



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 April 2025 the member for McConnel wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 10 December 2024, 12 December 2024 and 18 February 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the Premier and Deputy Premier during questions without notice. I consider this matter is trivial in nature. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater and the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 16 April 2025, the member for McConnel wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 10 December 2024, 12 December 2024 and 18 February 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Premier and Deputy Premier during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier stated on 10 December 2024:

'This is a panel that will do a job and the former Labor government could not even decide on a panel. They had no panel. They had no board.

...

Former minister Grace came in here and set up GVLDA—the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority—and forgot to appoint a board to the authority.'

And, on 12 December 2024, the Premier stated:

'The honourable member is aware that an independent infrastructure and coordination authority has been appointed. The reason the honourable member is aware of that is that she could not do it. She had 1,200 days and could not find seven Queenslanders who she reckoned could do the job. That was 1,200 days.'

And, on 18 February 2025, the Deputy Premier stated:

'Labor could not even appoint an independent board of experts to advise on games delivery. After caving to political pressure and the reality that they needed one, they set it up but forgot to appoint the board.'

The member for McConnel argued that these statements were deliberately misleading because a request was made by the President of the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee, Dr Andrew Liveris, to delay any appointments to the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority until after the State Election. The member submitted that this request was respected by the former government and that the current government were aware of that request at the time.

The member for McConnel also submitted that there were only 116 days between assent of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024, which established the authority, and the government entertaining caretaker mode.

I sought further information from the Premier and Deputy Premier about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

Both members submitted that just because a request was made not to appoint members to the board does not alter the fact that no appointments were made. The Premier also submitted that the 1200 days he was referring to was from the time Brisbane was announced as host of the 2032 Olympics.

Both members also submitted that there was ample time to make appointments prior to the request from Dr Andrew Liveris.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, it is clear that there was no board appointed by the former government. The member for McConnell, Premier and Deputy Premier may differ on why that was the case or when was the best time to make appointments to the board. However, such arguments, characterisations and differences of opinions are entirely within the realm of normality in parliamentary debate.

Therefore, I consider this matter to be trivial in nature and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

As a side, I do note that the Deputy Premier referred to the member's state of mind for why she did not appoint a board. The Deputy Premier was not in a position to make such a statement about another member's state of mind. While I consider in this case that the matter is still trivial in nature and part of the cut and thrust of political debate, I urge members to refrain from such statements in the future.

I again caution members to think seriously before referring matters of privilege to me, unless they are of significant importance or risk referral to the Ethics Committee themselves.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

### **Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House**



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 11 April 2025, the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 2 April 2025. The matter relates to a document tabled by the Deputy Premier named 'Labor's Games Plan'. I consider this matter is clearly trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana.

Leave granted.

#### **SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE**

On 11 April 2025, the Manager of Opposition Business wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 2 April 2025.

The matter relates to a document tabled by the Deputy Premier named 'Labor's Games Plan'.

The Manager of Opposition Business argued that this document was misleading because it did not reflect the former government's Olympic Games plan.

I sought further information from the Deputy Premier about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Deputy Premier submitted the former Government's Olympics Plan was changed many times and that is what the drawing depicts.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This matter is clearly trivial. Any reasonable person would know that a handwritten drawing was not the former Government's formal Olympic Games plan.

The Manager of Opposition Business also made reference to the use of props. However, I have reviewed the Record of Proceedings and confirm that I dealt with the issue of props appropriately at the time.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I am becoming increasingly frustrated by the politicisation of allegations of matter of privilege. I am seeing more and more allegations that simply fall within the cut and thrust of political discourse. I strongly advise members from all sides to reconsider frivolous allegations of matters of privilege, or risk referral to the Ethics Committee themselves.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 9 April 2025, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 3 April 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the Attorney-General during questions without notice. I consider the Attorney-General has made an adequate explanation and apology. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity and member for Nanango.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 9 April 2025, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House on 3 April 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Attorney-General during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Attorney-General stated:

'Out of respect for the role, I wrote to the opposition leader about this. Guess what the opposition leader did? Those opposite talk about integrity. Out of respect, I wrote to the opposition leader and before he even had a thought to respond to my correspondence he went straight to the Courier-Mail and gave it to them. He did not even bother responding. When he did respond, do members know what he did? He said that he is too lazy to meet with me and he wants a supposed future leader of the opposition to meet with me.'

The Leader of the Opposition argued that these statements were deliberately misleading because the Attorney-General was required by law to consult with him. Further, he stated that he did respond to the Attorney-General, and contained in his response was that he was amenable to meet with her to discuss the matter.

I sought further information from the Attorney-General about the allegations made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Attorney-General submitted that the legislative requirement to consult with the Leader of the Opposition does not exclude the fact that she wrote to him out of respect for the position of Leader of the Opposition. She also submitted that she made it clear in her statement that she received a response from the Leader of the Opposition.

With respect to the statement that the Leader of the Opposition was too lazy to meet with her, she said that she did not take the invitation in his correspondence to meet with her in good faith because the Leader of the Opposition had previously provided the correspondence to the media.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note the Attorney-General made an apology in the House in relation to aspects of this matter on 21 May 2025 and this is recorded at page 1307 of the Record of Proceedings.

I have considered all of the material put forward by the Leader of the Opposition and the Attorney-General, and am of the view that there has been an adequate explanation and apology by the Attorney-General.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, On 11 April 2025, the member for Miller wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House on 3 April 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the minister during questions without notice. I consider this matter is in the realm of both technical and trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and member for Clayfield.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 11 April 2025, the member for Miller wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House on 3 April 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Minister during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Minister stated:

'The Labor Party shut their eyes and allowed illegal vapes to be sold at corner stores the length and breadth of the state. We have seen them flourish over the past three years. Under those opposite, there were no fines for selling vapes—no fines at all—and, as a result, those stores flourished. We are taking action; Labor failed to.'

The member argued that these statements were deliberately misleading and provided evidence that the former government had enforced vaping related offences, including a Ministerial media release.

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Minister submitted that he was referring to on-the-spot fines formally known as penalty infringement notices, or PINs. He provided the legislative history of punitive penalty measures for vaping offences, and rebutted the member's evidence of vaping offences that had resulted in fines under the former government.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

This appears to be a matter of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 4 April 2022 when he stated: 'The nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculation.'

In this matter, the Member and the Minister are both referring to the punitive measures that are/have been applied to vaping offences, albeit referring to different types of fines under different legislation.

As such, I consider this matter is within the realm of being both technical and trivial.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Visitors to Public Gallery



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Kimberley Park State School in the electorate of Springwood; Kenmore State High School in the electorate of Moggill; and Chinchilla Christian School in the electorate of Callide.

### Clerk of the Parliament



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have it on good authority that tomorrow is the Clerk of the Parliament's birthday. I am sure all members will join me in wishing the Clerk a happy birthday and best wishes for the year ahead, filled with happiness and good health.

## PETITION

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

### Native Forest Logging

1,573 petitioners, requesting the House to bring to the attention of the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data the lack of public accessible data regarding native forest logging.

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell)—

Letter, dated 21 May 2025, from the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, Hon. Andrew Powell, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, enclosing the Commonwealth Gene Technology Amendment (Minor Measures) Regulations 2025 (Schedule 1)

Commonwealth Gene Technology Amendment (Minor Measures) Regulations 2025 (Schedule 1)

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Victims of Crime



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): Our government is committed to turning the tide on the youth crime crisis. We are committed to putting victims first. We listen to victims and members of the community who are crying out for change. They want to see youth crime taken seriously. They want to see action to drive down youth crime. They want to see fewer victims of crime. Our government does too.

The first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws to implement Adult Crime, Adult Time were passed before Christmas—just as we said we would do. We also promised Queenslanders that we would continue to strengthen the laws and that is exactly what we have done. Overnight our government expanded Adult Crime, Adult Time to include more serious offences. Thirty-three youth crime offences are now included under Adult Crime, Adult Time. Under the laws young criminals can be charged with crimes like ramming a police car, rape, attempted murder and arson.

Since Adult Crime, Adult Time became law last year we have started to see change in the right direction. Early police data shows we are starting to see fewer stolen cars, break-ins and robberies, but we have a long way to go. It is a big task to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. Over the last decade our youth crime laws were weakened. A generation of offenders were told again and again there were no consequences for their actions. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws hold offenders to account. Our laws put victims' rights ahead of the rights of offenders. The bill passed by this House last night also places further protection around victims.

We promised to restore safety to our communities and to continue delivering stronger youth crime laws. That is exactly what we are doing. There will be more changes. That includes creating a public sex offender register to be known as Daniel's Law—just as we promised Bruce and Denise Morcombe we would do. We are going to continue to strengthen these laws and do everything we can to make sure there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland.

### New South Wales, Weather Event



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): I want to pass on the best wishes of the entire state and this House to the residents of the Mid North Coast of New South Wales who are experiencing record flooding rains. There have been hundreds of rescues and tens of thousands of residents have been told to prepare for isolation. While next week our two states will go head to head on the footy field, right now we stand shoulder to shoulder with our friends in New South Wales in their hour of need. We stand ready to provide any resources to help them during this difficult time.

### Victims of Crime



**Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.38 am): Last night we passed the second wave of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, expanding them to cover 33 serious offences. We did this because we listened. We listened to Queenslanders who have been terrorised in their homes. We listened to victims whose lives have been shattered. We listened to the experts who said that the system was broken, because under Labor it was. Today, I rise with pride to say we have delivered on our promise to strengthen youth crime laws, to protect Queenslanders and to restore safety to our homes, our businesses and our streets. Under Labor, youth gangs thrived. They knew the laws were weak and that they were untouchable. A gang could steal cars, torch shops or terrorise families and get away with little more than a slap on the wrist. Now the courts have the ability to impose adult time for those crimes.


Labor did not just fail to act; they actively weakened the laws. We had 10 years of excuses, 10 years of soaring crime and 10 years of victims being forgotten. Just ask Bec Musgrave from Thornlands whose family was asleep when youth criminals stormed their home and stole four cars or Simon West whose life and businesses were up-ended by teenagers charged with more than 300 offences for wrecking 10 local shops in a single rampage. They are not outliers. They are everyday Queenslanders who were paying the price for a decade of Labor failure. When Labor tried to stall our reforms they were turning their backs on the victims of crime.

The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to restore safety, to hold offenders accountable and to reduce the number of victims of crime. That is exactly what we are doing. I want to thank the Expert Legal Panel for their hard work and consultation across Queensland, from detention

centre staff and victim advocates to frontline legal professionals. Their work is not done. I look forward to continuing to work with them because we will not stop strengthening our laws. There is more work to be done and we will continue to strengthen those laws.

However, we know that strong laws need to go hand in hand with early intervention and rehabilitation. That is why we have a comprehensive plan to invest in prevention, mentoring, education and support services to tackle the root causes of youth offending and to give young people the opportunity to choose a different path. Real reform means pairing accountability with hope. I will keep working every single day to make Queensland safer.

### Forensic Science Queensland

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.41 am): One of my highest priorities as Attorney-General and one of the Crisafulli government's important commitments to Queenslanders is delivering faster access to justice for victims. For too long in this state, victims of crime have languished down the bottom of the priority list under a decade of the Miles-Palaszczyk government. There can be no greater example of this than Labor's DNA debacle—one of the greatest failures of the justice system in the world. When in opposition, we raised the alarm and forced Labor to finally confront the serious issues that they had ignored and allowed to worsen, but there was no responsibility taken and no serious solutions offered. Since we were elected, this has been our focus.

Queenslanders who have been victims of violent crimes should not be forced to wait longer than necessary for justice. In my first week as Attorney-General, I initiated an independent review into Labor's DNA debacle and the forensic testing failures that were preventing Queenslanders from getting the justice that they deserve. The expert independent reviewers, Dr Kirsty Wright and Dr Bruce Budowle, will provide their findings to me in the coming months. While we wait for their review I have asked for regular updates from Forensic Science Queensland about the progress of their testing operations and performance.


I am not satisfied that backlogs are reducing fast enough. Thousands of samples are currently backlogged involving dozens of sets of human remains and cold cases, over 10,000 major crime samples and 660 rape and sexual assault kits and, of those, 121 relate to child victims or victims with a disability. Currently, it is taking 63 weeks or 445 days to progress major crime samples and get results back to police. That is Labor's legacy. We are committed to reforming Queensland's forensic testing operations and the review will play a significant role, but we cannot wait and victims cannot wait. We cannot stand by while there are rapists on the streets and children living with abusers.

Today, I am announcing the Crisafulli government will commit \$50 million over two years for a new outsourcing program to deal with Labor's DNA backlogs and deliver faster access to justice. The Department of Justice will oversee the new outsourcing taskforce with the involvement of Forensic Science Queensland and the Queensland Police Service. Under the new outsourcing strategy, DNA samples for rape kits, most major crime cases and unidentified human remains will be sent away for testing.

To be very clear, work will continue at Forensic Science Queensland's lab as we strengthen their capacity to clear Labor's backlog. We cannot know what we know and not act. The two-year program will allow scientists at FSQ to focus their efforts on clearing Labor's historical case backlog, with more than 2,300 cases currently identified as requiring scientific review. It also means Forensic Science Queensland will have added capacity to reshape the organisation internally and implement any forthcoming DNA review recommendations.

We are doing what Labor should have done years ago to clear those backlogs and deliver justice for victims sooner to keep vulnerable victims, including women and children, safe from further harm. The Crisafulli government will deliver the reform necessary to bring our forensic testing up to world-class standard. We will deliver justice for victims, for which they have waited too long.

### Bribie Island, Breakthrough Review

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.45 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland, including to the residents of the Sunshine Coast. In April I announced that the Queensland government was undertaking a review of the Bribie Island erosion and breakthrough to help safeguard the future of the island as well as the safety and prosperity of nearby communities, particularly in Golden Beach, Caloundra.



Ongoing erosion has severely narrowed the width of the northern tip of Bribie Island, creating several weak points. Concerns were first raised in 2021. In 2022, large waves cut a channel through the weakest part of the northern tip of Bribie Island, opposite Nelson Street, Golden Beach. That channel rapidly widened and became a new opening to the ocean. Soon after, the original Caloundra bar closed over. The body of water has constrained the Caloundra coastguard, preventing access from their base to the southern passage and the open ocean.

Our government is getting on with the job. We are listening to locals and findings solutions in response to community concerns and local impacts of the Bribie Island breakthrough, after years of ignorance and inaction by former Labor governments. In fact, when concerns were first raised about the erosion impacts in 2021, the former government, under the stewardship of the former environment minister the member for Gaven, responded with, 'The department doesn't see any need to intervene in this.' That was despite concerns of local residents being raised at the time about the catastrophic impacts of the breakthrough.

**Ms Scanlon:** Yes, and you're ignoring them.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection of ignoring. Within a couple of hundred days we have announced a huge review; for 10 years they did nothing. They let it get to this situation. If I was the former environment minister who let this get to the state that it is in now, I would not be interjecting. This happened despite residents raising concerns at the time about the catastrophic impacts of a breakthrough and the former Labor member for Caloundra did nothing but sat silent. In direct contrast, we have heard locals loudly and clearly. Caloundra and Sunshine Coast residents want action. That is why, following ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Crisafulli government took swift action by commissioning an independent expert review specifically tasked to have a strong focus on public consultation with the local community to ensure their concerns are heard. The initial phase of—

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**Mr Bailey:** Another review.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the former minister for public transport, who said, 'Another review.' Do you know what the people of the Sunshine Coast are saying? 'At least there's a review after 10 years of inaction by the former Labor government.' The Labor Party sat silent and did nothing. Was the interjection given to him by the member for Gaven? Is he defending her record? I wonder why.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Did you hear me say, 'Order!', member for McConnel?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for McConnel is defending their record as well, and it is a bad record. The initial phase of the public consultation, which gave local residents and business owners an active role in shaping a resilient future for northern Bribie Island, the Pumicestone Passage, local waterways and the broader Caloundra community, has just closed.


During a month of consultation, the government received 1,197 individual submissions from the public to review. From this initial phase of consultation, we know that locals have been most concerned about the impact of potential storm surges, the impact of the breakthrough on local infrastructure, the impact on the island's environment and the impact on access for the coastguard and related emergency service workers. Independent expert reviewers RPS and International Coastal Management will take this initial community feedback into consideration to develop tangible solutions and will have further public consultation on immediate and long-term responses to the issues.

I thank the member for Caloundra for her tireless advocacy for local residents and for taking the time to submit their important and valuable feedback. The previous Labor member for Caloundra never once mentioned Bribie Island in this chamber—not once. Now the residents of Caloundra have a hardworking member in parliament and the communities of the Sunshine Coast have an LNP government that will deliver real outcomes for them.

Ensuring local voices are heard before making decisions is a key difference between the Crisafulli government and those Labor members opposite. This is another example of the Crisafulli government allowing Queenslanders to have a say and not running roughshod over local communities, like Labor did for 10 years. The Bribie Island breakthrough review also follows our landmark reviews into stage 4 of the Gold Coast Light Rail and the 2032 games—both of which received thousands of public submissions. The Crisafulli government is listening to Queenslanders. Whether it was planning laws or

infrastructure, the previous Labor government ignored the community, failed to listen to local councils and rammed through their own policies and projects without consultation and Queenslanders were the ones who were left behind. Not anymore.

### Illicit Smoking Products

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): The Crisafulli government is continuing to crack down on rogue traders stocking and selling illicit tobacco and vapes. Since coming to office, we have ramped up enforcement efforts, implemented the nation's toughest fines and introduced new laws to streamline the seizure and destruction of illegal vapes.

A few months ago, Queensland Health conducted the nation's largest ever raid of illegal products by a health authority. Illegal vapes, cigarettes and loose tobacco with a combined street value of more than \$20 million was seized during the record-breaking operation in March. The massive operation spanned more than 30 locations across Central Queensland, Wide Bay and Greater Brisbane. Disrupting the supply of these harmful products is helping to keep Queenslanders—especially Queensland kids—safe.


When I last updated the House on our enforcement action I said we were exploring more ways to disrupt the supply of these harmful products, and that is exactly what we have done. I am pleased to announce that the Crisafulli government has today released for public consultation proposed new laws to get even tougher on illicit tobacco and vape stores. These proposed measures are more than just the slap on the wrist or the empty threats we saw under those opposite. These are serious consequences for rogue businesses caught breaking the law.

Currently, Queensland Health can shut down shops selling illegal tobacco or vape products only for 72 hours, effectively giving dodgy operators a long weekend. We are proposing they should be forcibly shut for three months. We are also targeting landlords who are complicit and turn a blind eye to illegal activity occurring in their premises. We will empower landlords with a statutory right to terminate a lease if their tenant has triggered a closure order through illegal activity, and any landlord who does not use this termination right to kick out their dodgy tenants may be considered complicit and may face hefty fines and possible jail time.

Other key proposals include: allowing a magistrate to shut down illegal chop shops for up to 12 months, rather than the six months currently allowed; making it an offence for shops to sell or provide any product or service while under a closure order; allowing the government to seize and permanently confiscate compromised legal smoking products if they are found in stores that stock illegal smoking products or vapes; closing loopholes; and cracking down on suppliers who attempt to circumvent Queensland's tough laws, including holding corporate directors criminally liable for offences by shell companies that they control.

We are doing everything possible to stamp out this illegal activity and keep Queenslanders safe. Anyone who wants to have their say on these new laws can visit the Queensland Health stakeholder consultation website to make a submission. Be warned: we are coming after illegal traders.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.55 am): I ask every member in this House: what does 2032 mean for you? The Crisafulli government is working to deliver a strategy to help shape the future of sport in Queensland. We want to make Queensland the indisputable home of Australian sport.

We know Queenslanders love their sport, but it is concerning that less than half of Queensland's adults are active at least three times a week, with almost 20 per cent not active at all. What is even more concerning is that around 30 per cent of Queensland's children are not physically active outside of school hours. This is not the legacy we want for our state, but this is the legacy that Labor left us.

With the 2032 games just seven years away our government will shape the future of sport in this state and make sure the benefits are felt by all Queenslanders, and we will deliver the games that Queenslanders deserve. Unlike those opposite, we appreciate this golden opportunity. Physical activity should be a central part of everyday life for Queenslanders. That is why we are asking Queenslanders: what does 2032 mean for you? We have been travelling across the state to hear directly from Queenslanders—in Brisbane, in Roma, at the Gold Coast, in Emerald, at the Sunshine Coast and in Cairns—and soon we will be heading to Townsville and Mackay.

The feedback so far has been tremendous, with people telling us about their new ideas to attract, recognise and retain volunteers. They have shared thoughts on how to support the update of technology to modernise the sporting industry, how to enable greater collaboration across the sector and innovative ways to engage and inspire the next generation of participants. It is clear there has been no meaningful investment to address barriers to grassroots participation over the last decade. It is my goal to foster a culture where participation is easy, supported and celebrated, whether on the pitch, in a gym, in a park or at home. That is why we have launched our Games On! program, but we know there is still work to do.

People want our talented athletes supported from the get-go—from when they first show promise through to when they enter our high-performance programs—and they want to champion new ways to attract more events to their communities. We want a plan rooted in opportunity, excellence and inclusivity. We are asking Queenslanders: what is needed for you to be more active, and what do the legacies of staging a successful games look like for you where you live?

The LNP is committed to Queenslanders living healthier lives, stronger communities and a more active and confident generation. The positive impacts of sport are paramount in addressing the challenges of youth crime and health—two crises that were left to us by the previous government. During our consultations we heard from some of our state's superstars—Marnus Labuschagne, Emily Seebohm, Taylor Smith and Rachael Watson—that sport is more than just competition; it is a driver of physical and mental wellbeing, a tool for social cohesion and a source of Queensland pride, yet many people remain excluded by geography, opportunity, direction, cost and appropriate infrastructure.

The feedback that we are receiving will help us build a long-term vision for sport in Queensland and shape the direction of funding over the next seven years and beyond. Consultation is open until Sunday, 15 June. Please spread the word at your local club because we want to hear from all Queenslanders. Unlike those opposite, we will listen. In my last parliamentary opportunity before the big game next week, I have only one thing to say: Queensland!

### **Far North Queensland, Road Infrastructure**



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.59 am): Residents of the Far North have been left in the lurch by the former Labor government for far too long when it comes to infrastructure, and the current state of the Barron River Bridge is a daily prominent reminder of that. In my life before politics, I crossed the Barron River Bridge twice daily on my commute from Cairns to Atherton. I learned exactly what that bridge meant to the community and I know exactly the impact on communities in both the Tablelands and Cairns every time that highway or that bridge is closed.

The Barron River Bridge is a lifeline for Far North communities. It is a bridge that was left to ruin under the former Labor government—a bridge that they only cared about when an election was looming. In contrast, the Crisafulli government does care about the safety and the reliability of critical roads and bridges in the Far North. At the last election Queenslanders recognised that, and they chose to elect two hardworking and committed members in the member for Barron River and the member for Cook, alongside their tireless advocate the member for Mulgrave slightly to the south. There has not been a day since I came into this place after October that the members for Barron River and Cook have not advocated to me or to the Premier on behalf of their communities. That is why we are getting on with the job of delivering a solution to the Barron River Bridge for the people of the Far North. In fact, a visit to the Barron River Bridge, alongside the member for Barron River and the member for Cook, was the very first trip that I made as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads at the end of last year.

Today we are releasing the summary business case for a new Barron River Bridge. This is an important step in the Crisafulli government's promise to do what we said we were going to do and to get on with the job. I can advise that the business case recommends a new bridge on a new alignment downstream from the existing bridge. The concept layout for this new bridge includes turnaround capability on the Kennedy Highway at the top of the Kuranda Range, as well as pathways for pedestrians and bike riders. I table the summary business case.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Transport and Main Roads: Barron River bridge, Kuranda replacement—Business Case Summary, April 2025.

While construction takes place, the current bridge can safely remain in service with TMR's extensive routine maintenance program, to ensure connectivity of the Far North communities. I thank our TMR engineers and project teams for their work in ensuring that the existing bridge is trafficable, despite the circumstances that the former Labor government left them with.

I want to thank the federal government for its funding commitment of \$245 million to this important and long overdue project—funding that the former Labor state government was never able to secure, I might add. Securing this funding and considering recommendations in the detailed planning is the first step for our government to deliver on its strong commitment to the Far North as we look to determine the way forward through the budget process. I look forward to informing the community of the next step in coming weeks.

Importantly, we are turning the page on a decade of neglect and inaction in relation to the Barron River Bridge. In the meantime, while budget deliberations are ongoing, work has been continuing to engage contractors and to perform further preparation for the necessary approvals so work can get started as soon as possible. I will continue to work collaboratively with my colleagues the member for Barron River and the member for Cook and also the federal government to deliver a solution because that is what Far North Queenslanders expect and that is what Far North Queenslanders deserve.

### **Western Queensland, Flood Recovery; Timber Industry**



**Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.02 am): The Crisafulli government said we would deliver for primary industries, and we are doing just that. Two weeks ago, I returned to Western Queensland and visited communities in Longreach, Yarraka, Jundah and Windorah to see once again firsthand how primary producers are faring in the aftermath of the floods. The water may have receded but the issues remain. Recovery will take significant time and resources. To date we have received 180 disaster impact surveys. There are now 207,000 livestock recorded either missing or destroyed, 12,000 kilometres of private roads damaged and 8,000 kilometres of fencing damaged.

Together with the Australian government, the Crisafulli government has committed more than \$169 million to support the recovery of the primary producer sector which includes grants for emergency fodder and exclusion fencing repairs. There is a mammoth task ahead for Western Queensland to clean up and get on with replacing damaged infrastructure such as exclusion fencing. The fencing is vital to protect livestock in the region. The challenges are high because of the distinctive environment of the region which means that they have trouble sourcing labour, access has been compromised and the long distances to replace or fix damaged infrastructure.

Anne-Maree and Geoff Lloyd from ‘Jedburgh’ station at Yarraka told me about the problems they are having with insurance companies and about the difficulty of getting anything fixed. Every time they look for a tool they discover everything has been ruined. Geoff showed me kilometres of fencing which has been destroyed.

At a crossroad between Jundah and Windorah I met with Andrew Miller, who had driven 50 kilometres from a remote part of his property ‘Braidwood’, where he was fixing fencing. Fencing contractor Matt Taylor of Windorah gave me a firsthand account of the problems they are facing in fixing fencing and demand for workers.

When the Premier and I were in Longreach during the floods we met David ‘Trumby’ Quinn, who had been evacuated from his home station ‘Hickleton’. I was pleased to report to the Premier that two weeks ago I caught up with Trumby, who updated me on how he was getting on with the job and his plans for a new house.

Speaking of a place to call home, before the election the Crisafulli government committed to delivering a landmark timber action plan within one year of forming government. Again, we are getting on with the job. Last week the Timber Supply Chain Ministerial Roundtable met for the first time and is working on progressing the Queensland Future Timber Plan, just as we promised. It will be one of the first plans resulting from the 25-year blueprint vision for primary industries. This marks a fresh start for the timber industry, which has spent the last decade subjected to an anti-timber and anti-forestry agenda.

In 2019 the Labor government promised the industry an action plan. It promised a two-year study into securing future supplies of timber. It was a hollow promise. The Crisafulli government is up to the task of getting our timber industry back on track. The Queensland Future Timber Plan will ensure Queensland will have access to local timber required to build one million homes by 2044. Timber is the ultimate sustainable and renewable resource. We are serious about securing Queensland’s timber future, and that starts by working directly with the people who grow, harvest and process our timber.

The round table includes representatives from Timber Queensland, AgForce, the Queensland Farmers’ Federation, the Housing Industry Association, the Indigenous community, Forestry Australia, HQPlantations, Australian Forest Contractors Association and leading timber companies. They are

invested in ensuring Queensland's timber future and the future of the workers, families, communities and regions which rely on our timber industry.

The round table will provide practical advice on how we can meet growing construction demand while supporting innovation and sustainability across the supply chain. Queenslanders can be confident we are absolutely serious about supporting our primary industries. We are doing what we said we would do.

### Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council



**Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.07 am): Homelessness is one of the most complex and urgent challenges facing our state—one that requires a response centred on compassion and driven by practical outcomes. Labor's legacy is a social housing waitlist soaring to almost 50,000 people. Our government is working hard to change that by delivering supply, supply, supply.

While Labor delivered an average of just 509 social homes per year over the past decade, the Crisafulli government is taking a new approach—working with community housing providers, empowering them to deliver over 2,000 social and affordable homes per year. We know addressing homelessness is far more complex than just providing a safe place to stay. That is why we have created the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council—for the first time a cross-sector body bringing together leading voices from homelessness services, domestic and family violence services, disability services, corrections and local government.

This is not just another pointless talkfest—something the former government loved to do. Time and time again we saw when the cameras went away the activity stopped. This council is a practical, outcomes driven body with a clear mission: to reduce and prevent homelessness in Queensland. I was proud to host our first meeting last week, alongside our assistant housing minister, the member for Redlands. The council will meet every two months, providing a regular direct line of communication to senior government leaders including, importantly, in housing and health. Pam Barker, CEO of the Brisbane Youth Service, said—

It's not just another conversation. We've been having these conversations for many years, and we as a sector, know how to solve the problem, but it's around that collective action, because we can do it together. So I'm really excited to see what this group can achieve.

One of the strongest takeaways from our first meeting was the clear consensus on the need for place-based approaches. Local problems need local solutions designed with those on the ground. That is why we are establishing a South-East Queensland local government working group as a formal subcommittee of the council. This group will bring together local councils and government agencies from across South-East Queensland to create connections, identify systemic barriers and co-design solutions. The goal is better integration and coordination not just in theory, but in practice.

We are also establishing a Supportive Housing Working Group under the advisory council to provide practical advice on how we can scale what works, integrate health and housing supports more effectively and make supportive housing a core part of our housing system as part of our target to deliver 53,500 social and community homes by 2044. Last week, Roby Curtis from Emmanuel City Mission said—

From 16 plus years of supporting people who are sleeping rough, sleeping on, off the streets throughout the south part of the city ... the supportive approach is absolutely mandatory.

Queensland's Mental Health Commissioner Ivan Frkovic observed last week—

I think this is one of the first times that I've come to a meeting where it was more about action, rather than talking about the problem. And what I liked particularly from my perspective on people with mental health problems and drug and alcohol problems who are homeless, was a strong focus on supportive housing. That is the missing piece, and that is one of the major answers to our homelessness problems currently in Brisbane.

This government is committed to listening, acting and working with people and organisations that are doing the hard work on the ground every day. Evidence based and coordinated—that is how we will make lasting change, and that is exactly what the Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council has been set up to deliver.

### National Reconciliation Week



**Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for

Multiculturalism) (10.11 am): Next week is a significant week for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, starting with National Sorry Day on Monday and the commencement of National Reconciliation Week on Tuesday, followed by Mabo Day on June 3. The theme of National Reconciliation Week 2025 is Bridging Now to Next. How do we rebuild a bridge to next? The Crisafulli government believes that we do this by establishing strong foundations that include clean water, housing, education and community safety. These are the keys to building dignity, improving quality of life and taking real action on reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and closing the gap.

Clean water is something that most Queenslanders take for granted, but in the Aboriginal community of Woorabinda in Central Queensland, one of the most disadvantaged communities in Australia, locals must boil their water to ensure it is safe to drink. The quality of the water from the local treatment plant is a risk to public health, and it has been for some time. Last year the Minister for Local Government and Water, Ann Leahy, wrote to then federal water minister Tanya Plibersek requesting matched funding for critical water infrastructure upgrades in Woorabinda to get them off the boiled water alert so they could have the dignity of clean water when they turned on the tap.

Under the Crisafulli government we funded \$18 million from our Closing the Gap Priorities Fund to help fix Woorabinda's water, but we needed matched federal government funding. The work is urgent. Last year my ministerial colleague Ann Leahy wrote to the federal government. I have also written to the new water minister, Senator Murray Watt, on this critical issue. I am hoping that the Labor MPs in Canberra will do more than their state-based colleagues ever did and help us get clean, safe and reliable drinking water for this community. It is shameful that the community of Woorabinda is in this position. Clearly, there had been a problem with their water treatment plant for some time. It needed investment and upgrades, but the former Labor government did nothing.

Labor's policies and commitments over the past decade did not build any bridges for First Australians. They may have built a jetty to nowhere at Yarrabah for \$11.5 million—a jetty that was too short to do anything with—but the hollow gestures, symbols and failure to provide water infrastructure are absolutely devastating. People have a right to clean water. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government is committed to bridging the divide and helping to address Closing the Gap indicators, which got worse under Labor. The Closing the Gap agreement was supposed to point a way forward, but for Indigenous children in care it got worse. Under the previous government, target 11 is not on track with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over-represented in the criminal justice system. In Queensland, it is worse by 23 per cent. It is the worst in the country. Target 12 is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system. This is disgraceful. Under Labor and their failed child protection system that Closing the Gap indicator got 25.7 per cent worse.

Labor's failures have hurt children and Queenslanders. They have failed our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are committed to addressing this. We have announced a commission of inquiry into the broken child protection system. We are addressing early intervention programs. We will work with our First Australians. They deserve better than the failed Labor policies of the last 10 years. We have the worst Closing the Gap indicators. They deserve practical reconciliation, clean drinking water, safety where they live and a better future.

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Visitors to Public Gallery**



**Mr SPEAKER:** Before we begin question time, it has come to my attention that we will be visited in the gallery by students from Palm Beach State School in the electorate of Burleigh.

## **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

### **Sangster, Mr S**



**Mr MILES** (10.16 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. Sam Sangster, who is currently engaged by the Crisafulli government, will appear before the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption tomorrow. Can the health minister advise the House why Mr Sangster is being dragged before the corruption commission?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I presume that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the Mr Sangster who investigated Labor's hospital failures. In light of what he has uncovered, we almost think that most of the people over there should be hauled before a criminal corruption commission of some description. Given the stories they told, the cover-ups that were out there and the way they behaved in relation to the delivery of hospital beds for Queenslanders across this great state, the guilty party in Queensland is the Australian Labor Party. I know that the three failed health ministers who are still sitting over there are afraid to stand up and go out of this place side by side and tell the Queensland public what they knew, when they knew it and why they continue to persist with projects that were not able to be delivered.

**Mr MILES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I table the witness list for the Independent Commission Against Corruption for tomorrow, which clearly states Mr Sangster has been hauled before that commission. I ask the minister to answer the question.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, Operation Landan Public Inquiry, Witness List, Week beginning Monday 19 May 2025'.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has been a member in this place for a long period of time. This is not an opportunity for him to re-state elements of his question, add new content and table additional information.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The points of order are getting way too long. Minister, you have heard the question. You have two minutes still left on the clock.

006 **Mr NICHOLLS:** As I was saying, when it comes to culpability for failing to deliver hospitals on time and on budget, the guilty party is the Labor Party. The guilty members are those who perpetrated this fraud on the people of Queensland and are yet to stand up outside of this place and give a cogent, coherent explanation about how they were going to deliver the beds, how they were going to deliver them on time and how they were going to pay for them because so far they have failed to do so.

What Mr Sangster did was thoroughly and completely review their failures. It was not just their so-called Capacity Expansion Program, which was a non-expansion program; it was also their failure to manage the Sustaining Capital Program and their failure to deliver the hospital car park program. When it comes to being the guilty party and being hauled before a corruption commission, they ought to go into the room of mirrors and have a good hard look at themselves because that is where it falls out.

As far as Mr Sangster is concerned, Mr Sangster has been asked to attend ICAC in relation to an investigation relating to a person by the name of Anthony Manning. The investigation is with respect to Mr Manning. Mr Manning was an appointee of the New South Wales government who was recommended by a firm called Korn Ferry and who apparently had unimpeachable references in respect to a job. In relation to Mr Manning's activities, ICAC are undertaking an investigation of those activities.

*(Time expired)*

### Sangster, Mr S

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Documents tabled in the New South Wales parliament reveal Mr Sangster was sacked from his position as CEO of the western parklands authority by the former New South Wales government, and I table his termination letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 14 August 2020, from the Secretary, NSW Treasury, Mr Michael Pratt AM, to the Chief Executive Officer, Western City Aerotropolis Authority, Mr Samuel Sangster, regarding termination of Mr Sangster's employment.

Did Mr Sangster advise the minister why he was sacked before the minister tasked him with delivering major health infrastructure in Queensland?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Here we go again.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That was totally uncalled for. We are only seconds into the response.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Here we go again; it is the typical Labor tactic. They do not like the message so they try and denigrate the messenger. They have been grubbing around like little beasts, rooting around in the leaves, the dirt and the muck on the banks of the river trying to find something. Mr Sangster was appointed on 23 December last year, and two months after he has delivered his report and a month after he has exposed Labor's failures here they are desperately trying to besmirch the reputation of someone whose record is unimpeached.

We compare his record to those the Labor Party hire and put in the highest positions of administration in this state. Mike Kaiser was sacked by Peter Beattie, who said, 'There's no place for fraudsters in this state,' but he was then brought back by Anna Bligh, he was engaged by the Leader of the Opposition and he was promoted to the position of director-general. That is the record of the Labor Party in this state. It follows the record of cover-ups when it came to reinstating their old mate Peter Carne, who they pulled back from the depths of despair and placed as the Public Trustee, and the money they spent on covering up the crimes and misdemeanours of Jackie Trad.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under relevance and—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just go straight to your point of order. What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Relevance. The question was—

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have made your point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The question was about the advice received by the health minister—

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have made your point. It is relevance. Minister, the point of order is on relevance. You have 53 seconds left, so go to the question.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When it comes to throwing accusations around—as has been done by the Labor Party here again—we see their reckless, indiscriminate use of cowards castle to try to besmirch the reputation of someone who has delivered over \$25 billion worth of hospital projects and who has been engaged by the South Australian Labor government to deliver their hospital down there. Perhaps they might want to chat to Peter Malinauskas about why they think it is good enough to engage Mr Sangster. It shows you the depths to which the Labor Party are prepared to go. Let me say that Mr Sangster disclosed all of his record before he was employed, and he was employed because he can do the job and discover what Labor never wanted anyone to know about.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government's strong laws are improving safety where Queenslanders live, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that did not keep Queenslanders safe?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I want to thank the honourable member for the question—an honourable member who has dedicated a large portion of his life to keeping the community safe. I want to thank him for his service and I want to welcome him back into the parliament in another form of service as he continues to take up the fight for his community.

The member asked me about the laws that passed last night. The laws were about victims and that is what we always have to keep front and centre. There will be those who seek to play a different kind of politics. There will be those who, if they do not like something, will try to besmirch and denigrate and if you do not like the content about something you make it about the person. There will be those who do that. There will be others who make it about a victim, and that is what this is about.

I could not help but reflect on the Attorney's ministerial statement today. I saw a lot of heads go down as the Attorney was outlining the failures at the forensic services lab. The Attorney has acted absolutely as she should and as previous attorneys and health ministers—who are often the same person but just in different roles—should have acted. The Attorney received new and compelling evidence and she has acted. Within a week of coming into the position, she acted.

How does that contrast? Do you remember what happened when we raised the story? Do you remember what happened when we stood up in this place on behalf of people like Vicki Blackburn? Do you remember the politicking? Do you remember how they stonewalled over and over and they refused to acknowledge what was happening?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** As a result, victims did not get justice. What the Attorney has done today is get information and immediately embark on a solution to try to do what should have been done by those opposite.

Let me make it clear based on what the Attorney has said. There are victims who have not gotten justice and there are perpetrators who continue to walk the streets; that is the reality of what those opposite have allowed. Perpetrators without punishment, victims without justice—that is what we are dealing with. The laws that we passed last night are about victims. The action the Attorney has taken



to fix a broken DNA laboratory is about victims. Everything we do in this House is about people. It is not about politics; it is about people. That is why we commit that every change we make will be about strengthening the laws, not weakening them, and every change we make will be about ensuring that more samples can be tested, not that cover-ups can continue. We are committed to making sure that Queenslanders in this state are afforded the safety that they deserve.

### **Health System, Workforce**

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Yesterday the health minister could not rule out EBA changes that would make it easier to contract out health worker jobs, but records show that in December the minister's chief of staff met with labour hire firm Serco. Will the minister rule out using EBA negotiations to make any changes to the protections against the outsourcing of public health jobs and services?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We see a continuing trend from those on that side and that is to attack people in this place who cannot defend themselves. They started off with directors-general, they started off with experts—all of those who uncovered their failings, and there are many of their failings, whether that is their failings in health infrastructure, whether it is their failings in terms of the Olympic delivery service, whether it is their failings in Forensic Science Queensland, whether it is their failings to deliver justice for Queenslanders, to protect people or even, as I demonstrated today, their failure to crack down on illegal vapes and illegal tobacco.

The Labor Party's failings are manifest and many. We will continue to highlight them, and we will continue to point out to the people of Queensland just how badly they failed to deliver and how badly they failed to protect Queenslanders. I addressed this issue yesterday in substantial detail.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They might not like it, but they are going to get it, and they are going to keep getting it because the longer they ask these questions, the better the answers are going to be, I can tell you that—the better the answers are going to be, and they are already pretty good as they stand.

We are dealing with the enterprise bargaining negotiations with the nurses and midwives union, both respectfully and in a timely fashion. As I updated the House yesterday, the demonstration of that good faith is the fact that a registered nurse with five years experience will be getting something in the order of \$35,900 more over the life of the enterprise bargaining agreement, the offer that we have made, than their Victorian counterpart. As I explained, someone with two years experience will get nearly \$90,000 more over that period of time.

We want our nurses and midwives to have nation-leading wages and conditions. In fact, as I indicated yesterday, I have instructed the Department of Health to continue negotiations with the QNMU and their representatives, and I am happy to report to the House that those negotiations are progressing both in a cordial and productive fashion, with many items already gained.

### **Victims of Crime**

**Mr DALTON:** My question is to the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney update the House about what the government is doing to provide victims of crime faster access to justice, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I thank the member for Mackay very much for this question. The member for Mackay is one of six former police officers sitting on this side of the chamber and, not only that, he is an Australian Citizen of the Year and a decorated police officer who has been fighting on behalf of victims of the Mackay community for years.

One of those victims within the Mackay community who is well-known to everyone is Vicki Blackburn. Vicki Blackburn is the mum of Shandee. We all know Shandee's story, a tragic story, brought to light because of Labor's DNA failures. It is absolutely incredible the failures that they oversaw. What did they say? They said we were political, we were scaremongering, we were making it up and 'nothing to see here', all while victims were out there living in the community with perpetrators, and that is still happening because of Labor's DNA debacle.

Back in December 2022, when in opposition, we started to raise this issue and we said we would fix it. That is exactly what we have done. As soon as got into government, within the first week, we initiated the review with Dr Kirsty Wright and Dr Bruce Budowle. What has come to light is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to the people of Queensland, it is unacceptable for victims, and it is

unacceptable for those people who are living in communities with their perpetrators. It is unacceptable for the children who may still be living with their abusers. That is Labor's legacy.

They can come in here and rabbit all they like about supposedly standing up for women, supposedly standing up for children. What a load of rot! What we have seen is one of the biggest failures of the justice system this world has ever seen. No wonder their heads are down, and they should be.

What have we done? We have found \$50 million over two years to outsource the work, to get cracking on these rape kits in particular, on those crimes that can be solved if we can get faster access to justice. That is exactly what we are doing.

On top of that, we are empowering FSQ. We are building them up to make sure that those desk scientists can get to work on the historical backlog. That is what the Crisafulli government is doing—empowering FSQ to do the job that they should be doing and making sure that those victims get seen to, that they get faster access to justice, because they should not have to be living in a community with their perpetrators, thanks to the former Labor government's failings.

### Cost of Living

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Treasurer. The current Queensland inflation rate is 2.7 per cent and the national inflation rate is 2.4 per cent. Given these figures, what figure did the Treasurer rely on when he decided to slug Queenslanders with a 3.4 per cent increase in fees and charges during a cost-of-living crisis?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I warned yesterday in my ministerial statement that there would be a series of fake scare campaigns coming from those opposite. The underlying premise of the member for Waterford's question relates to the cost of living and what those opposite have left behind for the new government.

The honourable member's question is in relation to the government indexation rate. Firstly, that will be set at 3.4 per cent, which was the number set by those opposite for the first half of the Palaszczuk Labor government. For the first four or five years, those opposite set the government indexation rate at 3.4 per cent. In fact, as recently as the 2023-24 financial year, those opposite set the government indexation rate—guess what—at 3.4 per cent.

We know this from last year in the budget because we know the supplementary appropriation number. Those opposite made a number of cost-of-living commitments. We know the supplementary appropriation has been hanging at a record number—\$9 billion. They went that far out trying to meet the balanced budget that they set for themselves.

Let's dig a bit deeper. In 2023-24, the government indexation rate was 3.4 per cent, which is what we have set it at. Look at their cost-of-living promises. With regard to the energy rebate, they believed in it so much that they put zero dollars in the budget for it. That is how much they believed in it. They believed that much in the car rego discount that it was not continuing after September. They believed that much in 50-cent fares that they put zero dollars towards them in the forwards, and it was only this side of House that made 50-cent fares permanent.

Those opposite talking about anything to do with the cost of living or the government indexation rate are without credibility. They are without credibility and they proved themselves incapable of ever managing Queensland's finances again.

### Victims of Crime

**Mr G KELLY:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister explain to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is ensuring our police are equipped to hold perpetrators to account, and is the minister aware of any approaches that denied justice to Queenslanders?

**008 Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. I know how passionate he is about safer communities and victims, not only in his electorate but across Queensland. I know from talking to him that he agrees with myself and every member of this side of this parliament, with two undisputed ideals: justice delayed is justice denied and the highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens. I am not sure, from what we have seen in the Making Queensland Safer laws debate or what we heard last night, or in their response to the commission of inquiry and the DNA debacle which we first raised back in 2022, that it is a high priority for them. We have heard today from the Attorney-General. I acknowledge her for the decisive action she has taken, in stark contrast to those opposite. I do not think their heart really was in fixing this debacle because there are over 13,000 DNA

samples across nearly 6,000 cases that need to be tested to be potentially resolved. A part of that, as we have heard, is over 600 rape kits. It is concerning that over 120 are from vulnerable victims, women and children, which is unacceptable.

Of big concern to me are the unsolved murders, the cold cases. There is a cold case unit and a homicide squad, and I know how passionate they are. As you would appreciate for any investigator or detective, the investigation of the unlawful killing of another human is a top priority and one they passionately try to solve as quickly as they can—not only to hold the perpetrator to account but to get justice and answers for the families. They feel frustrated to be sitting on such a backlog—over 60 samples in relation to cold cases that they need to get samples for to help get justice for those families. This is why I welcome the announcement today. Not only will there be funding but we will putting on extra staff at the Queensland Police Forensic Services Group who do the processing, the continuity change, the transporting of the exhibits and the barcoding et cetera. We will be bolstering that unit to process this and get those matters outsourced.

Similar to cold case murders, there are over 60 unsolved missing person cases. There are skeletal remains and other DNA that police have where they have not been able to get answers for those failures thanks to the failures this government oversaw. Even in major crime investigations there is currently a 63-week delay. That is a 445-day delay in getting samples back to help them solve major crime investigations. This is where we are diametrically opposed. As we heard last night, their metric was fewer arrests. If fewer arrests were going down, even though crime was going up, that was success—as we heard last night with the youth crime crisis—but fewer arrests when it comes to murders, rapes and paedophiles is not a good KPI. We will identify these people, we will arrest them and we will get justice for victims.

### **Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training**

**Hon. G GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. The minister's charter letter contains a direction to work with the Minister for Youth Justice, the Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Education 'to help young people disengaged from education to find another pathway in training and education'. Why did the minister not once meet with either ministers or their departments in her first five months as a minister?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for McConnel for the question. We actually get on together but in answer to the question: I meet with my cabinet colleagues every Monday. It is called 'cabinet'. We talk to each other and on that matter, we actually like each other; we are not actively trying to stab each other in the back like those opposite.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Waterford is now warned.

**Ms BATES:** The member for Waterford is lining up right next to the poor member for Murrumba. The poor member for Murrumba is in the gym most of the time, but he is the only dead weight the Labor Party have to keep lifting every day. We meet, we talk. We like each other. Unfortunately, all that you have left us is chaos and crisis.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, yes, you should hear what they say. I cannot hear what the minister is saying.

**Ms BATES:** Obviously it is another sitting of parliament. It is only the second question—actually, I think it is the first question I have ever had from the member from McConnel. Make no mistake: we have had a decade of Labor mismanagement. Those opposite overpromised and underdelivered across every portfolio to the extent we have now.

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Jordan.

**Ms BATES:** We have a huge record debt. We are trying to fix up the mess you have made. On this side of the House, we understand the importance of TAFE, infrastructure and funding for women who are coming back into business.

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Jordan, I just cautioned you; you are warned.

**Ms BATES:** We will deliver, as we said we would, three new TAFEs and \$78 million for a TAFE centre of excellence in Caloundra, with a focus on guess what? Construction and trades to skill more workers in the construction industry so that we can deal with the backlog of infrastructure left by those opposite and make sure we have infrastructure for the future Olympic games. We will deliver \$61.1 million towards a CQUniversity campus consolidation in Rockhampton; a new Rockhampton TAFE precinct of excellence; \$60 million for a new Moreton Bay TAFE located in Petrie Mill with an advanced manufacturing hub; and \$2 million towards a marine centre of excellence for southern Moreton Bay inside islands in partnership with industry and TAFE Queensland. We are getting on with the job.

### **Victims of Crime, Sexual Offences**

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister outline to the House how the Crisafulli government is supporting victims of sexual violence and can the minister expand on any previous conditions and alternatives?

**Ms CAMM:** We are supporting services that provide vital counselling and trauma support, particularly to children across this state. When it comes to sexual violence in this state, sadly, the statistics are abhorrent and horrific statistic but we are a government that will take action. We have already established that our focus will be on perpetrator accountability. That is very much different to those opposite. Several years ago we started prosecuting what was the DNA debacle. I pay respect and thank the Attorney-General for the shift action she has taken on behalf of victims, particularly victims of sexual assault. I sadly recall sharing a rape victim's story from South-West Queensland who was not raped by one individual, but two men. Her rape kit was not found to have DNA on it under the watch of those opposite. That young woman is in a regional community and was running into her alleged rapist consistently. She reached out to me as the shadow minister and bravely met with me and told her story. She will never walk properly again because of what those alleged rapists did to her. Those opposite, for several years, denied that there was any issue with the forensic DNA lab. That woman's life, and that of her child, is changed forever and she still has not got justice. Those opposite should hang their heads. After Dr Kirsty Wright reached out, we got that sample retested and she could commence her case in the justice system.

Last night we heard the shadow attorney-general, the shadow minister for women and the shadow minister for domestic and family violence prevention talk about good character. Where was their character when victims of rape were coming forward after being failed by their DNA debacle? The worst maladministration of any lab in the world.

That is what Queenslanders need to know. Those opposite denied victims justice for years and years. As the Minister for Disability Services and the Minister for Child Safety, I know there are 121 victims who are children or have a disability or impairment who do not have justice because of those opposite. They should hang their head in shame. We will remind Queenslanders for the next decade of their failings for victims.

*(Time expired)*

### **Nurses and Midwives, Wages and Conditions**

**Mr BAILEY:** My question is to the Treasurer. Whistleblowers have informed the opposition that there have been major changes to the public sector wage policy including a cut to the cost-of-living adjustment payment. Can the Treasurer guarantee that Queensland nurses and midwives, currently negotiating their EBA with the government, will remain the best paid in the nation, yes or no?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I listened to the question as asked by the member for Miller and I would submit to you, Mr Speaker, that this relates to a portfolio under the Deputy Premier's remit and not the Treasurer's.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have some silence while I get some advice.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I submit to you that the question to the Treasurer is in order because it is the responsibility of the Treasurer to manage the budget and budget implications of wages policy—

**Ms Fentiman:**—and set the wages policy.

**Mr de BRENNI:**—and to set the wages policy itself. It is clearly outlined in his charter letter.

### **Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order**

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have heard your point of order. I find the Leader of the House's point is valid, so I will rule the question out of order and we will go to the member for Theodore for his question.

**Mr Bailey:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to redirect the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Move on.

### **Victims of Crime**

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli LNP government continues to put victims of crime first through strong laws, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not put victims first?

**Mrs GERBER:** I would like to thank the member for Theodore for the question. He is a fierce advocate for the rights of victims. He has spent many a contribution in this chamber speaking about the experiences of victims in his own community and just last night the member for Theodore voted to strengthen our laws in order to protect victims of crime. Last night we passed the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time, adding a further 33 offences to Adult Crime, Adult Time. I want to thank the member for Theodore for his work in ensuring that bill got to this House and was passed last night for the benefit of the victims in his community.

Our tough new laws put victims first and restore consequences for action. That is in stark contrast to those opposite who sat on their hands for 10 years and allowed the youth crime crisis to spiral out of control. It is not only the youth crime crisis and the victims of the youth crime crisis that they let down; those opposite catastrophically let down victims of rape and sexual assault. Those opposite were at the forefront of the DNA debacle; and that DNA debacle, in my view, is one of the greatest failures of our justice system. More than 40,000 historical major crime cases were ignored by those opposite. I repeat: more than 40,000 were ignored. When we raised it, those opposite said we were making it up. They said the victims of those crimes did not exist. Now we have learned the true extent of their catastrophic failure. Now that we know it, we cannot do anything but act.

I commend the Attorney-General for taking such swift action to see that justice is served. The Attorney-General has acted immediately to ensure that we can have an outsourcing strategy, something those opposite failed to do. In fact, they held two inquiries and they completed less than two per cent of the backlog in DNA findings for those victims. I repeat: there were two inquiries and less than two per cent of the backlog was completed. It is a catastrophic failure that left victims of rape and child victims still living with their perpetrators and rapists walking free on our streets because of the failures of those opposite. Those crimes deserve to be solved with faster access to justice and those victims deserve justice. The Attorney-General is acting swiftly to ensure that happens but those opposite should hang their heads in shame. Every single one of them is sitting there with their head down because they know they let those victims of crime down.

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Can we have some silence so we can hear the member for Noosa's question.

### **Noosa, Alcohol Fuelled Violence Policing**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the minister ensure a return of the alcohol fuelled violence funding allocations for officer overtime to undertake targeted operations in identified hotspots including during holiday periods in Noosa?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. I want to take this opportunity while I am on my feet to acknowledge the work that our police do at Noosa. I am sure the member has met the new inspector there, John Mahoney—he is one of Queensland's finest and worked in Townsville and the Gold Coast prior to taking that job—and also the OIC, Nick Paterson. I know the member for Glass House knows him. He spent time in Townsville, and the Premier might know him from when he played for the North Queensland Cowboys. I understand James Driver is now the OIC at Pomona police station. He is formerly from Bribie. If the member has not met him I am happy to facilitate that.

Police in Noosa are doing great work. They do intelligence-led policing. I know OIC Nick Paterson conducted a four-week operation recently over a holiday period with the assistance of the Traffic Branch, the Dog Squad and the Tactical Crime Unit focusing on anti-social behaviour and alcohol related violence in the Noosa area, particularly around Hastings Street, and that was supported by overtime. The liquor licensing officer from the Sunshine Coast district has an allocation of funding that he can use across the district where intelligence suggests those crime hotspots are located, and they do use that effectively and they use it wisely.

A good point I need to make now is there is no doubt that the former government underfunded our police. They defunded our police, and we will be talking more about that as we move forward to the budget and estimates. Whether it is tasers or bulletproof vests, those opposite failed to fund them. We will make sure that we will give the police of Noosa and the Sunshine Coast all the resources they need to do that job.

In relation to police numbers in Noosa in particular, the member will remember that she and I spoke 18 months to two years ago when there was a real concern that the numbers at the Noosa station were at about 50 per cent of operational requirements. That is a station that at full strength has 36 officers. For a time back there—and the member might have even done some media on it—they were operating at about 15 officers, or 50 per cent. I am happy to report that we now have only one vacancy at Noosa and there are 35 police officers at Noosa. As the member knows as she has heard us talking about it, we are sending more police across Queensland. Police numbers, certainly when compared to the population rate, went down under those opposite and we are doing everything we can to bolster the front line. We have increased police numbers by 240 in the last 200 days.

I want to again give the honourable member those assurances. I am happy to facilitate any meetings she wants with those local OICs; as I said, they are all some of Queensland's finest. They are across the intelligence data. They would be looking at those crime stats. They do have access to district-wide funding where they can deploy their resources as they see fit. Operation November Kilo, which I understand Nick Paterson led not that long ago during a holiday period, was successful—and it had broader resources from across the district—and did put downward pressure on crime. We are also committed to ensuring that all people—tourists and the residents of Noosa—are protected.

### Workplace Safety

**Mr KEMPTON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is supporting workers across Queensland including those in our forensic labs, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any differing approaches?

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Who was that? Member for Bundaberg, you are warned. We will have some quiet please before we go to the minister.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Cook for the question and welcome him back to the Queensland parliamentary workforce. It is great to have him back representing the people of Cook and putting their interests and advocacy first, so welcome back to the member for Cook. It is such a great question because the Crisafulli government will put workers first, whether it is in the forensic laboratory, whether it is the nurses who are being negotiated with in good faith at the moment under the tutelage of the health minister or the state wage policy, which as industrial relations minister I am responsible for, member for Miller, so we will always put the rights of the workers first in this state. We know that, particularly with the forensic lab, when we were raising these serious issues of maladministration the Labor Party said that there was not an issue and that it was politicking, but it also denied royal commissions and denied any form of inquiry until it all got too much for it and it had to burst the bubble. I want to congratulate the Attorney-General for her announcement today of the \$50 million additional funding. This will go a long way for victims of crime across Queensland, particularly to deal with the backlog.

While talking about forensics and laboratories, I have done some forensic research overnight. One might recall that yesterday I raised the issue of the member for Stafford and the fact that I think he ought not be a member of the parliament based on some of the recorded accusations in the public about him. Yesterday I also raised the issue of the Labor Party still accepting donations on behalf of the member for Stafford. A little forensic audit overnight would indicate that that is now off the website—magically has disappeared—so I inform the House of that development.

Given the debacle and the bungle in the forensic lab, it took those opposite about 4½ minutes to take him off the website when I raised this issue yesterday. However, if we look at the failures of the maladministration of the former attorney-general, who still sits in this place, the member for Waterford—she swapped between AG, health and then D'Ath was put back into AG—there were monumental failures by the member for Waterford in the DNA debacle. We saw Yvette D'Ath and the member for Waterford blaming each other—'Nothing to see here. I'm not responsible.' The former minister was responsible and she failed the victims in this state. She failed Queenslanders by not doing what was required years ago when these matters were being raised in the public domain.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. We should also remember that the member for Waterford employed a convicted child porn addict in her office, so I guess that is why we did not have the forensic issues sorted out with such failures in the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*

### **Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Government Payments**

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier promised Queenslanders an On Time, Every Time Payment Guarantee. Can the Premier advise the House why the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's percentage of late payments has gone from about 10 per cent under Labor to more than 25 per cent, and will the responsible minister be held accountable?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Not only will our first budget be delivering a commitment to make sure that we pay people on time; it will also be shortening some of those payments. I want to thank the honourable minister, who is doing a fine job, for his work. At the front and centre of his charter is customer service.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you are joining the list of warnings.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Front and centre in my charter letter to the minister is customer service because I want to change the way that taxpayers are treated and viewed in this state and my vision for the Public Service in this state is to know that it can be part of something special, and part of that is fixing service delivery in this state. I talk about the big four crises—youth crime, health, housing and cost of living—and we will only turn that around with an energised Public Service, with members of the Public Service who feel secure in their employment, a Public Service that feels valued and respected, public servants who never gets staplers thrown at them—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you have asked your question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I want a Public Service that feels valued and respected, that gets treated with respect, that never has items thrown at public servants at any time.

My vision for the Public Service is to also understand the importance of small and family business. Small and family business must be paid on time. It is absolutely vital that small businesses do get paid on time, and that is why the minister has in his charter letter a focus on making sure that we shorten those payment plans. I say to the honourable member that we are committed to making sure that customers feel like customers in this state.

The honourable member asked about payments on time. She is right to ask about that because I saw what happened with the health debacle. I saw what happened when Queensland Health did not pay nurses, and I know what that did to their mental—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is one thing for the government to—

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is not a chance to make a speech. Do you have a point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I do.

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is it?

**Mr de BRENNI:** The question was about the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the significant increase in late payments—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is not a chance for a speech. Do you have a point of order and what is it?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I do.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am trying to explain—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, just tell me what the point of order is.

**Dr ROWAN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am finishing—

**Mr de BRENNI:** The point of order is relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Relevance—118; okay.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order in relation to the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business: it is not an opportunity to—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have already ruled that, thank you. Premier, you heard the question. It is around payments on time.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, Mr Speaker, and I have to say to the honourable member I could not be more focused in my desire to make sure that we do have on-time guaranteed payment. I have spoken and will continue to speak about what it did to those nurses who did not get paid. I have spoken with nurses who did not get paid during the Queensland Health payroll debacle and I know what it did to their mental health.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order on my left. I want to hear the answer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Those opposite can yell and besmirch—and we saw a little bit of it this morning—and I am very confident that the health minister will clean that up, but I make the point that I know what it did to those nurses—to their mental health, to their families, to their ability to conduct their daily lives—and I say to those opposite: my commitment is to make sure that public servants get paid on time, that small and family business gets paid on time and the days of people being treated like a number in this state are over. They will be a customer.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have just joined the list of people warned, member for Bulimba.

### **Audit Office, Minjerribah Futures Program**

**Mrs STOKER:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. The Queensland Audit Office recently released its report into the former government's funding of the Minjerribah futures project. Can the minister inform the House of the Audit Office's findings, including the actual cost, and if the project's goals were reached?

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algeester, you are warned. We will have silence from both sides of the House.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the honourable member for Oodgeroo for her question, and I can answer that question. In doing so I also want to thank her for her advocacy for all of her electorate of Oodgeroo but particularly the communities on Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island. It was great to get over there with her following our recent Redland community cabinet and catch up with members of the Straddie Chamber of Commerce, but I will have more to say about that in a moment. As the member referred to—

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, you are cautioned.

**Mr POWELL:**—the Minjerribah futures plan was audited by the Queensland Audit Office and I want to touch on some of the findings of the Queensland Audit Office today. As just a bit of a reminder, it was nearly 10 years ago that Jackie Trad, the then member for South Brisbane and deputy premier, and the government of the day told Queenslanders that the Minjerribah Futures Program—a program



that was designed to help Straddie transition its economy—would cost \$20 million and deliver 23 projects. Ten years later the Queensland Audit Office, QAO, makes it clear that the project program has blown out to \$39.4 million and that many of the projects remain unfinished, and this has happened for a reason and the QAO's findings make that very clear: the projects commenced without funding in place. I quote—

Successful and timely delivery of Minjerribah Futures depended on generating significant third-party funding. It was not clear from the transition strategy documents which entity was responsible for identifying funding sources. Ultimately, the additional third-party funding was not obtained ...

There was a lack of economic analysis. Again I quote—

In developing the transition strategy, the government may have benefited from conducting market analysis to identify whether the additional funding required was available and if it would be sufficient to meet the estimated costs of the projects.

There was no public reporting. Again I quote—

The lack of regular public reporting on the status of the projects means that key stakeholders and interested parties cannot assess whether the funding provided was consistent with the funding approved under the transition strategy.

And there was funding provided without milestones being reached. Again I quote—

... departments continued to provide funding ... without satisfying themselves that milestones under the funding agreements were achieved.

The QAO also makes a number of important recommendations. It is important to work methodically through them. I do not want to pre-empt any decision of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, but it is common practice for Queensland Audit Office reports to be referred to portfolio committees. I trust that, should that occur, that portfolio committee will forensically investigate this QAO report, because I believe there are further opportunities to be considered. I want to again acknowledge Colin Battersby and his team at the chamber of commerce on Stradbroke. He has given me a number of ideas around what we can do to assist in the economy on North Stradbroke Island.

*(Time expired)*

## Health System

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Last night it was reported that 22 recommendations made after investigations into unexpected deaths or incidents at the Gold Coast Health and Hospital Service were overdue and had not been implemented. Does the minister take any responsibility for so many recommendations remaining overdue under his watch?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am very happy to take that question because the SAC1 report that the member for Gaven refers to was in relation to Labor's entire period in government. That was a review into the failings at the Gold Coast hospital for the entire time that the member for Gaven was the member for Gaven, when the opposition leader and the member for Waterford were the health ministers. They saw you coming, member for Gaven!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is way too much noise. There is one person who has the call and that is the minister.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier! I have just called the House to order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We know that opposition is hard. We do. We have been there. We know that you have to work hard. You have to check your questions. You have to make sure you are asking the right person on the right side. You have to make sure the question is relevant to the topic you are talking about. Most of all, when you are doing it from opposition, you have to have some sense that you are going to get some sort of score out of your opponents. You do not ask a question like the one I have just been asked, which is such a Dorothy Dixier that it is going to come back to haunt those opposite.

All of these recommendations relate to the failings and the ongoing health crisis that was allowed to germinate and expand under the Labor Party. They are mighty and mammoth. We had a health minister who had a lock placed on his door so that staff could not get in to speak to him, because he had so many secured documents there. We had a health minister who came in and promised that the ramping rate would be down to 28 per cent within 12 months, yet it went up to over 45 per cent. We had a health minister who came in and said that elective surgery waiting lists would be reduced, yet

they went from 55,000 to 64,000. We had health ministers who went to CBRC and made requests of a treasurer, who was a former health minister, who unfunded them and did not fund them, who left a mess in hospital and health services—including the mess we are cleaning up at the Gold Coast, including the SAC1 report.

Since that report has been received and I have become aware of the failings, the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has moved to implement all of the clinically important issues in relation to it. The only outstanding matters from the Labor Party's time in office that I am yet to clear up are some of the administrative issues, none of which go to clinical services.

*(Time expired)*

### Resources Industries, Safety and Health

**Mr DILLON:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. Will the minister update the House on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to bolstering workplace health and safety, particularly in the resources sector, and is the minister aware of any differing approaches?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

**Mr LAST:** I thank the member for Gregory for his question and acknowledge his strong advocacy on behalf of the resources workers in his electorate. We certainly share a common passion for resources workers. Like the member for Gregory, I am meeting regularly with mining companies and workers throughout Central Queensland. We are taking on board their issues and concerns. One of the big issues and one of the priorities for this government is miner safety. There are no ifs or buts when it comes to the safety of our resources workers. Certainly, our government is all about restoring integrity, accountability and leadership in the resources safety framework in this state.

We have certainly hit the ground running when it comes to mining safety. We have appointed Mr Ken Singer as the interim commissioner for RSHQ. He is travelling across the state visiting mine sites and providing the guidance we need across our mines, quarries and petroleum and gas sites. He has done a great job since his appointment. We have also appointed Professor Susan Johnston to undertake a comprehensive review of Resources Safety & Health Queensland to examine its structure and determine whether the safety framework is delivering the best outcomes for workers in Queensland.

On 8 May I had the privilege, along with the Attorney-General, of announcing that Mr Wayne Pennell, a well-respected barrister from North Queensland, will take up the role of Mining and Resources Coroner—a dedicated role to undertake coronial inquests relating to deaths in the resources sector. Of course, those findings will be made public. They will be transparent. It really lends credence to the importance this side places on resources safety in Queensland.

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

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, Sangster, Mr S



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.17 am): In December 2024 I appointed Sam Sangster as the independent reviewer of the former government's failed capacity expansion program, as I explained in my answer earlier today. Sam's health infrastructure credentials are unparalleled in Australia, having now led client-side planning and delivery of more than 135 hospitals, with a total project value in excess of \$28 billion. I think earlier I said more than \$25 billion; it is more than \$28 billion.

On 15 May Mr Sangster informed me that he had been called to appear before the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption investigation into School Infrastructure NSW—allegations concerning the former chief executive, staff and others of that organisation, not the organisation that Mr Sangster was operating and was running. That is known as Operation Landan and that has been publicly reported in the *Daily Mail*. The details of that investigation have been reported in the *Daily Mail* and are also in the *Hansard* of the New South Wales parliament—facts that are easily ascertainable by anyone wishing to do so.

**Mr Crisafulli:** If they got out of bed earlier.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I take that interjection. Mr Sangster's appearance pertains to his role as chief executive of Health Infrastructure NSW and a reported falling out with Anthony Manning, who is being

investigated by ICAC for his role as CEO of School Infrastructure NSW. Mr Sangster had a falling out with the person who is the subject of the investigation by ICAC.

**Government members** interjected.

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**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** In fact, Mr Sangster sacked Mr Manning from his role at Health Infrastructure NSW. The falling out between Mr Manning and Mr Sangster was referenced in the subsequent hiring process for the role of CEO of Education Infrastructure, but that hiring process, although Mr Sangster's actions were noted, did not require any further comment or information from Mr Sangster at that time. He had a falling out with Mr Manning, he sacked him, that sacking was noted, but it was not taken up when Mr Manning was subsequently hired, although Mr Sangster had done the right thing by recording his reasons for his concerns on Mr Manning's record. He could not have done any more, I would submit.

**Mr Stevens:** Got any more good questions over there?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, it will not surprise you to know that I take that interjection. On 13 May 2025 the ICAC commissioner noted—

I think there are the questions around, okay, are there specifics in the detail about the falling out with Mr Sangster that we need to know a bit more about

The ICAC is investigating whether between 2017 and 2024 then School Infrastructure New South Wales Chief Executive Manning and other School Infrastructure staff or contractors partially exercised their official functions by intentionally subverting appropriate recruitment practices to benefit friends and businesses; improperly awarding contracts to friends and business associates; and misallocating funds from school projects.

As I said this morning, it should be those opposite investigated for their own conduct and misallocation of funds, as we have seen through their \$12 billion health budget black hole, their \$7 billion in budget blowouts on hospital projects and \$2 billion worth of unfunded critical maintenance that has left our health infrastructure in such a state of crisis.

In addition, and in referring to the letter that was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition and his comments made in reference to his question, I believe that the Leader of the Opposition has misled the House and I will be writing to you about that matter, Mr Speaker.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.21 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

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

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

**AYES, 53:**

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

**KAP, 2—**Dametto, Katter.

**NOES, 35:**

**ALP, 34—**Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

**Ind, 1—**Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Chamber Television



**Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to advise the House that television pool cameras will be filming portions of this motion this morning.

### MOTION

#### Member for Stafford



**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.27 am): I move—

That this House notes:

1. Repeated media reports that detail an alleged 'domestic incident' involving the member for Stafford in October 2024;
2. The member for Stafford's appearance at a Brisbane Court on 31 October 2024; and.
3. Media reports that the Leader of the Opposition has said that the member for Stafford failed to comply with a 'safe return to work plan' on 12 May 2025.

And calls on:

1. The member for Stafford to detail the nature of the 'domestic incident' for which he was allegedly involved;
2. The Leader of the Opposition to table the aforementioned 'safe return to work plan' before 5.30 pm today; and
3. The member for Stafford to resign from the Queensland parliament.

Over the last few months we have seen a complete lack of leadership by the Leader of the Opposition. When the government first raised the issue, and the media did with the member for Stafford, there was denial. Those opposite used all sorts of excuses. There was politicking and scaremongering around the member for Stafford. They protected him. For days the pressure built up and all of a sudden they thought this would all go away just by getting him out of the Labor caucus. We saw repeated claims in the media that Labor women did not want to sit next to him for whatever reason. There was no explanation as to why they said that. The Leader of the Opposition came in here and defended him. The member for Woodridge stood in this place and defended him. Other members, such as the member for Greenslopes, came in here and defended the member for Stafford. The Labor Party failed to mention in any of this the good people of Stafford. What about the people of Stafford who have a member like that sitting in this chamber without any explanation. If it was a Liberal National Party member that was filmed going to court, the Labor Party would harangue that member and this political party every single day, but there is silence from those opposite.

Who knew what in the Labor Party, when did they know it and why have they failed to act? Every day we see the weak leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. We see him not turn up to parliament. When a division is called by their own side he just does not turn up. He obfuscates his responsibilities as Leader of the Opposition. He moved a motion yesterday about the serious issue of good character references in rape and sexual violence cases and then never showed up for the debate. He did not even talk to his own motion that he moved only an hour and a half earlier.

The Leader of the Opposition is clearly not up to the job. I said he would not make it by Easter. He has made it a bit further than Easter, but it will not be too much further because, as we saw this morning, it is killing season in the Labor Party. I am trying to work out whether it was the member for Waterford who drafted the question for the member for Gaven to attack her leadership aspirations or if it was the member for Gaven highlighting the failures of the member for Waterford and taking it for the team.

**Mrs Gerber:** Or the member for Murrumbidgee!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It was not the member for Murrumbidgee because I do not think he knows what is happening any day of the week. Was it the member for Woodridge who is trying to take down everyone other than himself? I do not know. Those opposite are so chaotic.

013 I have never seen a more chaotic time for an opposition coming into parliament having just lost an election and that goes to leadership. That is at the heart of it. After the allegations against the member for Stafford were raised in the media, we saw the shadow minister for health taking pictures—happy snaps all around—at a health facility. I table that picture.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph, depicting the member for Stafford, Mr Jimmy Sullivan MP, and the member for Miller, Hon. Mark Bailey MP.

They were happy to have a picture taken with the member for Stafford when all these issues were bubbling around. The Leader of the Opposition promoted the member for Stafford, making him an assistant shadow minister. In government he was promoted to assistant minister. They want to talk about good character, but they have not explained any form of character of the member for Stafford.

The reason we take this issue so seriously is that on this side of the House we believe that the member for Stafford does not deserve to serve in this place. The people of Stafford deserve better. The people of Stafford deserve more than a lame duck member with so much unaccountability and so many questions hanging over his head that he has failed to explain not only to the parliament but also to the people of Stafford. He has not explained what the allegations were. He has not explained why he was entering the District Court or Supreme Court at the Queensland Elizabeth II Courts of Law. He has not explained that.

The Leader of the Opposition defended him every day and then said, 'He breached a return-to-work plan.' What rubbish! Where is the return-to-work plan? Why did he breach a return-to-work plan but not breach anything when the alleged domestic violence incident took place? What happened on election day when apparently federal Labor MPs had to come and save him? The member for Stafford should resign. The Leader of the Opposition needs to be accountable.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (11.33 am): I apologise, leader, for taking—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Because I am Labor to my core. With all the exuberance of the member for Kawana that I expect, with his fake Oxford accent and his kerchief, he can keep it up. Keep going, mate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, please, member for Stafford.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I apologise, Mr Speaker. The people of Stafford duly elected a local who went to primary school in the electorate, who went to high school in the electorate and whose kids are going to school in the electorate. I am not sure that there are too many people in this chamber who can put their hands up and say the same thing.

**Mr Bleijie:** I've never had a domestic violence incident against me.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** You had your chance, buddy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Stafford, make your contribution through the chair, please.

**Mr Bleijie:** I have never been to court.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I know and as an attorney-general and a lawyer it is quite shameful that you have never been to court. It is quite an embarrassment, actually.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** As has been explained explicitly and put on the record in this House and in the media, the matters were dismissed without reason.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have said that we are not having quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I used words that we could describe in this place as unparliamentary. I swore. That is the basis of what those matters were about. That is why my legal team says that they have never seen a matter dismissed so quickly. That is what it is about.

**Mr Bleijie:** I have sworn but the cops have never come to my house.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I am speaking on the record here, member for Kawana. If you want to take the micky out of me, you can.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, please.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I am sorry; forgive me, Mr Speaker. The member for Kawana can laugh all he likes, but that is the truth of the matter. That is why the legal matter was dismissed. As my team says, they have never seen a matter dismissed more quickly. Laugh all you like, member for Kawana, through you, Mr Speaker, but that is what it is about.

**Government members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Members on my right, there is a speaking list so you will get your opportunity.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I am trying to be pretty transparent and open about a very raw issue. I am Labor to my core. I do not apologise that I will only vote with the Labor Party. That is my intention. I will continue to represent my local branch members who preselected me and my local community that elected me. The schools, the community groups and the sporting groups, all to a T, have said nothing more than, 'It's great to see you out and about, mate.'

I had PTSD with the birth of our second daughter. I spiralled and I recognise that. I put my hand up for health care. The irony of this motion! What would the health minister suggest a professional—forget a politician, but any professional—who recognises that they are going through PTSD—

**Ms Bates:** There is no excuse for violence.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** There was no violence. What would the health minister recommend a professional do other than put their hand up for health care, take that health care and be fixed? I have rapidly improved my health—rapidly—because I did that and I did it in the interests of our second daughter. I obviously suffered PTSD because of the loss of our first daughter. Our beautiful daughter could have been her twin so it was quite confronting. It set me off but I sought health care. I did that and I think that is the professional thing to do. What those opposite are doing to continue to attack me is nothing but disgusting.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.38 am): I want to put on the record one thing: it is not what we are doing to the member for Stafford; we are here because the Labor opposition have kicked out the member for Stafford. Let us get that clear.

**Ms Grace:** You are the ones moving the motion.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** If those opposite, including the member for McConnel, want to defend him then why has he been kicked out of the Labor Party? What do they know that we do not know?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Exactly. First of all, they stood in front of the cameras and called him a good bloke. If he is such a good bloke, why did the Leader of the Opposition kick him out of the party? Where is the return-to-work document? We want to see that tabled. I would like to know why the Labor Party—sorry: not the Labor Party because the Labor Party kept him; the state opposition. Why isn't he allowed to sit in the caucus? Is it because the women of the backbench spoke? It is those women we on this side, the government, are standing up for. The women on that side are not standing up and speaking. The blokes on that side keep calling him a good bloke, but the women did not want to sit next to him and did not want to sit in the caucus with him. Where are they? That is who we are protecting. Where is the frontbench of the opposition?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is some provocation but the warnings still stand.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The member for Stafford started his contribution in the chamber today with the words 'I apologise, leader'. He is still calling the Leader of the Opposition 'leader'. They are trying to distance themselves from it.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algester, I just cautioned you. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the member for Algester withdrew from the chamber at 11.40 am.*

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I ask that the clock be paused whilst the member leaves. It is clear that those opposite do not want to be in the chamber because they know full well what has gone on with the member for Stafford and they are still running their protection racket. We ask: if the member for Stafford is not good enough to sit in the Labor caucus, why is he still here? What are they hiding? Where is the return-to-work plan? The women opposite are not brave enough to speak up publicly.

One woman in the Labor Party who worked for the member for Stafford and knew the problems put her hand up in good faith and said to the Labor Party, 'Do you know what? I will be the member for Stafford if the Labor Party want to preselect me.' That is what that woman did. She said, 'I want to run and be the member for Stafford because I know this member for Stafford is not able to do the job.' The *Australian* in the last couple of weeks quoted her as saying—

"I was told there was no way of being preselected because the electoral college would vote a certain way ... I said it was at their peril to do that because this man was not fit.

"I had been quite blunt for my reasons to the state secretary, and I told her just about everything, and she chose to ignore that ..."

The state secretary is in good company with the Leader of the Opposition. Here is a man who chose to defend him. He chose to defend him and say, 'We're going to back the current member for Stafford.' This woman who worked with him and who lives and works in his community spoke out against him. She was brave enough to speak—

**Mr Sullivan:** She's a liar.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Stafford, you will withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the current member for Stafford. Ms Lynch has had to forego her membership of the Labor Party, unlike the member for Stafford. This woman, on behalf of her community, was brave enough to leave the Labor Party and speak out because she knew that is what she had to do. If you see behaviour that you cannot walk past, you speak up. I thank her.

I do not know who Ms Lynch is but I know she was brave enough to put her Labor Party membership on the line, to speak up and to be quoted in the *Australian*. I say: the Leader of the Opposition needs to stand up in this House and give us his back-to-work program for the member for Stafford, otherwise we will call it out.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): I rise to speak on this motion on behalf of the state parliamentary Labor Party. The member for Stafford is no longer a member of the Labor caucus, nor is he an endorsed Labor MP. Those decisions were taken by the state parliamentary Labor Party and the administrative committee of the Queensland Labor Party respectively. These actions were not taken lightly, but I have been very clear about the decision-making process.


The member failed to comply with a safe return-to-work plan established and committed to late last year. As with any workplace, if a safe return-to-work plan is not complied with, action must be taken.

**Government members** interjected.

**A government member:** He's not a staffer; he's a member.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am trying to hear the Leader of the Opposition's contribution.

**Mr MILES:** As members would appreciate, a safe return-to-work plan does contain personal and private information. For those reasons we will not be engaging with this motion. The fact is that the LNP have been trying for some time to politicise this matter. Rather than do their job, the LNP want to pull stunts and play petty politics. It is time they got out of the gutter and got on with governing. We know what this is by the fact that they provided no notice of this motion, by the fact that they arranged in advance for TV cameras to be here for this motion and from that shameful contribution of the Deputy Premier—one unbecoming of someone in that role.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.45 am): I will address a few things in the motion. We have just seen a demonstration of conciliation from the Leader of the Opposition, who will not engage or put forward the plan. If they have nothing to hide, why will they not table the safe return-to-work plan?

I want to address some of the comments made by the member for Stafford. I will read the transcript of his apology. He said—

I apologise for my absence in recent sitting weeks but I have been working hard in the community since my election.

In fact, the member for Stafford requested an apology from us here in the House. The member for Stafford has not addressed the alleged domestic incident. He has commented that there was some swearing and that the Queensland Police Service felt they needed to refer the matter to a court. I am sorry but I do not buy it. As the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, I know what the police do. I have had significant engagement with our Queensland Police Service. I know what they do when they investigate an incident, so I do not buy what the member for Stafford is saying. I do not think the community buy it and, clearly, the Labor Party did not buy it. If they had, they would have taken action sooner.

Not one female member of the Labor Party opposite has stood up at any time in this new parliament and endorsed the member for Stafford—not his position, that he was re-elected or that he still sits in this House—not one female member. I challenge those opposite to say that there is not more to this story, that there is not more to the return-to-work plan. If there was no more to the story, they would all be in here speaking about how important his return-to-work plan is, about safety in the workplace and about all the things we on this side of the House have heard them say time and again.


We know they do not speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We know that the shadow police minister, the shadow attorney-general, the shadow minister for health, the shadow minister for women nor the shadow minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence has stood up and spoken about the member for Stafford or about the alleged domestic incident. We have heard today that there was a little bit of swearing and it was dismissed by a court.

We are members of the Queensland parliament. The member for Stafford was a former staffer and adviser to a former attorney-general and knows domestic violence legislation better than anyone in this House. I do not apologise to the women of Stafford or to the women of Queensland that we hold members of this House to a high standard. If police are called to a domestic incident at a member's home, the member should give an explanation to this parliament on the first day they return to the House, not demand an apology for being questioned about their conduct or about what happened to cause their neighbours to call the Queensland Police Service. Clearly someone was concerned about something.

The member for Stafford has not answered any questions to the standard that Queenslanders expect.

**A government member:** Except for quoting the member for Murrumba.

**Ms CAMM:** I take that interjection. The Leader of the Opposition—that was like a performance I have never seen before—has not answered the questions. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has not answered the questions. If the females on that side of the House think we are going to let it go, they can think again. We are not letting it go because we have standards in this House and we will call it out. Those opposite do not have standards and have not called it out. I would not doubt that all of this is just a hoax by the Leader of the Opposition. We heard the member for Stafford call him 'leader' and say he will vote with the Labor Party. They still had everything up on the website until minutes ago. It is amazing how quickly they could pack up and leave this House because they do not want to speak about it—nothing to see here.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.50 am): We heard the Leader of the Opposition say they are not going to engage with this motion but they were happy to engage when they needed the member for Stafford for preselection. I will quote from an article in the *Australian* titled 'Labor 'ignored warnings on expelled MP'. The candidate, as the Attorney-General said, who bravely spoke up and who put her hand up for preselection because she knew the character of the member for Stafford, said—

... my nomination for Stafford did not progress, and the process halted, meaning the branch members were essentially deprived of their right to vote for their candidate," ... "I have the work ethic, commitment, and the focus ... I can retain the ALP-held seat of Stafford and prove that integrity matters."

It was further reported that 'Chooks' had it on good authority that the member for Murrumba actually supported that process. The member for Murrumba at that time supported the member for Stafford in his preselection and his candidacy to once again be a member of the Labor Party and sit in this chamber.

What did we hear about the history? We know there was a media report that detailed an alleged domestic violence incident involving the member for Stafford in October 2024 and that the member for Stafford's court appearance in Brisbane was 31 October 2024. We know that. Have those opposite stood up to explain what they knew in relation to that and why they kicked him out of the party? No. They have said it was a breach of a return-to-work plan. They have said, 'We expelled him based on a failed return-to-work plan.' He is not a Labor staffer; he is a member of parliament. They have not produced that work plan.

More to the point, the member for Woodridge has said in this place, 'It is not unlawful. It is not improper. It is not wrong for people to drink in a licensed premises.' They have expelled him on the basis of a return-to-work plan because he had a drink on Labour Day—because he had a beer on Labour Day. Yet the member for Woodridge has stood up and said, 'That is not improper. That is not unlawful.'



I think this work plan is another cover-up. It is another excuse. They are still covering up what they knew and when they knew it in relation to the member for Stafford. We know police were called to an alleged domestic violence incident. We know he went to court for it. Now he is saying it was because he said a few swear words. I have never heard of police charging and sending someone to court for a few swear words. Did the Labor Party know that? Do they know the true extent of what happened and is that why they kicked him out of the party? Those are the questions that those on that side of this House should be answering.

More to the point, what about the women on that side of the House who said they did not want to sit next to him in caucus, who were scared to sit next to him? Where are they standing up? We know that the member for Greenslopes stood up and defended his character and said he was a 'good bloke'. The member for Woodridge stood up and defended his character when they were moving their own amendments to prevent character evidence for rapists. They moved those amendments and in the same breath they gave good character evidence for the member for Stafford, yet here we are still covering up what happened, failing to engage with this motion. This is the opportunity—

**Mr SULLIVAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence within the same breath and the same sentence being referred to in terms of the rape legislation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have taken personal offence, member? You do not have to debate the issue.

**Mr SULLIVAN:** I take personal offence.


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

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw. What we are asking is for those opposite to table this alleged secret return-to-work plan—the return-to-work plan which allegedly they have kicked him out of the party on the basis of. What we think is happening here is a diabolical cover-up. They knew. They knew about his conduct. They knew what was going on and they protected him. They continued to protect him among their ranks. They continued to walk past the conduct that they knew was inappropriate because female members on that side of the House called it out. They called it out. Yet they continued to protect him and stand up and defend him. Now they will not engage with this motion.

The member for Stafford should resign. I am calling on the member for Stafford to resign from this House. I am calling for his community to have proper representation, representation like the woman who put her hand up to run for preselection. I do not know her but she said that she can 'retain the ALP-held seat of Stafford and prove that integrity matters'. The member for Stafford should resign, and those opposite should be telling us what they knew and when they knew it. They should be engaging with this motion. If the leader was any leader—we know the member for Stafford still thinks the leader is his leader. They are still running a protection racket for him, clearly. I am calling on the leader of the Labor Party to stand up and explain.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you have two minutes.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (11.55 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. You cannot have one foot in the door and one foot out the door. Either the member for Stafford is a member of the Labor Party and therefore part of their parliamentary team or he is not. The member for Murrumba cannot have it both ways, as politically convenient as it might be for him. As it stands, the member for Stafford is still able to attend local branch meetings and still able to vote in preselections. What is stopping the member for Stafford from renominating for his own seat in a future Labor Party preselection? All those opposite should be very wary about what the member for Murrumba has done through this botched expulsion.

In his panic to stop the political bleeding, the member for Murrumba has orchestrated a scenario where a member of his team has been removed from the Labor Party caucus for essentially having a beer. Let's be clear: the LNP first raised these concerns regarding the alleged domestic violence incident in February. It was reported publicly and those opposite did nothing. All of a sudden he has now breached a return to work, which we have not seen. Never mind that the police visited the member for Stafford's home or that the member for Stafford was required to appear in court. Never mind that the member for Stafford was welcomed back into this place by those opposite. This is all absolute nonsense. It has been an absolute farce.

The member for Murrumba did nothing about the member for Stafford. Enough is enough. Table the so-called 'safe return-to-work plan'. Explain who knew what and when. Explain how the member for Stafford is not fit to sit as a Labor Party MP but can remain a grassroots Labor Party member. Confirm

whether the member for Stafford is still paying his parliamentary levies to the Labor Party head office. Explain what they are hiding. Explain why the member for Stafford suddenly, after all this time, has to go.

We on this side of the House have been clear throughout this sorry saga. Actions matter. If the member for Stafford is not fit to be a member of the Labor Party caucus, he is not fit to be in this parliament. The member for Stafford should do the right thing and resign. I have never ever seen Labor completely vacate the field. I have never seen it before. Shame on you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The time for this debate has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.58 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the administration and operation of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, to repeal the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, and to amend this act and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

The Crisafulli government is committed to reducing red tape and ensuring statutory bodies operate with the efficiency, integrity and agility required to serve the needs of a modern health system. The Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025 replaces the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 with a contemporary legislative framework that better supports the Queensland Institute of Medical Research and its governing council.

QIMR is Queensland's homegrown and globally respected medical research institute. From humble beginnings in 1945 with just seven staff working from an ex-military hut in Victoria Park, it has grown into a research powerhouse. Today around 1,000 scientists, clinicians, students and support staff work in the world-class facilities in Herston, tackling some of the most serious health challenges facing Queenslanders. This year marks a major milestone. In November, QIMR will celebrate its 80th birthday. That is eight decades of groundbreaking medical discoveries that have improved public health outcomes in Queensland and around the world.

The Institute continues to lead research addressing the most pressing health issues of our time. QIMR is working on cures and treatments for some of the most difficult diseases, including: cancer, heart disease, dementia, asthma and mental health conditions. And they are not just studying problems: they are solving them!

Just this year, Professor Sudha Rao launched a clinical trial for metastatic triple negative breast cancer, one of the most aggressive and difficult-to-treat cancers, as you may know, Madam Deputy Speaker. Professor Bryan Day and Dr Michelle Li are developing promising new therapies for childhood brain cancer, and Dr Brittany Mitchell led the Australian arm of a global study that identified nearly 300 previously unknown genes linked to depression, earning international attention for her work.

These examples show why strong legislative support matters. While the current act has been significantly amended over the years, it no longer reflects the scale and sophistication of QIMR today. It must be modernised to support the institute's ability to attract investment, deliver world-class research and remain competitive on the national and global stage. This bill ensures QIMR has the legal and governance foundations it needs to continue this vital work into the future.

It deals with a number of matters, and one that I want to raise is commercialised incentive payments. At the heart of QIMR's success is collaboration. Research breakthroughs are rarely achieved by one person working alone. They are made possible by teams of experts, often working across disciplines and project areas.

Despite this collaborative nature, the current act only permits bonuses for employees who are classed rigidly as 'discoverers' or 'inventors'. This definition excludes many people, including

collaborators working under non-traditional employment arrangements, who meaningfully contribute to the institute's work.

The bill addresses this by updating the language and scope of these provisions. It replaces references to 'bonuses' with 'commercialised incentive payments' and broadens the eligibility criteria. This change ensures the council can recognise and reward all contributors to successful, commercialised research, not just those who fit a narrow legal definition. This reform will support QIMR in its ability to attract and retain leading talent, foster innovation and encourage high-impact research that improves health outcomes.

To ensure these payments are managed responsibly, the bill also clarifies how they must be funded. Payments must be made from net commercialisation revenue, meaning income generated from the research itself rather than from core operational or public funding. It must generate the revenue in order for the commercialised payments to be made.

The bill also modernises the approval framework for these payments, ensuring a more practical and balanced approach. Governor-in-council approval will be required if payments for a single piece of intellectual property exceed \$10 million in one financial year or if an individual contributor is set to receive more than \$5 million for a single piece of intellectual property in a financial year. These approval thresholds align with existing thresholds and government policy.

This is a fairer and more streamlined system. It maintains appropriate oversight of large payments while giving the council the flexibility it needs to reward excellence, encourage innovation and retain the world-class research talent that drives QIMR forward.

I will also deal with the appointment of people to the council and council size. Good governance starts with strong leadership. It is essential to the success of any statutory body, particularly one as significant as QIMR. Currently, all QIMR Council appointments are made by the governor-in-council. While that process may have been appropriate at the time the act was drafted, it can now lead to unnecessary delays and affect the council's ability to remain responsive and effective. To address this the bill transfers this responsibility to the Minister for Health, enabling swift appointments without compromising integrity or transparency.

The bill also refines the size of the council. While the current act provides for a council of between seven and 11 members, the bill sets a cap of nine members. This aligns with the council's current structure. This will support more focused and efficient decision-making while still ensuring a diversity of experience and expertise is maintained.

Integrity is not optional. Public confidence in research institutions like QIMR depends on strong ethical standards and transparency. The bill includes important integrity reforms. It requires the council to notify the minister immediately of any matter that could significantly impact the council or the institute's finances, operations or management. For example, if QIMR were involved in legal proceedings that could result in a substantial financial liability, the minister would be informed without delay.

To further strengthen accountability, the bill allows the minister to request a criminal history report from the Police Commissioner before appointing a council member. Existing members will also be required to notify the minister if they are charged with, or convicted of, an indictable offence during their term. Together, these reforms improve transparency and help ensure that only fit and proper individuals are entrusted with governing the institute.

The bill also provides the minister with clear powers to remove council members who engage in misconduct or fail to meet the standards expected of a public body. This includes behaviour that is improper or inappropriate in an official or private capacity. In addition, the bill introduces new disqualification provisions to ensure only fit and proper individuals can be appointed to, or remain on, the council.

These provisions cover a range of adverse behaviours; for example, a person will be disqualified if they have a conviction for an indictable offence unless that conviction is spent. There is no room for conduct that undermines public confidence. Queenslanders have every right to expect that statutory bodies like QIMR are governed with integrity, professionalism and transparency.

The bill also deals with council subcommittees and the issue of conflicts of interest. It modernises the structure of council committees. What are currently referred to as 'advisory committees' will be renamed 'council subcommittees' to reflect their role more accurately. These are not simply advisory bodies. They actively assist the council in carrying out its responsibilities.

The bill also introduces standard conflict of interest provisions which are currently missing from the act. These provisions will require council members to declare any material personal interests in matters being considered and remove themselves from related decision-making. For example, if a council member's relative or business associate could benefit from a contract or research funding decision, that member must be restricted from voting on the matter. This is basic good governance and long overdue.

The bill also makes important improvements to how the institute's leadership is appointed and managed. The director of QIMR plays a critical role in guiding the institute's research strategy and ensuring operational excellence. This is a specialised position that requires both scientific expertise and strong leadership skills.

Under the current act, the director is appointed by the governor-in-council. This process is slow and inflexible, limiting the institute's ability to recruit world-class candidates in an increasingly competitive field. To address this, the bill allows the council to appoint the director subject to ministerial approval. This strikes the right balance between council autonomy and maintaining appropriate government oversight.

The bill also allows the council to appoint an acting director for up to six months if the director is absent and unable to perform their functions or there is a vacancy in the office. This ensures leadership continuity during periods of absence or transition. To further strengthen accountability, the bill requires the director to immediately notify the council if that person has been charged with an indictable offence or becomes insolvent. Failing to do so, without a reasonable excuse, will be an offence with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units.

The bill also ensures that decision-making can be done efficiently and at the right level. While the council brings together a wealth of expertise, some responsibilities are best handled by the director or the staff of QIMR who have day-to-day oversight of the operations of the institute. Currently, the act does not allow the council to delegate functions to the director, which can limit the flexibility and responsiveness of the institute. The bill addresses this by allowing the council to delegate functions to the director and enabling the director to subdelegate those functions or their own responsibilities to appropriately qualified institute staff.

Finally, the bill makes a simple but important improvement to how the institute handles donations. In the 2023-24 financial year, QIMR raised more than \$17 million in donations, bequests and philanthropic support. These contributions are vital to advancing research and driving innovation. However, while the current act allows the council to accept gifts, it does not clearly allow them to deal with those that may be inappropriate or impractical in the way it sees fit. This bill fixes this. It gives the council the authority to manage donations responsibly, in line with financial legislation and public expectations. This ensures contributions are used in the right way, for the right purpose and in the best interests of the institute and its work.

QIMR is one of Queensland's most valuable institutions. For almost 80 years, it has contributed to global breakthroughs, fostered international collaboration and, most importantly, improved the lives of countless Queenslanders. The institute sits at the cutting edge of medical science and is a driving force in our state's health and innovation future—as anyone who has taken the time to visit QIMR will know. The bill gives QIMR the strong, modern legislative foundation it needs to keep doing what it does best—delivering world-class research, attracting global talent and turning discoveries into real health outcomes. I have no doubt QIMR will continue to lead in areas like immunology, genomics and public health innovation as it enters its next chapter after its first 80 years.

I want to thank the many individuals and organisations who engaged with Queensland Health throughout the development of the bill, including the QIMR council and its chair and all those who have sought to make an improvement. Your input has helped shape the reforms that are included in this bill and that will support the institute's ongoing success. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.11 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 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

## HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

### Introduction

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.12 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health Regulation 2018, the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013 and the Radiation Safety Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

Today I rise to introduce the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025, an omnibus bill that brings together reforms across multiple Health portfolio acts. The bill amends the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 to address various issues that have arisen during its implementation. These changes will ensure the act operates as intended when the new licensing scheme commences and the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council assumes responsibility for regulating the ownership of pharmacy businesses. These changes will allow our hardworking community pharmacists to continue doing what they do best—looking after our communities. I thank all of those community pharmacists who have had me visit them over recent times, including Cate's Chemist in Townsville where I got my free flu shot, which is another initiative of the Crisafulli LNP government.

The bill also amends the Public Health Act 2005 for two purposes. The first is to transition Queensland's dust lung disease register to the national registry established by the Commonwealth. The second is to manage growing risks related to the Japanese encephalitis virus in Queensland. Finally, the bill makes minor technical and clarifying amendments to the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013 and the Radiation Safety Act 1999.

The Pharmacy Business Ownership Act received assent in March last year and is being implemented by Queensland Health. During its implementation, opportunities have been identified to strengthen the act and clarify certain aspects of its operation. The act reflects Queensland's commitment to community pharmacies. Once fully commenced, it will ensure there is a modern and effective licensing framework for regulation of the ownership of pharmacy businesses. The act commenced in part in September 2024 to establish the Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council. Once fully commenced, the act will transfer responsibility for regulating pharmacy business ownership from Queensland Health to the council that the act established. Queensland Health has been working closely with the council to operationalise the act and prepare for the new licensing scheme.

The bill includes several amendments to clarify and improve the act and ensure it operates as intended. The bill provides greater clarity about what constitutes a pharmacy business. Currently, a pharmacy business is a business that provides the core pharmacy services of compounding and dispensing. The bill clarifies that core pharmacy services also encompass the sale of medicines by or under the supervision of a practising pharmacist. Businesses providing these services are, therefore, pharmacy businesses under the act and require a licence.

The bill also closes a potential loophole in the restrictions on who may hold a 'material interest' in a pharmacy business. The bill clarifies that a shareholder of a corporation that owns a pharmacy business cannot hold their shares on trust for another person unless they are either a practising pharmacist or a close adult relative of a pharmacist.

The bill includes amendments that improve review arrangements for the council's licensing decisions. This includes expanding access to external review for decisions made by the council as a whole. Under these changes, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal will be empowered to review original decisions made by the council as a whole, rather than by a delegate. Decisions made by a delegate will continue to require internal review before being eligible for external review.

To improve transparency and reflect the operation of the licensing scheme, the bill makes changes to the proposed operation of the council's register of licensed pharmacy businesses. This includes amendments to require, rather than permit, the register to be published on the council's website. The bill also requires that the register include the name and details of licence holders, any current licence suspensions and recent licence cancellations. These amendments will contribute to improving community awareness of the ownership and operation of local pharmacies, serving to maintain public confidence in the pharmacy profession.

The bill will also improve information-sharing arrangements. These changes will support administration of the act and the transition of regulatory responsibility from Queensland Health to the council. Other amendments to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act include minor adjustments to application processes, consolidating annual reporting requirements and amending certain definitions, including the term 'compound', which I am sure is of great interest to many in this chamber. The bill also includes transitional provisions to support the council's functions and preserve certain arrangements under the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2001, which will be repealed by the full commencement of the 2024 act. These changes aim to improve the operation of the act and ensure a smooth transition to the new licensing scheme.

The community pharmacy model continues to be integral to our health system and these amendments serve to strengthen the act's operation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our terrific and hardworking pharmacists for their dedication to serving the people of Queensland. I would also like to recognise the tireless work of both the council and peak pharmacy bodies, such as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, for working with us to deliver a strong regulatory framework that Queenslanders can have confidence in. I am confident the amendments made in this bill will support the sector to continue to thrive to deliver easier access to health services closer to where people live.

I mentioned Public Health Act amendments. This bill also amends the Public Health Act 2005 to implement two separate but important reforms. First, the Public Health Act will be amended to require all diagnoses of occupational respiratory diseases in Queensland to be notified to the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry. In May 2024, the national registry commenced. The national registry supports the elimination of preventable occupational respiratory diseases by facilitating earlier detection, intervention and prevention.

Under Commonwealth law, prescribed medical practitioners across Australia must now notify diagnoses of silicosis to the national registry. However, the national registry is designed to also receive and record notifications of other occupational respiratory diseases, such as cancer and asbestosis.

Under Queensland's Public Health Act, diagnoses of occupational respiratory diseases in Queensland must be notified to a state-based register. We have two registers. The proposed amendments will transition all notification requirements to the national registry and decommission the Queensland register. We do not need to have both. However, the confidentiality protections on the use and disclosure of information already held on the Queensland register will continue, to preserve that information safely and securely. To support this transition, the bill also makes some consequential amendments to the Public Health Regulation 2018.

Through the national registry portal, Queensland Health will still have access to patient information about Queensland diagnoses of occupational respiratory diseases. Queensland will also have access to de-identified information about diagnoses in other Australian jurisdictions. These amendments will expand national data on occupational respiratory diseases. In turn, this will assist in preventing further worker exposure to respiratory disease-causing agents.

The second reform the bill makes to the Public Health Act is to address the rising concern of Japanese encephalitis virus in Queensland. Japanese encephalitis virus is a serious disease with potential consequences for livestock and humans infected via mosquito bites. We have now seen a number of affected piggeries across Queensland in the last few years. People will have seen reports in the media. There have also been a number of people infected with the virus, including three deaths, unfortunately, since 2022. We know our teams are detecting infected mosquitoes across several local government areas in the state, including in our most exposed and vulnerable regions.

Currently, the Public Health Act provides powers for authorised persons to enter places to search for and capture samples of designated pests, including mosquitoes. However, these powers do not expressly include the ability to leave equipment for sampling and testing at a place when an authorised person leaves.

The risk of some mosquito-borne diseases, such as dengue fever, can be monitored by taking a sample of larvae from a water source. However, detecting Japanese encephalitis virus requires capturing a sample of adult mosquitoes in an area using a specialised trap. To be effective, these traps must be left at the relevant location overnight or longer, when adult mosquitoes are active, to gather a sufficient sample for virus screening.

The bill amends the Public Health Act to ensure authorised persons and environmental health officers can leave equipment for reasonable periods of time to detect and monitor public health risks presented by these pests. This will greatly assist in the detection and monitoring of serious pest-borne diseases, including mosquitoes carrying Japanese encephalitis virus. These amendments will ensure we are fully informed of the extent of Japanese encephalitis virus in Queensland, and better equipped to manage this serious public health risk.

Before concluding my remarks, I will briefly touch on two clarifying amendments that form part of the bill. The first one relates to the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act. The bill includes minor amendments to that act. These amendments clarify that ministerial appointment is available to appoint an acting mental health commissioner to the Mental Health Commission where the term of office for a commissioner has ended.

The provisions of the act do not currently refer to this obvious circumstance. The amendments will ensure the ability to make a ministerial appointment in these circumstances is clear on the face of the act. These changes ensure appropriate leadership arrangements are in place for the commission, noting the bill limits such appointments to six months, with a further six-month extension.

Finally, the bill includes a minor but important amendment to the Radiation Safety Act. Currently, the act makes it an offence to dispose of radioactive material without prior approval from Queensland Health. While the policy intent is that anyone may apply for such approval, section 71 is worded in a way that could be misread to suggest only licensed individuals are eligible.

The amendment clarifies that any person, not just radiation licensees, can apply for approval to dispose of radioactive material. This will be particularly relevant to property owners who discover old radioactive items during clean-ups or renovations. For example, industrial gauges containing sealed radioactive sources are sometimes found in old buildings. The change ensures there is no perceived barrier to seeking Queensland Health's assistance in disposing of such items safely.

This bill is about protecting and promoting the health and community services of Queenslanders, and ensuring legislation works as intended. Our community expects that regulation operates well and achieves the purposes it was enacted for. The amendments made in this bill aim to do just that, ensuring the regulation of pharmacy businesses, public health risks and radioactive material operate efficiently and effectively for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.25 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 Health, Environment and Innovation Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 3 April (see p. 880).

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.25 pm): Representing the people of Pine Rivers is a privilege that I have had for going on 10 years now, a privilege weighted with responsibility and gratitude. While casting a vote at the ballot box for many is but a moment of their time, the significance of that act should not be understated. The consequence is enduring. Decisions made in this place by governments can help or hurt for years to come.

I put my hand up to run for my community when I saw firsthand how much the LNP policies had hurt our community. I saw firsthand as a representative of health workers when my community had the deepest health cuts from the former LNP government. I saw it firsthand when I knocked on the doors of my community who had multiple family members who had lost their jobs or were in deep states of despair. I felt it firsthand as ideologues from the LNP made changes in this place that resulted in members of my community made to feel less worthy or inferior.

Creating local jobs, strengthening service delivery, legislating progressive reforms and advancing equality to make lives better and building the infrastructure our community needs has been delivered and has remained my priority since my election in January 2015. A re-election into this place now makes me the longest serving member in Pine Rivers.

To see the tangible benefits of a Labor government in my community have been so rewarding. Seeing our Pine Rivers special schools receive learning spaces that are fit for purpose is one stark example. The first time I walked through that school, I left with turmoil in my gut. I felt the indignity that our kids had been provided with. It is under a Labor government that we have built three huge, multi-purpose buildings that have modernised existing facilities, and we are providing an environment that our community can be proud of.

Pine Rivers Special School is one example of the transformation our schools and learning spaces have in our community, and it is something that I am so proud of. The fit-for-purpose learning spaces, our high schools with STEM and robotic spaces, improved trade training spaces, enhanced creative spaces, schools with GPs, social workers, psychologists, period products in our schools and school breakfasts for those who go to school hungry—this is what Labor delivers in education.

In spite of intense demand, our health and hospital systems are more dynamic and stronger than ever. I have championed and delivered a dedicated satellite hospital, one with more renal dialysis capacity than the PA Hospital for our community. It is delivering more health care closer to home, taking thousands of presentations of minor injury and illness out of our busy emergency rooms and freeing them up to work on more serious matters.

The previous time I was elected to this place we were in the grips of a global pandemic. Our health system had been under immense pressure. As our population ages and our general rates of health decline, our health system will continue to be placed under strain and our healthcare workforce will be more valuable than ever. Expanding and investing in our health system has been a priority of mine. The Prince Charles Hospital, our community health centre in Pine Rivers, our new Lawnton Ambulance Station and our satellite hospital are all examples of that. For workers in secure jobs to be able to access health care closer to home, in Queensland-run facilities that are free to the sick is something I will continue to fight for. Labor's 50-cent fares, upgrades to our Strathpine bus station, the Strathpine train station accessibility project and congestion-busting intersection projects, as well as major safety improvements to Gympie Road, Samford Road, Mount Glorious Road, South Pine Road, Strathpine Road, Eatons Crossing Road, the Linkfield Road overpass duplication and the Gympie Road bypass tunnel—whose future we are yet to hear about from those opposite—are just a few things I have done in our community to make it safer to get around.

As our community continues to grow, it is clear that more needs to be done, particularly in light of the recent reduction in facility mid-project—on the watch of the LNP—at the Eatons Crossing Road and Mount Sampson Road intersection. This intersection that has now been made less safe through a safety upgrade. My community is banding together against the LNP government's decision and petitioning in their thousands to see dual turning lanes reinstated.

This election I campaigned for a study into the dangerous level crossing on South Pine Road at Strathpine which had enormous community support. The boom gate downtime there causes serious delays that we know are set to get longer with Cross River Rail coming online. Congestion is spilling out onto Gympie Road in Strathpine and impacting economic productivity through Strathpine and our busy industrial hub of Brendale. This, of course, is making pedestrian safety an issue. These are all things that I want to see solved so it is something that I took to the last election. I will continue to fight for safety improvements and alternatives to the dangerous level crossing that we have at Strathpine. It was a matter that I spoke about in my first speech to this House and something that I remain committed to resolving for our community.

While I am proud of the work we have delivered locally and so proud of the progressive reforms the Labor government delivered in our almost decade in office, it is clear to me through the close election result that there is more work that I need to do. I will spend this time working hard to reconnect with important community concerns. The challenges our community are facing are global challenges—



inflation, population growth, housing constraints, skilled worker shortages, community safety and more. They are challenges that I will take the time to work through with my community. Slick slogans and politically charged simplistic campaigns will not fix them. There is no easy or quick fix. You cannot govern a state through slogans. I intend to spend my time productively engaging around these challenges to seek resolutions and to make our community stronger and better.

For all of the bluff and bluster about what a terrible government Labor was from those opposite, this LNP government's actions tell a different story altogether. I recall very distinctly being a member of a brand new government in this place. I recall the intense legislative reforms that were necessary to our vision and values once we gained government. That poses a stark contrast to the start of this new LNP government is. This is not a government with big ideas or policy, this is not a government of reform; this is a government of slogans. It was a small target in opposition and it is an even smaller one now that they are on the government benches. If the previous Labor government was so terrible, where are the long lists of corrective legislative reforms? It was made really clear to me by an independent observer who noted that this LNP government lied in opposition and they are continuing to lie in government.

**Ms BATES:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has twice used unparliamentary language and I ask that you get her to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Pine Rivers, would you withdraw the unparliamentary language?

**Ms BOYD:** Of course, I withdraw. Some of the first acts in this place were ones that quite simply trashed this institution. For the LNP to gag their own members to maintain unity on a policy shines a light on their fractured foundations. This is a government completely bereft of legislation, one that tells us that matters are urgent and need to be rushed through committees to get them to the second reading stage here and then they are held in a perverse holding pattern, with every brainwashed member of the occult-ish government spewing out the same mundane ingredients in the Kool-Aid list. If we were such a bad government as those opposite purport, for goodness sake, where is the flipping of the tables, where is the structural reform? I have lost track of the number of stakeholders who have said to me that they cannot figure out what this government stands for and what direction they are taking.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member from Aspley. They rushed their excruciatingly urgent Trusts Bill into this place only to spend three parliamentary sitting weeks debating it. How on earth do they expect to be taken seriously? Once you have cleared the decks of all their slogans and scare campaign accusations, they actually say nothing of substance. I thought it was peculiar when long-held traditions such as meet the candidates in our community of Pine Rivers could not get the LNP candidate to turn up. I offered to make myself available any day, any time to turn up. I offered to make myself available to meet the candidates in Samford. I offered to the forum organisers to turn up on any day at any time in the lead-up to election to see this democratic process proceed. I thought it was peculiar that my LNP opponent would not turn up, but now it is clearer than ever.

The LNP is not a party that can respond to genuine community curiosities; they are a party that speaks in sound bites and slogans. If the recent federal election reinforces anything clearly, it is that unless they are scripted, they are useless. They have small slogans, small ideas and use small and petty personal attacks. If you are looking for an example of what leadership does not look like, this government is currently writing the book. This LNP government is not focused on a big vision and big possibilities; they are all about small price tags and being a small target. It may be a strategy for duping the community at the ballot box but this new LNP government has already duped the community more than once as a government. Just ask their pro-life base who continue to be incensed with so many of this LNP team. Members have been elevated to this place based on support from those causes, be elected and chairman Crisafulli decree, 'We stand for nothing, status quo only—

**Mr POWELL:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a longstanding practice of using correct titles in this House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, address members by their correct titles, thank you.

**Ms BOYD:** Absolutely. The Premier decrees 'we stand for nothing' and he gags and suppresses members of his own team who actually believe in something. I do not agree with their belief in this instance but you bet I want them to be able to stand up in this place and express their beliefs. I am advocating for your conservative values, member for Glass House. I want them to be able to stand up

in this place. I want them to be able to stand up for their beliefs—stand up for something. Self-preservation rules supreme so Premier Crisafulli demands obedience, so ‘Soss, backbench, we are all gagged for the foreseeable.’ We knew enduring statewide swings in Pine Rivers would be a battle. My team and I knew every single day counted and that is why we spent every spare minute—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, could you address your comments through the chair, thank you.

**Ms BOYD:** That is why we spent every spare minute connecting with our community. That is why we knocked on over 15,500 doors in the lead-up to the 2024 election. We made over 27,800 phone calls to community members to discuss the things that really mattered to them. It was more than just slogans—genuine, meaningful grassroots connection. I want to reinforce to my community that I will fight for them every day. I will fight for their best interests in this place every day. I will not be gagged. I will not turn my back on my values. I will stand up and be their community representative in this place.

020 My electorate office team were often the first port of call for community members needing help and I want to acknowledge the tough and fierce job they do every day. Thank you to Simon, Joseph, Alex, Ben, Jenny, Maddy, Julian and Kicky. Our red army was not just on the roadside, doorstep, phones and booths; we were out there in the communities with locals every day. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who prioritised my re-election in their busy schedule. There are so many who showed up and never stopped working and believing, Labor members or not, and I am so appreciative of their massive effort.

I had the honour to work with an exceptional and super experienced and talented team of men and women in the last term. Thank you to Keren, Ben, Darren, Monique, Shane, Pete, Brad, Maddison, Dominique, Anna and Shezza. I would have been lost without them. Every day we made a meaningful impact. Most days were hard, confronting and challenging, but they were made even easier knowing that we had each other's backs.

Through retirements and defeats our team sustained losses this election. When you are a tight-knit team those losses are felt deeply. I want to thank the members of last term's Labor caucus who are no longer with us. I feel a couple of those losses tremendously and I want to place on record my thanks and admiration for a couple of my good friends such as the former member for Capalaba, Don Brown. ‘Bozzy’ and I shared a workplace for 20 years. He is a great comrade and I miss him deeply.

I also want to particularly acknowledge my wild mate Bruce Saunders. While I would never recommend travelling in a car that Bruce is behind the wheel of, I will miss our rural road trips. I am so pleased that ‘Brucey’ is continuing to fight for working people throughout our state. He is a true believer who gives all of himself to the cause. It is people like Bruce who keep our Labor movement, the oldest and strongest political movement in the nation, going. There will be no divorce day celebrations over here.

There are a couple of people in our team who I have worked with for more than two decades and one of those is our leader, Steven Miles. You know you are a true leader when your inspirational policies are plagiarised and pilfered by your opponents. That is exactly what we have seen here with Labor's 50-cent fares in Queensland.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** We have all read the member for Buderim's letter about keeping them permanently; that is a matter of public record. It had been a pleasure—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Order, members on my right.

**Mr Healy:** He has to be in his chair, doesn't he?

**Ms BOYD:** He is in his chair but he still does not have the full facts. It has been a pleasure to be his assistant minister, a minister in his government and a member of his team. Thank you for your vision, deep thinking and care.

I also want to sincerely thank our trade union movement, particularly my union, the United Workers Union. Thank you to Gary for always believing in me and to Jake, Jane and Malley for your constant support. Thanks to the broader union movement and our Labor movement campaigning to make our workplaces and community stronger and fairer; that is something I will continue to champion.

A couple of weeks ago my pinnacle accomplishment hit a big milestone. Now a six-going-on-16-year-old, our EBP is sunshine, exuberance and chaos. My mother through my

childhood often wished I had a child that was just like me and I dare say that has eventuated. Life's adventures and challenges are all the more rewarding and exciting when they are shared through the innocence, energy and optimism that a young child presents. To Reece and Eves, the gratitude I have for your support, tolerance and sacrifice—supporting my work in our community is immense and I do not think it could ever be fully expressed.

Thank you to my wonderful parents, now in their 70s. I got reports back from my team that mum was using her age as an excuse to get out of booth rosters on pre-poll. It is an interesting development but, unsurprisingly, she was not successful. Without doubt I am here due to my parents' sculpting and support. It is a real joy to be able to see them embrace retirement and the things they love in their golden years. I am so appreciative of my wider friends, families and loved ones outside of the political circle. Thank you for providing solid foundations, continual love and laughter.

I often say this role is not a job; it is a lifestyle. By its nature it is relentless and truly rewarding. It is an immense pleasure to be my community's representative in this place. I will continue to fight every day for our community to continue to get our fair share for our sporting clubs, for our schools and for our roads and our future. It is not something that I will ever back away from. I say to all of those members in this parliament who have had the immense privilege of being elected to represent their communities: do not back away from what you believe in, too. Whether I agree with it or not, the fact that we are here is an immense privilege. We are able to make change in a way that most people would not even be able to dream of. I do not back down from that. Do not allow dictatorial leadership to silence your voice, to silence or suppress the needs and desires of your community. Ask questions. Stand up. Push back. That is what we are here for. We are not here simply to occupy a seat in this place, to bow down to the direction that is provided by community—


**Mr Powell:** By unions.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Glass House and I thank him for coming to pre-poll and helping me win more votes in that last week of pre-poll. Thank you to the member for Glass House. I am a proud unionist, member for Glass House. While he may sit there and demonise them, that is not something that I am willing to do in this place. The member for Glass House sits there and taunts the fact that we believe in something on this side of the House and while he was—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, I ask you not to keep interjecting.

**Ms BOYD:** I congratulate him on being reappointed this state's environment minister. He did such a terrible job of it last time. I am so pleased he is back in this place able to do that job again so he can do the same kinds of reforms that his community rejected wholeheartedly last time. This is what they are doing: trying to be moderates but, in fact, being extremists. Queensland is already starting to see their true colours and I cannot wait for them to see more of it.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (12.46 pm): I rise to deliver my sixth speech to the address-in-reply debate and I am as humbled today as I was that first time way back in 2009. At the outset I want to thank the people of Glass House for their continued faith in me as their representative in this prestigious chamber. It has been the privilege of my life to represent that great electorate. I cannot wait to get on and deliver everything that we, the Crisafulli LNP government, said we would do. I point out that we will do it on time and on budget, something those opposite could never achieve. I am pleased the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is sitting in front of me because many of the things I am looking forward to delivering for the people of Glass House will fall in his portfolio. We are already good mates. I think we will become even closer mates over the course of this term.

There is the \$7 million upgrade to the intersection at Landsborough Maleny and Maleny-Montville roads just outside of Maleny itself, which is all about getting people home safer and sooner. There is \$10 million to commence upgrades to our dangerous intersections on the D'Aguilar Highway—intersections on roads like Campbells Pocket Road in Wamuran or Mount Mee Road in D'Aguilar, Raaen Road and hopefully George Street in Woodford. People would have already seen that we have commenced a complete rehabilitation and resurfacing of D'Aguilar Highway through Woodford itself and past the Bracalba Quarry.

We are commissioning a \$1 million detailed design study to plan, cost and prioritise upgrades on Mount Mee Road through Ocean View and we are also delivering \$2.5 billion for a crossing over Terrors Creek in the next-door electorate of Pine Rivers. The RACQ named Mount Mee Road the third worst

road in the state. Those opposite may have been happy to leave it the way it is, but we are certainly not. Again, transport and main roads are already out on that road rehabilitating it and improving it.

We have our commitment to endED, a fantastic charity that works with people suffering from eating disorders. We are not only going to assist them in terms of operational funding but also in providing tiny homes to house the families who are there to support their loved ones during that time. I again want to shout out to Mark and Gayle Forbes but also my good colleague Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin—and it is great to have him back in this chamber and to help me deliver that election commitment. We have committed \$250,000 to protect and enhance Maleny's treasured 'dark sky' status by fast-tracking lighting replacement on all state owned buildings like the police station, the hospital and the schools. We are going to accelerate the rollout of new digital fire signs starting in the Mooloolah Valley and Glass House Mountains.

Excitingly, I rose 16 years ago and said that I wanted to deliver years 11 and 12 to Woodford P-10 State School, and this term we will be announcing a transition to a full P-12 at Woodford State School. I thank the member for Surfers Paradise, the Minister for Education, for working with me on something that needed to be delivered many years ago. This is a school my dad attended back in the sixties and it literally has not changed since then, and this government is going to bring about that change. The only reason we can do that is because we are in government and we are in government because we have had a number of new members join us on this side of the House, and I acknowledge some of them here today. First there are the members for Redlands and Maryborough. In my area I have already mentioned the member for Nicklin, but we have also picked up the member for Redcliffe, we have the trio up in Townsville, we have the trio in Rockhampton and we have three more members up in Cairns as well, which is fantastic.

I want to reflect on election night. As members would appreciate, having now fought six elections, they can be pretty tough. I started the evening on ABC Radio with Steve Austin and the former member for Sandgate, Stirling Hinchliffe. Fortunately Stirling decided to pull the pin early, which gave me a good excuse to do so too. While Steve Austin was probably frustrated that we had not got a result by that stage, it allowed me to go and join my family—my wife, Taryn, and two of my kids Brielle and Rohanna. I pay tribute to Taryn in particular for being with me on this journey for so long and allowing me to do this job. Because Stirling and I pulled the pin early, that allowed us to join a number of others at the LNP afterparty. I got there just in time to hear our Premier, David Crisafulli, take the stage and give a fantastic acceptance speech on being elected as this state's Premier. As the Premier was leaving the stage I turned around—I also have the privilege of being the state patron at the moment for the Young LNP—and the then Young LNP President, Alex Sinenko, who did a power of work during that election, came up and said to me, 'We've won Pumicestone,' and I still get emotional. I will be honest: I reacted that night as I am now. I broke down, I think, because of the stress of many years in opposition but also the stress of seeing how those opposite, who convey themselves as some—

**A government member:** Morally superior.

**Mr POWELL:**—I take that interjection—morally superior individuals, treated the young lady sitting to my right, the current member for Pumicestone. I have never seen behaviour like that on a booth ever and I hope I never see it again. It is disgusting. Ariana Doolan, the member for Pumicestone—

**Mr Kempton:** What a great member!

**Mr POWELL:** Brilliant member, and I have had the privilege of knowing her for many years. I suspect that, had she made the decision to join the Labor Party, it would have held her up as a poster child for its party, but instead it tried to tear her down during that campaign and particularly over the course of those pre-polls. They were the most disgusting tactics I have ever seen, and it started with the then member for Pumicestone herself.

I will return to that election night. As Alex Sinenko told me that we had won Pumicestone, I burst into tears and Taryn and the girls quickly surrounded me. I turned away and faced the wall and we had a big sob. However, I then noticed all of these lights on me and I turned around and the TV cameras had discovered me. I will never forgive you, Brendan from Channel 10, but you asked me, 'Why the emotion?', and I said, 'Because we've just elected the youngest female to the state parliament ever,' and I am so proud to serve alongside the member for Pumicestone. Just next time I have a birthday, do not share that photo of you and I when you were school captain at Glasshouse Christian College ever again please. It shows how much I have aged over the course of my term in this parliament! I look forward to working with the member for Pumicestone and all of the other new LNP members in this

chamber to help us deliver what we said we would deliver, because that is what we are all about. We gave commitments to the people of Queensland and we are going to deliver every single one of them.

I am also humbled by the Premier's request to serve as the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. To combine the responsibility for the environment and tourism presents an unparalleled opportunity for us to throw open the doors to our wonderful state in all its glory. From that sparse desert landscape of the far south-west to the splendour of the Gold Coast beaches and the world-class surfing; from the dramatic peaks of my own electorate of the Glass House Mountains to the awe of the migrating whales in Hervey Bay bordered by the world's largest sand island, Fraser Island, K'gari; from the beef capital of Rocky to the paleo tourism hotspots of Winton and Eromanga and the pioneering mecca of Longreach; from the vast savannah landscape of the north-west to the Great Barrier Reef studded with some of the greatest tropical islands in the world bordered by pristine rainforest reserves: Queensland has it all.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** And, yes, it even has the Scenic Rim! Then there are the cultural hubs in our cities for world-class theatre, dance and music and art galleries hosting globally recognised exhibitions also acting as magnets for tourists. And let us not forget the blockbuster events—the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Magic Round, the first test at the Gabba, the Pacific Airshow. We know hundreds of thousands of fans will flock to Queensland to be on the front line of these thrilling spectacles. All of those are supported by great Queenslanders—the communities and the operators who make those locations and events into unforgettable experiences, who take a backdrop and turn it into a lifelong memory that inspires people to come back time and time again. Whether you are a local on holidays or visiting from across the world, Queensland is a one-stop destination. We are the home of the holiday, and we are determined to be the events capital of the country. We have so much to share and now the Crisafulli government is going to make sure it is open and available to all.

I am determined that Queensland will take its rightful place as the nature-based tourism leader it deserves to be. Watch out, Tasmania and New Zealand: we're coming for you! We know that delivering a bright future for tourism is a recipe for economic success, and that delivers a better lifestyle for Queenslanders. We will unlock ecotourism opportunities by delivering projects like the Wangetti Trail, the Ngaro track, the Thorsburne Trail and the Smithfield Mountain Bike Trails. We will work on the Whitsunday Skyway with our private partners. We will continue to deliver world-beating events, and with our new pipeline of venues thanks to our Olympic Games master plan there is nothing to stop us now. We will invest in intrastate and overseas tourism campaigns to showcase Queensland as that home of the holiday. We will improve our regional connectivity by fixing the Bruce Highway which will increase drive tourism opportunities for those who like to make their own adventures. Getting more visitors to Queensland means more people staying in our hotels, eating in our cafes, spending in our shops and visiting our attractions. That creates jobs and that grows our economy to drive down the cost of living.

I now ask members to consider Labor's record—years of delays, dithering and dropping the ball. Excellent ecotourism projects had been left to wither on the vine because they disappeared into approvals black holes for years. Make no mistake: we are 100 per cent committed to appropriate regulation and protection of our environment, but we will make decisions. I am keen to make those decisions a 'yes', but if I cannot I will give you a quick 'no', and I have heard from proponents that that is sometimes as good as a 'yes'. In the 10 years preceding this government a Queensland Audit Office report showed that only three ecotourism projects were approved—three projects in 10 years. We can do so much better, and I promise the House that we will. The tourism industry has been begging for some attention from government for the past 10 years. I am here and I am all ears.

The environment is a critical part of Queensland's economic success. Queensland is known for our incredible biodiversity and natural environment which draws visitors from around Australia and across the world. We want to preserve it for generations to come. We want Queenslanders to be able to experience our incredible natural wonders and be inspired to conserve them. We want our national parks to showcase our glorious wilderness and protect it from the scourge of invasive pests and weeds. We will deliver our More Rangers, Better Neighbours plan to deliver another 150 park and Indigenous rangers to boost the management of our protected area estate. Those opposite talk a big game, but that is mainly about shoring up greens preferences rather than out of any real commitment to the environment. Under Labor, protected areas in this state grew by—wait for it—one per cent. That is right: one per cent. Not only that, pests like feral pigs, goats and cats ran rampant through our precious natural habitats. National parks were locked up, keeping Queenslanders from enjoying their own state. It presided over a dismal recycling record with targets not met, the landfill sites bursting at the seams,

with councils left holding the can—the rubbish can. Littering jumped by 26 per cent, making our communities an eyesore.

That is all about to change, because by sharing the wonders of Queensland we create a new generation of champions who will understand the importance of preservation and conservation. We know we bear a heavy responsibility for protecting this wild and wonderful landscape, and the communities that rely on the land are at the forefront of these efforts. Farmers need the land at its productive best with minimal impact from invasive species. Tourism operators need our nature to be in its pristine best to highlight the guest experience. I know that our reef tourism operators are dedicated citizen scientists contributing every day with observations and notifications to help the scientists working to protect this natural wonder, because we are just the custodians. As a father of five, I am determined that we leave this great state in the best possible condition for future generations. That is where my portfolio dovetails perfectly. Science and innovation are going to deliver the solutions to the challenges confronting our environment.

Whether it is from the innovative building materials to leave the lightest footprint when we are building in nature or digital developments to spread the word about Queensland—the home of the holiday—we are working to bring the future into our lives. Scientists are working to deliver a better understanding of the factors that lead to things like coral bleaching or pest infestations. Through that we have the chance to do something positive to create change. We are cleaning up the mess left to us by Labor. We are delivering for the people of Queensland. We are delivering for the people of Glass House, and I could not be prouder to stand and serve in this chamber again for them and with them. Watch this space: we have an exciting decade ahead of us.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

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Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.