toughest footballers up close, go and watch one of those wheelchair rugby games. They get stuck into it. This guy is a legend and a fantastic player. It was a privilege to go out there and watch them.

Those opposite come in here and question the appointments that we may or may not make to the board and question their appropriate skills. I can guarantee in relation to the board that there will be no union Labor hacks. That will make it very unusual. There will be no union Labor hacks whose only skill and experience is lifelong membership of the Labor Party. Unless protesting has become a sport, they have no expertise. Our government will appoint real people with real experience in the real world. Those appointed will have relevant experience. Their only qualification will be—

Ms Grace: Membership of the LNP!

Mr MANDER: Unlike those opposite we do not owe appointments to our union mates or factional buddies who call the shots behind the scenes.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned under standing orders.

Mr MANDER: The academy does incredible work advocating for and supporting women in sport. What those opposite are saying is an insult to the academy. They have achieved incredible results. One only has to look at the results of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Of Queensland Olympic medallists, 23 were female and 17 were male. While 36 per cent of our Paralympic medallists were female, I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle.

Ms Bush interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, you are not interjecting from your correct seat. You are warned under standing orders.

Mr MANDER: She got a record the other day in the mixed 4 x 100-metre medley, plus silver in the mixed 4 x 100-metre freestyle. The academy has introduced several initiatives aimed at fostering the greater involvement of women in coaching. I said earlier that over half the athletes at the academy are women—I think it is 54 per cent—and over half the coaches—52 per cent—are women. I also mentioned earlier that the Gen2032 coaching scholarship program has seen 12 exceptional women coaches—accounting for 52 per cent of participants—engaged in a two-year full-time program. Sports these women coach include hockey, sprint kayak, rugby league, swimming, footy, water polo, beach volleyball, sailing, rugby sevens, BMX freestyle and aerial skiing. Ten of the 12 women were offered a third year of coaching scholarship support through specific Australian Institute of Sport funding. The program is designed to create lifelong learners who use innovative coaching practices and become skilled communicators.

When this academy thrives so too does the future of Queensland sport. This academy is a world leader. Recently a delegation came out from India. They are trying to secure the 2036 Games. I wish them all the best with that. They came to the Queensland Academy of Sport because they were told, when they asked around the world, 'Where do we go to learn about coaching of elite sport?', to go to the QAS. Anybody who has been out there can only be impressed. The strategy that they have on their wall is the most impressive thing you have ever seen. It is brilliant. Do yourself a favour and go out and there and you will be blown away by how professional and state-of-the-art they are. Under the Crisafulli government Queensland will be the undeniable home of Australian sport.

Let us not forget that the Labor Party care so little about the QAS that they were more than happy to dump it because they wanted QSAC to be where the new stadium was built. That is where the academy is. There was no talk about what might have happened to the academy that is well established there. It has a couple of ovals, a throwing pit—which is just brilliant—and all the latest mod cons one could think of in sports science. Those opposite were going to displace them in the lead-up to an Olympic Games. Can anyone think of any worse disruption?

Mr Bennett: Can you believe it?

Mr MANDER: Can you believe it? I will take that interjection from the member for Burnett. The Leader of the Opposition wanted not only to delay the transition for two years but also to displace the QAS from its home. I have not heard of anything more ridiculous.

Mr Bennett: What is the score in the Origin?

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Burnett. What is the score in the Origin? Does anybody know?

A government member: 20-12 to New South Wales.

Mr MANDER: Come on, Queensland!

This is an incredibly innovative transition that we have undertaken. Again I pay tribute to my department. They have been under the pump to get this done. They were working to a different timetable to the one the previous government had given them. When we came in, I said that we wanted to show that we could be exactly what the high-performance sector wants—that in the department we could be agile, we could be nimble and we could move quickly. My department has delivered. They have gone beyond the normal expectations that we have of our people. They have worked hard.

This has been quite a complex negotiation to transfer from a public service model to a statutory body and to ensure that we protect everybody's rights, as we have done. We travelled around the country and looked at other models. The New South Wales Institute of Sport was recommended to us as the model to look at. There was a lot of toing and froing. As I said, it was quite complex but the department has delivered and they have done it well. I appreciate that.

I appreciate the QAS guys who were involved in making this happen. I know that they are going to appreciate a new board. There will be a new CEO. There will be a new vision, but they will have the same objective, which is to produce the best sportspeople, whether they be able-bodied or para-athletes, so that the 2032 games is the most successful we have ever had and is a games that Queenslanders will be proud of.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—



Mr BUTCHER (8.51 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1

Clause 9 (Functions)

Page 9, after line 11—

insert—

- (fa) to establish partnerships with sporting organisations representing parasports to maximise—
 - (i) participation of athletes in parasports; and
 - (ii) the performance of athletes competing in parasports; and
 - (iii) strategic investment in parasports;

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of capability with human rights.

This amendment specifies that the academy must establish partnerships with sporting organisations that represent para-sports in Queensland. This amendment is really important as it will also ensure that regionally based para-athletes are involved. I heard what the minister said before, but this amendment is really important to the opposition.

Ms HOWARD: Over the years we have seen so much progress for people living with disability who want to participate in sport. That only happens with a lot of agitation and a lot of advocacy on their behalf. This amendment will ensure that there is a body that will help them to advocate and agitate. It is incredibly important. While we have heard from the minister that he wants to play around with an app on his phone, on this side of the House we have been talking to people in the sector. I give a shout-out to Mia Kertesz, a Paralympian and an extraordinary young woman from out my way. People tell us that we need people with lived experience on these boards and we need partnerships with bodies that support Paralympians.

Mr MANDER: I put on the record that the member for Ipswich ridiculed one of the great initiatives of the QAS, which is the YouFor2032 app. It is being used for the first time by para-athletes around this state. The member for Ipswich ridiculed that. I put that on the record.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members on my left, believe it or not, I could not hear what the minister was saying because of the level of interjection. Please cease.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. Members on my left will cease their interjections at this time. I could not hear the minister before because of the level of interjection.

Ms HOWARD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the comment from the minister and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. This amendment should be known as the 'amendment of the bleeding obvious'. It is obvious that you partner and cooperate with all sporting organisations. We have gone past that stage. Para-sport is now accepted. It is accepted. It is part of the norm. You do not have to make special clauses about it. That is actually insulting to the Paralympic movement. They do not need that. The partnerships and the initiatives that we have already prove that this amendment is an absolute nonsense.

Non-government amendment (Mr Butcher) negatived.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Mr MANDER (8.56 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 15 (Composition)

Page 12, line 17, after 'Olympic'—

insert—

sport

I table the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Amendment agreed to.

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

2 Clause 15 (Composition)

Page 12, after line 19—

insert—

(3A) However, at least 1 board member must be a person with experience of living with disability.

This amendment is needed because the minister's amended clause does not create a permanent position on the board of the QAS for a person with experience of living with disability. When people came to talk to the committee, they said loud and clear that they wanted on the board a person with lived experience in Paralympic sports. I take all the hubris and all the anger and all the arm waving from the minister, but his amendment does not actually account for legislation that may go beyond the Olympic Games.

The opposition wants to ensure that our Paralympians have a say on the board of the Academy of Sport. When we look at the two parts of the amendment, because of the way that they are doing this there is an avenue for having no member of the board who has lived experience as a Paralympian. The last part says that it could be a coach, administrator or member of the support team. Basically, they are saying that they could have businesspeople on the board or that they could have the masseuse from a team that went to an Olympic Games.

The opposition wants to ensure that there is a permanent position on the QAS board for a person with lived Paralympic experience. That position needs to be locked in so that there is no avenue for not having someone with lived Paralympic experience. That is why we move this amendment. We want to ensure that the position is locked in not only for now but for the longer term; not only up to the Olympics but past the Olympics.

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

AYES, 32:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, 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.

KAP, 1—Dametto

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Butcher) negatived.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 2 to 7, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

2 Clause 15 (Composition)

Page 12, lines 20 to 26—

omit, insert—

- (4) However, the qualifications, skills or experience of the board must include qualifications, skills or experience in Olympic sport and Paralympic sport.
- (5) For this section—
 - (a) a person has qualifications, skills or experience in **Olympic sport** if the person—
 - (i) has competed at the Olympic Games; or
 - (ii) has been a coach, administrator or member of the support team for athletes competing at the Olympic Games; and
 - (b) a person has qualifications, skills or experience in **Paralympic sport** if the person—
 - (i) has competed at the Paralympic Games; or
 - (ii) has been a coach, administrator or member of the support team for athletes competing at the Paralympic Games.

3 Clause 56 (Definitions for part)

Page 31, after line 28—

insert—

contract includes a deed.

4 After clause 60

Page 33, after line 27—

insert—

60A Application of core agreement to particular staff members

- (1) From the commencement—
 - (a) the core agreement is taken to apply, for all purposes, as if the academy were an entity specified in Appendix 1 of the agreement; and
 - (b) without limiting paragraph (a), the core agreement—
 - (i) is taken to cover the academy; and
 - (ii) is taken to cover staff members of the academy, but only to the extent the staff members would be employees covered by the agreement if the academy were in fact an entity specified in Appendix 1 of the agreement.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies until a relevant certified agreement starts operating under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*.
- (3) In this section—

certified agreement see the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, section 164.

core agreement means the certified agreement known as the 'State Government Entities Certified Agreement 2023'.

covers, in relation to a certified agreement, see the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, section 221.

relevant certified agreement means a certified agreement, made after the commencement, that covers—

 - (a) the academy; and
 - (b) any staff members of the academy.

5 Clause 61 (Existing contracts for services)

Page 34, line 1, after 'department of sport'—

insert—

exclusively

6 Clause 61 (Existing contracts for services)

Page 34, after line 6—

insert—

(3) This section applies despite any express or implied provision of the contract to the contrary.

7 After clause 61

Page 34, after line 6—

insert—

61A Other existing contracts

(1) This section applies if, immediately before the commencement, the State was a party to any of the following contracts—

- (a) a contract with a sporting organisation relating to the provision by the State of financial or other support to the organisation through the QAS business unit;
- (b) a contract with an athlete relating to the provision by the State of financial or other support to the athlete through the QAS business unit;
- (c) a contract with an entity relating to the provision of sponsorship of any type by the entity of the operations of the QAS business unit;
- (d) a contract with an entity relating to the undertaking of research by the entity in areas relevant to the operations of the QAS business unit, including a contract that provides for—
 - (i) undertaking the research in collaboration with the QAS business unit; or
 - (ii) placing students with the QAS business unit;
- (e) a contract with an employer establishing a collaborative arrangement to support employment opportunities for athletes undertaking programs provided through the QAS business unit;
- (f) a contract with an entity granting the State a licence in relation to software used exclusively in the operations of the QAS business unit.

(2) From the commencement—

- (a) the academy is taken to be a party to the contract in place of the State; and
- (b) the contract applies with necessary modifications.

(3) This section applies despite any express or implied provision of the contract to the contrary.

61B Chief executive's obligations in relation to contracts affected by s 61 or 61A

(1) The chief executive of the department of sport must, within 14 days after the commencement—

- (a) prepare a document listing each contract to which section 61 or 61A applies (each an **affected contract**); and
- (b) give the chief executive officer—
 - (i) a copy of the document prepared under paragraph (a); and
 - (ii) a copy of each affected contract; and
- (c) give each party to an affected contract, other than the academy, written notice that states—
 - (i) the contract to which the notice relates; and
 - (ii) the general effect of section 61 or 61A in relation to the contract.

(2) This section does not limit section 62.

Question put—That clauses 15 to 66 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 66 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.06 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Social Housing



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (9.06 pm): Tonight I want to talk about the heartlessness of the LNP when it comes to housing and homelessness. For a party that say they want to address homelessness, they are now making it harder for people seeking housing.

It has been confirmed by the Public Service that the LNP have not added a single new dollar to build new social or affordable homes. For all their blustering and rhetoric, there is not a single new dollar to build a new affordable or social home. What they are doing, however, is taking credit for all of the Labor projects that are now starting to come out of the ground. We have seen it everywhere—LNP members posing at projects that were created and started by Labor, projects that would not have happened if not for Labor. I say to these members: be honest and up-front because we all know where those projects came from.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Sorry to interrupt you, member for Bancroft. Members on all sides, including your own, are too noisy. Leave quietly please if you are going to.

Mr WHITING: The LNP are trying to con Queenslanders that they are compassionate, whilst axing housing projects in their own backyards. Now they can do this because the very first bill that this LNP government passed was to give the Deputy Premier powers to scrap or reduce affordable or social housing projects to which Labor gave the green light. The chief NIMBY in Queensland is now the Deputy Premier. Congratulations on his promotion.

The question is: how is the Minister for Housing going to meet the targets he needs to meet if the Deputy Premier keeps cancelling housing projects? The LNP has cut affordable housing projects in their own backyards. That is their priority—cutting them in their own backyards.

I hear there is a four-storey complex in Tewantin. In the housing minister's own electorate on the Gold Coast there is one that has been scrapped there, and I hear that a 90-unit development in Kawana has also gone the way of the dodo. It is very clear how heartless it is. They are cutting affordable and social housing projects in Queensland.

In another example of this heartlessness, the LNP have brought in new changes to rules that allow Queenslanders to get emergency accommodation. They have made it harder for homeless services to provide emergency housing for people sleeping on the streets. These homeless services do great work—you just need to find out what is happening—but the LNP have released guidelines that place new restrictions on who can get emergency accommodation. It is heartless.

Mudgeeraba Electorate, Quarry Development



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.10 pm): I rise on a matter of significant concern to my electorate of Mudgeeraba: Boral's proposed Reedy Creek key resource area project and the West Burleigh Construction Waste and Resource Recovery Project. It is a topic that has re-emerged yet again, despite our community making it abundantly clear numerous times over many years that a quarry is not appropriate nor wanted in our local area. I have spoken previously in this House about this very issue. It has now been eight years since our community rallied together against the original quarry proposal and won. Unfortunately, we are once again facing the same battle that we thought had long since been resolved.

Throughout my time in this place representing the people of the electorate of Mudgeeraba, I have seen firsthand the profound frustration and anxiety this quarry proposal has caused within our local community. The overwhelming sentiment amongst locals is crystal clear. This quarry is not wanted and it is not welcome. For Boral to continue to try and bulldoze ahead with a proposal that has been so overwhelmingly and continuously rejected by the community is not the answer. The concerns raised by residents are real: the detrimental impacts on our environment; the inevitable increase in local traffic

congestion; the decline in property values; and, most importantly, the safety, health and wellbeing of the locals who call Reedy Creek home.

We are talking about a project that, if allowed to proceed, would fundamentally alter the very character of our cherished community. The quarry poses a significant threat to our precious bushland, jeopardises local wildlife habitats and undermines the peaceful way of life that the residents of Reedy Creek have worked diligently to protect and preserve. Time and time again our community has united to voice a resounding no to this proposal. We have rallied together, signed petitions and provided written submissions.

Let me be clear: this is not just a matter of inconvenience. This is a matter of identity, of preserving what makes Reedy Creek such a special place to live. Locals rightly hold serious concerns about the long-term environmental community and planning implications if this project were to be approved. This proposal would further industrialise an environmentally fragile area. Dust, air pollution, vibration and noise would detrimentally affect community wellbeing, and the significant increase in heavy vehicle traffic would overwhelm our local suburban roads which are not equipped to handle such vehicles, particularly on Reedy Creek Road, Old Coach Road and West Burleigh Road.

This project is, in short, simply not suitable for our community. To the residents of Reedy Creek: as always, I stand with you. I will continue to fight against this unacceptable proposal alongside you. I will not back down until our voices are heard and respected.

Mollee, Ms J; Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (9.12 pm): Tonight I begin by paying my respects to a young Upper Mount Gravatt resident, Jocelyn Grace Mollee, who was tragically killed in a car crash on the Bruce Highway on the Easter long weekend. Our hearts are with Jocelyn's family, friends and loved ones. This is a devastating loss for our local community.

Jocelyn was just 22 years old, a student at the University of Queensland studying in her fourth year of chemical engineering, something her mother said she was incredibly passionate about. She had a passion for water quality and for making sure people have access to sufficient and clean water. Amanda, Jocelyn's mother, a teacher at San Sisto College, has remembered Jocelyn as a gentle soul who was going to be a pillar of our society. Jocelyn was smart, she was kind, she had a wicked sense of humour and a sense of adventure. She wanted to live life to the fullest. She could make people talk and she could make people laugh. She had a love of books and loved nature. This is a great loss for our local community. I extend my deepest sympathies to Jocelyn's family and friends and to all those who are hurting in our community at the moment.

Today marks the beginning of Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. The theme for 2025 is 'Take positive action today to build a safer Queensland'. This initiative aims to raise awareness, highlight support services and send a clear message that violence in our communities will not be tolerated in any part of Queensland. This May will also see Labor's coercive control legislation take effect. From 26 May 2025, coercive control will become a criminal offence in Queensland thanks to a Labor government. The legislation aims to save lives and improve the safety of women and children. Labor remains committed to supporting organisations, businesses and individuals in understanding coercive control and domestic violence, raising awareness in a trauma-informed way and helping bystanders recognise, speak up and assist victims.

National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day in Australia is on 7 May. It is a day to remember those lost to family violence and to make inroads into ending such violence. Across Queensland there will be candlelight vigils held on 7 May 2025. I acknowledge my good friend Joan Pease, the member for Lytton, who will be hosting a candlelight vigil in Lytton. I encourage everyone to attend one of these events. I will also be hosting a memorial this Saturday, 3 May, in conjunction with the Red Rose Foundation, of which I was a board member, and local Rotary clubs. This is an annual community memorial service to remember those who have lost their lives through domestic and family violence. This event starts at 4 pm and I hope to see everyone there.

Coomera Hospital



Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.15 pm): Last week the Crisafulli government released our *Hospital Rescue Plan*. I will not be tabling this copy because I borrowed it from the health minister. It is the biggest investment ever made into our health system. There was one project which will make a huge difference to my community, the Coomera Hospital.


The former Labor government completely botched this new hospital. Labor oversaw a billion dollar cost blowout, delays of more than six months and a plan that only had 400 beds instead of the 600 overnight beds identified in the original business case as what our growing city needs. Labor was going to build this hospital without basic services like pathology, pharmacy or even an outpatient department. Incredibly, Labor started planning Coomera in 2016, which means they wasted almost a decade. The review also found there was no forward thinking around Robina. It was planning by press release without listening to the people who actually deliver health care.

The northern Gold Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in our state and it has been unacceptable to not have a hospital between Southport and Logan for so long. I am not excited about this new facility because it is coming to my electorate; I am excited because of what it will mean for GCUH, which I do proudly represent. Our plan also includes 70 new beds for Gold Coast University Hospital and a subacute expansion. Our local health workers there are stretched, overworked and under-resourced. Our new government is getting on with the job of delivering the new Coomera Hospital because our community cannot wait any longer than the decade they already have under Labor.

The new 600-bed hospital will include day surgery, maternity services, operating theatres and an ICU. It will have a multistorey car park and, importantly, be better connected to public transport through a revised master plan. All of this will help ease the pressure on GCUH, which has the busiest emergency department in the country. That stress is not fair on patients, and it is certainly not fair on the frontline staff trying to care for them.

I am privileged to represent thousands of health workers. According to the most recent ABS data, health care and social assistance is by far the largest employment sector in Bonney, making up around 14 per cent of workers in my electorate with around half of those directly working in hospitals. These are the people who care for our families, our kids, our parents and our grandparents, and it is time we gave them the facilities they need and deserve. That is exactly what we are delivering. We paused the CFMEU tax, Labor's so-called best practice principles, which were making it more expensive and meaning it took longer to build anything in our state. We are listening to clinicians, empowering local decision-making and planning properly for the future. Early works will continue on the site and we will make sure this project delivers not just for patients but for workers and our wider northern Gold Coast community.

Road Safety Education

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.19 pm): I am wearing this yellow ribbon because I want to raise awareness in the Logan community about safe driving. The campaign this year is 'Pledge to drive so others survive'. Every death on Logan roads is both avoidable and a tragedy. I am particularly interested in local roads like the Mount Lindesay Highway. That is why I want to continue to be involved to see investment in new sections of grade separated four-lane roads. The Mount Lindesay Highway, Johanna Street to South Street, project is a major Labor initiative which is under construction at the moment. It will deliver a four-lane road from Johanna Street to South Street and a new safer pedestrian crossing, one that is already in place, but will be enhanced, underneath the Mount Lindesay Highway on the rail tracks. These four-lane upgrades will improve traffic movements.


The biggest improvement will be for those travelling beyond Jimboomba. That is because Labor is investing in the whole of Queensland, helping those who live beyond Jimboomba, but it will also see better crossings across the Mount Lindesay Highway for those who are travelling on South Street, Johanna Street or Tamborine Street. Both of these are vital projects. They are projects that will get travellers home sooner and safer, and on a smoother road, enhanced by four lanes on the new bridge. People can travel all the way from Camp Cable Road through to South Street. I know, Mr Deputy Speaker, you would join us in applauding this fantastic Labor initiative which has been put in place and under construction right now.

What is disappointing is that although this is a four-laning project that continues the Mount Lindesay plan, there has not been any four-laning investment for the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba, north of this South Street project, by any LNP roads minister in more than a generation. I am hoping that changes, and that is why I will be putting pressure on this government and this roads minister to be the first in a generation to actually make a significant investment.

We all know that they cut investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway, chopped off the project at Rosia Road such that it was not continued through. We know those documents are in QTRIP; we know there is evidence of that. We also know that there was nothing initiated by the LNP from that Rosia

Road stoppage through to beyond Jimboomba. That is why we want to see investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway, and I will continue to fight for it even though the LNP is not committed to it.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise tonight not on a point of order, but on a point of contention. How is it that the noble and ancient contest of archery was assigned to the city of Maryborough for the 2032 Olympics? Could the answer lie in the name itself? Might it be that Sherwood Forest is in the borough of Mary? Alas, no. Maryborough is exclusive to Queensland. Mary is derived from the Mary River and borough is an area.


So, I turn to the Olympic Games themselves for an answer. The Olympic Games were inspired by the ancient games held in Olympia, Greece from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. The International Olympic Committee was established in 1804, and the first modern games held in Athens in 1896. A clue emerges.

Synonymous with Greek history are the Greek gods, so surely as a bow is drawn, the inquirer might discover an answer by reference to the gods. The first Greek god that jumps to mind is Aphrodite, and whilst the Greek goddess of love and beauty, there is not a bow or arrow in sight. Artemis, the goddess of the hunt, maybe? It would be drawing a long bow to suggest that, even though a bow and arrow featured in the killing of animals which evolved into an Olympic sport. Adonis—nothing to see here. Apollo—ah, Apollo, one of the most important and complex of the Greek gods and, lo and behold, Apollo is the god of archery. Bullseye! What an enigmatic character Apollo turns out to be. Apollo is credited with being the god of archery, as well as dance, truth, prophecy, healing, disease, sunlight and poetry. But the connection to archery goes much deeper.

Cupid, the god of love, shot Apollo with an arrow. The arrow was golden—a love-inducing arrow which caused Apollo to fall in love with the nymph, Daphne. Cupid then shot Daphne with a lead-tipped arrow which made her impervious to love and caused her to flee from Apollo. I digress.

Having established the link between archery, Greek history and the Olympic Games, the inquiry has not yet made a connection to the fair city of Maryborough. The city is most aptly represented by none other than John Barounis MP. He is Greek through and through. Whilst Barounis is derived from the word 'barouni' denoting artistic flair and nobility, there is still no immediate connection to archery. So in a moment of desperation I approached the member himself. Mr John 'Tazy' Barounis MP, member for Maryborough, assures me that his great, great grandfather several times removed or his 'progonos' was at least a very close associate of Apollo. Problem solved!

Waterford Electorate, Road Safety

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (9.24 pm): As elected representatives we know how important road safety is. Every person in our community deserves to travel safely, whether it is to and from work, dropping the kids at school or simply going about their day. In the Waterford electorate, under the former Labor government, I was proud to deliver real improvements to make our roads safer—major upgrades to the M1, delivering more lanes and better public transport options. We also delivered important safety improvements along Brisbane-Beenleigh Road including major intersection upgrades. These projects are making a real difference.

While there has been some progress under much of our community under the former Labor government, some areas are being left behind. That is why tonight I rise to speak about the dangerous intersection at Chambers Flat Road and School Road in Logan Reserve. Residents are deeply worried about safety at this intersection. The member for Logan, Linus Power, is worried and I am worried, too. Residents have been raising concerns with us. They have been writing letters. They are rightly asking why nothing has been done.

The local LNP councillor for division 8, Jacob Heremaia, who is responsible for this intersection, has been missing in action. Jacob Heremaia, I might add, is the political protege of the former and current members of Oodgeroo. Now, back into the intersection. Joel Dobbins, a local resident wrote to me because, quite frankly, he has had enough. He had to put pen to paper because he did not wait until it was too late to take action. He said—

.. the fact that this treacherous intersection has not already been fixed despite it being identified as extremely dangerous and in need of upgrade is a horrible indictment of all of your collectively failure to cut through whatever bureaucracy and procurement issues you may be facing to achieve the required outcome.

He continued—


Cr. Heremaia; with a background as a Project Manager, qualifications in Procurement and Contracting, and as the local council Division 8 representative, you must act immediately.

Joel wants more action—not more waiting, not more silence. I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 March 2025, From Joel Dobbins, Logan Resident and Business Owner, to Hon. Fentiman MP, regarding Chambers Flat Road and School Road Intersection; and attachments re Councillor Heremaia road upgrade information.

Here's the thing: there is no excuse for this delay. The federal government actually gave the council funding for this project back in 2023. The money is there, ready to go, but what have we seen from the local LNP councillor? A newsletter and a couple of Facebook posts in the last month after the member for Logan and I have been out there calling on him to do something. It is not good enough. This is about the safety of local families. Residents should not have to beg for action, they should not have to put pen to paper, they should not have to launch campaigns just to have safety at local intersections. I am calling on Councillor Heremaia to step up, do his job and give the community what they deserve. They have been waiting long enough. They deserve to see shovels in the ground—not just the odd Facebook update after the member for Logan and I demand better action.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.27 pm): It is timely we discuss the achievements of the new Crisafulli government. Six months ago the people of Queensland voted for a fresh start and after 10 years of chaos and crisis under Labor, Queensland voted for change and elected this LNP government. We have inherited significant challenges. Everyone knows youth crime is at an all-time high, the cost of living is out of control, our health system and our local hospitals are on life support and residents are unable to keep, find or secure a roof over their head. Locally, for the first time we have people living under bridges in the Bundaberg region. We saw the challenges the region faces and we heard locals loud and clear. Our region deserves a government that listens but, more importantly, our region delivers a government that delivers for them.


I promised, as did every member on this side of the House, to work tirelessly to deliver change for the people of our region regardless of how they voted. For the past six months our government has been hard at work delivering the fresh start for Queenslanders that they were promised. To help keep Queenslanders safe, we made our first changes and introduced our Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, we delivered more police and are making sure they are well supported and we have introduced legislation to protect more Queenslanders from domestic and family violence.

We have taken steps to restore integrity in our justice system and clean up Labor's DNA debacle. I want to also talk about our Hospital Rescue Plan. We will save the Bundaberg health system from Labor's failures. That plan will deliver the biggest investment in hospital infrastructure in the state's history. Most importantly, our plan is credible and deliverable. We have axed Labor's patients tax. We have unlocked more land for housing and are building more traditional housing. We have cut red tape for builders and increased support for community housing providers. From today, first home buyers purchasing a new home will not pay stamp duty on that new home. This is another Labor tax we have axed.

We have also paused Labor's CFMEU construction tax. This is real cost-of-living relief that we are providing to help property ownership rates. We have axed two taxes, ended the \$37 billion Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro hoax and are making record investment in free public hospitals and health services. We have secured funding to deliver the critical transport infrastructure locally and more upgrades of the Bruce Highway. We are the only team, both state and federally, that is committed to the reinstatement of Paradise Dam. We are driving planning scheme reforms in the renewable projects area that were announced today.

We have come a long way in six months, but there is still a long way to go. We will continue to deliver safety where people live, health services when they need them, respect for their money and a place to call home. That is what Queenslanders voted for and that is what Queenslanders deserve. This weekend Australians have a choice about who will deliver for them. From a local point of view, there is no team better to deliver for our region than two locals: David Batt and Colin Boyce. These candidates know the importance of delivering for our region. They have done this work over many years during their entire public life as well as their private life. Their track record of keeping people safe is exactly the record that we need in our local members. This is an important election for Queensland, and I urge our region to support our local candidates this weekend. If people have any questions, I will be at pre-poll tomorrow and election day on Saturday.

Federal Election

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.31 pm): Young people know that Labor and the Liberals are not the parties that their parents voted for. Young people are holding up their end of the bargain, but they know that the major parties and their politicians are not. Young people are doing what they were told to do: keep your head down, work hard and you will do well. But every day they feel like they are going backwards.

Skyrocketing rents and house prices are leaving young people increasingly insecure in their homes and, quite reasonably, countless young people are losing any hope that they might one day have the opportunity to own their own home. Yet at the same time they see Labor and the Liberals cutting taxes for the rich, giving billions of dollars in tax handouts to wealthy property investors. They see health care and groceries getting more expensive year on year while the billionaires, the banks, Coles, Woolworths and the gas companies continue to make record profits and so many of them pay no tax whatsoever.


Young people were born into a worsening climate crisis, a crisis that we already knew about and a crisis that is absolutely not of their making. They see every single credible source on climate change telling our leaders that they need to act with urgency, that they need to immediately put the brakes on fossil fuels, and yet Labor and the Liberals continue year on year to open up and support even more coal and gas projects.

My message to young people at this federal election is simple: this is your election; this is your turn to shape the future of our country; it is in your hands to vote for the future that you deserve. I do not know that I need to tell them because more young people than ever are voting Greens. They are voting Greens to make billionaires and gas corporations pay their fair share, to get dental and mental health into Medicare, and to cap rents and get guaranteed lease renewals so they can have a steady, secure place to live. Young people are voting for a public property developer that will build the homes they can actually afford to live in. They are voting Greens to speak out about the genocide in Palestine and two-way arms trade with Israel. They are voting Greens to wipe HECS debt and to study at uni and TAFE for free, just like our Prime Minister did. They are voting Greens for a credible plan to tackle climate change and one to do it with the urgency it demands. Young people are voting for the Greens to stop Labor and the Liberals continuing to open new coal and gas projects.

My message to everyone at this election, but especially to young people, is: do not let Dutton trash your future. Do not let Labor take you for granted. This election vote Greens and vote for a future for all of us.

(Time expired)

Theodore Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.34 pm): Anzac Day holds a sacred place in the hearts of Australians, particularly for those who have served and those who continue to serve our nation. This year's Anzac Day services on the northern Gold Coast were particularly memorable. After 17 years at the previous location at the Coomera CWA hall, the Maudsland dawn service has found a new home at Cliff Bird Park in Maudsland. This beautiful park, nestled in the Coomera Valley at the foothills of Tamborine Mountain, is an ideal setting for a permanent memorial. Plans are underway to build a new cenotaph which is fulfilling an LNP commitment at the last state election.

Despite challenging weather conditions on Anzac Day, the spirit of the Anzacs in our local community showed through. Geoff Benson, who is a local veteran of the 2nd 14th Light Horse, has been hosting the Anzac Day at Maudsland for 17 years and I am grateful for his noble tradition to continue long into the future. He was supported by his old unit, the 2nd 14th Light Horse, which has been unwavering in supporting him over the years. I want to extend a great deal of gratitude to Geoff, the 2nd 14th Light Horse, the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade and Helensvale Lions for their dedication for working on this service for all of these years and making it such a success.

Recently the Upper Coomera cenotaph was relocated from its home where it stood for over 100 years at Charlies Crossing Road North and Tamborine Oxenford Road. It is now located in Tallowood Park in Upper Coomera, and I must say that it looks absolutely magnificent in its new location. It has been fully restored to its original glory. This cenotaph now stands proudly elevated on the hill overlooking the countryside and now locals can continually walk around it to read its inscriptions given that, unfortunately, they could not do that at its previous location due to the massive amount of traffic. It is lit up at night and it ensures that any passing motorist can see its beauty and what it stands for. Most humbling was the fact that after the Anzac Day service young children were walking around with their parents asking their parents what the names meant, what the inscriptions meant and who these

people were. I also want to thank the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, Main Roads and Warren Edwards for all of their hard work on this project. Also, a huge special thanks goes to Colonel Gabrielle Raffin of the 11th Brigade for commissioning the relocation on Anzac Day. Her inspiring speech will be remembered by those young people for many years to come.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.37 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, 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, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young