



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 10 June 2025

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TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

ASSENT TO BILL



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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 23 May 2025

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

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

23 May 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 May 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 23 May 2025 [\[596\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Members



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Kurwongbah that he will be absent from the House from 10 to 12 June inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Southern Downs that he will be absent from the House from 10 June to 27 June inclusive. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 15: 2024-25—Education 2024*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 15: 2024-25—Education 2024 [\[597\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in accordance with the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, I appointed Dr Daniel Morgan as Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner for the term of three years commencing 26 May 2025. I also appointed Mr Mitchell Kunde as Acting Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner during any period or all periods when Dr Morgan is absent from duty or from the state. The instruments of appointment and the oaths of appointment were tabled on 26 May 2025.

Matters of Privilege



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the number of matters of privilege being raised is increasing and many of them relate to matters of argument of policy interpretation, semantics, puffery, technicality, triviality or otherwise not worthy of referral. When a matter of privilege is received by my office, it is generally referred to the member the subject of complaint for response. The original complaint and response are then assessed by the Clerk's office and a brief provided to me. I may decide to dismiss the matter by statement to this House, refer the matter to the Ethics Committee or request the member to apologise, retract or otherwise clarify the record and either refer or not refer the matter to the Ethics Committee.

There is a lot of work involved in the complaint process and it is disappointing spending the resources of my office, the Clerk's office and members' offices on matters that look like 'tit for tat' referrals. I am generally loath to refer a matter to the committee that can be dealt with by an adequate apology or explanation.

Standing order 266 provides examples of contempt. Most complaints are about deliberately misleading the House. I make it very clear to members that I expect matters raised to be timely. I have decided to generally not action any matter that is over 6 weeks, or 42 days, old. Complaints must provide evidence to each element of the alleged contempt and the matter must be serious and should not be technical, trivial or vexatious. In this regard referrals should not be about matters of policy interpretation, semantics or puffery. In looking at whether a matter is serious, I consider matters such as: does the matter seriously impinge upon the rights and powers of the House, committee or members—for example, does the matter seriously misrepresent the record of the House or has the matter unfairly affected the reputation of a member? I ask all members not to send matters that are unworthy of referral.

Motions, Provision of Copy



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in recent sitting weeks there have been some instances where members who moved substantive motions did not have a copy of the motion immediately available for the Clerk to sign and circulate. This caused delays in circulating the motion to other members and in one instance delayed commencement of debate on the motion.

To ensure the parliamentary program is progressed as efficiently as possible, members are reminded to have a copy of their motion ready to provide to the Clerk at the time of, or immediately after, moving their motion. If a copy can be provided in advance, so they can be pre-copied, this would even be better.

Vanuatu, Parliamentary Partnership Agreement



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in accordance with the agreement by the Australian and Pacific regions of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to establish twinning arrangements between the parliaments of two regions, the Parliament of Vanuatu and the Parliament of Queensland have renewed their Parliamentary Partnership Agreement for a further 10 years.

This Parliamentary Partnership Agreement aims to promote collaboration, cooperation and understanding between the Parliament of Vanuatu and the Parliament of Queensland for the mutual benefit of both parliaments. A copy of the agreement was tabled on 30 May 2025.

Chamber Microphones



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, last sitting week I noted some issues regarding the use of microphones in the chamber, with multiple members having their microphones turned on at the same time blocking others from turning on their microphones when jumping or being called. We have been reviewing the logs. I will give members the benefit of the doubt that the issues that arose last week were by accident or coincidence, but I want to make it clear that this activity is being monitored closely.

I would ask members to keep their microphones raised at all times, including when they have finished speaking and resumed their seat. In this way we will be able to pick up more quickly when members have inadvertently left microphones on or when members' microphones are accidentally triggered.

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from St Thomas' Catholic School in the electorate of Bulimba; Y Schools Queensland, Brisbane South Senior in the electorate of Algester; Varsity College in the electorate of Burleigh; Mount Samson State School in the electorate of Pine Rivers; and Humanitas High School in the electorate of McConnel.

PETITIONS

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

Mount Cotton Road, Upgrade

Hon. de Brenni, from 711 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver safety and congestion upgrades on Mount Cotton Road [\[589\]](#) [\[590\]](#).

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

Kelsey Creek, Drilling

Mr Berkman, from 919 petitioners, requesting the House to halt all drilling in Dittmer/Kelsey Creek in the Whitsundays [\[591\]](#).

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

Four-Day Working Week

2,187 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce legislation that full-time work is four days per week for Queensland residents [\[592\]](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Safety and Efficacy Trial

6,870 petitioners, requesting the House to provide the reasons why the dataset and biospecimens from the Queensland COVID-19 Vaccination Safety and Efficacy Trial, the QoVax, program, are not being lawfully retained [\[593\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

23 May 2025—

[537](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025

[538](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 3, 58th Parliament—Report on visit to Hope Vale and Cooktown with the Family Responsibilities Commission

[539](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 4, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 February 2025 and 4 March 2025

[540](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 10, 58th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

26 May 2025—

[541](#) Notice of appointment—Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Dr Daniel Morgan, commencing 26 May 2025

- [542](#) Notice of appointment—Acting Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Mr Mitchell Kunde, commencing 26 May 2025
- [543](#) Oath for appointment as Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner of Dr Daniel Morgan, dated 22 May 2025
- [544](#) Oath for appointment as Acting Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner of Mr Mitchell Kunde, dated 22 May 2025
- [545](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 12 March 2025
- [546](#) Department of Primary Industries: Queensland Shark Management Plan—2025 to 2029
- [547](#) KPMG report, dated 19 November 2024, titled 'Shark Control Program: Evaluation Report—Final Report, Prepared for Department of Agriculture and Fisheries'
- [548](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on official trade mission to Japan by the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Hon. Tim Mander, 21-27 April 2025

29 May 2025—

- [549](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4230-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,174 petitioners, requesting the House to adjust state laws so that there is one law to govern cat ownership
- [550](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an ePetition (4222-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,839 petitioners, requesting the House to place all power transmission lines underground

30 May 2025—

- [551](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4196-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,611 petitioners, requesting the House to rescind all fines in areas where there was no road work activity at the time of the alleged offence and ensure all roadwork and associated speed limit signs be removed or covered up at sites where there is no current road work activity
- [552](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4206-25) sponsored by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 904 petitioners, requesting the House to simplify the registration process and improve access for side-by-side vehicle owners and operators
- [553](#) Parliamentary Partnership Agreement Between the Parliaments of Vanuatu and Queensland, dated 29 May 2025
- [554](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to an ePetition (4235-25) sponsored by the member for Gladstone, Hon. Butcher, from 223 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the proposed ministerial infrastructure designation process for the proposed social housing unit block at Little Creek Boulevard, Kirkwood, Gladstone

9 June 2025—

- [555](#) The Public Advocate—Supporting parents with cognitive disability in Queensland: The need for reform, May 2025

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Valuers Registration Act 1992:

- [556](#) Valuers Registration Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 33
- [557](#) Valuers Registration Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 33, explanatory notes
- [558](#) Valuers Registration Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 33, human rights certificate

Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

- [559](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 34
- [560](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 34, explanatory notes
- [561](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, No. 34, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [562](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Property Occupations) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 35
- [563](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Property Occupations) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 35, explanatory notes
- [564](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Property Occupations) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 35, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [565](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 36
- [566](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 36, explanatory notes
- [567](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 36, human rights certificate

Corrective Services (Emerging Technologies and Security) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023:

- [568](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 37
- [569](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 37, explanatory notes
- [570](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 37, human rights certificate

Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024:

- [571](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 38
- [572](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 38, explanatory notes
- [573](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 38, human rights certificate

Corrective Services Act 2006:

- [574](#) Corrective Services (Prescribed Surveillance Devices) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 39
- [575](#) Corrective Services (Prescribed Surveillance Devices) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 39, explanatory notes
- [576](#) Corrective Services (Prescribed Surveillance Devices) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 39, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

- [577](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 40
- [578](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 40, explanatory notes
- [579](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 40, human rights certificate

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971:

- [580](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Paradise Dam Improvement Project—Early Works) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 41
- [581](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Paradise Dam Improvement Project—Early Works) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 41, explanatory notes
- [582](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (Paradise Dam Improvement Project—Early Works) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 41, human rights certificate

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Fisheries Act 1994, Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011:

- [583](#) Environmental Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 42
- [584](#) Environmental Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 42, explanatory notes
- [585](#) Environmental Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 42, human rights certificate

Explosives Act 1999:

- [586](#) Explosives Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 43
- [587](#) Explosives Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 43, explanatory notes
- [588](#) Explosives Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 43, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie)—

- [594](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), pursuant to section 106 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for a wind farm and clearing of native vegetation on land at Morinish and Morinish South made by Moonlight Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd, as Trustee for Moonlight Range Trust 3, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenleaf Renewables Pty Ltd
- [595](#) Decision Notice by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), pursuant to section 106 of the Planning Act 2016, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application for a wind farm and clearing of native vegetation on land at Morinish and Morinish South made by Moonlight Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd, as Trustee for Moonlight Range Trust 3, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenleaf Renewables Pty Ltd

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing Supply



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.39 am): This budget is about delivering for Queenslanders. It is the fresh start we promised. A decade of chaos and crisis under Labor left us with significant challenges to address. Labor's failures created our state's worst housing crisis. Rent went through the roof. Vulnerable Queenslanders were unable to find or keep secure housing and were stuck on waitlists. Many more were unable to own their own homes. We want more Queenslanders to have a place to call home. Our government's first budget will show Queensland that we are committed to delivering what we promised.

Queensland currently ranks last in the percentage of people who own their own home. Our vision is to see us go from last to first within a decade. We have already axed a Labor tax. Queenslanders who make their first home a new home no longer pay a cent of stamp duty—not one cent. We promised to do it before the election and we delivered it, just as we said we would. It is already making a difference to everyday Queenslanders entering the property market, but we are only getting started delivering the fresh start we promised.

As part of our first budget, we will provide even more cost-of-living relief to first home buyers. We have extended the \$30,000 first home owner grant for another 12 months. This cost-of-living relief was due to end but it will be delivered by this government in our first budget. That is real support to help more Queenslanders live the great Australian dream and own their own home.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection. This cost-of-living relief was due to end but it will be delivered by this government in our first budget. We have also made it possible for first home buyers to rent out a room without losing their grant.

To end the housing crisis, we need more homes. Our government has a plan to unlock one million homes by 2044. It will be overseen by our Housing Ministerial Taskforce Cabinet Committee, which is focused on increasing housing supply. The \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund will provide funding to prioritise the essential infrastructure we need to activate new residential housing developments. It will help drive investment right across the state, including in regional, rural and remote Queensland. It will deliver tens of thousands of new social and community homes as well. Ten thousand of those will be delivered on church and charity owned land after we made it accessible for housing. We listened to the sector and we acted.

We also need to ensure critical social housing goes to those genuinely in need—that is, vulnerable people and families. Under Labor, some tenants were receiving taxpayer funded housing despite earning well above the income threshold while thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders were stuck on Labor's waitlist. We will fix Labor's broken social housing system to make sure those homes go to Queenslanders who need them the most. Every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home and our first budget will make sure Queenslanders right across the state are given the support they need.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.43 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland by restoring confidence that our state is a safe place to invest, with a clear vision for the future. Next sitting week Queenslanders will see the first LNP budget of this government and within it the foundations for a fresh start after a decade of Labor mismanagement and underinvestment. When we came to government in October last year, we could have hardly imagined the extent of the black holes, the blowouts and the neglect of basic services and infrastructure by those opposite when they sat on the treasury benches.

In particular, Queenslanders will not forget the debacle of the Olympic and Paralympic Games under Labor. We know that there are members of the opposition who, to this day, support the Leader of the Opposition's failed QSAC plan.

Mrs Frecklington: Surely not.

A government member: Name them!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjections. I will name them and, to the Attorney-General's interjection of 'Surely not' I say, 'Surely is.' Before the election, the opposition leader told Queenslanders his QSAC plan would cost \$1.6 billion for a temporary stadium. When we came to government, we revealed it would have really cost Queenslanders \$2.25 billion for temporary stands at a facility from the 1980s that would have come down after the games. There would have been no legacy because at that time there was no vision from the Leader of the Opposition or the Labor Party. We also know the Leader of the Opposition's QSAC plan blew out by \$650 million, further highlighting just how bad Labor was at games planning when in power.

Labor are the masters of blowouts. Let us not forget the athletes village debacle from those opposite, a nearly \$3.5 billion black hole on athletes village funding for the games. They talked about it a lot; they just never funded it. I can advise the House that, under the Crisafulli LNP government, athletes accommodation in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast and on the Sunshine Coast will ultimately transition to a legacy of thousands of dwellings after 2032—are you ready for this, Leader of the

Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition—with a range of accommodation of all types including mixed use and social and affordable housing. Those opposite allocated less than five per cent of the funding required to build this essential infrastructure in time for 2032. That less than five per cent of the \$3.5 billion was not for housing or the athletes villages; it was for a road project to get to an athletes village. They did not fund the athletes villages. They talked about them and they talked about where they were going to go, but less than five per cent of the funding required was for a road and not for actual housing.

I hear the deputy leader of the Labor Party complaining in the media about the types of housing the villages will become after the games. The Labor Party is spreading misinformation and fear in our communities. They have the hide to do that when they never had a plan. They never budgeted. It was all smoke and mirrors. It was nothing but glossy brochures and media announcements.

This government will not cop it. We will not cop lectures from an opposition that failed to fund the villages, that failed to offer a clear and consistent vision for the games, that would have embarrassed Queensland on the world stage with their QSAC plan—a plan they would go back to if given the opportunity—and that at every turn failed Queenslanders. Our LNP government is delivering for Queensland. Despite the whingeing and the whining from the Labor Party, Queenslanders are finally getting excited about the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the legacy our 2032 Delivery Plan will deliver.

I acknowledge the hard work of the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance during the Cabinet Budget Review Committee process. Without giving anything away, I know Queenslanders will see a budget that finally puts them first. The new government will not shy away from facing the challenges left to us by Labor. By contrast, we will address them head-on. Queenslanders deserve a government that has their priorities at heart and with our first budget they will see what change really looks like in a positive state—a state that is now open for business. Queenslanders deserve this government, which has their priorities at heart. We promised to give Queenslanders a fresh start from the chaos and crisis that engulfed and debilitated the Labor government over 10 years. Ours will be a budget that puts Queenslanders first, a budget that exposes Labor's black holes and blowouts and a budget that will set the foundations for a fresh start.

Budget



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.48 am): On 24 June, I will hand down the Crisafulli government's first budget. This budget is about delivering for Queensland and it is the fresh start we promised. It is a budget that will show we are doing what we said we would do. We are fixing Labor's crime crisis, Labor's cost-of-living crisis, Labor's health crisis and Labor's housing crisis. We are delivering safety for Queenslanders, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy, health services when and where Queenslanders need them and a better plan for our state's future.

There have been, and there will continue to be, many mistruths spread by those opposite in the lead-up to the budget. This will be a budget that honours our commitments. It will be a budget grounded in the principle of respecting taxpayers' money. Debt will be lower than what it would have been under Labor, who were on track to deliver the worst per capita debt burden of any state in the nation. Under Labor, debt was forecast to hit \$218 billion in 2027-28 with \$30 billion in deficits across the forwards, including a record \$9.2 billion deficit, and no credible pathway to surplus. That was Labor's legacy.

It is a serious challenge but the 2025-26 budget will begin laying the foundations for budget repair. On Sunday, we announced another targeted cost-of-living relief measure: the extension of the first home owner grant boost to \$30,000 for another 12 months. It was our pleasure to meet with Syrian refugees John and Lina, who left their homeland seven years ago for a new life in Australia. They sold everything they had to get here. Since then, they have saved up enough money to buy their first home here in Queensland. They will be able to build it and move in sooner with the support of the Crisafulli government, thanks to our decisions to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home and to extend the boosted first home owner grant.

Our budget will lay the foundation for a fresh start, delivering guaranteed employment security, enhancing services and delivering our election commitments. We have already saved the budget more than \$50 billion through not progressing Pioneer-Burdekin, pausing BPIC and not advancing taxpayer money towards Labor's hydrogen pipedream. We have shown respect for taxpayers' money in contrast to Labor's multibillion dollar blowouts on CopperString, the hospital capacity expansion program, Cross River Rail and Borumba. The 2025-26 budget is about delivering for Queensland and it is the fresh start we promised.

Social and Affordable Housing



Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.51 am): A centrepiece of our upcoming budget will be to deliver more housing for Queenslanders in every part of Queensland. It will further lay the foundations for the fresh start we promised. With 52,031 Queenslanders on the social housing waitlist, it is more important than ever for our entire housing system to support those who need it most. Under the former Labor government that basic principle was abandoned. Nearly half of all public housing tenants did not have a rent or eligibility check for over five years, and for some it was even longer. That meant households on incomes as high as \$200,000 were living in social homes, paying less than \$200 a week in rent, while tens of thousands of vulnerable Queenslanders were left waiting for housing. This was a monumental failure of governance by Labor, and the Crisafulli government is working hard to fix it.

From 1 July we will be restoring fairness to Queensland's social housing system by reintroducing annual rent reviews and ongoing eligibility checks for all public housing tenants. This will make sure that social housing goes to those who are the most vulnerable in our state. Under our new approach all public housing tenants will have their rent and eligibility reviewed each year. Households earning or with assets over the threshold will pay market rent while being offered extensive support to transition into other forms of housing. Any identified rent increase will be capped at a maximum of \$15 per week, so tenants currently paying below the long standing 25 per cent of their income in rent will transition fairly and gradually to their correct rent.

We will also be encouraging voluntary downsizing—or rightsizing—by offering relocation incentives, including paying moving costs, and rent-free periods to help tenants who choose to move into homes that better suit their needs. Let me be clear: no tenant will be forced to downsize. With over 8,000 underoccupied public homes that we know about and more than 26,432 applications active on our waitlist, we must do all we can to use our existing homes better, especially with more and more beautiful homes becoming available, and there are a lot more to come.

Our tenancy management approach is part of our plan to ensure more Queenslanders have a place to call home. We are empowering our housing officers to do what they do best: support the Queenslanders who need a roof over their heads. I thank them for the work that they do in housing service centres and in outreach activities across Queensland.

We also know that the most important piece of the puzzle is increasing housing supply, and we have set a target of 53,500 more community homes by 2044. Labor's failure to build new homes is one of the main reasons we are in this situation. Despite endless glossy brochures and announcements during their decade in power, they delivered just 509 new social homes, on average, per year. Unlike Labor, who abandoned basic, bare-minimum housing system management, we are restoring fairness to tenancy management and embedding equity across our social housing system. We are backing it with record investment into building more social and community homes and better supporting those at risk of homelessness and the services that care for them.

Social housing should be part of the foundation for those who need a hand up, not a subsidy for those who no longer qualify. It certainly should not be a system that leaves over 52,000 people languishing on a waitlist while households earning six figures get a free ride. This is all about restoring fairness and embedding equity to make sure our social housing system works as it should for those in the system and for those waiting to have somewhere to call home.

Training and Skills, Investment



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.55 am): It is a huge week for skills, with the biennial WorldSkills competition taking place right here in Brisbane. Over 600 vocational students from all over Australia will be striving for the opportunity to be declared the best in the world at their chosen craft, competing against fellow VET students from all over the globe. More than half of Queensland's 118 competitors are from regional areas, and WorldSkills will generate nearly \$15 million for the Queensland economy.

There will be 63 skills categories on display—from plumbing, bricklaying, cooking to hairdressing—with spectators marvelling at the speed, dexterity and professionalism of our future tradespeople. The winners from eligible skills categories will have the chance to represent Australia at the 48th WorldSkills competition in Shanghai, which will involve more than 60 countries. Members on both sides of the House should rightly be proud of our brilliant competitors.

Our government is fighting hard to repair a skills shortage across the state, so it is wonderful to be putting the importance of trainees and apprenticeships in focus while at the same time showcasing beautiful Brisbane to the world. Unlike Labor, who were great at making announcements but not so great at funding them, we are committed to inspiring the next generation of young people to take up a career in such industries as construction, manufacturing, technology, hospitality and health care. No matter where you live—from Biloela to Bundaberg or from Toowoomba to Townsville—there is so much dedicated, innovative and passionate skills talent to be uncovered and celebrated.

With a forecast that 80 per cent of our future jobs will require higher levels of skill, the demand for skilled workers, particularly within trades, will increase more than ever. Vocational education is not just an alternative career pathway; it is a cornerstone of opportunity for thousands of young Queenslanders. Whether it is training in construction, aged care, hospitality or trades, VET equips students with practical, job-ready skills that help them enter the workforce confident and raring to go.

Our election commitments to vocational training show that, unlike those opposite, we are prepared to invest in vocational training for Queensland's future. We are investing \$2 million into training the next generation of TAFE educators by attracting trade professionals, Defence Force veterans and stay-at-home parents. We are building world-class facilities and investing in centres of excellence throughout the state. We have committed over \$600 million so far in 2024-25 to the skills needed across all economic portfolios, ensuring the best outcomes for students are at the heart of our decision-making.

Additionally, we are investing \$2 million to expand Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, with completion anticipated to be 31 March 2028. We are boosting our skilled agricultural workers with more training opportunities through our regions, working with the Department of Primary Industries to develop actions to coincide with the development of the agricultural 25-year blueprint.

We have committed \$60 million to the Moreton Bay TAFE Centre of Excellence, with the project anticipated to be completed in 2028. Importantly, the TAFE campus will also have a training precinct for TAFE teachers. We are supporting a Marine Centre of Excellence for Southern Moreton Bay Island with industry partners SeaLink and TAFE Queensland. We are delivering new TAFE excellence satellite precincts in Rockhampton and North Queensland, with the new TAFE Excellence Precinct for Rockhampton, in partnership with CQUniversity, which will include a trades training centre, a horticultural centre, training facilities for metal fabrication, air conditioning, refrigeration, hospitality, IT, visual arts, hairdressing and beauty.


In Caloundra, we are building a TAFE Centre of Excellence in Aura to focus on construction trades, which will be critical in helping deliver the infrastructure we need for the 2032 Olympics and beyond. Last, but certainly not least, we are investing \$500,000 to boost the number of women in operating and technical roles for the resources sector.

While TAFE and private RTOs have a large responsibility when it comes to delivering vocational training, our schools also provide a good, early pipeline to help deliver a significant number of VET courses and set young Queenslanders on a positive career pathway. Unfortunately, as was the case across a large number of portfolios including youth crime, health and housing, the former Labor government neglected important work in the vocational education and training space. They failed to ensure our skills pipeline could keep pace with the rapidly changing jobs market and skills shortages were neglected.

I am very pleased that, unlike Labor, this government is focused on extracting the best possible outcomes for Queensland as we deliver skills and training. I thank the Minister for Education for his proactive approach to improving VET outcomes in schools. We must ensure students have the best opportunity to transition from school into skilled, long-term and well-paid jobs. Students will have the opportunity to complete a mix of non-accredited and accredited training, to create connections with future employers via the Gateway to Industry Schools program and will get practical, early experience by undertaking school-based traineeships and apprenticeships.

Our commitment to vocational education, whether it is provided in schools, by TAFE or by private providers, will build the right skills for Queensland now and into the future. We are doing just as we said we would do, laying the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland.

Hospital Rescue Plan

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. The Crisafulli LNP government will heal Labor's health crisis. The Hospital Rescue Plan is necessary to save the health system from a decade of mismanagement, chaos and crisis under Labor—chaos and

crisis under Labor. From Currumbin to the cape, it is the largest ever investment in health infrastructure in Queensland and it will deliver more than 2,600 beds throughout the state. We are going to do the proper planning and proper budgeting for these projects and not make the same mistakes as Labor. Our plan is already delivering easier access to health services for Queenslanders, like the new modular theatre in Proserpine that opened just last month. The Hospital Rescue Plan—

Mr Bailey: The cuts plan.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Hospital Rescue Plan, member for Miller, sets out a clear path forwards to build three brand new hospitals in Coomera, Toowoomba and Bundaberg. I was recently in Bundaberg with the member for Burnett and I was in Toowoomba with the member for Toowoomba North. In both cities I announced that we would act on advice that operating dual campuses, as Labor had planned, was a significant risk and would have cost the HHSs hundreds of millions in additional operating costs each and every year—money that could not be spent on delivering health services to Queenslanders.

In Bundaberg, a new design that transfers all services and all beds to the new site will be progressed with at least 139 new overnight beds and level 5 services, including emergency and maternity. I was also at the site of the new Coomera Hospital with the member for Coomera. We are increasing the number of beds at Coomera to 600—600 is what the hospital and health service actually needed, not what Labor was preparing to deliver. We are delivering what the hospital and health service and the people of the northern Gold Coast need, not just what Labor thought they wanted.

As part of the plan there will be major expansions at 10 existing hospitals including—and the member for Redcliffe will love this—Redcliffe, Mackay and Townsville, as well as the Queensland Cancer Centre. Alongside the member for Redcliffe, I announced a new plan that meets the hospital and health service's needs, clinical needs and importantly the needs of the people on the peninsula. The new Redcliffe Hospital expansion will use the site to maximise service delivery; importantly ensure the safety of nurses, doctors and healthcare workers; and avoid a cultural artefact that was costing Queenslanders \$54,000 a day in delays.

We have removed unnecessary conditions like the BPICs—otherwise known as the CFMEU tax—and will work in partnership with industry to create better value for money outcomes across our contracts. We have already progressed procurement activities for key projects, with the request for offer for the new Townsville Hospital multistorey car park being released this week—700 car parks to be delivered—and the Redcliffe car park expansion expression of interest was released earlier this month.

Local tier 2 and 3 builders have been able to bid for these projects for the first time in years. They were locked out by Labor's BPIC conditions—locked out. Thanks to the relaxation of BPICs, Labor's CFMEU tax, and our response to the Sangster review recommendations, we will be delivering for the communities across the state. The Hospital Rescue Plan is an integral investment for the future health of Queenslanders and will ensure our communities can depend on their healthcare system, a healthcare system being delivered by the Crisafulli LNP government.

Destination 2045



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.05 am): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is delivering the foundations for the fresh start we promised. I am pleased to advise the House that last week the Premier and I launched *Destination 2045: delivering Queensland's tourism future*—a bold vision to ensure Queensland stays the home of the holiday. It is a fresh start for tourism in Queensland, with one in 12 jobs dependent on a thriving visitor economy.

When I think about tourism, I do not think about statistics; I think of people. I think about the local business in Glass House pouring more beers because there is a local event bringing life to the street. I think about the Cairns cafe that is suddenly busier because more visitors are in town to conquer the Wangetti Trail. I think about the resilience from operators—fires, floods, a global pandemic over the past few years. Industry keeps showing up, adapting and welcoming visitors with a smile.

Tourism is changing fast. Travellers are seeking deeper meaning, more local connections and more sustainable experiences. They want to travel with a light footprint and take away meaningful memories. Destination 2045 delivers on that. It delivers with six clear aims.

Our natural environment is one of our greatest assets. This plan will support and partner with eco-accredited experiences, expand nature-based tourism and support partnerships with traditional owners. Importantly, we will unlock 45 ecotourism projects by 2045.

Events—from music and food festivals to major sporting moments—create energy and a reason to visit. With the green and gold runway started, we will grow to become Australia's event capital and drive the value of Queensland's events to \$4 billion, including \$2 billion for regional events. Mr Speaker, you saw a glimpse of our Team Queensland approach with the securement of the Military Tattoo. I say to my state and territory counterparts: watch out because we are coming for you and we hunt as one.

It does not matter how great your product is if visitors cannot get there, so we are focused on better regional transport like upgrades to the Bruce Highway and launching the Connecting Queensland Fund to drive international growth and aviation partnerships. We want a seamless travel experience from the first click to the last check-in.

To build on Queensland's great lifestyle we want more experiences—we want more to see and do across our state. We want more investment into new attractions and a rejuvenation of existing products such as the Great Barrier Reef islands.

We know who we are. It is time the rest of the world does too. Our brand will become internationally known through strategic investment into key international markets. We are backing our operators. By amending legislation and regulation, we allow tourism operators to expand and grow. Should they need assistance, they will have a designated concierge with a new Tourism Support Hub service.

Those opposite just do not get it. I heard the member for Cairns basically suggest that the plan had no substance. The industry has a different opinion. The Brisbane Economic Development Agency said that Destination 2045 will deliver confidence to investors. Townsville Enterprise said the outline of key statewide priorities would provide a renewed focus on events which would allow them to shine. Since its launch I have travelled to Rockhampton, Longreach, Winton, Cairns, Townsville, Airlie Beach and the Sunshine Coast talking about Destination 2045, and the feedback has been resoundingly positive. This plan sets the direction, but together we will shape the future of Queensland tourism.

A big part of that is our amazing environment. Last week we celebrated World Environment Day, and on that day we celebrated 50 years of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with the rangers who serve our state by protecting and restoring our wild places. I note it was this side of politics that created the QPWS, and it will be the LNP that delivers the next major boost to their ranks with 150 additional park and Indigenous rangers to be added to the front line. Those opposite talk about the environment, they talk about tourism, but that is all they do: talk. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the fresh start that tourism and the environment deserve.

Water Infrastructure




Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.10 am): The Crisafulli LNP government's priority is to provide water security and supply whilst ensuring water affordability for Queenslanders. Our budget will deliver the foundations for a fresh start for water in Queensland. For nearly a decade previous Labor governments sat on their hands and let water become a scarce, expensive resource. Agriculture, industry and consumers suffered at the hands of Labor governments that let water bills rise. Labor failed to focus on water infrastructure delivery and let water bills rise to become some of the most expensive in the country. For nearly a decade not one dam was built in Queensland, but I do recall one that was torn down. Water infrastructure was stifled by bureaucracy and red tape. Queensland experienced eye-watering blowouts of over \$6 billion in water projects. This included a \$3.2 billion blowout at Paradise Dam with next to nothing to show for it. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government is focused on water security for generations to come.

Last Thursday I visited Bundaberg with the Deputy Premier and the honourable members for Callide and Burnett. We were very excited to announce that the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job of rebuilding Paradise Dam. We have given a green light to start early works for the Paradise Dam Improvement Project, a decisive step towards securing Bundaberg and North Burnett's water security and regional prosperity. Early works include construction of a temporary accommodation village, two concrete batching plants, the establishment of support facilities and site preparation. Other activities include road upgrades and geotechnical and quarry investigations.

Water is at the heart of a thriving community. This announcement is a significant step in the right direction to deliver a new dam wall which will support jobs, safeguard Bundaberg's \$2 billion agriculture industry and benefit the community for generations to come. We will work with growers, farmers and irrigators and macadamia and fruit and vegetable growers like Craig van Rooyen to ensure water security for the region and local industries. The Paradise Dam project reflects the Crisafulli LNP

government's commitment to investing in critical infrastructure that lasts for generations to come. The Crisafulli government takes water security in our regions seriously. We are getting on with the job of rebuilding Paradise Dam and safeguarding water supply for Queensland now and into the future.

First Nations, Water Infrastructure

 **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) (10.13 am): The Crisafulli government sees and listens to the remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of Queensland. We are delivering the foundations for a fresh start for these communities through water infrastructure.

Upon forming government it became clear that the former Labor government talked a big game on Indigenous affairs but did not deliver on the basics for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Sadly, these communities were out of sight and out of mind under Labor, even when it came to the necessities of keeping water infrastructure up to basic standards. It is sad to say but the Woorabinda community in Central Queensland, which is one of the most disadvantaged local governments in the country, has been on a boiled water alert since December 2024—six months. I will table a number of those alerts which go back even earlier with regard to how many failures there have been in this system.


Tabled paper: Bundle of public notices from Wooribinda Aboriginal Shire Council relating to community water use [\[598\]](#).

It is appalling that Woorabinda's water infrastructure has been allowed to degrade to this level. This critical infrastructure neglect occurred during a decade of inaction under those Labor MPs opposite, who should hang their heads in shame. How did the Labor government pay \$15 million to lawyers when not just one but multiple Indigenous communities could not guarantee each day that clean drinking water was available when they turned on a tap in the same way as other Queenslanders? That is why under the Crisafulli LNP government, together with my colleague the Minister for Water, Ann Leahy, I am proud to have committed \$18 million for urgent water infrastructure upgrades in Woorabinda. Six months ago we asked the federal government to match this funding, and I am hopeful that the federal Labor government will do more than their former state Labor colleagues did when they were in government—which was nothing. As the local MPs, I thank the hardworking members for Gregory and Cook for their advocacy on this issue with respect to the rural and remote communities in their electorates.

Sadly, the former Labor government also left communities such as Kowanyama and Aurukun in limbo. Thanks to the Crisafulli government's \$108 million Closing the Gap Priorities Fund, we are investing \$8 million each into the communities of Kowanyama and Aurukun to deliver water infrastructure upgrades and pick up the pieces left by the former Labor government's chaos and ignorance with respect to delivering rural upgrades. The Crisafulli government listens. That is how we knew these water infrastructure priorities were projects that were needed. Prior to the election we made very clear our intention to move away from Labor's path of division and uncertainty towards more tangible outcomes to deliver on frontline services. We are focused on delivering real outcomes to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. These are our foundations for a fresh start. I can drink a clean glass of water in this parliament. Every Queensland has the right to turn on a tap and get clean, safe drinking water. I raise a glass to the Crisafulli government for restoring good, clean drinking water for those deserving Queenslanders. For the benefit of those Labor MPs opposite, that is—and should always be—everyone.

Mr SPEAKER: I welcome to the gallery students and staff from Clayfield College in the electorate of Clayfield.

Government Services

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.17 am): From the start of next month the Crisafulli government will bring together key state government customer service functions as the next step in delivering consistency for Queenslanders accessing government services. These changes will see the customer service arm of the Department of Transport and Main Roads transfer to the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business. Customer service centres, online services, call centres and digital identity services will be among the services transferring. The objective is better alignment of the functions of government involved in delivering the customer experience.

This alignment of customer service functions continues to signal our long-term commitment to become Australia's most customer centred and focused government. Again, we are delivering what we said we would through a calm and methodical process. It is the next step in a customer service transformation that will allow Queenslanders accessing government services online, over the phone or face to face to have a more seamless experience.


As Queensland's first Minister for Customer Services, I look forward to working with all of our customer service teams to deliver better services to support Queenslanders. As I have said in this House before, navigating the labyrinthine structures of government services is often a daunting task for everyday Queenslanders. On this side of the House, we are committed to addressing some longstanding issues ignored by those opposite around customer service and how everyday Queenslanders receive government services. The challenges are well-documented: red tape; multiple phone calls, forms or websites; jargon-rich communication; and siloed services—all of which confound and frustrate the very individuals seeking assistance.

Anyone who interacts with government knows the frustration of having to provide the same information over and over again to multiple departments. We will adopt a tell-us-once approach across all service delivery channels to mitigate the need to repeat yourself. It is important to note that this is not just about improving the customer service experience; it is also about driving productivity because we all know that time is money. We know that it takes more than just lip-service to overcome these hurdles; it takes a concerted effort and a vision.

Speaking of vision, I would like to thank my colleague the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his vision, leadership and determination to improve customer service. There are a couple of ex-ministers sitting opposite who would never have had the foresight or courage to drive such a transformative move. I would also like to thank and congratulate staff from my department and staff from TMR who have worked diligently to make this structural change happen. Our vision and expectations are that Queensland sets a new standard that others will want to emulate: excellence in service delivery where the needs of the customers drive the evolution of systems and, importantly, the service we provide through human-centric design principles.


We have some great customer service staff working across government. We have seen that time and time again—most recently, in how customer service staff responded to and supported Queenslanders impacted by the trio of natural disasters earlier this year. I want to assure them that on this side of the chamber our aim is to work with them on the structures, systems, strategy and tools to deliver a better customer service experience over time for Queenslanders with minimal disruption.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.21 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Primary Industries is absent this week on a trade mission. I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development will answer questions for the minister in question time.


PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Member for Mount Ommaney, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.22 am): On 29 April 2025 I stated, 'In almost 10 years in opposition, the LNP introduced just one private member's bill'. It has been brought to my attention that the figure used was incorrect. I withdraw my previous statement and apologise unreservedly to the House for the inadvertent error.

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (10.22 am): As Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table of the House an audit report of the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Responding to access requests for government-held information*. I table the report in accordance with the requirements in subsection 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009 and subsection 193(5) of the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the fulsome report to the House.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 4: 2024-25—Audit Report: Responding to access requests for government-held information [599].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will cease at 11.23 am.

Sosso, Mr J

 **Mr MILES** (10.23 am): My question is to the Minister for Integrity. In the *Courier-Mail* today, the minister said that she had received Crown Law advice about proper consultation processes regarding the appointment of Mr John Sosso to the Queensland Redistribution Commission. Will the minister table that advice?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Well, this is a surprise! It was very interesting when I first heard from the *Courier-Mail* late yesterday afternoon that there was this secret advice. I had not seen the advice and I am not sure whether they had, but I did think, 'I wonder where this advice has come from and who did it?' I do not know whether the shadow attorney-general whipped up a bit of advice or maybe the former attorney-general whipped up a bit of advice—or maybe it was a prominent Queensland barrister. That is what I thought it probably was—or maybe they went to a solicitor or someone from the Queensland Law Society or maybe the Bar Association of Queensland. Where did that advice come from? I thought about it and I had a look and it turns out that it is from a former Labor staffer who resides in Victoria who is the dial-up lawyer for Albo. That is where the advice came from. Talk about integrity. They did not disclose that. Have they disclosed the advice? I have not even seen the advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the Attorney-General. I cannot hear a word she is saying.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We have not even seen or heard of the advice coming from the supposed dial-up lawyer for Albo. This is the same man who is kept so busy keeping the federal Labor Party out of court; that is what this guy is. What they are trying to do is besmirch someone who has spent 40 years working for both sides of parliament—both sides for 40 years. They are going to take the advice of a former Labor staffer over someone who has spent 40 years not only working for the Labor Party. They took his advice time and time again, especially when he was rewriting the Electoral Act for the then Labor government.

Social and Affordable Housing

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Housing. When asked if a single mother with two kids earning \$46,000 per year before tax would not be eligible for social housing, the minister said, 'The eligibility is what it is.' Can the minister advise what single mums on \$46,000 a year should tell their kids when the minister kicks them out of their home?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the question as asked by the Leader of the Opposition, I refer you to an imputation within that question.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to allow the question.

Mr O'CONNOR: I am not going to take lectures on social housing eligibility from the party which allowed people on six-figure salaries to live in social housing in Queensland when we have 52,031 people who are eligible under the eligibility requirements that the former government did not change over their last decade in power.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller!

Mr O'CONNOR: They are now so passionate about this eligibility requirement but they did not get around to doing it in their decade of power. There are 52,031 people eligible under those requirements on the social housing waitlist. This is the party which failed to build new homes across Queensland. They delivered an average of just 509 social homes across our state each year for the last decade. That is less than a third of the rate of population growth. They did not even bother to properly manage existing tenancies. I do not think any Queenslanders would think it is okay for 45 per cent of the tenants in social housing in Queensland to not have had a rent or eligibility check for five years. That is what led to this situation where people who are on six figures—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I have cautioned you a couple of times this morning. You are now warned.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is what led to this situation: not only not building the new homes we need to see across our state, not only not having a construction program that vulnerable Queenslanders deserve but also mismanaging the current system. It is a shameful thing to have the so-called champions, the self-appointed champions, of social housing come into this place and raise something—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you are joining the warning list. You are warned.

Mr O'CONNOR:—that they did not touch during their decade in power. We are getting on with the job of fixing the system.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b) precisely about—

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is on relevance. I find the minister is being relevant to the question.

Mr de BRENNI: I would like to explain my point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is relevance to the question?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is speaking to the question, as I hear it. I rule there is no point of order.

Mr O'CONNOR: That member is the former housing minister who paused these checks and they were not restarted for five years. For five years, they did not check eligibility for social housing. That is shameful. We are getting on with the job. We are making sure that fairness and equity are embedded in our social housing system.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: There are 52,031 people on the waitlist and those opposite are laughing about it. They are eligible Queenslanders who deserve a roof over their heads. We are getting on with the job of turning around a decade of decline. We are getting on with the job of building new homes across this state to take pressure off that waitlist, and we are properly managing our social housing system to better target it at our most vulnerable.

Community Safety

Ms JAMES: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's Making Queensland Safer Laws and the rollout of early intervention programs is making a difference to community safety, and is the Premier aware of anyone trying to stop progress?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Barron River for the question. She has advocated with great force for change for her community. Make no mistake: the Far North has been a victim of the watered down laws. I thank the member for her advocacy.

The member asked about the difference since the introduction of the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We have seen green shoots in driving down Labor's youth crime crisis. It is only the beginning. If you ask me whether or not we are satisfied, I will say we have a long way to go. If you compare the statewide data between January to May 2024 and January to May 2025, you will see break-ins are down nine per cent and stolen cars are down six per cent. It is a start, but it is off a very high base.

The member asked about alternative views. I have to raise again the disconnect in views between the United Nations and Queenslanders. We have seen the UN again trying to intervene in Queensland laws. I say to the UN, whether it is the youth arm or the main arm: we have our own laws. We will make our laws for Queenslanders. When I hear a representative from the UN's youth arm saying that young Queenslanders are scared to go out because of the laws, I say to them that young Queenslanders are only scared of people holding knives and young Queenslanders are only scared of people who deserve to face the consequences for those laws.

Ms Pease interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to read one particular quote from this individual. They said—

When a 12-year-old stabs someone, the solution is not to lock them in a cell.

These comments are not coming from a UN spokesperson in New York; they are coming from a UN spokesperson working for those opposite. What I want to say is: do not blame the staff member. That staff member is just taking the trash out for those opposite. All it shows is their true colours. Those opposite never wanted to see the result of the laws which they watered down. They do not have their heart in it. So what do they do? They sent out a staff member. They sent out a staff member to do their bidding.

Mr Mellish interjected.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I say to those opposite: with or without your support, we will continue to make Queenslanders safe. With or without your support, we will deliver the early intervention programs to turn these kids around. For 10 years we saw weaker laws, fewer police and early intervention go by the wayside. This side of the House will ensure Labor's youth crime crisis becomes a thing of the past and we will make laws for Queenslanders.

Social and Affordable Housing

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Last week the minister admitted that the Crisafulli LNP government had quietly changed the eligibility criteria for emergency accommodation. I table a copy of the *Courier-Mail* article and guidelines.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Qld Housing crisis: Criteria change for temporary accommodation hit' [600].

Tabled paper: Department of Housing and Public Works: Immediate Housing Response—Operation Guidelines, Version 1.0, Version effective 24 March 2025 [601].

Can the minister confirm that a person evicted from social housing who becomes homeless will be eligible for emergency accommodation?

Mr O'CONNOR: This is not as the member has asserted. This was not a quiet change; this was a change we worked on with the sector. If the member was doing her job as the shadow minister, she could have checked my diaries and she would have seen that I met with the entire sector in February about this and we worked on these guidelines together. We, in fact, adapted these guidelines from the way that specialist homelessness services across this state were managing what is called the immediate housing response.

Despite this response being updated in terms of actually having a policy framework around it, we were left with around a \$150 million funding shortfall. It meant that by around February we were going to run out of money. We plugged that hole, just as we have fixed so many other black holes that were left to us by the former government. We made sure we properly funded that program to get support to vulnerable Queenslanders. Over 5,500 people were being housed in hotels and motels because of that program. We are working with these homelessness services across the state to deliver this emergency accommodation support to our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

However, they need to have a pathway. Again, the former minister for housing, the failed minister for housing, the now shadow minister, was the one who did not restart these rent reviews. This is the person who is responsible for the waitlist we are now trying to decrease, who is responsible for 52,031 Queenslanders—some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders—not having a secure, safe place to call home.

That is what everything we are doing is about. We are working hard with those organisations to make sure they have funding certainty so that they do not get to June, just before a budget, and wonder whether they can pay their staff. Those hardworking homelessness services workers need to know they have job certainty so they can spend their days supporting Queenslanders who need housing help instead of worrying about whether they can keep a roof over their own head. We are resolving that. That was clearly our commitment and it will be shown in black and white in the budget papers that they will have the support that they need and deserve.

The guidelines we put in place are very reasonable. They were 'so quiet' they were put on the website in March and nothing has been raised since. We are well and truly into June and still nothing has been raised.

The former failed minister stood in front of a hotel last week. The owners of that hotel declined to take part in the program, but every single person in that hotel will be supported in their new housing pathway. We are delivering record help for emergency accommodation and we will continue to do so.

Youth Crime

Mr DALTON: My question is of the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is taking action against youth crime to keep Queenslanders safe, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Mackay for his question. He is a fierce advocate for his community and a fierce advocate for safety in his community. I want to thank him for the work he is doing. The Crisafulli government is restoring safety to our communities, including the member's community of Mackay. We have a plan to restore safety to those communities, unlike what was delivered in 10 years under Labor. We have a plan that delivers not only the strong laws that Queenslanders voted for but also early intervention and rehabilitation.

Queenslanders backed that plan. They backed that plan and they backed us to deliver those laws and to deliver the early intervention and rehabilitation needed to turn young lives around. Why? Because they watched what happened in 10 years under those opposite. They watched crime spiral out of control. They watched it spiral out of control in communities like Mackay.

Those opposite not only failed to act but also actively watered down our laws. They actively had 10 years of excuses and they actively forgot victims of crime. The question I ask is: do those opposite still believe that there is not a youth crime crisis? I read the article in the *Courier-Mail* this morning and the comments by the UN Youth Queensland president which made me question the source of those comments and what those opposite truly believe. Those comments are from a Labor staffer who has been sent out to spread a Labor message. This is someone who has been working as a Labor staffer for two years and now works for the current member for Sandgate who stated—

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER:—when a juvenile stabs someone, the solution is not to detain them. Tell that to Lee Lovell and his family. Tell that to the victims of crime in this state who have suffered at the hands of juveniles who have committed atrocious crimes against them. The real question is: what does the opposition leader think? Does the opposition leader still believe that there is not a youth crime crisis in this state? The dodgy, sneaky tactics used by those opposite to create this headline are absolutely appalling. It just proves how desperate they are. They need to come clean about their secret plan to weaken our laws, about their secret plan to not support Adult Crime, Adult Time and about their secret plan to not support our laws that make Queensland safer. We will not ever put politics before people like those opposite do. We will not ever stop supporting victims of crime in this state and we will not stop strengthening our laws.

Social and Affordable Housing

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: My question is to the Minister for Housing. Under Campbell Newman, social housing tenants faced being kicked out of their homes after three strikes. Can the minister rule out implementing a three-strikes policy for social housing tenants as Campbell Newman did?

Mr O'CONNOR: The piece of work I announced yesterday is a substantial reform to the management of our social housing system. As there is a lot of interest in this today, I will again run through the important context. Some 52,031 people are on our social housing waitlist. Existing properties were not surveyed or were not checked for eligibility or income for five years. That is shameful. That is not what we need to be seeing during a housing crisis. On top of that, new properties were not constructed at the rate they needed to be—just 509 per year on average over the nearly 10 years of the former Labor government, which is around only a third of the rate of Queensland's population growth over the same period.

Behaviour management is, of course, another issue where we need to see change. We have seen some pretty disappointing examples of what people have gotten up to. I am sure all members in this House have had constituents come to them with issues that they have had within their communities—from not only other social housing tenants but also neighbours of some of these properties; the very small minority of people who do the wrong thing. We need to see a strengthened behaviour policy. We saw the former government water that down. We need to make ensure people in social housing respect the rules and that they contribute to their communities both within their complexes and within the broader areas they live in. We need to ensure that housing officers in our housing service centres across Queensland have the tools that they need to take the action they need to enforce tenancy management.

That is something that I get feedback on everywhere I travel. All of the housing officers I talk to want to be able to do their jobs. They want to be empowered to manage tenancies in the way that they see fit. At the moment, they are shackled by the system that the former Labor government put in place—where they were not even able to conduct eligibility checks on our existing tenants, where they are overwhelmed with applications from people looking to get support in social housing and where we have thousands of people in crisis and emergency accommodation who are looking for a safe, secure place to call home.

We will, absolutely, be looking to have a strengthened behaviour policy. That is a really important part of better managing our housing system. I have even had feedback from members on that side of the House about problematic tenants who have been asking for action to be taken under the policy settings that they put in place. They watered down the behaviour management system. I look forward to updating Queenslanders with a new path forward to better managing social housing in Queensland.

Community Safety

Ms MARR: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli LNP government is restoring safety where Queenslanders live, particularly in Townsville, and is the minister aware of any differing views?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. This is a member who has not only stepped up to serve in this role as a member of parliament but also previously been on the council and been a chairperson of Crime Stoppers for her area for seven years. We know how passionate she is about her community—particularly when it comes to crime. We know that, unfortunately, Townsville is the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis which saw the biggest increase in crime over the last 10 years—up 55 per cent under those who continually watered down the laws.

In stark contrast, we are delivering for the people of Queensland and the people of Townsville and North Queensland. One way we are doing that is with the State Flying Squad. That is the largest rapid response group of detectives ever seen in this state. For the member's benefit and the benefit of this House, I want to report that the newly bolstered State Flying Squad has just finished their sixth deployment so far this year, specifically targeting young offenders in Townsville. In their most recent deployment last week, they arrested 17 juvenile offenders on 67 offences. That is 67 crimes. Behind each offence is a crime and a victim. That takes the total for the State Flying Squad this year alone—in their sixth deployment to your electorate in Townsville—to 180 young persons arrested on 666 offences. A lot of those are included in the Adult Crime, Adult Time list of offences—robbery, unlawful use of a motor vehicle and break and enter.

This is where we—as I spoke about in response to a question I had last sitting week—are diametrically opposed to those opposite. We believe more police, consequences for actions and tougher laws will drive down crime. What we saw in the paper today—and which has been alluded to by other members on this side—is a spokesperson for the Labor Party under the guise of a UN youth group coming out to do their bidding. Those opposite will not come in here or go out into the public and say what they really feel, so they are sending out a staff member to do their bidding and to talk on their behalf. We have talked a lot about those opposite watering down the laws which led to the youth crime crisis. In reality, what we have seen from this spokesperson is that for 10 years those opposite thought their job as a government was to protect criminals from the police. They watered down the laws. I will be talking more about this in Jack's Law.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield, no waving of props.

Mr PURDIE: They thought it was their job as a government to protect criminals from the police; whereas on this side, we know we need to protect victims from criminals and we will continue to do that. For this UN youth advocate to say that young, innocent people are too concerned to go on public transport or out at night because they fear the police is a misnomer. It is a disgrace.

A government member interjected.

Mr PURDIE: It is an absolute disgrace—I take that interjection—because we will restore safety to the streets for young people in Townsville as well.

(Time expired)

Social and Affordable Housing

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Housing. A review was commenced under Labor into social housing eligibility with the aim of lifting the threshold to today's income standard and reflecting the standard market. I table the article when the review was commenced.

Tabled paper: Article from ABC Online, dated 17 August 2023, titled 'Queensland government to review income eligibility for social housing' [602].

Will the minister commit to releasing the review documents into income thresholds for social housing eligibility?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Crisafulli: Don't you know when you are defeated?

Mr SPEAKER: I just called order.

Mr O'CONNOR: Yes, I will take that interjection from the Premier. If only the member for Gaven had been in some kind of a position to influence housing policy in this state for any period of time! If only! What could have been achieved! I am not sure which article in particular the Deputy Leader of the Opposition just tabled, but I note there was a comment from the member for Gaven in August 2023 about conducting a review of eligibility. The member for Gaven was asked again 12 months later, in August 2024, about a review of eligibility and it was still ongoing apparently.

As I have very clearly outlined to this House and publicly yesterday, my priority is on fixing the system we have before us—a system where we have 52,031 Queenslanders waiting to get in. That is my priority: fixing the system that those opposite mismanaged so badly they failed to target it towards vulnerable Queenslanders. There were people earning \$200,000 paying less than \$200 a week rent.

Mr Bleijie: Rolling them out.

Mr O'CONNOR: We are rolling them off the shelf; I will take that interjection from the deputy. We are making sure that we fix our entire housing system. That is why we have our very successful Cabinet Housing Ministerial Taskforce targeting every single part of the housing system. I very much look forward to discussing what we have in the budget—

Honourable members interjected.

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

Mr O'CONNOR:—to supercharge social and community housing growth across Queensland.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The quarrelling across the chamber will cease.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The answer being provided by the minister is not relevant to the review documentation and I ask you to draw him back to the relevant question.

Mr SPEAKER: On the point of order, the question was around releasing the review. Minister, you have one minute and 10 seconds left to respond to the question.

Mr O'CONNOR: It has been two years from when the former minister first raised this issue publicly. Nothing happened. They had a decade in power and nothing changed, but suddenly they care about this. Suddenly this is an issue that they are raising on the same day that we revealed there are people on six-figure salaries living in social housing. We are undertaking the reform this system needs. We are listening to our housing officers across our state, who wanted a government that empowered them to do the job they do best.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Stop the cross-chamber quarrelling.

Mr O'CONNOR: The former government did not touch this issue. My priority is to focus on the 52,031 Queenslanders who are languishing on the waitlist we inherited from Labor and to make sure as many of them as possible can have a safe, secure place to call home, and that takes changes across the entire system. It is not just the management of our existing stock. Of course yesterday I also announced enhanced support for people to choose to downsize, to make sure that if they have a larger home they can make that decision to downsize to free up a home for a family in need. That is our priority and that is what we are working hard to deliver.

(Time expired)

Housing Supply

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by supporting those Queenslanders entering the housing market, and is the Treasurer aware of any contrasting approaches?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for his question because it is an important question. This budget will be delivering significant investments to housing in Queensland. We have just heard from the housing minister over the course of the last half an hour about the fine work he is doing and the additional investments we will be making into specialist homelessness services and also housing right across the length and breadth of the housing minister's portfolio.

The Premier and I had the very good fortune on Sunday to meet with John and Lina. I said on Sunday that they were the living embodiment of what we are trying to achieve in home ownership: taking Queensland from the bottom of the home ownership ladder at 63½ per cent to the top over the course of a decade. They are the living embodiment. That is why it was so pleasing for us to announce that extension of the first home owner grant boost to \$30,000 for another 12-month period, a cost-of-living measure targeted at first home buyers seeking to get into the market. We did not stop there because the first bill that I passed in this House as Treasurer was to abolish a tax, and that was the first home buyer stamp duty concession for new builds. That was a significant tax, and in the same way the first home owner grant will be investing \$60 million into the budget this coming year, we will be investing \$188 million into the budget for the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new build. That is the kind of investment we are making into housing and home ownership in this state. That is the kind of investment and we will not resile from our desire to lift Queensland from the bottom to the top of the home ownership ladder.

The honourable member asks me about alternative approaches. What did those opposite do? Let me say this: what those opposite did not do was have their own shared equity scheme, and we will be saying more about that in the upcoming budget. They also never decided to rent out a room. They also had a Housing Investment Fund of \$2 billion that did not build a single home. They also saw a 29 per cent decrease in lot approvals. They also promised 750 build-to-rent apartments that were never delivered. They also promised no new or increased taxes 26 times, and we know how that ended up. They also promised that the Property Consultative Committee would do something and they let it die. They also promised that home ownership would improve and it never did. In fact, of those opposite I note the member for Waterford never spoke about home ownership when they were in government. The Treasurer only spoke about it twice and one of those was derisively.

On this side of the House we are laying the foundation for home ownership in Queensland and those opposite did nothing.

(Time expired)

Redistribution Commission

Ms ENOCH: My question is to the Minister for Integrity. In April the Minister for Integrity said that the members appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission were recommended to the minister on 14 December 2024. Will the Minister for Integrity table the briefing note provided by her department in the interests of openness and transparency?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is great to have a question on integrity from the former minister who spent—what was it; forgive me if I get the figure a little wrong—\$126,000 on a trip that I am not even sure was relevant to her portfolio.

A government member: It was the museum tour.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was the museum tour; she was the—sorry. I thought the shadow minister for integrity was trying to jump to a point of order. I was being respectful because she pulled up her microphone and she was ready to go. I was being respectful and so I sat down, but honestly—

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I will bring you—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They will send out a staffer. When we are talking about advice—sorry, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Let's just come back to the question please, Attorney-General.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The former government and the now opposition takes its lead from the opposition leader, who we all know has never accepted the defeat on election night. He cannot accept that he is not the one making decisions—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is quarrelling across the chamber again.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They take their lead from him. The shadow minister knows full well. This is where they want to go: they just want to attack public servants. We on this side of the House love our public servants. We defend them. When they write a briefing note to me and suggest that we should put in either the DG of planning or the DG of justice—and at the time I did not have a full-time DG of justice—it made sense. Who would you appoint then? Would you be like the Labor government and pick one of their Labor mates or would you actually—

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

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

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General just referred in some detail to the briefing note and its contents. I move—

That in accordance with standing order 30, the document cited by the Attorney-General be tabled.

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

AYES, 36:

ALP, 33—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 51:

LNP, 49—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, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Pair: Lister, King.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you have 24 seconds remaining.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have just realised why the opposition leader is so fixated and so upset about this and why on election night he did not want to concede defeat—because he was going to put Mike Kaiser in as the Redistribution Commissioner, and he knows it!

(Time expired)

Infrastructure

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, before I ask my question, I advise the Clerk his microphone is still on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by progressing critical infrastructure, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for the question and for highlighting the Clerk—it will no doubt show up in this new secret log we have for microphones not being discharged according to our new rules in this place. This budget is going to be a record infrastructure budget and I am so pleased to be the minister responsible for infrastructure. If we look over the last 10 years of the former Labor government, one would wonder why we had an infrastructure minister with the black holes, the blowouts, the misdirection, the misinformation and statements like, 'We've got it under control.' We have done a deal with the feds—different political colour—for an 80-20 funding split for the Bruce

Highway. Those opposite said that it could not be done. We did it under this government. We are going to rescue Paradise Dam. We have started the early works. We are going to rescue the hospital plan that the health minister has done. We are also going to save CopperString.

This record investment in infrastructure will also see road and rail projects right across the state like the Wave on the Sunshine Coast on which I declare a conflict of interest—again—for the record. I will be so excited when the honourable Treasurer hands down this infrastructure budget, and it is going to be an infrastructure budget which finally sorts out the mess of the Olympic and Paralympic Games created by the Labor Party, but I wonder about the alternative plan. I wonder: where is the Labor Party now on the 2032 Delivery Plan? Last sitting week we heard the member for Mansfield interject when we said, 'I bet you some members over there love the opposition leader's plan of QSAC', when she said, 'Hear, hear!' She has interjected supporting the terrible plan for QSAC, which has blown out.

Mr Crisafulli: McConnell.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Premier relating to the member for McConnell. Interestingly, Save Victoria Park has just put up a post on its website and what it has disclosed is a submission from the member for McConnell. I wonder if she knows it was going to be published, but it is on its website. The member for McConnell says—

As a lifelong local—

blah, blah, blah—

...

that is why I oppose the plan to build a mega stadium development on the park site ...

This is despite the fact that the member for McConnell voted in this place when we had a motion endorsing the 2032 Delivery Plan. She supported the delivery plan publicly, but secretly those opposite do not support the delivery plan. Secretly they do not support the infrastructure required for the games. Secretly the Labor Party does not support and back regional and rural Queensland. Secretly it wants the chaos and crisis. Why? It is a lack of leadership by the Leader of the Opposition. Those opposite endorsed his QSAC bungle and endorsed his QSAC blowout and black holes, but not under our watch and not under my watch.

(Time expired)

Flinders River, Water Allocations

Mr KATTER: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers. While the north-west has been screaming for immediate water storage to promote economic growth, there have been enough studies to dam the Flinders River with plans. Will the minister put to an end the department's stalling tactics for the sake of three per cent of one per cent of the flows in the Flinders to the gulf and approve the water allocation for HIPCo, or do we wait again for another plan or study?

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for his question. I know that he is a staunch advocate for the people of Traeger. I know that he has some pretty big rivers in his electorate, and the Flinders River is one of those. He has an electorate that is full of farmers and irrigators, and those regional Queenslanders deserve water security. Water security and affordability is a priority of the Crisafulli LNP government, and the Flinders is a major river system. Recently in Cairns I saw some modelling that had been done by the department. That showed what an enormous system the Flinders system is.

We are focused on delivering water infrastructure across the state. I spoke earlier about the Paradise Dam, which Labor let crumble and the budget for which has seen a \$3 billion blowout. We are focused on: five new or upgraded weirs to be built on the Thomson River in Western Queensland; a new weir on the Boyne River near Mundubbera; a new weir on Barambah Creek near Murgon; progressing planning for the Scenic Rim Water for Warrill Irrigation Project; and rebuilding Paradise Dam. Coming back to the gulf, we are undertaking a review of all of the current water plans and focusing on affordability for irrigators, farmers, families and the resources industry.

In relation to the Flinders, the unallocated water tender process was one of Labor's many failures. I think the member for Traeger would agree with that. Queenslanders could not get their hands on the water and industry ended up stagnating. The Crisafulli government is going one step further. We are not just reviewing water for the north and the far north; we are unlocking that water for Queenslanders. We are making sure that water is made available so it can be used by people out there—the farmers, the irrigators and also the resources industry in the North West Minerals Province. That is particularly important to the member for Traeger because that is an important part of his electorate.

We are also reviewing the gulf water plan. We are looking forward to seeing how we can get that unallocated and unused water into the hands of Queenslanders. Currently, that water is sitting there in the plan, as the member has indicated. It is not helping anyone when it is just sitting there on paper. It needs to get out into the hands of water users so that they can do something with it and so that industries in the member's electorate can grow.

We are reviewing every water plan in the state. That is part of my charter letter. That is a 400 per cent increase in relation to the work that needs to happen across Queensland in relation to reviewing those water plans.

Trade

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister inform the House how strong trade relationships are crucial to the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget, and is the minister aware of approaches that differ?

Ms BATES: I thank the member for Toowoomba North for his question. I know how passionate the member is about fostering strong trade relationships for Queensland, both domestically and internationally. On this side of the House, we know how important trade is to our economy, to local jobs and to Queensland businesses. Our government has been working tirelessly to reassure our trading partners that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is a stable investment environment underpinned by certainty and growth. It is important work because key trade stakeholders certainly have not forgotten how Labor mismanaged key trading relationships, costing this state vital revenue and damaging Queensland's standing in these key industries.

Most notable, of course, was the member for Woodridge's surprise royalty scheme, which resulted in companies pausing new coal investments in this state, impacting local jobs, communities and the wider economy. Industry stakeholders were scathing in their response to Labor's clueless scheme, noting that further cost pressures were expected to discourage investment, operational growth, job creation and local business spending across the state. The Queensland Resources Council noted that the state government had lifted rates to unprecedented levels without consulting the industry, effectively killing Queensland's golden goose: the resources sector. This was vintage Labor, straight from the top shelf—a big headline in a media statement and then hollow on delivery. There was no substance to Queenslanders.

The member for Woodridge's surprise announcement was typical of the former Labor government's approach to relationships with trading partners, and we saw the results. Industry paused investment. They walked away from projects. Our state is still feeling those effects today, not just in lost royalties but also in lost confidence, local jobs and future opportunities. It was the same former treasurer who promised no new or increased taxes 26 times and yet broke that promise five times, including with a renters tax, a patient tax and a payroll tax hike. What do we have to show for it? Those opposite, after a decade of chaos and crisis, left us with fiscal failures and caused significant harm to our trade relationships.

It is clear that Labor cannot be trusted with Queensland trade relationships. Unlike Labor, this government is providing stability, certainty and growth. On this side of the chamber, our doors are open. We are listening and we are acting. In the past six months I have undertaken three international trade missions, all with key trading partners. Under our government, trade is back on the agenda and Queensland is open for business.

(Time expired)

Social and Affordable Housing

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Minister for Housing. The minister has called on people in social housing to leave their family homes to make the most of spare bedrooms. Will the minister lead by example and move out of his three-bedroom house?

Mr O'CONNOR: If it was not enough to get dumped from the front bench, the member has been given the stitch-up question that no-one else wanted to ask! I am not going to go into personal details of members in this House and their living arrangements. It is not funny. I do not hide my housing situation. I am not a cosplay renter, like the former minister was.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: Do not be shocked by that. They are the words of the former member for Pumicestone, Ali King. Ali King attacked the Greens members of this House. 'Poverty cosplay' were the words the former member for Pumicestone used about the Greens members of this House at the time. I am not going to go down that path.

I am determined to make sure we better manage our social housing system. The data shows that in our social housing system we have 8,000 properties with spare bedrooms. The former government was not encouraging people to make the most of the new properties that are coming online. We are very proud to be offering that choice to our tenants. If a home that is more suited to tenants' needs becomes available, we are putting on the table everything possible to help them to make that decision. We will pay their removalist costs. We will cover their rent for the period of the move. We will cover the transfer of their utilities or their Australia Post fees. We want to make sure tenants are encouraged to make the choice to downsize, to free up larger homes for families that are in need. That is in clear contrast to the former government's approach. I do not think I ever heard the former government talk about this system. They never raised this. Again, this is all about choice. This is all about empowering our tenants to make the decision to downsize if there is a property that is available.

Of course, this is on top of our record construction program. Last week I had the great pleasure of visiting a sod turn at one of our new projects in Nerang. A surprise supporter of the Crisafulli government's construction program came along to that sod turn. It was the member for Gaven. The member for Gaven, who is such a critic of our housing construction program and of all we are doing, was there to see with her own eyes new homes that are coming out of the ground in Nerang. I thank the member for her strong support of the Crisafulli government's record social, affordable and community housing pipeline.

Mr Mander: She had never seen one before.

Mr O'CONNOR: It was quite a novel thing, I think, for the member to see a sod turn. I take that interjection from the member for Everton. It was fantastic to have her there in support of the Crisafulli government's construction program.

Social and Affordable Housing

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by helping to secure housing for Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to provide support to vulnerable Queenslanders?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. We currently have 129 social and affordable homes in the pipeline in her electorate of Caloundra, which is a part of the hundreds of homes that we have in the pipeline across the Sunshine Coast, with many more to come. I thank the member for her advocacy for housing in what is a fast-growing and important community.

I have run through at length the challenges we are facing to fix the housing mess that we have inherited with the existing stock that we have. In our social housing system we have not seen supply keep pace with demand. Not a single new home was built and completed under the Housing Investment Fund during the last term of government of those opposite. The social housing portfolio only grew at around a third of the rate of population growth in the same time. It grew by six per cent while Queensland's population grew by over 16 per cent. We are getting on with the job to turn that around. We have committed to constructing 53,500 social and community homes by 2044. We are making some significant reforms to our building industry to make sure that productivity is front and centre. It was unacceptable for Queensland to have the least productive job sites in the nation. That has significantly added to the housing pressures that Queenslanders are feeling.

I was very interested to see an alternative approach outlined in the *Courier-Mail* today. The member for Gaven said—

Sam O'Connor's clearly just focused on that (social housing) list not getting bigger.

You got me! I am guilty of not wanting the social housing list to get bigger. I am guilty of wanting to decrease the social housing list. That would be an extraordinary statement for any member of the House—to be surprised that a housing minister is focused on not having a larger social housing waitlist—but that was from not just any member of this House, that was from the shadow housing minister, the former housing minister. That shows why we are in this situation. There was no focus on outcomes. We have 52,031 Queenslanders on the social housing waiting list because for a decade we have had a government that was not focused on outcomes. Those opposite were not focused on

reforming every part of the housing system to deliver in particular for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. That is what we are turning around. I am very excited to reveal in the budget what our next steps will be.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW PERMANENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Cognate Debate



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

That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with—

- (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
- (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
- (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 2 April (see p. 729) and Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill resumed from 3 April (see p. 802).



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.24 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will build upon Jack's Law, which authorises police to use handheld scanners to detect knives that are being unlawfully carried in certain public places.

On 23 May 2025, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. We thank the committee for its support of the bill. I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to the organisations and the government representatives that provided submissions and appeared before the committee. In particular, I would like to thank Belinda Beasley, who, with her husband, Brett, founded the Jack Beasley Foundation. Belinda and Brett have relentlessly advocated for our community to be protected from knife crime, with Belinda providing the committee important insights and perspectives about the importance of Jack's Law, named in memory of her son Jack.

Jack was just 17 years old when his life was cut short in a senseless act of violence. Belinda described her boy as the life the party, a talented football player who had just started his apprenticeship. On 13 December 2019 Jack and his mates went to Surfers Paradise. That same night another group of teens also headed to the tourist capital armed with a knife. At around 8 pm a fight started, after just a glance, and within seconds Jack was fatally stabbed and left to die in front of his mates. Jack's life was taken but his legacy will live on through Jack's Law and the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation.

The Jack Beasley Foundation was formed at the local pub within weeks of Jack's death. I must commend the member for Bonney, the now Minister for Housing, for his steadfast commitment to ensuring meaningful change. I acknowledge the Jack Beasley Foundation's support of the bill and endorse Belinda Beasley's comment when she stated, in relation to Jack's Law—

These laws must keep moving forward as we see better ways of working and entrenching the current laws and making these amendments is a further step.

The bill will meet this government's commitment to addressing the scourge of knife crime by making Jack's Law permanent by: removing the sunset clause that schedules its expiry on 30 October 2026; allowing a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer; expanding the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas provided they first obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer; and improving policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law.

The bill also extends the operational period of the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 from 16 December 2025 to 16 December 2040; amends the Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024 to clarify that Marine Rescue Queensland is capable of receiving gifts as a charitable institution; and amends the State Emergency Service Act 2024 to confirm that any previous appointment of a person as a State Emergency Service member is valid.

In relation to Jack's Law, I will reinforce a statement I made when introducing this bill—every instance of knife crime leaves a lasting impact on victims, their families and the community. We will not stand by while innocent lives are lost. The success of Jack's Law is not underestimated by this government. Between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024, 478 weapons were located and seized under Jack's Law. In 2025, to date, 177 weapons have been located and seized. The items located as a result of Jack's Law include knives, machetes, flick-knives, a handsaw, knuckledusters, screwdrivers, nunchaku, a star knife, an axe and razors. We can never know how many lives have already been saved.

The bill, by removing the sunset clause for Jack's law, sends a clear message: knife crime will never be tolerated, not now and not in the future. This government will support our police through ensuring that Jack's Law is a permanent tool that can be relied upon to address knife crime in our community. This government does not accept that doing nothing to change this situation is a realistic alternative. We must ensure that our laws are able to meet changing situations as they arise. We do not accept the failed prescriptions of the past decade.

Currently, Jack's Law only applies to certain public places that are defined as 'relevant places'. Concerningly, QPS statistics indicate that knife crime in public places outside of those relevant places is rising. The bill will address this concern through expanding Jack's Law to apply to public areas that are not currently prescribed as relevant places. This will only occur with the authorisation of a senior police officer who holds the rank of at least a senior sergeant. In authorising the use of handheld scanners for a period limited to 12 hours, the senior police officer must be satisfied that the use of handheld scanners is likely to detect or deter the commission of an offence involving the possession or use of a knife.

This bill has been designed to meet an appropriate balance between community safety and individual civil liberties. I can reassure the House that appropriate safeguards about the police use of handheld scanners will be maintained. For example, police must use their powers in the least invasive way practicable and may only detain a person for as long as is reasonably necessary to exercise their powers.

Inefficient procedures and administrative arrangements that do not advance the fight against knife crime will be removed by the bill. Under the current Jack's Law framework, the use of handheld scanners in relevant places can only be undertaken after a senior police officer has conducted an onerous and complex authorisation process involving considering an evidentiary and a subjective test. The evidentiary test requires the evaluation of a range of factors including whether certain offences have occurred in the relevant place in the previous six months. After the evidentiary test is completed, a senior police officer must then conduct the subjective test that involves an assessment on the impact of handheld scanners on unlawful activity at the relevant place and if previous handheld scanning operations successfully located knives or weapons.

These tests may be criticised as they do not cover the scope of places where the use of handheld scanners is most needed such as where credible criminal intelligence indicates that the unlawful use of a knife is imminent but no previous offences have occurred. Further, these tests are comparatively resource intensive, requiring a senior police officer, on average, about 30 minutes to complete. The bill will represent an efficiency gain for frontline police by removing the need for our senior police officers to complete the evidentiary and subjective tests for relevant public places.

Other aspects of the bill will realise further efficiency gains. For example, police are currently required to provide a handheld scanner information notice to persons or to notify a manager or occupier of a licensed premises, retail premises, shopping centre, sporting or entertainment venue when the police intend to use a handheld scanner. This requirement is unnecessary, time-consuming and delays the prompt execution of police duties.

Similarly, there is a range of reporting arrangements currently imposed upon the QPS. For example, the commissioner is required to publish a notice on the QPS website within two months of a handheld scanner authority being issued. This notice is to include information about: the time and date that a handheld scanner authority started and ended, the name of the relevant place and information about the considerations made by the senior police officer when issuing the authority. In addition, the commissioner is required to include a range of similar information in the QPS annual report on handheld scanning. This information includes: the number of handheld scanner authorities issued in the past financial year, the number of persons required to submit to being scanned, the number of weapons detected, the number of times a power to search was exercised, and the number and type of charges resulting from the use of handheld scanners. The bill consolidates reporting requirements and promotes efficiencies through eliminating the need for the QPS to provide duplicative information.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has foreshadowed amendments to this bill to ban the sale of machetes. I am intrigued by this announcement because a review of the report by the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee into the bill revealed no recommendations from the two Labor members, the members for Toohey and Macalister, that this be done. Two conclusions can be drawn.

Firstly, Labor has outsourced its thinking to the Victorian Labor government. On 26 May, the Victorian Labor Premier, Jacinta Allan, announced that her government would put an interim ban on the sale of machetes in that state. Bereft of its own ideas, the Labor Party in Queensland clings to this Victorian model like a drowning man clings to a raft. A machete ban was never mentioned, much less considered, by Labor committee members before the tabling of the report on 23 May. Three days later, the Victorian Premier made an announcement and, two weeks after that, the Leader of the Opposition announced that his party had discovered the solution to the entire knife crime issue. That could only be described as a stunning coincidence.

Secondly, Labor has gone down this path in an attempt to find a point of difference with the government. Knowing its own policies have failed over the past decade, Labor thinks this move will help restore its tattered reputation. Stealing the homework of the Victorian Labor government, as unreliable as that is, is Queensland Labor's only solution to the crime crisis that its own inaction did so much to promote. That is unacceptable and says so much about why Labor no longer sits on this side of the House. Labor has made the fatal mistake of thinking that laws to combat crime exist in a vacuum. That is not a view shared by the government. Queensland is very different to Victoria.

Since our election last year, we have introduced a range of legislative changes and made commitments to the resourcing of our police to fight Labor's youth crime crisis. Expanding police powers to combat knife crime, as this bill does, will add to existing provisions and establish a more effective framework for combatting knife crime. This is the change our police have been asking for and that shows the difference between this side of the House and those who sit opposite. We listen to police and we trust them to use these powers effectively. Labor's kneejerk reaction provides no solution; it merely seeks to absolve them of blame for their decade of neglect and wilful blindness in the face of rising rates of crime.

This bill is the culmination of detailed work over a significant period by many people, stakeholders and organisations. In the course of its inquiry, the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee received submissions from 18 individuals or organisations, received a written briefing on 8 April and a public briefing on the bill from the Queensland Police Service on 30 April, and held a public hearing on the same day at which representatives of six organisations gave evidence. I offer my personal thanks to all those who contributed to this important process.

As the committee chair, the member for Nicklin, did in the foreword to the report, I again pay tribute to the work of Brett and Belinda Beasley. It is impossible to imagine how any of us would have reacted to the events that confronted them. That they directed their energy to reforms that will make a real difference in the fight against crime is something for which all Queenslanders should be grateful.

I now move to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, mindful that the minister will talk more about this in her contribution. This bill amends the Corrective Services Act 2006 to rectify a legislative gap and ensure the Parole Board Queensland must review all decisions made by


individual board members to leave parolees in the community. The bill empowers the Parole Board Queensland to make decisions that maintain community safety. It does this by: enabling and mandating the board to review all prescribed board member decisions about requests for immediate suspension of a parole order within two business days, including decisions to leave a prisoner in the community, which was not previously mandated in the act; and validating previous decisions made by the board when it reviewed a prescribed board member's decision to not suspend a parole order after a request for immediate suspension.

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee reviewed the Parole Board bill and in its report, tabled on 23 May 2025, made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. Parole Board Queensland performs an important role in delivering community safety in Queensland and the bill promotes confidence in board decisions and provides legal certainty for past decisions.

I foreshadow that I intend to move an amendment during the consideration in detail stage of this bill. The amendment will amend the Public Sector Act 2022 to retrospectively validate arrangements for two former police commissioners performing the role of chief executive of the Queensland Police Service and for a former fire commissioner acting as the chief executive of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The amendment addresses deficiencies in previous appointment processes which meant that these commissioners were not validly appointed to perform the role of chief executive of their relevant departments. Those deficiencies also have implications for those who acted in the place of those former commissioners, which the bill also addresses.

In addition to enhancing Jack's Law, the bill will make a range of other changes. The bill will extend the Terrorism (Preventative Detection) Act 2005 for another 15 years to ensure that it aligns with other Australian counterterrorism legislation. The bill will also support recent emergency service reforms by: clarifying that Marine Rescue Queensland, newly established as a statewide marine rescue service, may receive funds from any source, including charitable institutions; and confirming that the appointment of a person as a State Emergency Service member is valid.

In summary, this bill will deliver on this government's commitment to keep our community safe. It will protect Queenslanders and equip our police with laws that are both fit for purpose and efficient. I commend Jack's Law and the other bill to the House.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.41 am): Queenslanders deserve to feel safe and to be safe. We have led the way nationally in the fight against knife crime. Let's remember one very important fact: this nation-leading fight started under Labor. It was a former Labor government that first introduced these powers back in 2021, trialling handheld scanners in the safe night precincts in Surfers Paradise and in Broadbeach. It was an Australian first. In the Surfers Paradise SNP the overall number of weapon offences detected doubled during the trial. Since that trial, Labor has strengthened Jack's Law at every opportunity. We did that because we listened: we listened to the community; we listened to the victims; and we listened to Brett and Belinda Beasley.

Brett and Belinda have been tireless advocates for reform to prevent knife related violence and to protect those young people because they experienced the devastating loss of their boy Jack when he was on a night out with his mates in Surfers Paradise. Their ongoing advocacy has seen continued change not only here in Queensland but also in the Northern Territory, in New South Wales, in Western Australia and in Tasmania. We are grateful for all their work and the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation in Queensland and the education programs that go with it. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Morayfield, who is in the House, for his significant leadership, drive and enthusiasm in this space during his many years as a Labor minister for police in Queensland. I know he is grateful to have worked with the Beasleys to make the changes that were required.

Labor has strengthened Jack's Law at every single stage, as I said. In 2023 we expanded its use to all 15 safe night precincts. We expanded it to public transport stations and to vehicles. In 2024 we expanded it again to shopping centres, retail premises and sporting and entertainment venues. What has this delivered? Over 100,000 wandering operations have been conducted and more than 1,000 weapons have been taken off Queensland's streets. That is leadership. They are results. In the words of Belinda Beasley, 'We believe that every weapon off the street is a potential life saved.' With this bill, Jack's Law will be made permanent. We support that. Of course we support that because Labor has led the way on it. I will let the House in on a little secret: if we were re-elected, we would have done exactly the same thing because it is the right thing to do to support community safety.

The bill will make important changes to strengthen the Jack's Law scanning powers even further. Under the current framework, the use of handheld scanners is limited to designated relevant places, like those I mentioned earlier, and require prior authorisation from a senior officer after specific criteria

have been met. After sufficient use of these powers since the initial trial, efficiencies have been identified to improve the framework so officers can have more flexibility in responding to real-time safety concerns. The bill will enable police officers to use a handheld scanner in relevant places without a warrant. This will mean that they will be able to respond to situations faster. Police will also be able to continue scanning a person who has left a relevant place during the scan.

The bill will expand the use of handheld scanners to public places not designated as relevant places when authorised by a senior officer. For the authority, the senior officer must consider that the use of the scanner will likely be effective in detecting or deterring an offence involving the possession or use of a knife or other weapons in that place. Authorisations will be limited to a 12-hour period, ensuring proper oversight remains in place.

Under the act, the annual Queensland Police Service report publishes information on authorisations. The bill will remove a duplicative requirement to publish notices about handheld scanner authorities on the Queensland Police Service's website within two months of the authority being issued. The bill will also remove the requirement for a handheld scanner information notice to be provided to a person on request as a police officer uses the same information to inform a person before conducting the scan. These changes will ensure that Jack's Law remains an effective policing tool to detect and deter knife crime.

The bill also makes several necessary amendments to other acts as well. It extends the sunset clause within the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 to 2040, ensuring Queensland retains nationally consistent powers to prevent or respond to a terrorist attack. It amends the State Emergency Service Act to retrospectively validate past appointments of SES members after an issue in the historical appointment process was identified during business alignment processes. All current affected SES members have already been reappointed, but this ensures that all impacted members have the benefit of protections provided to an authorised rescue officer.

The bill also clarifies that Marine Rescue Queensland is lawfully able to receive charitable gifts, including the transfer of assets to MRQ from existing volunteer marine rescue organisations, following reforms to emergency services and disaster management arrangements last year. I take this opportunity to thank all of the hardworking and dedicated Queensland police officers, the SES, the Marine Rescue Queensland staff and volunteers and all the staff associated with community safety in Queensland. They all do a fantastic job on behalf of our communities. It would be remiss of me not to thank the better Butcher—my brother—for his service as a Queensland police officer in our home town of Gladstone. While these are all-important changes and are supported by this side of the House—

Ms Grace: The better looking one.

Mr BUTCHER: I will not take that interjection.

A government member: You just did!

Mr BUTCHER: That is true. The real test will be if those opposite are willing to go further this week and deliver stronger protections against knife crime. The explanatory notes for this bill detail the primary policy objective is—

... to enhance community safety and security through the expansion of 'Jack's Law' which proactively prevents knife related crime ...

Labor will always ensure that community safety comes first. We want to see further action that directly addresses the primary policy objective of the bill through proactive prevention of knife related crime by moving to ban the sale of machetes in Queensland. I table those amendments, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, amendments to be moved by Hon. Glenn Butcher MP [603].

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Glenn Butcher's amendments [604].

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Glenn Butcher's amendments [605].

These are amendments that every single member of this House should support. In fact, we might already have some support from those opposite. In his explanatory speech, the minister spoke about 'an urgent need for decisive action to combat knife related crimes in our state'. Earlier that day, the Premier stood up in question time and said—

... there is no excuse for someone to be going out with a machete—there just is not one. We have to do all we can to make our community safer.

Labor is doing just that today with this amendment.

Our amendments build on the work of the former Labor government of banning the sale of knives, machetes and other items to minors because knife crime is not exclusive to one demographic. Let's be crystal clear: this is not about targeting legitimate users in Queensland. Our sensible, reasoned policy enhancements bring about a total ban on the sale of machetes to the public while also including a regulation-making power to allow a 'permit to buy' for legitimate uses such as people working in primary industries in Queensland.

This is about stopping thugs and criminals from walking into a shop and buying a weapon designed to terrify and to harm. We have seen reports that Jack's Law has already picked up machetes in our streets. I understand the government have reported this very fact. Right across Queensland, machete attacks are becoming far too common and far too dangerous. These concerns were recognised throughout the committee hearing. In response to stakeholders calling for other preventive initiatives, page 25 of the committee report provides a response from the Queensland Police Service referring to Labor's legislation. It states—

A number of knife crime preventive initiatives exist and include Jack's Law, the passing of the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 to restrict the sale and provision of knives and other controlled items to minors ...

There is not just one single fix to these things. You must take a multifaceted approach. That is why we are doing something about it, and we know that this approach works. The LNP say they want to get tough on crime. The LNP say they want to put community safety first. Here is their chance today to prove it. This is the LNP's chance to send a clear message that knife culture has no place in Queensland. Stand up for victims. Stand up for Queenslanders. Stand up for common sense. Support Labor's amendment. Take a bipartisan approach on this amendment. If they do not, if the LNP block these sensible changes, Queenslanders will know exactly who is standing in the way of stronger community safety. I am proud of Labor's record on this issue. I am proud to commend this bill and Labor's amendment to the House.

I turn now to the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. Parole in Queensland is not a privilege. It is not an entitlement. It is a tool to prevent people from reoffending. In his 2016 review into the Queensland parole system, Walter Sofronoff KC said—

The only purpose of parole is to reintegrate a prisoner into the community before the end of a prison sentence to decrease the chance that the prisoner will ever reoffend. Its only rationale is to keep the community safe from crime.

An effective parole system is fundamental to our community safety. It is fundamental to the integrity of our corrective services system that goes with it. That is why Queenslanders must have confidence in the system. That is why the opposition will be supporting this bill as well, but that support should not be mistaken for congratulations. That support does not extend to the politicking of the minister in her contributions to this bill.

Instead of political pointscoring and pointing fingers, Queenslanders want the minister's attention on the things that matter. They want the minister's attention on the four detainees who have escaped since last month in North Queensland. They want the minister's attention on deaths in custody. They want to know why it has taken until now to put out expressions of interest for vacant positions on the Parole Board. Will the Parole Board even be able to fulfil their obligations while parole applications lag in Queensland?


Turning to the bill, the Corrective Services Act 2006 requires the board to review decisions by individual prescribed board members when a prisoner's parole order is suspended. It is also entirely appropriate that all high-risk decisions, including those to leave a person in the community, should be subject to review by the full board. While there is no explicit requirement under the act, that is exactly what has already been happening.

Since 2022, the Parole Board has been reviewing all decisions made by prescribed members. In that time, only 61 requests were initially not suspended by an individual prescribed board member. Of those, 39 decisions made by an individual board member were confirmed by the full board and parole continued. Twenty-two were overturned by the full board and the person was returned to custody. These are low numbers, particularly compared to the over 5,900 requests made to suspend a parole order in the last year alone, but they represent important decisions for Queensland. That is 22 cases where a prescribed board member allowed for someone to remain on parole only for the full board to decide that it was the wrong call. This reinforces why it is important that all decisions, not just suspensions, can be reviewed. It is not red tape; it is public safety.

We are here to affirm a practice that the Parole Board has already been doing for the last three years. These reforms make a specific head of power explicit in the act. These are clarifying reforms, not reforms resulting from a gap in current legislation. These reforms ensure that the practice to review all decisions is operationally practical. It was confirmed during the committee process that, even without these reforms, the Parole Board could rely on section 205 of the act to make decisions about a parolee's status. The powers are there. The end result is the same. The board can still suspend or cancel a parole order. These changes just ensure that the Parole Board way in which the Parole Board makes that decision—in this case, by reviewing a decision of a prescribed member—can continue.

This is a position conceded to by the Parole Board president during the public briefing on 30 April who agreed that, while not the most practical implementation, there is precedent under section 205 that the power does exist. When pressed further, the president agreed that there was no legislative gap. This point was made so clear to the committee that even the committee chair, the member for Coomera, is on record as saying, 'There are no legislative gaps.' Put simply, this bill affirms the authority of the Parole Board, ensures procedural consistency and means the process can remain practical, rather than needing to use other powers provided in the act, like section 205, to reach the same outcome. This bill also includes a retrospective clause to validate all the decisions made under the board's current practices.

I would like to thank the hardworking corrective services officers and staff throughout Queensland, as well as the staff on Parole Board Queensland. They play an important role in supporting community safety across our state but also ensure that individuals' rights are respected and upheld. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.58 am): The Crisafulli government made a promise to restore safety to our communities and to put victims first. These bills are part of delivering on that promise. I will first turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025.

This bill fixes a legislative oversight from those opposite. It ensures that all urgent decisions made by a single Parole Board member, whether to suspend a parole order or not, are subject to full board review within two business days. Under Labor's laws, if a single Parole Board member decided to suspend a parolee's order, issue a warrant for their arrest and return them to custody, then that decision must be reviewed by the full board within two business days. That is a safeguard that exists for the prisoner. If that same board member disagreed with QCS's risk assessment and allowed the parolee to remain in the community, there is no equivalent safeguard for the community. That is a dangerous legislative gap. It was called out by the Parole Board president, and Labor left it wide open.

The stakes are high here. Suspension decisions are often made in the early hours of the morning by a single Parole Board member about people with serious histories of violence, domestic abuse, armed robbery, weapons offences and more. I note the Justice Reform Initiative provided a submission which suggested that mere technical breaches of parole conditions should not result in parole being revoked. Allow me to assure the House that these are not the people we are talking about here. QCS does not ask the board to suspend a parolee's parole order over a trivial matter. QCS community corrections officers make every attempt to manage prisoners safely in the community. It is only when there is an unacceptable risk to community safety or the parolee poses a potential harm to someone in the community that QCS requests the board to suspend a parole order. That is why it is so important that the Corrective Services Act includes a safeguard for the community.

This is not about questioning the professionalism of board members; it is about ensuring consistency, accountability, proper oversight and protecting the rights of victims to ensure the community can be kept safe, because the consequences of an incorrect decision not to suspend parole—to leave that person in the community—can be devastating. Lives can be up-ended, victims retraumatised and communities put at risk. This bill ensures that every urgent parole decision is properly scrutinised. That is how you protect public safety.

Since the Parole Board began operations in 2017 there have been more than 38,000 urgent requests to suspend parole. Since 2022, only 61 of those were rejected by a single board member. Yes, that is a small number, but this is a high stakes group because in every single one of those cases QCS officers—professionals with firsthand knowledge of the offender's behaviour—have assessed that the person is no longer manageable in the community and they pose a risk. This bill will not add cost or delay to the Parole Board. It adds a safeguard for community safety. It gives the community the same protection that Labor afforded to the prisoner. Community safety matters to us on this side of the House.

During the committee process the opposition raised the case of *Foster v Shaddock*. This is a decision that dates back to when QCS had the ability to suspend parole orders. This is no longer applicable. Furthermore, this case was before the current Parole Board framework was even established and before the introduction of section 208C, which is what relates directly to this bill. What is more, prescribed board members were not even in existence when *Foster v Shaddock* was decided. The case those opposite are relying on is not relevant to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill we are debating today. It did not empower the board to review a decision of prescribed board members. Labor doubled down on this argument, suggesting that section 205 of the Corrective Services Act would suffice.

We would not be in this House today debating this bill if section 205 already did the job. Section 205 of the act provides the board with broad powers to amend, suspend or cancel a parole order, but it is sections 208A to 208C that relate to the specific power of a single board member to suspend a parole order. Under Labor's laws, section 208C provided a review safeguard to the prisoner. Labor put the rights of the offenders before the rights of victims and the community. This bill ensures the board has the power and obligation to review individual board member decisions in the interest of community safety, putting the rights of the community back in front.

This bill also provides legal certainty that, when the board reviewed past decisions to leave a parolee in the community, those decisions are valid. This is especially important when the full board disagreed about the risk they posed to the community. At the end of the day, these are decisions that were made by a full board, including a professional board member, a Queensland police officer and a Queensland Corrective Services officer. In these circumstances, the full board disagreed with the decision to leave that offender in the community. As a result, they issued a warrant for their arrest and made the decision to return them to custody. They made these decisions in the interests of community safety and it is important they are upheld.


Throughout the committee process Labor tried to suggest that the retrospective section of this bill is not justified. This is simply not true. There is a clear legislative gap and the president of the Parole Board called it out. It has existed in the past. The affected prisoners are people the full board determined needed to be returned to prison because of the risk they posed to the community. I addressed this in my introductory speech. It was addressed in the bill's explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility. For Labor to suggest otherwise is a desperate attempt to hide from their failure to give the board these community safety powers. The question is whether those opposite will stop dancing around the truth. Will they admit they failed to consider the rights of victims when they introduced a safeguard for prisoners but failed to introduce the same safeguard for the community? Will they support the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill to keep Queenslanders safe?

I will now turn to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Knife crime has stolen lives, devastated families and shaken communities across Queensland. Behind every weapon seized is a story of tragedy narrowly avoided or heartbreak that came too late. That is Jack Beasley's story. Jack was just 17 when, in 2019, he was murdered in Surfers Paradise. His parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, turned unimaginable grief into a powerful force for change. Through the Jack Beasley Foundation they have tirelessly campaigned to educate young people and pushed for tougher laws to stop knife crime. They are guided by their motto: Detect Knives, Save Lives. These laws are Jack's legacy.

Under Labor, knife crime spiralled out of control. It was up over 40 per cent between 2014 and 2019. Despite warnings from frontline police, Labor introduced a framework so complex and riddled with red tape that it actively discouraged wanding operations. Police needed to tick boxes and satisfy layers of bureaucratic criteria, turning what should be a frontline tool into a back-office burden. We are fixing that. The Crisafulli government is cutting the red tape and making Jack's Law permanent. We are removing the sunset clause, expanding police powers to include more public spaces, and streamlining notification and reporting requirements so officers can get on with the job of keeping Queenslanders safe. We are backing police with the tools they need to put victims and community safety first. Jack's Law complements our broader reforms, including Adult Crime, Adult Time, and our commitment to holding serious youth offenders to account. It is all part of restoring safety in the places Queenslanders live, work and raise their families. I thank the Beasley family for their courage. Because of them this law is saving lives; now it will be able to continue.

I stood in this place on 29 March 2023, more than two years ago, and told the House why Jack's Law should be permanent. I will say it again. This life-saving legislation, which was sidelined under the former Labor government, will strengthen the police's ability to keep our community safe and act as a strong deterrent for youths who are carrying knives. Police must be given the ability to maintain

community safety, and the community must have the assurance and confidence to go out in public without the fear that knives could be wielded against them. Today we are making Jack's Law permanent. Two years ago I called that out. I called for it to be made permanent. For those opposite to stand up now during their contributions to this debate and try to claim it as theirs is just playing politics with this issue because they could have done it in 2023 when we called it out, but they failed to do so. Additionally, I note that amendments to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill will be introduced relating to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.07 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. I want to talk mainly about Jack's Law. I note that the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill as a responsible clarification rather than a correction. I notice the minister did not want to go anywhere near the stuff-ups that have occurred in Corrective Services just in the last week alone. I guess that is for another day.

With regard to Jack's Law, the most important thing to say before I talk about anything else is that we honour Jack who, as we know, in December 2019 was tragically killed during a night out with friends in Surfers Paradise. We honour Brett and Belinda Beasley, we congratulate them on their steadfastness and their bravery and we pay homage to them. To lose a child under any circumstances would be a heartbreak that is almost unendurable, but to lose a child under the circumstances in which Brett and Belinda lost Jack—I do not even know how you would be able to get up every day and get through the day.

Brett and Belinda have been tireless. They have wanted to make sure that Jack's death counted for something. As a result of that strength and determination, Jack's Law was introduced in Queensland, and under this bill Jack's Law will be made permanent in Queensland. We are supporting the bill. We have seen similar laws introduced in the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania as a result of Belinda and Brett's advocacy. I want to especially acknowledge the member for Morayfield, who has been tireless in ensuring that Jack's Law was in place. I know it became quite a personal thing for him to ensure that that happened. His regard for and relationship with Brett and Belinda is very strong, and this really matters a lot to him personally.

Labor is proud that we led the way nationally in the fight against youth crime. Initially, we amended the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in May 2021 to trial a new set of police powers to detect knives in the community. That trial allowed police officers to use handheld metal detection scanners without a warrant to determine whether a person was carrying a knife. The powers were limited to public spaces within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts and ran between May 2021 and April 2023.

The Griffith Criminology Institute evaluated that and found that scanning did contribute to the increased detection of knives in the safe night precinct. It was very important to us that we knew there was evidence for what we were doing. They found that handheld scanning should be targeted at areas with a higher prevalence of knife offences over a sustained period. That report also made some recommendations, including the recording of demographic data and a formalised audit process to review scanning operations to check for the over-targeting of particular categories of individuals. In April 2023 we passed the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023 which expanded the areas where handheld scanners could be used beyond the original two precincts to apply to 15 safe night precincts across Queensland as well as to public transport stations and vehicles.

We have seen a direct result of those law changes. It is so important to see the evidence and to know where we need to further progress those laws. As a result of those legislative changes, the police have been able to take more than 1,000 weapons off our streets across Queensland, with over 100,000 wandering operations conducted. Who knows how many lives have been saved, how many serious injuries have been averted and how many families have been able to escape the trauma of losing a loved one as a result of those laws?

I am always intrigued by the things the member for Currumbin says. She said that Labor 'sidelined' Jack's Law, but I just outlined the progression of that legislation and the careful evidence-based work that was done to ensure it worked. The word 'sidelined' simply baffles me. Unlike the LNP, Labor believes in being thorough and purposeful in our approach to legislation. In the Premier's media release on this bill on 23 February, he said—

From axes to machetes, every knife our police have taken off the streets is a potential life saved, which is why we are prioritising this life-saving legislation.


The explanatory notes state—

The primary policy objective of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 ... is to enhance community safety and security through the expansion of 'Jack's Law' which proactively prevents knife related crime by authorising police officers to use a hand held scanner to detect knives or other weapons in certain places.

The problem is that they forgot to talk about machetes, which is why we are introducing the amendments that have already been referred to because we need to take this opportunity to address machete crime. Anybody who did a simple google of 'machetes used for crime' would have chills going down their spine to see the sorts of weapons we are talking about and the list of machete attacks that have occurred in Queensland. In May this year, a 20-year-old jogger was hunted with a machete in a terrifying street attack by juveniles. A couple of days before that, a machete was used for an armed robbery in broad daylight. In April a Toowoomba teenager with a bladed weapon at a shopping centre was charged with one count of going armed so as to cause fear.

There is a litany of machete related crime but of course they have forgotten to insert anything about machetes in this law. This is a bit of groundhog day because we have seen this time and time again with the crime laws that this government has tried to introduce. We have seen them forget to include offences. We have seen them overlook technicalities and loopholes. We have had to come back sitting week after sitting week to fix the shambles because they forgot to do things or they did not look at it properly. We want to have these machete laws in place because we want to affirm that a culture of knife crime will not be tolerated in Queensland.

Under those changes, a sale can only occur when an adult holds a permit to buy, with there being an exemption allowing them to acquire one for legitimate purposes such as work. We also suggest that a regulation-making power be created to prescribe the application, grant and renewal process of the permit to buy so that people who need it for work, such as in the agricultural space, can apply and use it for work purposes. This makes sense. This is important. The government says they are committed to community safety, and we are seeking their support for this amendment.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (12.16 pm): As Chair of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I rise today to strongly support the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a critical reform—one that delivers on the Crisafulli LNP government's promise to restore community safety, support our frontline police and make permanent one of the most effective tools in the fight against knife crime: Jack's Law.

In my area of Nicklin I recently conducted a community survey and, with over 300 responses, community safety is still the biggest concern raised, followed closely by cost of living. I am proud to be a part of a Crisafulli LNP government that is taking strong action to make our community safer. It will take some time to turn around Labor's generation of failure, but we are taking on the challenge and this bill is another important part of our reform work.

Jack Beasley was just 17 years old when his life was taken in a random, senseless act of violence on the Gold Coast. His death shocked Queensland, but what followed—the bravery, the purpose and the determination of Brett and Belinda Beasley—continues to inspire this parliament and the people of this state. The Jack Beasley Foundation has not just campaigned for tougher laws; it has changed the conversation about youth violence and community safety and it has educated thousands of young people, empowered communities and turned heartbreak into hope. Their One Moment program is saving lives in classrooms, just as Jack's Law is saving lives on our streets.

The trial of Jack's Law began in 2021. Over time, it has demonstrated its worth. From April 2023 to May 2025, more than 115,000 individuals were wanded, over 1,100 weapons seized and over 3,000 charges laid. These are not just statistics; these are lives protected. However, despite this success, the former Labor government inexplicably chose to undermine it.

In April 2023, Labor imposed an unnecessarily complex and bureaucratic framework on police, requiring officers to meet an evidentiary test and a subjective assessment before operations could even begin. Schoolies events, music festivals and Supercars weekends—high-risk environments where knife detection is most needed—were excluded due to arbitrary thresholds. The result was fewer operations, reduced police confidence and missed opportunities to prevent violence.

Labor's so-called reforms were roadblocks, plain and simple. The former government's obsession with red tape dissuaded police from using the very powers we had asked them to deploy. It was a continuation of their soft-on-crime approach—one that saw the youth crime crisis spiral out of control on their watch.

The evidence provided to our committee was clear. Senior officers described the system as 'a burden'. Some had to plan operations weeks in advance due to the administrative workload. The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union said it best, stating—

It is logical and refreshing to see the cutting of red tape and duplication of administrative arrangements.

That is exactly what this bill does.

The bill removes the sunset clause and makes Jack's Law permanent. It empowers police to use handheld scanners in relevant places—safe night precincts, public transport hubs and retail centres—without first requiring that authorisation. For public places beyond those, officers can still seek approval but under a streamlined, evidence-based framework. Gone are the arbitrary six-month crime thresholds. In their place, authorisation may consider real-world intelligence such as event crowd size, crime patterns and previous scanning outcomes. These are the practical tools that police have asked for. This is the legislation they deserve.

Importantly, the bill maintains crucial safeguards. Police must act with fairness, scan on a random basis and always use body worn cameras. Training is mandatory. Police will not collect personal information from individuals scanned. Authorisations for public places are capped at 12 hours, requiring renewal if extended. This is a considered, balanced and responsible framework.

The Beasley family have been relentless in their advocacy. Their work is recognised in this legislation and respected across this House. Belinda Beasley, despite the emotional toll it brings, has appeared before multiple parliamentary committees, reliving the most painful moments of her life so that others might be spared. That is strength. That is service. She said during our inquiry—

Jack's Law is allowing weapons to be taken off the streets, and we believe every weapon off the street is a potential life saved. These laws must keep moving forward. With the proposed changes, this will only be enhanced.

That quote is not just a sentiment; it is a call to action.

I also want to directly address the Labor opposition's proposed amendment to ban machetes. It is a stunt, poorly thought out, legally unnecessary and logistically unenforceable. Carrying a machete in a public place is already illegal under the Weapons Act. We already have aggravated penalties under the Criminal Code. Labor's amendment is about headlines, not about solutions.


Worse, their proposal ignores regional Queenslanders—farmers and primary producers—who use machetes as essential tools. Unlike Victoria, where similar bans have been a disaster, Queensland has already acted with smart, enforceable laws, including Jack's Law. We do not need Melbourne-style chaos here. We need real leadership, and that is what this bill provides.

To Queenslanders watching today, this bill is about your safety. It is about restoring trust. It is about putting victims first—not offenders, not bureaucratic delays, not the politics of excuse. The LNP is delivering legislation that works, and we are doing it with the voices of police, victims and communities ringing in our ears.

Brett and Belinda, thank you. Your strength has changed our state for the better. Your advocacy is proof that from the darkest places hope can grow. As a father, as a community leader and as a legislator, I honour your courage. In Belinda's words—

Every time a weapon is taken off the streets, a life might be saved. Every time a young person makes the decision not to carry, that's Jack's legacy.

I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 which proposes amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 to clarify the powers of the Parole Board of Queensland and particularly regarding decisions made by individual board members in urgent situations involving parole suspension.

I will now deal in some detail with the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This legislation builds on the success of Jack's Law that was introduced by the then minister for police, Mark Ryan, in April 2023 by extending the powers of police to use handheld scanning devices, commonly known as wanders, in a broader range of public spaces while also streamlining the operational requirements to enhance police effectiveness while maintaining effective safeguards for the use of these devices.

The bill removes the evidentiary and subjective tests that currently restrict a senior officer's ability to authorise the use of handheld metal detectors in public areas. Under the existing legislation, a senior officer may only authorise such use in designated relevant places if they are satisfied that a knife related incident has occurred and that reliable information suggests another such incident is likely. This requirement has also been removed.

Additionally, the bill amends existing procedural requirements that currently require police to notify managers or occupiers of premises orally or in writing before a wandering operation begins. It also removes the obligation to provide an information notice to individuals upon request that also outlines the details of the wandering authority. These changes are made to reduce the administrative burden on officers in the field while maintaining the use of body worn cameras and appropriate protocols to ensure accountability. This bill also extends the operational period of the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 by 15 years, moving its expiry date from 16 December 2025 to 16 December 2040.

The opposition supports the passage of this bill and the permanent enshrinement of Jack's Law. However, I also take this opportunity to urge the government to adopt a holistic approach to the issue of knife violence, one that balances legislative reform with community education, police training and youth engagement.

The legislative tools provided in this bill are only one component of an effective strategy to combat knife crime. They must be complemented by proactive prevention programs, robust public awareness campaigns and strong community and police partnerships. As the old adage goes, prevention is better than cure. It is here that the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation becomes not just commendable but essential.

Established in the memory of 17-year-old Jack Beasley, who tragically lost his life in a stabbing incident on the Gold Coast, the foundation is dedicated to preventing similar tragedies by educating young people about the dangers and the consequences of carrying knives. Their flagship program, One Moment, developed in partnership with the Queensland Police Service, is a powerful education initiative that combines personal testimony with factual information to drive home the message that one wrong decision can change—or end—lives.

I will now return to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. At its core, this bill seeks to remove an ambiguity in existing legislation by providing Parole Board Queensland—an independent statutory body—with the express authority to review single decisions made by a single board member when Queensland Corrective Services requests an urgent suspension of parole. This includes the power to review not only decisions to suspend parole, which already trigger a board review within two business days, but also those decisions not to suspend parole, which currently lack the same oversight or procedural check. That distinction, or rather that legislative silence, is the crux of what this bill seeks to address. Let me be clear: this bill does not confer a new power; it clarifies an existing practice and confirms a mechanism already being used in the day-to-day operations of the Parole Board. It brings the legislation into alignment with operational realities and, importantly, validates past decisions made under this practice.


While the parliamentary committee received only three submissions and only one submitter appeared at the public hearing, the matters raised were significant and deserve some consideration in debate. The submissions raised two major concerns. First, the potential that this bill could result in an increased number of parole suspensions undermining the rehabilitative intent of parole itself. Second, the inclusion of retrospective provisions which raises complex legal and ethical questions, particularly for individuals who may have grounds to argue that they were wrongfully imprisoned due to decisions now retrospectively validated. These are not trivial issues. They cut to the heart of the balance we must strike in any criminal justice legislation—the balance between public safety and the protection of individual rights, between operational efficiency and legal rigour.

As was made abundantly clear by Queensland Corrective Services during the public briefing held on 30 April 2025, there are times when urgent intervention is required. A person on parole may engage in behaviour that poses a credible and serious risk to the community. In such cases, swift action is not only justified—it is necessary. In these time-critical high-risk scenarios, a single prescribed board member may be called upon to make a decision immediately, often outside standard operating hours. Under the current framework, if a prescribed board member decides to suspend parole, the full board must be convened within two business days to review and confirm that decision; however, no such mechanism exists if the board member decides not to suspend. That procedure is a legislative blind

spot and this bill proposes to correct it. Put simply, the bill ensures all urgent decisions—whether to suspend or not—are subject to review, offering a consistent, transparent and accountable process. Let us not mischaracterise this reform. As the President of the Parole Board Queensland and the Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services both made clear, this is not an expansion of the Parole Board's powers; it is a clarification. To quote the president of the board directly—

The amendments put beyond doubt the board's power to review single Parole Board member decisions.

I commend the bills to the House and the amendments moved by the opposition in relation to the machete laws.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the cognate debate which incorporates the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. As chair of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee which undertook the review of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 I, first of all, thank my committee colleagues and the secretariat for their efforts and also the submitters and witnesses to the hearing. The bill aims to empower the Parole Board Queensland with the authority to review all decisions made by a prescribed board member after a request for immediate suspension from Queensland Corrective Services, including where a prescribed board member decides not to suspend parole.

As has just been outlined by the member for Toohey, these urgent matters can be brought to a member in the middle of the night or in the middle of a weekend. It would be difficult, of course, for a board to come together in circumstances like that. Indeed, in the time that we had with the Parole Board president, we were advised that around 6,000 of these matters occur each year—a significant number. He further advised that there were 22 matters of concern since 2022, and I will talk about those in a little while. The bill aims to validate those decisions by the board as the result of the practice in the past where the Parole Board was making a call under a particular part of the bill. Parole Board Queensland is an independent statutory authority which makes objective evidence-based and transparent parole decisions without influence or pressure from external sources. Among their functions is a 24/7 function to decide requests by the chief executive for immediate suspension of paroles, as I alluded to a moment ago and indeed the member for Toohey also spoke about. This includes court ordered parole orders. There is subsequent consideration by the board of whether to confirm these immediate suspension decisions, set them aside or cancel the parole order. That has to happen—as, again, was indicated—within just two days.

As the QCS has advised us, sometimes the conduct of a supervised individual causes such concern that a determination is made by community corrections that the individual cannot be safely managed in the community, and that is the crux of this. Around 6,000 of these matters a year come before the board and community corrections are not confident they can safely manage the individual in the community. If this occurs, QCS sends a request to the board to seek that the offender's parole be suspended. These matters are considered a high-risk, time-critical scenario and that, once again, is the crux of it. In the middle of the night, imagine a scenario where someone is going off the rails big-time. There could be all sorts of things occurring in the background. There could be domestic violence matters. There could be drugs involved. There could be all sorts of matters involved where it is time critical to make a decision to suspend parole.


As articulated by the President of the Parole Board, Michael Woodford, while the board has a general power—and this is the crux of some of the discussion that we had—to suspend or cancel a parole order under section 205, decisions made on request for immediate suspension under sections 208A and 208B can only be reviewed using section 208C. The decisions on requests for immediate suspension may also use slightly different criteria to those available under the general power, including immediate risk or risk of carrying out a terrorist attack, so there is another element to this. The Parole Board considers there is currently no legislative basis to review that decision. This has been identified as a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework since just a few years ago when the Parole Board changed the way it reviewed these matters. Indeed, there were 22 matters, as I have mentioned, involved in this.

Since 2022, the board has reviewed decisions of prescribed board members not to suspend parole, and that is what I have just alluded to. Let us put that into numbers for members. The Parole Board advised that since 1 January 2022 there were 62 requests for suspension under section 208A that did not result in a decision to suspend the parole order on first consideration by the prescribed board member. They had been asked to consider suspension. It might have been the middle of the

night, the middle of the weekend or whenever, and on 61 occasions out of those 6,000 per year since 1 January 2022 the decision was made not to suspend on that first look. The decision on 39 parole orders not to suspend were confirmed by the board. The board, as I mentioned a moment ago, has two days to have a look at all of the matters and in those circumstances, of those 61, the Parole Board agreed that the offender did not need to go back to jail. That left 22 matters where the board determined the order should be suspended.

It is important for us to understand two parts. First of all, going forward from here it is important to ensure that the board has the law on its side and that the board has the legislative power to make those decisions that up until now it has not had. Indeed, on a further note, if we were to look at section 205 as a fix for this, section 205 requires the whole board or several members of the board to get together to make a decision. Imagine in the middle of the night or the weekend you try to get three members of the board or a number of members of the board together to make a decision on an individual. Remember we are talking about 6,000 of these decisions a year. It would be near impossible to do that. It is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week situation that we have to look at, so we cannot rely on section 205; we have to rely on section 208A. In those circumstances, it is important that we provide this legislative certainty to the Parole Board moving forward, but also that we resolve those 22 matters to ensure certainty for the people of Queensland, the taxpayers of Queensland. It ensures the people of Queensland are not foisted upon to pay some sort of a penalty because of these 22 individuals who under the old rules did not have the right to reverse the decision. It stops them from coming at the people of Queensland to chase some sort of compensation because, in every one of those 22 cases, the Parole Board stands behind its decision to ensure they were put back into the prison system.

I thank the minister in particular for bringing this to the House as quickly as she did because it was only brought to the minister's attention within a few months of the new President of the Parole Board, Michael Woodford, coming to office. He brought it to the attention of the minister and she moved very quickly to bring this to the attention of the House and to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. All members of this House would agree that this is a crucial piece of legislation, one that our side of the House champions. We were instrumental in bringing the original Jack's Law into the parliament. This bill is a testament to what can be achieved when the safety of our community transcends political divides, and it is a clear demonstration of our shared commitment to ensuring Queensland remains a safe place for all. As we have said before in this place, all Queenslanders deserve to feel safe and be safe in their homes, in their streets, in their places of work and, of course, when they are enjoying a night out.

From the outset, let me be clear: the opposition backs this bill. We recognise its importance. This bill at its heart is about protecting lives, preventing tragedy and empowering our hardworking police officers with the tools they need to combat the scourge of knife crime that has sadly impacted too many families in our state and around our country. We all remember the tragic circumstances that spurred the introduction of the original Jack's Law. I want to pay tribute to the Beasley family and their ongoing determination to turn the tragedy of their son's death into an ongoing positive for all of Queensland.

It is every parent's worst nightmare that their child's night out ends with them not coming home due to a violent crime. As the mother of a teenage boy, I simply cannot imagine having the strength to go on after an event like that with its impact on my family and, of course, the ongoing impact on the community. I am in awe of the Beasleys and their ongoing commitment to making a positive difference right around Australia by championing legislative reform. I am sure that all members of this House are very proud of the results of their advocacy.

Jack's Law was born from collective community outcry, a shared grief and an urgent need to act. As the opposition, we are listening intently to the voices of Queenslanders. We have heard the pleas from the community shattered by senseless violence and we understand that reactive measures after an event are not enough. We need proactive tools to disrupt the insidious trend of knife crime. As I said earlier, I am incredibly proud of the original legislation that laid the foundation for what we are now debating today. This side of the House is very proud of our role in putting forward the original framework and understanding the critical need for a preventative measure that could genuinely make a difference on our streets. What is that difference? It is the judicious and targeted use of handheld scanners, often referred to as wanders, to detect knives and other dangerous weapons. This simple but incredibly

effective tool has certainly proven its worth. It has intercepted weapons before they could be used to inflict harm. It has deterred individuals from carrying weapons in the first place. For both of those reasons it has quite literally saved lives.

This bill, introduced by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, makes the original laws permanent. Its primary objective, as outlined in the explanatory notes, is clear: to enhance community safety and security through the expansion of Jack's Law by authorising police officers to use handheld scanners to detect knives and other weapons in certain places. This is not about infringing on civil liberties. It is about preventing violence and creating a safer environment for our children to grow up in and families to enjoy.

In my speech on the original Jack's Law, I reflected on the fact that wandering is generally considered to be a relatively minor incursion on a person's privacy relative to the harm that it could prevent. Almost every Queenslander has consented to wandering or scanning, whether it is at an airport or somewhere else. This legislation, firstly and fundamentally, makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that scheduled its expiry. To allow such a vital piece of legislation, one which has saved lives, to simply expire would be unthinkable at this juncture. The threat of knife crime is not temporary, therefore our response must not be either. Making this law permanent sends a clear message: Queensland is serious about preventing weapon related violence and we will not disarm our police in the face of this ongoing challenge.

Secondly, the bill improves operational efficiency and police responsiveness by allowing a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain authority from a senior officer. This ensures that our officers can act swiftly and decisively when they encounter situations in high-risk areas. These are places like public transport hubs, entertainment precincts and declared event areas where the congregation of people can unfortunately lead to increased risk. This amendment empowers frontline officers to use their professional judgement based on their training and experience when a matter is time critical.

Thirdly, and significantly, this bill expands the application of Jack's Law to include all public places provided police officers first obtain authority from a senior officer. This is a carefully considered expansion. It acknowledges that weapons related crime is not confined to specific relevant places but can occur anywhere. The safeguard of requiring senior officer authorisation for these broader public spaces ensures that power is exercised responsibly and proportionately. It strikes the right balance between proactive policing and protecting individual rights—a balance that we as the opposition insisted on in the original legislative framework and continue to uphold.

Finally, the bill improves policing efficiency by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law, including the removal of certain notification and reporting requirements. This of course is not about reducing accountability; it is about reducing the administrative burden on our police officers, ensuring that they can spend more time on the beat actively policing. My community says to me every day that that is exactly where they want our frontline officers and we know that to support them effective policing requires pragmatic legislation, and these amendments contribute to that goal.


The committee's consideration of the bill, including the receipt of 18 submissions and briefings from the Queensland Police Service, has been thorough. We acknowledge that there were several key issues raised such as the impact of permanence, the scope of powers without senior officer authorisation and the expansion to all public places. These discussions are vital in a democracy and are a really important part of the committee process. The committee has recommended that the bill be passed and we as an opposition will be supporting that.

Let me reiterate: as an opposition our commitment to this legislation stems from our foundational belief in community safety. We were the creators of the original Jack's Law legislative framework and we have consistently advocated for the tools and the powers necessary to keep Queenslanders safe. We understand the complex challenges our police force face every day and we know that we need to empower those officers to do their jobs effectively. It is important to recognise that what I am hearing from my local police officers is that the job that they now do has evolved significantly over time and we need to ensure that the laws that support our police officers are also evolving with those changing responsibilities.

This bill is not just about legislative changes; it is about sending a powerful message to those who would seek to inflict knife violence on our streets: we will not tolerate knife crime. We will equip our police with the means to detect it and, critically, to deter it and we will ensure our laws reflect the

community's desire to make our streets safer. To the families who have lost a loved one to knife violence, we stand with you. This law made permanent is part of an ongoing effort to prevent such tragedies from reoccurring. We want our young people to be able to go out at night and have a good night and for parents or carers to not worry about getting that knock at the door or that heartbreaking phone call that the Beasleys know all too well. This bill is aimed squarely at preventing that. I thank the hardworking police officers who put their lives on the line every day. This bill is aimed at making their work a little bit safer as well.

In closing, I want to speak briefly to the proposed amendments from the member for Gladstone regarding machetes. As the daughter of a chef, I know that there are many Queenslanders who genuinely need access to high-quality knives. These amendments do not target those people; they target people who use knives, specifically machetes, to threaten and cause harm in our community. These amendments are sensible and I urge all members of the House to back them. This is a good bill. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to offer my support for the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is an incredibly important piece of legislation that honours the life of a young Queensland—Jack Beasley. On 13 December 2019 Brett and Belinda Beasley got that call from the police—the call or the knock on the door that no parent wants to hear. They received the devastating news that their son Jack, who was only 17 at the time, had been attacked and fatally stabbed in a violent knife attack. This was a senseless act of violence while out with his friends in Surfers Paradise—a night like any other that thousands of young people do all too often throughout the state: going out with their mates and having fun but expecting to come home safe and well. Jack was a talented footballer and had recently started an apprenticeship. He had his whole future ahead of him. The Beasleys, like far too many other Queenslanders, had to deal with the overwhelming grief of losing a family member to youth crime.

Like many others before them, and since, they were determined to have something good come out of this tragedy. This led them to establish the Jack Beasley Foundation—a foundation or legacy which aims to deliver knife crime education and, most importantly, drive change around youth violence. I want to thank Brett and Belinda for their courage and their tireless advocacy to protect our community from the scourge of knife crime. This bill, which will make Jack's Law permanent, was introduced into the House on 2 April 2025 by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee for consideration. The committee received numerous written submissions and heard from stakeholders such as the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. The committee made one single recommendation—that the bill be passed.

This bill also builds on earlier legislation such as the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 which authorised a trial allowing police officers to use handheld scanners without a warrant to detect if a person is carrying a knife. This initiative enabled police to use handheld metal detectors similar to the security scanning at our nation's airports, making it easier for police to detect and remove dangerous weapons. That initial trial was confined to within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts, or SNPs, and expired in April 2023. On the expiration of that trial, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023 was passed with bipartisan support. This extended the trial to all 15 SNPs across the state as well as other locations, such as public transport hubs, which were termed 'relevant places'. This act officially recognised the Beasley family story in law. That 2023 act also introduced considerations that would be required for a senior police officer to authorise any other police officer to use the handheld scanners. These considerations included the history of the offending at the relevant place as well as the likelihood of further offending.

On 30 August 2024 the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024 further expanded the areas that were to be considered relevant places under Jack's Law to include other public places such as shopping centres, sporting and entertainment venues as well as licensed venues. The expiry of this provision was extended for an additional 12 months to the end of next year on 30 October 2026. We could not sit back and allow Jack's Law to expire, and this is yet another key election commitment that our government committed to.

Debate, on motion of Mr Field, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.04 pm.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Hours of Sitting



Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, you will have noted the slight delay in the ringing of the bells today. Ordinarily they are rung at 1.53 pm and 1.58 pm but, due to an oversight, that did not occur today. The bells have been rung twice. If no-one has an issue with that, we will resume the business of the day.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Pegg, Mr D; Sosso, Mr J



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.05 pm): At the outset, I want to acknowledge the anniversary of the passing of our friend Duncan Pegg. This parliament was a better place for his contribution and I want to remember him, alongside our Labor family today.

As members of parliament, we have a profound duty to serve our communities and all Queenslanders, to drive change for the betterment of all Queensland people. Certainly, ministers of the Crown carry that responsibility more than any. At the heart of that responsibility is a simple but powerful word: integrity. Integrity is not just a matter of personal ethics. That is where it starts, though. Integrity is a public necessity. A government cannot function without public trust, and public trust cannot exist without integrity.

Just like a storm cloud rolling in over the hinterland, there is a looming threat to integrity in Queensland—a threat not posed in error, oversight or laziness. It has been a deliberate decision by the Premier and the LNP Crisafulli government to risk undermining the fairness of our electoral system. Let me be clear: what is at stake here is the independence of Queensland's electoral boundaries and the public's trust that those boundaries are drawn fairly, without any question, fear or favour.

Queenslanders expect that the rules of democracy and the electorates that sit at the very heart of our parliamentary system are not drawn up in favour of a particular party but instead are drafted to benefit the people. When those rules are manipulated or there is even the perception that the rules are manipulated, the entire system suffers. That is what the Fitzgerald inquiry taught us all those years ago. Previous governments of the day had used their power to influence and exploit redistributions for their own political gain. Because of the Fitzgerald inquiry and its recommendations, we now have a redistribution commission to ensure that our electoral boundaries are determined by independent experts, not politicians or political parties.

The Redistribution Commission's task is crucial. It ensures that every Queenslanders' vote carries equal weight and that our electorates reflect communities, geography and population, not political strategy. It must be—and must be seen to be—independent, neutral and fair. That is why the Labor opposition has raised concerns with the appointment of Director-General John Sosso to the Redistribution Commission.

For the benefit of the chamber, let us revisit Mr Sosso's history. This is not a person with a track record of neutral public service. While we acknowledge that there were short periods of time that Mr Sosso worked under Labor governments, it is clear that Mr Sosso has a long and partisan history—one that raises serious questions about impartiality and influence. Mr Sosso served under Joh Bjelke-Petersen, a name synonymous with the darkest period of political manipulation in Queensland's history—a time when integrity was a punchline, when corruption ran deep and when democratic institutions were treated as instruments of control, not of service. It is understood that he sought to undermine the Fitzgerald inquiry itself in the 1980s. Fitzgerald said of Mr Sosso—

The Attorney-General appointed one, John Sosso, as Secretary to the Inquiry.

Sosso didn't last long in that role but returned to the Justice Department which, as the Inquiry's report notes, did little willingly to assist the Inquiry.

This year Fitzgerald said of Mr Sosso's appointment—

I'm concerned that Queensland might be reverting to the bad old days of biased electoral boundaries—the notorious Queensland gerrymander.

During Mr Sosso's time as director-general of the justice department, judicial appointments were politicised and senior judges were forced out. It is as though the very foundations of our legal system were a mere plaything. Now he is recognised throughout government as the member for Kawana's

right-hand man, there to do his dirty work. His record does not speak of impartiality; it speaks of ideology and partisanship. Now he has been appointed to one of the most sensitive roles in our democracy: overseeing how electoral boundaries are drawn.

Let's not beat around the bush: John Sosso did not fall into this role by accident. He did not apply through an open, independent process; he was chosen for his partiality. He was hand-picked by an LNP government that wants control—hand-picked by an LNP premier who learned the wrong lessons from Campbell Newman. This is not just dodgy; it is deliberate. This is not incompetence; it is interference.

I have seen some commentary to note that Mr Sosso is just one member of the commission, but this argument far and away misses the point. In a room where the other members are genuinely impartial, the partial views of one member will have significant sway. Despite that, perception matters too. Confidence in the process matters. Trust in the outcome matters. Mr Sosso's involvement undermines that trust. The Redistribution Commission is not just some obscure democratic body; it is the referee of the electoral system. If the referee is wearing a team's colours, the match is compromised. When that referee has a long and documented history of partisan involvement then questions must be asked—loudly and clearly.

This appointment is not an isolated incident. It fits a worrying pattern—a pattern of political interference, a pattern of LNP mates being put into powerful roles without scrutiny or consultation. We have seen them dodge scrutiny on lobbying. We have seen them retreat from openness, transparency and good governance and an attempt to quietly install a politically connected figure into a body that should be above politics altogether. It is not just wrong; it is dangerous. That is why we raised these concerns with the Attorney-General. We believed that we were being truly consulted with. We even offered to meet to discuss our worries and I did not even receive a reply. There was no genuine consideration of the feedback raised by the Labor opposition. There was no genuine consultation with the leaders of the other political parties. As was reported in the *Courier-Mail* today, the appointment process undertaken may not qualify as genuine consideration, as required by the Electoral Act. For that reason, it draws into question the validity of the appointments themselves.

This confirms what we knew all along: this appointment does not pass the pub test and does not stand up to scrutiny. That is why I call upon the Premier to remove Mr Sosso from the Redistribution Commission—not for the sake of any political party but for the sake of our institutions themselves and the public's trust in our institutions. Queenslanders deserve at least that much. They deserve a government that puts integrity first—a government that listens and acts in the public interest, not in their self-interest. The Queensland Redistribution Commission and its independence must be protected. Those who serve on it must be above reproach. That is the standard that we have set and the standard that Fitzgerald set. That is the standard that Labor will defend. John Sosso's appointment to the commission, if it is allowed to continue, is one of the most brazen, cynical and dangerous decisions under this government. It proves that for the LNP integrity is just a slogan.

(Time expired)

Small Business Month



Hon. SJ MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.15 pm): Once again the Crisafulli government has demonstrated that small and family businesses and their staff are part of the LNP's DNA. It is why we back Queensland small and family businesses and their staff with active and practical support during the 2025 Queensland Small Business Month. It is why we shifted the focus of Small Business Month away from the previous Labor-centric, champagne-cork-popping, red-carpet celebrations. Gone are the days where Labor would spend \$26,000 for an event at Parliament House yet deliver very little practical assistance for Queensland's 495,000 small and family businesses and their staff. It is why we have prioritised meaningful engagement and direct support for small businesses.

Across Small Business Month the Crisafulli government delivered practical, tailored support, including 162 official events across Queensland. Forty-eight of those events were supported with our government's Better Local Business Grant program, with local governments, business groups and chambers of commerce leading the charge by hosting impactful sessions. In Boonah there was a Reels and TikTok masterclass, while in Ipswich the Ipswich business summit brought locals together to leverage collective strengths. The Western Cape Futures Symposium in Weipa gave locals a chance to reflect on better ways to transition towards a more diverse and sustainable economy, enabling new industry and investment into the region. The Brisbane Junior Chamber of Commerce took a forensic approach to business growth with their entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship workshops.

Redland City Council hosted an AI workshop that I attended with the member for Capalaba. I also joined the member for Southport and the Minister for Primary Industries and member for Gympie for their respective chambers' business breakfast. It was great to join the member for Caloundra to meet local small businesses, along with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, to present opportunities for small and family businesses on major infrastructure projects.


Members of the Crisafulli government's cabinet and our North Queensland MPs came together with more than 200 small business representatives from the Townsville region to discuss the LNP's Small and Family Business First Action Statement. In fact, right across this side of the House I thank all members for their contribution during Small Business Month. They were very active in showing that we understand the important role that small and family businesses and their staff play in delivering jobs for more than one million Queenslanders. I would also like to recognise the efforts of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner. Her passion for helping small businesses and their staff succeed was evident as she travelled across Far North Queensland and Central Queensland, in addition to attending events here in South-East Queensland.

From workshops on financial literacy and business recovery to embracing technology such as artificial intelligence and social media, the month-long program provided practical support, equipping small businesses with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive. The Crisafulli government delivered 11 financial literacy workshops, which I was pleased to launch earlier this year in the electorate of Condamine with Mr Speaker himself. There were also eight business recovery clinics, absolutely essential after the summer of natural disasters, to help small businesses and their staff get back on their feet, four Big Partners for Small Business sessions and a combined financial literacy and recovery clinic in Winton. Danielle Steendam from the Sunshine Coast participated in a financial literacy workshop and said—

I found it incredibly valuable and felt so supported throughout. I was genuinely surprised by the extent of wonderful support available.

Last week I was pleased to wrap up the month with a breakfast at the Coffee Commune with Phil De Bella, where over 80 small businesses were represented. That might have been the end of Small Business Month, but it was just another step in what the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's small and family businesses and their staff. At the start of Small Business Month, as I have previously mentioned, we launched our Small and Family Business First Action Statement, underpinned by more than \$100 million in new investment with an aim to create more than 120,000 new jobs in Queensland over the next seven years. It outlines what we promised we would deliver and now we are actually getting on with the job, unlike the track record of those opposite. The reality is this: if you look at the CVs and the inaugural speeches of those opposite, you will see why they fundamentally do not understand small and family business.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity; Social and Affordable Housing

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.20 pm): Everyday, Queenslanders are seeing more and more of what lies at the heart of this lame L-plate Crisafulli LNP government. While the LNP struggles with the mechanics of government and things such as the effective delivery of health services and infrastructure, housing and cost-of-living relief, more concerning is the obvious integrity abyss that lies at the heart of the Crisafulli LNP government. Integrity matters. Integrity matters a lot. Safeguarding our democratic institutions, conventions and protocols matters.

What we have seen from the LNP is a reckless disregard for some of the pillars of our democracy and it is being noticed. Tony Fitzgerald noticed. Tony Fitzgerald called out the dangers of appointing a politically tainted person to the electoral redistribution commission. Today I note there are media reports raising questions about the validity of the appointment of that person to the ERC. The Fitzgerald inquiry was a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience for all of Queensland. Tony Fitzgerald lifted the lid on a corrupt LNP system. Tony Fitzgerald shone a light on the dark ways in which democracy was being gamed, distorted and manipulated by the LNP for the benefit of the ill-intentioned. However, it seems not all Queenslanders learned the lessons of the Fitzgerald inquiry. Certainly, it seems that the Crisafulli LNP government does not appreciate the significance of Fitzgerald and all that flowed from his forensic work.

Way back then, Tony Fitzgerald identified the LNP's current ERC appointee, Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie's hand-picked director-general, John Sosso, as a partisan player. Tony Fitzgerald has warned, once again, that John Sosso's appointment is a risk—a risk to the community's faith in the

impartiality of the electoral redistribution commission and the fairness of any decisions it makes, and a risk to our democracy. This appointment was no oversight. It was not a casual error. The appointment of Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie's hand-picked director-general, John Sosso, to the electoral redistribution commission was a very deliberate and very calculated decision by Premier Crisafulli and his deputy. That says so much about what lies at the heart of this government. It is a government that wilfully and recklessly thumbs its nose at important democratic traditions, processes and protections.

The Crisafulli LNP government is a government that is of, by and for the LNP, and the LNP alone. It is not a government that makes decisions in the interests of ordinary everyday Queenslanders, or our democracy. There are so many examples but Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie is the prime example. He indulges his obsession with the monarchy by wanting to rename Cross River Rail the 'Elizabeth line'. The self-professed working-class hero gets about in a new black Lexus and got himself a new \$5,000 TV for his office along the way. The Deputy Premier's actions do not pass the pub test. They never have.

It all amounts to this: there is something wrong when it comes to the integrity of the Crisafulli LNP government. This is a government that indulges its ideological obsessions at the expense of Queenslanders. Take housing, for example, especially social and affordable housing. The LNP L-platers hate social and affordable housing. They always have. The NIMBY twins, or as I should properly call them, the NILBY twins, not in the LNP's backyard—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Woodridge, use correct titles in the House, please.

Mr DICK: The Deputy Premier and the housing minister especially do not like housing projects in their own backyards. That is why they axed a number of projects on the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast. To add further insult to housing injury, the LNP now want to kick people who have a public housing roof over their heads out onto the street. You do not solve homelessness by kicking people out onto the streets. You do not solve it by taking credit for all of the housing projects that Labor started and delivered and not actually do anything yourself. The LNP is trying to use 20-year-old income thresholds to justify turfing people out of a home. That is cold, it is unfair, it is unjustified, but it is the LNP way.

If the LNP wants a fight, Labor is ready to fight. We will fight this bad appointment to the electoral redistribution commission and we will fight to protect social housing residents in Woodridge or in any other part of Queensland and fight Labor will.

Social and Affordable Housing



Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.25 pm): We are up for the fight and we will be going into bat on behalf of the 52,031 people on Queensland's social housing waitlist. That is how many Queenslanders are stuck in limbo, waiting for the dignity and stability that comes with having a safe, secure and affordable place to call home because of Labor's failures over the past decade. As of 31 March this year, that is an 81 per cent increase in the social housing waitlist over the period of the former Labor government's decade in power. It is an 81 per cent increase that the so-called self-appointed champions of social housing oversaw over the past decade.

We released this data early, ahead of the date it was required to be released under the system set up by the member for Gaven. The member for Gaven set up the current system for releasing social housing data but, unlike the former government, we believe in openness and transparency so we released that data early for Queenslanders to see, and those numbers speak for themselves. They expose the devastating consequences of Labor's decade of failure to invest in social and community housing and to empower community housing providers to grow. Over almost a decade, they delivered an average of just 509 new social homes per year. No matter how glossy the brochures or how great the press conferences, the reality was that they failed to have social housing growth keep pace with demand and vulnerable Queenslanders have paid the price.

However, the Crisafulli government is not here to paper over problems. It will fix things and deliver—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members! Minister, please pause for a moment. I do not like interrupting the person on their feet but I could not hear what he was saying. Members on my left, please, order.

Mr O'CONNOR: We are here to fix things and to deliver better outcomes by reforming our housing system. One of the first things we did was launch a comprehensive review into how public housing is managed because under Labor the system was allowed to drift into disrepair. We found a case where a household with an income over \$200,000 is living in heavily subsidised housing, paying just \$200 a week in rent. That is not just unfair; that is indefensible. That is one example from our housing officers. In another example, a family in Townsville with a household income of over \$160,000 is paying less than \$190 a week in rent. In both cases, those tenants were eligible when they entered the system but their circumstances have changed and that is great. We welcome aspiration. However, the former government failed to act. They failed to update rents. They failed to reassess eligibility. They failed to help the people who are still waiting. In many ways those are social housing success stories. Those households were supported when they needed help, but their circumstances have changed and it is time to take the next step so that another family can have the support that they so desperately need.

Everything we are doing is about making sure social housing is there for those who genuinely need it. That is why we are restarting rent reviews and eligibility assessments. That is why we are putting fairness back at the heart of the system. This is about the 52,031 eligible Queenslanders who are on the waitlist. That is whose side the Crisafulli government is on and that is the number that drives us to deliver change.

While we fix the system, we are also building for the future. The 509 homes, on average, that Labor delivered per year barely scratched the surface. We are ramping up to deliver over 2,000 new social and community homes a year and building a pipeline for the long term with transparency, accountability and urgency. We are working side by side with the community housing sector, with whom we have locked in a master agreement. Those opposite have gone quiet because even after seven years they could not get that sorted. This week our department is meeting with providers to finalise the transition to this master agreement, with the goal of bringing on board as many as possible in the next 12 months. This agreement has brought 2,000 outdated and not fit-for-purpose agreements down to just over 100.

We are unlocking surplus land held by churches and charities. We have increased funding for emergency and crisis accommodation. We have strengthened the immediate housing response to ensure it is better targeted to Queenslanders with the greatest need by working alongside our specialist homelessness services.

Labor saw people on the waitlist as statistics, as numbers to politically manage; we see them as Queenslanders. Labor failed to deliver the housing supply our state needs. We are making it our top priority and there will be more to say in the upcoming budget.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (2.30 pm): The Premier says his government is all about integrity, but Queenslanders are fast learning that that is just another slick slogan from a government that does not seem to understand the meaning of accountability and transparency, let alone integrity. From day one, the Crisafulli LNP government has operated not in the interests of Queenslanders but in the interests of LNP donors, former MPs and political insiders. We have seen the rise in a jobs-for-mates culture that would make even the former Morrison government blush.

Let's start with Mr Julian Simmonds—a former LNP MP, a campaign director for a right-wing lobby group and the architect of a coal funded ad blitz that attacked the former Labor government. What is he doing now? He has been hand-picked as the acting CEO of Economic Development Queensland, which is a body that is meant to lead our state's housing strategy—a role, according to a report in the *Australian* last month, that was never advertised. This is the same Julian Simmonds who ran a \$500,000-plus campaign funded by fossil fuel interests attacking the former Labor government. Now he is running EDQ. That is not integrity; that is a reward—a political dividend for services rendered.

Then there is Mr John Soso—who, I am advised, is a known LNP insider—who has been appointed to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, the very body responsible for drawing our electoral boundaries. That appointment triggered national headlines and warnings. When debating electoral reforms many years ago, Santo Santoro stated in this chamber—

A lack of support of the commissioners by any party would lead to a public perception that the Government of the day had rigged the system. This must be avoided and the way to avoid it is to enshrine in the legislation the requirement that all appointees must have the support of all party leaders. It is vital that our electoral system be held in high regard by members of the voting public.

I never thought I would be here saying I endorse the comments of Mr Santo Santoro! It is even worse. As reported in the *Courier-Mail*, Mr John Sosso may have been invalidly appointed due to the failure of the Attorney-General to properly consult. The Attorney-General should have known that, under the Electoral Act, she is required to consult with political parties, and her failure to do so appropriately has now put at risk the validity of any decisions made by the commission.

It does not stop there. We have seen: Andrew Cripps, a former LNP MP, parachuted in as the State Recovery Coordinator; and Jeff Seeney, the architect of the last era of LNP cronyism, appointed to the board of CS Energy. Quite honestly, the list of LNP aligned board appointments reads like a who's who of an LNP state conference.

While they are handing jobs to mates, they are sacking public servants with decades of experience. Ten directors-general were dumped in the government's first month in office, despite the Premier's repeated claims that no-one would be sacked. We have heard that they have been showing the door to the next level down—the DDGs—if they do not like them either. Even worse, they are gutting independent boards. At Manufacturing Skills Queensland, they kicked out union and worker reps—the very people who know the industry best—only to stack it with LNP-friendly appointees without any transparent process.

Let's not forget that last year the then LNP leader of the opposition refused to back retrospective lobbying rules to force disclosure of meetings between lobbyists and shadow ministers. Why? It would have revealed just how much access their lobbyist mates had while they were still in opposition.

This is not a government that values integrity; this is a government that values control. It is becoming very clear that the Crisafulli LNP government does indeed have a plan. It is not for Queenslanders, though; it is for their backers, their donors and their political allies. This is not 'let the sun shine in', let me tell you that much. This is 'draw the curtains and lock the door and only let those in who are aligned to their values or who have money'.

The Coaldrake review warned of this exact culture creeping in to our public institution. It warned us about the politicisation of the public sector, the undermining of integrity agencies and the use of appointments to control outcomes rather than deliver results. Premier Crisafulli promised a new era in Queensland politics—a fresh start, he keeps saying. What Queenslanders have now is the same old backroom deals, developer mates and donor-driven politics that they have seen from the LNP time and again. This side of the House will not stay silent. We will keep calling it out because without integrity there can be no trust. Queenslanders deserve a government that governs for them and not just for their LNP mates and their donors.

Glass House Electorate, Small Business Awards



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.35 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! I have just given the minister the call. That does not require any commentary at all.

Mr POWELL: May was Small Business Month, which meant it was time for the Glassies again. I am pleased to say this was the 10th year of holding the Glassies—the Glass House small business awards—but the first with my new partner in crime, Kendall Morton, the member for Caloundra. It was great to work with her to ensure that all businesses in the Sunshine Coast hinterland as well as the Moreton Bay hinterland were able to participate.

I particularly want to acknowledge my colleague Steve Minnikin, the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business, who joined us at the gala event at the Woodford Hotel on Tuesday, 27 May. I also want to acknowledge the various chambers in our part of the world that we have partnered with for many years: the Montville Chamber of Commerce, led by President Shiralee Cooper; Maleny Commerce, led by President Spencer Shaw; the Glasshouse Country Chamber, with Tamara Hazelden taking the lead; the Woodford and Wamuran Business Network, led by Teresa Harrison; and the Greater Caboolture Chamber of Commerce, with Paul Garcia at the helm. It was also a partnership with our councils, and I want to acknowledge Councillor Jenny Broderick from the Sunshine Coast Council, who was also present. Awards nights are not possible without sponsors. This year we were assisted by: the Woodford Hotel; our good friends at Worldwide printing in Caboolture; Maleny Jewellers; the chambers themselves; and Spicers Tamarind.

We had some cracking winners. Just a reminder: bronze winners were anointed by the chamber—it was a peer-recognition award; the silver awards in each of the regions were the result of a popularity vote; and the gold winners—one for business and one for an employee for the entire region—were selected in consultation with the chamber.

Let me run through them. In the Montville region, the Bronze Business award went to Montville Woods Gallery. The Silver Business award went to Secrets on the Lake. I want to acknowledge George and Aldy from Secrets on the Lake particularly. They set this business up in the eighties and they have delivered over the decades. They have put years of effort into that business. The Bronze Employee winner was Linda Goggan from Sacred Body. The Silver Employee winner was Wolfgang Engel from the Tina Cooper gallery.

In the Maleny region, the Bronze Business award winner was Queensland Country Bank. It is great to have a bank in the middle of town that wants to support individuals. The Silver Business award winner was Emmanuelle's Beauty. The Bronze Employee winner was Liarna Jenner from Maleny Accident Repair Centre. When her boss, Juan, nominated her, he said she is a second-year spray-painting apprentice. He praised her great attitude and expressed how proud he is to have such a young female in a heavily male dominated trade. He also stated—

Her skill, dedication and work ethic speak for themselves. She is proof that talent has no gender, just drive, passion and a willingness to get stuck in.

The Silver Employee was Simone Svenson from Easton Lawyers. They just keep popping up.

In the Moreton Bay region, the Bronze Business was again Wamuran Country Meats. If you need to get to a dangerously good hotbox, check out Wamuran Country Meats. The Silver Business was Woodford Home Timber & Hardware, but I will have more to say about them in a moment. The Bronze Employee was Maggie Upson from Sticks & Stones Espresso Bar. Makayla Bigalla from Hair on Archer won the Silver Employee and is 'hands down the best apprentice hairdresser ever', according to their nominator. She actually thought she was in trouble when I walked in, but she got the surprise of her life when she won the Silver Employee.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left!

Mr POWELL: In the Glasshouse country region, the Bronze Business was the Coffee Club at Beerwah. The Silver Business was IGA at Mooloolah. They also took out the Silver Employee with Angela Schafer. The Bronze Employee was Cheryl Williams at the Glasshouse RSL.

The Hall of Famer was Easton Lawyers, who are nominated each and every year. It was about time we recognised them. The Gold Business was The Barn on Flaxton, a great community business that does so much to support charities across the northern part of the electorate.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr POWELL: It is a fantastic place to get a cuppa or two on the weekend, if not during the week. Finally, the Gold Employee was Dick Howard—no, his first name is not Richard—from Woodford Home Timber & Hardware. He received multiple nominations. He is a wonderful man who always makes you feel welcome and always goes out of his way for his customers. He always has plenty of stock and he does a lot in the community. He received over 350 total votes.

It is always a pleasure to work with the small businesses in the electorate of Glass House. Happy Small Business Month to the businesses in Glass House.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (2.40 pm): Today we have asked serious questions—questions not just about due process but about integrity. The Crisafulli LNP government have not only embarked on a dangerous path of potential gerrymanders; they are now attempting to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, the drawing of our electoral boundaries is at the foundation of our democracy.

Just last week we celebrated Queensland Day, the 166th anniversary of our break away from New South Wales—the anniversary of the first electoral boundaries being drawn. There was a time when slicing and dicing of Queensland's electorates was a tool used to retain power. Fitzgerald uncovered just how corrupt that practice was and is—how gerrymandering undermines the foundation of our democracy and trust in the process.

Electoral boundaries determine who wins and who loses, so any influence in this process—or even the perception of influence in the process—is downright dodgy. It is why ensuring appointments are made fairly and with the support of this House is so important.

Director-General John Sosso's appointment calls into question the validity of this process. As was revealed in the *Courier-Mail* today, the appointment may not have been made in accordance with the Electoral Act—an act the Attorney-General today said Mr Sosso helped draft. The *Courier-Mail* revealed that the consultation undertaken by this government was likely just a tick-and-flick exercise, because they were always going to put Mr John Sosso on this committee. The concerns that were genuinely raised were not properly considered. The Attorney did not respond to the feedback raised by the Leader of the Opposition and did not even acknowledge our request for a meeting.

The Attorney-General has said that Mr Sosso's public service is beyond reproach. I am sorry, but that completely misses the mark. This is about fairness in the electoral boundaries so that every vote is equal. When Tony Fitzgerald is sounding the alarm, we should all pay attention. When he said that biased electoral boundaries fundamentally conflict with democracy, they are not words that should be taken lightly or brushed off. They are a call to vigilance, to pay attention at what is at risk here. In this very House, then member of parliament Santo Santoro once spoke passionately about the need for fairness in redistributions.

Mr Power: What did he say?

Ms FENTIMAN: He acknowledged, member for Logan, that while redistributions are necessary to reflect population changes, they must never be manipulated for partisan gain. Santoro emphasised that the process must be—and must be seen to be—independent and impartial to preserve public confidence in our democratic institutions. That is all we are asking for. That is all Queenslanders expect—fairness, decency and confidence in the process.

Today the LNP voted down a motion to table the crown law advice that the Attorney-General is relying on to reaffirm that her government is confident that it fulfilled its legal obligations. What does the Attorney have to hide? The LNP was happy to waive legal professional privilege to table the report into Chow Tai Fook, the co-owner of Queen's Wharf casino, and whether they were suitable to hold a casino licence. But when it comes to making sure they have fulfilled their legal obligations under the Electoral Act, they say, 'Oh, I'm sorry. That is legally professionally privileged.' This government has spoken a lot about how important consultation is on wind farm projects and Gold Coast Light Rail, for example. Yet, when it comes to one of the most important democratic processes, it is like pulling teeth to be actually properly engaged.

The health of our democracy depends not only on the laws we create in this place but also on the integrity of those who apply them. It depends on the courage of this very chamber to call out creeping politicisation when we see it. Democracy is not just about elections; it is about the structures that make those elections fair. If we allow those structures to be compromised, we risk eroding the very foundation of our democracy.

Redcliffe Hospital, Hospital Rescue Plan



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise today to speak about a matter of importance to my community of Redcliffe, and that is the LNP Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan to ensure that the delivery of the Redcliffe Hospital is fit for purpose for the ever-increasing needs of our community. I want to thank the health minister for outlining and confirming in his ministerial statement this morning that the upgrades to the Redcliffe Hospital will be delivered contrary to the carry-on by the member for Bancroft and those on the left.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left! I cannot hear the member speaking because of all the interjections, which are not being taken.

Ms DOOLEY: Thank you to the minister for outlining these changes in the redesign process. The Queensland Hospital Rescue Plan is the biggest investment in Queensland's hospitals that we have ever seen.

I have often described Redcliffe as a geographical hug and the Redcliffe Hospital as its beating heart. Thank you to the incredible 1,600 health professionals, doctors, nurses, allied health, administration and ancillary staff—of which some are members of my own family—who work hard every day to provide critical health care.

Under Labor's failed capacity expansion program, there was an emerging significant cost blowout of over a billion dollars. The independent Sangster review found extensive evidence that the planning and execution lacked in many critical areas—poor planning, business cases were not completed prior to announced projects and projects were developed without consultation or including clinicians' recommendations. The review found that every project in the CEP—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Redcliffe, just pause for a minute. Members, there is too much general noise in the chamber, including from the member for Theodore and the member for Morayfield chatting across the aisle.

Ms DOOLEY: Contractors and subcontractors were required to apply BPICs—a major contributor to the project cost blowouts and delays, resulting in low productivity—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundaberg, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms DOOLEY:—and cost blowouts of \$54,000 a day. The review found every project was underfunded, delayed and could not deliver the critical services needed.

What will our Redcliffe Hospital rescue plan deliver? It will deliver another 210 overnight beds; maternity, endoscopy and new operating theatres; a design that ensures the safety of nurses and doctors and healthcare workers; better use of the site to maximise service delivery; and more car parks—up to 494.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Redcliffe, just pause for a minute. Members on my left, I have already cautioned you once. If I continue to hear your interjections, which are not being taken and are designed to be disorderly, you will be warned.

Ms DOOLEY: Last week I had the honour of representing the Minister for Health at the Redcliffe Hospital's length of service awards. It was wonderful to see doctors, nurses and allied health staff recognised for their care, work and service at the hospital. There were over 270 awards presented for 10, 15, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. There were three awards for staff who had worked over 40 years at Redcliffe Hospital or Queensland Health combined. Huge congratulations to Julie Hooper, Susan Mills and Russell Reilly, who received their 40-year awards. It is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the culture of the hospital in retaining their staff for such a length of time. I worked with Julie 30 years ago at the hospital when I first started as a new RN, and here she is still caring and still supporting patients in their time of need. Well done all! While acknowledging staff, I also want to congratulate Redcliffe Hospital's Assistant Professor Dr Joel Dulhunty, Director of Research, on winning Queensland's 2025 Emerging Philanthropist Award.

In closing, I want to advise the House that tomorrow is our annual Raise it for Redcliffe Giving Day, hosted under the banner of the RBWH Foundation. I invite all of Redcliffe to attend the activities being held at the hospital tomorrow. Recently I visited the Redcliffe palliative care unit to see the refurbishments that Raise it for Redcliffe has funded. I want to acknowledge all of the efforts of staff and our community towards this. Later this month Redcliffe Hospital will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a gala ball. All of the staff who have worked at the hospital over six decades are invited to celebrate. I look forward to joining the celebrations both as a former staff member and the proud state member for Redcliffe.

Moonlight Range Wind Farm



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise today not just as the proud member for Gladstone but as a deeply concerned voice for a region that has been deliberately betrayed by this L-plate LNP government—a government that continues to prove it is not ready, it is not capable and it certainly is not interested in standing up for regional Queensland.

The LNP's reckless decision to axe the Moonlight Range Wind Farm is not just an attack on renewals; it is an attack on Gladstone's future. This was not some speculative, distant proposal; it was real—it was job-creating investment. It was a driver project, ready to deliver economic growth, ready to deliver energy security and ready to deliver long-term prosperity for Central Queensland. The L-plate LNP government slammed the brakes on it with no plan, no consultation and no care for the consequences. They have ripped the rug out from under hundreds and hundreds of workers, local contractors and families in the region who were relying on that project to build themselves and their families a future.

This decision is ideological. It is short-sighted and destructive. It sends the chilling message to the industry that, under this amateur LNP government, Queensland is closed for business—especially when it comes to renewables. Let's call it for what it is: economic sabotage. The Moonlight Range Wind Farm would have powered up to 260,000 homes with clean, affordable energy. It would have supported heavy industry in Gladstone to decarbonise and remain competitive in a low-carbon world. Instead, the LNP's cuts will drive industry away from places like Gladstone. It will drive up prices and it will drive jobs out of town.

This is not the first thing they have done. When the LNP pulled out support from Stanwell's CQ-H2 hydrogen project we also saw Fortescue walk away, and with it 20 skilled jobs disappeared overnight. That means there are 20 families in the Gladstone region who are left behind. We all know it will not stop there. The LNP's abandonment of clean energy is already causing real-world damage. They do not understand Gladstone, they do not understand regional Queensland and, frankly, they do not care. Their silence as to what comes next is deafening.

What is the LNP's plan to reduce the number of jobs that have been lost? What is their vision to attract investment into Central Queensland and Gladstone? There is none—nothing. All we get from this government is spin, slogans and, as we are seeing now, cuts. There are no answers and no leadership, just ideological warfare against progress. Gladstone does not want handouts. We want a government that backs us in. We want secure jobs. We want reliable investment and a future where our kids can live and work in their home town. We will not be forced onto planes to go and get the jobs that were taken from us by a government asleep at the wheel. Cutting renewables is not just bad policy: it is economic vandalism.

The world is moving forward, but under the LNP Queensland is being dragged backwards by a Premier and cabinet that is still on its learner plates. The people of Gladstone deserve so much more than what this LNP government stands for. We will not stand by while this government sacrifices our future in the Gladstone region. I call on the LNP government here in Queensland to come clean with their so-called plan—a plan that nobody knows anything about. What we do know is that they are cutting projects already. They do have not a single plan they can announce as to what jobs are coming to regional Queensland.

It was a Labor government that brought the LNG industry to a place like Gladstone. As a result of the foresight and decisions made by the former Labor government, which cared about workers and the people of our regional communities, there were jobs on the ground during the global financial crisis. What we are seeing now is the exact opposite. They are driving away the market and driving away investment. Right now their inaction is costing us jobs, it is costing us growth in the Gladstone region and it is costing us time that we cannot afford to lose in this state.

Townsville Electorate, Youth Crime



Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (2.55 pm): I love all of the references to driving. I know that Queenslanders are embracing the LNP being in the driver's seat.

Many on this side of the House are aware of the struggles we face in Townsville with regard to youth crime. Townsville knows that, after a decade of Labor weakening laws, the impact has been disastrous. Labor did not just weaken laws in relation to youth crime; they weakened several other laws that are also significantly impacting livability in our beautiful part of the world. The challenge of public intoxication and antisocial behaviour that often accompanies it is not a new problem for many communities across Queensland. Under Labor public drunkenness and public urination laws were revoked, paving the way for the antisocial behaviour that has been plaguing our great city for years. It is only getting worse. The member for Burnett, as a member of the committee reviewing the legislation change, wrote in a statement of reservation at the time—

Many of the committee's other recommendations do not recognise the reality: that the community expects to be able to use public spaces and for them to be free from begging, public intoxication and public urination while utilising these public spaces. The committee's report does not reflect what many see as a disproportionate response to these offences and will be seen as a continuation of a soft on crime Government that fails to plan.

Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, you will not be surprised that antisocial behaviour has continued to escalate and is impacting the safety and security of my community in Townsville. By removing the ability for first responders to intervene early, the people Labor claimed these reforms were designed to help have been let down, as has our community. Right now if you walk down our CBD you will be confronted by groups of people drinking in the street, accosting other members of the public as they try to go about their day. During the day these groups get drunker, louder and more violent. Rather than being able to

intervene early, as our first responders have been able to in the past, they are forced to wait until a callout escalates into a much more serious situation, sometimes involving other victims. As the offences get more serious, more first responders and resources are utilised and our hardworking service providers, who are already stretched, are stretched further. The impacts are not theoretical; they are lived daily experiences for our residents and business owners alike.

Some of our city's most dedicated business operators have reached out to me to share their experiences. In an email to me, business owner James wrote—

We have witnessed daily incidents of aggressive behaviour, vandalism, and intoxicated individuals loitering in front of our premises ... I regularly remove blood stains, vomit, faeces and urine ... Customers are being deterred, staff feel unsafe, and despite calls to police and support services, the problem persists.

This is from Rebecca, who has worked in Townsville's CBD for nearly 20 years. She told me—

I now tell guests to avoid walking alone at night. My team has to escort one another to their cars ... many (customers) left with complaints of 'drunk and aggressive people' outside our doors. Security patrols are limited, and even they've sought shelter in our foyer at times.

The perception of safety is evaporating. It is not just hurting our businesses; it is hurting my city's reputation. Some businesses in the CBD have now reached into their own pockets to pay for private security resources to conduct early morning patrols in an effort to keep them, their staff and their customers safe. Our CBD is suffering, and the problems are now spreading to other parts of the city. Christine wrote—

For five years, we've watched people gather at the bus stop across the road to drink, urinate, argue, and loiter. Guests are visibly concerned. Families walk onto the road to avoid the footpath. Police attend, but often just talk and leave them. Nothing changes.

These stories are frustrating—not because they are rare but because they are now commonplace. We must restore safety, order and dignity to our public spaces. Townsville deserves better and I will continue fighting to help deliver solutions for my community.

Toowong Private Hospital; Children, Hormone Therapy



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (3.00 pm): The Toowong Private Hospital is a specialist mental health hospital that has been operating in Toowong since the 1970s. The hospital sees, I understand, more than 3,000 patients a year, providing treatment for various mental illnesses including post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol recovery programs and specialist care for ADF personnel, veterans and emergency services workers. The hospital went into administration in May, and it is set to close this week. I understand the last of the patients are being moved out today.

This closure is not the fault of the healthcare staff at the hospital who, from all accounts, are some of the best practitioners in the country. Rather, the closure is down to a systemic failure in our private health system. The hospital has seen mounting debt as the cost of hospital treatment has gone up but the payouts by health insurance companies have not kept pace. This is the failure of a private healthcare system where health insurance companies are able to make growing profits while failing to cover the cost of care. It is the patients at the Toowong Private Hospital who are now paying the price for that failure.

This sits alongside the failure of our public mental health system—an underfunded system with long emergency room wait times, limited services on weekends and out of hours, mental health wards that are dated and unfit for appropriate care, and numerous reports of people being discharged from public hospitals while they are still in need of care. I am worried, as are many past patients, that this hospital closure will put even more pressure on an already strained public mental health system.

Organisations like the AMAQ are calling for an expanded psychiatric and mental health workforce, additional psychiatric beds and an additional \$330 million of government investment in our mental health system. Instead, we are seeing 58 beds at the Toowong Private Hospital at risk of being lost. I have written to the state health minister and the federal health minister calling on the federal and state governments to step in now to ensure the Toowong Private Hospital stays open. The state government should step in now and acquire the hospital, as the former government did for the Gladstone Mater Hospital in 2020.

Over the past fortnight, I have heard from dozens of past patients and friends and family of people who have been treated there, all of whom are absolutely devastated that the hospital is on the brink of closure. I would like to take the opportunity to share some of their words which make clear the huge hole in our mental health system that this closure will leave. I will add that I am, frankly, astounded to

hear the health minister's claim just yesterday, as I understand it, that the Toowong Private Hospital does not provide acute services. Yesterday, I met past patient Kerrie who has been running a petition calling for government support, which now has over 1,700 signatures. Kerrie wrote—

In 2023, I found myself in a dark place with no local support options. It was then that I was admitted to Toowong Private Hospital. I was struggling with severe mental health issues, contemplating the unthinkable. Yet, thanks to Toowong's comprehensive care, I rediscovered the joy in life ... Its closure would mean the loss of a vital resource that countless individuals in Toowong and beyond rely upon.

Another patient talked about receiving ketamine infusions at the Toowong Private Hospital to help with treatment resistant depression. They wrote that 'no other hospital provides this in an inpatient maintenance format'. This patient explained how the closure will mean that they will lose their access to that healthcare team, including the psychiatrist who has been treating them for 21 years. The following is another patient's account—

The services provided at Toowong Private Hospital are undoubtedly life-saving and unfortunately relatively unique. Supportive mental health recovery hospitals should not be the healthcare equivalent of hen's teeth. My life would most certainly have ended over a decade ago if not for the treatment I received at a time when I had completely given up hope.

The sad reality here, however, is that the availability of public mental health beds is so limited that the vast majority of patients are not likely to be deemed "sick enough" to be admitted to a public ward and will therefore face ongoing suffering and psychological decline without the help and support of trained professionals. This will result in death.

The government can choose to act on the warning signs now and step in to save lives or it can wait on the sidelines for the next news article where important figures can sadly shake their heads and announce "if only we had known".

I am also going to take this opportunity to table a statement of reasons for the health director-general's decision to ban hormone treatments for young people in Queensland. I table that document now.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 31 March 2025, titled 'Statement of Reasons: Decision to issue health service directive QH-HSD-058' [606].

The LNP government did its best to dodge scrutiny and hide reasons for this disgraceful, harmful and discriminatory decision, but Queenslanders deserve to see the supposed justification, no matter how flimsy and baseless the reasons might be.

(Time expired)

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MAKING JACK'S LAW PERMANENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1554, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bills be now read a second time.



Mr FIELD (Capalaba—LNP) (3.06 pm), continuing: The Crisafulli government is serious about giving our police the tools they need to do their job, and making Jack's Law permanent will only increase their capabilities. That is why the Queensland Police Union back these new laws. My message to our police officers out there working tirelessly to keep our community safe is this: we hear you and we are here with you every step of the way.


There are also a number of secondary objectives in this latest legislation, including: extending the operational period for the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 from 16 December 2025 to 16 December 2040; amending the Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024 to confirm that Marine Rescue Queensland is a charitable institution for particular purposes; and amending the State Emergency Service Act 2024 to clarify the validity of previous SES member appointments.

Across Queensland, police have now scanned more than 115,000 people, resulting in 3,000 people charged with various offences which were mostly weapons and drug related. These wandering operations were carried out at safe night precincts, transport hubs, shopping centres, and sporting and entertainment venues around the state. In the last two years alone since April 2023, over 1,100 weapons were seized during these operations. To reiterate, Jack's Law has been responsible for taking over 1,100 weapons off our streets during that time—I repeat: 1,100 bladed weapons in the last two

years. That has saved anywhere between one and 1,100 lives, as each weapon detected and seized is a potential stabbing and each of these weapons could have been used to senselessly take the life of another Queenslanders just like Jack. Making Jack's Law permanent will continue to take weapons off the street and it will save lives. It is that simple.

In Queensland it is already illegal to carry a knife, including a machete, in a public space. This is spelt out in the Weapons Act 1990, and we already have serious Criminal Code offences prohibiting the use of machetes, as a weapon, as a circumstance of aggravation for assaults, robberies, burglaries, carjacking and going armed offences. Queensland already has laws that ban the sale of bladed weapons to minors. This was done last year in the summary offences amendment bill, a bill that the LNP supported.

Queenslanders have the right to feel safe when they are out in public. There is no excuse for anybody to be carrying a knife, machete or even axes in a public place. Making Jack's Law permanent is just another way that the Crisafulli government is placing the rights of victims over the rights of offenders, and builds on our commitment to restore community safety. With the passing of this bill, Queenslanders will feel safer. This is the outcome that the Crisafulli government will always strive for. I urge the House to support this bill.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.09 pm): This is the 32nd speech I am giving in this House relating to crime, community safety or justice, and I reckon that says a couple of things. I think it demonstrates that crime is dynamic and ever changing and that offenders adapt. The challenge for us as communities and as leaders within our community is how to get on top of the crime trends early. The second thing it demonstrates to me is that everyone in this House is rising to that challenge. While we do not always agree across the chamber on what the solution is, I think we are all in this House committed to doing our best to keep people safe, to stop recidivism and to stop people becoming victims.

Jack's Law was initiated under the Palaszczuk Labor government back in 2021. I would like to thank the former police minister Mark Ryan for championing this legislation which was designed to be a proactive policing strategy to detect people who are carrying knives, machetes and other items which have a primary use of inflicting harm and to take those weapons off the street.

Of course, the people who really deserve the focus of the speech are the family of Jack Beasley, in particular, Jack's parents, Belinda and Brett Beasley, who were faced with the horror that none of us as parents would want to face—the knock on the door from police to inform them that their 17-year-old son Jack had been stabbed while on a night out with friends in Surfers Paradise and had died as a result of that attack. I have said it in here before, but it bears repeating, that victims of crime are some of the most resilient people I have ever met. Their ability, like Belinda and Brett, to work through grief and pain and to champion reforms so that other parents do not have to go through what they have been through takes real strength, and I commend them for that. I would also like to recognise Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney. I know that the member has done a lot of work with this family and has been a real support to them, and I would like to thank him for that as well.

The vision that Belinda and Brett had was to empower police to identify and remove weapons from public places before they could be used to harm or intimidate people which, I think for probably all of us, sounds like a commonsense approach. Belinda and Brett worked alongside our former minister at the time, Mark Ryan, and the police to work up a proposal for a trial here in Queensland.

In May 2021, the former Labor government amended the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to implement that trial for a new set of police powers to detect knives in the community. The trial allowed authorised police officers to use handheld metal detection scanners without a warrant to determine whether a person was carrying a knife. The powers were limited to public places within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts and were to be evaluated by the Griffith Criminology Institute.

The Griffith report was tabled in parliament in November 2022. The former Labor government twice amended the trial, taking on the feedback from the Griffith review. In April 2023, we extended the trial to all safe night precincts, and then in August 2024 expanded the trial to cover supermarkets in response to calls from the community following the horrific death of Vyleen White.

At every step, we have attempted to find the balance between being willing to try anything that will keep communities safe and recognising that victims of crime deserve a police response that works, and that we have to also get an evidence base for programs, which is why the former government continued to incorporate independent reviews into this initiative. It is why we set a sunset clause of October 2026 so that we could really look at whether the program was working.

The bill we are debating today comes as a result of the Crisafulli government wanting to make this law permanent before we reach the end of that trial date, and I welcome the government's willingness to prioritise community safety and victim support. However, it is a balancing act. We have to be brave enough to try things. We owe it to our communities, victims and offenders to intervene before things get really bad. But we also have to be brave enough to evaluate programs to see if they are delivering what we intended or whether we need to adjust a few things. Removing the sunset clause will make this reform permanent. However, also in this bill are a swathe of additional changes to the pilot which do not align with the reviews completed to date, and the government has also decided it will not be evaluating this program.


Public confidence is so important in our criminal justice system. If we do not have it then community safety declines, the work of police and our courts are so much harder and good people get harmed. We here are duty-bound to protect that. When we do away with transparency and accountability then we lose that public confidence.

A range of transparency and accountability measures have either been removed from this bill or not actioned as per the review recommendations. While it is clear the government does not want to be seen to need that advice, I do hope that after this bill passes, they do work quietly to consider some of the concerns raised by stakeholders and that they consider whether additional transparency and accountability measures, in fact, might be helpful.

Reviews of this law have identified areas where further work is needed. If we are to actualise the vision of Belinda and Brett Beasley, we really need to take that on board. We all want this reform to work. We want to go out and have a meal or to go and do our shopping and not be scared that the person behind us is carrying a weapon. To achieve that outcome, we have to invest in programs that work which starts with independent evaluations. It really, for me, is quite unforgiveable that the government has decided to do away with that particular option.

I will finish where I started which is really to again applaud Belinda and Brett and the work of the Jack Beasley Foundation who have worked tirelessly to drive down knife crime. The foundation runs an excellent One Moment Education Presentation. I can tell you it takes a lot from a family to keep retelling their story, but I know that the impact they are having on other young people through this program is really having an effect, and I thank them for that and wish them every success into the future.

We do owe it to them to get this initiative really working as well as it possibly can, and I hope that the government works with stakeholders who are working daily with young people and victims to continue to build on Jack's Law.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.16 pm): I rise in support of the cognate bills before the House today—in particular, the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that puts victims first, that puts public safety first and that finally fixes another mess Labor left behind.

What we inherited from the Labor government was a parole system riddled with loopholes, delays and dysfunction. That dysfunction was more dangerous than the gaping hole Labor left in the Corrective Services Act, a hole that protected the rights of prisoners but left the rights of victims and the wider community exposed. Under Labor, if a parolee was returned to prison, the full Parole Board was mandated to review that decision, protecting the prisoner's rights. But if Queensland Corrective Services asked for a parolee to be returned to custody because of a serious community risk and a single board member said, 'No, let them stay in the community,' there was no requirement for the board to review that decision. Let that sink in. Labor gave convicted criminals more legal safeguards than the innocent Queenslanders they were released among. What we saw was a system that put prisoners first, while victims were an afterthought.

This bill will fix that failure. Under the leadership of Premier Crisafulli, we are restoring balance, ensuring that community safety carries the same legal weight as prisoner rights. The bill gives the Parole Board the express power and the obligation to review decisions where a single board member declines a request from Queensland Corrective Services to suspend a parolee and return them to custody. These are not trivial matters. These are decisions made by trained officers who believe a person cannot be safely managed in the community.

The President of the Parole Board himself, Mr Michael Woodford, made it clear that this bill corrects a substantial gap in the parole framework. He went further, calling it a 'legislative oversight' and said, 'I want to be crystal clear ... practically, there is a gap.' Instead of acknowledging this gap and fixing it, what did the Labor government do? They denied it existed, they cherry-picked quotes and they tried to sweep their failure under the rug. But Queenslanders are not fools. They know when their safety is being treated as a second priority.

For the record, it is important to note the Parole Board has confirmed these changes will not create any additional costs to the government. This government is taking decisive action to fix the broken system. We have appointed new leadership to the Parole Board. We are backing our frontline officers in community corrections—officers who make the tough calls about when someone on parole is simply too dangerous to remain in the community. We are legislating for oversight—real, enforceable, community focused oversight. Under this bill, decisions made by individual board members to keep a parolee in the community when QCS has raised serious safety concerns must now go before the full board, just like when the opposite occurs. This is not just a tweak; this is a correction of a serious imbalance and a safeguard that the community deserves.


We are also ensuring legal certainty for past decisions made by the full board in response to unacceptable community risk. Section 490ZP of this bill validates decisions made where the board overruled individual board members and returned parolees to prison in the interest of safety. Labor would rather you believe those decisions should not stand. This provision is not retrospective for the sake of political games; it is retrospective to ensure the safety of Queenslanders is not undone by Labor's legislative laziness. Let me be absolutely clear to every Queenslander watching or listening: if someone on parole shows behaviour that puts your safety at risk, this government will not wait for a tragedy. We will act. We will act decisively. This bill ensures there is power to do just that.

You will hear arguments from the other side—all points that likely continue to prioritise and preference the rights of offenders over the rights of victims, which I am sure is a familiar position to most of us to come from the other side. In a summary that makes that clear: if Queensland Corrective Services makes an urgent recommendation to revoke parole conditions and then an individual board member makes a decision for the parolee to remain in the community, under the amended legislation this decision would require review by the full board, keeping in mind that the initial decision could have been made in the middle of the night in urgent circumstances. Oversight, governance and proper process can only be considered a good thing when community safety is at risk.

Further to this, under current legislation, safeguards exist for offenders but not for the community. Let that sink in: once again, safeguards have existed for offenders but not victims. This is a theme we have witnessed throughout a decade of government and decision-making—something we are committed to correcting and delivering for the safety of our communities.

Labor's position is that the community does not, in fact, need this safeguard, that there is no legislative gap and that this is a solution in search of a problem. Well, tell that to the victims. Tell that to the Queenslanders living next door to parolees whose behaviour has spiralled but who were left in the community on the say-so of one individual board member. This government says enough is enough and we are drawing a line. This bill is sharp. It is targeted. It is absolutely necessary. It restores balance to the parole system, it empowers the Parole Board to act decisively, it protects Queenslanders and it fixes what Labor got wrong. Where community safety is at risk, I ask the House: what could be more important? I thank the ministers for their work in keeping our communities safe.

Given these bills are being debated in cognate, I would also like to acknowledge the awful tragedy our Sunshine Coast community experienced in the stabbing of 16-year-old Balin Stewart, who lost his life. Balin was a victim of knife crime. I would like to honour Balin's life and the work of his incredible parents, Michael and Kerri-Lyn, in advocating for stronger laws and educating a generation on the reality of knife crime in order to influence meaningful change. To experience such a tragedy and to continue to honour Balin's life through positive transformations is invaluable to the entire community of the Sunshine Coast. To Michael and Kerri-Lyn: we are all grateful for your contribution and in awe of your dedication and strength. Community safety affects us all.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.23 pm): I rise to contribute to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 being addressed in cognate. I turn first to the police powers amendment bill. We recognise the serious threat knife crime poses to public safety across Queensland. I am proud to be part of the former Labor government that made nation-leading reforms to fight knife crime.

Let's be clear: Jack's Law is Labor law. Under Labor, a trial began in May 2021 to give police the power to detect knives using handheld metal detectors. These powers were limited to the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts and ran until April 2023. The trial was then evaluated by the Griffith Criminology Institute. The Griffith University report found that scanning helped detect more knives and recommended that scanning be focused in areas with high levels of knife crime. It also

recommended better recording of demographic data and an audit process to monitor the use of the powers. The study raised some concerns, and some of those concerns have been addressed by the member for Cooper.

The study very clearly indicated that the trial needed to be expanded and it needed to go for longer. In response to this, the Labor government introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023. This expanded scanning powers to all 15 safe night precincts and to public transport areas. I am pleased to say that the Mount Gravatt bus stop at Garden City is one of those areas. The bill was named in honour of Jack Beasley, who was killed by a stabbing in 2019. Jack's family established the Jack Beasley Foundation. I congratulate them and thank them for their advocacy and commitment. They have since advocated for a reform to youth justice laws and to educate our young people about the dangers of carrying knives, particularly in public places.

Further changes were made through the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024. This broadened the definition of 'relevant places' to include shopping centres, retail premises, sporting and entertainment venues, licensed venues and rail lines. The sunset clause was extended to October 2026. Like the member for Cooper, I am very disappointed that the LNP chose to not continue the trial, as per the university study. When we do not respond to and reflect the evidence that is provided by academics and research, we undermine public policy. We also undermine public confidence. In this era where there is a real lack of confidence in politicians, I do not think it helps our cause more generally, and it certainly does not help with regard to the integrity of public policy and achieving desired outcomes. We certainly should be avoiding social experiments at any cost. I am disappointed that the trial has not continued. I hope that the LNP will reconsider that position once the bill is passed.

To date, over 100,000 wandering operations have been conducted and more than 1,000 weapons have been removed from Queensland's streets. We acknowledge the continued commitment of Brett and Belinda Beasley, along with the Jack Beasley Foundation, for their fierce advocacy on extending wandering powers. Their efforts have played a key role in supporting work to prevent the kind of tragic violence that took Jack's life. I acknowledge the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, for his work to reduce knife crime over the years—a minister who took the evidence and the research, ensured it was being evaluated, listened to the experts and implemented a bill and legislation accordingly. I commend the member for Morayfield for his integrity in the work that he does as a leader in his community and in Queensland more broadly.

The bill before us makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the October 2026 sunset clause. The bill extends Jack's Law to public areas outside the currently prescribed areas by allowing a senior officer to authorise the use of scanners in public places other than 'relevant places' if the senior officer believes it will be effective in detecting or deterring the possession or use of knives or weapons in that place.

In addition, this bill introduces several operational changes based on the ongoing use of wandering powers. It allows police to continue scanning a person in a public place even if that person has left the original relevant place. It removes the need to provide an information notice on request as the same details are already given verbally before the scan. It also confirms that officers can continue to use handheld scanners in relevant places without a warrant. For privacy reasons, the bill changes reporting requirements. It removes the need to publish the names of places in the QPS annual report to reduce the risk of identifying individuals scanned at specific locations.

I note other amendments this bill introduces across several acts. It extends the sunset clause in the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act in 2005 from 2025 to 2040. The act allows a person to be detained for a short time to prevent a terrorist act or to preserve related evidence. While Queensland has faced terrorism threats, the power under this act has not yet been used. The legislation is part of a nationally consistent framework across Australia.

The bill also amends the Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024. This change allows Marine Rescue Queensland to receive charitable gifts including assets from existing volunteer rescue organisations as part of broader emergency services reforms.

Finally, the bill amends the State Emergency Service Act 2024 to retrospectively validate the appointment of some SES members. This follows the discovery of an issue with the historical appointment process. All affected members have already been reappointed, and this ensures they are covered by the proper protections as authorised officers.

I support the Labor opposition amendments to ban the sale of machetes, and this will be welcomed by my community. This amendment builds on the work of the former Labor government in banning the sale of knives, machetes and other items to minors. This measure reinforces that knife


crime has no place in Queensland. Under this amendment, an adult may only purchase a machete if they hold a permit to buy, which ensures the item is needed for a legitimate purpose or for work. A person who sells a machete to an adult without a permit to buy will face a penalty such as that imposed when selling controlled items to minors. We call on the LNP to support these amendments in the interests of Queenslanders' safety. The Queensland Labor opposition supports this bill.

I now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. Parole is not a right; it is an entitlement. It is a tool used to reduce reoffending by encouraging participation in rehabilitation programs and supporting the safe reintegration of offenders into the community. Ultimately its purpose is to protect public safety. The effectiveness of the parole process is central to the integrity of our corrective services system. That is why Queenslanders must have confidence in how the Parole Board operates and makes decisions.

This bill clarifies the board's power to review decisions made by individual board members, particularly regarding urgent parole suspensions. It also retrospectively affirms that the board had authority to conduct these reviews in recent years. The bill strengthens confidence in the system by ensuring the board's oversight role is clear, consistent and practical. This bill confirms the Parole Board's authority to review urgent parole suspension decisions, ensuring consistent and lawful decision-making. High-risk decisions such as allowing someone to remain in the community should be subject to a full board review. That is a reasonable safeguard for community safety. These changes do not expand the board's power or alter parole rights. They simply make explicit what has already been happening in practice, giving legal certainty to the board's processes and avoiding reliance on other provisions in the act like section 205.

Just to be clear, the bill provides explicit legislative clarity, not because of any fault in the existing framework. During the public briefing on 30 April 2025 the commissioner of the Queensland Corrective Services explained that it has become evident that there was not a clear head of power for the board to review all urgent parole suspension decisions. In the same briefing the president of the Parole Board said the amendments put beyond doubt the board's power to review single Parole Board member decisions.

The Queensland opposition will be supporting this bill as a responsible clarification, not a correction.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise today as the member for Thuringowa to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Jack's Law, born from the unimaginable tragedy of Jack Beasley's death in 2019, is more than just a law; it is a promise to our families, our children and our neighbours that they can walk our streets without fear of a blade hidden with malicious intent. In this chamber I proudly represent the community of Thuringowa, but just for a moment I am sure they will support me in speaking as a mother.

During the hearings Belinda Beasley, Jack's mother, bravely spoke about that night. We all heard it on the news when it happened, but nothing could prepare me for when I looked into the eyes of Jack's mother while she told us of the night. As a parent it broke my heart and made me feel fear I have never felt before. I never want another mother to experience this torture. Our job as a government is to make our community safe and I can assure honourable members I have no problem standing in front of my community in Thuringowa and telling them that I support this amendment bill. What are we waiting for? Another tragedy to scar our communities, another family shattered by a senseless act of violence, another mother's soul shattered by the unbearable loss of a child stabbed in the streets that we are sworn to protect? Are those opposite so paralysed by their historical soft-on-crime approach and bureaucracy that they will let another family endure that same agony before they act?

Jack's Law has already proven its power. Between April 2023 and May 2025, 1,124 weapons were seized with 115,334 persons being wanded by senior police officers. Over 3,000 people were charged as a result of operations. This bill, making Jack's Law permanent and expanding it to every public place in Queensland, is our chance to ensure no parent lies awake fearing for their child's safety. When my daughter steps out to Kirwan shops, to the Willows or to a local festival, I want her to come home safe. If someone carries a weapon in our parks or in our streets what possible reason could they have but to harm?

Today we stand at a crossroads with a chance to make this law permanent and expand its reach to public spaces across Queensland, ensuring our communities are sanctuaries of safety, not stages for fear. The right to feel safe is a foundation of a thriving community, from knowing their government

has their back. Since its introduction, this law has removed knives, machetes and deadly tools from our streets, preventing countless tragedies. This bill empowers our police with handheld scanners to detect concealed weapons with precision, not intrusion. We promise to give our police the tools and powers they need to keep our community safe and the data is undeniable: wandering works. It has stripped weapons from our streets, stopped tragedies before they unfold and deterred those who would carry blades with ill intent.

Some may raise concerns, pointing to submissions that highlight potential negative outcomes, but let us not lose sight of the overwhelming good this law delivers. It is about the mother in Thuringowa who can let her teenager go to a concert without fear. It is about the elderly couple in Cairns who can stroll through their local market confident in their safety. It is about the young worker in Brisbane who can finish a late shift and walk home without looking over their shoulder. Jack's Law is not about restricting freedoms; it is about expanding the freedom to live without fear. The data speaks for itself. In safe night precincts wandering has reduced the presence of weapons, deterring those who would carry them with ill intent.

The bill before the House today appropriately balances community safety and civil liberties; prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders; makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that schedules it to expire on 30 October 2026; allows a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer; expands the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places; simplifies the notification and reporting framework for the police; and improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law.


There must be consideration for a bill that strengthens our commitment to community safety while ensuring robust safeguards for its implementation. Jack's Law equips our police to protect our families and its framework is built on trust, training and accountability.

Clause 10 of the bill introduces the proposed new section 39BA to enable a police officer to use a handheld scanner without warrant in relevant places without requiring authorisation from a senior officer. This will save time and allow police to get on with their jobs of keeping Queenslanders safe. This bill at clause 11 amends current section 39C to expand Jack's Law to a public place other than a relevant place. A senior officer may issue an authority in relation to a public place only if the senior police officer considers the use of a handheld scanner is to be effective to detect or deter the commission of an offence involving the possession or use of a knife or other weapon. In order to satisfy this criteria, the factors that may be considered by the senior police officer include, for example, criminal intelligence that may have been received in relation to the public place, the concentration of licensed premises in the area and whether there is an elevated concentration of people in the area due to an event. The expansion will enhance community safety and provide our police with proactive policing powers to address violent crime involving knives.

The bill maintains legislative safeguards to ensure that the police use of handheld scanners in authorised public places will be appropriate. The QPS noted during the hearing that since 2021 its officers have conducted nearly 130,000 wandings but has received only two complaints, and neither of those led to further action. This proves that we can trust the QPS to carry out this vital work in the public interest with professionalism and care. By passing this bill, we align with Western Australia's any time wandering in high-traffic areas and authorised operations in public places, positioning Queensland as a national leader in knife crime prevention. This legislation empowers our police to keep our streets, parks and festivals safe, ensuring our vibrant, inclusive community thrives without fear. I urge every member to support this bill to make Jack's Law a permanent shield for our people and to deliver nation-leading protections that honour our duty to keep Queenslanders safe.

As a parent I carry the same hopes and fears as those I represent and a commitment to every Queenslanders that their safety matters. The expansion of Jack's Law to all public places is a proactive step, not a reaction to tragedy but a prevention of it. We are not waiting for another life to be lost, another family to be broken; we are acting now, with courage and clarity, to ensure our streets, our parks, our public spaces are places of joy, not fear. The Beasley's loss has galvanised a moment and their advocacy reminds us why we are here—to serve, to protect, to build a Queensland where every citizen can thrive. This bill will empower our police to act swiftly and effectively, giving them the tools to keep weapons off our streets. It is about trusting our officers to use these powers responsibly, as they have done since Jack's Law began.

In my electorate I have heard from families, small business owners and young people who want to feel safe, who want to know their government is listening. This bill answers their call. It strengthens our resolve as a state to stand against violence and to prioritise the safety of every person who calls Queensland home. Let us stand with every Queenslanders who deserves to live in a community where safety is a guarantee, not a gamble. This is our moment to make Jack's Law a permanent shield for our people and to ensure that our public spaces are places for our communities to enjoy and feel safe. I want to personally acknowledge the grief and loss that the Beasleys have had to endure to get the community and governments to listen. We make the safety of our community as a priority with absolutely no apology. As Thuringowa's MP I will stand tall before my community and declare with every fibre of my being: I back this bill because safety is the foundation of our vibrant city and an inclusive Queensland.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak to these bills but will mainly focus on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. I was on the committee that examined this bill and as I talk I will reflect what was in our statement of reservation. However, I first want to take up one of the points that the member for Thuringowa made, and that is that wandering works. That reminds me to thank the member for Morayfield and my colleagues for bringing in those laws in 2021 and expanding them in 2023. There may have been some resistance to that amongst some members of the community. It was interesting to push this new way forward in terms of conducting wandering, but there is no doubt that our approach worked, and that has been endorsed by the other side. We can see that endorsement around Australia as other Australian jurisdictions look to us and copy what we have done in order to help make their streets safer. I want to put on record my thanks to my colleagues who have supported, introduced and developed those laws and especially the former attorney-general and the former police minister for the work that they have done with this groundbreaking legislation coming through.

As we have heard, we support the bills as presented, but I do want to talk about a couple of things specifically with regard to the Parole Board bill. What we said in our statement of reservation is that in many ways this bill was unnecessary because the legislative change needed could have simply been added into another bill such as a community safety bill or perhaps the other bill we are debating right now. It is unnecessary because what we discovered during the committee hearings was that this policy was already being achieved by the practice that was already happening through the Parole Board and the sector. As we found, the Parole Board continued to review decisions of individual members under the current powers of the Corrective Services Act.

We say it was unnecessary because departmental officers admitted that there is no legislative gap because they can use section 205 of the Corrective Services Act in the meantime. It was confirmed at the public hearings that the Parole Board, as I said, could rely on section 205 which is in line with its current practices. As we said in our statement of reservation—and I want to thank the member for Bundamba for this—

These are clarifying reforms that affirm an existing practice, not reforms resulting from a gap in the current legislation.

What we also discovered in the examination of the bill is that the bill process itself was flawed. One of the things that we have seen is that the statement of compatibility presented with this bill is flawed. In our view, the explanatory notes tabled with this bill do not meet the required standards of the parliament, nor do they provide details about the number of people affected by the validation provision. This was a fundamental omission by the minister and it emerged only after evidence from Corrective Services officers was provided that we discovered this.

In terms of the explanatory notes, this is what the committee was told by officers of the parliament—that the explanatory notes do not provide strong justifications for the legislation's adverse effect on the rights of impacted persons to bring legal action regarding the decisions and that the statement of compatibility asserts that the validation provision preserves the state's revenue by extinguishing potential liability and that it is difficult to assess the strength of this justification without further information about the number of impacted persons and an estimate of the level of damages that may be awarded. The human rights brief talks about people's rights to seek legal redress. There is, however, no guarantee that impacted persons would not bring claims in the future. These things needed to be addressed in the explanatory notes and they were not. Bear in mind that I am not talking about favouring perpetrators or favouring victims; what we are talking about is the legal obligations of the state that they need to fulfil.

Other ways that we discovered that these legislative mechanisms were flawed is that the explanatory notes omitted things. For example, I believe they did not mention the impact of the *Foster v Shaddock* case—a case which went through two courts—and it found that section 205 of the

Corrective Services Act empowers the Parole Board to amend, suspend or cancel a parole order. The explanatory notes omitted these important aspects, but they said that these policies could not be achieved through other means. We are starting to see this a lot—that is, the explanatory notes for bills are increasingly inadequate under this LNP government. It is clear to me and I believe that these explanatory notes are being written by the minister's office and they are aimed to achieve political leverage; they are not aimed to deliver clarity for the readers of the explanatory notes.

Those who watched our hearings or read through the transcripts would have been entertained because at times the examination of this bill was a sham and a travesty. Members were not allowed to ask questions. We moved motions that were ignored. We were denied private meetings. We also saw that members were not given the opportunity to examine issues—

Mr Crandon: You're misleading the House, member.

Mr WHITING:—and the chair—

Mr Crandon: Come off it!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order!

Mr WHITING: I think that the member has just proved my point exactly. As soon as it gets uncomfortable, this is what we are subjected to.

Mr Crandon: We'll see what happens, hey?

Mr WHITING: 'We'll see about this': this is the level of intimidation and the level of childishness and vindictiveness that we see from the member for Coomera as he chairs the committee. Get used to this, pal! You have 3½ years of me being your deputy chair, so you better get used to it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member for Bancroft.

Mr WHITING: This is how the LNP conducts—

Mr Crandon: I'm relishing it!


Mr WHITING: I bet you are. I cannot wait to see you try to spring on other rubbish.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be enough, thank you. The next person who interjects while the Speaker is on his feet will be on a warning.

Mr WHITING: We have just seen it: this is how the LNP conducts the business of government.

I believe that the bill itself was unnecessary. The processes were flawed. The policy was already happening in practice. They could have attached the amendment to another bill. The explanatory notes were deficient. The standards of legislation and legislative practice under the LNP have deteriorated as they struggle with the mechanisms of government.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. These bills are putting victims first. They put community safety first. They deliver the oversight that has been missing for too long. The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill ensures that the Parole Board Queensland has the power to review decisions made by individual board members—decisions that leave parolees in the community—so that the safety of Queenslanders is not compromised.

The Crisafulli government is demonstrating once again our commitment to reducing crime and putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders. The Parole Board plays a vital role in the justice system, and this bill gives it the tools it needs to better serve and protect our communities. Until now, there has been no legislative requirement for the full board to review a decision—no second opinion, no additional scrutiny. That is a serious gap, and this bill closes that gap.

This bill is particularly important to my electorate of Maryborough. We have a corrective services facility on our outskirts. The community knows very well that parolees are being released into the CBD, often late at night. This has bred fear and frustration. Antisocial behaviour on our streets is already a serious concern for locals. The community is asking, 'Who is looking out for us?' This bill is the answer. It ensures that if the parolee's behaviour is unacceptable or they are deemed a risk by QCS, their parole can be reviewed by the full board and potentially suspended. This is how we protect our community.

Under the previous Labor government, leadership of the Parole Board was lacking. For seven months the board had no president. That failure led to delays, a backlog of cases and a system that simply was not doing its job. The amendments that the bill seeks to bring in will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time. This bill also provides legal

certainty for decisions already made by the board—decisions where a parolee was kept in the community but later had their parole suspended upon review. This retrospective clause ensures those decisions are valid and legally defensible.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 represents another critical step in our commitment to making Queensland a safer place for all. It gives the police the tools they need to get knives off the streets and protect our communities. Jack Beasley's tragic death in 2019, after a senseless knife attack on the Gold Coast, shocked us all. It spurred action not only from the government and police but also from Jack's family and the dedicated Jack Beasley Foundation. Their tireless advocacy has led us here today.

On this side of the chamber, we understand that removing bladed weapons from our streets is not just common sense; it is also an imperative. We have backed Jack's Law from the start. Today's bill strengthens it, ensures its permanency and makes it more effective than ever before. As the honourable the minister rightly said when introducing this bill, every instance of knife crime leaves a lasting impact on victims, their families and the community. We will not stand by while innocent lives are lost. My priority as the member for Maryborough is the safety of my constituents. They deserve to feel secure in their homes, on the streets and in our public spaces. This bill helps deliver that assurance.

Unfortunately, the former Labor government diluted what should have been a clear tool for police. While they initially supported the Jack Beasley Foundation's work, their later amendments added unnecessary complexity, creating a bureaucratic maze that discouraged police from taking action. The 2021 trial in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise showed real promise, but by 2023 Labor's modifications made it so difficult to comply with the rules that police were unable to use Jack's Law effectively, especially at critical times like schoolies, major events and festivals. These events, which should have been protected, slipped through the cracks because the system had become too rigid.

I have spoken with frontline officers in my electorate, and their frustration is real. Their hands are tied, not because they do not want to act but because red tape and inefficient processes prevent them from doing their jobs. Our police are hardworking, professional and deeply committed to protecting the community, but they are let down by red tape, by rules that make no practical sense and by a former government that lacked the will to fix it. Well, we are fixing it now. Between April 2023 and May 2025, thanks to operations under Jack's Law, over 115,000 individuals were scanned, over a thousand weapons were seized and more than 3,000 people were charged.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the honourable ministers and the committees. I thank the Crisafulli LNP government for restoring trust, restoring safety and delivering practical laws that work. This means that, finally, the hardworking corrective services employees and our police force can get back to basics and do the jobs that keep my community and the whole of Queensland safe. I proudly commend these bills to the House.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak on this cognate debate. I will focus my comments first of all on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The consequences of knife crime are absolutely devastating. I will begin by expressing my heartfelt sympathies for all those families and communities that have been impacted by knife violence. In particular, I want to note my thoughts are with Belinda and Brett Beasley and once again thank Belinda for her having taken the time to appear before the committee on this bill.

Preventing knife crime is a commendable objective. My problem with this bill is that there is no compelling evidence that it will actually achieve that objective. What we do know is that the expansion of arbitrary search powers in public places will give rise to discriminatory policing and profiling, an increased likelihood of negative interactions between the public and police and increased feelings of mistrust within the community.

The bill represents a significant expansion of police powers, allowing for warrantless and suspicionless searches of persons in all public places. Police will be able to exercise the wandering powers without consideration of whether the limitation on people's rights is justified at all those places that were previously covered by the powers. That includes shopping centres, public transport stations and vehicles, safe night precincts and sporting venues. On top of that, the powers will be available for use in all other public places subject to a prior authorisation process—one that notionally takes account of whether the use of powers is likely to be effective at detecting or deterring knife related crimes. I say 'notionally'. I note that this parliament has already accepted the flawed assumption that these powers do anything meaningful to prevent unlawful possession and use of a knife. Police officers, in deciding on these authorisations, will only perpetuate that flawed assumption. Safeguards have not only been

eroded in relation to deciding when and where wandering will take place but also police will no longer be required to provide a written information notice explaining the powers and confirming that you are required to comply. If a person is unable to understand what is happening in those circumstances, they are at an increased risk of being charged with ancillary charges such as obstructing police. If written appropriately, the information notice is a hugely important safeguard, especially, for example, for people with cognitive disability and for children who are disproportionately subject to wandering searches.

We cannot simply gloss over the extent to which these laws will increase police interactions with the general public, as confirmed by Deputy Commissioner Kelly during committee hearings. It is a hugely significant increase in police interactions. The logic underlying these powers, whether made explicit or not, is that people existing in public are to be regarded as inherently suspect. This presumption treats our friends, our family, our neighbours and the wider community as a threat rather than as participants in a shared civic space. It normalises the infringement of civil liberties and fosters a culture of suspicion, both between individuals and between the population and our governing institutions. This kind of presumption and stigmatisation is corrosive to the fabric of a healthy democratic society. It reinforces division and undermines public confidence in institutions and increases the likelihood of harmful interactions between police and the community. This government is encouraging and feeding off the othering of people who are subject to systemic disadvantage. They are stirring up fear and hatred to get away with treating some of our community as less than human.

When the trial on the Gold Coast was reviewed by Griffith University in 2022, the reviewers concluded—

The wide discretion afforded to officers in selecting people for wandering leaves considerable room for decisions based on stereotypes and discrimination.

That played out in the statistics, which demonstrated a disproportionate number of First Nations people were subject to wandings during the trial. Since then the pattern has continued. In response to my question on notice earlier this year, the police minister confirmed that 33 per cent of people subject to searches were children, nearly seven per cent identified as First Nations and 83 per cent were boys and men. Discrimination in policing is a serious problem for our communities. It fuels the overrepresentation of First Nations people in our justice system, it undermines public confidence and it entrenches disadvantage and division.

When asked about the clear bias in these supposedly random searches, QPS initially sought to reassure the committee that 'online learning products and other operational factors reinforce the fact of the random nature of the wandering operations, which is the way we conduct the operations'. This is plainly a completely inadequate explanation. Assistant Commissioner Wildman suggested that the male-female imbalance was partly a consequence of the demographic make-up of the people at the locations where wandering was taking place, specifically at safe night precincts and on public transport, but that was not borne out in the data in relation to shopping centres where the disproportionate wandering of children and boys and men was even more pronounced. All in all, I cannot say I am surprised, given the QPS track record when it comes to combating discrimination within their own ranks, in particular their refusal to adopt crucial recommendations of the Queensland Human Rights Commission's review into workplace equality in the service.

There is no doubt the expanded powers are a serious limitation on civil rights and freedoms. The question then becomes is it worth it? To date there is no evidence that the wandering regime is deterring unlawful possession and use of knives. The Griffith review concluded that the wandering regime may help with the detection in certain areas. I do not for a second want to understate the value of that, but there is also no clear evidence that the regime deters knife carrying or has led to a reduction in violent crime.

Previous analysis of similar powers in other jurisdictions, such as Victoria or the United Kingdom, showed no discernible impact of increased police stop-and-search powers on knife crime. The QPS annual report in 2023-24 found that less than one per cent of the over 50,000 stop and wand searches has resulted in discovery of a weapon. These figures arose in the context of a tightly controlled and geographically targeted use of the powers. Despite this, the numbers of weapons seized was minimal and there remains no convincing evidence of any reduction in crime. These findings expose a fundamental flaw. If such operations yielded very limited results even when conducted in areas already identified as higher risk and employing selective targeting, then expanding the wandering powers more broadly will only reduce their effectiveness further while greatly increasing the costs and the risks of civil rights abuses.

Random suspicionless searches are a blunt and ineffective tool. With the expansion of the powers in August 2024, the Labor government spent at least \$900,000 on the scanners themselves. This laborious, expensive method of attempted crime prevention diverts public and police resources away from strategies grounded in actual evidence while delivering minimal results.


Mr Vorster interjected.

Mr BERKMAN: I never thought I would see the day where I would miss the former member for Burleigh's presence in here, but if only we could have him back. The ultimate outcome is very few seizures of prohibited items at high cost, both in terms of resources and public trust. Instead of expending huge resources for police to carry out wandering, there are other options. The government could invest those resources in health and social services that support people impacted by trauma, social disadvantage and isolation. As well, we could increase the investment in community education programs and awareness, like those that are being conducted by the Jack Beasley Foundation. I again want to acknowledge the amazing work they are doing bringing their family's story into young people's lives. The foundation's work is absolutely outstanding. I have seen firsthand with my own children how effective their message is in reaching children at an appropriate age.

In 2023-24 close to 2,500 charges were laid because of wandering operations. We do not know how many of those were successfully prosecuted. What is most concerning for me is that 55 per cent of those charges were drug related compared to just 16 per cent being made under the Weapons Act. Looking at the express purpose of the bill, that might be described as an unintended consequence, but this government has made its approach to drug use abundantly clear. They are perfectly content to go against all of the evidence that calls for preventive, health related responses to drug use. The LNP government appears absolutely hell-bent on further criminalising vulnerable people who need health assistance.

With very little time left, I would make some comments on the Parole Board amendments. This bill formalises an existing practice so that the Parole Board is required to review decisions not to suspend parole as well as those to suspend parole. We are effectively seeing a government trying to make it as easy to revoke a person's liberty as it is to help them stay out on parole.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of two important bills—the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. These bills are about real people in real communities like mine in Redlands facing very real harm. Because, let us be honest, knife crime, parole breaches and repeat offending is more than just a media headline, there are real victims and real families. These crimes are lived experiences for families, frontline officers and small businesses in our Redlands community and right across Queensland. Queenslanders have made it clear they want action, not excuses.

In December 2023, Redlands local and army veteran Chris Sanders was brutally stabbed by a teenager at the Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre. Chris had simply gone to buy a roast chicken when he was approached by a group of teens. After an exchange of words, one of them followed him and stabbed him in broad daylight, one wound coming within centimetres of his heart. His wife, Jodi, watched in horror as her husband collapsed, bleeding and struggling to breathe. That single act of violence changed their lives forever and it shook the entire Redlands community. When I spoke with locals afterwards, I heard and felt their fear and frustration. Parents are too afraid to let their kids walk through the shops. Police officers are facing more and more young people who are carrying knives. What happened to Chris was not just an attack on him; it was an attack on our community's sense of security. That is why making Jack's Law permanent is so critical.

Between April 2023 and March 2025, over 115,000 people were scanned and 1,124 weapons were seized. Those are not just numbers; they represent thousands of potential tragedies prevented. This bill removes red tape, gives our frontline police the ability to act quickly in safe night precincts and transport hubs, and provides a clear authorisation process for other public spaces. In Redlands, that includes places such as Redland Bay Shopping Village, our SMBI ferry terminal and Victoria Point town centre where families shop, teens hang out and some local businesses, such as our movie cinemas, operate late into the night. Our police officers should not have to wait for written notices or a venue manager's approval to use a handheld scanner. This bill gives them the tools and trust they need while still maintaining safeguards like body worn cameras, community reporting and strict oversight.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, whose leadership has been critical in the rollout of Jack's Law. He said recently—

By scanning for, detecting, and removing dangerous weapons from Queensland streets, police aim to reduce the harms these weapons cause in the community and educate the public on the risks of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

That is exactly the kind of practical and on-the-ground approach that this legislation supports. Under his guidance, Queensland police have removed hundreds of weapons during wandering operations. That is a powerful reminder that every knife taken off the street means potentially a life saved. I thank Acting Assistant Commissioner Wildman for his dedication to community safety and his frontline support of this lifesaving law.

We owe it to Chris Sanders and we owe it to Jack Beasley, the young man this law is named after, who was tragically killed by a knife-wielding offender on the Gold Coast. We owe it to every Queenslanders who simply wants to feel safe in their community. However, safety also depends on a justice system that responds when things go wrong.

That is where the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill comes in. Right now, a single Parole Board member can decide not to suspend parole, even when someone poses an unacceptable risk to community safety. That decision does not have to be reviewed by the full board. That is a major oversight and in a place like Redlands, where we have seen repeat offenders who are out on parole commit serious crimes, that poor oversight can have a devastating consequence. This bill fixes that. It ensures that any urgent decision not to suspend parole must be reviewed by the Parole Board within two business days. That is just common sense. No one person should have the power to risk the safety of a whole community without putting proper checks in place.


Some will try to claim there is no gap, but the president of the Parole Board himself told the committee otherwise. He told the committee 'there is a hole there' and 'there is a gap'. This government is closing that gap. In fact, this bill goes even further. It validates past board decisions to reverse or review single-member determinations—decisions that were made in the interest of public safety but have carried legal uncertainty. That uncertainty ends here.

I want to speak directly to those who may raise concerns about civil liberties. That conversation is always worth having in a democracy. However, what we are really talking about here is a non-invasive scan that takes just seconds and a mandatory review process when a parolee poses a serious risk. Those are reasonable and proportionate steps, not excessive overreach. What is unreasonable is allowing knives into shopping centres, parks and ferry terminals without consequence. What is unreasonable is letting a parolee who has breached conditions continue to walk the streets unchecked. Queenslanders and especially Redlanders deserve better. These bills strike the right balance. They protect rights without compromising safety. They uphold the integrity of our justice system while empowering it to act when the stakes are high.

Importantly, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill includes provisions to support our local volunteers, the very people who step up when disaster strikes. It confirms Marine Rescue Queensland's charitable status, ensuring a smooth and lawful transition of assets from long-serving volunteer organisations. In Redlands, marine safety is a part of our way of life. From the mainland to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, our marine crews are often the first and sometimes the only responders when lives are at risk. I thank every single one of them for their dedication, especially Marine Rescue Queensland at Victoria Point where my grandfather is a life member. The bill also validates past SES appointments, which is a critical step for communities like mine where SES crews play a vital role in flood responses, storm recovery and search and rescue, as they did during Tropical Cyclone Alfred. These reforms ensure our frontline responders, whether in a uniform or a volunteer vest, are supported by the law and not restricted by it.

I am proud to stand here as a member of the government. We listen, we learn and we will lead. I am proud to stand up for Redlands residents such as Chris and Jodi Sanders. I am proud to champion the voices of victims over the excuses of offenders. The people of Redlands, like those of communities across Queensland, have said loud and clear that they want safety restored, they want parole breaches taken seriously, they want knife crime addressed and they want the justice system to act not after tragedy but before. These bills answer that call. They are practical, they are proportionate and, above all, they are necessary.

Let us honour Jack Beasley and all those whose lives have been shattered by preventable crime. Let us acknowledge the extraordinary strength and courage of Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, who turned unimaginable grief into tireless advocacy. Their determination to make Jack's Law a reality has already saved lives and their legacy will continue to protect countless more. Queensland is a safer place because of them. Let us get this done for Redlands and for Queensland.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise to add my comments to the cognate debate on the bills before the House. I stand here as a very proud member of the Labor government that led the way nationally in the fight against knife crime. Hearing some of the debate today, one would think that there has been no such thing as Jack's Law and that this is the first time that we have been—

Mrs Frecklington: Yes, we proposed it from opposition.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the Attorney-General who said, 'Yep.' Let me educate the Attorney-General. Jack's Law came in under the former Labor government—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. Let me educate the Attorney-General. In May 2021, the Labor government introduced Jack's Law.

Mrs Frecklington: After we announced it from opposition.

Ms GRACE: It was introduced in May 2021 after the tragic incident involving young Jack Beasley. I pay homage to Brett and Belinda Beasley and congratulate them for the work that they have been doing. I met Brett and Belinda Beasley when I was education minister. They spoke about the education programs that they run in schools. They are doing a great job to educate young people about the perils of carrying knives and about being aware and safe when out at night. They have done a remarkable job. It was an absolute pleasure to meet with them because they have been tireless advocates for reform to prevent knife-related violence and obviously to protect young people.

Jack was only 17 at the time. It happened in Surfers Paradise in December 2019 and we introduced these laws in May 2021. They were nation-leading laws. There were no other laws of their type in Australia. Clearly, we took a very measured and considered approach in introducing the new laws to make sure that they worked well, that they were sustainable and that they would stand the test of time. That is exactly what happened. The Griffith report, which was tabled in November 2022, looked at this and the recommendations included making a variety of changes, which were done in April 2023. It is not like we stood still when we were in government. We then refined those laws and extended them to other areas.

In August 2024 we continued the work by passing further amendments to improve Jack's Law. This is not the first time these laws have been before this House. We took this very seriously. We are very proud of the fact that over 100,000 wandings have been conducted and more than 1,100 weapons have been removed from our streets. I acknowledge the former police minister and member for Morayfield for the significant work he did over the years to reduce knife crime.

Today we are debating the government's bill that will make the laws permanent, which we do not have a problem with. They are looking at expanding relevant places, which we also support. We took a considered approach with providing an information notice, but they are saying it is not needed now because the individual is advised verbally how the scan will be conducted. For efficiency that will be removed, which we support. We have looked at the amendments and we are happy to support them in this place.

When we moved other amendments, we wanted to make sure that we also curtailed the sale of knives to minors. Machetes were included in that definition. I bought a whole set of new knives the other day. I went into Victoria's Basement here in the city, next to David Jones, and all the knives are locked away. They cannot be reached, and that is because of our legislation. An assistant has to unlock them and they cannot be sold to minors. They are locked away so that no-one has access to them in a shop—then they cannot hide them, walk out and commit a crime. They were very sensible amendments.

Now we are adding further amendments, and I support the shadow minister in this, to make sure that machetes are also included in the sale ban, unless it is for work related purposes which could be established under a permit scheme. In a media release on 23 February, the Premier said—

From axes to machetes, every knife our police have taken off the streets is a potential life saved, which is why we are prioritising this life-saving legislation.

He mentioned machetes in the media release. It was not their idea to ban the sale of machetes to all people unless they really need one, so they are not going to support it. Many speakers in this House have talked about preventive legislation, about preventing the crime before it happens. What has happened since the government was elected? There were machete incidents in November in Indooroopilly, in December in Woolloongabba, in December in Arundel on the Gold Coast, in February in Coopers Plains, in March in Camp Hill, in April in Toowoomba, in May in Rockhampton and on 27 May in Scarborough in Moreton Bay. They are just the ones that have been picked up in relation to machetes.

They see that this is not their idea, that they missed the opportunity to do this and that somehow we are following Victoria, so they are not supporting it. If they truly believed in prevention, if they truly believed in safety, they would talk with us and support those amendments to ban machete sales unless people have a permit to have one. There is no excuse not to do this other than political bias and their inability to admit that it was not their idea—no good idea can be supported if it was not their idea.

I urge the government: let's not waste time. If they really are about victims and they come in here and talk the talk, they should walk the walk and support these amendments to ban machetes. Even in the press release they talked about axes and machetes. 'It's not our idea so we're now not going to support it.' That is not good enough. People want a government that acts; they do not want a government that acts like they are still in opposition where everything is Labor's fault or something that Labor did not do. It is wearing very thin.

At the end of the day, they are now the government. They have the ability to step up and support this ban on machetes. I know my electorate wants it. I am sure the electorate of Redlands wants it too.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.


Ms GRACE: Inala wants it—I will take that interjection. Most people want it, yet their heads are down and they cannot bring themselves to support meaningful amendments because it was not their idea. It is all talk and no action on the part of the government.

The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill is a clarifying piece of legislation about something that is already happening. The question was asked during a committee hearing about whether or not the Parole Board could review this—the differences of opinion and validating decisions that have been made. This is already occurring. This legislation validates what has happened and clarifies it beyond question. That is fine. We will support that as well. To say that Labor was more interested in supporting the perpetrators than the victims is honestly taking it a little bit too far. It is absolutely ridiculous. Those who get up and say—

A government member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I will take the interjection from whoever is saying it is true. It is not true. It is absolute rubbish. It is insulting. It does nothing for the credibility of those opposite to come into this place and say that. This is merely a clarifying piece of legislation. That is all it is. Stop this ridiculousness of coming in here with these insulting accusations.

(Time expired)

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate debate, and the subject matter of my contribution today deals exclusively with the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is a critical safeguard for community safety in my electorate of Hervey Bay and will ensure that initial parole decisions, often made in urgent circumstances, have an appropriate level of oversight by a suitably convened board. The Crisafulli government is committed to transparency, accountability and stronger governance in Parole Board Queensland after a decade of Labor's crisis.

This bill will empower the Parole Board with the authority to review decisions made by a prescribed board member in all circumstances. A prescribed board member means the president, a deputy president or a professional board member. Parole is a privilege, not an entitlement. Parole is the conditional release of a person from prison before the end of their sentence. It is a method intended to prevent reoffending, so the parolee is supervised in the community by corrective services officers until the end of their sentence.

The Parole Board of Queensland plays a critical role within the criminal justice system. This bill aims to empower the Parole Board with the authority to review all decisions made by a prescribed board member after a request for immediate suspension from Queensland Corrective Services, including

circumstances where a prescribed board member decides not to suspend parole. To be clear, this bill is about rectifying a cavernous gap in the legislation where a prescribed board member decides not to suspend parole.

If a prisoner on parole fails to comply with their parole order or they pose an unacceptable risk to the community then the Queensland Corrective Services CEO may ask the Parole Board to suspend the prisoner's parole order and issue a warrant for the prisoner's arrest. To expedite the process, the decision could be made by a prescribed board member. If so, then the board must convene within two business days to either confirm the decision, cancel the parole order or set aside the decision. However, in circumstances where a prescribed board member does not decide to suspend a prisoner's parole order—in other words, keep them in the community—the Corrective Services Act 2006 is silent on allowing the board to convene to review the decision. This is the nub of the issue that this bill is focused upon.

Whilst there have been historical amendments to sections 208A to 208C in the act, in recent years it has become evident that there was not a clear head of power for the board to review all urgent suspension decisions. This bill rectifies that by amending section 208C to require the board to review all decisions made by a single prescribed board member. This is an important safeguard to ensure that decisions made by one person are reviewed by an appropriately convened board to provide consistency in decision-making.

Clause 5 of the bill includes a validating provision to address instances where the board reviewed prescribed board member decisions to not suspend parole in the past. This ensures that board decisions that were made to return an offender on parole to custody, based on evidence and an individual risk assessment, are considered valid.

Let me now turn to Labor's desperately feeble claim in their statement of reservation that there is no legislative gap in the Corrective Services Act 2006. Labor's argument is falsely premised on a strikingly biased and selective quote from Mr Woodford, the President of Parole Board Queensland, in the relevant committee's transcript of proceedings. It is critical that Mr Woodford's oral statements be taken within the context of his overall oral submission. Mr Woodford's opening statement to the committee stated—

The amendments that the bill seeks to bring in will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time, though, I must note, that it has only properly been understood in recent times.

He furthermore states—

... what I said at the start is there is a hole there and, as I tried to be fair and balanced to indicate, it is something that has only recently been discovered.

Mr Woodford then said in his closing remarks—

... I did want to confirm that we perceive there is a gap. This would not have come before you if we thought there was a better solution or there was no solution needed. I want to be crystal clear about that, that practically there is a gap.

Queensland Labor's desperate foray into section 205 of the Corrective Services Act 2006 and citing the Queensland Court of Appeal decision in *Foster v Shaddock & Ors* is simply a distraction from the existing substantial procedural gap in the parole suspension framework. The former floundering Labor corrective services minister squandered opportunities to identify and fix up this procedural gap: Labor botched it.

Section 205 of the act is a broad power designed for general Parole Board decision-making, but it is unsuitable in high-risk, time-critical scenarios where a rapid response is essential. Mr Woodford further stated in correspondence dated 7 May—

... relying solely on section 205 to manage urgent community safety risks would not in my view cure the serious issue with the legislation.

I table a copy of that correspondence.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 7 May 2025, from the President, Parole Board Queensland, Mr Michael Woodford, to the Chair, Governance, Energy and Finance Committee and member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding parole matters impacted by the legislative proposal contained within the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[607\]](#).

The amendments to section 208C are integral to providing a practical and sustainable safeguard to the existing legislative gap in the Corrective Services Act 2006. This amendment maintains the board's current powers to respond to urgent suspension matters and acknowledges the real-world

demand of parole decision-making. A procedural gap exists in section 208A. The scheme set out in section 208A to section 208C provides for immediate suspension by a prescribed board member which provides for timely action whilst maintaining community safety. This is an alternative suspension framework to the board's general powers to suspend or cancel a parole order under section 205.

Decisions under section 208B by a prescribed board member to suspend a parole order can be reviewed by the board under section 208C. However—I will state again:—where a prescribed board member chooses not to suspend a parole order under section 208B, there is no legislative basis to review that decision. That is the crux of this bill. This is the substantive procedural gap identified in the amendment bill.

Before I close, let me say what a refreshing change it is to have an energetic, hardworking corrective services minister in Laura Gerber, who is across her brief. It is a real contrast to Labor's former bumbling corrective services minister, the member for Pine Rivers, whose conduct at last year's July 2024 estimates hearing was reminiscent of Sergeant Schultz in that comical series *Hogan's Heroes*—'I know nothing!' Labor clearly knows nothing when it comes to addressing procedural gaps in the corrective services legislation. We are cleaning up Labor's mess. I commend this cognate bill to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (4.36 pm): I intend to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which is part of the cognate debate this afternoon. I will start with the position that, as society has changed, as legislators we need to make sure that we meet the challenges in society. We need to make sure that we meet the challenges in terms of what we provide our Police Service to deal with crime in this state.

I want to go back to the time when my father was a police officer. I can recall him coming home not wearing a weapon on him. He kept his .22 pistol in a bag. Conversely, now when you go to a police station or when you see police on the streets—and I was at the Ferry Grove Police Station last week presenting the station with a Queensland flag—you see them in their full kit. They wear their armoured vests and they have their tasers—

Mr Stevens: Glocks.

Mr FURNER:—their glocks and their batons—all the equipment they have in their vests and on their belts. On a lot of occasions in the last decade, the Labor government provided many of the advanced types of equipment for police officers. I take on board the committee's views and acknowledge the LNP government for accepting a great Labor initiative in Jack's Law. That is what we are doing here today. There should be no partisan view in this debate. We should be bipartisan across the chamber in supporting the good policy that we introduced when we were in government to make sure that we protect our citizens and that we give police the powers they need to make sure they can do their duty in safe night precincts or public places. They are so proud, efficient and experienced in conducting their roles.

I commend our previous minister, the member for Morayfield, for his initiative and also thank our then government and cabinet for bringing that law forward in the last government. It is groundbreaking and we have seen it adopted in other states. The Queensland Police Service seized 350 weapons in the first six months of operation of Jack's Law. More than 2,900 handheld scanner operations have been conducted since 30 March 2023, when the legislation was extended and expanded to include safe night precincts, public transport and transport hubs. During those operations, more than 31,800 people have been scanned, resulting in 904 people being charged with almost 1,600 offences, mostly related to weapon and drug matters.


I also extend my appreciation for the advocacy of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Brett and Belinda Beasley in bringing forward their ideas—which have now spread around the nation—to honour the unfortunate death of their son Jack. It is a shame that at times we have to act as a result of tragic circumstances such as a homicide, but we can use it as an opportunity to make change. That is the situation we face, and that is why we as legislators should be proud of making these changes to extend the Labor laws that were introduced in the last government. When I was in Melbourne visiting my son and his family last New Year's Eve, I saw police wand people at the train station. No doubt that is an example of what we see in other states. Notwithstanding the view of the opposition, the amendment we will be debating later this evening or tomorrow, depending on how we get through this, is a sensible amendment. It is to ban the purchase or sale of machetes in Queensland. I urge the government to consider that amendment in detail. It is an example of what can be adopted so that people cannot purchase these types of weapons.

During their appearance at the committee hearing, the Queensland Police Union of Employees indicated that it has been well received by Queenslanders and once again they reiterated it has been accepted in other states. At the hearing, the Jack Beasley Foundation also expressed its strong support for the amendments, describing Queensland's Jack's Law as 'nation-leading' laws. There is no doubt that is the case, as we have seen in the other states and territories where it has been adopted. The Queensland Police Service indicated that in their experience the public response to wandering has been overwhelmingly positive. One officer with extensive experience in wandering operations shared his experience with the committee. He explained that over his 20 years of service he had wandered over 6,000 people, 90 per cent of whom thanked him afterwards. In total, out of 130,000 wandings by the Queensland Police Service, there have only been two complaints. I think that is an example of how this is widespread and accepted throughout our society.

People accept it as a matter of course. You only need to reflect on the procedure when you go through airports—we have been doing it for years. People go through a scanning device and they are wandered on many occasions. People take it for granted. It is normal when you travel throughout the nation or internationally. Over time this will not be an encumbrance on people who travel on public transport. It is a great Labor initiative that we introduced in our last term of government. It has been accepted by the LNP government and put into legislation for the future prosperity of our communities.

I look forward to continuing my engagement with the police, whether it be through the Ferny Grove Police Station or in some cases with the Queensland Police Union of Employees, where I was proudly an industrial officer for nearly four years. It is a great union that represents our men and women in blue.

We should sensibly look at the amendment put forward by the member for Gladstone. It is a thoroughly thought out amendment that will make sure we limit the possibility of people throughout our state carrying machetes. It should be considered and accepted by the Minister for Police.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on two critical pieces of legislation brought forward by the Crisafulli government. This legislation reflects our unwavering commitment to community safety, victims' rights and restoring confidence in Queensland's justice system. The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 are necessary and focused reforms. They are about public safety, they are about restoring fairness and they are about fixing the serious systemic failures left behind by those opposite. These are bills that put Queenslanders first before offenders, before unnecessary bureaucracy and before the political games that Labor has played with our justice system for far too long. Let me first speak to Jack's Law.

Jack's Law is named in honour of 17-year-old Jack Beasley, a young man with his whole life ahead of him who was senselessly killed in a knife attack on the Gold Coast in 2019. His tragic death devastated a family and shook a community. It exposed the terrifying reality that too many young people are carrying knives and too often those knives are being used. It was in October 2020 that I went to the Gold Coast to stand with the Beasleys and highlight the action that needed to be taken to tackle knife crime. I thank the member for Bonney, the Hon. Sam O'Connor, for standing with me and putting this issue front and centre before the Queensland parliament. I did that in the hope that we would one day bring Jack's Law into this parliament, and I am incredibly proud to be part of the Crisafulli government that is making Jack's Law permanent.

It recognises a young man who was innocently going about doing what 17-year-olds do; he was out with his mates having a great night out. Jack's life was cut too short. His parents, Brett and Belinda, whom I have spoken about in this chamber many times, have shown enormous courage and strength in their grief. They have turned a personal tragedy into a public purpose. They stood up and said, 'This must stop. No other family should have to live through what we have lived through.'

We listened. Jack's Law is about equipping police with the tools they need to prevent violent crime before it happens. We have already seen what works. The trial of wandering powers in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts led to more than 500 weapons being seized. That is 500 weapons, many of them knives, taken out of circulation. Yet, while those results speak volumes, Labor refused to commit to making this law permanent. Instead, they made excuses. Queenslanders cannot afford that kind of complacency. That is why the Crisafulli government has acted decisively to expand and make permanent these powers—powers to save lives.

On that note, I would like to thank the police minister for his hard work in ensuring this legislation is before the House today. The bill will allow police to conduct wandering operations in all safe night precincts and public transport hubs across Queensland—places where young people gather, where families travel and where people should feel safe. I have heard it in my own community and across Queensland. People are fed up. They are fed up with the violence, fed up with repeat offenders and fed up with feeling that nothing changes. These laws—Jack's Law—will make a difference. To those opposite who still want to argue about the scope of these powers I say this: talk to the frontline police officers, talk to the victims and talk to parents who are terrified. The community backs this law, the police back this law and every member of this House should back it too.

I now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. The bill may not make the front page, but its impact will be profound because this bill fixes a critical gap in our parole system that the Labor government refused to acknowledge and refused to fix. Under the law as it stood, when a parolee's behaviour raised serious red flags, when the Queensland Corrective Services supervisor—the very person charged with monitoring them—determined they could no longer be safely managed in the community, Queensland Corrective Services could request an urgent suspension of parole. If a prescribed member of the Parole Board agreed and suspended their parole, the full board was required to review the decision within two days. That is a safeguard for the prisoner. If the prescribed board member said no and decided to leave that offender in the community despite a formal warning from Queensland Corrective Services, there was no requirement for a review, no second opinion, no full board oversight—no safeguard for the public.

How on earth did Labor let that loophole exist? How could they mandate protections for offenders but not for the community? That is not good enough, it is not safe and it is not fair. On that I would like to thank the member for Currumbin, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, because under her watch this bill changes that. It gives the Parole Board the clear authority—and the legal obligation—to review all decisions, including those where a single board member decides to keep a potentially dangerous parolee in the community after Queensland Corrective Services has raised concerns.

This reform is not theoretical; it is not academic. Commissioner Paul Stewart has been clear: when Queensland Corrective Services makes a suspension request, it is not for trivial reasons. It is because their trained officers have identified a risk—a potential harm to someone in the community. These are serious calls made by professionals under pressure, and they deserve to be taken seriously.

The Parole Board President, Michael Woodford, could not have been clearer. He stated that this bill corrects a 'substantial gap'—his words, not ours. He said that the current law is a 'legislative oversight'. He said, 'I want to be crystal clear ... there is a gap.' Even the head of the Parole Board said that this change is overdue.

Why did Labor deny it for years? Why did they fail to act? Why did they leave Queenslanders exposed? We know why. It is because under Labor the rights of prisoners always seem to come first. It is because they let the Parole Board go leaderless for seven months. It is because they were more interested in managing internal politics than managing community safety. Let us not forget it was revealed in estimates that Labor's former minister for corrective services negotiated a resignation date with the former board president that just happened to trigger an extra \$30,000 in annual benefits. That is what they prioritised—entitlements over accountability, and pensions over public safety.

The days of Labor's soft-on-crime culture are over. This bill empowers the Parole Board to do its job. It provides legal certainty for decisions already made under the former government's broken laws. Most importantly, it ensures that victims and communities are not legally sidelined when urgent parole decisions are made. We are closing the loopholes, we are restoring oversight and we are backing the professionals on the ground. Together, Jack's Law and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 form part of our broader agenda—a promise we made to the people of Queensland and one we are delivering on: to make Queensland safer.

I want to finish where I began—with the community. Every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe—in their homes, on the streets and on public transport; every parent has the right to believe their child will come home; and every victim has the right to know that the system is on their side. These bills are about restoring that trust. They are about standing with police, not undermining them; standing with victims, not ignoring them; and standing with Queenslanders who are crying out for action, not excuses. I commend the bills to the House.



Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Let me begin by acknowledging that no parent should have to bury their child, yet for too many that unimaginable grief has become a reality. My heart goes out to every family that has suffered such a tragic loss. My heart goes out to Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley. Since Jack's death, Brett and Belinda Beasley have been tireless advocates for reform to prevent knife related violence and protect young people. Their dedication and advocacy were instrumental in making Jack's Law a reality here in Queensland, and their continuing efforts have seen similar laws introduced in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Western Australia.

I want to acknowledge the important foundation laid by the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021 which first enabled the trial of handheld scanners. That initiative was further developed and expanded by the former Labor government and the then minister for police and community safety, the Hon. Mark Ryan. Their work in introducing and passing Jack's Law in 2023 was critical, and I pay respect to their leadership and resolve on this important issue. In 2024 the scope of Jack's Law was significantly broadened to include more high-risk public locations. This expansion was a clear sign that the government of the day prioritised community safety over complacency, and it sent a strong message that knife crime would not be tolerated—not in our streets, not in our venues and not in our communities.

Let me turn briefly to the results. Since the introduction of Jack's Law, police have seized more than 1,058 weapons and conducted over 100,000 scans. That is 100,000 instances where the mere presence of a wand may have prevented a tragedy. Over 2,800 people have been charged and more than 500 offences have been dealt with, including through cautions, since the law took effect. Every wandering operation carried out by police, every weapon removed from circulation and every potential incident averted is a direct result of the legislative leadership shown by those on this side of the House.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to: make Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that schedules its expiry on 30 October 2026; allow a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer; expand the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places, by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas provided they first obtain authority from a senior police officer; and improve policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlining Jack's Law.

During the inquiry, 18 stakeholders made written submissions on the bill. The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the bill included: the impact of the removal of the sunset clause to make Jack's Law permanent in Queensland; allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in defined places without the need for senior officer authorisation; expanding Jack's Law to all public places and the safeguards that are applied to this power; amendments to streamline the framework supporting Jack's Law, including removal of certain notification and reporting requirements; and consideration of other preventive measures to combat knife crime.

While supporting the bill today, I do note that the Office of the Victims' Commissioner stated—


While the Bill's proposed changes with respect to accountability safeguards (namely, clauses 10, 16 and 18) are aimed at improving efficiencies for police, their removal may erode public confidence in police responses. Any erosion in public confidence and trust that police are exercising their powers fairly and in a non-discriminatory manner may also result in a decrease in reporting of other serious crime, which may ultimately impact upon the support received by those victims of crime.

Legal Aid Queensland submitted that the requirement for the authority to be issued by a senior officer ought to remain, calling it an appropriate safeguard. The Law Council of Australia made comment on a proper evaluation process being required, stating—

The Society is concerned that the trial of the use of scanners permitting police to conduct searches without a warrant has not been subject to proper evaluation. The trial is not due to expire until 30 October 2026. It is submitted that there is sufficient time available for a proper evaluation. Given the importance of balancing community safety concerns with the rights of individuals it is submitted that a proper evaluation should be commissioned prior to any changes to the law.

As previously stated, I support this bill today, but I acknowledge the advice submitted to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee during the inquiry. Further, I would like to add that in February 2024, the former Labor government amended the Summary Offences Act 2005 to prohibit the sale of knives, machetes and other items to minors. I support the amendment proposed by opposition members to introduce a statewide ban on the sale of machetes, and increased penalties need to be considered when passing this bill.

In closing, let us not forget that in March 2023, the Premier, whilst in his capacity as the Leader of the Opposition, acknowledged that this legislation 'would do great good'. He said it and he said it often. It is important to recognise that because it reminds us that when it comes to protecting lives, this should never be a partisan issue.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise today in strong support of two crucial pieces of legislation before the House. Behind every clause in these bills are real people—families shattered by violence, communities living in fear and frontline workers desperate for stronger laws to protect us. They are declarations of our shared commitment to safety, to accountability and to the people we are elected to serve. Let me start with Jack's Law, a law born from tragedy, driven by community and made necessary by the reality facing far too many Queenslanders.

Jack Beasley was just 17 years old when his life was cut short in a senseless knife attack on the Gold Coast in 2019. His death shook our state, from the south all the way up to the north. But from that heartbreak came a powerful legacy—legislation that empowers police to proactively search for knives and other weapons in public spaces. The results speak for themselves. Between April 2023 and May 2025, police carried out over 115,000 wandering operations, seized more than 1,100 weapons and laid charges against over 3,000 individuals. These are not just numbers, they are potential lives saved, violent incidents prevented and communities made safer.

Despite Jack's Law delivering clear outcomes, it was burdened by Labor's red tape requiring senior officer approvals, limiting its use to predefined areas and making it difficult to respond quickly during events or emerging threats. This bill fixes that. It removes the sunset clause to make Jack's Law permanent. It expands its reach to more public spaces and it also simplifies police operations by removing unnecessary approvals without compromising civil liberties. It maintains critical safeguards: body worn cameras, randomised searches and mandatory officer training, particularly important in Far North Queensland. It gives police the ability to act before a tragedy occurs, not after.

In Far North Queensland, we know too well the cost of knife crime. In September 2021, a man was fatally stabbed in broad daylight at Cairns Central Shopping Centre. In February this year, a woman was sexual assaulted at knifepoint during an horrific home invasion in Manunda. Just last week I spoke to local principals whose schools have faced knife threats from both students and intruders. One of them was a primary school student. Another shopping centre has knives and scissors stolen on nearly a daily basis by youth, and their packets are found in the gardens surrounding the shopping centre. It is unacceptable, it is terrifying and it is real.

I have spoken to business owners who have been threatened and their premises ransacked. I have spoken to parents too frightened to let their teens go out at night—not going to parties, just to a movie or dinner with friends. As a mother of two teenage boys, I feel that fear deeply. That fear undermines our entire community. It keeps families indoors, drives customers away from local businesses and tarnishes our reputation as a vibrant, welcoming destination.

Cairns Regional Council supports this law. Our police support this law. Today we are strengthening it. By making Jack's Law permanent and more effective, we are saying to every Queenslanders, 'We are serious about your safety and violence has no place here.' This is not just about preventing crime, it is about protecting futures, futures like Jack's, futures that deserve to unfold without fear.

While we are addressing safety, we must also fix what has been broken in our corrections system. That is why I also rise in support of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation closes a dangerous loophole, one that allowed a single member of the Parole Board to quietly overrule suspension and recommendations made by the Queensland Corrective Service officers, even when lives are at risk. If you think about that one person, that one decision and no requirement for review, even when the offender posed a known threat to the community, you can imagine what happens. That ends today. With this bill, all urgent parole suspension decisions must be reviewed by the full board within 48 hours. This means no more single points of failure and no more unchecked decisions that put communities in danger.

I ask this House to consider a scenario that is sadly not hypothetical, a scenario we have seen versions of far too often in our regions, including in places like Cairns. Imagine a repeat youth violent offender, or just a violent offender, someone with a history of armed robbery, assault, domestic violence, unlawful possession of weapons or serious drug and property offences. Under the former government's weak-on-crime approach, this individual is released on court ordered parole. Despite our hardworking community corrections officers doing everything they can to monitor them, warning signs begin to

appear—concerning behaviour and dangerous messages. Queensland Corrective Services does the right thing and refers the case to the Parole Board, requesting suspension of the parole order. However, maybe at 1.00 am, a single board member, acting alone under Labor's laws, is woken and makes the call to keep this individual in the community, despite the risk identified by the QCS. Then, days later, that parolee breaches curfew, breaks into a neighbour's home, assaults them, steals their car, stalks a former partner—someone they have previously abused—and he or she is also found in possession of a firearm. Under the current system, there is no ability for the full Parole Board to review or overturn that single board member's decision and the community then pays the ultimate price.


This bill fixes that. It gives the full board power to urgently review those decisions within 48 hours to stop offenders from slipping through the cracks and, most importantly, to keep our communities safe. That is how you protect the people. That is how you make a justice system work for victims, not just for offenders.

Parole is not a right, it is a privilege, and that privilege must come with accountability, oversight and a laser focus on community safety. To be clear, this bill does not just lock people up and throw away the key; it ensures that dangerous decisions are reviewed, that high-risk offenders are held accountable and that genuinely low-risk individuals can still be supported back into society, especially in places like Cairns, Cape York and Torres Strait where community-led, culturally respectful reintegration is essential.

In Cairns and across Far North Queensland, we have seen firsthand the consequences of parole decisions that prioritise paperwork over public safety. When violent offenders are released early and go on to reoffend, it is our communities—our families, our business owners and our children—who bear the cost. Parole must be treated as a privilege, not an expectation. We owe it to the victims and to the people of Far North Queensland to ensure that dangerous individuals are not returned to our streets prematurely. Public safety must always come first.

We are closing Labor's loophole. We are restoring real-time accountability. We are making it clear: when it comes to community safety, we will never settle for second best.

Together, these two bills reflect a government that is listening, responding and acting. We are saying to every Queenslanders—in Cairns, in Cape York, in Townsville, in Brisbane—you deserve to feel safe. We are giving police and parole officers the tools they need to protect us, and we are ensuring that the lives already lost, like Jack Beasley's, were not in vain. This is what responsible, compassionate, decisive leadership looks like. For every victim, for every family living in fear and for every frontline worker asking for better laws, I commend these bills to the House—for you.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.08 pm): Labor will be supporting the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. No parent should have to bury their child, at whatever age. I want to pass on my sincere condolences to Belinda and Brett Beasley. I have done that before in this chamber and I will do it again. I want to acknowledge the work they have done, much like the Clarke family in my electorate. They have taken what can only be considered an unimaginable personal tragedy and turned that into significant social change that will protect future families from having to endure what they have endured, and for that they deserve everyone's deepest respect.

They have not only advocated for these laws to be changed or introduced in Queensland but they have also campaigned and advocated for that to happen around Australia. I want to acknowledge the advocacy of the member for Bonney for these laws and the work of the member for Morayfield on these laws when he was the minister.

Every now and then my daughter and her friends choose to start their night out at our house. It is at times a bit noisy, at times a bit messy and frequently my favourite chair is overtaken, which annoys me a bit, but it really is one of my favourite times as a parent. To see young people relaxed, enjoying good company, talking about their lives and their work and being excited about the impending night out. Like all parents, as pleased as we are to see our daughter and her friends heading out for a night of fun and dancing, we worry like crazy. My other daughter and her friends spend a lot of time on public transport—they are a little bit younger—and at local shopping centres. Again, while I am pleased to see their growing level of independence, my wife and I worry about them when they are out and about.


When you read through the submissions and you see some of the stats around some of the weapons that have been confiscated I think those worries—before the introduction of these laws—are well-founded. The Jack Beasley Foundation submission noted that 1,300 weapons were confiscated over the last four years. That is an enormous amount of weapons concentrated in a number of safe

night precincts and being taken out of the sorts of venues and places where my own children, and many other young people, choose to have a night out. These laws will mean that young people can have a night out, can catch a bus or a train or can head to their local shops and be a lot safer. I support that—Labor supports that.

After the dreadful crime in Port Arthur in 1996, our society did an amazing job of removing guns from the hands of criminals. I want to acknowledge the leadership of John Howard on this issue. Sadly, this success has led to people looking for other methods to harm people. As things change, we need to enable those people who are tasked with community safety to change and improve their effectiveness. That is exactly what these laws are doing. I read with interest the submission of the Queensland Police Union of Employees. It reflected many of the things that I discussed when I had the great opportunity to meet with their president, Shane Prior. The QPU outlined how these changes will allow police to be more efficient and effective in promoting community safety. I read the many submissions that called for a full evaluation of these laws but it seems to me the data so far suggests these laws are effective and, of course, all aspects of police operations are subject to scrutiny at all levels by various bodies including this parliament. I note the committee's comments about the retention of ongoing police reporting mechanisms. This will aid bodies such as this chamber or the CCC in the monitoring of the application of these laws or any misuse of them by police. This is a non-evasive procedure which most of us have been subjected to routinely in the course of airline travel. It can be a bit annoying at times, but we all understand how airport screening processes improve safety for everyone.

My community has been impacted by knife crime and in this it is not unique. There was a very well publicised attack on a family in the middle of the night and, of course, I offer my sincere thoughts and condolences to all victims of crime, particularly the victims in this case. Wandering laws may not have prevented this attack but the amendments being put forward by the member for Gladstone around preventing people from obtaining machetes may reduce the number of people using these weapons in any circumstances. I think it is a logical extension of the objectives of Jack's Law; that is, to keep our community safe generally from knife crime. I would encourage all members of this House to support the amendments put forward by the member for Gladstone. There is no political contest here; it should just be a contest to get rid of knife crime from our community.

Finally, I want to commend the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign run by the Jack Beasley Foundation and the Queensland Police Service. I have seen that in action in my community. I have seen it having an impact on young people. It is educating young people and encouraging them to make better choices that will ultimately not only lead to their own safety but also to the safety of other people. Prevention will always be an extremely high priority for Labor.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 which continues to deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's election commitment to restore community safety across Queensland. While these two pieces of legislation are now being treated as a cognate bill, I wish to first address the substance of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government being a government that keeps its promises—a government that does what it says it is going to do. This legislation will deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to expand and make Jack's Law permanent. It will give our police the laws they need to protect our community and it will save lives.

At the outset of my contribution, I wish to acknowledge the incredible advocacy and strength of Jack's parents, Belinda and Brett Beasley, who have endured more than any parent should. They have taken a horrific tragedy and created an incredible not-for-profit organisation in Jack's name that is committed to making a difference in the fight against youth violence. They spend significant time educating young Queenslanders about the dangers of carrying a knife, in the hope of preventing the kind of violence that tragically claimed Jack's life. Belinda and Brett visit schools and community organisations across our state, and indeed across our country, sharing Jack's story and educating others about the long-term impacts of knife crime and youth violence—all in the hope of ensuring no other family loses a loved one to knife crime. This legislation is a testament to their strength and Jack's legacy.

I take this opportunity to recognise my two colleagues who have tirelessly championed this legislation, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and the Minister for Youth and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Anyone who has spent any time in this House has heard the Minister for Housing and Public Works and the Minister for Youth speak passionately in support of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Jack's Law. He has championed these changes for years and worked tirelessly alongside the Beasleys to see these laws become a reality. I also wish to recognise the Minister for Police and Emergency Services who has ensured these legislative changes were prioritised and delivered as a matter of urgency by our government.


The Crisafulli LNP government was clear: we will not stand by while innocent lives are lost to knife crime. I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting this bill. I note that the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee made just one recommendation in its review of this bill: that the bill be passed.

The data to date supporting Jack's Law is undeniable. Between April 2023 and May 2025, 1,124 weapons were seized, with 115,334 persons being wanded by senior police officers. Over 3,000 people have already been charged as a result of these operations. This legislation makes Jack's Law permanent, after those opposite included a sunset clause in the original legislation that would have seen Jack's Law expire on 30 October 2026. This legislation does not just guarantee Jack's Law permanency, it also improves the operation of the legislation, including simplifying the notification and reporting framework for police. These laws will continue to enhance community safety and provide Queensland police with proactive powers to address violent crimes involving knives. The bill also provides safeguards to ensure the police use of handheld scanners in authorised public places is appropriate, with officers to select persons to be scanned on a random basis and for police to use their body-worn cameras when conducting such scans. Police acting under Jack's Law will undertake specific training on the framework prior to conducting handheld scanning exercises.

This legislation, once passed, will see Queensland boast nation-leading knife crime and wandung legislation, and it is clear that Queenslanders are supportive of this practical measure to take weapons off our streets. It was encouraging to hear the remarks of the Queensland Police Service to the committee, with the QPS observing that the public's response to wandung laws has been overwhelmingly positive.

Noting the legislation before the House is a cognate bill, I turn briefly to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, which is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government placing the rights of victims front and centre in every decision we make. This legislation provides the Parole Board Queensland with the power to review decisions made by individual board members to leave parolees in the community. I note that positive feedback regarding the bill has been received from stakeholders such as Parole Board President Michael Woodford, who reflected that the bill will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time. The legislation will ensure community safety is not legally sidelined when urgent parole decisions are made. In short, we are fixing yet another Labor failure and giving the Parole Board the power it needs to do its job: to make decisions that keep the Queensland community safe.

The Crisafulli LNP government will continue working tirelessly to see improvements in crime numbers and community safety across the board, including proactively addressing issues like knife crime in our communities to ensure safety is restored across Queensland. Accordingly, I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. When we look at it, Queensland has really led the way nationally in the fight against knife crime, largely because of Labor's reforms while in government. I also want to acknowledge Belinda and Brett for the extraordinary work they have done, the sacrifice they have made and the difference they have made to Queensland young people. I want to also acknowledge the work of the member for Morayfield in implementing the original laws that we put in place.

In 2021 we did amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to trial new police powers to detect knives in the community. That trial allowed authorised police officers to use handheld knife detection scanners without a warrant in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. Griffith Criminology Institute evaluated the trial, which ran to April 2023. The trial detected a significant number of knives in these precincts. The institute also recommended expanding the areas where

handheld scanners could be used. Informed by the institute's recommendations, Labor then passed the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023, named in honour of Brett and Belinda's son Jack, who was tragically killed during a night out with friends in Surfers Paradise in December 2019.

Jack's Law gave the police the powers to use handheld scanners in all 15 safe night precincts in Queensland. Labor further strengthened these laws by passing the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024, which expanded knife detection wandering to shopping centres, retail premises, sporting and entertainment venues, licensed venues and train lines. I can still remember some of the alarming footage at the time of Ipswich train stations and seeing the number of weapons that were identified in that scanning.

While there has been a drop in overall crime in Queensland for over a decade, knife related offences have become a growing problem for many communities. Knives and increasingly machetes are being used in an increasing number of crimes in Queensland. It is troubling to hear that an increasing number of young people are carrying knives and machetes, possibly under the mistaken belief that they need these weapons for self-protection. However, there is simply no reason for knives to be in the hands of young people in public areas. Since Jack's Law was introduced, police have taken more than a thousand weapons off our streets across Queensland. It has potentially saved countless lives. I do reflect on the member for Greenslopes' comments. His children are much younger than mine, but I still remember the abject terror when sending them off on a night out and waiting for them to come home. These grey hairs did not come for nothing.

To take this further, Labor brought in legislation in 2024 to ban the sale of knives, machetes and other similar items to minors. However, we do need to go one step further to protect Queensland communities from violent crime. We must ban the sale of machetes in Queensland. Machetes have absolutely no place in shopping centres, parks, public transport or in our public sporting and entertainment venues. Regrettably, in the past few years there has been a shocking increase in the use of machetes in criminal acts. Machetes are an easy way for offenders to intimidate, threaten and instil fear. Their sheer size alone means they can result in devastating injuries with just one blow—injuries that change lives forever or, worse, end them. We have to keep these dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands. I say to the LNP government: if they are serious about violent crime and community safety, there has to be an argument to implement Labor's amendments today to introduce a machete sales ban.


The bill we are debating today will make Jack's Law permanent in Queensland by removing the October 2026 sunset clause. I am supportive of this amendment as well as the other changes in this bill, which will build on the significant reform work initiated by Labor under the previous police minister, the member for Morayfield. His hard work in implementing measures to reduce knife crime in Queensland is to be commended. Jack's Law has potentially saved many lives by removing numerous knives and other weapons from public spaces.

The other amendments in this bill to update the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2025, the Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024 and the State Emergency Service Act 2024 are also supported. I turn my attention to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill, which will clarify the board's ability to review the decisions of immediate suspension requests, whether upheld or denied. In her introductory speech, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services erroneously described this bill as cleaning up Labor's mess. I would remind the government that they are no stranger to cleaning up messes, having had to have another go at the Making Queensland Safer bill last month due to their first one failing.

This bill is not a correction; it provides legislative clarity. The existing framework is not faulty; it confirms and strengthens the Parole Board's ability to review the decisions of immediate suspension requests whether upheld or denied. Parole is fundamental to our corrective service system. It provides incentives for prisoners to participate in rehabilitation programs and supports their reintegration into the community. Prisoners are assessed for release readiness before being granted parole to assess their risk to the community. Prisoners are also subject to conditions such as curfews and electrical monitoring.

Since 2017 Queensland Corrective Services has made over 38,700 requests to suspend a parole order under the act. The decision to suspend parole can be high-risk and time-critical, with a rapid decision required sometimes outside of business hours, so individual Parole Board members making these decisions have those decisions subjected to review by the Parole Board within a two-day period.

We did hear in the public hearing that since 2022 only 61 requests were initially given a non-suspension decision by an individual board member. Of those, 39 decisions were confirmed by the full board and parole for the prisoner continued. Only 22 decisions were overturned by the full Parole Board and the prisoner returned to custody. While the number of non-suspension decisions made by individual board members is quite low, each decision is incredibly important. This bill simply guarantees that the additional review process by the Parole Board, which they have used since 2022, can continue. It guarantees that community safety is not left to the call of an individual board member. I support the bill as responsible clarification and not a correction.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.27 pm): I rise today to speak to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. I will begin by speaking on the subject matter relating to the corrective services amendment bill 2025. This bill represents a set of sensible and necessary changes that will strengthen the effectiveness, integrity and responsiveness of Queensland's correctional system and, importantly, enhance public safety.

The people of Pumicestone, like many Queenslanders, expect our justice system to be firm but fair. They want to know that those who pose a serious risk to the community are being properly managed and that there are clear consequences for breaching the trust placed in them through parole or community-based orders. This bill introduces key amendments to support those expectations.

One important change is that the bill gives the chief executive of Queensland Corrective Services the ability to swiftly suspend a parole order if a person poses an immediate and serious risk to public safety. This change will mean faster action to protect the community, especially in urgent situations, and more consistency in how much risks are managed. Critically, this power is not unchecked. The legislation includes safeguards to ensure that decisions are subject to oversight by Parole Board Queensland. This is a practical balance—one that prioritises public protection while still maintaining due process.

A further vital reform in this bill is the correction of a longstanding legislative gap in parole suspension decisions. Under the current law, if a prescribed board member of the Parole Board decides to suspend a parolee and return them to custody, a full board review must take place within two business days to confirm or reverse the decision. However, if a single board member does not suspend a parolee, keeping them in the community, there is currently no requirement for that decision to be reviewed. This creates an imbalance where the community is not afforded the same level of protection or oversight as the parolee. This bill corrects that imbalance. It ensures that when Queensland Corrective Services requests a suspension due to an individual's behaviour—behaviour indicating they may no longer be safely managed in the community—all decisions, including those to leave the parolee in the community, must be reviewed by the full Parole Board. This is about putting community safety and victims' rights first.

As the President of the Parole Board, Michael Woodford, has clearly stated, this bill 'corrects a substantial gap that has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time'. He acknowledged it was a legislative oversight and emphasised the importance of rectifying it. We are acting on that advice. This bill also retrospectively validates prior decisions made by the full board where parolees were returned to custody after initial decisions by single board members to leave them in the community. This ensures those important community safety decisions remain legally sound and enforceable.

Another commendable aspect of this bill is its focus on improved information sharing. One of the great challenges in managing risk is making sure the right people have the right information at the right time. These amendments will allow for more effective collaboration between corrective services, police, child safety and health services. This will be particularly important in managing individuals with complex needs such as those with mental health issues or those subject to child protection concerns. As someone who proudly represents the Pumicestone electorate—a region with growing families and a strong sense of community—I know how important it is that our systems work together to keep people safe. Whether it is in Caboolture, Bribie Island, Ningi or Sandstone Point, people want confidence that our laws are being enforced consistently and that risk is being managed proactively, not reactively.

This bill also makes improvements to how community corrections are administered. These changes will clarify the powers available to staff and help ensure that breaches of conditions are dealt with appropriately. Community-based supervision is only effective when there are clear boundaries and reliable enforcement. That is what this bill delivers. It also modernises outdated provisions, improves

alignment with other Queensland statutes and increases public transparency around policy and performance. These might seem like technical adjustments, but they speak to good governance and a commitment to continuous improvement in public administration.


What this bill does not do is overreach. It is not about a big headline; it is about fixing what needs to be fixed based on frontline feedback and operational experience. That is good legislative housekeeping and it is what my constituents expect us to do in this place. I also want to acknowledge the contributions of key stakeholders in shaping this bill, from frontline corrective services officers to the Queensland Human Rights Commission and from the Parole Board to Commissioner Paul Stewart, who has rightly noted that QCS 'does not ask the board to suspend a parole order for trivial matters'. These are real, tangible risks being addressed. This is a bill that supports public safety, respects individual rights and provides the tools our correctional services officers need to do their jobs effectively. It aligns with our LNP government values—responsible governance, accountability and the protections of individual and community freedoms.

In terms of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, this bill delivers on a core promise of the Crisafulli government to make Queensland safer. It gives police the powers they need to get dangerous weapons off our streets and protect our communities. This legislation honours the life of Jack Beasley, a 17-year-old whose life was cut short in a senseless knife attack on the Gold Coast in 2019. Jack's tragic death devastated his family, but their courage in creating the Jack Beasley Foundation has driven real, lasting change. Jack's Law was trialled successfully in 2021, but under the former Labor government it was burdened with complex red tape. Officers needed to satisfy evidentiary tests, make predictions about future crime and navigate layers of approval before they could use basic handheld scanners. Despite that, between 2023 and 2025 more than 1,100 weapons were seized, over 115,000 people were scanned and 3,000 were charged. That is thousands of potential tragedies prevented.

While safe night precincts were covered, knife offences in other public spaces continued to rise. This bill fixes that. It makes Jack's Law permanent. It removes unnecessary barriers, allowing officers to act quickly in declared areas. It expands powers to all public places like parks, beaches and events with appropriate authorisation from senior officers. It simplifies reporting requirements, cuts red tape and provides nation-leading wand powers, all while preserving civil liberties. Scanning must remain random, body worn cameras must be used and officers must be properly trained before exercising these powers. This bill reflects the feedback of those who use it every day—our police officers. It is supported by frontline personnel, police unions, local governments and, most importantly, the Beasley family.

Let us also be clear: Labor's last-minute proposal to ban machetes is nothing more than a political stunt. Queensland already has strong laws prohibiting the possession and sale of knives, including machetes, and with this bill we will have the tools to detect and remove them from all public areas. Labor's policy would penalise legitimate agricultural workers and regional Queenslanders without improving community safety. If it was such a good idea, then why did those opposite not do it when they were in government?

This bill gives police what they have asked for. It empowers them to act, prevents knife crime before it happens and delivers on our commitment to community safety. To the Beasley family, thank you for turning tragedy into change. This law is Jack's legacy. Every weapon taken off our streets is a potential life saved. On behalf of the people of Pumicestone, I am pleased to support both bills and I commend them to the House.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (5.35 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate and, in doing so, it is important to reflect firstly for just a moment on the history of Jack's Law in Queensland. In May 2021 the former Labor government took decisive action to address the growing concern of knife related violence in our communities. We amended the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to trial a new set of police powers—powers designed to save lives. This trial was a pilot program that allowed authorised police officers to use handheld metal detection scanners or wands without a warrant to determine whether a person was carrying a knife in designated public areas. The legislation was named of course, as we have heard tonight, in honour of 17-year-old Jack Beasley, whose life was tragically taken during a night out with friends in Surfers Paradise in December 2019, and was designed to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

At this time the powers were limited to public places within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. The trial ran between May 2021 and April 2023 and was evaluated by the Griffith Criminology Institute. The Griffith report evaluated the impact, effectiveness, efficiency and equity of

the wandering trial in safe night precincts. The report concluded that scanning contributed to increased detection of knives in the safe night precinct and key findings suggested that handheld scanning should be targeted at areas with a higher prevalence of knife offences over a sustained period. The report also made recommendations including demographics recording and a formalised audit process to review scanning operations for over-targeting of particular categories of individuals.

In April 2023, informed by the Griffith report, Labor passed the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023. This legislation expanded the areas where handheld scanners could be used beyond the original two precincts. The new powers applied to all 15 safe night precincts across Queensland as well as to public transport. These locations were designated as relevant places under the law and the report ultimately found that the trial had had positive impacts in the detection of weapons.

Since Jack's tragic passing, his parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, have been tireless advocates for reform to prevent knife related violence and to protect young people. Despite their pain and heartbreak, their dedication and advocacy were instrumental in making Jack's Law a reality here in Queensland and their continuing efforts have seen similar laws introduced across the nation including in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Western Australia. The establishment of the Jack Beasley Foundation has also focused attention on knife crime education and driving change around youth violence. The foundation has presented in schools, educating youth on the dangers of carrying a knife, and shared how wandering in public areas is a non-invasive activity to reduce knife related violence and enhance community safety. I want to join with all sides of the House in acknowledging and thanking the Beasleys and the Jack Beasley Foundation for their ongoing efforts and advocacy in making Queensland safer in the fight against knife violence.

Since its introduction, Jack's Law has proven effective. Across Queensland, more than 100,000 wandering operations have been conducted, resulting in over 1,000 weapons being taken off the streets—that is 1,000 potential tragedies prevented and 1,000 families spared the grief that the Beasley family knows all too well. In August 2024, the former Labor government went further by building on this progress and passing the Queensland Community Safety Act 2024 which made additional improvements to Jack's Law. This act broadened the definition of relevant places to include shopping centres, retail premises, licensed venues, sporting and entertainment venues and rail lines under the premise that knife related crimes could be reduced further in other public spaces, particularly those that have higher pedestrian density, by allowing a senior officer to authorise the use of scanners if the senior officer believes this would be effective in detecting or deterring possession or use of knives and weapons in that place. The amendments also extended the sunset clause to October 2026, allowing police to continue these important operations across more locations.


I want to especially acknowledge the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, for his leadership and dedication over many years in the fight against knife crime. He did an incredible job. Under Labor and the member for Morayfield, Queensland led the nation in developing strong, evidence-based policies to tackle this issue head-on. Making this law permanent and removing the sunset clause is backed by the evaluation of the past years of this Labor policy, which is why the Labor opposition will be supporting this bill. However, to build on the work of the former Queensland Labor government, the Queensland Labor opposition will move amendments to ban the sale of machetes across Queensland to enhance community safety. Under the opposition's proposed changes, a sale can only occur when an adult holds a permit to buy—an exemption allowing them to acquire one for legitimate purposes such as work. A regulation-making power will be created to prescribe the application, grant and renewal process of a permit to buy. This will enable people who need it for work, such as in the agricultural space, to apply and use it for work purposes.

In the interests of community safety, we call on the LNP to support Labor's amendments. A bipartisan commitment to stamping out knife crime, ensuring our laws continue to evolve to meet changing and challenging times, is not much to ask. Even if one life is saved as a result of these amendments to ban machetes then this is a win for all of us. Most people are absolutely horrified to learn that police are often dealing with people in possession of machetes on our streets. There have been numerous incidents of machete crimes reported by the police in the last six months, including in Scarborough in the member for Redcliffe's seat, in Rockhampton just last month and in Toowoomba the month before. Surely, those LNP members want to see the opposition's amendments pass. The Premier in his own media release said—

From axes to machetes, every knife our police take off the streets is a potential life saved.

The very idea that the LNP government would now ignore the opposition's amendments just because it was not their idea or that they would waste the opportunity as we debate this bill tonight to not capture the sale of machetes is mind-boggling. It is not just Queensland households and people out enjoying the community that they put at risk by not supporting the opposition's amendment; it is also the police on the front line. The police officers who do a fantastic job each and every day on the front line in our communities deserve to have machetes removed too. I know that my own brother, a police officer in Logan, would benefit from that. Surely, the LNP can support our amendments to help keep our police safe and make Queensland safer. The Queensland Labor opposition supports this bill and we do so with the knowledge that it will save lives, prevent violence and uphold the legacy of a young man whose life continues to inspire change across our state, but we should not miss the opportunity to also meet the challenges we face today by including the sale of machetes in this bill.

In the few minutes I have left, I will briefly turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill aims to clarify and affirm specific decision-making powers of the board regarding the board's ability to review decisions to maintain or revoke parole made by individual prescribed board members in all circumstances. Parole is not a privilege or an entitlement; parole is a method intended to prevent reoffending through providing an incentive for prisoners to participate in programs in custody as well as supporting an offender's reintegration into the community. It is a chance to prove rehabilitation and a chance to contribute meaningfully to the community. The bill aims to clarify and affirm those specific decision-making powers. The bill also aims to retrospectively verify decisions made following the board's review of a decision made by an individual board member. As this bill is of a clarifying nature, the opposition will not be opposing it. I conclude by acknowledging all of the police officers who do an incredible job on our streets. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.45 pm): In making some comments in support of both of these bills I would say that both bills at first glance could be seen to be technical and perhaps a little bit run of the mill, but they are anything but. Both of these bills are very important for community safety. Starting with the bill to make Jack's Law permanent, it is such an important change to that law that I question why it was not made permanent much earlier in its existence. Above and beyond that, this is the legacy of Jack Beasley that we are talking about, and the foundation that has been established by his parents, Belinda and Brett, after their tragic loss. While we certainly wish we did not have to mark it in this parliament—which we have done a number of times since the tragedy of Jack's killing some years ago now—it is a legacy that we do have to mark and it is a legacy that is important for protecting the community. I fully support the bill before us in relation to Jack's Law and know that it has broad community support amongst the communities I represent.

The bigger issue, and one that we must keep working on, is why people, especially young people, carry knives in the first place. While this bill—and Jack's Law specifically—is a protective and preventive measure in the community, we cannot lose sight of that issue. In that respect, I want to mention a police officer who has served in Beaudesert now for quite some time—Ken Murray. Throughout his time as a police officer in the Logan district, Ken worked with young people and tried to break the cycle of carrying knives. The program was called 'I live my life ... without a knife'. For a number of years he had a fair bit to do with that program in the Logan district before he came to Beaudesert as the officer in charge. I want to thank Ken for that work, and also thank everyone else in the Queensland Police Service who works hard every day to keep our community safe through implementing Jack's Law with the thousands of scans that have been done—115,000, I understand. While it is regrettable that we need Jack's Law—it is regrettable because it is a sign of the problems that we have when it comes to community safety in our society—we do need it and we need it on a permanent basis with improved guidelines for our police to enable it to be delivered and implemented on a more efficient basis.

The bill before the House today appropriately balances community safety and civil liberties and, most importantly, prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders. We are making it permanent by removing the sunset clause and allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do that from a senior police officer. I personally cannot understand why it was not made easier for police officers to do that at an earlier point in time. In any case, here we are and this change has been made by an LNP government that puts community safety first across the length and breadth of Queensland. It expands the application of Jack's Law to include public places, that are not relevant places, by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas, simplifies the notification and reporting framework for the police and also streamlines the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law. I commend Jack's Law to the House. Let us not forget the causes behind why people carry knives, especially young people, and not give up on trying to ensure people are prevented from going out with knives in the first place.

I turn briefly to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill that is a part of this debate. Michael Woodford is the new President of the Parole Board. I congratulate Mr Woodford on his appointment to that role. I have known Mr Woodford through his previous role as the parliamentary crime and corruption commissioner where he did a fine job supporting the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in their work in this place. I congratulate the minister for appointing Mr Woodford as the new Parole Board president.

It is pleasing to see that we have, in the corrective services minister, an eagle-eyed sleuth who spotted the issues with the Corrective Services Act within months of becoming the minister. It goes to show that, when you have a government that puts community safety first and the rights of victims above those of offenders, we can quickly make changes that enhance the rights of victims and community safety. Making amendments to the Corrective Services Act relating to the review of decisions made by a single member of the Parole Board is a positive step.

To have had a scenario under the previous Parole Board arrangements where the rights of offenders were placed higher than the rights of the community and victims for so long makes one wonder what the previous minister and the previous Parole Board president were doing. We saw a crime crisis develop over the decade that the Labor government was in office so these issues must have come into play and into consideration. However, no attention was paid to them until there was a change in government and now we see these bills before us.

We know that, around the end of the financial year 2024, the previous Parole Board president and the then corrective services minister were somewhat distracted by other matters relating to the previous president's departure from that role. Maybe that explains—


Ms LINARD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like the member to explain how this relates to enabling the board to review decisions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): What is your point of order? Is it relevance?

Ms LINARD: Relevance to the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you have an opportunity to answer that or keep your comments to the bill.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I have made the point that I wished to make. I thank the member for her point of order. The corrective services bill certainly enhances community safety. I welcome the changes that correct the balance between the rights of victims and the rights of offenders. The bill certainly puts victims in a better place and community safety first. As I said, I congratulate the minister for bringing this bill forward and the Minister for Police for making Jack's Law permanent. We should all be supporting this bill tonight. I 100 per cent and wholeheartedly commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.52 pm): There must be no worse feeling than getting a call late at night, or at any time of the day, to inform you that your child has been the victim of a random knife attack. I recognise Brett and Belinda Beasley. They have endured the unimaginable. In their pain and grief, they have sought to make it less likely that that call comes to another family. Jack's loss matters not only to his family and friends but also to the whole of Queensland through the laws passed originally by the member for Morayfield and these laws, which build on them. I thought of Jack and the Beasleys—and I also thought of my own son who is entering that age—when passing those laws for the first, the second and now the third time. When we think of Jack Beasley we think of our own families.

Recently, a group of high school students asked me what law I was most proud to be closely involved in. I think the member for Morayfield, through his work as police minister, should rightfully be extremely proud of this one. I do not know if it is the bill that he is most proud of but, having worked so closely with Brett and Belinda Beasley, he has a right to think that he made a difference in this place and has made Queenslanders safer.

When he was the police minister, Mark Ryan built the evidence and, very importantly, he did that to build community support. I also recognise the police who have used these powers carefully and judiciously to build community support. I note that police officers often approach members of the public who they do not believe have in any way committed a crime. Indeed, they have no suspicion that they are committing or have committed a crime. That is why it is so important to do as the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, did when he ensured that police officers were trained to explain the laws to the community and to build community support. They did that steadily, first targeting major events and then expanding into more areas as we built understanding and support. That was the right

thing to do to ensure that these laws are sustained for the long term. The community saw the police acting judiciously and professionally and they saw the results that we are getting. Tonight, when we make these laws permanent, we are building on the work of the former police minister and we can do that because of community support.

I want to talk about this in the local context. The senior sergeant and officer in charge of the Browns Plains Police Station, Sergeant Cordner, regularly directs police officers to use wandering powers in Browns Plains at Grand Plaza and at the bus station. He said that when they first started wandering they regularly detected knives but now, as word has got out that the police are out there to detect knives, they are detecting fewer knives. That is the ultimate triumph: not the 1,058 knives taken off the streets, but the thousands more that are not taken out at all. Our goal is to actually drive the habit of knife carrying off the streets of Logan and all the streets of Queensland. As many have done, I note that the police have carefully and judiciously built community support and understanding through education and that is spreading across our country. This is not just about the knives we detect; it is about the knives that are not picked up and taken out by a young person.

A knife stabbing can happen in a second. Sometimes it can happen in a moment of such little thought that the enormous consequences for both individuals and, indeed, their families can mean lives broken and changed within a second. By using non-invasive wandering technology to detect knives, we can make a difference.

In the committee hearing, the Police Union said that on some occasions weapons were used to cause alarm. As someone from the Police Union said, nothing could be more terrifying than using a machete in such a manner as to cause fear. Rather than waiting for a gang or individual to use a machete on Queensland streets, today we have an opportunity to act. The current police minister has the opportunity to help Queenslanders to avoid that, but he has decided that the Victorian Labor government is too supportive of victims and, instead, wants himself and the LNP to be soft on those who go armed with machetes to cause fear. Startlingly, he has said—

Labor has made the fatal mistake of thinking that laws to combat crime exist in a vacuum.

We know that there are some criminals in Queensland who might copy the criminal intimidation and attacks we have seen in Victoria. Surely he should realise that? Instead of standing with victims, the police minister simply says, 'We are different.' I table a press release titled 'Enough is enough: Immediate ban on machetes needed after weekend of violence'. The Victorian Liberals get it. The minister has positioned himself not just to the extreme left of the Victorian Allan Labor government; he is in fact on a unity ticket with the extreme left of the Victorian Greens political party. That is where he wants to position himself and the LNP.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 10 June 2025, by the member for Caulfield, Mr David Southwick, titled 'Enough is enough: Immediate ban on machetes needed after weekend of violence', relating to machete attacks in Victoria [\[608\]](#).

I hate to think what it might take for the police minister, the member for Ninderry, to take action and leave his cosy little home next to the Victorian Greens. Perhaps I misspoke because even the Victorian Greens have moved amendments to take some action on machetes, but in Queensland the LNP and the police minister do nothing. Why? Because they say, 'We are different.'

I want to address all members in this chamber, especially those on the backbench. I think that some of those members get it, so there must be pressure on the police minister to take action. The member for Scenic Rim said that we must put community safety first. He gets it. No doubt he is asking why we are not taking action on machetes. Is it just because it was our idea? Queensland is not that different. We know that people will see what has happened in Victoria and may seek to copy that. This is our opportunity to take action. Do not believe the police minister, who thinks that somehow Queensland is immune and different.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): The member is not taking interjections. Could we have quiet, please.

Mr POWER: We made these laws and we garnered community support by introducing them carefully and judiciously, by showing that they can make a difference. Now we are putting forward another positive proposal, this time from the shadow police minister, the member for Gladstone. Action must be taken now. I urge all those on the backbench to tell the police minister, 'Don't stand with the Victorian Greens; stand up for Queenslanders and community safety.'



Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (6.00 pm): Today I stand before the House to reflect on a deeply impactful piece of legislation that has arisen from both tragedy and resilience—Jack's Law. The Crisafulli government will ensure Jack's Law remains permanent by eliminating the sunset clause, which is set for 30 October 2026. This law stands as a testament to the unyielding strength of those who have turned grief into purpose and heartbreak into hope. This bill seeks to permanently authorise the use of handheld scanners by police to detect knives and other weapons in public places, expanding the scope of Jack's Law and addressing related legislative matters.

Jack's Law was introduced to parliament symbolically on Jack Beasley's birthday. Jack would have turned 23. It is heart-wrenching to think about the life that Jack, a bright young apprentice, could have lived had it not been cut short by a violent knife attack. At 17 years of age, Jack's life was taken by another teenager armed with a blade. This horrifying event occurred on 13 December 2019 in Surfers Paradise—a bustling area that should have been a place of joy, not tragedy. Jack's story, though deeply tragic, sparked a movement that has now led to monumental change.

Jack's Law provides police with sweeping powers to search for knives on public transport and at nightlife hotspots using metal-detecting wands. The journey to implementing Jack's Law has been paved by the relentless efforts of Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, after their son's untimely death. Brett and Belinda turned their grief into action, campaigning tirelessly for the introduction of this legislation in Queensland. Their advocacy has been instrumental in ensuring that such violence is met with stronger preventive measures. They did not just fight for their son; they fought for future victims who might otherwise endure the same fate. 'We're doing it for every victim of a knife crime,' Jack's mum, Belinda, once said—a sentiment that captures the essence of their mission.

It is important to recognise the profound courage it takes for parents to rechannel their pain into a campaign for change. In the face of such adversity, the Beasley family refused to let Jack's plight be forgotten. Shortly after his death, they, along with other compassionate citizens, founded the Jack Beasley Foundation. Their vision was clear: to ensure that no parent would have to endure the anguish that they had suffered. The foundation's mantra focused on urging governments to take weapon searching seriously. Their efforts were not in vain. The newly elected Crisafulli government worked closely with the foundation, turning their advocacy into legislative reality. Together, they have enshrined Jack's Law—an achievement that represents the power of partnership between citizens and government.

Knife crime has left scars not only on Jack's family but also on communities across Australia. In my own Cairns community, there was the stabbing death of a 51-year-old Cairns man, a father of five children, at Cairns Central Shopping Centre in September 2021. The stabbing attacks like those at Westfield Bondi Junction and Wakeley church highlight the urgent need for preventive action.

Jack's Law is a monumental achievement, but it is also a call to action. It challenges each one of us to remain vigilant, compassionate and committed to creating a safer community. As we honour Jack's memory and the efforts of his family, let us pledge to support ongoing initiatives that prevent violence and protect lives. I thank Brett and Belinda Beasley for their courage and perseverance. I thank the Crisafulli government for their partnership in, and dedication to, enshrining Jack's Law. We should let Jack's story remind us that even in the darkest moments there is light to be found, and that light can guide us towards a better future for all.


I would now like to address the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation is not merely about governance; it is about safeguarding the lives of Queenslanders. It seeks to empower Parole Board Queensland with the authority and tools required to make decisions that prioritise community safety above all else. Specifically, the legislation addresses the current process where individual prescribed board members can suspend parole orders and how the board reviews those decisions. The bill aims to provide a safeguard for community safety by ensuring the Parole Board reviews all decisions made by prescribed board members, including those where the board member decides not to suspend parole. It also validates previous decisions made by the board in similar situations.

Parole is not a privilege or an entitlement. It comes with stringent conditions intended to prevent reoffending and contribute positively to community safety. As such, the board plays an integral role in the criminal justice system. Parole offers prisoners a supervised transition from custody to community life under strict monitoring. This includes regular reporting, mandatory participation in rehabilitation programs and efforts to integrate into society through education, employment or training.

Swift and decisive action must follow any breach of parole conditions. If a prisoner poses an unacceptable risk, the Parole Board must act immediately to return them to custody. Unfortunately, under the previous Labor government the Parole Board was left hamstrung, devoid of the necessary legal frameworks, plagued by instability and subjected to political interference. This neglect has compromised community safety and shaken the public's faith in the system. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to reversing this damage and dedicated to making Queensland safer and reducing the number of victims of crime. To achieve this, we have taken significant steps to strengthen the leadership and operational capacity of the Parole Board. This is where the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 comes into play.

This bill is designed to empower the board by providing the legal tools it needs to prioritise community safety in its decision-making processes. It ensures that the board can act swiftly and effectively, especially in situations where urgent decisions are required. This bill seeks to address longstanding deficiencies in the Parole Board system by introducing new statutory requirements and procedural safeguards. Specifically, the bill emphasises community safety as the paramount concern in all aspects of parole decision-making. It mandates thorough risk assessments and enhanced criteria for evaluating parole eligibility, ensuring that the potential threats posed by individuals are rigorously examined.

Reinstating trust in a system that had been left weakened by negligence is paramount. Labor's laws protected the rights of offenders, but they forgot to protect the rights of the community. This bill corrects that. It will expand section 208C of the Corrective Services Act to allow all urgent decisions—whether to suspend or not to suspend parole—to be reviewed by the multidisciplinary board. This new provision will require timely and thorough deliberations within the framework of a full board review, ensuring greater scrutiny, better decision-making and, importantly, safer communities. This vital mechanism for maintaining community safety must not falter. This bill is about delivering on our commitment to the people of Queensland, fixing the gaps left behind by previous administrations and restoring confidence in a system that plays a pivotal role in our justice framework. I commend the cognate bills to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.10 pm): Today we are debating two bills in cognate, the first being to make Jack's Law permanent. On 29 March 2023, I spoke about the shortfall of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill in that it only related to the 15 safe night precincts and that it should be expanded to all of Queensland. In 2024, Jack's Law was expanded to cover all public places in Queensland, however only when strict criteria were met. This bill simplifies those for police and will have the effect of allowing a much broader application of Jack's Law, which is welcomed.

The Queensland Police Union said they were very supportive. The Jack Beasley Foundation also submitted that it had received positive feedback and messages of support from the community. The success of Jack's Law has led to most Australian states and territories adopting similar laws alongside knife control laws. After recent fights in Melbourne, the Victorian government banned the sale of machetes and later this year will also ban their possession and use. These have been banned in Queensland for sale to under-18s since 1 September last year. However, the government needs to extend this ban further.

Some submitters called for an independent review of the exercise of Jack's Law and the committee acknowledged this by including it in their recommendations, with advice from QPS that the bill retains the ongoing reporting mechanisms on the law's operation. The Queensland Victims' Commissioner and QHRC, however, did not support this, arguing that these are 'extraordinary powers' and should be restricted to high-risk environments only. The QPS responded that the oversight control by senior police officers allows appropriate consideration of risk.

The bill also extends preventive detention laws required under Australia's national counterterrorism arrangements and then makes some small administrative amendments to the Marine Rescue Act 2024 and the State Emergency Service Act 2024. It is important that the government continue to focus on ensuring the disaster and emergency management reforms are effective. The Marine Rescue Queensland transition has gone reasonably smoothly, with the marine Vessel Replacement Program allowing the Noosa flotilla to replace its 22-year-old vessel with a modern rigid inflatable rescue vessel, and it has been welcomed into our community.

However, issues raised by rural fires in the transition to the Queensland Fire Department from the start still do not appear to have been addressed. They sought reasonable self-control within the broader Fire Department, including their own commissioner and budget. Our volunteers are vital, and

it is imperative that government listen to and accommodate their needs. When the volunteering review is completed, may there be better support for our unpaid workers including to help resolve disputes within and between organisations.


The second bill makes some changes to the legislation governing the Parole Board requiring all single-member Parole Board decisions to be reviewed by the full board. The minister in her introductory speech describes the Parole Board system as 'a system that has been neglected since its introduction'. However, from the reading of this bill, it appears to be an administrative adjustment as the Parole Board have already been reviewing all single-member decisions since 2022.

The statement of reservation pointed out that the Parole Board has potentially other parts of its legislation to rely on, so this legislation was strictly not necessary. With so many issues that do need addressing in this chamber, this type of administrative bill could have been addressed via the committee itself, as is done in New Zealand. However, we need our committee reform first!

There were only three submissions to the bill. The Justice Reform Initiative said that suspending a person's parole order and returning the individual to prison is likely to exacerbate disadvantage and increase the likelihood of ongoing criminal justice system involvement including difficulty of obtaining secure accommodation in the community. While the department said this was outside the scope of the bill, it does point to a fundamental flaw in our system—the lack of transitional support for prisoners when released.

If we want to reduce recidivism and crime, we need to remove the reasons for reoffending such as the lack of housing, work or education, financial and social support. As the JRI said, over the last five years the availability of housing for formerly incarcerated people has reduced significantly and, as the prison population increases, this will be exacerbated. In 2023-24, the government spent only \$14 million on community-led re-entry services compared to \$1.4 billion on prisons.

In closing, my community gives gratitude to Brett and Belinda Beasley, the parents of Jack and in memory of whom the Jack's Law bill is named, for their tireless advocacy to see our community protected from knife crime and prevent other families going through the trauma of losing a loved one from weapons that do not belong on our streets. Also, thank you to the committees, their secretariats and the submitters as well as the departments. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.15 pm): I rise to address the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. These two important pieces of legislation are about delivering a safer Queensland.

Under the leadership of Premier David Crisafulli, our Liberal National Party government is continuing to deliver the reforms needed to restore confidence, protect communities and ensure victims are prioritised over offenders. I will first address the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which marks a significant milestone in our state's effort to crack down on knife crime and ensure police have the tools that they need to keep Queenslanders safe.

Jack's Law was born out of a tragedy, with the devastating and senseless loss of a 17-year-old Jack Beasley, who was stabbed to death on the Gold Coast in 2019. Since then, the Beasley family, through the Jack Beasley Foundation, has advocated with enormous courage to push for stronger laws to get bladed weapons off our streets. I want to commend their tireless advocacy, particularly Jack's parents, and their unrelenting determination to ensure that no other family has to endure the heartache that they have suffered.

From the outset, those of us on this side of the House have supported Jack's Law. It was trialled and tested with success. However, unfortunately, under the former Labor government, it was then undermined by unnecessary bureaucracy, red tape and a misguided approach that placed process over outcomes. Instead of empowering our police, the former Labor state government effectively burdened them with complex operational rules and an onerous system. This effectively made it harder, not easier, for Queensland police officers to conduct wandering operations, with events like schoolies, major concerts and community festivals left unprotected simply because the thresholds could not be met.

What Queenslanders saw under the changes by the former Labor government was operational confusion which only discouraged proactive policing. This was not just a policy failing; it was a moral one too. In stark contrast, this legislation by the Liberal National Party state government is—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Cairns, the member is not taking interjections. I will have you sit in silence please.

Dr ROWAN:—taking the right course of action by removing the existing sunset clause and making Jack's Law permanent. This legislation will remove burdensome authorisation requirements for police to act in relevant places, and it introduces a broader framework to allow wandering in public places where there is a legitimate need, backed by criminal intelligence or even event-specific risk factors.


More specifically, clause 10 of this legislation will allow QPS officers to wand without senior authorisation in areas such as safe night precincts and major venues. Clause 11 expands the powers into general public areas, with senior officers authorising their use for up to 12 hours based on clear criteria. This framework ensures that our police are no longer burdened or delayed by process. Instead, they are empowered to respond to real threats whilst at the same time appropriate safeguards remain in place. This includes that wandering must be random, body worn cameras are to be used, training is mandatory and personal details like name, date of birth or ethnicity are not required.

The Liberal National Party state government is not just making Jack's Law permanent; we are making it stronger. This legislation is another example of the fresh start the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering for Queensland. We are backing our frontline personnel, we are backing our frontline police officers, we are backing communities, and we are keeping our promises to Queenslanders.

In my remaining time, I want to turn briefly to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation represents another targeted reform that will make a genuine difference to community safety and ensure the rights of victims are put first. Under the current framework, if Queensland Corrective Services requests an urgent parole suspension and a single board member decides not to suspend, there is no clear legislative mechanism allowing the full Parole Board to review that decision.

In contrast, section 208(2) contains a safeguard for prisoners requiring a full board review of any decision to suspend parole; however, there is no corresponding safeguard to protect the community when an offender remains on parole. This legislation will address this gap by ensuring that the Parole Board must review all decisions made by prescribed board members in response to urgent suspension requests from Queensland Corrective Services, including decisions where a member opts not to suspend a parolee and allows them to remain in the community. This legislation will ensure that the same level of oversight that protects prisoners is also applied to protect the community.

This legislation is needed, and reform must be progressed in order to correct a legislative oversight as well as to ensure that previous board decisions made in good faith are valid and enforceable, providing certainty and consistency for Queenslanders. It is yet another example of the Liberal National Party state government's unwavering commitment to community safety and victim focused justice. Both of these bills deliver the powers our frontline agencies need, close legislative gaps and make it clear that under the Liberal National Party the rights of victims and law-abiding Queenslanders will always come first. As such, I commend the bills to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of this cognate debate on two important pieces of legislation: the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—widely known as Jack's Law—and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. Although they deal with separate elements of our criminal justice system, they are united in purpose, which is strengthening the integrity and responsiveness of law enforcement and parole. Let me begin with Jack's Law.

This bill is named in memory of Jack Beasley, a 17-year-old Queenslanders whose life was tragically cut short by a senseless act of knife violence in 2019. Jack's death shook our state, but his parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, have transformed that tragedy into a force for good. Through the Jack Beasley Foundation they have been tireless advocates for awareness, advocacy, education and reform. Jack's Law will make permanent the wandering initiative that was initiated on the Gold Coast, empowering police to use handheld metal detectors to search individuals for knives and weapons in safe night precincts, on public transport and in transport hubs.

This is not about arbitrary searches or fearmongering; it is about evidence-based, community backed preventive policing. The trial saw over 26,000 wandering interactions, resulting in the confiscation of more than 400 dangerous weapons, including knives, screwdrivers and knuckledusters. That is 400

potential tragedies averted; that is 400 reasons to act. In my electorate of Lytton, safety is at the heart of our community life. Whether it is families enjoying a night at Manly Harbour Village, young people gathering on the Wynnum Esplanade or commuters using the Wynnum and Cannon Hill train stations, people want to feel safe and they should feel safe.

Jack's Law will help our local police keep knives off our streets and out of our night-life precincts. This bill gives our police a tool that works, and it does so with clear safeguards. Wandering will be conducted with body worn camera oversight, supported by training and operational guidelines, and subject to reporting and independent review after two years. The Community Support and Services Committee, which examined the bill, recommended that it be passed. In public hearings they heard directly from law enforcement and safety experts. The Queensland Police Union called it one of the most effective powers they have had to reduce knife crime. This is a powerful endorsement.

The Beasleys have worked with government since their loss and they continue to work with QPS, educating young people to drive home the message how one wrong decision can change or end lives and the impact these decisions have on families and communities. That is why it is so disappointing to hear the LNP today diminish the nonpartisan work the Beasleys have done with both sides of the House. They have worked so hard. I would also particularly like to acknowledge the great work of the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, and his advocacy for the Beasley family. I acknowledge that work and the work that his departments have done.

Further, I want to briefly address our proposed amendment with regard to including machetes in this piece of legislation. Sadly, those opposite are calling the proposed amendments a 'stunt' and a 'sham'. The member for Nicklin made those statements on more than one occasion. I wonder how the many victims of machete crime would feel. For the Beasleys to have suffered such immense tragedy is completely incomprehensible, yet this family chose to make sure that no other family would experience such heartbreaking loss. I acknowledge and commend the wonderful work they have done with the previous Labor government and the LNP government, because it is a nonpartisan piece of legislation that has to work.

I would like to talk about the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This addresses the decision-making powers of the Parole Board. The bill clarifies that the board has the power to review decisions made by individual prescribed board members, including decisions not to suspend a parole order. Under the Corrective Services Act 2006, a single board member can suspend parole—for example, if a parolee is believed to pose an unacceptable risk or is planning to abscond. These decisions are then reviewed within two business days by the full board under section 208C. The legislation does not explicitly provide for the review of non-suspension decisions. However, since 2022 the board has operated under the principle of reviewing all individual decisions for consistency and safety. In fact, in the last financial year alone over 5,900 suspension requests were made. This bill inserts a clear clause into section 208C confirming the power to review all decisions, and it affirms all decisions made under this practice. Together, these two bills reflect a commitment to public safety, whether it is preventing knife crime before it occurs or ensuring that parole decisions are made with full accountability and transparency. Our proposed amendment would protect the community from machetes.

In Jack's memory and in honour of the work that his family has done, police continue to be empowered with tools that can, and have, saved lives. This Parole Board amendment will ensure that every Parole Board decision, especially those involving a risk to the public, can be scrutinised, reviewed and corrected where necessary. I support these reforms and our amendment.

I again thank the Beasley family on behalf of all Queenslanders and my constituents in Lytton. Their courage is reshaping how we protect people in Queensland. To our hardworking Queensland police officers, Parole Board members and Queensland Corrective Services staff I say: this bill supports the consistency and fairness you strive for each and every day. I commend both bills to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.28 pm to 7.30 pm.



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution in this cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. Every person deserves to be able to go out at night in safety and in confidence, but for too long under Labor's crime crisis that has not been assured. After Jack Beasley sadly passed away after being the victim of a knife related incident on the Gold Coast in 2019, there has been a greater awareness growing in our community about the need for action to deal with knife crime enforcement. With the support of many

people in this chamber—and I have heard in the debate today about the support from many people in this room of the need for fewer blades to be on our streets—Jack's Law was passed. It came in with good intentions, but unfortunately it had some limitations because of the way it was framed.

We have an opportunity in the first bill that I mentioned to make Jack's Law permanent, and that is very important to make sure we are being vigilant about the number of bladed weapons on our streets. This bill will also make Jack's Law more practical because the way it has been framed in recent times has meant it has been so encumbered by bureaucracy that its effectiveness has been largely stripped away. As a consequence, Jack's Law will be more effective in taking these dangerous weapons off our streets so that people like young Jack can go out at night, enjoy their friends and enjoy being young and have a good time in the knowledge that they will be able to get home safely. In a country like Australia that should be a given. It is very sad that in recent times that has been something far from assured.

The LNP has been supportive of Jack's Law from day one, as would be expected, but today's improvements will make that law better and more effective than it has ever been. Jack's Law was trialled in 2021 in the Broadbeach safe night precinct in Surfers Paradise. After that initial trial, it was extended by the former government, but unfortunately in April 2023 Labor made a number of changes to the way that Jack's Law operated that undermined its effectiveness from that point forward. They brought in a system that was complex and difficult to navigate. This made the police's job so difficult that it had the subtle effect of dissuading them from using Jack's Law which then had the effect of reducing the amount of enforcement of these types of measures on a day-to-day basis. These regulatory roadblocks had a practical effect on the safety of our streets that meant there were more blades than there should have been, and today we have the opportunity to make that right.

What Labor did back in 2023 when they brought in those changes was to introduce a number of tests—a number of gateways that had to be passed through—before a police officer could confidently use the deterrence tools available to them to get these blades off the streets. In practical terms, that tool was wandling, which is swiping a detection wand around the outside of a person's body to determine whether or not they are carrying any of these weapons. The first of those gateways was an evidentiary test. A senior police officer—an important threshold is that they needed to go to a senior officer to get this kind of permission—had to determine whether a serious violent crime had occurred in that place in the last six months before there was an opportunity to authorise the use of wandling in that precinct. That meant that big events like schoolies, music festivals or even the V8 Supercars could not benefit from this kind of prevention technique.

Once that gateway had been satisfied—in the small number of circumstances where it could be met—a second test had to be satisfied as well, and it was a subjective test. The officer then had to think about whether the use of handheld scanners would be likely to detect or deter crime, and they had to do that by drawing comparisons to whether or not that had been effective and whether or not it had been used in that place in the past. We have to think in practical terms here. A police officer who is on the job and out in the field is not able to get on a computer and look these things up, so it ended up becoming a significant barrier to the willingness to use these powers.

In addition, for licensed premises that were not in safe night precincts, a shopping centre or a sporting or entertainment venue, that senior officer also had to have reasonable grounds to believe that an offence considered in that first test might be committed at the premises again in the next six months. That shows how complex that test was and how bureaucratic it became as those senior officers needed to engage with people on the ground, do background research and make assessments before police officers felt they could use these powers with confidence. It created a bit of a nightmare in terms of making this have the practical effect that was desired. The purpose of this bill, therefore, is to make Jack's Law permanent and also remove those bureaucratic barriers and administrative arrangements that stood in the way of this bill reaching its potential. We owe Jack Beasley and his family no less than to make the law established in his name effective in preventing the kind of crime that he very sadly was subject to.

Today we are making the effort to get it right. This bill makes Jack's Law permanent. The original bill had a sunset on it when it was passed by those opposite and it would have fallen away on 30 October 2026. Our bill removes those bureaucratic hurdles so that police officers feel confident they can go about their duties and use the powers needed to prevent crime of this kind. It does so while retaining some important safeguards to ensure that civil liberties are protected, to make sure that police officers are properly trained to use these powers well and to make sure that these special powers are only used in a time limited way. With those special safeguards in place, this is a measure worth taking.

It will make Jack's Law effective for the long term, and it will remove the limitations that were established by those opposite when they set up an overly bureaucratic system for dealing with these things in the past.


I notice that the opposition have also put forward a range of amendments dealing with machetes. It is worth saying a few things at this time along the lines that it is already illegal to carry a machete in a public place. It is already illegal for these weapons to be carried and used in a range of ways that deal with the essence of the criminal factor. Given those opposite have not been able to even define what a machete is in their amendment, I do not think we should be entrusting them with the task of changing this law.

Mr O'Connor: They had 10 years.

Mrs STOKER: I take that interjection. That is quite right; they had almost 10 years to allow their priorities to be made into law, and they did not make this a priority. It exposes those opposite for what is nothing more than a grandstand, an attempt to change the subject away from the reality, which is that their laws did not do the job they were passed to achieve. It is our job to make that right.

In the time I have remaining, I want to say a few things about the other bill we are considering today and that is the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill does something important in the parole system and that is to reorient it to put the rights of victims at the top of the list for consideration when parole decisions are being made.

In practical terms, as it currently stands, when a parolee fails to comply with a parole order or they present an unacceptable risk to community safety, the prisoner's parole order can be suspended. But when a decision is made to release a person in that environment, where they have considered it and decided, 'No, we are not going to cancel that parole order,' there is no capacity at present to review that decision. We make that right today, because it is really important that the rights of victims in this system are given the priority they deserve. It is an important pillar of keeping our community safe, and we will do it every day of the week.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.40 pm): I rise to express my support for the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This important legislation builds on a foundation of bipartisan work to prevent knife crime and, more importantly, protect public safety, and marks another meaningful step in Queensland's ongoing effort to ensure that our streets, our public spaces and our transport systems are safer for all to use.

The tragic death of 17-year-old Jack Beasley in 2019 shocked Queensland and the nation. Since that time, Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, have campaigned with extraordinary resolve to ensure no other family endures such a senseless loss. Their tireless advocacy has catalysed reform and inspired changes across multiple jurisdictions including here in Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and also in Western Australia.

It is a credit to the former Labor government that in May 2021 it first trialled the use of handheld metal detection wands under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. This trial, initially limited to the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts, demonstrated that proactive detection tools could make a real difference. The Griffith Criminology Institute's evaluation of the trial was unequivocal. Targeted wandering led to what we all knew—increased knife detections—and supported the case for expanding this intervention to other high-risk areas.

Following the Griffith report's findings, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Act 2023 extended these powers to all 15 safe night precincts and public transport hubs. I can tell you that when this happened, the people of Cairns were very happy. I heard from a number of publicans and retailers in and around our city centre that this was something they had been waiting for. In 2024, the Queensland Community Safety Act took this further by including shopping centres, sporting venues and rail lines. As a result, more than 1,000 weapons have been taken off the streets in Queensland, with over 100,000 wandering operations conducted to date. These are not abstract numbers. They represent potential tragedies averted, lives protected and, more importantly, community safeguarded.

The 2025 amendment bill rightly proposes to make Jack's Law permanent and introduces practical efficiencies to enhance its implementation. It was a process and it had to be observed at every point, and that was the case. Allowing senior officers to authorise wandering in additional public areas, based on credible intelligence or risk assessment, adds necessary flexibility. Removing duplicative paperwork, such as the provision of printed information notices that merely restate verbal advice, will allow police to operate more efficiently while maintaining that very important transparency.

Critically, the bill also maintains strong oversight mechanisms, which is vitally important. While annual reports will no longer list specific locations—an important privacy safeguard—the requirement to report on the overall use and effectiveness of these powers remains very much in place. This ensures accountability while recognising the operational realities of modern policing.

Equally important is the proposed amendment to prohibit the sale of machetes without a permit. Machete related violence has risen alarmingly in recent years. Media reports document horrifying attacks involving machetes across the state—in Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Moreton Bay, Brisbane's south side and the Gold Coast, just to name a few. These are not isolated incidents. These point to a growing subculture of youth crime in which machetes are being glamorised, brandished and unfortunately being used tragically. The proposed 'permit to buy' scheme strikes the right balance, we believe. It recognises that legitimate uses for machetes exist, particularly in agricultural and land care areas. My father-in-law and two brothers-in-law are canefarmers. They have very much a need for machetes. However, when you have these discussions with them, closing off easy access to these dangerous weapons for those with no lawful reason to possess them is something that they do agree with. This complements the 2024 ban on the sale of knives and machetes to minors, and aligns with Queenslanders' expectations that strong, sensible steps be taken to prevent violence before it occurs.

This legislation is not a political gesture. It is a practical, evidence-based, community informed response to a real and present challenge. The law enforcement community overwhelmingly supports it and it enjoys broad public endorsement. Importantly, it honours Jack Beasley's legacy by continuing the work he never got the chance to finish—making Queensland safer for young people.


I also wish to acknowledge the former police minister and member for Morayfield for his leadership in championing this reform. It took a lot of work and I know he did a fantastic job. It is essential that we recognise this as a bipartisan achievement, regardless of the palaver we are hearing from some. It was Labor that launched the initial trial, it was Labor that expanded it and it was Labor that continues to support its refinement and responsible implementation. In this spirit, I urge all members of the Queensland parliament, regardless of their party affiliations, to support the 2025 amendment bill and the accompanying changes proposed by the opposition. Community safety should never be a political contest. It should be a shared commitment.

Jack's Law reflects the best of what our institutions can achieve when they listen to the community and respond with empathy and act with determination. Making these powers permanent and giving police the tools they need to deter and detect weapons will not only reduce harm but also send a clear signal that knife crime has no place in our state. Let this legislation be a beacon for further reform, continued cooperation and enduring vigilance.

With the time I have left, I turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. As has been stated, parole is not a privilege or entitlement. Parole is a method intended to prevent reoffending through providing an incentive for prisoners to participate in programs in custody as well as supporting offenders' reintegration back into the community. That is why Queenslanders can have confidence in the operation of our independent Parole Board. The bill aims to clarify and affirm specific decision-making powers of the board regarding the board's ability to review decisions to maintain or revoke parole made by individual prescribed members in all circumstances.

The bill also aims to retrospectively verify decisions made following the board's review of a decision which has been made by an individual board member. It is entirely appropriate that all high-risk decisions, including those to leave a person in the community, should be subject to review by the full board.

Finally, the bill provides explicit legislative clarity, not because of any fault in the existing framework, but to confirm and strengthen the board's ability to review the decisions of immediate suspension requests, whether upheld or denied. This bill guarantees that the additional review process by the Parole Board, which they have used since 2022, can continue, meaning community safety is not left to the call of a single member. The bill affirms the authority of the Parole Board Queensland and ensures procedural consistency across its decision-making processes. I support the cognate bill.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (7.48 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. As so often happens in this place, we see legislation brought before the House as a consequence of tragedy out in our communities. The tragic loss of Jack Beasley is certainly no different. There has been

a lot of discussion around the laws relating to Jack's Law, the evidentiary tests that were required, the police officers and the shortcomings about how the framework was difficult, complex and onerous. We needed to make it simpler, much easier for our police officers but at the same time make our communities a safer place.

If you look at the statistics between April 2023 and May 2025: 1,124 weapons were seized with 115,334 persons being wanded by senior police officers—startling figures—but of more concern, over 3,000 people were charged as a result of operations. Some 3,000 people were unlawfully possessing a weapon in our public places. The number of offences involving knives in a public place which is not a 'relevant place' under that legislation have only increased.

We know from talking to police officers that there are inefficient procedures and administrative arrangements that do not advance the fight against knife crime; if anything, it prevents our police officers from doing their jobs. Those notification and reporting requirements on police officers are a significant burden on their already overstretched resources. This bill before the House appropriately balances community safety and civil liberties. It prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders—as they should be. It makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that schedules its expiry on 30 October 2026. I vividly recall when I was on that side of the House arguing about that sunset clause and moving amendments to have that sunset clause removed. Those opposite were adamant that it needed to stay in place. So for them to stand up in the course of this debate and somehow try and twist that around is erroneous on their part. It allows a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer. It expands the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not 'relevant places' by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas, provided they first obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer. It simplifies the notification reporting framework, which is what we need to do to assist our police officers, and it improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law.

Clause 10 of the bill introduces new section 39BA to allow a police officer to use a handheld scanner without a warrant in relevant places without requiring an authorisation from a senior officer. We need to trust our police officers. They have enormous powers. They undergo strenuous training. They are subject to significant compliance and we need to trust them to do the job that they are sworn in to do. A senior officer may issue an authority in relation to a public place only if the senior officer considers the use of a handheld scanner is effective to detect or deter the commission of an offence involving the possession or use of a knife or other weapon. In order to satisfy this criteria, the factors that may be considered by that senior officer include, for example: criminal intelligence that may have been received in relation to the public place; the concentration of licensed premises in the area; whether there is an elevated concentration of people in the area due to an event; and if the use of handheld scanners has previously been authorised and whether the use of handheld scanner identifies persons carrying knives or other weapons. This expansion will enhance community safety and provide our police with proactive policing powers to address violent crime involving knives. It is what our community wants, it is what they expect and tonight we are giving them that authority. As an additional safeguard, as I said before, all police officers acting under Jack's Law must complete specific training on the framework prior to conducting handheld scanning exercises. So we know, and we can have confidence, that those officers who are exercising those powers have been appropriately trained.

In respect of the proposed machete ban from those opposite, as has already been pointed out, in Queensland it is already illegal to carry a knife—including a machete—in a public place. Two weeks ago in the Burdekin we had the Australian Hand Cane Cutting Championships. There would have been 100 cane knives because that is what they are called—they are not called machetes, they are called 'cane knives'. You would not go to a canefarmer's shed in this state and not find half a dozen cane knives.

Mr MINNIKIN: I have got one!


Mr LAST: I take that interjection, the member for Chatsworth has a cane knife. Anyone who is fair dinkum about gardening has a cane knife. If you want some lessons, go and see the member for Chatsworth! It just goes to show we need to get this right, we need to get the balance right. These cane knives are a part of our history in this state. They are a part of our history in the sugar industry. I, for one, certainly support our canefarmers retaining possession of their cane knives.

If I can move on to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, as a former Parole Board member, I am all too aware of the difficulties of that job and the responsibilities that sit on the shoulder of members. Again those opposite did little—if anything—to address those difficulties.

Back in 2021 we saw a crisis in the parole system that meant those opposite needed to extend parole consideration times due to 'unprecedented demand' at a cost of almost \$4 million per month. Then last year, we saw another crisis when we witnessed the member for Pine River's infamous memory lapse. Despite telling the estimates hearing that she could not recall details, the member did confirm that she discussed the functioning of, and her confidence in, the Parole Board. While it is the responsibility of others to investigate the departure of the former president of the Parole Board it is clear that, under those opposite, serious concerns remained.

The need for the amendments contained in this bill is obvious and that need was illustrated back in 2016 when Walter Sofronoff KC reviewed the system at the request of the then premier. In his final report dated 30 November 2016, Mr Sofronoff referred to 'an inconsistency in approach to deciding applications' as well as board members not always having adequate information available and to board members not having 'a consistent view as to the acceptable level of risk for a grant of parole'. Given the explicit effect that the granting of parole can have on the community and victims of crime, any reasonable person would expect government to respond, and respond they did. In typical Labor fashion, those opposite introduced an explicit safeguard for offenders. That is right: if a parolee is returned to custody due to the decision of a single prescribed board member, the decision must be reviewed. Conversely, if a single prescribed member grants parole there is no review. Yet again, those opposite put the rights of the offender ahead of the rights of victims and ahead of community safety.

No-one is saying that decisions made by Parole Board members are manifestly wrong but when you look at the concerns raised by Mr Sofronoff and overlay that with the undeniable need for a safe community, surely oversight is justified. Furthermore, when it comes to community safety we must do our utmost to reduce the chance for human error and to ensure consistency in the process. Instead of acknowledging the undeniable rights of victims to feel safe, those opposite are cherrypicking words from a statement of a man with more than 25 years experience as a barrister who spent almost four years as the parliamentary crime and corruption commissioner. The message to those opposite is simple: we are fixing your mistakes yet again. Queenslanders have had enough of your petty attempts to contradict legal advice and respected legal practitioners. Your choice as to how you vote in this bill is simple. Learn from your mistakes. Support your community's safety by supporting this bill or alternatively, continue your soft-on-crime approach from the opposition benches.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (7.58 pm): As part of this debate I will focus on addressing the important legislative measures proposed in the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I want to begin by acknowledging the profound grief of the Beasley family and other families across Queensland who have experienced the devastating impacts of knife related crime. The tragic loss of Jack Beasley in December 2019 at just 17 years of age reminds us why the measures we are debating today are so important.

As a doctor who spent many years working in emergency medicine, I have witnessed the catastrophic impact of knife attacks on victims and their families. I understand the serious harm these weapons can cause and how the long-term effects of these attacks can change people's lives forever. I believe we must act to prevent such tragedies happening to more families. The objective of Jack's Law is clear: to enhance community safety and security by proactively detecting and removing dangerous weapons from our streets. Jack's Law seeks to prevent knife related crime by authorising police officers to use a handheld scanner or wand to detect knives and other weapons in designated places.

The genesis of Jack's Law was in 2021 as a two-year trial in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts whereby a police officer in those areas could require a person to submit to the use of a handheld scanner to determine if they were in possession of a knife. The trial was reviewed by the Griffith Criminology Institute. Following the findings of the Griffith report, Jack's Law came into effect from April 2023 with legislative changes increasing the locations where handheld scanners could be used and defining these areas as relevant places. The areas considered as relevant places were expanded through further legislative change last year. I want to thank the former minister for police, the member for Morayfield, for his leadership, compassion and steadfast commitment to community safety in championing Jack's Law over the years.

In addressing this bill, I would also like to acknowledge our Queensland Police Service, particularly the local police in my electorate of South Brisbane at the West End, South Bank and Dutton Park police stations as well as the members of this House who have served as police officers. Our

police put their lives on the line every day when they go out to serve and protect our communities and I would like to commend them for their hard work and dedication in keeping our community safe. I would also like to recognise the support provided to serving officers by the Queensland Police union.

The bill before us proposes several key amendments to Jack's Law. Firstly, it makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause whereby the provisions of Jack's Law were due to expire in October next year. I believe this is a necessary step. Making these powers permanent will give our police certainty around the continuation of this important crime prevention measure as well as send a clear message to the community that carrying a dangerous weapon in public is not acceptable. During the committee review of this proposed legislation the Jack Beasley Foundation strongly supported this amendment, stating—

Jack's Law is allowing weapons to be taken off the streets and we believe every weapon off the streets is a potential life saved.

The Queensland Police Union of Employees, QPU, also expressed strong support for making Jack's Law permanent, pointing out that other Australian states and territories had followed Queensland's lead and adopted similar laws. During the hearing, QPU told the committee—

We are very supportive of the introduction of this law. It has empowered our police, who do an extraordinary job every day, to go out into the community and seize these weapons where they should not be in the first place.

This bill will allow police officers to use handheld scanners in previously prescribed relevant places—for example, safe night precincts, public transport stations, shopping centres and major event venues—without needing specific authorisation from a senior officer. I note that these relevant places have been carefully chosen as areas where police scanning and detecting knives can make a genuine difference to community safety.

In addition, the bill expands Jack's Law to other public places that are not deemed to be relevant places such as areas with a predominance of licensed premises or where the police have received intelligence about the use of knives. Scanning for knives in these areas will require prior authorisation from a senior police officer. The senior officer must be satisfied that using handheld scanners is likely to be effective in detecting or deterring knife related offences. This represents, in my view, a sensible balance between proactive policing and necessary oversight. Of course, I also support maintaining the existing safeguards in carrying out handheld scanning, the requirement for police to exercise these powers in the least invasive way and to only detain the person for as long as is reasonably necessary. The bill also retains the requirement for the QPS to provide within its annual report information concerning the number of authorities issued and people scanned, the number of knives or other weapons detected and details of the charges resulting from the use of handheld scanners.

As part of a multifaceted approach to combating knife related crime, I would encourage the government to consider other preventive measures and support the amendments proposed by the opposition to ban machete sales in Queensland. In February 2024, the former Labor government prohibited the sale of knives and machetes to minors. The proposed amendments seek to build on these laws by introducing a ban on the sale of machetes to everyone throughout Queensland in recognition of the significant harm this type of knife can inflict on victims. For those adults with a legitimate reason to purchase machetes—for example, due to work in primary industries—the amendments provide for an exemption to allow the purchase of machetes for work purposes by these Queenslanders.

As I have previously argued in this parliament, we must acknowledge that enhanced police powers alone will not solve the complex issue of crime. We must address the underlying causes: housing instability, poverty, addiction and untreated mental illness. Early intervention, effective rehabilitation and strong community support systems are essential. If we want safer communities, we need to address these foundational issues, too.

I believe this bill is a necessary response to the dangers of knife related crime. It acts on the evidence gathered during the trial period, initiated under the previous government, and provides our police with additional crime prevention measures to protect our community. In my electorate of South Brisbane and across Queensland, residents deserve to feel safe in their homes, on the street and in public spaces. This bill will help to achieve that. I support the passage of this bill.



Hon. A LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill being debated in cognate with the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. These bills will help

deliver on our commitment to make Queensland safer. Following Jack Beasley's tragic passing after a knife related crime on the Gold Coast in 2019, steps have been taken by key stakeholders, including the Jack Beasley Foundation, to introduce and strengthen Queensland's knife crime enforcement response. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Belinda and Brett Beasley, who have been so incredibly strong during those most difficult circumstances. I also want to acknowledge the member for Bonney, who I know has very much walked beside Belinda and Brett Beasley throughout this time. I want to thank him for the support he has provided to the family.

The LNP has been supportive of Jack's Law from day one and today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. After a successful trial in 2021 in the safe night precincts at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, the former government extended the trial, but in April 2023 it lost its credibility entirely after introducing a complex and onerous system that made the job of police far more difficult. The reforms introduced then and various considerations that were needed to be made prior to commencing the wandering operation in effect were regulatory roadblocks. It was simply a continuation of the soft-on-crime approach we saw from the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government that resulted in a youth crime crisis.

This bill makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause in the schedules with its expiry on 30 October 2026. It allows a police officer to use a handheld scanner in a relevant place without the need to obtain an authority to do so from a senior police officer. It expands the application of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places by allowing police officers to use a handheld scanner in these areas provided they first obtain authority to do so from a senior police officer. There are many places across my electorate that that could easily be applicable to. My electorate has some major race meetings and music festivals. I want to give a shout-out to the community of Thargomindah, which had a thousand caravans at its Music in the Mulga festival on the weekend, so there are many places where that could be relevant across my electorate. It also simplifies the notification and reporting framework for police. It improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law.

Here is what some Queensland councils also had to say about this legislation, and I know that this is something that certainly does resonate with mayors and councillors across the state. The Gold Coast City council said that knife crime is a growing community concern and failing to extend Jack's Law is likely to adversely affect public safety as there would be fewer deterrents to carrying weapons in public places, increasing the risk of knife related incidents. The Cairns Regional Council said that its council unequivocally supports the proposed amendments. The Cairns Regional Council provided that the proposal will benefit society by proactively identifying and deterring knife related offences, raising community confidence and enabling more efficient law enforcement mechanisms.

The passing of this legislation will deliver on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to expand and make Jack's Law permanent. It will protect Queenslanders and equip our police with laws that are both fit for purpose and efficient. Most importantly, it will save lives and it will save, in many cases, those young lives that are so precious—those people who have not had the opportunity to actually live their life. We note that the parliamentary Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on the bill and made just one recommendation—that the bill be passed—and I thank the committee for its scrutiny and support of the bill.

I will now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill puts the rights of victims and community safety first by giving the Parole Board Queensland the power to review decisions made by individual board members to leave parolees in the community, and I think that that is a very important thing—that is, parolees who are in the community. These changes are supported by the Parole Board President, Michael Woodford. He said that this bill will correct a substantial gap that has existed in the Parole Board suspension framework for some time. This section of the bill is amending what appears to be a legislative oversight and he wanted to be crystal clear that practically there is a gap.

When there are gaps where parolees are in the community, it is important that we do the right thing and make sure that we keep our community safe by amending that legislation. The Crisafulli LNP government is putting that community safety in victims first by ensuring that the Parole Board has the power to and must—importantly, must—review decisions of a single board member to keep prisoners in the community. We are fixing Labor's failure and giving the board the power that it needs to do its job to make the decisions to keep the community safe.



Mrs NIGHTINGALE (Inala—ALP) (8.14 pm): Tonight I rise to speak in strong support of Labor's amendment to this bill, specifically to ban the sale of machetes across Queensland. However, before I go to the heart of this amendment, I want to acknowledge the courage and conviction of two extraordinary Queenslanders—Brett and Belinda Beasley. In the face of unimaginable grief after the loss of their son Jack, they showed the kind of strength no parent should ever have to summon. Thanks to their tireless advocacy, Queensland and indeed Australia are safer places today. They were instrumental in the creation of Jack's Law and it is saving lives—a legacy borne from tragedy but driven by action.

In May 2021 it was Labor that amended the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to give police new authority to detect and deter the carrying of knives. We backed it up with evidence informed by the Griffith report. We passed Jack's Law in 2023, enabling wandering operations in high-risk areas. I know that this has made a difference in my community of Inala where, from shopping centre managers to parents and teachers alike, I heard of the increased safety that this law brought. In 2024 Labor delivered the Queensland Community Safety Act, strengthening those powers even further. As a result, over 1,000 weapons have now been seized under Jack's Law. That is a thousand weapons that no longer pose a risk to our kids, our families and our communities. I want to take this opportunity to thank the former minister for police, the member for Morayfield. He led with vision, compassion and an unwavering commitment to this work over many years and has seen the benefits of this law in action.

I welcome the government's decision to make Labor's laws permanent. It is the right step and it reflects the strong community consensus on this issue. It is an example of the good that comes from both sides of the House working together for the betterment of Queenslanders. However, today I also rise to express a concern—one that I believe many in our electorates share, a concern that is addressed by Labor's amendment. That concern is the ongoing unrestricted sale of machetes. Labor's amendment to this bill provides another opportunity for bipartisan work, but it seems that the LNP government would rather play politics.

I understand that machetes have a legitimate role in agriculture and land management. While both machetes and knives can cause serious harm, machetes are more likely to inflict severe disabling injuries due to their design and nature of their use. Machetes are not kitchen utensils. They are not backyard gardening tools. They are long-bladed, heavy weapons capable of grievous disfiguring harm. They were never designed for suburban use and I cannot see a circumstance in which someone would need a machete other than in agricultural settings, yet they are easily bought.

Mr Stevens: Cane cutting.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: I take that interjection. My understanding of cane cutting is that that is an agricultural setting.

Mr Stevens: They don't do it anymore.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: Further to the point, machete use in agricultural settings is required less and less. Machetes typically have blades up to 60-centimetres long, giving users a clear reach advantage over standard knives, making it easier to inflict harm from a distance. Their curved, weighty blades are built for forceful sweeping cuts—cuts that, in a violent setting, can cause catastrophic injuries, severe lacerations, dismemberment, permanent disability and even death. Unlike smaller knives, they do not require training or skill to do serious damage. Brute force is enough. That makes them especially dangerous in the wrong hands. Let us not underestimate the psychological weaponisation of machetes.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: Their sheer size and global association with brutal attacks make them terrifying to face and in volatile situations that intimidation fuels fear, escalates violence and spreads harm far beyond the immediate act.

Government members interjected.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: This is not hypothetical and it is not amusing or humorous as those opposite are finding right now. In my electorate a woman was brutally attacked by her partner with a machete in a domestic and family violence incident. Her injuries were horrific and the trauma immeasurable. It was a tragic reminder of what happens when dangerous weapons are too easily available. These long-bladed weapons are being used increasingly in violent incidents right now in our suburbs and

towns. Queenslanders know it. Police know it. It is our job in this place to do something about it. Yet the Crisafulli government continues to ignore this threat. Even worse, they laugh about it. While Labor is pushing to restrict machete sales, the LNP offers no meaningful alternative, no justification for not supporting this amendment, just empty gestures and political posturing.

On this side of the House, we take the responsibility to do what we can to reduce the violent use of machetes seriously. That is why Labor's amendment builds on the February 2024 reforms banning the sale of knives and controlled items to minors. We want machetes reclassified as controlled items available only to adults who hold a valid permit to buy for legitimate work or agricultural use. If you do not have a permit you do not get to buy one. It is that simple. Any seller who ignores that rule will face the same penalties as selling a controlled weapon to a child. It makes sense.

I cannot see a reason not to pass this amendment. I have not heard one from the government speakers either. Yes, I acknowledge that the law currently prohibits the carrying of machetes in public or using them as a weapon, but that law is clearly not serving as a deterrent. It does not reduce the availability of these weapons and therefore the likelihood of their use in violent crimes. This amendment does. This amendment does not punish farmers or tradespeople. It does not penalise responsible Queenslanders. It targets those who seek to use machetes for violence, fear or intimidation. It is a targeted, practical and proportionate response to a growing threat.

I speak for many in my electorate when I say that people are worried. They are watching the news in fear. Our communities may be diverse, but on this issue they are absolutely united. They want to feel safe, they want action, they want accountability and they are not getting that from this government. Today I call on the LNP to stop hiding behind rhetoric and to join Labor in taking real steps to reduce knife and machete crime in Queensland. Let us pass this amendment. Let us show bipartisan resolve. Let us send a clear message that we will not tolerate the sale of weapons that threaten the safety of our streets, our homes or our suburbs. Enough delay, enough excuses—let's act.


While the member for Chatsworth jokes about using a machete to cut his grass, these are not amusing weapons to those who have been a victim of them. They do not find it funny. They would much rather these weapons be limited to those very people, like canefarmers and agricultural users, who need them for a legitimate purpose rather than be readily available to be in the hands of those who would seek to use them to inject fear into and harm vulnerable members of our community.

Government members interjected.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE: I hear so many interjections from those opposite finding this issue immensely amusing to them—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Inala, address your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mrs NIGHTINGALE:—noting anecdotes of ways in which they can be used in a fun, jovial way. These are not funny weapons. It is not funny to have a weapon readily available in a suburban area that can be used to inflict harm and serious dismemberment and even death on innocent civilians. It is time for us to act, not wait for a tragedy like Port Arthur, not wait for a tragedy that could have been prevented by reducing the availability of these serious weapons. I call on the LNP—I urge the LNP—to please prevent and restrict access to these weapons so they do not end up in dangerous hands.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (8.24 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and the Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. Together these bills represent a major step forward in our government's effort to deliver on our commitment to community safety and public trust in the justice system. Let me begin with Jack's Law. This bill is named in honour of Jack Beasley, a young Queenslanders whose life was tragically taken in a violent knife attack in 2019. His parents, Brett and Belinda, responded with incredible strength, founding the Jack Beasley Foundation and dedicating themselves to making sure no other family suffers the same heartbreak. This bill continues their legacy.

The statistics since the introduction of Jack's Law are clear and compelling. Between April 2023 and May 2025 more than 115,000 people were scanned, over 1,100 weapons were seized and more than 3,000 people were charged. These are not just numbers. Each scan and each seizure represents a life potentially saved, but let us be honest: these results were achieved despite a framework that was overcomplicated and burdensome. The former Labor government introduced a convoluted approval process that made it difficult for police to act quickly. Officers had to satisfy evidentiary and predictive conditions, wasting valuable time, forcing them to jump through bureaucratic hoops instead of focusing

on protecting the public. The public in Mackay and in the rest of Queensland just could not understand the reason it was not more regularly available. That is why this bill matters. It cuts the red tape and makes Jack's Law permanent. It empowers police to use handheld scanners, commonly known as wandering, in designated safe night precincts, shopping centres and entertainment venues without needing senior officer authorisation and, for other public spaces, introduce a simplified, intelligence-based approval process. At the same time, strong safeguards remain in place: scanning or wandering must be random, officers must wear body worn cameras and they must complete specific training before conducting these operations.


As the member for Mackay, I have seen firsthand how important it is to maintain safety in our vibrant night-time precincts and public areas. We need to support our police with practical powers, not bureaucratic barriers. This legislation does just that. While the opposition fumbles around with an ill-defined and unnecessary machete ban—one that already duplicates existing laws—we are delivering clear, effective, enforceable policy. Queensland already prohibits carrying any knife, including machetes, in public; we already ban sales to minors; and we already have strong laws addressing their wilful use.

Let us have a look at section 51 of the Weapons Act 1990. What is a knife defined as? A knife includes a thing with a sharpened point or blade that is reasonably capable of being held in one or both hands and being used to wound or threaten to wound anyone when held in one or both hands—hence a machete. A person must not physically possess a knife in a public place or a school, unless the person has a reasonable excuse—so you are not allowed to possess a machete in a public place. There are some exceptions to carrying a bladed weapon or a knife in public. That could be if you are in a pipe band, because you might have a sgian dubh or a fisherman may carry a knife whilst they are fishing. Let us focus on what actually works: proactive policing, community engagement and giving officers the powers they need to intervene before tragedy strikes.

The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill is another important piece of legislation that closes a loophole in the parole system the former government failed to address. Previously when a prescribed Parole Board member made a decision, such as suspending or refusing to suspend a parole order, the board's power to review and revise that decision was legally unclear. That uncertainty created risk for victims and reduced confidence in the parole process.

This bill puts an end to that confusion. It makes it crystal clear that the Parole Board can confirm, set aside or substitute its decision when reviewing a matter referred from an individual member. It also retrospectively validates decisions made as far back as 2017, ensuring legal certainty and continuity of justice. This is not a political stunt; it is a responsible and considered response to a clear legal and procedural gap. It sends a strong message that victims' rights matter and parole decisions must be subject to robust scrutiny. Together, both of these bills are part of our broader commitment to making Queensland safer not just through tougher laws but through smarter laws. Whether it is removing dangerous weapons from public spaces or making sure parole decisions are made fairly and transparently, our government is delivering on what we promised.

I sincerely thank Jack Beasley's family for forming the Jack Beasley Foundation and our police officers, legal stakeholders and the members of the parliamentary committees for their thoughtful engagement and support through this process. I am proud to support both of these important pieces of legislation. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate of these two bills. I begin my contribution by addressing the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. I was privileged to be on the committee that examined and inquired into this bill. Before I turn to the content of the bill and the committee's examination of it, I place on record my deep appreciation for our hardworking corrective services officers. They are often unsung frontline heroes who work in incredibly complex and challenging circumstances, some of which many of us probably cannot even begin to imagine. They face that on a daily basis. I thank the many hardworking corrective services officers throughout Queensland. I know some of them in our Bundamba community, and the training academy for Corrective Services is located just down the Ipswich Motorway.

At the outset of my contribution, I point out that the reforms that are contained within the Parole Board bill hardwire into law some clarifying provisions and a specific head of power for a practice that is already happening operationally within the Parole Board, not because of a legislative gap in the current legislation. I will come to that in greater detail later in my contribution. This was confirmed by the Parole Board during a public hearing. Unfortunately, some members of the government have chosen to cherry-pick quotes from *Hansard*, and I will refer to that soon.

Whilst this is now a cognate debate, as stand-alone legislation this bill really belied the fact that the government has no substantive legislative agenda. Other speakers have raised this point and it is an important one. The clarifying provisions that are contained in the Parole Board bill could and should have been brought forward for consideration in this House as part of another bill, be it through amendments contained in other justice legislation that the House has already considered or as part of an omnibus bill. Instead, the government chose to bring forward stand-alone legislation. Frankly, it is a revealing indication that the Crisafulli LNP government does not have a substantive legislative agenda. The agenda that they do have is unfortunately driven by partisan politics and not necessarily better laws or policies.

The second point I raise is that this bill is from a rookie minister and it really shows. The Legislative Standards Act sets out the requirements for legislative notes and the information that they should contain. In my view, the explanatory notes that were tabled with this bill fall far short of meeting the required standard as they do not provide the details that are required for this parliament's consideration of a bill. I say that because, under the heading 'Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives', the explanatory notes state—

There are no alternative ways of achieving the policy objectives of the proposed amendments to the CSA.

However, as has been canvassed, there is in fact a general provision in the current act, under section 205, that has been used and tested in the High Court—

Mr Lee interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Bundamba. Member for Hervey Bay, address your comments through the chair, please.

Mr McCALLUM: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. During his contribution to this bill, the member for Hervey Bay waxed lyrical as he desperately and clumsily tried to cover off on the fact that there is a Court of Appeal decision in *Foster v Shaddock* that explicitly states that there exists a power, under section 205, that can achieve the same outcomes. During the hearings the president of the Parole Board was very fulsome in his evidence. He pointed out—

Mr Lee interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, you will be on a warning if you interject again.

Mr McCALLUM: They do not like the truth, Madam Deputy Speaker, especially when they cannot understand it. We have the general provision in section 205. The president of the Parole Board said that it is operationally better for the Parole Board to have this explicit head of power. As is stated in our statement of reservation, I put to the president—

Would it be fair to say that whilst there would be a potential under 205 in terms of the power that exists, it is not operationally practical when it comes to the real-world implementation of that?

Mr Woodford replied—

I would accept that as a fair comment.

He went on to say a few more things. I then asked—

But there is no legislative gap? This will make it operationally better, but it would be fair to say that there is no legislative gap?

The president replied—


In that way, no. These provisions were put in following reviews of the Parole Board for a specific purpose, so it would be a major policy move to move away from them.

We have had a conga line of government speakers come in here and be very careful with the words that they have used when making their contributions to this bill by saying that there is no procedural gap because none of them want to be referred for misleading the House. They will not say that there is a legislative gap because there is not one. If there were, members such as the member for Hervey Bay would have had the intestinal fortitude to say it, but they did not and that is why he is sitting there with a big grin. It is absolutely ridiculous.

This Parole Board bill is very concerning. This particular minister failed to furnish the expert advice on the recent tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. During the committee hearings there was reference to whether or not section 205 is appropriate for what the Parole Board wants to change in this legislation. I asked the representatives from the Parole Board whether or not they were able to

furnish the advice that they were relying on but, unfortunately, they were not in a position to do that, which is completely understandable. I believe that that advice would have been provided to the minister in the ordinary course of business.

It is to the government's eternal shame that that advice has not been made public for the members of this House, the members of the community and, indeed, the members of the corrective services sector when considering these important changes. We have clarifying amendments being brought forward because that is what the government wants, not because there is a gap in current legislation.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (8.40 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. These bills are being debated in cognate. The Crisafulli government committed to making our community safer and is a government that does what it says it would do. Behind every crime is a victim, and for too long victims have not been put first. We are changing that. Making Jack's Law permanent will enable police to use handheld metal detectors in high-risk locations without a warrant.

This legislation is named in honour of Brett and Belinda Beasley's late son Jack, who was tragically killed at the age of 17 in December 2019 during a night out with friends in Surfers Paradise. I would like to take a moment to recognise Brett and Belinda. They have shown remarkable courage and resilience in the face of unimaginable tragedy. After losing their son to a fatal stabbing, they channelled their grief into action and founded the Jack Beasley Foundation to educate young people about the dangers of knife crime and advocate for stronger safety measures. Their dedication to preventing youth violence has led to impactful education programs aimed at making communities safer. Through their unwavering commitment they have transformed personal loss into a powerful movement for change, ensuring that Jack's legacy helps protect others from similar harm. I sincerely commend them for all of their efforts.

Jack's Law, named in honour of Brett and Belinda's son, grants police additional powers to detect and remove dangerous weapons, particularly in areas frequented by young people. After a successful trial in 2021 in the safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, the former government extended the trial, but in April 2023 Labor introduced a complex and onerous system that made the job of police far more difficult—in effect, dissuading them from cracking down on knife crime. The reforms introduced various considerations that needed to be made prior to commencing a wandering operation. In effect, they were regulatory roadblocks. It was a continuation of the soft-on-crime approach we saw from the previous Labor government that resulted in the youth crime crisis and the public intoxication and urination laws, which I mentioned earlier today.

Despite the cumbersome changes implemented by Labor, the results speak for themselves. Between April 2023 and May 2025, 1,124 weapons were seized with 115,334 persons wanded by senior police officers. That is 1,124 times a weapon was confiscated and potentially another tragic death prevented. Over 3,000 people were charged as a result of operations. Of concern, statistics have shown that the number of offences involving knives in a public place which is not defined as a 'relevant place' have only increased. The changes included in this bill will make our community safer, and we aim to ease the burden on our frontline police officers by ensuring processes are efficient to help them get on with the job.

We have many ex-police officers on this side of the House: the member for Nicklin, who is also on the committee that reviewed this bill fulsomely; the member for Mackay, who spoke previously; the members for Mundingburra and Lockyer, whom I am fortunate enough to sit next to in this place; the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines from the Burdekin; and the police minister, who was a detective. They have all served. My colleagues will tell you, based on firsthand experience, how stretched our frontline officers are. From speaking with current frontline officers, we know there are inefficient procedures and administrative arrangements that do not advance the fight against knife crime; if anything, they prevent the cops from doing their jobs.

Within this bill there are a number of amendments that will ease the administrative burden. Making Jack's Law permanent will place the rights of the victims over the rights of offenders and build on our commitment to restore community safety. It is another step we are taking to make our communities safer. In addition to the Making Queensland Safer Laws, the bolstering of our Police Service with more boots on the ground and making Jack's Law permanent will provide our police with more of the tools they need to get the job done. Most importantly, it will save lives.


I would also like to speak to an issue that sits at the core of our justice system—community safety and the vital role of the Parole Board Queensland. We know that parole is not a privilege or an entitlement; rather, it is an essential mechanism designed to prevent reoffending and contribute positively to the safety and security of our communities. It is a system built on oversight and accountability. Today, with the introduction of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, we seek to strengthen that oversight and ensure decisions made by the board align with our unwavering commitment to public safety.

Currently, the Parole Board Queensland has sole responsibility for all board ordered parole decisions. When a prisoner is released on parole they are closely supervised by Queensland Corrective Services community corrections officers. However, if that prisoner fails to comply with their parole conditions, or presents an unacceptable risk to the community, the QCS chief executive may request that their parole be suspended. This decision can be made swiftly either by the board itself or by a prescribed board member.

In cases where parole is suspended the board is required to convene within two business days to confirm, cancel or overturn this decision. However, there is a critical gap in our legislation. When a prescribed board member chooses not to suspend parole, allowing a prisoner to remain in the community, the current Corrective Services Act 2006 does not require the board to review that decision. That means that, under the current law, a request for urgent suspension can be rejected without further scrutiny, leaving open the possibility that a decision to keep a prisoner in the community may not have received adequate oversight.

This bill seeks to rectify that gap. The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 will mandate that the Parole Board Queensland must review all decisions made by prescribed board members following a request for immediate suspension from QCS whether parole is suspended or not. This essential safeguard will ensure consistency, accountability and, most importantly, community safety. By ensuring every decision is subject to review we uphold the principle that public safety is paramount in our justice system.

This is about protecting Queenslanders. This is about ensuring public trust in our parole system. This is about reinforcing accountability for decisions that impact our communities. Both of these bills deliver on our commitment to make our community safer. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (8.48 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I want to begin by acknowledging the profound tragedy and grief experienced by the Beasley family and by every Queenslander who has lost a loved one to knife crime. The pain and loss felt by Jack Beasley's family reverberates throughout our entire Queensland community. Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their neighbourhoods, on public transport and in all public places.

Let me be crystal clear about the facts here. The facts matter when we are talking about public safety and when we are talking about who has actually delivered for Queensland families. It was a Labor government which, in 2021, proactively introduced handheld scanner powers in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach to tackle knife crime. I acknowledge the member for Morayfield's role in leading that as the line minister. We did not wait for a crisis to deepen or for political pressure to mount. We saw a problem, we listened to the evidence and we acted decisively.

It was a Labor government that, in 2023, based on strong evidence from the Griffith Criminology Institute's independent trial review, expanded those powers to all safe night precincts and public transport facilities. Again, that was Labor leading with evidence-based policy. We took the time to get the research right, to understand what worked, and then we implemented it properly and thoroughly. It was the Miles Labor government in August last year which introduced the Queensland Community Safety Act, which further expanded Jack's Law to shopping centres, licensed premises and rail lines across the entire state. Labor's commitment to Jack's Law is proven by our consistent and evidence-based action in implementing and expanding it, delivering real protections for Queensland families.

That is what genuine leadership looks like. That is what happens when a government has a plan not just to win an election but to actually govern for Queenslanders in a competent and thorough way, unlike the current learner-plate government we have under Premier Crisafulli—which had a plan to get elected but seemingly has no plan for Queensland beyond their usual cuts, a lot of spin and broken promise after broken promise after broken promise.

The bill before us today proposes practical improvements, and Labor supports those sensible reforms. It removes burdensome administrative processes, streamlining the legislative framework by allowing police officers to use handheld scanners in designated 'relevant places'—such as safe night precincts, public transport stations, licensed premises, retail premises, shopping centres and sporting venues—without needing prior authorisation from senior officers. This is about giving police the tools they need to do the job effectively and efficiently. For other public places beyond these relevant places, authorisation from senior police officers is still required, ensuring the exercise of these powers is proportionate and effective. Labor understands that these powers need to be exercised with proper oversight and accountability that Queenslanders expect.

The bill removes some requirements that have proven operationally burdensome for officers in the field. It removes the requirement for police to notify venue managers when scanning operations are conducted, though police will still do this where practicable. It removes duplicative reporting requirements—instead of having to publish information on the QPS website within two months and in annual reports, the information will now be consolidated in comprehensive annual reporting to parliament. However, this bill maintains the transparency and accountability that our democratic system demands through mandatory body worn cameras and comprehensive annual reporting.

Today Labor continues to demonstrate leadership in this area not just by supporting making Jack's Law permanent but also by moving an amendment to proactively strengthen this legislation by banning the sale of machetes statewide. This amendment aligns with decisive steps recently announced by the Allan Labor government in Victoria, which has introduced a comprehensive ban on the sale of machetes. This is a logical and reasonable initiative that any reasonable government interested in outcomes would actually support. We will wait to see if the Crisafulli government fits in that category. On current form, based on seven months so far into this term, I am certainly not optimistic.

Labor's amendment specifically responds to community concerns about machetes, recognising what all Queenslanders know inherently—that is, that these items are not ordinary consumer products but dangerous weapons which can cause extreme harm in the wrong hands. The law should treat them as such, and that is exactly what our amendment does. Labor has already acted on this issue. In February 2024, the former Labor government amended the Summary Offences Act to prohibit the sale of knives, machetes and other items to minors. We recognise that does not go far enough. That is why this Labor amendment today extends those protections by requiring anyone seeking to purchase a machete to demonstrate they have a legitimate occupational need to do so.

It establishes a regulated 'permit to buy' system for those who do require a machete for legitimate occupational purposes—workers in primary industries, for example. That is the commonsense approach. We recognise that there are legitimate uses for these tools in certain industries. We respect that and we have made clear provisions for it. The Crisafulli government should support this reasonable and common-sense amendment without hesitation. Community public safety demands that they do so.

I am glad to see the government is finally moving to make Jack's Law permanent but it has to be noted only after sustained pressure from the Labor opposition, led by the member for Murrumba; only after we have done the heavy lifting of implementing and expanding these powers over four years of operation; and only after the evidence has been overwhelming that these measures work.

The government loves to take credit for Labor's work but it is much less enthusiastic about actually doing the hard yards and developing and implementing good policy. Opening Labor funded hospitals and opening Labor funded social housing, for instance, has become the norm. It is very easy to do. It would be nice if they actually funded those things themselves rather than cutting. This is a government that seems to think that changing the letterhead constitutes policy innovation. That is not the shallow approach that Queensland needs.

We of course also acknowledge the necessity of addressing underlying issues that contribute to crime such as poverty, untreated mental health conditions and housing insecurity. These root causes demand sustained investment in early intervention and mental health services, alongside effective law enforcement and crime prevention strategies. This is where the rubber hits the road. It is one thing to pass legislation that looks tough on crime. It is another thing entirely to invest in the programs and services that prevent crime from happening in the first place. We will be watching closely to see how much attention and investment these programs receive in this year's budget, because that will tell us whether this government is serious about community safety or just serious about political theatre. The latter certainly seems to be the case.

The reality is that effective crime prevention requires a comprehensive approach. Yes, we also need strong police enforcement powers like Jack's Law. Yes, we need to keep dangerous weapons like machetes out of the wrong hands, but we also need to invest in education, in mental health services, in housing, in job creation and in all the other factors that give young people opportunities to thrive, not cut funding to them which can often be a short-sighted, short-term approach.

What we have seen from this Crisafulli government so far has been cuts, cuts and more cuts. They have cut the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme. They have cut the Transfer Nurse Initiative. They have cut pill testing. They have cut nurse-led clinic hours. They have also cut social and affordable housing projects across Queensland.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Order, please.

Mr BAILEY: This is not the record of a government that is serious about addressing the root causes of crime. When you cut health services, when you cut housing support for vulnerable families—


Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: You cannot talk about crime without the context. This is a government, judging by the interjections here, that clearly does not understand that as a community you cannot just talk about crime; you have to talk about the causes of crime and deal with it. That is something that this government so far has not done in any shape or form. We look forward to the budget to see whether there is any semblance of that, because clearly so far that is not the case.

Labor's consistent record and proposed amendment underscores our commitment to public safety and community wellbeing. It was Labor which initiated and expanded Jack's Law. The current government—only after sustained pressure—has moved to finally make these police powers permanent. It is something we support. That is the difference between a party that leads and a party that follows—a party that follows and grumbles and whinges and moans. That is the extent of their contribution here.

Government members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear a lot of bleating up the back there from members who will never come forward. We know that this amendment deserves to be supported. Machetes need to be banned here as they are in Victoria. If this government had any intelligence and if they had any courage, they would admit that this is a reasonable amendment. They would vote for the amendment and not be petty and political.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (8.58 pm): I rise tonight to contribute to this cognate debate. I will limit my comments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset, I commend the police minister, a former detective, who has come to this place and in short order is attempting to make something permanent that others opposite took too long to do.

I want to focus more of my comments tonight—and probably tomorrow—on the scary comments of the member for Maiwar. It seems that the member for Maiwar is not only content with impacting the livelihoods of farmers but also now wanting to see the hands of police tied when it comes to keeping our streets, shopping malls and entertainment precincts safe. The Queensland Greens writing a dissenting report shows that this parliament will, unfortunately, most likely not provide a united front or genuinely bipartisan approach to passing this bill. I quote from the opening paragraph in his dissenting report where he states 'there is a very real risk of discrimination and harm against already over-policed populations'. Wow! These are the same populations that sent no less than six former frontline police officers to this place, one of whom is the aforementioned police minister, another is the chair of the committee, the member for Nicklin, whose work I also commend in this place, along with our terrific colleagues from Mackay, Burdekin, Lockyer and Mundingburra.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dillon, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

Logan Electorate, Schools



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (9.00 pm): I want to update the House on a fantastic achievement at the Everleigh development in Greenbank, and that is the winning of the Ken Gannon award by the Greenbank Giants and Chris Luxford for their fantastic AFL football field. It is a real honour to see something that both myself and the Giants and their predecessor club have been working on for over 12 years. We now have a world-class AFL facility. It is something that everyone across the country will be impressed with. It is the finest AFL field in Logan and we are building a similarly fine one in Yarrabilba. It is a great achievement for Yarrabilba.

On a more disturbing note, I want to update this House on something that is really important for the Everleigh community: the high school that the LNP is failing to deliver. As members would know, we said we would start a petition. The community is behind this 100 per cent, with hundreds of people filling in the petition to get a high school. The first step is to buy land. It has already been planned by the department and set aside directly across from the current Everleigh State School that we built. Unfortunately, the minister—and I am glad he is here today—said it was not his priority to do this. He said there were not enough numbers so they would not be acting on it.

He needs to come out to see how quickly Everleigh and the surrounding areas are growing and how much pressure that is going to put on surrounding high schools. He also needs to know that for a single drop-off we have a use-it-or-lose-it opportunity to buy that site. If this department fails the people of Greenbank, especially the people of Everleigh, it will be a legacy that will stick with this education minister for a long time to come. I urge the minister to listen to the Greenbank community on both sides of the railway tracks, where the member for Jordan, Charis Mullen, and myself are fighting really hard. We are pushing every day. Our Greenbank community deserves its own high school. For too long they have had to either travel south to Flagstone or north to Park Ridge. They are growing so quickly. This is the fastest growing corridor in the entire area. They deserve their high school. The only thing standing between them is the failure of the LNP government to go ahead with the purchase that was planned.

Domestic and Family Violence Month



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (9.03 pm): Domestic and Family Violence Month in Mackay turned our city purple. The Mackay Rotary clubs, led by Michael Buckeridge, partnered with too many other organisations to mention here to raise awareness through our community of domestic and family violence. Purple T-shirts were given out to school leaders, businesses and support agencies, government and non-government. All of those who were wearing purple T-shirts wore them every Friday in May. High schools turned purple. The city was awash with purple shirts in coffee shops and shopping centres. Education sessions were provided to senior students in high schools throughout the month. A breakfast session was provided to school leaders where Mackay magistrate Damien Dwyer and I spoke to the young people about domestic and family violence in our community.

A powerful and deeply moving event then took place in the heart of Mackay on the last Friday in May—a community march which brought together 700 school students, as well as university students, community leaders and participants from businesses. Up to 1,000 people were united in standing against domestic violence, and one of those in the march was our Premier, David Crisafulli. Led by the Rotary Club of Mackay, this march was more than just a walk through the streets; it was a rallying cry for change. It was a moment when students, police officers, community leaders and everyday citizens stood shoulder to shoulder wearing purple and carrying banners that boldly declared ‘enough is enough’.

Among the voices that echoed through the streets was Superintendent Dean Cavanagh, the district officer in the Mackay-Whitsunday district, who reminded us that the fight against domestic violence is not just a matter for law enforcement; it is a responsibility we all share. His words, and those of survivors and advocates, underscored the importance of education, awareness and, above all, community. This march was not just symbolic. It reminded us that behind every statistic is a person—a mother, a child, a friend.

I commend the Domestic Violence Resource Service, the Zonta Club of Mackay and other individuals who were involved in this inspiring event. Let this march be a reminder to all those in this chamber that we must continue to support policies, funding and education that protect the vulnerable and hold all perpetrators to account because every person deserves to feel safe in their home, in their community, at work and in their life.

Logan City, Hooning



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algeria—ALP) (9.06 pm): In October last year, the former Miles government announced an election commitment of \$1 million to fund additional anti-hooning cameras across Logan City equipped with automatic numberplate recognition and facial recognition technology. This funding was also intended to support the integration of Logan City Council's CCTV network with the Queensland Police Service, along with the development of technology capable of detecting vehicles without licence plates. This election commitment was aimed at assisting the Queensland Police Service to tackle hooning and other dangerous driving behaviours not only in my electorate of Algeria but also throughout the wider Logan community.

In 2023 the former Miles Labor government passed new hooning laws to strengthen Queensland's stance against reckless driving. Under those laws, we made it an offence to spectate at hooning events, to organise or promote such meet-ups and to film or photograph hooning activities with the intent to publicise them. In addition, the laws introduced tougher measures targeting offending drivers, including a stricter approach to vehicle impoundment and forfeiture, sending a clear message that dangerous driving will not be tolerated.

As everyone in this House knows, hooning is not just an annoying problem often interrupting quiet evenings at home; it is a serious threat. It endangers drivers, passengers and innocent bystanders, putting lives at risk. Residents in my electorate consistently tell me that they are fed up with the excessive noise at night and the wilful destruction of our roads. Just recently I met with concerned Browns Plains residents Justin, Shilo and Aaron who highlighted the ongoing hooning issues along Browns Plains Road and the everyday disruption it is having on many residents. In Regents Park where I live, many residents, including Jennifer, have raised concerns about the late-night disruption of hooning. Similarly, Lynn, the Forestdale Neighbourhood Watch area coordinator, has reached out multiple times over the past month about hooning on Johnson Road and Forestdale Drive. The Hillcrest Neighbourhood Watch has also raised concerns about similar poor behaviour on Peverell Street and other local roads.

With the growing number of hooning reports coming into the offices of state members across Logan, we are deeply concerned about the ongoing threat to public safety. The proposed investment by the former Miles government would have enhanced surveillance and enforcement technology and armed our hardworking police officers with extra technology to identify and deter dangerous driving behaviours. While this is not the only piece in the puzzle to minimise hooning incidents in Logan, it is certainly a critical step in the right direction.

The Crisafulli LNP government must take decisive action and invest in more CCTV smart technology cameras to support our frontline police and support the residents of Logan. I urge the government to commit to this vital initiative in their upcoming budget and prioritise the safety of residents not just in the Algeria electorate but right across Logan. The residents of Logan deserve support from this government, and the opposition will continue to call for that.

Moonlight Range Wind Farm



Mr G KELLY (Mirani—LNP) (9.09 pm): Tonight I rise to speak not just about policy but about people, about the families who call Morinish and regional Queensland home. There are folks who move to the bush for peace, space and the freedom of rural lifestyle, but there are also many, like me, who never left—generational family farmers where the lands run through their blood; properties passed down over time with a deep connection to country.

Imagine building that life, or carrying on the one your family built, only to find out a wind farm is being built next door. You did not hear it from the developer, no letter in the mail, no respectful conversation; you heard it from a rumour, a neighbour or, worse, read about it online.

Living beside a wind farm is not just about what you see; it is also about what you hear and feel every day: the constant whooshing from blades, pressure in the air and the vibration that never goes away. It wears people down. Then there is the fire risk. Kilometres of powerlines cut through landscape, and when fires do strike, getting water bombers in throughout those turbines is near impossible.

When remnant vegetation is cleared from steep mountain ranges, the protection against erosion is lost. This results in topsoil loss during heavy rainfall, leading to sedimentation in waterways, degradation of local ecosystems and long-term impacts on land productivity.


The landholder with the turbines might get paid, but the neighbours wear the cost with no say and no support. That is exactly what happened in Morinish. The developers ran one so-called consultation, talking at people, not with them. However, locals like Steve Richards stood up. They

formed the Moonlight Range Preservation Group—over 100 members strong, and that is a pretty big number in a small, quiet community. They were not against renewables; they were standing up for their homes, their peace of mind and their kids' future.

When the ministerial call-in process opened, 88 per cent of local submissions opposed the project. The Crisafulli government listened. We promised to give communities in the bush a voice and we delivered. Cancelling this project means 1,263 hectares of bushland will not be bulldozed. It means 400 hectares of regulated vegetation will remain standing habitat for koalas, greater gliders, wallabies and native wildlife. We have stopped the blasting of untouched mountaintops. We have protected ecosystems that may never recover once they are disturbed. This is not just a win for Morinish; it is also a win for Queensland's environment and for future generations.

(Time expired)

Bowel Cancer

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.12 pm): I rise to address a distressing and perplexing health crisis—the alarming rise of bowel cancer among young Queenslanders. This is a mystery we must urgently solve. What is driving this deadly disease in those in the prime of their lives? Bowel cancer is now Australia's second deadliest cancer with over 15,000 new cases diagnosed annually. Traditionally linked to older age groups, we now see a disturbing surge in younger people. One in nine cases occurs in those under 50, with the incidence for ages 20 to 39 more than doubling, from 4.4 to 10.3 cases per 100,000, between 2001 and 2021. Most alarmingly, Australia holds the highest rate of early onset bowel cancer with 16.5 cases per 100,000 under the age of 50, surpassing the United States and New Zealand.


This issue hits close to home. It was exactly four years ago today that we lost Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton, to bowel cancer at the age of just 41. His diagnosis at such a young age underscores why young, healthy Queenslanders are increasingly vulnerable. Why is this happening?

In response, the federal government lowered the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program's eligible age to 45 from 1 July 2024, enabling 1.6 million more Australians and Queenslanders aged 45 to 49 to access free at-home screening kits. Early detection is vital, with over 90 per cent of cases treatable when caught early, yet screening alone does not answer the core question of what is causing this surge. The mystery persists due to a lack of definitive answers.

Researchers like Associate Professor Daniel Buchanan from the University of Melbourne suggest potential factors: changes in the gut microbiome, dietary shifts, obesity, sedentary lifestyles or environmental exposures like microplastics. A recent study in *The Lancet Oncology* confirms Australia's global lead, with those born in the 1990s up to three times more likely to develop bowel cancer than those born in the 1950s. Professor Mark Jenkins, head of the Colorectal Cancer Unit at the University of Melbourne, emphasised, 'Research is needed to really answer this question.' Without targeted research, we are left guessing why our young people are facing such a high risk compared to other nations.

While significant progress has been made in improving treatment and care with advancements in early detection and therapies saving lives, we must uncover the reason behind this alarming rise in cases and Queensland must play its part. With the budget coming up, I am calling on the Queensland government to fund dedicated research into the causes of early onset bowel cancer. We must partner with our leading institutions, our universities and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute to investigate why Australia, and Queensland in particular, bears the brunt of this global phenomenon.

WorldSkills; Redfest Cancellation

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (9.15 pm): I would like to begin with a shout-out to two representatives from my local area who will be fighting for Queensland and Australia at the WorldSkills event that is being held in South Bank this week. To Joshua Cohen who is competing as a plumber and heater from good old Ormiston and to Charlie Warner who is in the healthcare category from Wellington Point: all the very best as you take on the Olympics of trades. We know you will do us proud.


I want to move on to speak about RedFest, which has been a local icon in the Redlands for generations. It started out as the strawberry festival, and I might be a little bit biased, but I think it was at its best ever in 2024. It has always—always—been the second weekend of September and so the organisers engage early and seek to book the Cleveland Showgrounds with council which would ordinarily come alive with music, food, stalls, local produce, rides and all the community groups that make up our wonderful area. But in November 2024 when the organisers went to book, organisers were

informed that the weekend they always had would now be affected by a new policy that said there must be five days between bookings and that council had already booked somebody else for the third weekend in September. That had the effect of ruling out their usual weekend.

The inflexible approach that was taken by council and their unwillingness to negotiate has seen RedFest organisers only offered the Father's Day weekend at the beginning of September. They have been forced either to confront the lower numbers and reduced viability that would come from that weekend or to cancel. I am sad to say they have had no option—given the lack of engagement and inflexibility that council has demonstrated—but to take the unfortunate course of cancelling this year.

To be honest, it looks to me like it started out as a mistake. Someone has made a boo-boo and booked an alternative event too close to RedFest's traditional date. There has been mismanagement, but it is a mistake that has denied our community a lovely tradition—one that it really needs. RedFest have been forced to cancel for 2025 and I am so sad to tell locals that that is the case. I can only hope that Redland City Council will learn from this mistake so that this incredible loss to our community is not repeated in future years. I take this moment to thank the people who put so much work into RedFest year after year, whether it is Arno Nel or volunteers like Adrian Addicott—there are so many more. We love what you do for our community and we hope that you will dust yourselves off again in 2026 and bring this great event back to our community so we can enjoy it for generations to come.

Springwood Electorate, Budget


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (9.18 pm): In just 14 days time, the Crisafulli LNP government will hand down its first budget. This budget is a test. It is a test in Rochedale South, where thousands of people are demanding police stations are fully staffed. It is a test in Shailer Park, where commuters are demanding the M1 upgrades are not stalled in a bottleneck, and in Mount Cotton, where students just want a school hall that their parents can fit in during Anzac Day ceremonies.

Families, commuters and sports clubs want this government to just listen to them, whether it is people like Jess, who is leading the charge on Mount Cotton Road, Double Jump Road and Valley Way upgrades, or Jonno in Springwood, who is fighting to guarantee local police resources. This is a government that promised it would listen to all of them, and in 14 days this government will have a chance to show Queenslanders whether or not they can be trusted. In 14 days mums like Cheryl, who just wants kids in sport supported through those FairPlay vouchers, will know if this government can be trusted. It is dads like Dylan, with kids in primary school who need outside-school-hours care, who will know if this government can be trusted. It is veterans like Stan, who served this nation and who relies on energy rebates, who will know if this government can be trusted.

This budget, the LNP must listen to locals and fund upgrades to Mount Cotton Road, Valley Way, Beenleigh Redland Bay Road and the M1 and busway. They must fund the M1 project for the over 136,000 commuters who use it every single day. This budget, they must fund an aerial appliance at Mount Cotton Road Fire Station so that fires like Tom and his crew have the equipment to save lives and property. This budget, they must fund an outside-school-hours-care building for Kimberley Park State School families, who have every right to be furious after the then LNP shadow minister for education on 20 October 2024 clearly gave them the impression their government would fund a new building. One day they say they will help schools; they say that education is the cornerstone of opportunity. Now, after the election, the LNP government minister says facilities are good enough. Talk about dodgy and untrustworthy!

This budget, the LNP must not cut the cost-of-living help they promised; they must do what they said they would do. Let's see if, when this Premier says something, it means anything.

Townsville, India Fest

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.21 pm): I rise to speak about a real celebration of culture, community and connection, one that has proudly created its home in the heart of Thuringowa. Over the past decade India Fest Townsville has grown into a vibrant and unmissable event in our region's calendar, something locals look forward to every year. Held at the much loved Riverway precinct, this festival not only brings Indian culture to life in a way that is colourful, warm and welcoming but brings people together from all walks of life across the Townsville region.

It was no surprise to see India Fest Townsville named Queensland's Best Event in the 2025 All the Best Awards. Voted by Queenslanders, this recognition reflects what many of us in Thuringowa and the north have long known: that India Fest is a stand-out cultural celebration not just regionally but statewide. The people have spoken. This kind of recognition matters because it tells everyone that

regional Queensland and indeed Townsville have so much to offer and our community knows how to come together to celebrate culture in ways that are inclusive, lively and authentic. It is also a reminder that we have incredible local venues like Riverway right here in our backyard and we should be putting them to good use more often. These events do not just bring people together; they build local pride and strengthen the bonds between us. Riverway is the perfect setting for this event. To see it transformed into a hub of colour, sound, food and dance each August is something truly special. For the people of Thuringowa it is a real pride.

The slashing of funding by the Townsville City Council for vital community events like India Fest is an unacceptable blow to our city's cultural heart and soul. These free events are the lifeblood of our diverse community, fostering inclusivity, understanding and unity for all residents regardless of their background. India Fest, now a state recognised celebration and Queensland's Best Event in 2025, provides a critical platform for children and families to engage with rich cultural traditions, creating memories and connections that last a lifetime.

To gut its budget with little notice is not only short-sighted but a betrayal of the volunteers, businesses and community members who pour their hearts into making this event a success. We cannot allow these cuts to dim the vibrancy of our city's identity or hinder the opportunities for cultural exchange. I am committed to fighting for India Fest's future and ensuring it remains a thriving, accessible event for all of Townsville. The council's last-minute announcement has left a devastating gap in the budget, threatening the festival's ability to maintain free entry and deliver the world-class experience our community deserves. As a proud supporter of this event, I will rally on local community leaders to secure alternative sponsorship and advocate fiercely to restore funding.

Mount Garnet, Swimming Pool



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (9.24 pm): The town of Mount Garnet has lost a vital part of its heart—the community swimming pool. For over 30 years this pool was more than just a place to swim; it was a lifesaver, built after the tragic drowning of an eight-year-old boy who, like many others, learned to swim in dangerous creeks and abandoned mine dams. The community fought to raise funds and in 1988 the pool, along with the change room and toilet block facilities, were opened. With few other recreational facilities, the pool quickly became the centre of community life in Mount Garnet. It offered children a safe place to swim, delivered learn-to-swim classes, school swimming lessons and competitions and provided a welcome escape from the fierce North Queensland heat.

For over two decades it was operated by the local pool committee and volunteers, but in 2014 the Tablelands Regional Council took over. Then came structural damage and, in a devastating blow to the community, the pool was closed down by the council. The council advised that it would then be demolished. However, \$500,000 that was allocated through Works for Queensland specifically to kick off funding for a new pool as noted in the council minutes has since been spent elsewhere, which is unacceptable. This is not just about concrete and water; this is about health, safety and community. Right now students have to travel to Malanda for swimming lessons over an hour each way which has gutted local participation in school swimming programs.

The people of Mount Garnet and surrounding communities and townships are desperate to have the Mount Garnet pool restored, and there is a glimmer of hope. In December 2024 I met with the new Minister for Sport where I was pleased to hear about the upcoming \$250 million Games On! Fund to ensure regional Queensland can apply for funding. My office worked with the Mount Garnet community to submit an expression of interest for a new pool for Mount Garnet, and I table many letters of support provided in the expression of interest.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters regarding the potential closure of the Mount Garnet community swimming pool [\[609\]](#).

The government's own website says that Games On! is an investment in Queensland communities to foster healthier lifestyles and stronger community connections. What better example of that vision than rebuilding the Mount Garnet pool. With the support of the Tablelands Regional Council to work with the community to submit a strong application, we are confident that funding will be delivered. Let us bring back this essential asset, honour the history and secure the future of Mount Garnet.

Miriam Vale, Proposed Solar Farm



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (9.27 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on behalf of the Protect Miriam Vale Community. It is going through its own trials and tribulations with a proposed solar farm. I am here to register its opposition to the project and talk about the battery storage problems that it is experiencing.

There is a bushfire risk to Miriam Vale, which is only 1.4 kilometres away from the proposal, road safety issues on the Bruce Highway with 170 extra vehicles per day, evacuation safety issues in the town in case there is a fire, and noise and vibration affecting Miriam Vale six or seven days a week. I also want to table on its behalf a petition of 220 residents.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding opposition to the proposed Miriam Vale Solar Farm [610].

As has been mentioned here tonight, for some of these small communities that is a significant component of this community speaking up to have their voice heard as the deliberations for this solar farm continue to be debated in the Gladstone Regional Council. What this community is asking for is that it wants to be consulted. It needs to be involved in the process of what the future of this solar farm looks like.

The Baffle catchment is a pristine area. It is the only system left in Australia that has not been dammed or weired and there is a lot of concern from this community about what the future of a solar farm and the development in its region is going to look like. The community is also asking the council to put conditions around the renewable developments process and that the code assessable and impact assessable future of these sorts of developments do become a reality. I support its calls for these measures for more rigorous projects so that we can gauge what the benefit to this community is going to be long term, what it is going to mean around the social licence that these companies have and, more importantly, what it means for the Miriam Vale community as it feels neglected in this process.

I, for one, just want to make sure that if this project continues they have their fair share of legacy projects. I note that the council's DA process is quite cumbersome. It has been taking a long time to be addressed and, more importantly, leaving this frustrated community—

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been listening carefully to the contribution from the member for Burnett. It is my assessment that he is straying significantly into a matter that is before the House on the *Notice Paper*. I would ask you to ensure he is not anticipating debate on that matter.

Mr BENNETT: The member is right to rise on a point of order. I am cognisant of the bill before the House. I am talking about residents' desire for certain processes to be—

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member needs to hear your ruling on my point of order before he continues to offend standing order 231.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Burnett, could you confine your comments to your constituents' concerns rather than anticipating any debate on any future bill.

Mr BENNETT: I was endeavouring to do that. If I strayed, my apologies to the House. I think the Miriam Vale community need to be respected and I think their thoughts need to be considered in this process. On their behalf, I convey to the House that they have asked me to talk about what the future of their community may look like with these sorts of projects. I point out that the issues around these sorts of projects are not confined to Miriam Vale. Eighty or so projects around the region are being proposed. As we go forward, let us hope these projects have community benefit, get a social licence and, more importantly, that the future of these communities is respected as we make sure that, whatever renewable futures looks like, these communities are not forgotten. A shout-out to them for putting those 220 signatures in the House as a nonconforming petition. It represents their desire to be heard.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, 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, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young