



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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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 [\[522\]](#).

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 McConnel, 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 [\[523\]](#).

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 [\[524\]](#).

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 [\[525\]](#).

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 [\[519\]](#).

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)—

[520](#) 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)

[521](#) 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, Erosion

 **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—

**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-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 [\[526\]](#).

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, Yaraka, 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 there are long distances involved when replacing or fixing damaged infrastructure.

Anne-Maree and Geoff Lloyd from 'Jedburgh' station at Yaraka 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' [\[527\]](#).

**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.

**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 [\[528\]](#).

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, rootling 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 the 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, 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 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 on 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 the 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.

### Community Safety

**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?

**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 me and every member of this side of this parliament on 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 be 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 Murrumbidgee. The poor member for Murrumbidgee 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, 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 swift action she has taken on behalf of victims, particularly victims of sexual assault.

I sadly recall sharing the story of a rape victim from South-West Queensland who was not raped by one individual but by 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 the woman 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 heads 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, Police Resources**

**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 antisocial 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

**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.

### **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 Algester, 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.

**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 NSW 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.

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 [\[529\]](#).

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 Queen 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 previous 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 forgo 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 Murrumbidgee.

**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 Murrumbidgee actually supported that process. The member for Murrumbidgee 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 [\[530\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[531\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[532\]](#).

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. 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. Their 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 [\[533\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025, explanatory notes [\[534\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[535\]](#).

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 the 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 and the management of 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 being made to feel less worthy or inferior.

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

Seeing the tangible benefits of a Labor government in my community has 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 feelings of turmoil at the indignity our kids had been provided with. Under the former Labor government we built three huge, multipurpose buildings that have modern facilities. We have created an environment that our community can be proud of.

Pine Rivers Special School is one example of the transformation that has taken place in our schools and learning spaces in our community, and it is something that I am so proud of. Fit-for-purpose learning spaces; high schools with STEM and robotic spaces; improved trade training spaces; enhanced creative spaces; schools with GPs, social workers and psychologists; schools with period products; and schools with breakfast programs for those who go to school hungry—that 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 last 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 scope mid-project—under the watch of the LNP—at the Eatons Crossing Road and Mount Sampson Road intersection. This intersection 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 which we know are set to get longer when Cross River Rail comes 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 is 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. 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 for 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 the LNP candidate did not turn up to long-held traditions such as meeting the candidates in our community of Pine Rivers. 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 the 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 are 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 are currently writing the book. This LNP government are 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 have 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 for those causes and chairman Crisafulli decrees, '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, ‘soz, backbench, we are all gagged for the foreseeable future.’ 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.

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 whom 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 of 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 going to assist them in terms of operational funding but also in terms of 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 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 its 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 and 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.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Liberal National Party



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): This week the Queensland LNP had little to be proud of, because this week we saw a far-right-wing rump of Queensland conservative LNP MPs break up the federal coalition's marriage of inconvenience. The federal coalition split was led by Queensland far-right whingers David 'Little to be proud of' Littleproud and his far-right fellow travellers Matt 'King of coal' Canavan and Colin 'King of crazy' Boyce.

This week we saw history repeat. Who could forget that 38 years ago, in 1987, a similarly unhinged bunch of far-right whingers from Queensland broke up the Lib-Nat marriage to support the similarly deranged 'Joh for pm' campaign. How did that go? This week's event says volumes about conservative politics in Queensland. Fresh from a disastrous federal election wipe-out, these out-of-touch far-right whingers are doubling down. This week's event also tells us volumes about the conservative LNP MPs in this chamber. David Littleproud and his far-right whingers went nuclear this week and blew up the coalition—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members, the member has a full head of steam and he is not taking interjections, so I would ask you all to remain quiet, please.

**Mr DICK:** David Littleproud and his far-right whingers went nuclear this week and blew up the coalition—and then they went nuclear, full stop. The LNP in Queensland stands for nuclear, supports nuclear, believes in nuclear and wants nuclear power for Queensland. Make no mistake: those members opposite have the same values and beliefs as David Littleproud and his fellow travellers.


Do not be fooled by the Crisafulli LNP government's facade of being a normal Queensland government. It is not. The Crisafulli government is hostage to the same right-wing whingers, because those people are their party base. As demonstrated by the last federal election, the Queensland LNP are completely out of touch with mainstream Queensland values. They are more interested in themselves than in Queenslanders. When will they understand that nuclear is a nonstarter for Queenslanders? What about Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie's obsession with the monarchy? He wants Cross River Rail renamed the Elizabeth Line. What a right royal priority and a self-indulgent waste of taxpayers' money!

Do members want to know what this government is really about? The Crisafulli government is a government of political self-interest, not the interests of ordinary Queenslanders. It has delayed much needed new hospital infrastructure, it has axed around 1,000 new affordable homes, it was dishonest about the Callide Power Station and it appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission a



person nominated by Tony Fitzgerald as a compromised individual. This is not a normal, sensible Queensland government. The LNP in Queensland is ideologically driven and led by a bunch of out-of-touch, right-wing whingers.

### Bribie Island

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.03 pm): I rise today to speak about an issue that is near and dear to me and my entire community: the breakthrough of Bribie Island into the Pumicestone Passage and the risk to our town, particularly Golden Beach. We watched our island break through in early 2022 after ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth. The storm surge broke through an island that was a known vulnerability for 20 years. Our local champions had been raising this issue for the past decade, but, unfortunately and devastatingly, it had fallen on deaf ears.

The former Labor member for Caloundra not once uttered the words 'Bribie Island' in this chamber, an indication of no interest whatsoever in this issue. Imagine if the former government had taken action back then, before a second breakthrough occurred and further extreme narrowing of our island—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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


**Ms MORTON:** It may have been easier and cheaper to fix it and not have our community in the position it is in today.

I want to assure the Caloundra community: you are being heard. During 2024, when the former government continued to ignore your pleas for help, our voice got stronger. We listened and, with the help of the member for Bonney, the former shadow environment minister, we established without a shadow of a doubt that the former government had made a decision, and that decision was that there would be no action. Inaction is a decision. This inaction left the Caloundra community at risk—a risk that this government is not willing to take. We have launched our review into Bribie Island and the Pumicestone Passage. There has never been a review like this that allows our local community to have their say on an issue that is so important. We have received almost 1,200 individual submissions to the reviewers, who are experts in their field. We have engaged these experts and welcomed locals to have an opinion.

This is a government that listens. This is a team that allowed me, as a new member of parliament, to bring this issue forward and listened when I fought for our community. This is not just another report, another inquiry, another business case or case study; this is to gather quality, evidence-based solutions to establish what viable solutions are available given the current state of the island, which is not good.

We have seen Lions Park wash away—an icon for our locals. Can you imagine just for a moment what it is like to have part of your recreational space that has been there for decades simply wash away? This is serious and for the Caloundra community who spoke loudly for 10 years not a surprise. I will continue to advocate for the Caloundra community when nobody else has.

### Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.06 pm): Last weekend I got along to my 12-year-old daughter's basketball game. I do not always get the chance to get to her games. When I do I am always filled with pride, but this week I actually had a tear in my eye as I watched these girls, who turn up each week and who work so hard to please their coaches and to make their parents proud—girls who train hard but who already, at 12, have endured comments about their body shape, their appearance and their abilities yet keep showing up and playing the sport they love. I tear up because I know what is ahead of them.

These girls will face barriers in sport that men will never realise—having to play through the pain and discomfort of menstruation, getting changed behind trees because there are no female change rooms, having games cancelled because there are not enough refs for the men's and the women's games. Girls and women who play sport are champions, and the women who make it to the elite level are heroes who should be celebrated for their strength, commitment, endurance, discipline and courage. That is why the comments made in this House by the sport minister, describing female Paralympian Alexa Leary as 'cheery' and 'beautiful' are absolutely offensive.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that. It is an issue I have already written to the Speaker about. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. Women in sport have fought long and hard to be respected for their talent and determination, not reduced to their appearance or demeanour. Language matters. When I called out the minister's language online, rather than take the opportunity to get—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Ms BUSH:** I am happy to withdraw.

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

**Ms BUSH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker; I thought I said that.

He wrote to me and asked me to remove my post, stating that it was clearly referring to her character and her contribution. Let's talk about her contributions. Alexa Leary is an accomplished triathlete who suffered a cycling crash, incurring multiple fractures and major brain damage. She had to learn to walk again. She then went on to defy medical expectations to transition to para swimming and at the Paris Paralympics secured two gold medals and broke two world records. I am incredulous that the sport minister would choose words like 'cheery' and 'beautiful' to describe her contributions.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only do I take offence; Alexa Leary's family takes offence—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member—

**Mr MANDER:**—at the weaponisation of those comments.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member!

**Mr MANDER:** I ask that she withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, take your seat, please.

**Ms BUSH:** I am happy to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member for Everton is harassing the Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat, please.

**Mr BAILEY:**—with frivolous points of order—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat.

**Mr BAILEY:**—on matters—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat, please, member! Member, would you withdraw?

**Ms BUSH:** I am happy to withdraw. Rather than asking me to censor my post, the minister's time would be better spent reviewing the long and ongoing history of women fighting for equality in sport on the field, in appointments and in funding allocations. The sport minister's comments are disgraceful and I call—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Despite me—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I just need your point of order.

**Mr MANDER:** I am telling you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Despite me taking offence at every comment she is making—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I just need your point of order.

**Mr MANDER:**—which is the same thing, she is insisting—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I do not want to argue with you.

**Mr MANDER:** I take offence and ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Take your seat. Member, please withdraw.

**Ms BUSH:** I withdraw. This is the person responsible for championing women's sport in Queensland. It is offensive to women. The Speaker's office has written to me and stated that I may have offended standing orders in posting my original video and has asked that I apologise to the House. It was not my intention to reflect poorly on the House so at the Speaker's direction I will remove my original post and I do apologise unreservedly to the member and to the House.

**Mr MANDER:** I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. After offending me in three or four comments in her delivery, the member for Cooper then tries to apologise for the comments. The apology means nothing.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat.

**Mr MANDER:** I will be writing to the Speaker about the issue.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will have quiet while I get some advice. Member, that is not a matter of privilege arising. If you have an issue you write to the Speaker.


### Central Queensland, Housing

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (2.11 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the people of Keppel who voted for a fresh start and have been calling out for action on housing because every Queenslanders deserves to have a place to call home. Over the past decade we have all witnessed the declining housing approvals, the record low rental vacancy rates and record high homelessness rates. Just like the rest of the state, many people in Central Queensland are feeling the legacy of the former government's housing crisis.

I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government that is stepping up. Our party went to the election promising to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders. I acknowledge this will not happen overnight, but with a legacy of Queenslanders languishing for years on social housing waiting lists across the state, the time for change is now. Earlier I met with the CEO of AnglicareCQ to hear of the work that her agency is doing across Central Queensland. She also outlined the challenges the sector is facing in addressing the housing need. We want to hear and understand the challenges so we can break down those barriers. During our chat I was proud to share the steps taken by our government. We have established the Ministerial Housing Taskforce and amended the Queensland planning framework to unlock church and charity owned land for vital community housing. We have appointed Peta Harwood as the Queensland State Planner with a priority on partnering with local governments and communities to unlock more land to enable housing approvals. In February we abolished stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers, saving first home buyers thousands of dollars on up-front costs and unlocking home ownership for more Queenslanders while also adding more supply to the housing market.

There is more to do and I am up for the work. I am keen to make a difference. Government, not-for-profits, developers and the sector can achieve great things by working together to achieve a lasting legacy for families across the state. This is vital work. Why? Because every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home.


### Renewable Energy

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.14 pm): On Saturday, 3 May, Queenslanders overwhelmingly rejected Peter Dutton and the LNP's nuclear plan. When Queenslanders cast their vote at the recent federal election they said no to the federal coalition's plan for seven nuclear reactors—two right here in Queensland—because Queenslanders know that it was never going to deliver cheaper power. Queenslanders said no because they know it was never going to happen, period. Nuclear power is incredibly expensive and it takes a very long time to build. The cost and the building time always blows out substantially. Look at the most recent example, the new nuclear plant in the US state of Georgia: seven years longer to build than they expected, while the cost jumped 260 per cent to US\$35 billion. It is now producing the world's most expensive power and that has had a big impact on power bills for local residents.

What we saw on election day was Queenslanders wanting to vote for real action on climate change, real progress on renewable energy and emissions reduction targets on a credible pathway to net zero. What a shame it was that throughout the federal campaign we had a state government that delivered radio silence on their fellow LNP colleagues' nuclear plan, another example of their ongoing and tired small-target playbook. One cannot be a small target in government, as much as they might like to, as much as they might try to. Queenslanders actually expect them to do something and say something now that they hold the keys to 1 William Street. Wouldn't it be nice if just once, when they did finally say something, that they followed through on it. It was not too long ago that the LNP voted in favour of our emissions reduction targets and pathway to net zero by 2050. Now in government, the LNP has not only scrapped the renewable energy targets and in its place announced a plan for a plan—very inspiring—but also started to set the scene to scrap the emissions reduction targets.

Last month I asked the Treasurer if the Crisafulli government remains committed to the legislated emissions targets introduced by our former government and he replied that the Clean Economy Jobs Act will be reviewed, which is code for scrapped, cut, amended. It might be a news flash, but net zero is not realistically achievable when the government is scrapping renewable energy targets, has no plan to transition the economy and extends the use of coal-fired power stations beyond the originally agreed timeline and their useful life. We know that the Treasurer has no plan to address climate change in the state of Queensland, but we know the people of Queensland want to see real action. Queenslanders are not mugs and this LNP Crisafulli government should stop treating them like they are.

### Small Business Month

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.17 pm): As members know, it is Small Business Month throughout May. We are two-thirds of the way through an incredible month of events and activities with 77 events already delivered across the state and more than 80 still to go. Already this month thousands of small and family business owners have engaged in events, connecting locally to Recharge, Renew and Rebuild. There is certainly a growing recognition amongst small and family businesses that they now have a government willing to back them and their communities to not just survive but to thrive. Contrast that with the previous Labor government which continued to burden small and family businesses with more and more red tape. In fact, and I said this yesterday, according to the Business Chamber of Queensland *Efficient regulation report 2023* the burden of red tape on small and family businesses doubled in just two years under Labor, costing on average \$50,000 per year per business.

Among the highlights of the events I have attended so far was the Chef's Table delivered by the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise, TSBE. Held on a rural property near Dalby in the electorate of Warrego, this event showcased Western Downs produce. I was also pleased to join the Minister for Primary Industries and the Small Business Commissioner in Gympie at the chamber business breakfast and last week the member for Capalaba and I opened an AI workshop hosted by Redland City Council. Yesterday I joined Regional Development Australia Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast to celebrate an Indigenous enterprise, Stories of Success, backed by our Better Local Business Grants Program. These grants have funded 48 events and workshops across Queensland delivered by chambers of commerce, industry groups and regional councils, bringing local issues and opportunities to the table to explore new solutions and ways of working.


One of those events was the Montville Chamber of Commerce's Make Montville Shine workshop, held on 7 May in the electorate of Glass House. Marlene Thomas from Link Properties Montville attended the event and said—

Community level is valuable and effective in consolidating issues that are unique to our area and as small business owners, we can contribute and be supported to make progress together to identify priorities and strategies and monitor implementation and progress.

Comments such as that show the importance of bringing local small and family businesses together to build support and connections.

Queensland Small Business Month, backed by the Crisafulli government, is not over yet. My department has held a series of financial literacy workshops in Emerald, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi and Brisbane, with six more to be held across Queensland this month. Our nine business recovery clinics provide tailored financial support as well as wellbeing clinics. I encourage all Queenslanders to get behind them. For more information, go to [business.qld.gov.au](https://business.qld.gov.au).

### Liberal National Party, Energy Policy


 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.20 pm): At the recent federal election, Queenslanders made a clear choice: they voted for Labor and strong action on net zero. They voted for more jobs and a stronger economy through clean energy. They overwhelmingly voted for Labor's energy rebates to provide them with cost-of-living support.

Queenslanders also loudly said, 'No to nuclear'. They rejected the LNP's nuclear plan that had the Premier and energy minister twisting and contorting themselves, trying to avoid a straight answer in the lead-up to polling day. We know that there is an extra special reason they have such difficulty in providing a straight and open answer to the people of Queensland. It is because the coalition are utterly split over nuclear and net zero. Like an atom in a nuclear reactor, they are split in two. This week, the government's party literally disintegrated in front of them yet we have heard barely a word from those opposite us in this chamber. They have sat there silently, like lumps of depleted uranium.

However, there has been plenty of commentary in the public, including on the Queensland LNP's own social media pages where, on Tuesday, they were trying to spruik their botched crime laws but the community was much more interested in the fact that the coalition had split and torn itself apart. The comments made for very interesting reading. A couple of my favourites were, 'Do you still exist?' and 'Are you again the country party of Queensland?' That is a good question. One of the more prescient comments was, 'Is there anything else that you guys want to comment on?'. Indeed, what are the positions of those opposite on net zero and nuclear? Do the members from National Party electorates support their federal policies on expensive and slow nuclear and dumping net zero?

This government cannot provide any confidence to either Queenslanders or industry when it comes to energy policy. They are divided, rudderless and clueless. That is why they have no plan and that is why they will not lower power bills for struggling households.

### Minjerribah Futures Program

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.23 pm): The Queensland Audit Office's review of the Minjerribah Futures program, initially priced at \$20 million, is scathing of Labor's mismanagement and incompetence in governance and delivery. It has left Straddie with very little to show for the \$39.4 million it ultimately cost. It is not a good deal for locals or taxpayers. The Labor government did not reconcile the projects, did not provide proper public reporting on the status of funding and did not make clear who was responsible for key elements of the strategy so that important limbs of it, like seeking third-party investment, just never happened. While governance standards were not being met, Labor continued to provide the funding anyway.

Of the \$39.4 million in taxpayer funding that was allocated to Minjerribah Futures projects, \$33.2 million of the approved funding was for the local traditional owner corporation known as QYAC. One might expect that the Audit Office would examine whether that funding delivered tangible outcomes for the community. Alas, the Audit Office declined to audit QYAC's use of the funds. It had the power to do so. It observed that—

... QYAC lacked the capacity and skills required to accurately estimate the costs and deliver the projects it was assigned ...

The Audit Office held—

QYAC rarely met the financial or progress reporting requirements set out in the funding agreements. Where QYAC did submit financial acquittals, it did not provide sufficient detail and evidence to demonstrate how it used the funding to achieve the project objectives.

And yet, it decided not to audit QYAC. Why?


When I talk to locals, particularly in our local Aboriginal community, they are devastated by the report because they look around and see so little for a huge sum that could have been transformative. As one of the elders said to me, the audit report asks more questions about QYAC's governance than it answers. I agree. I table professional advice commissioned by QYAC dealing with its governance and examining its financials.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents prepared by Cornwalls Law, dated 14 February 2025, for the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation [\[536\]](#).

That report reveals a concern that QYAC's financials are not accurate. It shows liability for late payment of superannuation obligations, likely noncompliance with payroll tax obligations and a failure to report income and reconcile the financials from subsidiaries like Minjerribah Camping, for instance. It suggests that the records of the fixed assets of QYAC are not accurate. However, when 165 members of QYAC sought a special meeting to ask questions about the report, they were shut down and denied that request. That short-changes the Quandamooka people who deserve so much better.

Since this report emerged, reports of standover tactics and intimidation within QYAC have intensified, but if all is well why would threats be required? Why not just let the sunlight in? Local people, understandably, draw the inference that something is being hidden.

### Redcliffe Hospital, Expansion

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.26 pm): Tomorrow marks eight weeks since the LNP abandoned the Redcliffe Hospital expansion program. The day that the piling contractor pulled all his stuff offsite was the same day that the Premier announced that they were spending billions on Olympic infrastructure in Queensland. When the health minister said that cranes were still swinging over the sites of hospital expansions in Queensland, the Redcliffe Hospital sat empty, silent and abandoned.

Under Labor it was a bustling building site where local workers were proudly building the infrastructure our community needs, but under the LNP and the member for Redcliffe locals can see that the site is abandoned, workers have been laid off and contractors have been left in the lurch.

This is not the only cut to local health services in Redcliffe. In November this year the LNP will cease funding a local mental health service, Safe Space, which is a peer-led, innovative and locally based health service. It alleviates pressures on the Redcliffe ED by offering a service to those who would present to the emergency department. It is open after hours and on weekends. It works on a drop-in basis. It has delivered services to people aged from eight to 90. It deals with about 12 clients a night. It has literally saved lives. The LNP is going to be cutting the funding for this service. The service will close when that happens. That is another example of LNP health cuts.

On hospital cuts, the question is: why is the LNP doing this? The answer is that we do not know. No-one knows except the Premier and the health minister. The local member does not know. All the local member can do is recycle excuses fed to her by the health minister. The fact is that I believe—and I reference my last speech on this matter and clarify that I should have said 'I believe' I believe—that the LNP is using excuses to cover up their cuts. I am talking about the report by the embattled Sangster, who I heard was in town on Tuesday having meetings about the hospital expansion program. That is a bit of late info. Clearly that man gets around.

Under the LNP and the member for Redcliffe, the health cuts keep coming in Redcliffe. This is a member who proudly reminds everyone that she is a nurse but Redcliffe will remember her as a nurse who did nothing when the cuts came back to town. This is someone who has turned their back on local nurses and the local community.

### Regional Agricultural Shows



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.29 pm): The Western Queensland show circuit is well and truly underway. Shows are a great part of rural and regional Queensland and the ag show season is looked forward to by many. For many rural and regional communities across the state, the local ag show is the highlight of the year. They are a place where locals come together to connect, compete and celebrate all things community and agriculture.

The local ag show supports and showcases local communities. They remind us just how vital agriculture is to all of us. They are not just about ribbons and rides; they tell a story and they deserve to be supported. Shows are marked on the Queensland calendar many months in advance, and I know many people look forward to them every year. I know this firsthand. Although it is hotly debated on this side of the House who has the best ag show, I am pretty confident that Warrego leads the way. Be it from Tara to Dalby, St George to Dirranbandi or Wallumbilla to Charleville or to Roma, ag shows are evidence of a thriving community.

Since 1822, agricultural shows have been part of the Australian culture, and their history runs deep into our culture. They are quintessentially Queensland. In 2012, a study showed that ag shows contribute \$965 million per annum to the Australian economy. Ag shows have their challenges, though, in relation to tenure issues, public liability insurance, volunteers and also, in many cases, fit-for-purpose infrastructure. Whether it is funding or support, the shows need the backing of their local communities and also of governments to ensure that ag shows continue for the next 100 years.

The Crisafulli LNP government will work in partnership with our ag shows to help them thrive into the future. We will be backing and empowering our local ag shows to continue to support the heart of rural and regional Queensland. Under the Crisafulli LNP government, our commitment is clear: stronger ag shows, stronger regions and a stronger Queensland for generations to come. I know that the member for Callide will be looking forward to the Chinchilla ag show as that comes up on the show circuit.

**Mr Head:** This weekend.

**Ms LEAHY:** This weekend—just a bit of an advert for the Chinchilla ag show. I know the member for Gympie spoke about his show as well. Shows really are such an important part of the social fabric of our communities, right across rural and regional Queensland. I was delighted to meet with Queensland Ag Shows the other day when I was going to my Roma Show, and it was great to catch up with them and hear the issues that are important to ag shows.

## Health System



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.32 pm): It did not take long for Premier Crisafulli and Minister Nicholls to be caught out. Earlier today an email from the Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services director was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition. I will read it under RTI. I will quote this for the chamber's benefit—

There has been an internal review by the Department of Health of the initiatives funded under the Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy, which has led to a shift in government priorities and funding with a decision recently made that the Queensland Puberty Health Education Project will no longer proceed. As a result, any work planned or underway will no longer continue and there will be no program pilot or trial.

...

I am sure many of you will be disappointed as the project team is with this news, and its consequences for Queensland adolescents.

I was proud to stand up with the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Waterford in a media conference yesterday to shine a light on this leak and this attempt to cut a critical part of the education of our 11- and 10-year-olds to equip them for the modern world, to let them understand what respectful relationships mean, and lo and behold it was confirmed mid-media conference that the government is not proceeding with that cut.

This is a government that said there would be no health cuts under Premier David Crisafulli. He told that to this chamber, yet continual evidence of cuts continues to mount. They have walked away from their 2,200-bed commitment. They paused construction on a range of hospitals, including the Redcliffe Hospital, and that was in the first month they were in power. Under the Sangster review there is no funding and no timeline for their hospital capital program, which means cuts. They are breaking their election promises regularly. They are cutting into Health. The real-time data shows there has been no drop or improvements there.

The AMA and the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union are on the record in terms of the government's ineffectiveness and we are hearing of the recent EB negotiations with the nurses, to whom the minister alleges good faith. He has threatened the nurses that he will withhold back pay if he does not get what he wants. What an arrogant and aloof minister he is to be doing that. The current offer would mean that our best-paid nurses in the country here in Queensland would no longer be under the current offer of this measly and mean government or under a minister who is already lost in his ivory tower. Major stakeholders keep coming to me saying they cannot get near the minister. It is impossible to get a meeting with him. It is now seven months since he became the minister, and he has major stakeholders who cannot even get to him. He has lost the plot in only seven months. We should not be surprised considering his record as 'the cutter' as Campbell Newman's treasurer.

## Capalaba Electorate



**Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.35 pm): Every member in this House has been entrusted with the job of representing their community. Last week, I held a mobile office at Maridale Park Shopping Centre. The turnout was incredible. To see that many local people coming down to see their representative was very heartening. Locals from all walks of life stopped to share their stories, raise their concerns and talk about things that were important to them and their families.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members to my left, there is nothing provocative about this address, so let's hear it in silence, please.


**Mr FIELD:** True representation is about listening, meeting and talking to people face to face. I was fortunate enough to be joined by my good friend and colleague the federal member for Bowman, Henry Pike MP, and I want to take this moment to congratulate him on his re-election. He continues to be a tireless advocate for our area at the federal level, and it was a great opportunity for the two of us to speak directly with constituents about the shared priorities for the future of the Redlands across both state and federal governments.

A recurring theme in those conversations was community safety. I want to assure them that I am listening, as is this government, and we are acting. Last night, the second tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws passed this House. It is a critical step forward, and it is part of our broader plan to return safety to where we live. I know that many, like me, are happy that this second tranche of laws has now been passed.

I especially want to acknowledge Laurelle and Karlyn—two local constituents who raised serious concerns with my staff and me about teenagers weaving dangerously through traffic on motorised scooters. This behaviour is not just a nuisance; it is a serious risk to public safety. I welcome this government's current review of how we enforce the law in this space, particularly when it comes to dangerous riding and the use of these devices. Many did say that they were glad to see that this government is doing what it said it would and not doing what it said it would not do.

The people of Capalaba and the Redlands deserve to feel safe. They deserve to be heard and they deserve elected representatives who will stand up, listen closely and take real action. I will keep getting out there—in the parks, the shopping centres and the front yards—because that is where the real conversations happen, and that is where the solutions begin.

### Minister for Education and the Arts


 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.38 pm): A good education is just about the most important thing in a person's life. We know that a good education is the best chance at leading a good and happy life and being a good and happy person. This is why on this side of the House we set such high standards for education. We owe that to our kids and families. We owe it to the dedicated staff who work in education in Queensland who are passionate about what they do and who really want to know that the person who is making the decisions for them cares as much as they do about education.

That is why Queenslanders are just so disappointed in this LNP education minister, who came out right from the beginning to tell everyone he did not actually want this portfolio and who has gone on to show disinterest in pretty much everything to do with the portfolio. We saw that again yesterday when he answered a question in parliament about his views on the government cutting the \$3 million puberty health education program. He really cannot be bothered.

We already knew he did not care about NAPLAN. We saw that in that big train wreck interview earlier in the year. We know that he does not care about addressing bullying: 'Spend the money. It doesn't matter whether it works.' On zero tolerance in schools: 'Yeah, whatever.' On vaping: 'I think that's actually going okay,' he said. Yesterday he added another item to the list of things he just does not care about, and that is our kids getting support to deal with puberty—the puberty health program that is run in our schools. It is part of the Women and Girls' Health Strategy that Labor introduced. Puberty is a hugely challenging time for many of our students managing the social, emotional and physical challenges. It is absolutely massive. It is a critical time for us to guide our kids. Many of us who are parents of kids of that age know how important it is.

When we learnt that Queensland Health were cutting that program we were appalled. There was an outcry. There was a media conference. There were comments from the health minister and from the Premier. There was outrage on social media. We wanted to know what the education minister's view was on that. What might he be able to do to make sure that program stayed in place? So we asked him and we all saw his response. 'Say what?' he said. 'What's that? Show me that bit of paper. What's that bit of paper about?' Someone took it over to him: 'It's about that puberty health program that everyone has been talking about.' He said, 'I've never seen that. What that's got to do with me?' 'Sex education in schools,' we said—that is like education minister stuff. 'What's that got to do with me? Why are you badgering me about this? You're just bagging me and saying I don't care about women and girls.' What we care about is that you know your job, you look like you care, you meet your KPIs and you care about the kids of Queensland.

### Forensic Science Queensland; National Volunteer 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) (2.41 pm): I want to firstly thank the Attorney-General for her strong and proactive actions with regard to addressing what is perhaps the world's worst forensic lab debacle and failure. The actions that the Attorney-General has announced will ensure that the backlog of rape kits get tested—a backlog that has occurred because of the ineptitude of Labor that let down Queenslanders, including many women who were finding that under Labor's maladministration they were not getting the justice they deserved because this debacle meant there was a backlog and even rape kits were not getting tested. I want to acknowledge the work my colleague is doing to ensure that we see justice served and that work is undertaken to get that backlog under control.

It is National Volunteer Week. On this note I wish to thank my colleague the Minister for Volunteers. With the focus on volunteers, it is a chance for us to say thank you to the people who, out of the goodness of their heart, do what needs to be done to care for our community in so many diverse




ways. As the Minister for Multiculturalism, I have been absolutely thrilled to see volunteers from our culturally and linguistically diverse communities coming together, reaching broadly into other areas of our community with their heart to help. This was on display during events in North Queensland with the devastation that was brought upon those communities. I met with young Red Cross volunteers, some of whom were from our culturally diverse communities such as Ben, from the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, who was a volunteer with the Red Cross. After Cyclone Alfred, here in the south-east, volunteers from the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Logan spent hours filling hundreds of sandbags. While they were fasting during Ramadan, and therefore not eating or drinking during the daytime, they were still out there helping others filling sandbags with a heart to help their community.

Many multicultural Christian communities, Hindu communities, Buddhist communities—you name it—multifaith and multicultural communities, have a heart of humanity to help others. We have seen this through our recent natural disasters. Turbans 4 Australia cooked through the night at the Brisbane's Sikh temple, making 400 meals to deliver to residents and hardworking SES volunteers on Russell, Lamb and Macleay islands. They deserve a shout-out.

*(Time expired)*

### Far North Queensland, Tourism

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.44 pm): Today I extend my sincere congratulations to both Matt Smith on his election as the new federal member for Leichhardt and Senator Nita Green on her appointment as Assistant Minister for Tourism and Assistant Minister for Northern Australia. Their success represents a strong endorsement of Labor's forward-looking vision for Far North Queensland—one that champions jobs, infrastructure, environmental stewardship and a thriving and, most importantly, sustainable tourism sector.


Federal Labor's commitment in the 2025 election campaign laid out a bold and very practical roadmap for strengthening tourism in Queensland. Key measures like the expansion of fee-free TAFE will train more Queenslanders for vital roles in hospitality and tourism, while investments such as the \$7.2 billion Bruce Highway upgrade and regional airport improvements will improve access and drive long-term regional growth. Of critical importance is the \$10 million Reef Educational Experience Fund, which will support local operators while ensuring the reef remains central to our region's identity and, most importantly, to our prosperity.

After discussions with Tourism Tropical North Queensland, the tourism industry in the Far North, we all collectively believe that it should be a strategic imperative that Cairns host the Australian Tourism Exchange in 2028. Now is the time to seize that momentum. I have been in contact with the federal minister for tourism and I have stated that claim, as I have with Senator Nita Green.

The Australian Tourism Exchange is the largest tourism trade show in the Southern Hemisphere. Cairns was the first regional city to host this prodigious event back in 2014. Since then, we have seen hundreds of millions of dollars invested in new hotels in and around Cairns, along with a \$176 million expansion and upgrade of the Cairns Convention Centre.

Cairns is the gateway to two World Heritage areas, home to world-class operators and a global icon in nature-based tourism. Considering that the Tropical Far North is still yet to get back to its 2019 international visitor numbers since COVID, the Australian Tourism Exchange would provide the opportunity to showcase the best of our region to international buyers, deliver real benefits to local tourism businesses and reaffirm Cairns as a global destination. To achieve this, we need all levels of government pulling in the same direction. The Queensland government must get behind this opportunity and make a strong case for bringing ATE to Cairns. I have written to the Premier and the tourism minister, making them aware of this outstanding opportunity. Our industry is ready. Our region is ready. What we need now is the political support for our industry's vision to deliver this transformative outcome for Far North Queensland and allow Cairns the chance to shine not only on a national scale but also on a global scale.

### Smithfield Mountain Bike Park

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.47 pm): Today I rise to speak about a project that is not only close to my heart but close to the hearts and handlebars of thousands across our region—the LNP's \$15.5 million expansion of the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. The community had been begging for investment into these trails for over a decade—people like Glen Jacobs will say it is more like three decades—but these pleas fell on deaf ears with the former Labor government. They showed no interest in this project whatsoever—no advocacy, no election commitment and not a single step to make this happen.

As the candidate for Barron River, this was one of my biggest election commitments. In my first month as a candidate I took the now Premier there to show him. I then took now Minister O'Connor there, where he had his first ride and he still has not forgiven me for that! After a year of what some will call advocating but others will call nagging, I was finally able to make this an election commitment. Thankfully I won the election and am here today because now the next steps are taking place, with up to 50 kilometres of new trails to be complete by 2028 thanks to the LNP government.

The Smithfield Mountain Bike Park in Cairns is widely recognised as Australia's oldest mountain biking park. Its origins can be traced back to the late 1980s when a group known as the 'mud cows' began crafting informal trails through the rainforest. These early efforts laid the groundwork for what would become a significant site in the mountain biking community.

In 1992 Smithfield hosted the Queensland state championship, marking a pivotal moment in its development. This event showcased the unique and challenging terrain of the area, distinguishing it from other trails in the country. The park's prominence grew as it hosted the first UCI Mountain Bike World Cup in the Southern Hemisphere in 1994, followed by the world championships in 1996 and again in 2017. Smithfield's early establishment and international recognition solidify its status as a cornerstone of Australia's mountain biking history.

The Smithfield mountain biking track is long overdue for investment. This upgrade is not just so locals and talented mountain bikers of Far North Queensland can have more green time instead of screen time with their families; it is an investment in ecotourism, jobs, the Far North Queensland economy and that holiday feeling. Mountain biking has become a significant contributor to Australia's tourism economy, with substantial impacts at both national and regional levels. Our region has the potential to generate an additional \$95 million per annum, putting us on the map as the reef, rainforest and riding capital of the world.

Despite this wonderful news, our community continues to mourn the tragic loss of a much-loved and well-known local mountain biker who lost his life two weeks ago doing what he loved, where he loved. Frank Falappi was a highly respected former president of the Smithfield Mountain Biking Club and Mount Molloy police officer who tragically lost his life on one of the advanced trails in our area. Frank was an excellent rider, mentor, competitor and a passionate advocate for mountain biking in our region. Frank, these trails will forever hold your spirit. Frank loved his job, his community, his friends and, most of all, his beautiful family. Frank, you will be greatly missed for your contribution to mountain biking in our region—

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Education and the Arts




**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.50 pm): Australian schools are grappling with some of the most complex challenges in a generation—the most challenging I have seen. Rising workloads, occupational violence, artificial intelligence and risks posed by mis- and disinformation have made it harder for teachers to do their jobs. Public education is the primary vehicle in educating learners for jobs that are yet to be created, to use technologies that are yet to be invented, and to solve social problems we are yet to imagine. Educators are doing all they can, but they cannot do it alone. Even if they are to confront these challenges head-on, they need an education minister with an informed vision who is hardworking and passionate, which is why I am professionally concerned by the education minister's recent comments.

Yesterday we heard that the education minister was completely unaware of the Respectful Relationships Program to be trialled with year 5 and year 6 students in Queensland schools. How can the minister claim to ensure our children's wellbeing when he is not aware of what is being taught in our classrooms? Further, recently when asked how he planned to implement promised anti-bullying programs his answer was 'not sure'. In another recent example, the education minister's comments about NAPLAN were particularly concerning. When asked about improving NAPLAN scores he said 'not making any guarantees', admitting he cannot achieve the KPIs in his charter letter.

This disposition has profound consequences for the role and purpose of public education in Queensland. This is simply unacceptable and a let-down to more than 65,000 hardworking teachers and more than 500,000 children who are the future of this great state. Teachers are well educated and highly passionate about their profession. They may not always agree with the policy direction of government, but in my experience we have always appreciated the leadership and vision articulated by our ministers. We need leadership to help identify emerging social issues, gaps in student performance, the content and skills needed to navigate the future world and guide our pedagogical practice.

Education systems influence economic growth and prosperity, particularly in the western world. They are essential for social progress. A better public education system means a more prosperous future for Queensland. That is what we owe our young people. They deserve a government that provides a framework for improving and transforming the education system and inspiring policy processes—one that shapes the design principles for learning environments in this current context reflective of the latest research. The young people of Queensland deserve a minister—they had one—and a government that is passionate about achieving this and so much more.

### Hervey Bay Electorate, Health Care

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak about the dire healthcare needs of my Hervey Bay community. After a decade of Labor's maladministration and systemic failures, we need a well-considered and sustainable service and master plan to address the healthcare needs of my community. I will continue to resolutely and persuasively advocate for a clinical services capability framework that meets the existing and future needs of Hervey Bay. Thankfully, I am part of the Crisafulli government, which is taking a focused, calm and methodical approach to planning for our long-term healthcare needs.

Hervey Bay is growing rapidly and this is placing sustained pressure on our Hervey Bay Hospital infrastructure. Thirty-one per cent of our population is aged 65 and over, and we have the highest rates of chronic disease—as a total proportion of the Fraser Coast population—in Australia, including cardiovascular disease.


For many years the Hervey Bay Hospital's emergency building had an empty level 2 shell which allegedly accommodated the local pigeon population. Nevertheless, the former Labor member for Hervey Bay desperately peddled the misleading campaign that the retrofit of the level 2 shell had been delivered. Never let the truth get in the way of a good story. On 3 April 2025 I asked a question without notice of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services in relation to the delivery of health infrastructure at the Hervey Bay Hospital. The minister said—

The budget of the Hervey Bay Hospital—  
this is for the fit-out of the level 2 shell—

more than doubled last year. Originally it was to be a \$40 million project, but early last year—in 2024—the tenders blew out to \$94 million with a 70-week delivery timeframe. Here is something those opposite will not tell you: they quietly shelved the project.

Thankfully, we delivered it. The Sangster review into Labor's capacity expansion program has highlighted how deeply flawed Labor's hospital plan was, including, but not limited to, billions and billions of dollars in cost blowouts. Labor's slurs and aspersions from 'coward's castle' on Mr Sangster's character and reputation do not in any way detract from Labor's systemic failures and reckless indifference to planning for the healthcare needs of Hervey Bay. Labor's cheap and shallow slogan, 'building a better Hervey Bay', was just that—another shoddy Labor slogan built on shifting sands. Thankfully, we have a hospital rescue plan to fix Labor's healthcare crisis. The Hervey Bay Hospital rescue plan is built on strong and enduring foundations that meet our community's needs.

### Housing


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.56 pm): In recent weeks we have once again seen the Brisbane City Council callously evict homeless people from public parks. These are people who have literally nowhere else to go; people who are victims of a housing crisis worse than any in living memory. Rent and house values in Brisbane have grown more than 50 per cent since COVID and prices are only expected to continue to increase. UQ, in my electorate, tells us that a student on Youth Allowance and living in purpose-built student accommodation will spend 66 per cent—a full two-thirds—of their income on rent for a shared room. Across Queensland, average households are spending more than 37 per cent of their income on housing, so debilitating housing stress is now the status quo.

Against that backdrop, around 22,000 people are experiencing homelessness in Queensland, although it is fair to assume that is likely underestimated. Having created those very conditions, is the state offering any solutions for those sleeping rough? No, quite the opposite. The Department of Housing and Public Works has opted once again to tighten its eligibility guidelines for emergency accommodation. The new guidelines require a person—someone who is no doubt living in circumstances that the housing minister cannot even begin to imagine—to prove they cannot afford accommodation. This inevitably requires access to detailed documentation of the sort that people who are sleeping rough, fleeing domestic violence or living with debilitating disability would find extraordinarily difficult to piece together. Many simply will not be able to prove it, even if that is their current reality.

The guidelines also exclude anyone who has left so-called safe and stable accommodation or declined a so-called reasonable offer of alternative accommodation, as though anyone would choose to be homeless unless their very safety and wellbeing was at risk. I have been told that just last week the emergency accommodation at Turbot House was shut down. This is accommodation that homeless people have been staying in for years and saying it is more unsafe than sleeping in a park, yet people who have left Turbot House are excluded from being offered accommodation anywhere else under the updated guidelines. These guidelines are simply offensive.

While they are trying to overcome the enormous barriers to even be put on the waiting list, rough sleepers are now being thrown out of their tent homes, having their possessions thrown into rubbish trucks and being left with nothing by local governments and the Queensland Police Service working together. Precisely this scenario played out just last week, with BCC and QPS evicting rough sleepers from parks not more than a kilometre from this building. This crisis will not be solved by tinkering at the edges or patching up a system that is designed to profit from a basic human need. It demands bold action—a complete rethink of the tax breaks and incentives that have inflated the housing market beyond reach for most people. We need governments with the courage to treat housing not as a commodity but as what it truly is: a fundamental human right.

### **Lockyer Electorate, Road Upgrades**

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.00 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of my community. Many know that I was a police officer for a long time and I was the officer in charge of Laidley. During that time I was also a TAAS officer, or a forensics crash investigator as they are called now, for a couple of decades so road safety was a big part of my life. When it comes to road safety, we talk about the three Es—enforcement, education and engineering. Whilst I had a lot to do with enforcement and education in my past life, in this life I am much more focused on engineering and producing outcomes for our community.


That is why on the first day of the last campaign I was very proud to stand up with my colleague Deb Frecklington as we made a commitment from this government for a \$20 million upgrade to the Brisbane Valley Highway. I pay tribute to both Mayor Jason Wendt in the Somerset region for helping us with that priority and delivering that in the future and Senator Paul Scarr who helped us gain an additional \$20 million from the federal government. I call on the federal government to make sure they match our commitment during the same time so we can see that \$40 million delivered on the Brisbane Valley Highway.

Whilst on road safety, I want to talk about the Gatton Helidon Road, and I thank both the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for the joint money and Scott Buchholz for his advocacy in Canberra to see this \$67 million deliverable on the Gatton Helidon Road. I have spoken about this in the House before. I have spoken with the minister and the department to try to get the best outcomes for our community in terms of the impact while those contracts are being delivered. Five contracts are happening at the same time, and this is creating a lot of delays in our community. I give a shout-out to Tanya Hooper at the shop in Grantham, Belle from Grantham Fuels and Tabitha from The Floating Cafe for the anguish they have had to put up with. I thank all those who have answered the call and continued to shop locally in the Grantham shops. We are seeing that project fast-tracked. There will be a bit more pain for the next month or so, but after that it will be alleviated.

I thank the contractors and Transport and Main Roads, but I particularly thank our community for their patience during this difficult time and I ask them to continue to go out there and shop locally. I want to make sure that our community knows that I am going to continue to fight for engineering solutions to make sure that our roads are up to scratch, whether they are in the Lockyer council area or the Somerset council area. I am looking forward to seeing those projects delivered to make both of those roads safer.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**


### **Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Report**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report on the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment


Bill by 11 July 2025, that the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee report on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) by 11 July 2025 and that the Primary Industries and Resources Committee report on the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Bill by 11 July 2025.

The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's Report 14: 2024-25—*Managing Minjerribah Futures funding* be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

### Nuttall, Mr G

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.03 pm): I wish to advise the House of the death of the former member for Sandgate, Mr Gordon Nuttall, which occurred earlier this month.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT


 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—  
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 1444.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (3.04 pm): It is an honour to have been elected for a fourth term to represent the people of the Algester electorate and to rise once again in this place to make my fourth address-in-reply. In the Jandai language of my people, the Quandamooka people:

*The member for Algester then spoke in a language other than English.*

As a translation: I begin by acknowledging all of our ancestors, whatever your culture, wherever you come from, and the first peoples of this land on which we sit today, the Yagara speaking people. Let us welcome the good spirits here where we talk, think and understand.

Let me also pay special respect to my family who continue to be my greatest source of support and encouragement, including my mother, my brothers, my two amazing sons and my wonderful fiancée, who every day find new ways to love and support me. Their combined efforts in supporting me over the 10 years in this place and the multiple elections I have roped them into are the reason I am able to do what I do in life. I also extend my respects to my large and very extended family: my aunts and uncles from Far North Queensland, here in Brisbane and on Minjerribah; the scores of cousins, nephews and nieces who are my biggest cheer squad and my true north; and my adopted family in Wujal Wujal, in particular the beautiful aunties of the Wujal Wujal Community Justice Group who I think of often, including Aunty Kathleen, Aunty Doreen and Aunty Lily.

I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his election as Speaker of the 58th Parliament, along with all members of parliament, new and returned, on their election. I wish everyone, including the Speaker, all the very best for the term ahead.

The electorate of Algester is a diverse and vibrant community, with more and more people every month moving to this wonderful part of Brisbane and Logan to make a home. The electorate spans around 66 square kilometres, with suburbs including Archerfield, Acacia Ridge, Algester, Parkinson, Calamvale, Willawong, Pallara, Forest Lake and Heathwood in Brisbane, as well as Hillcrest, Forestdale, Browns Plains and Regents Park, where I live, in Logan. Algester is indeed a very diverse and dispersed electorate with multiple distinct communities all with their own particular strengths, concerns and challenges, as well as in some locations their own emerging cultural groupings. For these reasons, it is never a case of one-size-fits-all across the Algester electorate, but there are some common threads.

Education remains a significant focus of mine. Since being elected in 2015, I have been able to secure more than \$100 million of investment in our schools. This includes: \$1.2 million for a new lift to block F, two covered link bridges to connect blocks F, H and C and security fencing at Acacia Ridge State School; \$1.45 million to upgrade the Algester State School administration building and install a new security fence; and funds to Calamvale Community College, including refurbishment of block R to create a tuckshop, \$1.65 million to replace the sports flooring, over \$629,000 in electrical upgrades and installation of air conditioning at the C&K kindergarten, which was very much needed, and \$12.9 million for a brand new building with additional classrooms and learning spaces.

The Calamvale Special School has seen more than \$23 million for school infrastructure upgrades, refurbishment of block C and upgrades to the outdoor learning area. There was \$11.8 million for a new three-storey building at Pallara State School, which is continuing to grow. It is one of the fastest growing schools in my electorate. St Bernardine's Catholic Primary School in Regents Park received a \$3 million funding boost to refurbish and expand their administration building and improve road safety around the school. There was \$880,000 to refurbish block E at Watson Road State School. The list goes on and on. Also, along with many of my colleagues, I secured funding to install air conditioning to every state school classroom in the electorate and secured more than 1,500 solar panels across Algester schools.

In a dispersed electorate like Algester, public transport and road infrastructure are also fundamental concerns of local constituents which is why I fought for and delivered a \$21 million new Greenbank RSL park-and-ride at Hillcrest, resulting in over 600 new car parks, and delivered the much needed expansion of bus routes in and out of some of our fastest growing suburbs, all of which are now very well used as a result of Labor's game-changing 50-cent public transport fares program.

After helping deliver the \$512 million Logan Enhancement Project which fixed the troubling bottlenecks where the Logan Motorway connects to Beaudesert Road and the Mount Lindesay Highway, I was pleased to secure and deliver, alongside the member for Stretton, the more than \$30 million upgrade to the Beaudesert Road, Algester Road and Illaweenah Street intersection, to help more people get to and from home, school and work sooner.

I have also been an advocate for the Salisbury to Beaudesert passenger line which I believe will make a huge difference to so many people in the Algester electorate. Along with the member for Jordan and the member for Logan, we had secured the \$20 million needed for the detailed business case, and were pleased to announce during the election that TMR were ready to embark on the next important phase of planning, including consultation on the line's design and station locations, in preparation for the gazetting of land. I hope the LNP government will not stand in the way of this important work, but given there was no mention of this project from the LNP's Algester candidate during the election, I have no doubt that we will need to continue to shine a light on this work.

It is this great investment base in the Algester electorate that paved the way for a number of important election commitments during the campaign, including the direct response transport for Forestdale—to see that trial extended so we could see those 50-cent trips utilised by those in Forestdale. Of course, I have already mentioned the announcements that were made on the Salisbury to Beaudesert passenger rail.

With regard to community safety for Pallara, we committed to fund the installation of two fixed CCTV security cameras in Pallara—something the community was very much calling for, but unfortunately the concerns were not listened to by the LNP candidate who was more interested in slogans than actually committing to practical action. We continue to have that fight. I have already mentioned in this place that I have written to the responsible minister seeking some support for that community safety infrastructure in the upcoming LNP budget. Of course, we saw the Greenbank RSL park-and-ride, the delivery of some additional morning services for the P142 line and additional morning services for the P546 line.

We were able to announce a high school evaluation prior to the election. That evaluation is still to be completed and I am waiting on the LNP to release that. Of course, there were some investment announcements as election commitments for Acacia Ridge sports, including the \$250,000 for the Acacia Ridge Junior Magpies Rugby League Club, which is a fantastic club. They are about to have a great event very shortly. Unfortunately, none of these commitments were matched by the LNP candidate throughout the election campaign, apart from a reduced commitment to the Souths Junior Magpies for their much needed field lighting and upgrades, and one other commitment to the Serbian club for shade structures over their basketball courts in Willawong. That was the extent of it.

I do want to say that I wrote to the responsible minister seeking confirmation that the two sports related and only commitments made by the LNP candidate would actually be honoured after I had received correspondence from the club members reporting that they were told by LNP members that the promises were no longer valid. I am able to report that the minister has responded and reaffirmed the commitment to those two clubs, albeit at an undisclosed time in the future. I do want to acknowledge the minister for responding, but it will be something that I will continue to be fighting for so that we actually see that work happening in our community.

It has been a decade since I stood in this place for the first time and spoke as the member for Algester and the first Aboriginal woman ever elected to the Queensland parliament. I want to acknowledge the member for Bundamba, a proud Gubbi Gubbi man, and take a moment to

acknowledge our sister, Cynthia Lui, the former member for Cook who, when she was elected, was the first and remains the only Torres Strait Islander person ever elected to any parliament in Australia. It was a great achievement. Her perspectives were incredibly insightful and I sincerely wish her all the very best in the next chapter of her life. She is sadly missed in this place and I know sadly missed in the electorate of Cook, apart from the fact that, Deputy Speaker, out of respect for your position, I acknowledge you as the member for Cook.

In my maiden speech back in 2015, I referenced a donation to my campaign of \$8.25. It was from an Aboriginal elder in the community who I had worked alongside on a stolen wages campaign. She had gathered up what change she could spare and placed it in a ziplock bag to have it delivered to me on election day. Keep in mind, that this is a woman, an elder, who had been forcibly removed from her family and sent to work for wages that she never ever saw. Her wages were stolen from her. Her story is the truth of her experience and it tells the truth of what happened. This is her lived experience. She, like so many others of her generation, had been severely disadvantaged by policies that discriminated against the First Peoples of this country based solely on the colour of their skin and their cultural background, the impacts of which are still being felt and experienced today. That is undeniable. Think about this: the children of this lady, this elder who donated \$8.25, have been impacted by the fact that she had all of her wealth stolen from her, all of her wages stolen from her. It is a generational impact that had occurred.

That \$8.25 has a place on my desk in my electorate office and reminds me that, although change may take some time, and the path may be more challenging than one can ever imagine, meaningful change is still worth fighting for and that even the smallest contribution can mean so much. I know that there are so many aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters who are relying on us to keep pushing for that meaningful change.

Last term, in my address-in-reply speech, I spoke of the need for a Path to Treaty or treaties in this state. I am very proud to have been part of a government that worked hard to progress this important work, that worked with scores of First Nations communities and thousands of people right across Queensland, that brought the Path to Treaty legislation before the House and saw the legislation passed and implemented. When the then leader of the opposition, the now Premier of Queensland, and the LNP supported the Path to Treaty legislation, it was a momentous day. It was an emotional day, a day that brought so much hope to so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state, that after decades of work by multiple generations, we were closer to the important task of truth-telling and treaty in this state.

At that time I did acknowledge and articulate my deep and sincere thanks to the LNP for supporting that legislation wholeheartedly, but, as we all know, this faux support was short-lived because as soon as the LNP realised that they could use the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders as a political weapon in the LNP culture wars, that is exactly what they did, and sadly they have continued down that path. Instead of supporting us to move forward together with mutual respect, recognition and a willingness to speak the truth about our shared history, we have had the complete opposite.

The minister responsible, the member for Maroochy, sadly could not even be bothered to show the most basic levels of respect when she refused to meet with the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry members or their staff before she sacked them all. I wrote to the minister in November last year asking how many times she had met with the inquiry members and what advice she had sought regarding her government's plans to repeal the legislation. Sadly, in yet another example of her inability to demonstrate basic respect to others, it took her almost five months to respond to me and, even then, she refused to answer the very reasonable questions I had put to her.

Earlier this year, on the anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations, the minister decided to announce funding for the establishment of a Chinese cultural centre in Cairns. For the record, I have absolutely no issue whatsoever with the new Chinese cultural centre, and if a cultural centre in Cairns is what the many Chinese communities in Queensland want, then that is fantastic, and I am very happy for my many Chinese friends, of whom there are a lot in my electorate. What I do have an issue with is that, after many years of work and extensive consultation to develop business cases and the detailed business plans to establish First Nations cultural centres in Brisbane and Cairns, she chose the anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations, of all days, to make her announcement. It is insensitive and, quite frankly, just plain cruel, something we are now sadly accustomed to when it comes to this LNP government. I respectfully call on the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to make clear her position on the establishment of First Nations


cultural centres in Brisbane and Cairns and to be up-front with the community regarding any advocacy she is undertaking to support the wishes of First Nations peoples across Queensland for these culture centres.

On the matter of advocacy, I wish to bring to the minister's attention an incredibly powerful event that occurred this week, the Bandarran Marra'Gu Gathering Strength Summit. More than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Queensland came together for a summit hosted by the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Queensland Family and Child Commission. It was convened amid serious concerns about the impact of the Crisafulli LNP government's recent decisions on the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland. The summit called for—among other things—the terms of reference for the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry to be reviewed to be explicitly inclusive of the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

I again respectfully call on the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to meet with representatives of First Nations communities to inform them of her government's actions so that she is not just speaking around these communities but also advocating for the notion that when we need action related to First Peoples, it starts with First Peoples. The minister has overseen the removal of truth-telling in this state. She has turned her back on the partnership and self-determination work that First Nations peoples have committed decades to by tearing up the Path to Treaty legislation. She should, at the very least, show some decency and respect by meeting with the very people she has portfolio responsibility for, and therefore policy and program responsibility for, in this state.

When it comes to First Nations peoples and more broadly to the people of my wonderful electorate of Algeester, I know there will be many times over the tenure of this LNP government that will not always be comfortable. However, every day I stand in this House as the member for Algeester, I am reminded of everything the \$8.25 sitting on my desk represents—an acknowledgement of a sometimes painful and challenging past and a recognition that there is hope for a brighter, more prosperous future for all of us.

To close my address-in-reply, I acknowledge the many volunteers who stood with me at the last election. We all know in this place that it takes many people to support an election campaign, regardless of your political colours. We know that volunteers make a huge difference in that space. I will not go through the full list because I know some people get a little bit embarrassed being called out by name but all of the staff who are in my office spent their weekends and nights outside of work hours volunteering to support the campaign—Amelia and Bradley, Tony and Louise—and then the many volunteers who spent Saturday mornings as well as Monday through to Friday mornings. They were on the phones with me. They were knocking on doors with me. The pre-poll times and the election were full of energy, support and love for our community and of course, the Labor movement dedicated their time to support the work of our campaign. I could not have done it without them. I want to pay tribute to all of those people who spent that time side-by-side with me to ensure we would have, once again, the Algeester electorate represented by a Labor member. Again, to all of the new members and returning members: I wish everybody the very best for this term. I know that often we have things in common. If we can uphold respect and dignity and decency in the work that we do in this place, I know that all Queenslanders will benefit.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (3.23 pm): I am very grateful to rise to give my address-in-reply. I congratulate the Speaker, the member for Condamine, on his ascension to high office as the Speaker of this House. He is my electoral neighbour and a very decent human and I congratulate the member for Condamine on his appointment to the office. I also would like to congratulate our 41st member, the member for Broadwater, the new Premier of Queensland. I think the Premier has already shown outstanding character and what an outstanding Premier he will be for our state. We are very fortunate that he is now leading us. I would like to congratulate the Deputy Premier, the member for Kawana, on the high office that he holds. As a team, we are very fortunate in the way we are led. I look forward to making a significant contribution as a team—front bench and backbench—for the betterment of Queensland in the term ahead.

I will go straight to the heart of it for me: none of us are here without significant sacrifice from many others; that is one thing we all have in common. To Mel, Lizzie, Charlotte and Samuel, I owe a debt of gratitude. It will be my life's great regret that I can never repay that debt but I am extraordinarily thankful for their love and support. They support me although I am constantly absent from their lives but they know where my heart lies.



To my parents, who gave me the very best upbringing: without them, there is no way I would have ever had the great privilege of serving in this House. To my brother—newly remarried on Saturday—Jono and his new wife, Kate, I offer my congratulations. They are two party stalwarts. For anyone who knows my brother and Kate, they love to volunteer in unwinnable areas of the state for us. They fly the flag where many others would fear to tread. I congratulate them for flying the flag for the Liberal National Party and also for their nuptials on the weekend. It was beautiful to spend some time with them and so many other family and Liberal National Party family members at their wedding.

Janice who runs my office has walked the journey with me. Before politics we worked together as well. I think it is now 17 or 18 years. There is a small chance that Janice may be watching and if so: Janice, thank you.

**Mr Lister:** Leonie, as well.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am coming to them—don't worry! Thank you, member for Southern Downs. My staff run a wonderful office. They always keep me connected to my electorate and they do an amazing job. I thank Janice, Lace, Col and Kevena.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, I take the interjection from the member—Kevena is still there. I want to give Kevena a shout-out because she joined the Toowoomba South electorate office when Mike Horan was elected in 1991, so Kevena supported Mike at the Toowoomba Showgrounds when he was general manager there. Kevena has been in the office—

**Ms Leahy:** Kevena deserves a medal.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes; I take the interjection from the member from Warrego. Kevena does deserve a special medal. She has run my diary for a long time. My office do an amazing job. To Janice, Lace, Kevena and Col: thank you. We all respect the effort that those unpaid people around us put in to help us get here. To my volunteers: to Sam who leads my state electorate council; to my executive of Steve, Rob and Sheldon, I am very thankful for everything that you do to support our efforts; to my branch, thank you for everything you do. To volunteers who man polling booths and stand on streets and wave, do the doorknocking and phone canvassing: I am very thankful for all your support.

I am very privileged. This was my fourth election. This time I have the great privilege of serving and making a contribution as Treasurer and a minister. It is a privilege that I will never take for granted and I am very thankful for it and for the Premier appointing me to those portfolios. I look forward to making a contribution in the years ahead. None of it would be possible without the wonderful people of Toowoomba South and their re-electing me at my fourth election. I say thank you to them. I have been very fortunate. I am a sixth generation Darling Downs resident. It is a beautiful place to raise a family and build a career. I am very thankful I have had the great privilege of growing up on the Darling Downs and now serving Toowoomba South as its member of parliament. Yes, I do have great neighbours all around me: Condamine, Lockyer, Toowoomba North, Southern Downs and Nanango. I have great neighbours. I am very thankful for that.

I want to make some comments on particular aspects in Toowoomba South. The first thing I would like to talk about is, in fact, the Wagner family. Just last week we bade farewell to the queen of our region, the matriarch of the Wagner family, Mary Wagner. I think the member for Toowoomba North may have mentioned in the House already that the funeral service for Mary told us everything about her: family and faith. That entire service epitomised her values and what was important to her; that was the way in which her family honoured her. I do not think I have ever seen a funeral service like it. It was magnificent. St Patrick's was overflowing. Many people from Brisbane came up to pay tribute to Mary, the matriarch of the Wagner family—that great family that has meant so much to our region, has employed so many people and has created so much industry and employment opportunities. To Mary's family I pass on my sincere and deepest condolences. I know that Mary's legacy will endure. Honourable members would know that if they saw the way she was honoured by her family and our community that day.

One of the key issues I have spoken a lot about in Toowoomba and west of the divide has been child safety. It is something that is dear to my heart. If we have children who cannot live at home because of violence, neglect or abuse then we are failing in our obligation in this state parliament. That is why I was so pleased that Minister Camm recently announced an inquiry into the child safety system. Looking at my region, I have learnt some heartbreaking things over the years. There is nothing more heartbreaking to me—I still recall it—than learning that a child had been through 30 different homes by the time they were five years old, and that story has always stayed with me. I am very thankful for Minister Camm's leadership for stepping into this now. It will always be a complex area, but I strongly

believe we must do better. When I think about the fact that in Toowoomba, west to the territory border and to the south we have at least 2,000 children living away from home because of violence, abuse and neglect, it tells me that we must do better. My hope is that good will come from the inquiry, a strengthened child safety system will come from it and we will do better in protecting our most vulnerable and at-risk children. When we think about residential care—I will not even go any further. We must do better. My hope is that the commission of inquiry will lead to a strengthened child safety system.

I turn to the equestrian centre. I cannot let my address-in-reply speech go without talking about something that is really important to our region. The Deputy Premier has been working on the Olympic delivery plan. Obviously we have to build generational infrastructure and deliver on that, but a key part is the need for the regions to be involved. It was a great delight to me that we were able to announce that equestrian as an Olympic event will be going to Toowoomba. That was an exciting moment and it was very pleasing. It was very pleasing to me also because it gave me good reason to reconnect with an old mate I grew up with just down the road at Brymaroo. My daughter learns riding with his mum. Chris Burton, a silver medallist at Paris last year, I think gave one of the most memorable interviews of an Australian athlete at the Paris Olympics. It was great to team up with Chris and reconnect with him to push for the equestrian centre. He grew up riding at the Brymaroo Pony Club. He grew up down the road from me and I rode my first horse—not that I ride many—at their property. Ruth, Chris's mum, is a significant figure in our lives and my daughter's life along with her husband, Ken. I am very excited that Chris has been able to say, 'We can make this work. We can make equestrian at the Toowoomba Showgrounds work,' and we will be able to showcase our region, a quintessential Australian landscape—

**Mr Stevens:** Clifford Park.

**Mr JANETZKI:** No, the showgrounds—to the world in 2032. My hope is that Chris can play a vital role in getting the cross-country course together. I say to the members for Lockyer and Toowoomba North that I reckon Damon, CEO at the RASQ, and Shane as president are ready to go. Let's get cracking on getting Toowoomba ready for equestrian in 2032. It is an exciting thing to see.

I want to acknowledge the efforts of the health minister regarding our Hospital Rescue Plan because Toowoomba was always promised a serious hospital—a \$2 billion hospital, in fact, when it began and over time it was trimmed. Then we were told it was going to be a two-campus solution. I am pleased that the health minister saw fit to rescue the Toowoomba Hospital because we deserve world-class health services where we live. We ultimately service those to the south, the west and the north-west. Toowoomba is a service centre. Whether you are looking for a school, an engineer, a doctor, a specialist, a lawyer or an accountant, people will come from the territory border, from the New South Wales border, from the north-west and the South Burnett; they will come to Toowoomba for those services. We have one-fifth of the state's boarding schools in Toowoomba, so that tells you that people look to Toowoomba as its regional capital. For us to have a hospital as committed to by the health minister is very important for our region. We are going to save hundreds of millions of dollars on operating costs by having a one-campus solution and we will be able to attract high-quality specialists to serve in that hospital in the years ahead. That is wonderful news.

One other key issue that I want to raise is crime in our region. The passage last night of the next tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws meant a great deal for our region. To now have 33 offences in Adult Crime, Adult Time including, in this latest tranche, attempted murder and rape is an important step in our battle to get on top of the crime crisis. If there has been one issue in my electorate over the past seven or eight years that has brought more people into my office to discuss it with me, it has been crime. There is no doubt about that. People have wanted to talk to me about crime.

Sometimes we say that the former Labor government failed to act or that there was inaction for 10 years. I actually think it is worse than that: it was not inaction; it was the wrong action. Over those 10 years I think about the missed steps that could have been taken by the former government in terms of crime. I think about 17-year-olds back in the youth justice system without a plan. I remember that the Queensland Police Union boss at the time said that people were planning more to build a new McDonald's than they were in putting 17-year-olds back into the youth justice system. I think about the constant changes to breach-of-bail laws and catch-and-release laws and the number of times the former government would come back in here to change the law to try to plug a hole where they had not thought through the consequences. We saw that time and time again.

I think about bail houses and those tens of millions of dollars. The former government was on track to spend \$70 million on bail houses when reoffending rates were 85 per cent to 90 per cent. They did not work—again, something else where those opposite had not planned it through. I think of the watch house crisis. At one time we had more children in the Brisbane Watch House than we did adults.

Back in the day I would often say that the former minister gave the most expensive interview in Queensland political history with Mark Willacy—\$500 million later, again with no plan. At the time youth justice had to be hived off. The former government had to create a new youth justice department to try to get on top of it.

**Mrs Gerber:** Five different MoG changes.


**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the youth justice minister. Time and time again we saw the failure to plan and failure to think through those unintended consequences. With regard to Adult Crime, Adult Time, the diligence has been put in by the youth justice minister, by the Attorney-General, by the police minister and by the child safety minister. We have diligently and thoroughly gone through this issue and seeing that second tranche pass last night is an important step in our fight to end the crime crisis, and my region is grateful for it.

As the youth justice minister has said, we will not stop. As the Premier has said, if there is more work to be done, we will do it. We have put victims of crime first. Last year when there were 289,657 victims of crime—many of whom were in Toowoomba and my region—that is not good enough and that is not a number we will tolerate. It was not the inaction but the wrong action of those opposite for so many years that resulted in that record of mismanagement and failing to properly prepare and plan. We will take a different approach. With Adult Crime, Adult Time we will strengthen the law. We will properly resource the police and we will invest in early intervention. I know that right across the city we have some amazing people ready to stand up and help with early intervention—great people ready to stand up and help us with early intervention. No matter what the programs may be, they will do an amazing job—community led, place based and able to step in and help with early intervention to help us in the crime crisis.

**Mrs Gerber:** Yes, you have some fantastic people in Toowoomba.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the youth justice minister. We have some great people with big hearts and great ideas—all good causes—ready to get to work to support us in the efforts of early intervention in Queensland.

Let me finish by again saying what an extraordinary privilege it is to serve as the member for Toowoomba South. It is a privilege that I never, ever take for granted and I am very thankful for this term. Thank you to the Premier and the Deputy Premier for appointing me as Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. I look forward to making a contribution in the years ahead to an outstanding Crisafulli Liberal-National government.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.43 pm): It truly is an honour to continue serving the good people of Aspley for a third term, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of the area that I represent. I congratulate the Premier and his team, all elected members and Mr Speaker on his appointment.

Whilst I am immensely privileged to be standing here today being elected for a third term to represent our part of the north side, of course the former government was not successful across the state in winning a fourth term. I acknowledge the outcome of the election and I respect Queenslanders' choice. As I now stand as a member of the opposition, I can say that my Labor colleagues and I are listening and understanding that we can do better. We reflect on how we can better engage with Queenslanders across the state. Nevertheless, we will hold the government accountable for its promises to the state. Queenslanders have been promised the world and Queenslanders deserve an opposition that will fight for the promises made to them. My job is to fight every day to do what matters for Queenslanders.

Locally, I am so pleased at what we have achieved over the last seven years in Aspley: multiple school upgrades; transport investments like the Beams Road overpass and starting the Gympie Road bypass tunnel work; extra beds and a new car park for the Prince Charles Hospital; great wins for local sporting clubs; as well as kicking off the Carseldine Urban Village, providing housing supply and affordable housing for our area.

At a ministerial level it has been the honour of my professional life to have been the transport minister for 10 months. Being able to implement 50-cent fares for the now opposition leader—positively disrupting the public transport model in Queensland forever—is something that I could only dream of as a lover of transport and particularly public transport policy growing up. Securing state and federal funding to build the rail line to the Sunshine Coast is something I am also proud to have done over this period which will hopefully stand the test of time. In the veterans space, as a former assistant minister from 2020 to 2023 I am proud that we were able to increase funding for veterans groups and establish Queensland's first ever Veterans' Council.

Last term Aspley continued to see the investment and infrastructure it deserves. I would be standing here for hours if I listed all of the projects I saw delivered or all of the funding I helped commit, so I promise to keep it short. Gympie Road runs through the middle of the electorate, linking all the local suburbs in Aspley together. With the increased level of local and industrial through traffic moving throughout the north side and beyond, I am proud that we got the ball rolling with the Gympie Road bypass tunnel and associated public transport surface works. The feedback I have received from locals has been overwhelmingly supportive. This game-changing project will bypass 19 sets of traffic lights and save commuters over 30 minutes in travel time per day. This makes people get home to their families sooner and gives Gympie Road back to north side locals. In the last budget we committed over \$300 million to support the continued pre-construction works. The government committed to it pre-election, but we have not heard anything from it since. I look forward to seeing what the government is going to do with this project, which it committed to before the election.

Moving on to another critical road project, I am very pleased that we have started early works on the Linkfield Road overpass duplication. Planning is well underway to duplicate the lanes, increase the height and lengthen the entry and exit ramps of this overpass. Unfortunately work looks to have stopped on the project since the election, so I will be looking to hold the government to account to make sure this project does still go ahead. Now that we have the federal members who can help make it happen, I am looking to see some progress on this.

It is positive that the Beams Road overpass is truly taking shape. If you drive down Beams Road now you will see that it is very much coming to life. The already open and upgraded park-and-ride facility at Carseldine station complements the overpass by providing additional car parking spaces for locals and diverging entry and exit traffic off of Beams Road. This project is in addition to other developments in the Carseldine area such as the planned 152 social and affordable homes at Carseldine Village, providing much needed housing relief on the north side. The community has been calling out for these projects for decades and I am so happy to have been the one to get them off the ground and moving. I promise Aspley this: I will continue to support these projects and ensure that I will hold the government to account to keep the funding that I have previously secured.

Regarding our fantastic local schools, I will always continue to support and fight for the next generation of Queenslanders. Aspley is lucky to have more than a dozen schools between primary and secondary as well as special education schools that give extra support to local families who need it most. I will always be proud to have been part of a team that delivered air conditioning to every classroom in the state, because our children should be as comfortable as possible and ready to learn.

Locally down on Hamilton Road, Craigslea State High continues to be a powerhouse in volleyball, ranked consistently the first, second or third in the nation. That is why I fought for and delivered Craigslea's Volleyball Centre of Excellence. I am thrilled that this project makes Craigslea State High the first school in Australia to have fully equipped indoor and outdoor facilities. This school's fantastic talent deserves fantastic facilities. This project will have flow-on effects to the wider community, as the centre will also host an array of other local sporting groups and events. I would like to also mention how disappointed I am that the LNP has not come to the table in committing to our \$26 million investment to secure for Craigslea State High much needed upgrades. These include drama, language and music facilities. I believe these upgrades are necessary and I will continue to champion the school.

To the south-eastern side of the electorate, last year I committed half a million dollars for Geebung State School to make school traffic easier and safer. These upgrades are around improved stop, drop and go facilities, upgraded roads within the school and additional car parking spaces. It is great to see that it is almost complete—it might even be open this week—and I am keen to check it out after this sitting.

Down the road, I was proud to deliver a state-of-the-art learning centre at Geebung Special School. This brand new, two-storey facility provides 12 additional learning spaces, is equipped with staffrooms and amenities and has tailored disability parking spaces.

In the middle of the electorate, at Maundrell Terrace and Horn Road, we were able to lock in over \$600,000 to Aspley State School to deliver increased capacity at the school drop-off zone on Horn Road. This has been a long time coming, and it is great to see that the council finally came to the table and we got it done. It was great to be there on federal election day to see the car park open and running. I think it needs some minor improvements, but it is a really good local project for a school that has had bad traffic for many years.

Regarding health, the Prince Charles Hospital serves much of Brisbane's north side and is extremely important for locals to receive the health services they need. Last term we secured funding to deliver upgrades such as a new paediatric emergency department, 53 extra treatment spaces and 93 new beds. I am proud to say that once these upgrades are completed the Prince Charles Hospital will be the second largest children's health service in the state. It is disappointing to see the government delay these projects, though, in their recent health projects reconfiguration. We will be fighting to protect these critical projects on a reasonable timeframe so that locals can continue to use these fantastic facilities. It is great to see the multistorey car park, which will provide almost 1,500 car park spaces, coming to life. I am keen to ensure that the government makes sure these car parks are affordable for both patients and staff into the future.

In terms of local clubs, Aspley would not be the same without its many fantastic local sports and community clubs. They build a sense of community, foster local talent and house important spaces that many local groups use. I would like to acknowledge all staff and volunteers who dedicate themselves to making our community on the north side a better place. I will always continue to support them wherever I can. Aspley Devils, the home of Rugby League talent in Aspley, has seen strong membership growth year after year. That is why I was thrilled to help secure over \$350,000 last term to go towards constructing new change rooms, which are now open. I was also able to secure over \$200,000 for Aspley Memorial Bowls Club to futureproof this great local asset. The area also holds fantastic Aussie Rules talent at Aspley Hornets. With their membership exploding, particularly amongst women and girls, it was great to see \$1.8 million from the government. It does not quite match our \$2 million proposal, but it is great to see that commitment anyway. I am keen to see that delivered in a timely manner.

I also want to highlight some local charities that do incredible work in our local community, in particular Broken to Brilliant, based in the beautiful suburb of Geebung. Established by domestic violence survivors, Broken to Brilliant serves as a post-crisis charity to mentor other survivors to re-establish successful lives. It is vital that we support this local charity group, and I am keen to help it wherever I can.

Stepping Stone North has been a really great new addition to the local community down there at 7th Brigade Park in Geebung. Jacqui and her team do amazing and incredible work. It is a much needed addition to our community. Zillmere Community Centre, just across the road in the Nudgee electorate, serves our community as well, as does Boss Boxing. They do fantastic work engaging young people in the area.

Speaking of clubs, it is disappointing that the now government has not yet come to the table in supporting the expansion of Northside Indoor Sports Centre in Zillmere, the home of the Northside Wizards, of course. Indoor space is so needed across Brisbane, particularly across the north side. I hope the government sees the benefit here. There is the space there to do it. There is need and demand. This is something that really should be happening sooner rather than later.

In terms of local parks, improving accessibility across the electorate is also very important. I was pleased to secure funding last year to build a footpath connecting Zillmere and Beams roads to complement the existing Cabbage Tree Creek bridge, which I opened in 2020. We delivered this footbridge to stop locals from having to traverse drainage pipes to get to Aspley State High School from Carseldine station. We have the funding to make it even better, but Brisbane City Council were not willing to fund the local footpath themselves. I know that they can be very slow at times, even when another level of government is footing the bill, but this project is essential to connect Zillmere and Carseldine and help more locals to use their 50-cent train ride at Carseldine station.

I would like to congratulate all newly elected and re-elected members of this House. Of the new members, I particularly acknowledge the members for Ipswich West and South Brisbane and my fantastic new neighbour the member for Sandgate. I look forward to great contributions from them all. I will miss members who were here last term but who are no longer in the House, either through retirement or electorally decided. I hope to see many of them either back in here or succeeding in whatever future endeavours they choose. As everyone in here knows, this is a tough job, a largely selfless job and a very public job, so I will always have respect for anyone who serves in this place.

I also want to thank the special people who help me to be able to stand in this House today. I sincerely thank my electorate office staff, who have worked long hours to support me in my role as a local member and, most importantly, support the community. Janet, my electorate officer, who came to me a bit over a year ago, does amazingly well keeping the show on the road. I can safely say that she

has done a tremendous job holding the office together. Eric, Bryce, Steph, Wonjun, Jack and Shamus all gave it their all and have really big futures ahead of them. Also throughout the term we had Lucy, Ken, Ivy, Rosemary and Chris.

In terms of the campaign, I thank Caleb, who came in and led our charge locally with style and skill. I also thank volunteers such as Graeme, Murray, Ash, George, Zander, Graham, Jake, Cooper, Tim, Melinda, Dearne and many others. In addition to their day jobs, every single one of my former ministerial staff helped my campaign. I will forever be in awe of their dedication locally and for the state. Being a fun-employed hack after an election loss can be challenging—I have been there myself—but they are all getting on with it and they are all going on to bigger and better things without having me to slow them down.

I thank my original sources of advice and sounding-boards in running for Aspley and who still help me to this day: the crew at We Like What They Are Doing, formerly the Cave of Forgotten Dreams—just a great bunch of hardworking battlers having a go and doing their best. I also thank Senator Anthony Chisholm, my local federal member Anika Wells and local councillor Jared Cassidy for their help with the campaign. Jared in particular helped direct my campaign. I also thank Wayne Swan for launching it.


I also thank Kate Flanders, Zac Beers, Mitch and Bella from party office. I thank Josh Millroy and his crew from the TWU, Stacey Schinnerl from the AWU, Justin Power from the SDA and Gary O'Halloran from the plumbers union for their help on the campaign. Other unions, including the QNMU and Together union, strongly stood up for their members in Aspley.

To my family: I thank my wife for bearing so much more of the family load, particularly in 2024. I acknowledge my parents; Viv's parents; and our boys, Oscar and Milo, who make me happy and proud every day.

I thank the good people of the Aspley electorate. I will never take your support for granted and I will continue to work hard every day for our part of the north side, to fight for results we can achieve locally and across the state. I will fight every day to do what matters for Queensland. Since its inception in 1960, Aspley has had only one Labor MP other than myself, the fantastic and amazing Bonny Barry, who told me I had to win it for a third time to match her record. I am pleased to have done so and glad our hard work ensured we achieved a solid result in Aspley to buck the overall trend and be the first time our party has held the seat in opposition.

I thank the members for Logan, Miller and Gaven for coming up to the deep dark north to help scrutineering in the post-election period. I thank the one current and former state secretary who helped with scrutineering—as well as Anika, Mitch, Bella, Luke and others—during that week and a half.

Whilst former colleagues of mine I will miss in this place, I am glad that many current colleagues were returned along with me. A lot of people put their trust in me to keep fighting and keep working hard locally, so I am keen to continue that for another four years.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.57 pm): It is with a great sense of pride, honour and deep humility that I rise today to deliver my address in reply to Her Excellency the Governor as the state member for Moggill in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. I congratulate the state member for Condamine, the Hon. Pat Weir MP, on his appointment to high office and also acknowledge the election and success of the Crisafulli LNP state government at the October 2024 state election.

I extend my sincere thanks to Premier David Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie for their leadership and confidence in appointing me to serve as both the Leader of the House in the Queensland parliament and the Assistant Minister to the Premier on Matters of State and New Citizens. I also congratulate each and every member of this House on their election to the 58th Parliament. Specifically, I extend a warm welcome to the 21 newly elected Liberal National Party members, whose presence in this chamber is a testament to the trust Queenslanders have placed in our vision for a better, safer and stronger future for our state of Queensland.

I want to thank the local residents of the electorate of Moggill for once again placing their support and trust in me to be their state representative in this House, particularly given this is my fourth term in the Queensland parliament. I remain steadfast in my commitment to advocating for and delivering meaningful outcomes on behalf of our local community.

The people of Queensland delivered a clear and decisive message at the last state election. They voted for a fresh start—one based on trust, transparency and competence—and a state government that will serve with integrity, humility and purpose. Under the leadership of Premier David Crisafulli, that is exactly what the Liberal National Party state government has begun delivering. In its

first 100 days in office, the Crisafulli LNP state government hit the ground running, fulfilling our promises and setting in motion the bold and necessary reforms required to rebuild Queensland's institutions, restore frontline services and put Queenslanders first.

The Crisafulli LNP state government has acted decisively to make Queensland safer by introducing and passing the first and second tranches of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. These laws are sending an unambiguous message—adult crime will be met with adult consequences. Above all, we are placing the rights of victims before the excuses of offenders. We have already bolstered Queensland's Police Service by more than 240 officers in just our first 200 days. Residents are demanding safer communities and we are delivering.

When it comes to addressing Labor's health crisis, Queenslanders are finally seeing transparency and accountability restored with our health and hospital system. Through our Open Hospitals portal patients and families now have access to real-time data, empowering them to make informed health decisions. We have also unveiled our Hospital Rescue Plan, a comprehensive approach to fixing Queensland's health system.

Importantly, cost of living remains a key priority for the Crisafulli LNP state government and we are not wasting any time in delivering meaningful relief. We have acted by abolishing stamp duty on new homes for all first home buyers, removing a major barrier to home ownership and helping more Queenslanders achieve their dream of a place to call their own.

With respect to housing policy, our government has established the Queensland Ministerial Housing Taskforce, driving forward key initiatives such as unlocking surplus church and charity land to create more community housing—commonsense reforms designed to get more homes built and more families into secure accommodation.

We have also unveiled the true cost of Cross River Rail, demonstrating this government's commitment to honesty and accountability with respect to infrastructure delivery, and we have locked in the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares, ensuring that affordability and accessibility underpin our approach to public transport. Through our decisive early actions Queenslanders are seeing what a competent, forward-focused and responsible government looks like. We are proving that good government is not only possible but essential.

Serving local residents as the state member for Moggill is both a privilege and a responsibility that I continue to uphold with purpose, strength and determination. As an elected member of the Crisafulli LNP state government I am pleased that our local community can look forward to the delivery of meaningful and well-considered commitments backed by proper planning, community consultation and real investment. One of our signature local priorities is the delivery of a comprehensive integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane. This initiative is not just about traffic congestion; it is also about delivering better connectivity, safer roads, enhanced public and active transport and planning for the future with genuine community input. As a part of this, \$75 million has been committed to address safety and congestion at the Kenmore roundabout, an intersection that has long required comprehensive action.

Locally in education, \$2 million has been committed to develop a detailed business case and planning for a new high school in the electorate of Moggill. For too long families in our community have had limited options when it comes to local secondary schooling. This important project marks the beginning of delivering greater educational choice closer to home.

Our community also needs spaces to connect, grow and support one another. That is why the Crisafulli LNP state government has committed \$3 million to establish a new community and neighbourhood hub in the electorate of Moggill, an important hub for vital local services, programs and events that strengthen community ties. Importantly, the government is also supporting our local groups and organisations that are the pillars of civic life. We have committed dedicated funding to our local scouting and Girl Guide groups, horse and pony clubs, creek catchment and environmental groups and community gardens. These organisations play a vital role in environmental stewardship, youth development and building a strong sense of community.

In the area of sport and recreation, funding has been committed to the UQ Football Club, the Kenmore Bears Junior Australian Football Club, the Moggill Mustangs—Junior AFL Club, Moggill Football Club and the Kenmore Bears rugby club. A new footpath to the Moggill District Sports Park will also be delivered to improve access and support greater participation in community sport. I am pleased to also share that we are investing in the infrastructure of our cherished local institutions: \$150,000 has been committed for infrastructure upgrades at the Brookfield Showground, and \$100,000 for the Mount Crosby Bowls Club—recognising their enduring roles in bringing our community together,

generation after generation. These are genuine, actionable commitments that will be delivered by a Liberal National Party state government that respects local communities and understands that the foundations of good government begin at the grassroots. Even in our first months in office, we have seen further wins for the residents of the electorate of Moggill. Through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, local organisations will share in more than \$88,000 in funding, including \$35,000 for the Upper Brookfield Community Hall for vital upgrades; over \$34,000 for the Brookfield United Cricket Club for field maintenance equipment; and almost \$6,000 for the Bellbowrie Men's Shed for essential amenities upgrades. These grants are timely and welcome. As cost-of-living pressures continue to challenge households and organisations alike, this additional funding ensures that our community groups can continue their important work, supported and strengthened by the state government.

Our local schools have also received direct benefits from the LNP government's \$44 million Behavioural Boost for Queensland state schools. More than \$400,000 is being delivered directly to schools in the electorate of Moggill. This funding will enhance classroom environments, reduce disruption and support students through the hiring of teacher aides, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and more. These investments are not only delivering for today, but they are building a stronger Moggill for tomorrow.

Having served as the shadow minister for education and shadow minister for the arts in the 57th Parliament, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the constructive relationships built with educators, community leaders, artistic institutions and stakeholders right across Queensland. It was a privilege to engage with so many Queenslanders in shaping important policies and promoting excellence in these vital sectors.

I am honoured to have been appointed as assistant minister to the Premier and also Leader of the House in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. These are roles of great responsibility and I am committed to ensuring the efficient and effective functioning of the Queensland parliament, as well as contributing to the strategic direction of the government through my attendance at cabinet as Leader of the House. These responsibilities reflect the trust placed in me by the Premier and my colleagues and I approach my responsibilities with focus, discipline and a deep commitment to public service. These roles are not only a personal honour but a solemn duty. They are positions of trust that I undertake with the utmost respect for this democratic institution on behalf of the government and for the people of Queensland. As the Premier of Queensland said to me when offering these appointments—

Doctor, I know you will be methodical, calm, measured and diligent with respect to the efficient functioning of the Queensland Parliament, including the implementation of the LNP state government's legislative agenda, and particularly given your high degree of professionalism and strong diplomatic skills.

These words reflect not only the seriousness with which these responsibilities are viewed but also the values that I continue to bring to the role each and every day. As Leader of the House, my core responsibility is to ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of business within this chamber. This means working collaboratively across government and respectfully with members of the opposition and crossbench to facilitate the consideration of legislation and motions with fairness and integrity. The role of Leader of the House assists in upholding the dignity of this institution, fostering a culture of respect and deliberation and ensuring that the Queensland parliament functions at the highest possible standard.

I have already developed a constructive and respectful working relationship with the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Springwood. As assistant minister to the Premier, I am privileged to work alongside and collaborate with the Premier and Deputy Premier in implementing the government's strategic agenda and legislative program. This includes supporting the coordination of cabinet priorities, enhancing whole-of-government collaboration and contributing to the delivery of reforms and initiatives that respond directly to the needs and aspirations of Queenslanders. These responsibilities also extend to assisting with intergovernmental relations, stakeholder engagement and ensuring policy implementation is both efficient and effective. In doing so, I have had the privilege of representing the Premier and the Queensland government at numerous formal events and also strengthening Queensland's connections both domestically and internationally. Over recent months I have held productive and engaging discussions with a number of international representatives, including ambassadors, honorary consuls and high commissioners. These engagements reaffirm Queensland's standing as an outward-looking jurisdiction committed to mutual cooperation, global friendship and peaceful engagement.

In parallel, I have been honoured to represent the Premier of Queensland at numerous significant commemorative and civic events, particularly those that reflect our government's enduring respect for those who have served and sacrificed in the defence of our nation. That the Queensland Premier has



personally taken on the additional responsibilities as the Minister for Veterans certainly demonstrates this government's unwavering commitment to honouring and supporting Queensland's veteran community. From attending the 83rd Bangka Island Massacre Commemoration Service to joining the Governor of Queensland for the 124th birthday celebrations of the Royal Australian Navy onboard the *HMAS Choules*, I have witnessed firsthand the deep sense of pride and service that defines our Defence community. Whether commemorating Victory in Europe Day, opening the Geebung RSL Remembrance Garden, joining in the Samford RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Rededication, participating in the Run Army 2025 event, these occasions have been powerful reminders of the legacy and values we are entrusted to protect. The Crisafulli LNP state government's commitment to Queensland veterans is backed by policy, respect and action. As assistant minister to the Premier, I will continue to support this work, engaging stakeholders and community with empathy, professionalism and purpose.

I am acutely aware that public service, particularly at a senior level, must be grounded in integrity, principle and a genuine desire to improve the lives of others. I bring to these roles not only my professional background but also my longstanding belief that good policy is people centred policy and that consultation is not tokenistic but a core foundation of trust. In these capacities, I look forward to supporting our Premier and the government in delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders have voted for, ensuring our legislative reforms are guided by evidence, compassion and purpose.

This year, 2025, marks the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, a milestone that invites reflection but, more importantly, demands imagination. In just 25 years we have witnessed extraordinary technological progress, social change and global connectivity. From smartphones to artificial intelligence, medical innovations and new frontiers in energy, we have entered an age defined by speed, complexity and possibility. Yet for all that has changed, the central aspirations of Queenslanders remain remarkably consistent: safer communities, better health care, stronger education, economic opportunity and a fair go for every family. Our task now, as the newly elected state Liberal National Party government, is to not only respond to the challenges of our time but also lead Queensland boldly into the future. The next quarter century offers extraordinary opportunity. Queensland has the natural advantages, the scientific capacity and capability, and the entrepreneurial spirit to become a global leader in research, innovation and real-world translation.

As a specialist physician, I know firsthand the power of discovery and the importance of translational research. That is why I am deeply committed to seeing Queensland remain as an international centre for translational research—a place where our world-class universities, hospitals and biotechnology firms work collaboratively to deliver life-changing solutions not just for Queenslanders but also for humanity. We must build on the strengths of our medical and health precincts in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Townsville while expanding research investment into regional centres, ensuring innovation is inclusive and statewide. We have the scientists, we have the clinicians, we have the institutions and now, under the leadership of Premier David Crisafulli, the member for Broadwater, we have a government that is prepared to back the vision and to create the policy settings and long-term investment needed to compete with the best in the world.

The same can be said for education and skills. As industries evolve and new careers emerge, our education system must be equally agile. Whether it is STEM, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity or advanced manufacturing, Queensland can be a global centre for next-generation talent if we invest early, train deeply and build connections between industry and education that are real and enduring.

Likewise, our state can lead on sustainability and resilience. Queenslanders understand the reality of floods, fires and droughts but we also understand innovation. The future of energy, water security and urban design is being shaped now and we have the chance to get it right. We must be guided by evidence. We must remain open to new ideas and, above all, we must bring Queenslanders with us, consulting, listening and adapting along the way.

If the past 25 years brought us smartphones, space tourism, significant medical breakthroughs and social transformation, the next 25 years may well redefine what it means to live, work and thrive in a growing Queensland. Let us be ambitious, let us be bold and let us say with confidence that Queensland's best days lie ahead, not behind. Let us ensure that our children and grandchildren look back at this moment and this government as one that not only merely managed the present but also imagined the future and helped to shape it.

As I draw my address-in-reply speech to a close, I wish to acknowledge those whose efforts and support have been integral to our shared work and purpose. I wish to acknowledge my family and thank them for their ongoing support and words of encouragement. As all members in this place know, we cannot do the roles and fulfil the responsibilities that we are entrusted to implement without their support. Certainly, I would not be able to do that.

To the chair of my Moggill state electorate council, Paul McMonagle, all volunteers, my local LNP branch members, my booth workers and the many community supporters who stood with me throughout the 2024 election campaign: I thank them for their commitment to our shared values and to our great democracy. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Councillor Greg Adermann and Councillor Penny Wolff, who are both Brisbane City councillors for their respective wards. Certainly, their support throughout the election campaign was appreciated.

I also wish to acknowledge all of my staff and, in particular, Daniel Downes. Daniel and his wife, Eunice, welcomed their first child, Ekari, in the middle of the election campaign. In fact, Daniel received the call that his wife was in labour whilst we were in the middle of our usual Saturday morning roadsides. It certainly shows his dedication that he was out on the roadside that morning. He left the roadside but for the genuine and good reason of welcoming his first child. He has certainly been very supportive over many years and I thank him for that.

I want to acknowledge my parents, both of whom have died since I have been in this place. They are always remembered in my heart, particularly my mother who sacrificed a lot when I was a child. She was a schoolteacher. She raised me as a single parent because my parents were divorced. She made immense sacrifices throughout the years to ensure that I got a good education and she gave me the opportunity to stand in this place. As all members in this House would appreciate, over the years we make a lot of sacrifices to fulfil our responsibilities to this place. I wish I had spent more time with both of them, but I certainly acknowledge what they did for me throughout the years of my childhood, adolescence and into adulthood. It is very important to remember that, particularly when we are giving speeches such as the one that I am giving today.

Finally, to my parliamentary colleagues, both new and returning: it is an honour to serve alongside them as part of the Crisafulli LNP state government. This is a state government that is united in its mission, commitment to integrity and focus on outcomes for all Queenslanders, including local residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane and the electorate of Moggill. Over the next four years I certainly look forward to delivering for my local residents and, more broadly as a part of the Crisafulli LNP state government, for all Queenslanders.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 13 May 2025, the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games wrote to me alleging that the member for Cooper breached the broadcast footage terms and conditions and published a false or misleading account of proceedings on 1 May 2025. The matter relates to a video excerpt of the broadcast of proceedings that the member posted on her various social media pages on 8 May 2025. The video involved both commentary by the member and two short excerpts of the minister speaking during the second reading debate of the Queensland Academy of Sport Bill. Specifically, the minister stated—

... I want to take the opportunity to highlight one of our superstars, Alexa Leary, who has to be the cheeriest, most beautiful woman playing sport at the moment. She is just a delight to be around. She won gold in the women's 100-metre freestyle.

In the video on her social media pages, the member only used the following words spoken by the minister: 'most beautiful woman playing sport'. The minister argued that the excerpts were misleading. The minister also alleged that the video contravened section 58 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 by contravening the broadcast footage terms and conditions for not providing sufficient context.

The minister had initially contacted the Clerk on Friday, 9 May about the matter and the Clerk then attempted to contact the member by phone and later, in a text, suggested that the video be taken down. The Clerk followed this up with an email on Monday, 12 May. The minister also reached out personally to the member to request the video be taken down.

In her response to the Clerk, the member stated—

Happy to take the post down on your advice, however I would challenge any complaint as the Minister's words speak for themselves and I made an effort to not decontextualise the clips.

While the video was removed from Facebook after the Clerk's email request, it remained on both Instagram and TikTok.

The member later responded directly to the minister in a letter and published that letter on her LinkedIn page. In that letter she stated that she has concluded that her summary in the video was both fair and accurate. She stated that she was respectfully declining the minister's request to remove the video.

Standing order 269(4) requires that, in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. I did so, and then I wrote to the member for Cooper on 20 May 2025 advising that I was of the opinion that the post in question offended the broadcast terms and conditions and there was an arguable case that it was also a false and misleading account of proceedings before the House. I requested that the member remove the posts and make an apology to the House in the time either for matters of privilege or for personal explanations in the morning session. I note that no such apology was made in the time requested and that the video remained on the member's Instagram and TikTok pages.


The member then chose to double down and raise the matter in the House this afternoon, making a number of comments about the minister that were required to be withdrawn. The member finally apologised and indicated the post will be withdrawn. In its report No. 232, tabled in 2024, the Ethics Committee noted—

... members need to use social media responsibly, particularly in a society that is highly cognisant of social media impacts and harm.

That report led to the Code of Ethical Standards for members to include being respectful to other members of parliament. I do not believe that the member has provided an adequate explanation or apology. Based on the fact that the member has ignored requests from both the Clerk of the Parliament and me, I will be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 1470.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.21 pm): I would like to begin by recognising newly elected and returned members. I congratulate each and every one of you. Everybody knows how difficult it is to be a representative. It is a tough gig, so to each and every one I offer a very genuine and warm congratulations. Mr Speaker, you have taken to your new job like a duck to water. You obviously love it too—I can just tell every question time.

Out of all the speeches made in here, it is the maiden speeches that are always informative and insightful—some of them are quite entertaining. Address-in-reply speeches are probably the most accurate and, more importantly, the most genuine speeches that we will hear in this chamber because we are talking about ourselves and our interactions with the people we represent.

In my address-in-reply speech today, I want to begin by thanking the people of Cairns. This is my third election. I had basically spent my entire working life in the tourism sector—working in international hotels and selling marine products—until I got this job. There is no doubt about it: this is quite a unique job. I think it was Charles de Gaulle who said that politics is too serious a matter to be left to politicians. I still see myself as a travelling salesman selling tourism products, but I am very proud to be representing the people of Cairns.

I thank them for their support, their regular feedback, their encouragement and, at times, their blunt direction, which can be challenging but it is all part of the job. To represent our communities, we really have to be part of the community, we have to engage and we have to be heavily involved. It is not only something that I have to do; it is something that I actually enjoy. I do it with great happiness and I do it knowing that there are so many wonderful people out there, as there are in all our communities, who all want the same thing: the best.

I enjoy mixing with our extensive and very impressive multicultural community. It is a fantastic and growing sector, and they continue to make a fantastic contribution to our community. Our tourism sector is strong. There are always challenges, and it still remains challenged. If others want to know how Cairns is performing, they should look at things like the amateurs and these sideline products. We are still recovering from COVID, there is no doubt about it. Our international visitors, who spend five times more than domestic punters, have not come back. We cannot blame it on governments; it is because of what is happening around the world. We have some real challenges in that space.

We also have some wonderful people and great investors. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested into Cairns and the tourism sector by offshore companies, and that will continue because we are still an iconic destination. Our business sector continues to do a great job. Our manufacturing sector is growing. We have had investment in our agricultural and aquacultural exports recently, which I will talk about a little bit later, and they continue to have a very bright future.

We have some fantastic community groups, education groups, Indigenous communities, sporting groups, clubs, social groups and arts groups. There are so many genuine and authentic individuals who contribute to our community's development and growth, and it is an absolute pleasure to be interacting with them. I have always said that a member of parliament is really a voice piece for their community. We have to be able to identify and then articulate within our party what our electorate wants. We are all vying for government capital to ensure our communities get what they need. Each and every one of those people and groups has helped me in so many different ways and enabled me to represent them. I am enormously thankful to them, and their ongoing help is very much appreciated. Obviously, I look forward to that continuing for a long time to come.

I was first elected in, I think, November 2017 and since then the government investment in Cairns can best be described as significant. I will run through a few of those investments. Education is something of a priority, particularly in regional areas, and ensuring that we have great classes and great infrastructure in our education sector is so vitally important. There have been some significant refurbishments to Cairns State High School's classrooms. Refurbishments and upgrade works have been completed at Trinity Bay State High School's Tropical North Learning Academy.

The upgrade to the Cairns Western Arterial Road has enormously helped in the development of Cairns and our road infrastructure. Whitfield State School has had new playgrounds and amenities constructed, and I was pleased to see that both sides of politics made a commitment at the election to the school receiving its new performing arts hall. I think that is terrific because they desperately need it. It is a growing school and Matt does a great job there with the kids. The \$70 million new mental health facility has been completed at the Cairns Hospital. It was desperately needed and is vitally important.

There have been a couple of big investments, and one was to the Cairns shipping development project. This project was about ensuring that our port was capable to accept larger vessels, and we are seeing that now. We are seeing significant investment there and cruise ships are coming in. Unlike other regional cities, we are lucky because a cruise ship can literally pull up in the centre of Cairns and the centre of town is only a five-minute walk away. The accessing of retail shops, restaurants and other facilities is such an important component and we are seeing a strong increase in the number of ships coming in. That is where we start building our name—through retail. That development has been significant. We are also seeing some larger boats coming in because we have the capacity.

The \$176 million upgrade and expansion to the Cairns Convention Centre was absolutely essential. This piece of infrastructure generates around \$80 million a year for Cairns through business events. This new expansion, investment and enhancement will bring in \$130 million a year. People come in, stay at our hotels, use our reef products, visit the ancient rainforest and ride the Skyrail. They will usually spend a week in the town and use one of the 300 tourism products. This is so vitally important. The flow-on for the community is absolutely essential. The convention centre continues to do a fantastic job and our business tourism sector is very strong.

The Cairns Ring Road has been a success. Edge Hill State School's administration building and the student support hub have been renovated and the amenities have been upgraded. As part of the Cairns Hospital expansion, \$26 million has been spent on the emergency department. Money is going into these areas. I remember the doctors coming in and saying to me some years ago that things need to be done. Once again, it is feedback from the community that inspires one to be able to articulate and then promote to government where these changes need to be made.

Cairns State High School has seen the construction of a new multipurpose sports hall and the refurbishment of a teaching block. That sports hall is absolutely fantastic. As we know, particularly those living in the tropics, the wet season can be impressive. I think that we have had our wettest wet season ever. Having the right people and the right facilities and infrastructure can keep those kids busy even when it is pouring outside.

Cairns TAFE has seen an addition to the Advanced Manufacturing Hub and Cyber Security Training Operation Centre, which has been fantastic. Trinity Bay High School has seen a refurbishment of industrial technology and design facilities. As we speak, there is construction underway on their new performing arts centre, which is vitally important.

The Cairns police facility has received an upgrade. We had to expand our diversionary centre. I know within the first couple of years of being elected I was asking: how do you do this? How does it work? You sort of work your way through it and you work out who is who and how it all works. That was important. That was something that particularly the commercial sector and the business sector in town wanted.

With the Cairns water security program, both federal and state governments have funded and assisted the Cairns Regional Council.

Screen Queensland—we are not sure how all of this is going to fare with Mr Donald Trump's issues with regard to filmmaking—has been and will continue to be an absolute icon. I know that on the Gold Coast they are making a huge number of films. The facility that we have in Cairns contributes to that. It provides an opportunity for work in that specialised area for a lot of people who reside in the Tropical North.

We have the Regional Trade Distribution Centre. Cairns is a major tourism destination. A high risk to airlines is leisure travel, as in leisure destinations, because they do not make money. They make money by filling the front of the plane. Leisure destinations are therefore high risk. In Cairns and surrounds, with a population of about 176,000 people, we need a substitute for that. The way we have done that is by investing in a \$10 million refrigerated export facility at Cairns Airport. That gives us the ability to provide the airlines with an opportunity to reduce their reliance on passenger numbers but increase their revenue by taking in exporting. We have seen aquaculture and agriculture going directly to Hong Kong, to Singapore and then into the world markets. This is absolutely fundamental for the ongoing development of tourism. It also ensures that we keep the aviation sector going, and we need that to be going strong.

Cairns Safer Streets and Moonlight Hoops are part of our security programs to keep kids busy, in addition to the co-responder initiatives and on-country programs. These are things that we sat down and talked to the community about, and we got involved.

The Great Barrier Reef International Marine College expansion includes new workshops, additional classrooms and staff facilities. We have always been a tourism town. That has been one of our big drivers and one of our biggest investors. Our goal here, regardless of our political colour, is to diversify the economy of Cairns. By growing our marine infrastructure and expanding our capacity to deal with not just our own marine tourism vessels but also our white boats, commercial boats, and grey boats—for the first time ever the British Navy has had ships come into Cairns and they are getting work done—we need to ensure that we have the right staff. With our international marine college, we are getting skippers. We are also training, in particular, Pacific Islanders, as Pacific Island nations are coming to Cairns. This was done originally out of Tasmania. Very rarely will you hear me say this, but I know that Warren Entsch had a lot to do with that. On his retirement, I acknowledge the hard work Warren did there.

We have the Cairns Youth Foyer, and I am very pleased to see the current government has committed to that—which is terrific. I thank the minister for that.

Ergon Energy has done a fantastic job with the redevelopment of their operational depot in Cairns.

This weekend we have Crankworx, which is a fantastic event. This was something that we committed to, and it continues. I was pleased to hear the member for Barron River talk about the \$14 million or \$15 million that she had procured. I congratulate her on that. It builds on what we are doing in relation to mountain biking in our region. I think that is a fantastic achievement, so I want to acknowledge that. People in our city and region know how important that is.

Balaclava State School has seen a refurbishment of its resource centre, its library, which is really important, and its after-school hours facility. Parramatta State School has a new playground and its OSHC centre is nearly completed.

A new \$5 million facility for Cairns Meals on Wheels is underway and looking terrific.

We made a wonderful commitment at the state level that we could not fulfil due to the election result, but the federal government will now be contributing to relocate the Cowboys women's team to Cairns, and a \$25 million high-performance facility will be built there. That is going to be absolutely fantastic. You can be what you can see. Our young women will be able to see some fantastic world-class Rugby League and other events because of that facility.

When it comes to the tourism industry, as I said, the aviation incentives have been going well. There is still a long way to go and still a lot that needs to be done.


I also want to acknowledge all those who helped in my re-election campaign, starting with our state secretary, the amazing Kate Flanders. She has done a fantastic job. There are too many to name, but I will try to name some of them: Richie, Toni, Paul, Aaron, Garth, Ethan, Katie, Rob, Robin, Glen, Heath, Darish, Brian, Stacey, Josh, Matt, Max, Mary, Joan, Trudy, Mark and Ann—the list goes on. I give enormous and genuine thanks to you all. I would not be here today without your support and without the support of many of those around you.

To my office staff: Judy has been working with me for 13 years. She was working with me in another life. When I told her I was moving, she said, 'I would love to come.' About a week after she got into the job I think she was looking to go back, but she could not—that job was gone. She is still there and she still does a fantastic job. Cath does a great job. Keryl does a fantastic job. Richie Bates continues to perform in such an impressive way. Your tolerance and sense of humour to everyone in the office is very impressive. I learn from each of them every day. It is an impressive group. On their engagement I try to encourage everybody to smile, laugh and just be yourself. Remember that we are just trying to help people out. That is the key thing.

To my wife, Trudi, Zoe, Jack and the dog, Zander—Zander has to get involved—you know what I have to say. Thank you. None of that would happen without you. I would be in all kinds of trouble.

I want to finish by saying, having been in this role for a number of years in government and now being in opposition, it is quite unique but I think you take a different tack particularly with your community. Part of it is educating people on where you are. I am confident that, as we move forward, my goal will be to maintain the rigour and commitment to my community to ensure that we get the best for our community.

I am very proud to continue to represent what is such a beautiful city, and I think it would be fair to say that it is the most unique. We have some wonderful people there. It is a very small city. We heard the member for Toowoomba South talk about his region earlier. It is like Cairns—everybody knows everybody, and you get so much enthusiasm and support from the community. There is always a handful of people who politically are a little intense, but there are those who will do their bit for politics and then after that everyone will come in behind them. I feel there is a lot of that in Cairns. That is why I feel very comfortable in my community. I will continue to ensure that I represent our people well. Hopefully, through all of us here, we can build a better future for our children.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.38 pm): It is the greatest honour and privilege of my life to be re-elected to serve the southern Gold Coast community and the beautiful electorate of Currumbin as the state member in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. It is also a great privilege to be a minister in the Crisafulli government. I want to acknowledge our new 21 members because, without their efforts and without all of their work—and you are included in that, Madam Deputy Speaker Marr—we would not be here forming government and able to deliver for Queenslanders.

In particular, I want to call out the new member for Burleigh, my neighbour. He succeeded Michael Hart, who was a great friend of mine. I now look forward to the friendship I am forging with the new member for Burleigh and all the work he is doing in that electorate. We have a close relationship and we are working together to deliver for the people of the southern Gold Coast. Member for Burleigh, thank you very much.

I am exceptionally proud to represent a community of hardworking families, strong local businesses and passionate community groups across Currumbin, Currumbin Waters, Currumbin Valley, Tallebudgera, Tallebudgera Valley, Elanora, Tugun, Bilinga, Coolangatta and Kirra. Even though Kirra is not yet a suburb, we are working on that. Since I first entered this place more than five years ago, I have never taken the trust of our community for granted. It is incredibly humbling to be re-elected. The faith that the people of Currumbin have placed in me is not lost on me. They placed it in me not once, not twice, but three times now. I promise to continue to be the strong and fierce voice they voted for. I will work every single day to deliver the services, infrastructure and opportunities our community needs to prosper and grow.

Our sporting and community clubs are the backbone of our Currumbin electorate community. They connect people, they support young people and they bring us together. I want to acknowledge the incredible work of our dedicated volunteers who make up these clubs. I thank every club and community group in my electorate. I look forward to continuing to work with them to make our community the best

place to live, work and raise a family. I want to touch on a couple of those community organisations that the Crisafulli government made election commitments to during the 2024 election and update my community on the progress of those election commitments. Firstly, the Currumbin Eagles Rugby League Football Club—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I will take the interjection from the member for Lockyer, our keen Rugby League player. This organisation is deeply rooted in our community. They have a proud history of bringing locals together, including through the launch of their girls' academy in 2022, which I was so proud to support. In April 2023 the Eagles launched their women's team, the mighty Currumbin Sheagles, and last year they went on to win the women's A-grade grand final. With the fastest growing female participation in Gold Coast Rugby League, the Currumbin Eagles Rugby League Club is in desperate need of female change rooms. So I started a petition and 747 locals signed it. Guess what? We succeeded! The Crisafulli government is providing our grassroots clubs with the extra support they need in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics through our Games On! program. Through this exciting initiative the Currumbin Eagles are receiving \$800,000 to build state-of-the-art change rooms for their players.

I could not talk about the Currumbin Eagles without talking about their rivals, the mighty Tugun Seahawks. The local derby between the Currumbin Eagles and the Tugun Seahawks is one of my favourites and something I look forward to in the Rugby League cycle every year. For the Tugun Seahawks we are delivering a major facilities upgrade to their club so they can also welcome female players.

We are also investing \$220,000 in the Gold Coast United Football Club—this is soccer, Madam Deputy Speaker—a club that has grown into one of the strongest football clubs in Queensland. The money will ensure up-and-coming football champions can safely train and play on their fields. It will open up their games to NPL standards so they can host NPL-standard games at night, which will boost our economy and increase appeal on the southern Gold Coast for the code of football.

For our Tugun Surf Life Saving Club, which celebrated its centenary birthday on Australia Day this year, the Crisafulli government is delivering \$250,000 for the installation of a lift.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Currumbin got a lot. Hey, I am a great local member! This will provide easier access to the whole community, including those living with a disability. Our local surf clubs are vital to community safety and engagement. Club president Brett Beutel has told me that this will see the return of patrons who have been unable to access the club due to the stairs.

I am really proud to support our local sporting clubs, and I thank the Minister for Sport and his team, who are regularly meeting with these clubs and working with them to provide updates and deliver these commitments. That is not all: we also delivered for our schools in the Currumbin electorate.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Yes! Tallebudgera State School has been going through a parking fiasco for many, many years. The local P&C and I have been fighting for parking solutions for Tallebudgera State School, but under Labor we were continually ignored. In fact, the previous minister for education, the member for McConnel, told the school community and myself in 2022 that the Energex land we identified for parking was not a viable solution and the department would not be acquiring it. Under the Crisafulli LNP government we have delivered that car park by acquiring that land. We are working with the school right now on the scoping details that have to be done so our Tallebudgera State School can receive that car park. Labor said it could not be done, but the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering that for the Tallebudgera State School. The project scope is being developed in consultation with the school and detailed planning is happening. Technical designs will be developed and there will be ecological assessments. The Department of Education is on track to invite tenders to deliver the car park in 2026.

That is not all! For all of our students at Elanora State High School we are delivering a business case for a STEM centre of excellence. This \$500,000 investment in planning will position Elanora State High School to be a school of the future. A STEM centre of excellence is something the school has been campaigning for and hoping for for a very long time. This state-of-the-art facility will prepare students for the industries of the future. I am pleased to update the House that technical specialists have been engaged to commence project planning. Early concept master planning is critical to ensure the best outcome for the school. The state-of-the-art STEM centre of excellence will not only transform learning outcomes but will position students at the forefront of innovation, equipping them with the skills to thrive in their future fields of interest. Additionally—

**A government member:** More?

**Mrs GERBER:** Yes, there is more; wait for it. The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital will get \$2 million to build a new research and education campus.

**Mr O'Connor:** Great commitment!

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Housing, who in opposition was the former environment minister who helped secure this commitment for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. This campus will provide a platform for international research and education, enhancing Currumbin's partnerships with universities and strengthening our community's wildlife and conservation efforts.

We are delivering real outcomes for the Currumbin community by listening to locals and not telling them what is best. That is why I want to give this House an update on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4. We put the brakes on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4 and sent it back to the drawing board for a full review. I thank the Deputy Premier for visiting the southern Gold Coast and taking the time to listen directly to people in my community in relation to light rail. We recently hosted a packed out community forum. Hundreds and hundreds of community members showed up and voiced their clear commitment to shaping the future of our region.

I say again what an honour it is to represent the Currumbin community. In addition to the light rail forum, I personally conducted multiple mobile offices and consultation sessions across the Currumbin electorate. My office and I personally called thousands of members of our community to hear firsthand their individual concerns and ideas. The level of engagement reflects our commitment to genuine consultation, open dialogue, and how the Crisafulli government shows up for the people of Currumbin.

We are delivering on our commitment to put all routes and all modes of transport back on the table, including heavy rail, electric buses and east-west connections. The previous government refused to listen to locals and the Currumbin community, but the Crisafulli government is listening and acting. I am pleased to give an update. The consultation closed earlier this month. All of the submissions we received are being reviewed. As promised, the views of the residents on the southern Gold Coast will be prioritised. The Crisafulli government is ensuring that our community gets the transport solutions it needs, just like we promised, ensuring proper consultation is undertaken and the community gets the transport solutions that meet our needs.

While we are on the topic of listening to my community, I would also like to update the House that we have launched a full parliamentary inquiry into e-bike and e-scooter safety.

**Mr Vorster:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs GERBER:** I hear the interjection from the member for Burleigh. Hear, hear! I note that, alongside me, he has been a big part of that campaign. This has been driven by feedback from our community. Too many serious accidents have taken place on our roads and footpaths, and as a result our community has raised real concerns. They have emailed me, filled out my survey and spoken to me. They have attended my offices in shopping centres, they have visited me at mobile offices and attended a community forum I held on e-bike safety. Our community sent the clear message that we are concerned about e-bike and scooter safety, and the Crisafulli government has listened. We are talking action. This is in stark contrast to what we had for the last decade under the Labor government, which neglected our community and left a trail of failed projects, broken promises and cost blowouts.

I want to highlight one of the projects which the Crisafulli government has got back on track. In 2020 Labor went to the election with a grandstand statement that they would fast-track the M1 upgrade to Tugun and that it would be complete by 2023. Under those opposite, it blew out to \$1.5 billion and was not completed.

**Mr Krause:** Who was the minister?

**Mrs GERBER:** I believe it was Minister Bailey. Under the Crisafulli government, the lanes on the M1 are due to open soon. We have got the M1 back on track, with the rest of the completion work to happen by the end of the year. These are just the achievements for the Currumbin electorate. In just over 200 days, the Crisafulli government has delivered even more for Queenslanders across the state. We promised we would make Adult Crime, Adult Time law before Christmas, and we did that. We promised we would continue to strengthen our laws, and we have done that by passing the next stage of Adult Crime, Adult Time—adding 20 further serious offences.

We are committed to making Queensland safer and seeing fewer victims of crime, and we are already seeing the green shoots of some of the initiatives and commitments we have implemented. The latest police data reveals a reduction in key offences across our state between January 2024 and April



2025 when compared with the same period last year: robberies are down 15 per cent, stolen cars are down eight per cent and break-ins are down 11 per cent. This data shows we are on the right path. If you ask me whether I am happy, I am not. We have a long way to go, but it demonstrates that the laws we are implementing are starting to flow through the courts. We are on the right path but we know there is a lot more to be done.

The Crisafulli government has also boosted frontline police officers by 240 new cops in just 200 days—compared to those opposite who only got 175 new officers over four financial years. The Crisafulli government recently delivered the largest police graduation in 33 years, with hundreds of recruits currently training at police academies and thousands of applicants in the recruiting pipeline.

We are putting our state on the world stage through the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games—a games we will deliver on time and on budget. We love our sport, and what better way to show the world what we can do while leaving a legacy to be proud of. The 2032 games will deliver the largest infrastructure investment in Queensland's history, and the Gold Coast is poised to benefit greatly from this.

We are also restoring the great Australian dream through our new laws that abolish stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers and boost housing supply. First home buyers will save tens of thousands of dollars on new homes, making it easier to save for a deposit. I would like to acknowledge the housing minister for the work he is doing in that space and the way he is engaging with our electorates in delivering that commitment and those laws. This change helps deliver on our commitment to lift Queensland's home ownership rates, which are currently the lowest in the nation. Labor's housing crisis left Queenslanders unable to find, keep or secure a roof over their head and thousands of young home buyers were locked out of the market. As a result of Labor's failed housing policies, Queensland has the lowest home ownership rate of any state in the nation at 63.5 per cent. We are committed to restoring the dream of home ownership.

We are also backing our health professionals with our Hospital Rescue Plan. We will deliver more than 2,600 new beds across Queensland, three new hospitals, the new Queensland Cancer Centre, 10 major hospital expansions, and new, expanded and upgraded health facilities across the state to deliver easier access to health services. Our plan is the largest investment in hospital infrastructure in Queensland's history and it will help end Labor's health crisis. Once again, I would like to thank the health minister for the work he has done in this space. Those opposite failed to even budget for the infrastructure we need. The health minister has got our hospital and health plan back on track and I would like to thank him for the work he is doing, particularly on the Gold Coast with the Gold Coast University Hospital.

We have a 20-year tourism plan, and I would like to thank the tourism minister for the road map he has delivered for the state's tourism plan, not just in Currumbin but right across Queensland. That plan will unlock untapped lifestyle and culture so we not only make the most of the Olympic and Paralympic Games but make sure we set the scene for a lasting legacy for future generations.

This is just the beginning. We know it will take time in my portfolio of youth justice to undo the harm that Labor caused over a decade of seeing young offenders spiral into a life of crime. We have been in government for just over 200 days and we have already begun on that pathway to restoring safety where you live.

We live in the best state in Australia and we will prove that next week in the first clash against the Blues in round 1 of the State of Origin. While I am on my feet, I give a shout-out to our Queenslanders. I want to make sure that they know we are backing them all the way in the State of Origin.

Last week we launched a campaign ahead of Queensland Day next month called 'All the Best'. We are calling on Queenslanders to vote across a variety of categories for all the best that Queensland has to offer. In conjunction with this, we are running a campaign for our local legends.


Last and definitely not least, I want to thank my LNP branch and the people who stood with me across three election campaigns to see me re-elected as the state member for Currumbin. I want to call out in particular my booth captains: Jen and Peter Allen and Tarnya Khouri. They worked tirelessly in my campaign, Tarnya in particular. Troy Maloney and Chris Manwaring were booth captains and were both integral to my campaign. I also thank Rene Thalmann, Diana Traversi, Phillip Wilde and Derek Williams, who was my sign extraordinaire. With my husband, he put all of the signs out and then collected them again, which is one of the toughest aspects when the campaign is over. I want to thank

Seema, Boyd, Ian and Josie Kay. I want to thank my really good friends Kate Mednis, Jaime Millar, Benny Morrison and Debbie Morrison, as well as the chair of my branch, Benjamin Naday. I would not be here without the support of my local branch and everything they did. They worked so hard and I know they have my back. I am here to represent them as well as the constituency of Currumbin.

While I am thanking people, I need to thank in particular my family: my husband, Dan Gerber—‘Dan the Man’—and my kids, who reluctantly stood on booths with me and letterboxed with me, although my son Tommy loves letterboxing. My husband manned the Currumbin Waters booth, which was a pre-poll booth this year, and I want to read out some statistics on that booth. In the last election in 2020, my primary vote on that booth was 39 per cent, while in this election my primary vote on that booth was 52 per cent. Dan claims total credit for that. They absolutely were voting for Dan Gerber. He thinks I would not have won that booth without him, and he is probably 100 per cent right.

Lastly, I want to thank the people of Currumbin. I want to acknowledge the beautiful community that I represent. It is very diverse—from our beautiful beaches, out to our hinterland and then of course the coastline. I am so privileged and honoured to be elected the member for Currumbin and represent the people and the home that I love so much. Currumbin and the southern Gold Coast has always been my home. I have grown up there my whole life. My family still lives there and now I am raising my own family there. I got married on Currumbin Beach. I have so many beautiful memories in my own electorate because it has been my home. I feel so privileged to be elected to represent my beautiful community once again.

Our community is the cornerstone of my purpose for being here, and being entrusted to represent them is a commitment and a privilege that I hold with utmost seriousness. Every day that I am in this place, I will continue to be a fierce and strong voice for the people of the Currumbin electorate. I will continue to work tirelessly on their behalf and ensure their voices are heard and met.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.58 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land where we meet today and pay my respect and thank them for their gentle custodianship and care of the lands, winds and waters that we all enjoy, particularly in my home area of Lytton which is on Quandamooka country. I am really proud to sit with the member for Algester and the member for Bundamba, both proud First Nations people. I am extremely fortunate and proud to have very strong relationships with our First Nations people in Lytton, that being the Quandamooka, Turrbal and Yagara people. I am so fortunate for your friendship and wisdom, and I thank you for your kindness, care and guidance. I am so looking forward to a tour of the new residential aged-care facility that you are building down there called Winnam Yagabu Jagu, which means ‘place to heal altogether completely’.

It is with great pride today that I rise to speak here as the elected representative for Lytton. This is my fourth consecutive term, and I give my heartfelt thanks to the voters of Lytton for entrusting me for another four years. It is, indeed, a high honour and one that I accept with a huge sense of responsibility, just as I did when I was first elected in 2015. I am so fortunate to represent one of the best electorates in Queensland. I know that we all say that, but I truly do believe, as does everyone that lives in Lytton, that it is the best electorate in the state. It is also full of the best people in the state.

On that note, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to one such very special member of my community and one such wonderful family. The Smith family have been doctors in our local area, starting up Manly Clinic many years ago, and have been the family doctors for many baysiders for a number of years. My father-in-law, Dr Paul Smith, and his twin brother, along with Dr Jack Hansen and Dr Frank Fry, started Manly Clinic a number of years ago.

Who I wanted to talk about today is Dr Tim. Dr Tim is my brother-in-law, my husband’s brother. He is a wonderful father of three beautiful children and husband to my sister-in-law, Monica. Monica is the daughter of Neil Turner, former Speaker of this House. Dr Tim, sadly, is battling incurable cancer. He is now at home with his family, surrounded by his loved ones. This is a doctor who has provided genuine loving health care to the people of the bayside for over 40 years. Dr Tim was the last doctor, up until the beginning of this year, even when he was battling his disease, who was still attending and visiting residents in residential aged-care facilities. He was also one of the last doctors in our area to do house calls—very much an old-school doctor and one that I am very proud to call my brother-in-law. Thank you for your service to our beautiful bayside community, Dr Tim. You are loved, Tim, and we all appreciate everything that you have done.

The bayside of Brisbane is its own unique community. It is a community nestled away on Brisbane’s south side and we are not a thoroughfare. We are out of the way for most. People often say that Queenslanders are parochial. Wait until you come to my electorate. Sometimes I feel like I am representing almost the ‘People’s Republic of Wynnum’.

Most baysiders prefer not to venture out of the bayside. If we do, it is often through need, not want, because we have everything we need in the bayside. We have an incredible sense of community spirit and we really care about each other. I have often said that Labor values are Australian values, and the bayside community spirit is the epitome, indeed, of these very values. We do not just help our most vulnerable, we go out of our way to do so. The old adage that a society's strength is measured by how it treats its weakest is so true, and that is what makes the bayside so strong and so special as we have that quality in spades.

We are an economically diverse community. We have working-class families doing their best to keep their heads above water. We have vulnerable families relying on the goodwill of support services, faith groups and neighbourhood centres, groups like Rosie's, St Pete's Pantry, the Y Community Hub, the Wynnum Baptist Church, the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre and the Wynnum Community Place which has just advised me that they will be receiving funding from the LNP after much kicking and screaming from me—all of which do so much to help those in need. Of course, we have industry icons like the Power family from the BMD Group, as well as industry giants.

Our community is inclusive. We baysiders, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, employed and unemployed, look out for each other. We get involved in our community. Everybody knows everybody, often with only one or two degrees of separation. That is why I am so lucky to represent my Lytton electorate.

My electorate, of course, is changing. It was an old-school Labor electorate that gave rise to two former deputy premiers. The backbone of my electorate was fishing, the wharves and the meatworks. Their workers lived in humble weatherboard homes scattered across the bayside, and I remember not that long ago where you could buy a block of land overlooking the magnificent Moreton Bay on Tingal Hill for around \$10,000. Admittedly, you would be looking over a municipal tip. Now the median house price is well above the Brisbane average. A house on that very same hill recently sold for over \$4 million.

People are attracted to the stunning landscape, the morning walks along the bay and the friendly relaxed chatter of baysiders. It is not uncommon nowadays to see Victoria and New South Wales numberplates fill the Woolies car park. Locals are still educating our newcomers to our morning salute. It is actually a bit of fun we are all having with our newest residents. They are at first startled by our genuine, friendly good mornings and by the next week they have embraced our morning salutes.

I have worked extremely hard over the last decade to improve the bayside for baysiders, to make it an even better place to live, work and raise a family. I have worked hard to ensure that baysiders get their fair share of projects and investment funding. Since 2015, I have secured over \$45 million in direct community businesses, education, sporting grants and so on. I have worked hard to build an incredibly engaged and supportive bayside community by liaising with hundreds of local groups and leaders, voicing their needs within the former Labor government to ensure they got the funding and support they needed, such as the YMCA, the Y Community Hub, 60 & Better, PCYC, Brain Injury Community, Hands and Feet, Men's Shed, Career Employment Australia, Branches Lifestyle Support, BABI—our youth and family support service—and countless others. My work and engagement with hundreds of local bayside communities is why I am still standing here today.

In education, I could not be prouder. We not only have brilliant schools but also brilliant teachers and brilliant support staff at the schools. We have secured millions of dollars for our schools with significant investments in Manly State School and Darling Point Special School through Queensland's Big Build. We have also had major upgrades to Wynnum State High School, Wondall Heights State School, Tingalpa State School and Wynnum State School, just to name a few. Every state school classroom and library is now fully air-conditioned and solar panels are installed to reduce electricity costs.

The major Lindum station accessibility upgrade is nearly complete, including a footbridge with lift access, improved accessible parking and a new station office and facilities. I know how dangerous this intersection is at Lindum, and I have been working really hard to fix this. The station upgrades, in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council reconfiguration of the intersection and the installation of traffic lights, will ensure a safe and accessible trip for all consumers. I call on the Brisbane City Council to start the work with the money that the federal government has funded—actually start this work. The station has been done. Now it is up to the BCC to get on with those roadworks.

IOR have just built their new transport facilities and fuel terminal, and Ampol are well on track with the upgrades to one of the last remaining refineries in Australia.

The Port of Brisbane continues to be a huge economic enabler. It is worthwhile having a tour out there. You can drive down and have a look at all the huge growth in the port services. It is continuing to grow. We have seen many investments from many operators in cleaner and greener operations, including ResourceCo and Visy which are now employing what I like to call the green-collar workers. They continue to be a fantastic corporate citizen, supporting our wonderful bayside community. This is all in addition to the new Wynnum Ambulance Station at Wynnum West and, of course, something I have been particularly proud of, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa, which I secured for my community.

I want to remind people—and I know I talk about this often in this place—local health services in the bayside are really important to me. I want to take this opportunity to say that we do not have a hospital in our electorate. We used to. Those opposite, when they were in government in 2012, closed that hospital. They not only closed the hospital but also closed Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and 85 people who resided in that nursing home all lost their homes. Baysiders have not forgotten. I still have people talking to me about that today. There are family members of those residents who have still not forgiven the LNP for what they did during that time. It was a cruel and thoughtless act, and it has not been forgotten.

My community is keeping a very close eye on this LNP government because they want to make sure that we do not get punished again, as we were under the previous LNP government. We were terribly punished. There is an opportunity for the Crisafulli government to right the wrongs of the past. This is an opportunity for the Premier to forge a new identity—one that proves that he cares about vital human services. The LNP candidate did not make any commitments to health services in my area. I did, because I felt that there was an opportunity for our local Gundu Pa to have an uplift of services. I call on the LNP government to undertake that business case and to uplift our services at Gundu Pa.

I am incredibly proud to have been a member of the Miles government and of the previous Palaszczuk government and of our record. We demonstrated a strong commitment to improving the lives of Queenslanders through comprehensive programs and policies that spanned various domains including cost-of-living, health care, community safety, housing, education and environmental sustainability. We delivered outstanding cost-of-living relief: \$1,000 electricity rebates to all Queensland homes; extending FairPlay vouchers—I call on the LNP government to continue those; free kindy; free flu vaccination; and, of course, the wonderful 50-cent fares on public transport. We created over 650,000 jobs. We reduced unemployment from 6.6 per cent to four per cent and we introduced the \$107 billion Big Build infrastructure program, supporting 72,000 jobs annually. We launched the Energy and Jobs Plan fostering economic growth through investing in renewable and clean energy. We offered free TAFE, benefiting 91,000 Queenslanders in 2024 alone, and we have supported 82,000 apprentices and trainees since 2018.

I will work constructively with all members of this House, including those opposite, because I recognise that Queenslanders have spoken. The new government has been elected and this opposition respects the voice of the people. After a decade in power, it is inevitable that levers of power change. The opposition, however, is listening to the message given by Queenslanders. We will continue to call on this government to make sure that they deliver what they promised and to date, it has been very sad. So far we have seen a reduction in so many services and the introduction of behaviour that I have never witnessed before in this chamber, and I have been around parliament for over 20 years.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** It begins again, even as I say that. You should hang your heads in shame. I have never been so appalled. I had one of my schools here the other day and they said to me, 'Why are these people yelling out and behaving like that?' I said, 'I know, you would not be allowed to carry on like that at school, would you?' You can talk, you can call out; and I can call you out.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Members to my right, those interjections will cease.

**Ms PEASE:** I could go on and on but I will not waste time because I know how appalling you are, as everyone can see. I am humbled to have been selected to serve on the Leader of the Opposition Steven Miles's front bench as the shadow minister for small business shadow minister for customer service and open data.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** Bring it on, you are just proving me right!

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** I beg your pardon.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you are aware of the requirement to put your comments through the chair and, when you do not, I am not inclined to give you protection.

**Ms PEASE:** Can I take a point of order, please?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, member for Lytton?

**Ms PEASE:** I take offence at the words from the member for Mudgeeraba. She told me to sit down.

**Ms BATES:** I did not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, I have taken advice on this and I, too, do not recall hearing the member for Mudgeeraba saying to sit down. I did hear her say 'through the chair' which was an interjection that I think was provoked by you. I ask you to continue with your contribution please.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you. There are nearly 500,000 small businesses registered in Queensland. The latest employment data of the labour workforce in this state says approximately 2.5 million people are employed in small businesses so it does not take a mathematician to understand the importance of small business in our state. They contribute more than \$117 billion to our economy each and every year and without them, our economy would wither on the vine.

Of course, I would not be standing in this place without the support of many. I thank the locals who voted for me for your faith in me. My mum and dad, Jack and Agnes—sadly they are no longer with us; however, they instilled in me and my sisters our strong sense of social justice, equality, the importance of protecting workers and the benefit of standing up collectively. Both were true believers, activists and community champions.

To my husband, Peter: what a bloke! He was our sign man, our go-to guy with a van—'can you do this darl?'—the fella who made sure there was dinner on the table, washed clothes and the cat was fed. He kept the home fires burning and stayed in touch with all of the people who I do not. Thank you, I love you, and could not do it without you.

To my kids Callum and Audrey and their partners Allison and Simone and my beautiful grandkids, Fin and Agnes: thank you for your support. I am so proud of you for your wonderful achievements and successes and I love you. You bring such joy to me and I wish that I could see more of you.

To Catherine and Maureen, my darling sisters: what didn't you do and what don't you do! I do not have words that can truly express my immense love for you both. Thank you, thank you! I love being one of the 'Pease girls'. I know that I am often berated for calling myself 'one of the Pease girls' but it is not a slight.

**Mr Smith:** Three peas in a pod.

**Ms PEASE:** Yes, that is right, thank you. To my staff: Joanne, Hugh, George, Casey and Ben: you love the community as much as I do and I know that you work so hard to support our wonderful locals, thank you. Thank you for your support, and I also thank your families because they are also along for the ride, like it or not.


There are too many volunteers to name. You contribute so much to the community volunteering across so many areas. I cannot express how grateful I am for your support and friendship. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Wendy. Thank you for putting in so many hours of volunteering time, often at a detriment to your health. I am so thankful that you are my friend and for your support. To the many branch members and volunteers from across the community: I stand on your shoulders to represent you in this place.

I acknowledge Kate Flanders at the party office and I thank the party and all their workers for their great support. I would like to call out Meredith who has been a long-term worker for the party. I respect and admire the work of the union movement in Australia that ensures working people are protected from exploitation and have a safety net of minimum wages and conditions. This important work continues today and I am a proud member of the Transport Workers' Union.

I wish our small business community and the bayside community every success, and I will work tirelessly for their success. I will work tirelessly for the electorate I love and I will work tirelessly for the party I love—I loved it even more on 3 May. It was an absolutely outstanding result! I would like to acknowledge Kara Cook, our member for Bonner. What a champion and what a lovely breath of fresh air. I also acknowledge Ross Vasta, who was the member for Bonner for nearly 20 years, and wish his staff all the best in their new life. Having been in that position, I know that it is a hard journey and a hard transition.

I would like to acknowledge all the small businesses in the area and across the state. I look forward to working with small businesses across the state because I was a small business owner myself. I grew up in a family with a small business so I know that there are highs and lows across the sector. I would love to hear from many small businesses and their peak bodies to make sure that we get to hear what services would help you. I want to make sure that into the future your payments are on time, instead of getting further and further behind, as I referred to in question time in parliament today. Hopefully they will get paid on time every time—unlike what is happening at the moment. I look forward to working with all businesses to make sure they have a successful and vibrant future and employ lots of people across the state.

I am really proud, as I said, to be a member. I take it very seriously. I will continue to call out the misdoings of those opposite. I look forward to running for my electorate in the coming years. Thank you.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (5.18 pm): I congratulate Mr Speaker on his election to the high office as 38th Speaker of this parliament. It is a position which has a long and proud history in the Westminster tradition. I have known the Speaker for many years. I have enjoyed his company here and in his electorate. I look forward to his no-nonsense style and practical handling in controlling this chamber.

I am honoured that the electors of Gympie have placed their trust in me to represent them in this parliament. My electorate, which is centred on the city of Gympie, also spans the communities of the Mary Valley and Imbil to the south; the coastal communities of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Cooloola Cove to the east; west to Widgee, Lower Wonga and Glen Echo; and in the north, the communities of Gunalda, Bauple, Gundiah, Curra and Glenwood. I am immensely proud of the values Gympie residents hold and I hope to repay their trust by advocating and fighting for the things that matter to them.

When we come to this place we rely on the support of our families. Without them, none of us could do this job properly. I would like to publicly thank my wife, Michele, for her support. Michele has been doing this for a long time, since my election as the member for Gympie in 2015 and before that, as deputy mayor of the former Kilkivan shire council and the Gympie Regional Council. I would also like to thank my daughter Steph and her family and my daughter, Josie, for their support. They have put up with a lot over the years in respect of my absences and calls on my time. This is especially more so now given my new role as a minister.

I would not be here today without a team of supporters. The LNP relies solely on the support and hard work of volunteers, friends and family members. We do not have paid union officials, political operatives and activists to support us. Our support comes from everyday Queenslanders who help on their days and nights off and take leave from work. I would like to thank my campaign team and supporters including my campaign manager and SEC chairman, Mark Ostwald, as well as Derek Sheppard, Kathy Worth, Wayne and Sue Plant and Bruce Patrick, amongst many others. I would also like to thank the many volunteers, community members and party members who helped during the campaign. I would also like to thank my electorate staff for everything they do.

The job of Leader of the Opposition can be onerous and lonely. I thank the Premier for leading us over the last four years through a long, dedicated and focused campaign to stand up for Queenslanders. No-one can doubt the Premier's work ethic in delivering for all Queenslanders. Elections always bring change and loss. Some choose retirement and others have it imposed on them by the reality of numbers at the ballot box. It is a privilege to be able to retire from this place at your own choosing. The former member for Gregory, Lachlan Miller; the former member for Burleigh, Michael Hart; and the former member for Oodgeroo, Mark Robinson, left of their own choosing. The former member for Ipswich West, Darren Zanow, left earlier in the year because of major health issues. I would like to publicly thank them for their dedicated service. I look forward to catching up sometime in the future.

Last year's election proved that Queenslanders wanted change and they voted for it. The Crisafulli government was given a mandate to deliver on its commitment to restore safety where you live, to reinstate health services where you need them, to return respect for your money, to re-imagine a place to call home and to redesign a government that works for you. It will be a fresh start for Queensland and a government of accountability focused on the everyday issues that matter. The years I have spent in local government and in this state parliament have reconfirmed for me that what matters are basic commonsense policies which are grounded in our communities and the lives of everyday hardworking Queenslanders.

As a region experiencing high growth, Gympie faces all the infrastructure and service issues that that sort of pressure brings. Health services, law and order, roads and local infrastructure have been ignored for years by Labor governments which have taken Gympie for granted. On every measure Gympie has systemic problems in delivering health services. Since 2015 every Labor budget contained record investment in health yet the outcomes were worse and services declined in Gympie. Hardworking staff do their best in difficult circumstances. Patients and their families are distressed and frustrated and services have been stretched. It is now the sixth year since the Master Clinical Services Plan revealed that Gympie Hospital cannot provide the level of service needed. It found that the hospital is on a constrained site at the top of a steep hill, parking is poor and services are spread across multiple poorly connected old buildings. I look forward to the delivery of the preliminary business case for the hospital. As we are learning, the former government treated health as a media opportunity and failed to deliver.

The former government's reduction in health services forced patients to travel to other regions for even basic services. Cooloola Coast Medical Transport and the new Gympie Medical Transport fill in the gaps where patient transport is outside the scope of the Queensland Ambulance Service and where it cannot be supplied by private or public transport. Many of the members of the Cooloola Coast permanent population are on low incomes or are elderly. They must travel for basic treatments that are available in other places.

Cooloola Coast Medical Transport volunteers take patients to appointments in Gympie and further afield to the Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay and Brisbane. Gympie Medical Transport does a similar job for more than 1,200 clients. Its cars travel an average of 30,000 kilometres a month, taking patients to specialist centres and hospitals in Hervey Bay and south to Noosa, Cooroy, Nambour, Buderim, Caloundra and Brisbane. During the election I was able to secure a \$50,000 commitment for each of these services.

Glenwood in the north of my electorate is the fastest growing area in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area. More than 6,000 residents live in Glenwood and the surrounding towns. They often wait more than 40 to 60 minutes for an ambulance to come from Gympie or Maryborough and double that to take someone back to a hospital in Gympie or Maryborough. We have committed \$250,000 for a business case on the viability of an ambulance station in Glenwood.

Gympie state controlled roads are also under increasing pressure. A prime example is Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay roads, which also service tourists travelling to Fraser Island. For several years locals have pushed for upgrades including passing lanes on Tin Can Bay Road. I am pleased that the Crisafulli government is already delivering by consulting with locals around the issues on both roads.

For years I have advocated for a roundabout at the intersection of Tin Can Bay and Bayside roads. I have promoted petitions and advocated in the parliament through speeches and questions to Labor ministers and through correspondence to ministers and in the media. I am pleased that the Crisafulli government is delivering a roundabout to improve safety and traffic flow. Construction is underway and will also include a new footpath, pedestrian refuge and pram ramps.

I am honoured that the Premier asked me to serve as the Minister for Primary Industries, a portfolio that is very dear to me and my family. Our connection to the sector remains strong through our family grazing property. I plan to deliver for thousands of families, workers, businesses and communities which rely on Queensland's vast array of primary industries. Agriculture, fishing and forestry are central pillars of Queensland's economy, employing almost 377,000 people, or 13 per cent of the state's workforce. They are major employers and the lifeblood of many regional communities, directly supporting more than 41,000 businesses and 71,000 people across the state. The Crisafulli government will back our primary industries sector because we believe in it and value it. I welcome my new colleagues who represent rural and regional seats.

Before the election, the Premier and I unveiled a bold target to drive future investment and boost Queensland's agricultural output to \$30 billion by 2030. This target will underpin our entire policy platform. We have already started work on improving biosecurity, ramping up our fight against fire ants, working towards our landmark plan for the timber industry and setting out a comprehensive vision and plan for the future: our blueprint. I want to thank the hardworking staff in my department who are helping me deliver our commitments.

Our vision is simple: it is to make primary industries more profitable and more productive, to be at the cutting edge in farm productivity. We want to see more sustainably grown local timber and taking advantage of new, exciting add-on industries and manufacturing that work alongside it. We are committed to using trusted and transparent science to make informed decisions regarding fisheries and

regulatory impact statements on the impacts of changes. The Crisafulli government is determined to supercharge primary industries to ensure Queensland is poised to become a national leader in food and fibre production. To achieve this, we need a long-term strategy that will ensure no part of the sector is left behind.

In February nearly 280 stakeholders from across the state came together to co-design a 25-year vision. It was the largest primary industries consultation in Queensland in more than a decade. The blueprint, Primary Industries Prosper 2050, is part of our commitment to deliver a fresh start which is built on collaboration and meaningful action. It will be practical, deliverable and built on the knowledge of those who work, live and breathe our primary industries. I want decisions to connect back to the blueprint. We are currently consulting across the state for local input. I do not intend for it to become a plan for the sake of a plan—a dust collector. That is why it will be supported by a series of five-year milestone plans which we can act upon. They will be our benchmarks.

As I advised the House this morning, 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 our 25-year blueprint vision for primary industries. The Queensland Future Timber Plan will ensure Queensland will have access to local timber required to build one million homes by 2044. We are determined to get our timber industry back on track. Our actions stand in stark contrast to the last 10 years of Labor governments which had an anti-timber and anti-forestry agenda. In 2019 the former premier Annastacia Palaszczuk went to Maryborough and promised an action plan and a two-year study into securing future supplies of timber. The then premier never delivered. It was a hollow promise.

Before the election the Crisafulli government committed to an extra \$50 million investment in biosecurity over the next four years and an additional 100 frontline staff. We are already delivering. In December the recruitment started for our new biosecurity officers. We have also increased our fight against feral pigs with a \$2 million commitment into action plans and new control methods which are in line with our commonsense and hands-on approach. In March I announced a record \$24 million in additional funding to deal with fire ants, bringing the total of the Queensland Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce commitment up to \$61 million. This is in addition to the national cost shared program. For several years I have been critical of the former government's lack of urgency and management of this program. For some time the Invasive Species Council has fought for increased suppression funding. The Queensland advocacy manager, Mr Reece Pianta, said—

This is important leadership and action from Premier Crisafulli and Agricultural Minister Perrett ...

They have understood that current levels of suppression funding have been woefully inadequate and are stepping up to protect Australia from fire ants.

He also said that it—

... shows the new Queensland government is listening and has clearly prioritised the fire ant threat.

I am honoured to represent Gympie in this parliament and to be given the privilege of delivering in the primary industries portfolio. I look forward to the Crisafulli government delivering for the Gympie electorate and for the state.



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.32 pm): I want to begin my address-in-reply speech by acknowledging that recently our community mourned the passing of Dr Harry Ratnam OAM, aged 74. Dr Harry, as he was known in our community, was based in Riverview where he cared for locals for 39 years before retiring only a few years ago. He worked very hard and passionately for our community for a long time and I was very privileged to be able to spend time with Dr Harry in my capacity as both the local member and a local resident.

Well known and much loved, Dr Harry established his Riverview practice in 1982 after moving from Malaysia. Dr Ratnam received the Ipswich Centenary Medal for volunteer services to our community in 2004 and in 2007 received the Order of Australia medal for services to medicine and to the broader Ipswich community. Dr Harry was also honoured by Ipswich City Council with the naming of a local park after him on Henty Drive in Redbank Plains, not too far from my hood. On behalf of our community, I say thank you, Dr Harry, for your dedicated service of almost four decades and our community's condolences to Dr Harry's wife, Raj, son Dinesh, daughter Reshni and of course his broader family.

I am honoured to receive the support, the confidence and the responsibility to represent our Bundamba community for a third time. It is a community that I love and it is my home. It is a rapidly growing community that has seen enormous changes, particularly driven through residential growth,



over the five years that I have had the privilege and responsibility of serving the community as their member in this place. Over that time we have seen growth not only in residential population but also in the services that are being delivered there, whether it be health care, education or transport.

Whilst the Labor Party is in opposition following the 2024 election, locally in the city of Ipswich all members in this place are again Labor. I want to place on record and acknowledge the re-election of my neighbours—the member for Jordan, the member for Ipswich and I congratulate the member for Ipswich West on her election to this place. Indeed, I would like to also congratulate every member in this place whether they are newly elected members or whether they are returned members. Whether it has been a short term in this place or indeed many decades, it is an incredible privilege and responsibility that all 93 of us have in this place.

My city of Ipswich was very loud and clear in its choice of Labor members as their representatives in this chamber. I say that because I implore the government to respect the choice of the people of the city of Ipswich and my community of Bundamba whom they have chosen to represent them in this place. Far too often the discourse and the debate in this parliament and many others is reduced to a binary choice of one party or the other, of right or wrong. In fact, the systems and procedures in this place lend itself to that in terms of how votes are cast.

The Crisafulli government has made very lofty commitments right around our great state and the Labor opposition will absolutely hold the government to those commitments, whether it is improvements to local sporting clubs or to providing lower electricity bills and the essential services that our communities need, particularly growing communities like our Bundamba community. I always say that anyone in our community can rely on me to fight for a fair go on their behalf and to have a crack because I see it as my job and as a Labor opposition we see it as our job to fight every day to make sure that people's voices are being heard and that our communities are getting their fair share. There is no doubt that there are so many households in so many communities, including my Bundamba community, that are suffering under the cost-of-living pressures that are so prevalent right throughout the state of Queensland and indeed across the nation.

My community has been crystal clear in saying that they want, they need and they expect support from their government when it comes to meeting these increasing cost-of-living pressures through meaningful and direct assistance. That includes energy rebates which the previous Labor government was very proud to deliver over several years, including last year with a \$1,000 rebate. That assistance needs to be continued for struggling households in our Bundamba community, as well as right throughout Queensland. It also includes things such as 50-cent fares. I acknowledge that during the election campaign the government matched Labor's commitment to make 50-cent fares permanent and the government has thus far been true to its word. I hope to see that continue over the term of this parliament.

I was very concerned to hear that the government has made a decision not to continue the freeze on registration which will mean that registration for Queensland's road users will increase. Increasing registration fees for vehicles at a time when so many households are doing it tough will only add pressure. I would implore the government to revisit that in its upcoming budget and not to jack up the price of registration.

When it comes to the \$200 FairPlay vouchers that save families a very significant amount when it comes to getting their kids into sport, I have spoken to many families with three or more children and these vouchers mean a saving of over \$600 per season for that family which helps them to get their kids into healthy activities. It also supports our local clubs that have seen an enormous uptick in enrolments. The wonderful people who support and keep our local clubs running are all volunteers. They all have busy lives. They have their own families. A lot of the time their kids play at the club and they played at the club when they were younger. These sports vouchers really make a difference, not only in terms of healthy active lifestyles for kids and not only in terms of saving families money right when they need it most but also by providing a great pathway for kids who might be at risk of going in the wrong direction. On behalf of the Bundamba community I would implore the government to continue to provide the \$200 FairPlay vouchers.

I am very humbled to be the shadow minister for energy. We have a power station in our community. I have had the pleasure of going out and spending time with the great crew at Swanbank many times. Ipswich more broadly has a proud history of providing energy to the state of Queensland. When it comes to the six months of the Crisafulli LNP government in Queensland from October last year, the record of this government in energy has been extremely disappointing. I would say it has been regrettable. We have seen the Callide C3 explosion cover-up, we have seen projects cut, such as the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro energy storage project.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** We have seen the re-scoping that is currently underway at Borumba.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr McCALLUM:** We have seen a significant downsizing of CopperString. Only half of it has been committed to be built: the eastern half of the line from Townsville out to Hughenden. We have communities on the western side from Hughenden out to Mount Isa who are wondering whether or not the line will be built all the way through as they expected. We have proponents along the line wanting to make very serious decisions around investment, job creation and economic growth who have had their plans thrown into disarray.

We have also seen defunding of job-creating projects in Central Queensland around emerging industries such as green hydrogen. CQ-H2 was defunded by a deliberate decision of this current government. There will be more threats coming throughout the term of this parliament, despite the promises by the Premier during the election campaign to deliver cheaper bills and a sustainable supply of energy, because they have committed to repealing our legislated renewable energy targets which increases risk for industry. I think it is a great shame and it is very unbecoming of members of the government to be throwing out cheap political interjections when what we are actually talking about here is literally billions of dollars of investment in the communities of some of the members opposite.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr McCALLUM:** It might be a source of triviality for those on the other side of the House, but for Labor this is very serious. This is about job creation. This is about facilitating more investment, particularly into regional Queensland. It is about not losing the momentum that Queensland had, and still has, when it comes to attracting clean energy investment. We are a world leader when it comes to the energy transition. There are enormous opportunities that are at our fingertips, but we need to ensure that Queensland has the right policy settings, the right laws and the right regulatory environment to allow us to stay at the cutting edge of the energy transition. In my view, and in the view of my community because I have discussed it with many locals, this should not be a matter of partisan politics. We saw what the energy and climate wars cost this country when they were played out federally. In Queensland we cannot take retrograde steps.

I would like to finish by thanking the many people who offered their time, their support and their help. I have an amazing campaign team led by a gentleman named Elliott. They really went above and beyond during the campaign last year. To all of my local branchies, thank you for your support and guidance and for the always direct feedback that I receive.

I acknowledge the enormous number of people who were able to come out and help with pre-poll, be there on election day and set up booths: to Bruce from Goodna and the team at the St Francis Xavier booth; to Monisha, Ashton and the team who helped at Bellbird Park State School; to the team at Woodlinks State School; to Michael and the team at Redbank Plains State School; to Ian and the team that were at Redbank Plains State High School; and to the teams that were at the booths at Bundamba State School and Oasis Church of Christ.

Every single one of us in this House owes so many people an enormous debt of gratitude for their generosity in helping and supporting us. When it comes to those who are closest to us, our friends and our family, that also includes the sacrifices that we make. We all know that we make enormous sacrifices to do what we do to be community representatives. We make that choice willingly. Our friends and family do not make that choice as actively as we do, yet they make the same sacrifices. My partner, Susan, and her son, Sebastian, my mum and my dad, my brothers and my sister have my eternal and deep gratitude.

Thank you, Bundamba. I am humbled to continue to have the privilege and responsibility of serving you.



**Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.52 pm): Today I rise with deep gratitude and an immense sense of duty to once again serve as the member for Nicklin in this parliament. The privilege of representing my community is not one I take lightly and I am humbled that the people of Nicklin have placed their trust in me once again. I thank the Governor of Queensland for her address and congratulate the Speaker on his appointment. My congratulations and thanks go to all our new and returning members. Of course, to our new Premier, David Crisafulli, congratulations.

The last four years have been a journey: one of reflection, challenge and a renewed understanding of the issues that affect the lives of everyday Queenslanders. Returning to my role as a frontline police officer in 2020 gave me a fresh perspective on the reality of policing in our state. I have seen firsthand the pressure placed upon our officers, the strain on our frontline services and the urgent need for real reforms in areas such as domestic violence response, police resourcing and community safety. Today, I stand here not just as a member of parliament but also as someone who has lived the challenges faced by our first responders and our communities every day. At this point, I particularly thank Superintendent Craig 'Ardie' Hawkins for his support when I lost the seat of Nicklin and for encouraging and supporting me in a return to the Queensland Police Service. I also want to thank the Queensland Police Chaplain, Matt Govan, who was also there for me and supported me in some dark times.

I have spoken in this House before about my mental health struggles at times when I was a police officer and I am not going to sugar-coat it: I needed support to return to frontline policing. I also want to thank Mark Kelly, a former police officer and now a psychologist with the wonderful organisation Blue Hope, for his support in assisting me to return to frontline duties in the Queensland police. Mental health, especially for our frontline emergency service workers and Defence Force personnel, should be spoken about. I encourage all members of those services to look after your mental health and to seek support even when you think you might not need it, particularly after critical incidents. The professionals at Blue Hope, in particular, know the signs, when you might not realise them yourself, of deteriorating mental health and they can give you great techniques to keep yourself well.

The men and women of the Queensland Police Service serve our communities with unwavering commitment, but they were being let down by the former government with a system that was struggling to keep up with demand. One of the most significant issues I experienced firsthand was the enormous workload placed on police officers due to a broken domestic violence response system. Every day our officers are responding to calls from victims in desperate need, but the system is failing to deliver the outcomes they deserve. We need urgent reform, more resources, better coordination between agencies and a legal framework that truly supports victims while allowing police to do their jobs effectively.

Another major issue is police resourcing. Under the previous government, police numbers failed to keep pace with community needs, stretching our officers thin and making it harder to provide the level of service Queenslanders expect and deserve. The solution is clear: we must ensure that police have the resources, personnel and powers they need to maintain law and order and keep our communities safe. That is why I am committed to supporting measures that will recruit, retain and properly equip our police officers. I will fight for legislative reforms that empower them to do their jobs efficiently and ensure that they are not bogged down by red tape and ineffective systems. We must also ensure better mental health support and working conditions for our officers who face trauma and intense pressure on a daily basis, as I referred to earlier.

Throughout the election campaign, I made clear my commitment to real, tangible outcomes for our community. Today I reaffirm my pledge to deliver key initiatives that will enhance safety, improve infrastructure and support local businesses and community groups. One of my top priorities is the establishment of a permanent police beat shopfront in the Nambour CBD. This will provide a visible and accessible police presence, improving community safety and addressing crime concerns that residents and business owners have voiced for far too long. Coupled with this, we have committed to upgraded CCTV cameras in key areas that will be live streamed directly to police, ensuring faster response times and a stronger deterrent against criminal activity.

The safety of our children and families is paramount and that is why I was pleased to announce, as an election commitment, much needed infrastructure improvements at key intersections in Woombye, Palmwoods and Cooroy. Those intersections have long been a source of frustration and safety concerns for locals. I will work with all levels of government to ensure the necessary upgrades are delivered. Our region deserves safe and efficient roads and I will fight to make that a reality.

In Cooroy, the intersections of Elm Street, Myall Street and Diamond Street were put in the too-hard basket by the former government for too long. Even with a Labor member for Nicklin, the former Labor government did nothing other than run a petition to get the minister to do community consultation. That consultation never happened under that member and it did not need to happen as it had already happened when I was the member in opposition. The time for talking and consultation is over. The time for action is well overdue and that is why I was proud to take a commitment to the people of Cooroy that the Crisafulli LNP government will commence work on a business case and design for those long neglected and dangerous intersections.

Similarly, the Palmwoods overpass was long neglected by successive Labor governments. I note that, just before the election and despite doing nothing for four years, the former Labor member, who was a member of the government, promised that he would get a business case and design done after the election. Well, he was too late by about four years and the community knew it. They knew they could not trust Labor to do it. I am proud to be in a government that will finally take action on that complex intersection and overpass with a business case and design.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and nowhere is that more evident than in Nicklin. Over the many years I have spent as a member, and previously a board member, of the Nambour Chamber of Commerce, along with attending various other chambers throughout Nicklin, I have met hundreds of small business owners. These are the producers of wealth in our community. They employ our people and they drive economic activity in our region. They are the important members of our community who take a risk on an idea. They get up every day and work hard in the hope of succeeding, often generating a greater income for their staff than for themselves, especially initially.

I want to be part of a government that gets out of their way and lets them pursue that success. As a proud advocate for our local business community, I will work to cut red tape, encourage investment and support initiatives that help small business thrive. Whether it is securing funding for local projects, advocating for fairer regulations or prompting local enterprise, I will be a champion for Nicklin's business owners and workers.

A strong local economy is vital for job creation and I will work to ensure businesses have access to skilled workers and the resources they need to expand. This includes advocating for vocational training programs and apprenticeships that give young people the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

Our sporting and community groups are the heart of our region, providing connection, good health and opportunity for people of all ages. These organisations rely on dedicated volunteers and strong support from government, and I am committed to ensuring that our community clubs receive the funding and assistance they need to continue their invaluable work.

Through my years of working at PCYC, I have seen the important benefits of young people participating in sport, particularly team sport. It is vital for their development, both physically and socially. Being part of a team, learning to participate and work with others for a common goal, making friends and learning how to win and lose are important life lessons that kids get in sport.

We also must invest in our youth, ensuring they have access to these sporting facilities, arts programs and community activities that foster personal growth and a sense of belonging. This is why I will advocate for increased funding for grassroots sports, cultural initiatives and youth mentorship programs in Nicklin. I look forward to the rollout of funding for Gold Standard Early Intervention programs for our local young people.

I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to reform in youth justice. Having spent 33 years as a police officer—and over 22 of those years were spent directly in youth crime investigation and crime prevention—I have seen firsthand the impacts of the failures of previous Labor governments in dealing particularly with the cohort of serious repeat offenders.

Our young people in Queensland are overwhelmingly outstanding young citizens and the vast majority of those who make bad choices and commit offences respond well to police cautions and other interventions and do not reoffend. Police youth programs in schools, PCYCs and our child protection investigation units do a great job, but they need more support with resources and the laws need to deal particularly with serious repeat offenders. That is why our commitment to Gold Standard Early Intervention, consequences for actions, proper rehabilitation and 12 months of supervision post detention are so important moving forward. I look forward to the impacts that those policies will have on helping young people get back on track and reducing the number of victims of crime in Queensland.

I also want to acknowledge the new government's focus on community safety, housing, healthcare access and cost-of-living relief. These are critical issues for the people of Nicklin and Queensland as a whole, and I stand ready to work collaboratively with my colleagues across this parliament to ensure real progress is made in these areas.

Housing affordability remains a major concern and we must take decisive action to ensure that families, young people and seniors can access secure and affordable housing. I will be an advocate for increased investment in social housing, incentives for first home buyers and measures to combat homelessness in our region.

Similarly, healthcare access—especially in regional areas—needs to be improved. Too many Queenslanders are facing long wait times and limited access to specialists. I will advocate for better funding for regional hospitals, additional GP services and increased mental health support in our community.


Cost-of-living pressures continue to weigh heavily on households. It is our responsibility, as legislators, to implement policies that ease the burden. Whether it is reducing the cost of electricity, improving public transport access with permanent 50-cent fares or ensuring fair wages and job security, I will always fight for measures that support hardworking Queenslanders.

I will also push for improvements in education, ensuring that our schools have the resources and support they need to provide a world-class education to our children. Investing in our future generations is one of the most important commitments we can make as a government.

I want to take this opportunity now to thank my campaign team, who assisted us to win back the seat of Nicklin for the LNP. The experience and mentorship of my campaign manager, Jeff Seeney, was invaluable, and I thank him. I also thank our regional chair Mitchell Dickens, local chair Gavin Reinhardt, campaign committee members Audrey Lyttle, Vanessa Paulger, Ron Bailey and Lorraine Gallop, and my wife, whom I will get to shortly. I thank all the volunteers who assisted through the election campaign, and everyone in this House would appreciate that there are just too many to mention individually but without them none of us would be here in the House.

Most importantly, I want to thank my family—my wife, Kelly, and daughters, Julia and Olivia. It is fair to say I took the loss of the seat hard in 2020. For the first time in my adult life I was unemployed. I had no guarantee of income to support my family. It was an extremely stressful time. I was able to get through it only with their support, encouragement and love. I am immensely proud of them. I love them dearly and thank them for everything they do for me. My wife, Kelly, has served the people of Queensland in the Department of Justice for over 35 years. I thank her for her unwavering support of me and the extra mile she goes every time there is something to do, especially when elections come around. She not only takes on the harder roles but also picks up the slack where there are gaps. I also thank my daughters: Julia, who has taken up a role serving the people of Queensland as a police officer, and Olivia, who is also serving the people of Queensland in her new career, and I believe she is in the gallery somewhere. Hey, Liv. Kelly and I are so proud of the wonderful women they have become.

Serving as a police officer for 33 years instilled in me a deep sense of duty, integrity and perseverance. That same commitment drives me today in my returning role as a member of parliament. My job is to listen, to act and to deliver for the people who have placed their faith in me. To the people of Nicklin, thank you for your trust. I will not let you down. I am here to serve, to advocate and to fight for the best outcomes for our community. Together, we will build a safer, stronger and more prosperous future for Nicklin and Queensland.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.08 pm): I would like to start by respectfully acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather—the Turrbal and Yagara peoples—and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I also want to acknowledge the traditional owners of Waterford—the Yagara and Yugambah language nation—and again acknowledge elders past, present and emerging.

I am humbled to be standing here once more representing the Waterford community, who have continued to put their trust in me to fight for their needs—something I consider to be one of the greatest honours of my life. I also want to take this opportunity to recognise the decision made by Queenslanders at the last election. I acknowledge and respect their choice and, in opposition now, Labor is listening to Queenslanders and working hard to hold the LNP government to account. I want to reassure Queenslanders we will continue to do that hard work over the next few years.

When it comes to our Waterford community, I am proud of what we have achieved together—achievements like the biggest ever expansion to Logan Hospital. When I speak with local residents, they always tell me how proud they are of our wonderful hospital and the hardworking health heroes who care for them. It is people like Dado, who gave birth to her twins, Jamie and James, who were then cared for in our new neonatal unit. She had nothing but praise for the world-class facilities and of course the dedicated and caring health workers.

Another local project close to my heart is the Salam Safe House, which is run by the Islamic Women's Association of Australia. I was able to help facilitate the opening of the safe house, which is the first refuge for culturally and linguistically diverse women in the country. The facility supports women

across the Logan region who are experiencing family and domestic violence. I want to acknowledge Auntie Galila, who fought so hard to support and protect the women of our community. Without Auntie Galila this would not have been possible.

We have seen so many major road upgrades; the busway expansion; the opening of the new Loganlea fire station; the Logan Motorway upgrade; a new school hall for Loganlea State High School, which is about to commence very soon; and new multistorey classrooms and learning spaces at Marsden State High School and Mabel Park State High School. Our community in Logan is growing and expanding, and this vital infrastructure provides locals with access to the things they need that make a real difference to their quality of life. Thanks to the Logan Hospital expansion, there are now over 300 new beds, new treatment areas, state-of-the-art surgery facilities and four new floors for their emergency department building. This means that the people of Logan have access to even higher quality health care.

While I am immensely proud of the work we are able to do locally, these achievements extend well beyond the Waterford electorate. Our Labor government was able to deliver the biggest cost-of-living relief package in the nation. We oversaw the implementation of 50-cent fares, \$1,000 energy rebates, free kindy, free TAFE, FairPlay sports vouchers, extensive vaccine rollouts to protect Queenslanders and so much more. Every single one of these Labor initiatives is so critical because we recognise what matters to Queenslanders, and we will continue to fight.

I am especially proud of the work we have done to improve the lives of Queensland women and girls. We have criminalised coercive control, with laws commencing next Monday. We introduced affirmative consent. We invested \$1 billion in women and girls' health, and we saw real progress in closing the gender pay gap. One of the most significant, of course, was the legalisation of abortion in Queensland measures, because abortion is health care. Unfortunately, despite the importance of this issue, the Premier has silenced those of us who believe it should be a priority and does not want it even spoken about in this parliament. I say that women and girls in Queensland deserve better.

In my new role as the shadow minister for women, I will not let this advocacy falter. I am determined to continue to fight for the women of Queensland. This election and the many recent political events across the globe have highlighted how much work our society still has yet to do to continue to fight for the rights of women. I have committed to showing up every day for this cause.

While I could talk for longer about Labor's achievements, I would also like to highlight what we have already seen from the LNP government—and what a record it is! They have closed down pill-testing sites, backed by health experts and doctors. They have abolished the state's Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry. They have banned gender-affirming health care for young Queenslanders. They have covered up an explosion at the Callide Power Station. The health minister has repeatedly refused to answer questions about women's health because it would be 'too burdensome'.

They have quietly torn up plans to provide Queensland children with vital relationship and health education and then backflipped as soon as the opposition brought this to light. They have cut funding to the Environmental Defenders Office. They have appointed LNP mates to every possible job vacancy including potentially sending Queensland back to the dark old days by appointing John Sosso to the Queensland Redistribution Commission. In the words of Brittany Higgins this week, they have sent Queensland lagging even further behind the Morrison government when it comes to protecting women from sexual harassment in the workplace by indefinitely pausing respect at work laws.

Now, of course, the LNP are preparing their first budget, and I have to say I am feeling very concerned for the people of Queensland. This is a government whose trademark is a trail of broken promises, rating outlook downgrades and cuts. The LNP Treasurer came into power with beefed-up numbers and no true fiscal plan. A government without a fiscal plan will always face consequences from credit ratings agencies—and that is exactly what we have seen.

Director of government ratings at S&P, Anthony Walker, took one look at the LNP government's MYFER and knew it was politics that was clouding the fiscal picture. He questioned whether the \$217 billion debt projection was real or just setting the stage for the new government to play hero. Ratings agencies went through Queensland's budget books right before the election and they put us on a stable outlook, which means they did not see any danger of a credit downgrade under Labor. So what has changed since then? A new LNP government. Because they have chosen to play politics—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I am sorry. I know those opposite find this funny, but it is not me saying this; it is the credit ratings agencies. Queensland's borrowing costs are now higher because the Treasurer decided to play politics with the budget.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Callide, that is enough.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** It is Queensland families who are actually paying the price. The *Australian Financial Review* said that it is possible that there was 'exaggeration and inflation' when it came to the budget update. That is not the Labor opposition saying this; it is the *Fin Review*, thank you very much! There was a \$23 billion in a line item on page 7 for underfunded legacy projects in operational funding where the bulk of the operational funding is in the out years, and we still do not know what the \$23 billion is for. They cannot tell us. Maybe, once again, they have just decided to beef up the numbers to be the hero.

I spoke in my community about how important the Logan Hospital expansion is. I am afraid to say that we are already seeing early signs of cuts at other hospitals across Queensland. Work has come to a halt at the Redcliffe Hospital, bed numbers have been cut on the Gold Coast and communities left in limbo. That cannot happen in our community because our growing community deserves its upgrades and additional services. Families are counting on it.

The LNP lets us down at all levels of government time and time again. In fact, my opponent at the state election—the LNP local councillor, Jacob Heremaia—cannot even fix a local road upgrade. I cannot believe he decided to put his hand up and run for state parliament! The roads in our electorate that are marked as black spots are not prioritised by the local LNP councillor. I have vowed to the people of Waterford that I will continue to fight every day to hold this local LNP councillor to account. I will keep fighting to make sure Logan gets the investment it deserves.

While the next few years ahead will look different to anything I have experienced before, I will continue to uphold my values and fight for those residents in Waterford and in Queensland. I am doing it for people like Peter, who needed support with securing an extremely specific type of prosthetic leg. He came to see me, and I have to say I was delighted to be able to sit down and spend time with him and assist him and do everything I could in my power to make it happen because he, like every other Queenslanders, deserves excellent quality of life with the ability to engage with his community. I am doing it for people like Tammy, who runs a charity called Formally Ever After, which helps year 12 students struggling financially to attend their school formal. Tammy needed help after a fire destroyed a large majority of the donations that were given to the charity. My office was used as a drop-off point for countless donations from our community, and I was so happy to play a small role in getting change rooms built at the new premises for Formally Ever After.

That is just the kind of community we have in Logan. We look out for each other. We look out for our neighbours and, when times get tough, we band together to come back stronger than before, just like we did after the 2022 floods. In times of intense hardship, it is incredible to see the resilience and compassion of people in my community and how strangers help each other. These are the people I represent and I am so proud to do so.

It is fair to say that none of this would be possible without the relentless work of my incredible team of volunteers—the countless hours doorknocking in the heat, the late-night phone calls, the roadside stalls that left your arms feeling that they would fall off from all of the waving. That commitment to our great Labor Party, our values and our community, is something that I will forever be grateful for.

Thank you to my dedicated team of volunteers, led by Ben Driscoll as well as Courtney Padget, who helped manage everyone and kept the wheels of operation in motion. I give a special shout-out to Lonnie Neilson with his wife, Ruth, who supported him so he could support me. Thank you also to: Sharon Robertson, Toni Le Pierres, Joshua Lucey, Ben Yeuell, Sam Wong, Ali Alimi, Gail Kerr, Judith Logan, the Bansraj family, Rachel Simpkin-Bale, Sally Traynor and the Slacks Creek branch, led by Kate Grisedale and Steve Johns. There are too many other volunteers to name, but I am so appreciative to everyone who was part of our Waterford team.

Thank you to my wonderful staff in the Waterford electorate office, Louie Naumovski and Rowan Holzberger, for always going above and beyond to help our community. I give a big special mention to Rowan Holzberger, who has now left the Waterford electorate office but was given a big promotion by the good people of Forde, whom he will now represent in Canberra. We are truly lucky in Waterford to have such incredible people serve and represent our community. Congratulations to Rowan.

A big thank you to Kate Flanders and the team at the Queensland party office. I am so grateful to Kate for everything she has done to support me and our party throughout the years. A huge thank you to the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union and our broader union movement, whose continued support has been incredibly motivating for me throughout many years.


I have a special shout-out to my former chief of staff, Olivia Amsden. In 2016 Olivia started her journey with me in Waterford as an assistant electorate officer. It was very special to watch her work her way up to chief of staff of my ministerial office. Watching not only her personal achievements but also to see her mentor other younger staff in our office has filled me with great pride. Thank you, Olivia.

I also say a big thank you to all of my former ministerial staff. They were an incredibly hardworking team, driven by passion to make a real difference in our state. I am so proud of what we were able to achieve together. Thank you to Alice Gilliver for being with me since day one, Monica Irvine, Finn Semple, Stephanie Thompson, Michaela Edwards, Natarjsha Kramer—who has welcomed her beautiful baby Henley to the world—Amanda Medew, Isabelle Shoshani, Courtney Padget, Rachel Western, Mitch Condon, Maddie Cummington, Maddy Campbell, Michael Crowe, Virginia Healy, Asaesja Young and Shweta Dayal.

I could not be more excited to share that three of my former ministerial staff—Alice, Monica and Courtney—have stayed by my side and are now helping our community in the Waterford electorate office along with Louie.

I also have to thank my wonderful family. My mum, Chris, my MVP at pre-poll, never lets anyone walk past her without getting a Labor how-to-vote card in their hand. She did a wonderful job on election day. My dad, Eric; my sister, Erin and her husband, Charles; my nephews, Cormack and Finbar—I am looking forward to having a little bit more time in one of my absolutely favourite roles, which is Auntie Shannon; my parents-in-law, Kerry and Wally; and a big shout-out to my Auntie Paula and my cousin Liam, who volunteered for me on pre-poll. Of course thank you to my amazing husband, Matt Collins, for all of his support and a big thank you to our girls, Sibella and Maggie.

Our fight is not over. I am looking forward to what this term brings and I will continue to deliver for the good people of Waterford.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.22 pm): First and foremost, I would like to thank the good people of Toowoomba North for expressing their will for whom they want to serve and represent them in this House. This was my sixth attempt at an election and my seventh attempt to represent the seat. When I first ran, I lost the preselection. When I was preselected I ran against Kerry Shine, a formidable opponent and now councillor who, at the time, had a 60 per cent margin. In that campaign in 2009 I lost, but slowly, slowly I would like to think that I have worked hard to serve and represent the people of Toowoomba North. A lot of what I learned about how to campaign and how to represent my electorate was learned from Kerry Shine. As much as I do not agree with much of his politics, his work ethic in the community was always respected by me.

At this election I would like to thank the people of Toowoomba North. My primary vote is now up at 57 per cent. It is very humbling to know that, for nearly six out of 10 people who cast a ballot, the first name they put down was mine. The TPP is 66.5 per cent, so I am very pleased. I commit that I will not let down the people of Toowoomba North. Out of interest, compared to Toowoomba North, my colleague in Toowoomba South lost both the primary vote and the TPP vote for the first time. I do not want to cast too much shade. He was a little distracted with trying to be Treasurer of the state.

I also congratulate the Speaker, Pat Weir, my neighbour to the west. Six out of 10 people in Pat's electorate put his name first. He has one of the safest seats in Queensland at a margin of 73.6 per cent overall. That is a credit to how well respected he is in the community, how well he represents their views and how much they trust him to come to this place. It is great to see him in the high office of Speaker.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. David Crisafulli, our Premier and Minister for Veterans and the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. These two guys work so hard to let the people of Queensland know (a) what our plan is and (b) that we will not let them down. It is a credit to that team, who worked every corner of the state every hour of every day. They were up early and in bed late, going from location to location to let the people of Queensland know their voices were being heard.

The people of Queensland knew they were facing a crisis around safety. Our Making Queensland Safer Laws—and I will talk a little bit about those later—were something they wanted. The reason they were developed is that that is what the people of Queensland were telling us. They were telling me that



as I did my community corners and they were telling the Premier and Deputy Premier and all of the other ministers as everybody was travelling around the state. It is a great credit to those two, who now lead us in government. I look forward to serving as we go forward.

I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers and my family. I know we normally do these things at the end, but the dinner break is going to split my speech so I will talk a little bit about the electorate when I come back after dinner. I will move now to thank both my family and the volunteers.

I thank my wife, Sue, who moved continents so we could spend our lives together and lives inland when she would rather be swimming in the ocean in the morning. She has made a lot of sacrifices for us to spend our lives together. I really do appreciate the sacrifices she makes not only during the campaign but at times when I am away. This job takes you away from family a lot, as everybody knows. To everybody's family and partners but most particularly to my wife, Sue: thank you so much for your support. To my children: Brianna and her partner, James; Shannon; Mason and his partner, Mia; and Jordan and his partner, Jess—thank you so much for supporting and helping support Sue on different occasions when I am away so much. It is very much appreciated.

I will not name all of the volunteers who stand with me every fortnight when I do my community corners. In fact, I am not going to name any, because if I name one I am going to get shot by about 100. I will just say that you know who you are. You work hard not only around election time but all through the term, standing with me as we go out to listen to the community, as we go to shopping centres and do community corners and engage with the community, I would very much like to say thank you for your unwavering support of me and keeping me grounded. Sometimes when I think I have had a really good week, when I go back they will let me know the things I have not got done. They will let me know the things they would like to see change. That keeps it very real for me and I appreciate that. I think the results we have achieved over the six different elections I have run for shows just how solid that team has been in supporting me. To all of the volunteers, thanks very much.

There are a couple of people who will unfortunately not get to hear this: my mum and dad, who are no longer with us. Mum gave me my values and dad taught me the value of hard work. Mum was always a community member and community advocate. She fought hard for the things she wanted. She was a tough East London girl who brought me up east of London in Essex. My dad was an Australian who found himself in England in the 1960s. When he was over there in the sixties my football team, Tottenham Hotspur, was riding high. They were super successful, so as a young kid I was brought up to support Tottenham, which has been painful. It has been 41 years since they won something in Europe and today that changed. I think it is time for the dinner break, so I will congratulate Ange Postecoglou on our return from dinner.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr WATTS:** Just before the break, I was explaining to people how my dad, who was born in Singleton, found himself in the UK in the sixties and he started supporting Tottenham Hotspur. Today is a very special day for the Spurs. I have been a lifelong supporter and I was 16 the last time they won in Europe. I watched Ange Postecoglou when he coached Brisbane Roar and I enjoyed his football, but I never thought I would be standing here talking about him. He said—

Usually in my second season I win things. That's the whole idea. The first year is about establishing principles and creating a foundation. Hopefully, the second year is going on to win things.

These words resonated in the world of football. One of the things I would say Australia is great for is that a lot of immigrants come here and make Australia home. A lot of those families that came here from Greece and Italy in particular established themselves here and they now form part of the rich culture of Queensland. Something that Postecoglou and David Crisafulli have in common is that they both come from immigrant families. The philosophy of laying groundwork before delivering results is obviously clear. It has been very successful with my team Tottenham, and I am wearing their tie today.

The immigrant culture of hard work, saying what you are going to do, forming a plan, building a foundation and getting on and doing it is exactly what David Crisafulli is doing here in Queensland. We are very fortunate to have him as our leader. A lot has been said about promises made to the electorate, and one of those promises was that we would make people safer. As we know, Adult Crime, Adult Time is now here and the community is safer because of those Making Queensland Safer Laws, particularly the second tranche that passed this week. I am sure there will be more because one thing the electorate told us very clearly is that we need to make sure the citizens of Queensland are safe and their property stays in their possession, and that is one of the priorities of this government.

As we were going into the election, people were talking about health services and how Queensland needs a world-class health service. Sadly, we saw ambulance ramping and the then Labor government suggested that what they were doing would make it better in the future, but that turned out to be a falsehood. In Toowoomba the proposal was to build a split campus where the old campus was going to have some empty floors running which would be fully air-conditioned. The whole plan was going to cost \$300 million or \$400 million a year to operate and it would be a poorer service.

We are very fortunate that the health minister, Mr Nicholls, fixed that and we now have an opportunity for a new hospital to be built on one site. It is going to be hard work to fund all of that, but I know there is a Hospital Rescue Plan in place for the Toowoomba Hospital. I hope that will be a university hospital where we can do some good teaching and develop people for South-West Queensland into the future. I think it is a good plan, and luckily the construction was not too far down the line so that we can use what we have and adapt and expand it. Therefore, in terms of community safety, that is a tick and, in terms of health services, that is another tick.

Cost of living is always going to be difficult. There was a lot of talk going into the election about the 50-cent fares but what we found afterwards was that Labor had not funded that—it was just a smoke-and-mirrors scheme. The cabinet considered it very carefully and it is now an ongoing reality for the people of Queensland to try to help with the cost of living. We look forward to some of those fares being introduced into Toowoomba after we have gone through a process of working with the council and developing a new public transport network.

In terms of economic development in our region, Toowoomba always punches well above its weight. We have benefited from the industries that are around us, both the agricultural industry and the gas industry, and being a service delivery hub for those areas. We have a small business minister who is making sure that people can navigate their way through the state government support system that is available to them, whether that is mentors, the business concierge or accessing different opportunities and learning experiences. We have seen a couple of trade missions in our area, and we will benefit from Hong Kong and China trade because they are big export markets for us. I think all of that is great.

One thing that will change Toowoomba forever is the Olympics. A lot of my constituents say, 'Do we really need the Olympics?' The simple fact is that the Gabba is going to reach its use-by date whether we have the Olympics or not. By building a new stadium as part of the Olympics, the federal government are going to contribute some money. If we were not doing the Olympics, in 10 or 15 years we would be paying for the whole thing ourselves, so it is actually cheaper to do it right now. That seems like a good idea. I suggested it should be located in Toowoomba but others wanted it in Brisbane.

We are very fortunate that the minister went up to Toowoomba and announced that Toowoomba would be hosting the equestrian. The agricultural society, with Damon as the CEO and Shane as the president, are very excited about that prospect. We will be getting on with that and we will make sure that facility is available as soon as possible so we can start hosting Queensland and national championships there.

At the moment, Queensland equestrian championship events, open or age group, are held in Tamworth because Queensland does not have a facility. This is a serious piece of legacy that needed to be built for Queensland. With it being built in Toowoomba, it will be great for the equine industry in our region because it will deliver a real opportunity into the future. The people of my electorate are very excited, even though the actual facility is in Pat Weir's electorate. As people get there, they will need some connectivity on a couple of roads so a priority will be getting the business case done for the Boundary Street connection road and that northern corridor from Highfields that also connects up from the range crossing to where the equestrian event is.

In the lead-up to the election we also spoke about making sure we got some safety upgrades around our schools. Some of the road networks are a bit undercooked and need improvement. Stuart Street near Toowoomba State High School has a particularly funny junction where there have been a lot of accidents in the wet and fog. There are also some opportunities for us to tidy up some school roads around Newtown and Highfields. I will be working with the P&Cs to make sure we get that done.

I want to go back to crime briefly because it is something that has deeply affected people in Toowoomba. We have put the legislative penalties in place for the judiciary to use, but I want to be clear that this is not just a punishment process. We need to have community-led, place-based intervention and early, and we need to have diversionary and post-incarceration programs. There is a whole suite of things on offer here. We understand this is complex. We understand this is difficult.

The first thing is to make the people of Queensland and Toowoomba safe. The next thing is to make sure that people who might be vulnerable to entering into that system are getting diverted away and/or getting early intervention and support, and for those who have been in the system, when they get out, instead of getting out on a Friday and getting 72 hours of nothing, moving back to the circumstances that caused the problems for them in the first place—although making bad choices is one of those issues—we will have a support program in place to make sure they do not fall back and they can make better choices.


In the couple of minutes I have left, I will say a couple of very quick things. I would like to thank very much my stepdad, Dave Mason. He raised me and taught me a lot of good values that I carry with me. I love him dearly, so much so that I named my son after him—Mason Watts. My son carries both my fathers' names. He is my only surviving parent, and I miss him dearly. I am very pleased to be able to say his name in this place and thank him for all the things he did for me when I was a young fellow, even though he was not a Spurs supporter. Nobody is perfect, are they!

I would like to raise a couple of things quickly in and around the electorate that people are talking to me about. A 24-hour manned police station at Highfields is something that I think people will want as time goes on. The need is there, and we have the personnel to do it. The Highfields fire station is an absolute must. People are paying an A-grade levy there, but at the moment we are not getting the service we deserve. That is negligence on behalf of the previous government over a number of years and it is time to get it fixed.

There is an opportunity for us to do a little bit more work with women's sporting facilities, particularly changing rooms. Our changing rooms are dilapidated and we have situations where umpires and referees who are often young females or in their early 20s are sharing rooms with 40- and 50-year-old blokes while they are getting changed into their kit. It is not just the players; it is the umpires and referees as well. We also need to make sure our facilities are accessible for those with disabilities.

With that, I would like to say thank you very much to the people of Toowoomba North for electing me for the fifth time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Before I call the next member, I would like to acknowledge and welcome to the gallery members of the Nudgee Youth Advisory Council from the seat of Nudgee and the Bulimba Youth Advisory Council from the seat of Bulimba.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (7.42 pm): It is a pleasure to rise once again to contribute to the address-in-reply debate. Deputy Speaker, as you are aware, I was first elected in 2009, so this is now 16 years since my first election to this parliament. Back then I did not have grey hair and wrinkles, but back then I did not have kids either. I am not saying that this place has contributed to the grey hair and wrinkles, but certainly I am very pleased to be contributing to this address-in-reply. It is my fifth address-in-reply, but I have, of course, contested six elections over the time to date.

Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge your role as a deputy speaker and being on the Panel of Temporary Speakers. I also acknowledge and congratulate the member for Condamine on his elevation to the office of Speaker. It is a burdensome role. There is a reason for the tradition of people being dragged to the Speaker's chair: it is a tough role, both personally and professionally. However, knowing the member for Condamine as I do, I know he will fulfil the role to the best of his ability and in a genuine and compassionate way. My hope for him is that he is treated kindly and respectfully by all members of this House, knowing that he does have a heavy burden in executing his role as Speaker of the Queensland parliament.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate the government—to Premier Crisafulli, the ministers and all members of the government—on their success at the last election. While it is personally disappointing for members of this side of the House and whilst it is also disappointing for the Australian Labor Party that we did not have success at the last election, I often reflect that if the greatest cost of a robust democracy is some people being disappointed then we do have a great democracy.

I also reflect on the words of Ed Murrow, the famous journalist who interviewed Senator Joe McCarthy. His story was editorialised in the movie, the book, the play, *Good Night, and Good Luck*. In that production, Ed Murrow reflects on how—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Sorry, member for Morayfield. Members, if you want to have a conversation, take it outside, otherwise I will put you outside.

**Mr RYAN:** Ed Murrow reflects on how the beginning of editorialising the news depended on good people being responsible about their role. Some of the characters in that story reflect that it is alright because Ed Murrow is doing it, but what happens when Ed Murrow is not doing it? It is a similar analogy that we should think about when it comes to our democracy. Our democracy is precious and it is robust

because good people participate in it. It will remain like that so long as good people continue to participate in it. It is incumbent on us all to not only maintain those good values but also to treat each other kindly, to raise the standard rather than lower the tone. As they say in *Good Night, and Good Luck*, when they are reflecting on preserving those precious institutions, 'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.' We rely on each other to contribute to this democracy, and it is a precious right that we all exercise in participating in our democracy, whether it is voting, whether it is contributing to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, member. Member for Ninderry, I just warned the chamber to keep the noise down. If you want to talk, go outside. Simple as that.

**Mr RYAN:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker—whether it is contributing to the democratic processes through voting, through the participation of free speech or through contesting elections and serving one's jurisdiction in a parliament.

I have been very fortunate in my involvement in this place to be supported by a lot of people. It is always my tradition, from the outset, to thank those people who have supported me and have contributed to my opportunity to be part of the Queensland parliament and our democratic processes in Queensland. I do want to acknowledge those who have helped during the last campaign.

To Mark Ilsley, who was a very hard worker on my campaign, I wanted to mention him first because he did the most. He was involved in high-vis and letterboxing. He worked every day on pre-poll and a full day on election day, and I am very grateful for his support. To Geoff, Barbara, Paul, Charlie, Tim, Steve, Marion, Zoe, Anthony, Indy, Leonie, thank you very much for your support. There are some people who have been with me since day one, and I wanted to particularly thank Mavis, Flora and Jane for their support. To Brent, Drew, Yvonne, Pete, Robbie, Zoe, Tim, Barb, Michael, Krista, Dan, Craig and Justine, thanks for your support on election day.

My former ministerial staff were more than just colleagues, they are good friends. To Craig, Dan, Nick, Zac, Rose, Jacob, Paul, Phil and Nicola, and all the others who have worked with me in my ministerial roles, I say thank you. To my electorate staff—Brent, Yvonne, Michael, Lachie, Christina—thank you very much for the support that you provide in not only serving the community but also supporting me.

In terms of the election campaign, I want to acknowledge Kate Flanders, the State Secretary of the Labor Party, and my party organiser, Rhiannyn Douglas, who almost got elected to the federal parliament. She is a very impressive person. I know that she has a big future. I look forward to continuing to work with Rhiannyn well into the future. I acknowledge Alex Scott and the Together union for their support of Queensland's working people and also me during the last election.

I thank Pete and Robbie, my parents. You do not really appreciate the love that parents have for their kids until you see them out every day putting themselves forward to ensure that their kids have great opportunities in life. I have been very privileged to have very supportive and very generous parents. To my brother, Gerry: you are not meant to say nice things about little brothers, but he is a much better person than me, and I am grateful that I have such a wonderful role model and good friend in him.

I thank my extended family who have helped through campaigns—Uncle Bob, Auntie Lee, Jen, Wes and the girls. I thank the other family—the conservative side of the family—the Penneys. It is quite interesting the unconditional love of family. They do not vote for me but they help by handing out how-to-vote cards for me. I have this wonderful story about my late Uncle Ted, who sadly died a decade ago from bowel cancer. He helped on the 2009 campaign. I remember talking to him just before he died. I said, 'You don't vote for us. That must have been hard. You are a very conservative person.' He looked at me and said, 'Mark, it was not hard at all. When it comes to family, it is not very hard.' It reminds you of what is important.

Now to Holly. People have heard the story—the member for Mount Ommaney reminds people of it—about how Holly and I met here. You, of course, cannot do this role without the support and unconditional love and understanding of partners and families. Holly has done an amazing job with our three boys. My boys have, until recently, known nothing else than their dad being a minister. Those who are fortunate to serve in ministerial roles know that it consumes your whole life. There is no moment when you are not thinking of the ministerial role. There is no moment when you are not doing ministerial work. Holly has taken on that incredible responsibility and duty and has ensured our boys are aware of how much both she and I care for them and that they have a good foundation in life. I am very grateful to Holly for that. At some stage, Holly will get her house at the beach—maybe; we will see. I do love living in Caboolture.

The boys wanted me to mention nicknames. Danny, CR7, wants to change his name to Ronaldo Jr. He is a great young man who is very aware of and sensitive to the feelings of other people. He is going to be a great contributor in our community. Flynny, the wrecking ball, is a wonderful young man who gets involved. I am so impressed with how attune he is to other people and circumstances. Gabey, the little one, has for the last few months been talking about going to the moon. He is two and he talks about going to the moon. He talks about how he will do it in a rocket and all those things. It only dawned on me a couple of weeks ago and I said to Holly, 'He probably will get to the moon.' In his lifetime it will be an opportunity. My desire and hope for my boys is that they are able to reach for the stars and achieve everything they can.

This election was a choice. The former Labor government was offering additional cost-of-living relief and to continue to roll out our progressive agenda of building a fair community. I was very proud to run on that platform. I was proud not only of our record of delivering progressive reform but also of our plan for the future around cost-of-living relief and continuing to invest in hospitals and schools.

I wanted to highlight some of those important and critical cost-of-living measures that the previous government put in place and took to the electorate saying that they were important and were valued. The first was 50-cent fares, which now has bipartisan support. That was an initiative of then premier Steven Miles and it was well received. The feedback continues to come in about some of these initiatives. Adam sent me an email a few months ago in which he said—

This policy has made such a significant difference to cost of living, equity, connectedness and quality of life. I want to thank you and the previous Miles government for having the courage to introduce it.

Adam goes on. There were also our energy rebates. I was getting thank you cards from people. Ronny sent me a card saying—

Mark, I want to say thank you for the cost-of-living relief Labor is giving to Queensland. It is huge and needed. So many people are benefiting. I am significantly better off so I wanted to say thank you.

Some people ask how governments make a difference in people's lives. I have just given two examples of people not only participating in their democracy by contacting their local member but also indicating how it has changed their lives. It is providing support for them.

We also had 20 per cent off rego and the \$200 FairPlay vouchers, which I really hope the government continues. They make a huge difference to people in the Caboolture region. I have been running a survey and getting feedback from people on this. So many people tell me that without those \$200 FairPlay vouchers and the broader eligibility they would not be able to have their kids in sport. It is the difference for them. That can change the trajectory of a young person's life. We had Free Kindy, free TAFE and the \$1,000 tool allowance, which were all very important.

I wanted to reflect on some of the initiatives that I had the great pleasure to help drive and support in my ministerial roles. A number of these things had bipartisan support. I was just one contributor, but it is important to highlight these things. I speak of things like bringing in drug diversion. That was a huge reform. We lead the nation when it comes to drug diversion. The important thing about that is that it was driven by law enforcement agencies, supported by health experts and other experts. There was bipartisan support for Jack's Law. The Beasleys are wonderful people. It was an honour for people like me to be able to meet inspiring people who, in great tragedy, want to make a difference. Jack's Law is now national. It is very important.

There was the work we did around decriminalising begging and public intoxication, implementing that royal commission recommendation. There was the work we did around protecting sex workers and recognising the safety measures that they needed as well as knife sale restrictions. We also introduced Susan's Law for Claudine Snow's late mum and late sister and got rid of private prisons.


There was also the generational change, restructure and resourcing for our emergency services. We put record investment into PCYC and Surf Life Saving Queensland and permanently funded initiatives like Project Booyah. There was police resourcing around expanding Polair in South-East Queensland and having it in other locations around the state. There was safety equipment for police and additional equipment like taser 10s. We are the first place in the world outside of the United States to have the taser 10.

We brought in post-traumatic stress disorder presumptive legislation for emergency service workers. We reversed the shortening of child protection offender register monitoring periods for child sex offenders. We brought in the 'worst of the worst' legislation to keep those serial killers and child killers in custody for longer, which is where they deserve to be, and did significant infrastructure upgrades across police, fire and rescue, rural fire and youth remand.

I want to reflect on areas closer to home in Morayfield and how, when you have a vision and you want to work with people around developing community and you want to deliver greater facilities, greater opportunities and greater services, you fight for it. There are so many stories that members in this parliament and previous parliaments could tell about how they fight for things and get them done and they know the difference it makes.

In 2020 we made a number of election commitments. I am very proud to say that we were able to deliver every single one of those in the Morayfield state electorate. There was the new hall for Morayfield State High School and the Caboolture Hospital upgrade. I cannot believe it. I am a Caboolture boy; I grew up in Burpengary. If honourable members remember *A Country Practice*, our old hospital looked like the little place at Wandin Valley: that was the Caboolture Hospital. It now looks like Burrigana: it is a city hospital, a metropolitan hospital. I get a big smile every time I go into that hospital or drive past it. I think, 'This is what the people of Caboolture need and deserve and should have.' It reflects the world-class hospital system we have and it is a credit to those staff who work at that hospital. We are doing Bruce Highway upgrades. We have the Caboolture PCYC under construction. We did lighting and new clubhouse facilities for a number of sporting clubs. We are building a new ambulance station at Morayfield and we built the Caboolture satellite hospital. All of these things are making a huge difference.

In the time remaining I want to recommit myself to the people of Morayfield. There is an interesting thing and I said it to a few people earlier. I have to be careful because I do not want to be taken out of context. The address-in-reply speech is not just the opportunity to reflect on the election and it is not just the opportunity to thank the Governor for her speech, to thank volunteers and to show appreciation for the opportunity we have. The address-in-reply speech should remind us all that our time in this parliament could be just a fleeting moment in time. For any one of us this could be our last address-in-reply speech, so we have to seize the opportunity, we have to raise the standard rather than lower the tone and we have to commit ourselves to continuing to serve the people of Queensland.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.03 pm): It is a pleasure to be speaking in this House, serving as the re-elected member for Callide in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. I extend my congratulations to my wonderful LNP colleagues and of course the Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli, on their respective elections. It is fantastic to serve alongside such an enthusiastic, energetic and united team under a hardworking Premier. I also congratulate the member for Condamine on his appointment as Speaker of this House. I also want to acknowledge the four gentlemen who retired at the end of the last term having served in opposition with us in the LNP: the member for Gregory, the member for Burleigh, the member for Oodgeroo and, of course, the member for Ipswich West, who retired all too soon thanks to a medical condition.

**A government member:** It was good to see him last night.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. It was fantastic to see him around the halls of parliament yesterday.

I say thank you to the people of Callide for providing me with the opportunity to serve them again. Every citizen I represent plays an important part in Queensland's economy. Collectively, we produce nearly one-quarter of Queensland's electricity and export millions of tonnes of coal and LNG as well as large volumes of cotton, hay, citrus, grain, beef, timber and much more. This is across an electorate larger than the state of Tasmania. I am honoured by the trust and belief they have placed in me and the great party I represent. I will always work hard to represent their collective interests and be their strong voice in Brisbane.

I want to thank the LNP membership, staff and the secretariat and the many, many volunteers who dedicated their time to help me get here. For the campaign I had nearly 150 volunteers with 28 election-day booths and four pre-polls. Once again, thanks to their hard work, we manned every single booth and in many instances were the only party to do so. To my Callide SEC, I say thank you for endorsing me again as their candidate. To my SEC executive and campaign team, who gave up weeks of their time, I say thank you for their efforts.

To my family—my mum and dad, siblings and their respective partners and many more—and many friends who played a big role once again, I say thank you for supporting me. To my wonderful team who keep my electorate offices operating, I say thank you for the hard work they all do. Melanie and Elise in Biloela have been with me for a while now and always greet constituents with a friendly face. Kat in my brand new Chinchilla satellite office happened to commence working for me on what ended up being day one of the official campaign. Talk about a baptism of fire! Given the size of the electorate, I regularly drive thousands of kilometres a week. In turn this means there are a few

passionate locals and community groups that my team get to see more of than they do of me, and maybe my team might like this idea a little too much. Nonetheless, I say thank you to the three of them for the hard work they do in keeping the office running while I travel across the state. Of course, there are a few casuals who support them and support me in the work I do. So thank you for the work they contribute.

Callide is a marvellous electorate. There is never a weekend without an event somewhere worth attending. As the local MP, I have the pleasure of being part of many of these celebrations and events. Last year we had centenaries for Theodore, Monto and Biloela. We had many agricultural shows—in fact, the most of any electorate in the state—and Anzac Day services. I think there were about 27 services on Anzac Day. Of course, there are also many schools throughout the electorate holding many awards and leadership ceremonies or schools that want a new Queensland flag.

A few highlights from the past year include attending the Australian polocrosse nationals, which were in my home town of Chinchilla, Beef Week in Rockhampton, the Mundubbera Blueberry Festival, the Eidsvold Dinner Under the Stars, the Jimbour Chef's Table and the Chinchilla One Long Table event. For me personally, I enjoy having the opportunity to meet with constituents across the great electorate of Callide to discuss issues that are important to them, to hear their stories and to listen to what they have to say and share. We have many remarkable people across this fantastic electorate.

The Callide community is a proud one and they have earned that right through blood, sweat, tears and hard work. Through the resources I have mentioned previously that we export, we contribute a couple of billion dollars in royalties each financial year plus the revenues from putting food on the table for Queenslanders. Some turn their back on these powerhouse industries. I do not. I am a geologist and a farm boy; I am not afraid to stand up for the primary industries that are the backbone of this state.

I was born and raised on my family's farm north of Brigalow on the Darling Downs. Growing up on the land taught me that if we wanted something, we had to work for it. I have carried this ethic with me throughout my life and do not put my hand up for a task and not give it my all. A job worth doing is a job done well. I count my blessings that I grew up in a household with a loving family. I had a full stomach, a warm bed and a roof over my head. Unfortunately, there are far too many children who do not have this opportunity, who are being neglected and who do not have the basics in life. We must do better. I commend our Minister for Child Safety, Amanda Camm, for announcing the commission of inquiry into the broken child safety system.

Not only has the previous Labor government failed society through its mismanagement of this system, but it has also failed the kids that it was meant to protect. This inquiry will let the sun shine in on a broken program. We were elected with a strong mandate to tackle the crime gripping Queensland. With the very unfortunate but strong links between crime and the child safety system, this inquiry will work hand in hand with the other work we are doing to tackle youth crime. We will not apologise for being tough on crime. I note some faraway body called the UN seems to have a problem with our approach, but I commend the Premier for standing up to it. We were elected by the people of Queensland to represent Queenslanders, not for the agenda of a foreign body.

**Mr Krause:** We make the laws in this place.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection: we do make the laws in this place and we are not ashamed to say that.

Some say commitments from politicians do not mean much, but they do for me. We have made commitments to many communities across Callide and we will deliver on them. The LNP is committed to providing easier access to health services. In Callide the Biloela Hospital upgrade, the Chinchilla Hospital replacement, the Moura Multipurpose Health Service aged-care extension and the Jandowae Multipurpose Health Service upgrade are projects that we will see through to completion. The federal LNP secured funding for Moura's aged-care extension project in April 2019. This was for the state to deliver at the time. However, thanks to Labor's chaos, crisis and sheer incompetence, this critical project had sat idle until we came to government. The Crisafulli government got straight to work and a tender has now been awarded for the project, with construction set to commence soon. This is a government that is getting on with delivering for Queensland.

The Biloela Hospital upgrade is necessary after a decade of neglect by the former Labor government which left the surgical theatre and birthing suite noncompliant. Those opposite kept blaming a lack of staff for the birthing bypass that, as of yesterday, surpassed 1,000 days. You can have all the staff in the world, but that would not have allowed for these services to come back online because of the noncompliant facilities. This unfortunately highlights Labor's inability to appropriately

manage the health system, and who bears the consequences of these Labor failures? Women. Those opposite come in here and make many comments that suggest that they do care about women and yet they fail the women in the bush.

The LNP is committed to restoring safety where you live. We will be doing this in Callide by installing security cameras in Jandowae and Miles, alongside of course the many laws that we have and will continue to introduce into this House. These cameras will provide extra security for local businesses and the community and also assist local police, who I know are eager to see these cameras rolled out. I am committed to providing better services and infrastructure in Callide, including improving the Calliope State School pick-up and drop-off zone located on the Dawson Highway. Earlier this month I met on site with representatives from TMR, Calliope State School staff and a P&C representative to discuss the planning and the path forward for this project.

Initial contact has already been made with the Gin Gin sports groups and the Calliope Football Club to discuss project planning for the facility upgrades that we committed to assist them with as part of the Queensland government's investment in grassroots sport. We also committed to provide defibrillators for the Callide Dawson Pistol Club, the Jandowae community sports and recreation grounds and the Lindsay Williams Oval at Wandoan. I am pleased to say that the departmental engagement with these organisations is underway to deliver on these commitments. There is plenty more that I have not mentioned that we are committed to, but there are also plenty of priorities that I still have, and I note that these are things that I am going to continue to fight for. We have an incredibly tough fiscal situation that I know the Treasurer is working through and these will take time to deliver if I am so lucky to get that commitment from my colleagues.

Something that I have spoken about in this House before is the widening of the remaining 11-kilometre section of the Mundubbera-Durong Road, and this remains a top priority road project for me. This will allow road train access to the North Burnett and create freight hub opportunities and in turn decrease freight costs on fresh produce. A significant amount of fresh produce is grown in the Wide Bay-Burnett region; I think it is nearly a quarter of Australia's fresh produce. Other roads that need a lot of work and upgrades and have sections in a state of disrepair thanks to Labor's road maintenance backlogs include the Leichhardt Highway and the Chinchilla-Wondai Road. I know that those who reside along the Warrego Highway or use it regularly would know that there is a need for more turning lanes so you can safely get off and on the Warrego Highway, especially at Dawson Gate Road just east of Chinchilla. I will continue to advocate for more road maintenance funding to include the widening of roads to make them safer and to see more heavy vehicle passing lanes and general repairs to the frankly disappointing and backward road infrastructure we have in rural and regional Queensland. With regard to road trains, in one instance near Biggenden primary producers want to use B-doubles and bigger trucks to improve efficiency through roads in that region, but they cannot get B-double permits to drive on them because of how narrow and degraded those roads are.

CT scanners have become an essential tool in the health system and one day I would love to see these installed in health facilities across Callide, starting with Biloela and Chinchilla. We have an incredibly challenging fiscal position and I know that the health minister has a huge mess to clean up in the health system. Nonetheless, I am going to keep bugging him and asking for CT scanners to one day be installed across Callide.

There are plenty of opportunities for more water projects. One project that we are delivering that was a formal commitment is the Cooranga Weir project. I have already been talking with the water minister, her team and SunWater about the delivery of that project and I am looking forward to seeing that delivered.

As part of the new government I have had the privilege of being appointed the Assistant Minister for Regional Development, Resources and Critical Minerals. The resources sector is critical to Queensland and the regions are critical to Queensland. We are the most decentralised state, and we are better for it. I look forward to working with the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Dale Last, to help him deliver for Queensland and deliver on his ministerial charter. Here are a couple of priorities that are in his charter that I am looking forward to working with him on. One of them is to create an environment for growth in the resources sector that will continue to underpin Queensland's long-term prosperity; lay out an ambitious long-term agenda which will see new and expanded mining opportunities across the state; and improve turnaround times for approvals while maintaining strong planning and environmental conditions. The minister has established the Resources Cabinet Committee which will help achieve all of those things. This is a huge step forward for the resources sector that brings a lot of wealth into this state.



Having previously worked in the resources sector myself—it might be news to everyone in this House, but that was as a geologist—I have worked in New South Wales and Central Queensland as a geologist and before—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** Yes; I take that interjection. I did work in Canada, formally not as a geologist but in the oilfields in the resources sector in Canada.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection; thank you, Minister Mander. This has given me a unique insight into the challenges and opportunities that this position brings and I now look forward to using this experience to continue to improve the economic and safety outcomes of the sector. I note that mine safety is critical and I have spoken about this in the House many times before, as has the minister. It was fantastic to hear the recent announcement of a new Mining and Resources Coroner in Queensland and a review into Resources Safety & Health Queensland. This review is much needed and it is fantastic to see that coroner position appointed. I am looking forward to working with the minister and my colleagues more broadly.

Some may ask how I can represent such an agriculture-heavy electorate and also stand up for the mining sector. I ask these questions: do you turn on the lights when you sit down to eat at night? What materials do you use in your house? What do you cook with? What is your phone made of? The reality is we need both the mining sector and the agricultural sector for a prosperous society.

There are many things that happen in Queensland and across the country that I cannot help but see the irony in. A city dweller will mow their lawn every week and they are considered a good neighbour and a good citizen. Meanwhile, a farmer manages regrowth across his paddock and an activist calls him an environmental vandal. We criticise our sustainable forestry industry and make it nearly impossible for them to operate. We then import paper and building materials from countries who have no regard for the environment. Some blame housing investors for the housing crisis, but then also campaign against the timber industry that will help reduce building costs and in turn increase supply.

**Mr Stevens:** We sell our coal for others to burn it!

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection, we do sell our coal for others to burn it. We have people who advocate for socialist policies, but cannot name a time that socialism has ever worked. Activists campaign against wild-caught seafood and then campaign against salmon farms. How about they turn up and show their true colours and say they want us to start eating bugs.

At the end of the day, feelings do not build a nation. Sound economic policy that enables industry does. Refusing to talk facts and economics only puts you on a one-way train to the dark ages. I challenge members to name me a business that is successful and has not had to make tough decisions along the way. I challenge them to name me a good government that has not had to make tough decisions along the way. Something that I find a bit funny as well is that red tape actually helps big business through drowning out small and family business competitors. That is something that gets lost on a lot of people when they want more rules to strangle industries. There is always going to be bad apples, and we need appropriate rules, but we need to reflect on the fact that the current regulatory and legislative framework for businesses to operate in this state and in this country makes it incredibly difficult for them to prosper.

I want to take the last minute of this speech to acknowledge a great bloke—my pop—who passed away last week. Allan Ernest Head, 93 years of age, was a true champion. He was a bookmaker.

**Mr Stevens:** Yes!

**Mr HEAD:** Which the member for Mermaid Beach might be interested in. He was a maths whiz and would always be testing me on my maths and would always be up to giving a little cheek. Only last year, well into his nineties, when he had dementia, his maths brain was still as sharp as any other human I have ever met.

**Mr McDonald:** A true Australian gentleman!

**Mr HEAD:** I take that interjection. He was a true gentleman. He was a human calculator as well. He was a former teacher, a farmer, a businessman and a fantastic family man. In the time of the election campaign the one thing that he did want to make sure he got out of the way was to get to the pre-poll booth and vote in case he did not make it past the election. He even has a current racehorse named after him: Chinchilla Ahead. Rest in peace, pop, Allan Ernest Head.



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.23 pm): It is a great honour to stand in this House in the 58th Parliament to represent the people of my beloved Bulimba electorate. I thank them for the faith they have put in me for the fifth time at an election and promise them that I will always do my best for them. It is a job I love. In fact, one of my favourite things to do is to stand up at the local train stations, ferry terminals, at local shopping centres or our schools, visit any one of the 200 community organisations that work so hard in our community, talk to people on their doorstep or talk to our local business owners and watch our local kids grow up. It is such a pleasure. I think that surely must be the reason that we are all in this House.

My favourite thing is to see and hear the vibrancy of my community in those ways and to see how they look after each other and to see them thriving. I am so proud of them. I look back at what we have achieved locally and I am proud of that as well. We have delivered \$105 million since 2015 in new and upgraded facilities for our local schools. I see my colleague, the former minister for education, who came out and visited many of my schools. Through her in our last term we have been able to get great facilities such as the new hall at Seven Hills State School, new classrooms at Bulimba State School, new classrooms and an upgraded toilet block at Morningside State School—the toilet blocks are exciting; they just love their new toilets. Murarrie State School and Balmoral State High School got a new tuckshop. In fact, we have invested over \$30 million in Balmoral State High School since I was elected. It is absolutely going ahead in leaps and bounds and I am so proud of them.

I went to the election putting Cannon Hill State School on the top of my priority list, as the other schools had done pretty well. I will continue to advocate for that fantastic school. We promised a \$7 million administration block and a \$2.5 million refurbishment of classrooms at the school. I have written several times to the education minister to advocate for that and I will continue to do so, in particular for the classroom refurbishment. Watch this space for our petition. This is a heritage school for which any refurbishment is complicated. Our kids deserve the best possible environment in which to learn. The classrooms in question need to work better for them.

Unfortunately I do not find that many of the ministers in this government are very well mannered or timely in the way they deal with opposition ministers. They rarely reply and the ones who do are often, to be honest, quite rude. As a minister I do not think I was ever rude to an opposition member if they wrote to me about their community. That will not deter me because this school needs those classrooms refurbished. I will keep on going and I am sure that the minister will see what an important cause it is.

Many people in the electorate call me the rail queen because I have been absolutely focused on improving our local railway stations. In an increasingly dense inner-city electorate like mine access to good public transport is critical, particularly in addressing traffic congestion. The 50-cent fares that Labor introduced—which weirdly this government is trying to claim as if everyone does not know it was the Leader of the Opposition who thought of that—have been a game changer in truly making public transport accessible.

This last term we have seen the massive Morningside station upgrade, which the community and I waged such a successful campaign for, and was part of that brilliant \$700 million Station Accessibility Upgrade Program which included the Cannon Hill station upgrade that included a new toilet—they love new toilets. We got hundreds of new car parks for Murarrie and Cannon Hill stations. Although work on Morningside station has slowed a bit since the LNP came to government, it was operational when we said it was going to be and it is amazing. It makes such a difference to older people for whom mobility is a problem, people with disability and people with prams. I just love driving by and thinking what an achievement it is. I hope funding remains for the Cannon Hill bus interchange where construction is due to commence.

While the physical infrastructure means so much to the community, I want to thank my local community for the issues-based matters we have fought together on, from working with local police and Neighbourhood Watch groups on law and order issues, to weekly doorknocking, to supporting people into housing, to successfully taking back the playing oval at Balmoral State High School after Campbell Newman tried to sell it off, to ensuring enforcement of the truck curfew on Queensport Road, responding to the federal issue of aircraft noise, working with Councillor Lucy Collier on the Bulimba Barracks and traffic issues, assisting local victims of domestic violence and recycling. Together we create such a great environment for local families.

I want to give a shout-out to the two new federal members for my electorate, Renee Coffey, who is now the federal member for Griffith, and Kara Cook, who is the federal member for Bonner. I cannot express more strongly what an absolute delight it is to work in a team at all levels of government with

two such amazing women. I got off the phone from discussing a local issue with Renee and Lucy the other day and thought how fantastic it was to be able to work together to achieve things for our community.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Members, earlier I gave a general warning about the amount of noise in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

**Ms FARMER:** Those two women will be amazing. They are community personified. I know how excited they are about all the things they have already been able to do in the past three weeks.

I also stand here as a member of the Queensland opposition and, as such, I say to Queenslanders that we heard the message that you sent to us in the October election, we are listening and we will continue to listen. Equally, we promise to fulfil the critical role of an opposition, which is to hold the government to account. We have come to see that we really do need to hold this government to account because they are shockers. They made a lot of promises through the election and in the lead-up to it. There were a lot of things that they said they were going to do, some small, some big and some very big. There were a lot of slogans and a lot of absolutes: this will happen; this won't happen. They said that youth crime would be at zero by Christmas, which did not happen. That is typical of the sort of statements they make. They have backtracked on that one, but more on that later. We will hold them to account for all of their promises because Queenslanders voted for them on the basis of their promises. They trusted them and we will be making sure that the government is held to account if they betray that trust.

I started writing this speech early in the term but, as we know, it has been a while since then because, in managing this House, the LNP is really quite shambolic. They don't get bills sorted. They do a whole lot of fillers to take up time. Urgent bills are rushed through for no reason. Motions on nothing are moved. They filibuster. They have to come back and fix things that they forget to do. They move urgency motions on things like the Trusts Bill. There does not seem to be any structure to what they do. We are delivering our address-in-reply speeches this far into the year because what has been happening in here has not really been very organised.

I looked at what I wrote initially, which was about what I suspected the LNP government would be like. It is now May and we have a pretty good idea of what they are like. Our worst fears have, in fact, been realised, which is that this LNP government is just like the last LNP government, which of course was the Campbell Newman government. It is very clear that we will have to keep a very close eye on this government and I will give a snapshot of why. When we were in government, the cost of living was our No. 1 priority. We provided the biggest cost-of-living relief package in the nation including—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** I am so pleased because I thought they were not listening. I was a bit hurt. Our cost-of-living relief package included 50-cent fares, which was a legacy of the opposition leader and has completely changed many people's lives; \$1,000 off electricity bills; 20 per cent off rego; \$200 kids' sports vouchers; half-price Airtrain fares; free kindy, free TAFE and free apprenticeships; \$1,000 cashback for apprentices in the housing trades; and making the flu and RSV vaccines free. Those actions changed people's lives. All of these were made possible by making international coal companies pay their fair share.

Before the election, the LNP said that they would support all of our measures but, quick as a flash, they announced that they are cutting the \$1,000 energy subsidies. Queenslanders will soon feel the effects of energy prices going up as a result of their policy. We know that car rego is going to go up and now we are also worried about the FairPlay vouchers that have made such a difference to so many families.

The government have made outrageous decisions about things that go to the heart of who we are as Queenslanders, such as repealing the Path to Treaty Bill, pulling out on the truth telling and healing inquiry without talking to anyone about it, banning discussion of abortion in this parliament, pausing the respect at work laws, scrapping our renewable energy targets and the list goes on. In addition, they brought down our credit rating. Despite stressing that they would make decisions based on expert advice, they have proceeded not to take expert advice on most things including pill testing, gender-affirming care, free flu jabs and the puberty health program.

In my shadow portfolio of youth justice, the effects of not listening to the experts have seen us come back four times to debate some kind of youth justice amendment or bill because they always get it wrong. They always miss something, they have to add offences or they have to fix up technicalities.

We are always being asked to agree to fix messes that they have made. Most importantly, they promised that youth crime would be down by Christmas but, in fact, youth crime has gone up. The experts told them over and over again and they simply refused to listen. They can cherry-pick all they like and they can say that they care about community safety, but in the end, when the rubber hits the road, it is about whether victim numbers are down and they are probably unlikely to tell us because they have pulled the data anyway.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Currumbin! I cannot hear the member on her feet.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, cease your interjections.

**Ms FARMER:** Despite quoting Peter Coaldrake's *Let the sun shine in* report ad nauseam, which among other things stressed the absolutely critical importance of transparent processes in making public service announcements, quick as a flash they dispensed with any transparency and appointed a raft of DGs without process, the most infamous one being John Sosso about whom Tony Fitzgerald had many things to say, none of them positive. He is the man the new LNP leader has appointed without any process whatsoever. Indeed, he has appointed him to a range of positions where he can influence things that are politically important to them, such as the new Queensland Redistribution Commission or what they whimsically call the 'independent' Redistribution Commission. Sure thing! I have talked about my youth justice portfolio briefly and that is the essence of what is happening in that portfolio.

My education portfolio is an amazing portfolio and it is such a privilege to be the minister. Education is in Labor's DNA so for us it is absolutely critical that people care about education and they try their best. However, we have a minister who basically whinged about getting the portfolio. He did not want the portfolio: it's too hard; why can't he just have art and sport so he can go to all the events? We have heard him talk about important things like NAPLAN, bullying, violence in schools, vaping and the puberty program fiasco. Literally, he just says, 'Oh yeah, whatever; whatever happens.' That is an absolutely travesty for education. I can absolutely guarantee that, on this side of the House, we will be holding this government to account to deliver in education.

I want to say some thanks, firstly to my family. Millie and Lucy are my beloved daughters. For most of their lives they have had to live with the fact that I am often going to other people's events instead of theirs. I cannot express enough how much I love those girls. I am absolutely so proud of them and the sort of young women they have become. I will forever be grateful to them for being alongside me. Of all of the things I have ever done or achieved in my life, being their mum is absolutely the greatest. I thank Matt, my son-in-law; my two beautiful grandchildren, Maisy and Miles; and my sister, Su, and her husband, Peter who are always there for me.

I thank my campaign committee: Lisa, Grace, Lucy, Djaisi, Brayden, Alan and Matthew. I thank my electorate office staff: Lisa, Britt, Rosie and Sara. I thank my former ministerial staff: Cathi, Thomas, Caroline, Aryan, Aenya, Matthew, Kym, Gayle, Tim, Karleigh, Deb, Gary and Djaisi.


I thank the volunteers who came out to help. As most members will know, they did not come out just for our election; they also came out for the federal election and the council election. That is three elections in two years. I am sure we have all had that experience. I cannot believe how amazing they are. They are not just members of our Labor Party but are also people from our community. I have heard members from both sides of the House talking about friends, community members and branch members. I cannot believe the dedication of those people. I know the volunteers in our branches are absolutely exhausted but they would keep coming back if we asked them to. To the doorknockers, the street stallers, the letterboxers, the pre-pollers and the people who worked on election day: thank you so much. I am so grateful to all of you for your absolute dedication and hard work.

I want to acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all of my fellow shadow cabinet ministers. Thank you to Kate Flanders, the secretary of the party, and Hayden, my party organiser. The member for McConnel, the member for Nudgee, the member for Cooper, the member for Stretton and the member for Mount Ommaney are my absolute buddies. To all of my colleagues, many of whom I have known for a really long time, I want to thank you, and that includes my former colleagues from the last parliament who retired—Julianne Gilbert, Barry O'Rourke and Curtis Pitt. It has been fantastic to be in this place together and to share all the highs and lows.

I want to thank the United Workers Union, who have been such great supporters of mine. They are always there for me, and I know they always will be. I so believe in what they do and in the workers whom they represent. The entire union movement is as passionate as we are about getting the best outcome for everyday Queenslanders.

I turn now to all of the stakeholders in the education, youth justice and early years portfolios. I was very privileged in the last year of the last term to spend time with them, and it has been quite some years now that I have spent with youth justice. Often we do not agree but the stakeholders are dedicated, passionate and willing to work with government and always have the best interests of the people they work for at heart. They are amazing. I want to thank them for their really strong relationships and for just being there year after year and slogging away in what are some really challenging circumstances.

As I said, it is an absolute privilege to do this job. I congratulate everybody in this House who has been elected. I want to congratulate the Speaker. Our values and our philosophies might be different but we are all here because we want to do the right thing. Well done to everybody.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (8.42 pm): I rise to provide my address-in-reply to the speech delivered by Her Excellency in opening the 58th Parliament of Queensland. It is, indeed, an honour and a privilege to be elected to represent the electorate of Burdekin in this place and to be a member of a government and a team that, as Her Excellency said, is focused every day on the issues that matter to Queenslanders.

The trust that my electorate has placed in me is both humbling and inspiring, and my commitment to deliver the services and infrastructure that we need across the electorate remains unwavering. I also want to put on the record my thanks and appreciation to the Premier for placing his faith and trust in me to be a minister in his cabinet, and I could not be happier to be the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Minister for Manufacturing and the Minister for Regional and Rural Development. The portfolios are such a good fit for my electorate and the resources sector, which is so very important to this state.

In my last address-in-reply speech, I spoke of the challenges faced by the Burdekin electorate and Queensland more widely. While we have kicked some goals over the last four years, many of those challenges remain and some additional challenges have arisen. Today is not a time to apportion blame. I acknowledge some of those challenges are not easily fixed, but that does not mean we should turn a blind eye to them.

During the last term, and by working with the Clermont community, we finally found a solution to what was one of the biggest issues in that community: the lack of a doctor. While Dr Tim's arrival meant Clermont would have a permanent hospital doctor for the first time in five years, we now face a similar situation in other communities in the electorate.

In order to realise the full potential of the Burdekin electorate, it is absolutely vital that we address access to essential services and critical infrastructure. That need is one of the reasons I welcome the Premier's expectation for ministers to engage more with frontline staff and customers. It is an undeniable fact that when essential services are not available families make the tough decision to move, and that reduction in population creates a downward spiral that means addressing the issues becomes more and more difficult.

I mentioned earlier that some of these challenges are not easily fixed. The reality is that the Burdekin electorate is not the only electorate facing these challenges. The people of Queensland made their voices heard on 26 October and elected a government based on their priorities. As a member who spent three terms on that side of the House, I offer some advice to those who are new to this place or who now find themselves in a vastly different position. As Her Excellency said, it is our responsibility to ensure everything we do is in service of the people of Queensland. We may not agree with the direction or even the decisions made in this place but we must remember that we are here because of the honour and the privilege bestowed upon us by the people of our electorates.

As the member for Burdekin, my pride for the electorate is as strong as ever, and my dedication to working for my electorate is unchanged. That pride and dedication is due to many things, but mostly it is due to the people of the electorate. There is seldom a day where I do not hear of an achievement of one of my constituents or of a challenge one of my constituents has overcome. Regardless of where in the electorate they live, the people of the Burdekin electorate do not shy away from hard work. They

embody the Queensland spirit of never giving up, of sticking up for their community and of never backing down. My message to the people of the Burdekin is simple: thank you for your support and for the opportunity to represent you. You have my assurance that I will continue to fight for our fair share of the riches that we grow, mine and raise.

In the last term we celebrated the completion of the Bruce Highway's Haughton floodplain project years ahead of schedule due to a joint effort by representatives at all levels, and I was happy to be a part of it. While that project now provides improved flood immunity between Townsville and the Burdekin, the fight for better roads throughout the electorate continues. Both the Bruce Highway and the Peak Downs Highway remain priorities for me because they are vital connections for industry and are essential links to medical and other services.

It is reassuring for residents of the Burdekin electorate that this government has reinstated the Bruce Highway Advisory Council. Amongst the key deliverables for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is an upgrade to bring the Bruce Highway up to standard when it comes to safety. The highways are not the only priorities. The Kilcummin Diamond Downs Road and the May Downs Road are roads that connect communities, that allow children to attend school and that act as the arteries of the region by connecting produce to consumers. Also, long stretches of the Bowen Developmental Road and the Clermont-Alpha Road remain unsealed, limiting the ability of communities to prosper.

Like the people who rely on those roads, I have had enough of the wrecked cars, the smashed windscreens, the shredded tyres and the crosses erected to honour those who have lost their lives. I have had enough of school buses being cancelled due to road conditions and patients waiting for an ambulance that has become a victim of substandard roads. That is why I was proud to announce this government's commitment of \$100 million to start the task of bringing unsealed roads up to scratch and \$20 million for upgrades on the Peak Downs Highway. While more will be needed and delivered, these announcements prove that we listened, and that is something we will continue to do. A key part of upgrading our highways was this government's success in securing a return to the 80-20 funding model, something that those opposite were unable to do.

Throughout the Burdekin electorate are communities with a great sense of pride. When there is a problem or an opportunity, we do not sit on the sidelines; we roll up our sleeves and we all pitch in. It is that sense of community that led to election commitments to support an aquatic centre at Clermont and an upgrade of the play space at Clermont State School. It is why in the north of the electorate we committed to upgrades at the Cungulla Recreational Fishing and Social Club and upgrades at the Collinsville Men's Shed.

For me, the next four years are about realising our potential and making our communities better places to live and work. This government will boost our communities with investments like the upgrade to the Burdekin Netball Association and Denison Park in Bowen—the home of the mighty Bowen Seagulls. We will put an end to the holding pattern that is Bowen's waterfront precinct with a master plan that examines the needs of local residents and businesses as well as the opportunities presented by tourism.

This government will answer the calls of thousands of residents in the Burdekin and finally establish a long overdue CT scanner at the Ayr Hospital. By doing this we will end the current scenario where up to 15 people per week are subjected to a round trip that can take up to five hours. Not only will this ensure faster diagnosis and treatment for potentially time-critical conditions and injuries, it will also ensure that nursing staff at the Ayr Hospital are available to assist patients rather than being in the back of an ambulance and it will reduce the demand on our local paramedics.

After five years of stalling, this government will fast-track the relocation of the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station to ensure that staff are no longer affected by carcinogenic materials. I thank the minister for her support in having that project approved.

Let me be clear: safety is of the utmost importance to this government. Not only will we make the community safer by enforcing consequences for actions when it comes to offenders, but we will also establish a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to provide a timely and professional response to fatalities in the resources sector. Time after time we have seen fatalities result in recommendations that were not enforced and, in the case of the previous government, not even actioned. It was Labor that closed down the Mining Warden's Court. It was a Labor resources minister who just four years ago spoke about how the Mining Warden's Court had prevented incidents and saved lives. It is the Crisafulli LNP government that will ensure incidents are investigated and answers provided in a timely manner. It is the Crisafulli LNP government that will ensure that lessons learnt result in enforceable action. It is this government that will hold people accountable for their actions.

The Burdekin electorate is proudly home to the lion's share of Queensland's coalmines. Those mines generate billions of dollars in royalties each year that pay for infrastructure and services. As the Premier has made clear, Queensland's resources industry is open for business because this government values the economic contribution and the jobs that are generated by the industry.

When you talk about investor confidence in this great state, there are few contributors to the erosion of that confidence that have a more disastrous impact than projects sitting on a desk without explanation. Since taking office, I have signed in excess of 30 mining leases, relieving a bottleneck that has delayed some projects for more than a decade—projects that had met all the necessary requirements from an environmental and social point of view but they sat in limbo because of the ideology of those opposite.

We have established the Resources Cabinet Committee, a committee that has received worldwide interest—a committee comprising myself, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for the Environment; a committee that is cutting through the red tape, overcoming the hurdles and the obstacles and making a difference. As I say to those mining companies when they come in the door to see me, 'You better have an application in your pocket,' because that is what we are about in Queensland. We want to value our resource industry. We want to see more mines opening and we want to see more gas being produced because that means jobs and it means prosperity for this state.

Our commitment to developing Queensland's critical minerals industry, combined with a government that embraces existing resource projects, means that we will need more workers in the resources industry. It is in Queensland's best interest to ensure that, wherever possible, we develop our own pool of talent and fill jobs in Queensland with Queenslanders. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government committed to an expansion of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy program. It is the reason we have committed funding to encourage women to take on operational and technical roles in our resources sector. The message to the resources industry and the workers in that sector is that, together with my assistant minister, you have a team that backs you and backs the industry.

Perhaps some of the greatest opportunities available to Queensland lay outside the south-east corner but, for too long, that potential has been ignored. This government will work collaboratively with groups like RDA to unlock regional opportunities, but we will also do our share of the heavy lifting through our Right Plan for Manufacturing. Included in that plan is a new manufacturing hub for the Darling Downs and support for our manufacturing sector in this state.

Regardless of whether you refer to the beef and grains grown in the western part of the electorate, to the famous mango and tomato crops in Bowen or to Australia's largest sugar-producing region in the Burdekin district, the fact is that the Burdekin electorate is an agricultural and resource powerhouse. For that reason, I welcome the Premier setting targets such as boosting our farm gate output to \$30 billion by 2030. As our primary producers know, this is no easy task, but it is a task that is made achievable thanks to the \$30 million Sowing the Seeds of Farming Innovation Fund and through the supercharging of scientifically backed research for the future of our food and fibre production.

The 10th anniversary of my election as the member for Burdekin recently passed. I reflect on the many years when I was the sole LNP state member in the north. Isn't it nice to be joined in this place by the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa, Townsville, Cook, Barron River and Mulgrave—to have those representatives in here and to know that we are flying the flag in the north and the Far North?

**Mr Head:** And Central Queensland.

**Mr LAST:** And Central Queensland: Callide and Rockhampton and Mirani—look at them all with their hands up—and Mackay. I welcome my fellow government members. I look forward to working with them over the course of this term to make a real difference and to fly that flag so proudly in those areas.

As we begin the job of turning potential into reality for the Burdekin electorate and for Queensland, I want to acknowledge the people who for me have made this possible. Firstly, to my wife, Kim, and children, Jack and Molly: your unwavering support, love and encouragement is the reason I am standing here today. The sacrifices that you have made for the electorate and the sacrifices that you make for me and for Queensland do not go unnoticed, and every single day you inspire and motivate me to do my best.

I would also like to offer my thanks to my loyal staff—David, Mikayla and Sarah—who make the people of the Burdekin electorate their priority and to my ministerial office staff who make my job as resources minister so much easier. The range of issues they deal with is as diverse as the electorate and the state itself. With additional responsibilities as a minister, I know my electorate staff really carry an increased workload. They fly the flag when I am not there, and I certainly appreciate that.

As we see more and more conflict around the world, we are reminded of how lucky we are to live in a democracy. While elections illustrate our democracy, they are also challenging, especially in an electorate as large as the Burdekin. To my campaign volunteers, thank you. You overcame being away from your loved ones and the tyranny of distance. You withstood intimidation and unprovoked verbal attacks. To know that you overcame and withstood these immense challenges because you believe in me means more than you will ever know.

When you have six pre-polls to look after across an electorate the size of the Burdekin, where it is a seven-hour drive from one side of the electorate to the other, you certainly appreciate the work, the commitment and the effort that those volunteers have put in to helping me be re-elected as the member for Burdekin.

As the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, I look for the opportunities to develop this great state and to create jobs across Queensland no matter whether it is in the resources sector or the manufacturing sector. When I visit the mine sites, the gas fields and all those manufacturing businesses and I see the pride they have in their businesses and how proudly they are flying the flag for this state, it is humbling.

I want to again commit my efforts and this government's efforts to ensuring that we continue to grow our resources and manufacturing sectors in this state. As I like to say, the portfolio I look after is the one that puts money in the bucket. That is the one that helps to pay the bills. I am going to proudly fly that flag throughout this term. I know that my fellow team members and the assistant minister are keen.

**Mr Head:** Do you know any good geologists?

**Mr LAST:** I am looking for a good geologist. They are hard to find. I am happy to promote what a good industry this is and the opportunities that exist across this state. On that recent trade mission overseas to the US our team felt such pride flying the flag for this state. We said, 'You need to come to Queensland if you want to see how it is done.' That is starting to happen already. Those delegations are starting to come through because of that interest and that commitment. They want to see how we do it because we do it best.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I stand before you humbled by the support of so many and by the opportunities that lay ahead. I look forward to once again taking up the fight on the issues that matter and making the Burdekin electorate and Queensland a better place to live, work and play.

Debate, on motion of Mr Last, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Stretton State College, Sports Academies Excellence Program



**Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Stretton State College's Rugby League and football academies, which have earned a national reputation for producing elite athletes through years of hard work. Thanks to dedicated HPE teachers, students have secured promotion to the highest levels of school sport in Queensland, competing against schools with far longer histories in these leagues. Their remarkable success, guided by dedicated coaches, demands better facilities to enable home games in these prestigious competitions.

The Stretton Rugby League Academy, under head coach Jayden Best, is a powerhouse, producing stars like Bela Alo and Alessana Betham, who gained Brisbane Broncos junior contracts; Leevi Williams with a Canterbury Bulldogs junior contract; Fleur Ginn with an NRLW contract with the Parramatta Eels; and Tadh Rabb, who made it into the Gold Coast Titans junior academy.

The trophy cabinet is filling up fast, with the open girls winning the Karen Murphy Cup as state champs. The year 6 boys claimed the South-East Queensland championship and the year 8 boys secured the Stradbroke Cup. The years 7 and 8 and 9 and 10 girls triumphed in the Titans Cup, and our community is very proud that the senior boys now compete in the Allan Langer Trophy, Queensland's top schoolboy Rugby League competition. They have come so far in only a few years.

Likewise, the football academy, with coach Matt Pickham, has excelled with students like Georgia Dean representing the Queensland state team and the Queensland Academy of Sport and also earning a scholarship to the Rocky Mountain University in the USA. The open girls teams won the Queensland



Football School League, the FQ futsal state championship and the Australasian Futsal Championship, and record numbers earned Met West selections, with three representing Queensland at national titles and the boys and girls teams from years 7 to 12 competing in the Queensland Schools Premier League. It is a massive achievement for such a young academy.

These achievements, driven by coaches Jayden Best, Matt Pickham and others, reflect Stretton's rise to elite status. However, these students have earned promotion to leagues with standards that current facilities cannot meet. This is disappointing for parents and students alike because it means we cannot play fixtures at home at Stretton State College, preventing home games. That is why we need upgraded facilities, including a reorientated oval with two full-size fields, a renewed surface with quality grass, irrigation and drainage; and inclusive change rooms with toilets, showers, storage, lighting and protective fencing. These upgrades will provide quality playing fields, change rooms and drinking water needed to host home games. They will also create a community asset for local clubs and families. Stretton's athletes have earned their place among Queensland's best. Upgraded facilities will let them play at home and shine.

### **National Volunteer Week; Cassidy, Ms S**



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.03 pm): It is National Volunteer Week. I know I might be a bit biased with this statement, but in Buderim we have some of the best and most hardworking volunteers in Queensland. This week I have launched my annual Buderim Volunteers Awards which I am again teaming up with the Buderim War Memorial Community Association to host. I want to thank the new president of the BWMCA, Steve Budden, for being a part of it. We are now taking nominations for Community Group of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. We have some excellent nominees, and I want to see nominations from as many community groups as possible. I have a few examples of some of the dedication of our local volunteers.

The Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway group recently hosted a guided walk along the old tramway track which they maintain to ensure that our region's history is preserved. I can tell the House that rain poured down that day yet the volunteers forged ahead with the four-kilometre walk, ensuring a successful event, as they always do.

On the other side of Buderim, every Thursday morning a band of volunteers holds a 'busy bee' to maintain another important parcel of land, the EJ Foote War Memorial Sanctuary. Not only is this track used by members of our community every day; it also serves as the picturesque backdrop for the Buderim Remembrance Day service each year which, as the local member, I am honoured to attend.

Magnolia Health supports Sunshine Coast women affected by pelvic pain conditions like endometriosis. Volunteers held a walk for awareness through Buderim last weekend. They are doing incredible work for women's health in our community.

The Friday just gone was National Walk Safely to School Day. I want to acknowledge the Buderim Lions Club which have their own walk to school program. One day every single week, Lions Club volunteers walk groups of children to school at both Chancellor State College and Buderim Mountain State School to reduce congestion around the schools and promote a healthy lifestyle for our kids.

This Sunday, we have the Dog's Day Out in Buderim. It is a popular festival for pet owners and is organised and run by volunteers at the BWMCA and other community groups. Much to the dismay of my four kids, I do not have a dog but many in our community do. It is a great event and I encourage as many people as possible to get along.

Finally, before I run out of time, I want to place on the record my thanks for one of my staff. All of us in this place know that we cannot do this job without our staff. Whether they are electorate staff or ministerial staff, it is our hardworking and capable staff who get us through the day and make us look better than we are. Sophie Cassidy, who is currently my senior ministerial media advisor, is going on maternity leave tomorrow. She has been my AEO, my EO and now my head of media. She is capable, hardworking and committed, and she is a great mum as well. She is going to enjoy her maternity leave but she will be missed.

**Mrs Gerber:** She's the real member for Buderim.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** She is the real member for Buderim; I take that interjection. If she ever runs against me, I am cooked. Sophie, enjoy your maternity leave and we look forward to seeing you back when you choose to come back.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would also like to wish Sophie all the best. I have known Sophie since she was a baby, so I wish her all the best.

### Ipswich West, Development



**Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise this evening to speak about a serious issue facing the people of Ipswich West—the proposed sale of land around the Ipswich Railway Museum to developers. The community only knows about this because brave whistleblowers came forward and told us about the LNP's secret plans to sell off this historical site. According to current Queensland Rail workers, the plans show that two-thirds of the precinct could be lost. If this goes ahead, we risk erasing a critical part of our identity, like a thief in the night stealing from our shared story. I ask the Crisafulli government: why the secrecy? Our community deserves to be consulted; the government needs to come clean and tell us about its plans.

The President of the Australian Railway Historical Society, Steve Lamprecht, who I have met with, accused Queensland Rail of systematically choking funds from the workshops. He said—

... that QR has deliberately neglected the Workshops to facilitate this potential sale.

He further said—

QR are nothing more than heritage vandals and any sell off would be like selling the family silver.

Do they need reminding that Ipswich has the oldest continuing operating railway workshop in the Southern Hemisphere? It would seem so. If the LNP sell this land, they will be tearing out the very heart and soul of Ipswich. If those opposite cared about Ipswich, they would tell the people of this community what they have planned. Given the slow progress on major road projects, it would seem that we have been forgotten once again. Make no mistake: the people of Ipswich do not want to lose this vital heritage. We demand a better way forward, grounded in transparent, meaningful community consultation. I am calling on the state government to properly consult our community and stakeholders and honour the legacy of the workers who built this region and this state. We must stop any decision to sell or redevelop this land until genuine consultation occurs. Our community deserves to be heard, and our unique history deserves to be protected.

### Cairns, Housing



**Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.09 pm): There is currently a housing shortage with a significant shortage of available rental properties in the Cairns region where the rental market is currently experiencing extremely tight conditions with a vacancy rate of 0.7 per cent. Additionally, the second part of the previous Labor government's rental law changes took effect this month, on 1 May. These changes are in response to ongoing amendments since 2020 which have caused property investors to sell in droves. Landlords, many of whom are mum-and-dad investors, have lost complete control over their investments. It is essential to provide incentives for new investors to construct additional rental properties rather than implementing obstacles. These amendments have resulted in a decrease in available rental homes.

I have been contacted by letting agents in my electorate. They are at their wits' end. These changes under the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 will have an impact on all tenancies in Queensland and, unfortunately, will restrict a property investor from gathering much needed information to make an informed decision when renting out their property.

Some key changes to note, effective from 1 May 2025, include that the minimum entry notice period will increase from 24 hours to 48 hours. New limits apply to the frequency of entry after a notice to end the tenancy has been issued. New limits apply to the personal information that can be requested and stored by managing parties. Managing parties must now provide prospective tenants at least two different ways to submit their rental applications on a standardised form; one of the ways must not be restrictive. A tenant can request structural changes to the rental property. The managing agent must respond within 28 days and approval must not be unreasonably withheld, otherwise the tenant can apply to QCAT for an order to allow them to make the structural changes.

Examples of these structural changes include: altering walls, ceilings; altering plumbing, electrical systems, windows and doors; altering fencing, existing structures and concrete; altering the facade, gutters and even the roof.

The previous Labor government introduced a law that overwrites—

*(Time expired)*

## Land Tax


 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.12 pm): Henry David Thoreau famously said, 'That government is best which governs least,' but at the time that quote was given in 1849, Henry Thoreau had not met the Crisafulli government, and I wonder whether that quote would have been created if he had because the Crisafulli government, after successfully running the best small-target campaign during the 2024 election, is now running a small-target government. But I reckon that the cracks are starting to show. Word on the street is that this government is far too focused on the Labor Party and has not yet assumed the responsibility of governing for Queensland which is what we all hope for and expect, and it is, quite frankly, what ministers are paid for.

Exhibit K: just last month, many of my constituents received their annual land tax assessments and, for some, it was the first time they had been hit with a land tax bill; for others, the bill had increased significantly, well beyond what they had been reasonably expecting. The feedback has been loud and clear: we need a little bit of cost-of-living support during a challenging economic time.


That is why I wrote to the Treasurer, asking for a review of the land tax arrangements. Based on community concerns about the impact of the latest land tax assessment, I thought it was a reasonable request to make of the Treasurer. What I received in response was honestly concerning. Instead of addressing the specifics of the land tax framework or offering a commitment to review the thresholds, the Treasurer launched into a political tirade about mum-and-dad investors being mistreated for 10 years. He blamed the previous government, red tape and just about everyone else for Queensland's current housing pressures without explaining how any of that relates to the current land tax settings.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** I accept that I am being yelled at. I know this is difficult for those opposite to hear. Strangely, the Treasurer sent this political tirade to my constituent who just wanted a response to his question. He wrote to me and said, 'Does the Treasurer understand anything about property?' Maybe the Treasurer has never had to pay land tax and has resolved to attack others to hide that fact. I say with respect to the Treasurer that if he does not understand how the land tax system works then that is a problem. Instead of playing the blame game—pointing the finger at local councils, valuers or anyone else but his own portfolio—he should be reviewing the system.

Let's be clear: this is not necessarily about abolishing land tax. It is about fairness and ensuring the tax burden is proportionate and predictable and that it does not punish people simply for owning the same property that they have had for years. I call on the Treasurer to stop the spin, stop shifting responsibility and commit to a review of Queensland's land tax framework because Queenslanders deserve a system that is transparent, sensible and fit for purpose.

## Small Business Month

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.15 pm): It is Small Business Month and time to celebrate small businesses. I would like to pay tribute to some of the most enduring and iconic businesses in Rockhampton—enterprises that have not only stood the test of time but also helped shape the very fabric of our community.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge City Printing Works. This is a business that began in 1903 when Andrew 'Lofty' Anderson and his wife, Emma, arrived in Rockhampton. They did not have anything other than a second-hand printer. With that they printed the newspaper, the *Critic*, which became a Friday night favourite. Over four generations the Anderson family has kept that business thriving, contributing to our economy, reinvesting in new technology and serving Rockhampton with pride and professionalism. Their story is one of resilience, innovation and deep community roots.

Next I would like to recognise Large's Furniture & Cabinet Makers. They were established in 1946 by Jim and Isabell Large. It began with the humble production of a wooden clothes peg. Can you believe it? That evolved into Central Queensland's longest standing furniture manufacturer for nearly 80 years. Four generations of the Large family have delivered craftsmanship of the highest quality, contributing to the region's reputation for bespoke cabinetry and design. Their legacy is carved into homes right across our region.


I have saved the best for last and the most heartfelt tribute. Stewarts Rockhampton has been a fixture of our CBD for an incredible 158 years. For the past 33 of those years it has been stewarded by the Woods family—most notably, Mrs Denise Woods. Mrs Woods is more than just a businesswoman. She is a fashion icon, a mentor and a friend to countless women across Central Queensland. From

race wear to formal gowns, shoes to perfume, she has helped generations of women feel confident elegant and seen. On 12 May, Mrs Woods announced her retirement, leading into the closure of the ladies' department of Stewarts. It is the end of an era, but also a moment to celebrate a remarkable career. I would like to congratulate the Woods family and wish Mrs Woods all the very best.

Rockhampton is richer for the contributions of these businesses and the people behind them. We do say thank you to our small businesses in Rockhampton.

Whilst I have the floor, I would like to congratulate Michelle Landry and Colin Boyce on being successfully re-elected to our Commonwealth parliament.

### **Greenslopes Electorate, St Maroun's Maronite Catholic Church**

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.18 pm): 'And who is my neighbour?' That is a question that is posed in the New Testament. There will be many answers to this question. Theologians will be better able than me to answer that from a biblical perspective. To me this parable seeks to remind us that our neighbour is anyone in need. It is a passage I contemplate as I walk down my street—the street I have lived on for nearly 30 years. I have gotten to know many of my neighbours over that time. I am able to look at the houses and answer that question with names and stories of triumph and hardship.

Tonight I want to spend a bit of time speaking about one of my favourite neighbours. It is not just a neighbour; it is a community of neighbours: St Maroun's Maronite Catholic Church in Greenslopes led by my good friend Father Fadi Salame, supported by his wife, Andree, and his wonderful family. Originally, this was a Roman Catholic Church, Our Lady of Lourdes, but the Maronite community had been celebrating mass here since 1984. In 1988 they purchased the property and on 26 February 1989 it was officially dedicated and opened by His Grace Archbishop Khalife, Maronite Archbishop of Australia.


The church is the centre of the Maronite community in Queensland with nearly 4,000 registered parishioners in South-East Queensland and approximately 250 families. The community regularly gathers for worship and community celebrations. I have been fortunate enough to be invited to join the community on many occasions for both worship and community celebrations. It is a warm and generous community where you can see people putting their Christian values into action. I saw that firsthand last year when they joined me on part of the Really Big Walk.

The Maronite community was founded nearly 1,500 years ago by Saint Maron, so three minutes is not enough to cover that amount of time. They are originally from Lebanon, with strong links remaining to this day between Brisbane and Lebanon. This community also has strong links to all the other Lebanese faith communities in South-East Queensland. It is part of our rich tapestry of successful multicultural communities.

There have been so many significant events since the church opened. In 2005 the sacred relics of Saint Charbel, Rafqa and Nimatullah left the shores of Lebanon for the first time ever and were celebrated in Greenslopes in a four-day festival. I was lucky enough to be there in 2018 when Archbishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay brought the relics of the founding Saint Maron to his namesake church. There are so many other regular church events and significant events I could mention, but let's look to the future.

The church is about to undergo a major reconstruction with a new church and a community centre planned—a community centre where people can learn Aramaic, the language of Jesus Christ. This is so exciting for the Maronite community and for our whole community. It will continue the nearly 40-year history of Greenslopes being the centre of the Maronite community in Queensland. I will continue to be glad to have the Maronite Catholic community as my neighbours and my friends.

### **Care Goondiwindi**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise to inform the House of a wonderful organisation in my electorate, Care Goondiwindi. I know as members in this House we would all be familiar with organisations in our electorates that provide wonderful community services. Invariably they are run by the community for the community. That seems to be the best formula for providing the care and support that the vulnerable in our communities need.

Care Goondiwindi provides a number of community services, but the number of services they provide has been constrained to some extent because of growth in demand and growth in the complexity of providing these services. They are in their third location since I came to know them when I first became the member for Southern Downs. They provide community development services,

community justice, disability services and respite, crisis relief, financial resilience support, Indigenous parenting programs, rural family services and youth access. Previously they have offered legal services and provided more services for vulnerable youth and their families to ensure they have the best possible start in life and to keep them away from crime.


As the community is aware, the government passed a second tranche of its Making Queensland Safer laws.

**Mrs Poole:** Hear, hear!

**Mr LISTER:** I take that acknowledgement from my honourable friend the member for Mundingburra. We have been very keen to make sure that there are consequences for actions and that those who offend against the community are locked up if necessary to keep the community safe. We also have emphasised the importance of early intervention and support—decisive early intervention and support—and the obvious choice for an organisation to deliver those services in somewhere like Goondiwindi is Care Goondiwindi. In order to grow their services they need more space.

I am very pleased and grateful to the government for the announcement of \$2 million for Care Goondiwindi to acquire land for a new community centre and to finance a business case and a detailed design for what they need. Minister Amanda Camm came out to Goondiwindi not long ago and announced that we have brought forward that funding—the Deputy Premier has just sat beside me; I am sure he had something to do with that, so I thank you, sir—so that Care Goondiwindi can get cracking. There is not very much suitable land in Goondiwindi. There is certainly no land other than the one site that is left that they need to secure to build on, and the vendor had his tongue hanging out for a sale. We have been able to secure that thanks to the Crisafulli government, so I want to thank Minister Camm and no doubt the Treasurer, David Janetzki, for finding that funding for us in difficult times. I wish Care Goondiwindi very well and you can expect that I will continue to advocate for it and tell the wonderful stories of what it does in this House whenever I can.

### **Morayfield Electorate, Projects**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.24 pm): I want to take the opportunity to update the House on a number of projects which have been progressed in the Morayfield state electorate which I am very proud of, not only because I know of the impact that these projects will have in the community but they are projects that I have championed. I often talk to people about the fact that the role of a member of parliament is not just about representing your constituents and advocating for them but about community development work, and community development work sometimes takes time. You need to consult the community about what they need, you need to advocate for the plans, you need to advocate for the funding and you need to see through construction if it is an infrastructure project, and I want to talk about two of those projects tonight.

The first is the new PCYC for Caboolture—a much needed project. It is a project which I have been a part of for the last six years. It was an idea identified. I spoke with the community about it. I lobbied our then federal member Susan Lamb for federal Labor to make a commitment around funding it. I lobbied the council. I lobbied my colleagues. It is now a \$17.5 million project funded by all three levels of government, and construction has started. The walls are going up; it is due to be completed by the end of the year. It is not just a new building; it is about where it is going to be. It is being built right next to the five-year-old Caboolture police station—another project I championed and was pleased to officially open five years ago—but it is right in the middle of town and it will be a centrepiece for engaging the community and supporting young people.

The other project I want to talk about is the Caboolture Neighbourhood Centre. This has a bit of a connection to my family as well, because my father was a long-term public servant with the department of communities and about 20 years ago he identified a site for a neighbourhood centre. It was an old building. The plan was always to upgrade it at some point and I have been able to advocate as the local member to have funding committed by the previous government. I want to give credit to Minister Camm and her staff for facilitating a briefing for me this week with the department and the department confirmed that that funding was locked in. The funding envelope remains the same—it is a \$6 million-plus project—and tenders are expected to be called this year and construction should be completed next year. That is another great project and one that a local member can see through as a community development project.

### Cousins, Mr I



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.27 pm): Today I rise to pay tribute to a true giant of the Gold Coast, Mr Ian Cousins—affectionately known to many as Mr Media or Mr Gold Coast. Ian passed away peacefully on 17 April at Robina Hospital surrounded by those he loved most. His passing marks the end of a remarkable era in local media, community service and friendship. For more than four decades Ian was a towering figure in radio and community life across the coast. From his early days at 4RO in Rockhampton to 4GG, Radio 97 at the Tweed and then as general sales manager of 92.5 Gold FM and 90.9 Sea FM, Ian's passion for broadcasting helped shape the sound and spirit of the Gold Coast.

But he was not just a voice on the airwaves. Ian had a gift for bringing people together. Over the years we worked together he was a mate and a mentor. Such was the depth of our relationship, we often jokingly referred to each other as 'honey' because there were many weeks we spent more time and shared more meals together than we did with our wives and families. Together we worked through the late nineties to create the Gold Coast Community Fund, the Hospital Foundation, we fought to save the Gold Coast Chargers and we worked with the then Business Leaders Institute to establish the Gold Coast Business Excellence Awards, and for 20 years Ian has led those awards as a volunteer recognising businesses and entrepreneurs who helped build the modern Gold Coast. That quiet but constant commitment to community was Ian through and through.

Some in this House will remember him not only for his professional achievements but for his incredible warmth. He was always quick with a story or a smile or a lunch invitation. In fact, we affectionately called him Sir Lunchalot and the toasted sandwich that he introduced me to all those many years ago at the Seabank Cafe in Southport was a chicken, cheese and onion toasted sandwich on multigrain bread, and this remains as my favourite late-night snack here in parliament. Ian was a true gentleman.

To his wife, Brenda, and sons Jordan and Elliott we offer our deepest condolences. Your loss is deeply felt across the coast. Ian Cousins was not just a voice to the Gold Coast; he helped to define it. His legacy will live on in the stories we tell, the events we celebrate and the bonds of friendship he helped nurture. May he rest in peace. There are so many other stories I could tell about Ian, there are probably some that I should not tell and there are probably many that I am glad that no-one will ever find out about, but we had some amazing times together and he was probably one of the greatest and kindest people I have ever worked with.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young