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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 11 June 2025

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ATTENDANCE	1700

WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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.

REPORT

Office of Information Commissioner



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Information Commissioner *Report No. 5 of 2024-25—Follow-up of report No. 1 for 2022-23: Mitigating the risks of privacy breach through staff education*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 5: 2024-25—Follow-up of Report No. 1 for 2022-23: Mitigating the risks of privacy breach through staff education.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in a letter dated 4 April 2025, received on 23 April 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Greenslopes deliberately misled the House on 1 April 2025. I consider this matter is trivial in nature and words such as these are a regular and normal occurrence in parliamentary debates. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it in the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Greenslopes.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

In a letter dated 4 April, received 23 April 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the Member for Greenslopes (Member) deliberately misled the House on 1 April 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made by the member during Matters of Public Interest.

Specifically, the member stated:

'We have already done all the heavy lifting in the Queensland Ambulance Service: employing more paramedics and patient transport officers; building more ambulance stations; providing more vehicles guaranteeing funding for LifeFlight for the next 10 years; establishing transfer nurses, which you folks want to cut.'

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading and provided budget papers and argued that the former government provided no recurrent investment in the Queensland Ambulance Service.

I sought further information from the member about the allegation made against him, in accordance with standing order 269(5).

In his submission, the member outlined the funding and support that the former government had provided to the Queensland Ambulance Service.

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

It appears that this matter is akin to the ruling by Speaker Pitt on 11 September 2024 where he stated:

'It is my view that the member was making general statements of his opinion rather than specific allegations of misconduct, and the matter is akin to puffery, hyperbole or political exaggeration. It is not a matter that can be objectively determined, as it is a subjective opinion.'

In this current matter, it is clear to me that the member is using political puffery to express that the former government invested in the Queensland Ambulance Service. Such arguments over who has done the 'heavy lifting' is not something that can be objectively assessed. The Queensland Ambulance Service was funded by the former government and continues to be funded by the current government.

Accordingly, I consider the matter is trivial in nature and words such as these are a regular and normal occurrence in parliamentary debates.

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 9 May 2025 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 18 February 2025. Standing order 269(2) requires a member to write to me at the earliest opportunity. In this matter the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me 80 days after the alleged misleading statements were made in the House. Former speakers have made various determinations as to unreasonable delay. Yesterday I indicated that I considered any time in excess of six weeks, or 42 days, to be unreasonable delay.

I do not consider that the matter was raised at the earliest opportunity. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 22 May 2025 the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me about a statement made by the Deputy Premier on 2 April 2025. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition alleged a breach of fundamental principles in the Code of Ethical Standards. The Code of Ethical Standards contains enforceable and non-enforceable obligations and provisions. The fundamental principles fall into the former category.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also raised the matter as a possible breach of standing order 266(1), breaching or interfering with any of the powers, rights and immunities of the House, and/or standing order 234, imputing improper motives or offensive words, and section 37 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, insulting a member. I am not persuaded that this matter reaches the level of a contempt of parliament.

I accept that the Deputy Premier's statement could have triggered a withdrawal under standing order 234 if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had been in a position to take the point of order at the time, but standing order 234 is time limited in its application. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition could have also made a personal explanation the following day refuting the allegation made against him. I am not persuaded that the matter warrants the attention of the Ethics Committee. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I will, however, for the benefit of all members, express my firm belief that we should all be guided by the Code of Ethical Standards and treat each other with respect and refrain from personal reflections and imputations. I am sure we can all do better. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 3 June 2025, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity wrote to me alleging that the member for Mount Ommaney deliberately misled the House on 29 April 2025. I note the member for Mount Ommaney made an apology in the House regarding this matter on 10 June 2025. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Mount Ommaney.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

On 3 June 2025, the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity wrote to me alleging that the member for Mount Ommaney deliberately misled the House on 29 April 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the member during debate on the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill.

Specifically, the member stated:

'In almost 10 years in opposition, the LNP introduced just one private member's bill, which I have a copy of. It was the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2023. Considering that they introduced only one bill, you would think that they would have taken the time to get it right.'

The Attorney-General argued that this statement was factually incorrect because the former government had introduced twenty-six private member's bills in the previous 10 years.

I sought further information from the member for Mount Ommaney about the allegations, in accordance with standing order 269(5).

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


I note the member for Mount Ommaney made an apology in the House in relation to this matter on 10 June 2025 and this is recorded at page 1527 of the Record of Proceedings.

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Second Reading Debate

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before the House resumes the cognate second reading 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, I want to remind members again of the rules relating to relevance of debate on the second reading of a bill.


The question being debated is that the bills be read a second time. The scope of the debate is set out by standing order 139: the debate may (a) address the principles of the bill, (b) the portfolio committee's examination and report or (c) any amendments recommended by the committee.

The principles of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are to make Jack's Law permanent, authorise police officers to use scanners in certain circumstances and clarify where police officers may use the scanners. There is nothing in the bill relating to banning the sale of certain weapons as per the opposition amendment.

This House also has a practice of allowing reference to circulated government amendments that may be outside the long title of the bill to afford fairness given the likelihood of them being passed by the House—see Speaker Reynolds, 18 April 2007, page 1325. This practice has not been extended to opposition amendments outside the long title—see Speaker Pitt, 21 May 2020, page 1073-1074. As Speaker Pitt stated—'If this were permitted, the opposition could always construct their own framework for relevance'.

During the cognate second reading debate for these bills it has become evident that some members are stretching the limits of relevance to the point that their entire contribution is about a proposed opposition amendment which does not fall within the scope of standing order 139. I note that the amendments proposed by the member for Gladstone do not address the principles of the bill, were not included in the portfolio committee's examination and report and were not included in any amendments recommended by the committee. To focus on the opposition amendment as the substance of a contribution to the debate goes far beyond the scope set by standing order 139. Members are to ensure that their contributions to this debate are relevant to the bills being debated in accordance with standing order 139.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we are visited in the gallery today by Ms Abby Smith, the YMCA youth member for Redcliffe. I also wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery today by students and teachers from Moggill State School in the electorate of Moggill.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Camm)—

Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor: Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Reforms—Biannual Progress Report 5 (November 2024)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.09 pm): Our first budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. At the heart of our approach is respect for taxpayers money, just as we promised. Earlier this year we revealed Labor's final budget update. It was a tale of debt and deception. Cost blowouts and overruns were the norm. Critical services and projects were underfunded or unfunded entirely. Labor intentionally hid the truth from Queenslanders. After years of neglect, there is a lot of work to do to repair the budget.

This morning I joined the Treasurer and the member for Hervey Bay on the Fraser Coast. It is a beautiful part of our state and, like many parts, it is growing. That is why our first budget will deliver on our promise to maximise housing supply and help Queenslanders enter the property market. We have already axed a Labor tax. Since 1 May, Queenslanders who make their first home a new home have not paid a single cent of stamp duty. Combined with our extended first home owner grant, that is real cost-of-living support to help more Queenslanders into home ownership. However, if we want more Queenslanders to have a place to call home, we also need to focus on supply.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel who said that axing a tax is pathetic.

Ms Grace: No.

Honourable members interjected.

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

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. If we want more Queenslanders to have a place to call home then we also need to focus on supply. That is why our budget will deliver the Residential Activation Fund. The \$2 billion program, led by the Deputy Premier, will activate new residential housing developments by funding essential trunk infrastructure. It is just one example of how we are addressing Labor's failures through a calm and methodical approach and long-term planning. Applications for round 1 have now closed and I can announce that there has been a massive demand. In round 1, \$1.7 billion in applications were received for the \$500,000 available. In total, the projects submitted would unlock more than 150,000 homes across Queensland. We are now focused on ensuring more funding gets out the door sooner.

However, we are only getting started delivering the fresh start we promised. When the Treasurer hands down our budget in a few weeks time, it will show Queensland that we are committed to delivering what we promised. We have seen the challenges facing our state. We heard Queenslanders loud and clear. We will deliver a place to call home, safety where you live, health services when you need them and respect for your money. That is what Queenslanders voted for and that is exactly what the budget will deliver.

Housing Supply



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.13 pm): The Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with delivering the housing supply that our state so desperately needs so that more Queenslanders have a place to call home. The upcoming budget is about delivering for Queensland and the fresh start that we promised. Labor's housing crisis left Queensland with the worst home ownership rate in the nation, an out-of-control social housing waitlist, planning approvals stalled for months on end and critical Economic Development Queensland and construction sector reforms sitting in the too-hard basket on Labor ministers' desks. Moreover, it was clear that, after a decade of Labor neglect and a culture of riding roughshod over local governments and communities, Queensland was falling behind the rest of the country.

With our runway to the 2032 games finally back on track, industry has welcomed the Crisafulli government's strong direction and decisive action to get on with the job of building the capital pipeline and the record infrastructure investment needed to set up our state for decades to come. Now is not the time for the opposition to be muddying the waters, spreading misinformation as they did yesterday in question time and undermining trust in our housing sector. While Labor is looking in the rear-view mirror, desperate to defend their failed record, the Crisafulli government is looking ahead and planning for our future growth.

Our government is determined to support more young people and Queenslanders of all ages get into their first home, delivering on the commitments we took to the election. As planning minister, I can inform the House that our new \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, RAF, is for trunk infrastructure and it will start to flow after the budget, helping supercharge housing supply across the state from the city to the bush, with half the fund dedicated to regional and rural Queensland. As announced by the Premier this morning, there has been an overwhelming interest in the RAF since it opened, with 178 submissions from local government and landowners representing—Premier—158,345 dwellings that could be unlocked with this new funding. That represents a 309 per cent increase in lots that can be unlocked for homes because of the Crisafulli government's RAF funding as compared to the number of dwellings that could have been unlocked without any funding.

The fund's first round totals \$1.79 billion in requests and will unlock \$3.97 billion in new projects. Sixty-four applications for funding were received from South-East Queensland and a whopping 114 applications were received from regional Queensland, reinforcing the demand and interest for more homes to be built in the regions, too. We are a government for all of Queensland. My department is currently assessing the applications and the funds will roll out the door come 1 July because we want shovels in the ground. I say to Mitre 10 and all the hardware stores: restock the shovels because this government will need them.

Since becoming planning minister, I have also approved 20 ministerial infrastructure designations, including three for social and affordable housing that will deliver some 200 new homes for Queenslanders. There is more news: today I can announce that I have just approved a further three MIDIs for over 100 social and affordable homes in Upper Mount Gravatt, Beenleigh and South Brisbane. Yesterday we heard from the Minister for Housing that under Labor the public housing waitlist blew out to over 52,000. Our government is focused on bringing that number down by bringing to market more forms of housing, including social and affordable housing.

In addition to the social and affordable homes we are approving, more land supply is crucial to fixing Labor's housing crisis. That is why I have more news to announce. Today I can announce that EDQ has released 3.5 hectares of development-ready land in Meadowbrook, Logan, and 1.7 hectares at Lumina, within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct in Southport. Those land releases could potentially unlock up to 172 future homes in Logan and about 640 in Southport. EDQ is also assessing 190,000 square metres for future land releases over the next six months.

The Crisafulli government is pulling every lever at our disposal to give more Queenslanders a place to call home, right across the state. We want all forms of housing to be part of the solution for first home owners, families, renters, retirees—no matter who you are and where you live in this great state. The budget will deliver our housing ambitions and our housing foundations—doing what we said we would do—meeting the aspirations of so many Queenslanders. This is all part of setting the foundations for a new start.

Budget



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.18 pm): On 24 June we will be laying the foundations for a fresh start when I hand down the Crisafulli government's first budget. It is a budget that will deliver for Queensland in the way we promised we would. 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. We are fixing Labor's crime crisis, cost-of-living crisis, health crisis and housing crisis.

By funding the services that Labor had planned to abandon, we will ensure that departments are properly resourced and deliver employment security across the Public Service. The budget will deliver responsible cost-of-living relief for those who need it the most through: budgeted 50-cent fares; cheaper visits to the doctor by axing the patients tax; and support for first home buyers by extending the first home owner grant boost and abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. More targeted measures will be revealed in the budget.

I have often spoken of the need for long-term structural reform to ease cost-of-living pressures, which is why we are investing \$1.4 billion in the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee and tackling Labor's crime crisis to ease the pressure on insurance premiums. We promised to lay the foundations for budget repair, and we will. We promised debt would be lower than Labor's forecasted \$218 billion in 2027-28, and it will be. We promised to show respect for taxpayer money, and we will. It is a challenge we are up for as we calmly and methodically work towards laying the foundation for a fresh start.

Our task, however, has been made harder by the federal government's unprecedented redistribution of Queensland's GST entitlement to other states. The \$2.3 billion stripped from Queensland next financial year will be gifted to Victoria to help pay for their lengthy lockdowns and policy failures. The impact of this redistribution will be a reflection of our nation's fractured GST-sharing methodology. While Queensland's strong resources sector has been encouraged, other states have let theirs languish or even discouraged them. We should not be punished for our support of industries that underpin our national wealth. The federal government must recognise the impending federal Productivity Commission review as an opportunity to equitably reform the system, and those opposite should support it. Queenslanders are not asking for a special deal; we are asking for a GST system that delivers a fair outcome for Queensland.

The Crisafulli government's first budget will deliver on our election commitments, enhance services and guarantee employment security. This budget will lay the foundations to deliver for Queensland.

Resources Industries



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.21 pm): The Crisafulli government is stepping on the gas, quite literally, to drive new investment in Queensland's gas sector and put downward pressure on energy prices. At the recent Australian Energy Producers Conference I announced that nine parcels of land comprising over 16,000 square kilometres will be open for tender across the Cooper-Eromanga and Bowen-Surat basins. To give a sense of scale, that is 6½ times the size of the ACT. These areas include opportunities for both conventional and unconventional gas development. Importantly, none of the areas intersects with the Lake Eyre Basin strategic environmental area designated precinct.

We are sending a strong message to resource investors that Queensland is open for business. They need to hear it loud and clear because the past decade of anti-gas policies from those opposite has sent investment interest in Queensland off a cliff. They cheered on policies that locked up resources, leaving Queenslanders paying higher bills and sending jobs and investment to other jurisdictions. The Crisafulli government is taking a commonsense approach because the best way to bring down energy prices is to bring more energy onto the market. We can do that in Queensland while upholding our strong regulatory frameworks that protect the environment and rights of landholders.

We are not stopping there because Queensland is the engine room for the east coast gas market. Unscientific decisions made by other jurisdictions have forced Queensland to carry the load for the southern states or, as the *Australian* put it in a headline the other week—and I paraphrase—we are the last bastion to keep the lights on. We need a regulatory system that supports new development and more investment. That is why I have also launched a three-month targeted review into Queensland's gas and resources land-release process. We know that time is money, so we are delivering a framework that is faster, more transparent and investment ready. This review will aim to modernise and streamline

the way exploration areas are identified and released and examine the expression-of-interest and competitive-tender processes.

The gas industry is tipping money into the bucket. Last financial year we returned \$1.7 billion in royalties to Queenslanders. It supports local businesses and underpins jobs across our regions. I saw this firsthand last week touring Origin's operations near Roma and Santos's Ballera gas operations in the remote south-west of Queensland—only 80 or so kilometres from the South Australian border. The gas plant and surrounding infrastructure provide jobs for 40 hardworking Queenslanders at any one time. Last year alone it processed 58 petajoules of gas, and about 27 per cent of that went to the domestic market.

I also saw some of the operating gas wells in the Cooper Basin and how the industry is protecting the region's pristine environment, particularly after the recent floods. Out there the gas wells are kilometres apart and a lot of them are on stilts. They are on stilts for a reason: in times of flood, excess water can flow around the gas infrastructure to ensure minimal disruption to natural flows. It is a great story and is one that I am happy to tell.

On this side of the chamber we are supporting the hardworking Queenslanders who work in our mining and resources industries. We will continue to deliver for Queenslanders by unlocking supply and driving new gas investment to create more jobs, deliver billions in royalty dividends and put downward pressure on gas prices.

Justice System; Forensic Science Queensland



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.25 pm): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. In the Crisafulli government's first budget, Queenslanders will see how we are delivering on our election commitments. It is a monumental task to clean up the mess that Queensland was left in after a decade of successive failed Labor governments.

We have already strengthened the youth justice laws those opposite watered down. Our first budget will show how we are making significant investments in the justice system to continue to make Queenslanders feel safer. It will also show how we are delivering our pledge of faster access to justice, starting with the actions we are taking to clean up Labor's DNA lab debacle, which is still impacting victims of crime across the state today.

Today would have been Shandee Blackburn's 36th birthday. Instead of celebrating that 36th birthday with Shandee, her family are—and have spent years—shining the light on the serious failings at Queensland's forensics lab that impacted Shandee's murder investigation. Within my first week in this role I commissioned an independent review of FSQ operations by respected scientist Dr Kirsty Wright, who also helped blow the whistle on this sorry saga. We then recruited former FBI and genetics expert Dr Bruce Budowle to join the review. Both experts have been tasked with getting to the bottom of Labor's DNA debacle. These were no small failures. They resulted in a complete collapse in the confidence of our justice system to deliver fair and fast access to justice for victims of crime.

We have not wasted any time while waiting for the results of the review. In fact, a few weeks ago we announced a \$50 million strategy to deal with the ongoing impacts of Labor's DNA debacle on cases backlogged for testing. As I have said, this is a two-year program which will allow scientists at FSQ to focus their efforts on clearing Labor's historical case backlog. I also announced last week that we have halted any further kinship or paternity tests at FSQ while we investigate more errors that occurred under Labor's watch that we have uncovered. Those opposite not only presided over the debacle in the first place; they neglected to invest in serious solutions to address it—real solutions to get results in cases where victims deserve justice.

The actions we have taken over the past seven months stand in stark contrast to the actions taken by Labor over the past decade. There was zero accountability and zero integrity. The Crisafulli government have proven that we will be up-front and honest and that we will deliver solutions, not excuses. That is what governing with integrity and honesty looks like. It is a foreign concept to those opposite.

Police Resources; Thank a First Responder Day



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.29 pm): This month's budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. As police minister, I have said many times that the LNP Crisafulli government will give police the laws and the resources

they need to do their job—and that is exactly what we are doing. We have already passed new legislation, with more to come, and soon we will deliver a fresh approach to funding the police.

It is time to end the practices of the past. Labor treated the police as extras in a political drama and held them hostage to each change made on a whim. The QPS was forced to fund Labor's promises from its own resources. Labor failed police and the people of Queensland. Labor boasted about approved police numbers but never provided the extra funds to back up their big words. Labor did not fund the continuation of high-visibility police patrols or youth co-responders. Labor made big announcements about Polair in Cairns and on the Sunshine Coast but never provided sufficient funds to keep the service in the air beyond this financial year. Labor made civilian police positions permanent but never funded them, including in the critical area of domestic and family violence. Labor never provided sufficient funds for the Youth Crime Taskforce. Under the Crisafulli government, over \$15 million has been provided to make the youth crime group permanent.

Labor left the police in the lurch. They failed to deliver on tougher laws to combat crime and they failed to deliver on the funding and resources that police needed. I can reassure our police that we will continue to back them, not fail them as Labor did for nearly 10 years. This month's budget will deliver for Queensland and it will deliver for police, making community safety and victims' rights a priority.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that today is Thank a First Responder Day—an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary people across all emergency services including police, paramedics and firefighters, along with the SES and Marine Rescue Queensland volunteers who stand ready to protect our communities. Each and every day these brave men and women put their lives on the line to keep others safe. They run towards danger and are there when disaster strikes or when unforeseen emergencies arise. For that we say thank you.

Thank you also to the families of first responders. While their loved ones are helping others, they provide the support that is so often needed in the face of trying and demanding circumstances. I extend my personal thanks and that of the government to all of our first responders and their families. Your efforts are appreciated and your contribution is valued.

Child Protection



Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.32 pm): The Crisafulli government is committed to taking care of our state's most vulnerable children. We have announced a commission of inquiry into the child safety system, a system that was neglected for the past decade under the former Labor government—neglect that has caused trauma to a generation of children, as well as feeding the state's youth crime crisis by not placing enough supports to prevent children in care entering the youth justice system.

Sitting back and watching vulnerable children continue to languish is not acceptable to me and it is not acceptable to our government. The Crisafulli government will progress our election commitments under our Safer Children, Safer Communities plan while the commissioner independently investigates the child safety system.

We will do what those opposite refused to do a decade ago: we will implement a recommendation from the Carmody inquiry and deliver a SecureCare facility—a service for children who are a danger to themselves and to others. They will not be pseudo-detention centres; they will be facilities where young people with complex needs will have access to interventions and have services wrapped around them to deliver positive change to their lives. We will also deliver the professional foster carers program focused on children with complex needs, along with a \$1,500 boost to the yearly allowance for children in out-of-home care for education and extracurricular activities.


The Crisafulli government is committed to supporting our frontline child safety staff by increasing the workforce by 20 per cent by 2030 to deal with the increasing case load and demand on their time. We value their contribution. We will also introduce a 24-hour dual care supervision model for residential care and we are well underway with the staging of this commitment.

We will rein in the out-of-control billion dollar industry the former government created over a decade ago through sheer neglect. Those opposite created a market through individual placement services that has grown exponentially in reliance and use that has blown out from \$82 million a decade ago to now \$766 million annually—and growing—facilitating private companies to profit. This form of placement was created to be a temporary solution as children transition to either foster care, kinship care or family-based care. A revolving door of ministers saw children bounced around the system—some exceeding 35 placements in that part of the system in their lifetime—shopped between providers

and seen as nothing other than dollar signs by companies and for-profit operators ready to take advantage of our state's most vulnerable.

This is about doing what is right in the interests of our state's most vulnerable children. We will deliver support and a system for safer children and a safer community.

Racing Industry

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.35 pm): This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. Right now, the Crisafulli government is delivering a comprehensive review of the Queensland racing industry. All I have seen since taking on this portfolio is broken promises and budget blowouts left behind by those opposite.

Under Labor's watch, the Bundaberg greyhound industry was left on life support by a failed promise to build a new sand track; the Toowoomba turf Club lights were left on their last legs, leaving participants in danger; the harness industry was promised a new home but 1,200 days of Olympic venue chaos saw the project come to a screeching halt; millions have been spent on country racetracks that have barely been raced on in years; the Racing Integrity Commission was left unfunded—and the list goes on. Labor spent too much time in the marquee and not enough time keeping the industry on track.

It is true that those opposite had their own reactive review last year. However, I can only assume that the outcome highlighted their own gross mismanagement of the industry, as they were too ashamed to release it. Our review will be critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of the Queensland racing industry, and the findings will be made public.

From the Gold Coast to Birdsville, Brisbane to Cooktown and everywhere in between, racing runs through the reins—the veins as well—of Queenslanders. I have seen this firsthand when visiting racetracks at Goondiwindi, Longreach, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns, Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe and of course Brisbane. This is why we must get this review right—and we will.

Queensland's racing is a diverse and decentralised industry. Whether it is Saturday's Stradbroke at Eagle Farm, where we will be cheering on the five Queensland horses; or last weekend's iconic Mount Isa Cup; or the looming Inter Dominion, which will be held in Brisbane for the next three years; or greyhounds flying around The Q in tomorrow night's Origin Greyhound Series—go the Maroons!—racing is part of the fabric of Queensland.


Just last week, I announced the latest data, demonstrating racing's \$2.5 billion annual contribution to the Queensland economy. More than half of the \$2.5 billion is realised in regional economies. Almost 600,000 Queenslanders visited the races in rural or regional Queensland alone last year. All three codes are having an impact in communities right across the state. Racing helps generate \$75 million for the Townsville region—

Mrs Poole: Giddy-up!

Mr MANDER: You just pinched my punchline by the way—\$58 million for the Cairns region, \$81 million for Central Queensland, \$40 million for Mackay and \$35 million for the Outback. Racing supports our regions, and our regions back racing.

Review chair Matt McGrath, who headed up one of Australia's largest race clubs, continues to travel across the state and has been welcomed with open arms by the industry, because this industry is determined to ensure their sport is set up to prosper in the years ahead. The racing industry deserves a government that works collaboratively to ensure its success. The Crisafulli government will get this industry on the right track.

Education Funding

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.39 pm): The Crisafulli government is genuine about delivering better education for Queensland. As part of the foundations for a fresh start that our first budget will deliver, it took an LNP government to step up to the plate and tackle an issue the previous Labor government could not sort: an education funding deal with the federal government.

Under the previous Labor government Queensland was left behind states such as Western Australia and Tasmania, which signed up to an agreement with the federal government. The former government had years to get a fair deal but could not. Within six months of being on this side of the

House the Crisafulli government achieved a massive win to ensure that our children's education has the biggest funding boost in Queensland's history: \$2.8 billion in additional Commonwealth investment over the next decade. This will ensure that state education is fully funded under the principals of Gonski for the first time in our history.

Whilst I could go on about Labor's failure to forecast and plan and their constant dillydallying, I will keep at the forefront of my statement the children of our state. They are our future, and their education is of the utmost importance to us. Our children have literacy rates that are lagging other states. That is not a measure of our children's potential; this is an indictment of a failed Labor government leading the education system. An LNP government wants to see our children flourish and reach their full potential. To do so, we are focused on stewarding this funding to achieve better results. We will be focused on early phonics and numeracy checks to identify where students need extra support. We believe in the power of small-group and catch-up tutoring to reduce the number of students falling behind.

We know that education and health go hand in hand, so with my colleague, the honourable Minister for Health, we will be providing health and wellbeing specialists to provide well-rounded care. We will be taking care of our educators, the backbone of our education system. We will expand professional development and reduce unnecessary red tape so they can focus on teaching. These reforms are real, this funding is real and the Crisafulli government is real about delivering on both.

This agreement represents the beginning of a fresh start for our state's education system. I, along with the Premier and all of my colleagues, am committed to ensuring this is seen through. I look forward to seeing our children receive a world-class education. That includes all of Queensland. Whether you live in Yatala or Yarrabah, the regions will not be forgotten under our watch. Every child matters. Every teacher matters. We have not left it to chance as Labor did. We took care of business like a real government should. We look to the future with positivity, determination and a comprehensive plan for delivery.

Bruce Highway, Funding; Exhibition Railway Station



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.42 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland and getting on with the job of fixing the many messes left by the former Labor government. One example was the state of the Bruce Highway, which was left to decay under successive failed former Labor state governments. Within months of forming government the LNP was able to secure what those opposite could not: a landmark deal worth \$9 billion alongside the Australian government on an 80-20 basis to upgrade the Bruce Highway.


A \$300 million early start package of work has already commenced, focusing on sections of the Bruce Highway with the greatest safety risk, and \$200 million of that funding is fast-tracking the construction of 16 priority projects which are being progressively rolled out this year. A further \$100 million in funding is being used to enable preconstruction and design activities for safety upgrades across five priority links. These works are advancing, with procurement underway for a number of projects as well as the assessment of locations and early start activities. The Crisafulli government welcomes the 80-20 funding deal with the federal government which, as I said, the former Labor state government could not deliver. Those opposite chose to side with their federal Labor mates in Canberra rather than fight for Queenslanders. The LNP will always choose Queenslanders over Canberra.

Speaking of fixing up problems that Labor could not, just last week I was pleased to announce that the new Exhibition station at the Brisbane showgrounds is now finally complete. With major construction now complete, the station opened for last week's Queensland caravan and camping super show. Exhibition station will open temporarily for major events. Most importantly, this means that the station will be available for the first time in three years—despite the promises of those opposite—so that Queenslanders can catch the train right to the Ekka this year. This year! As I said, unfortunately the station was unable to open for last year's Ekka due to the former Labor government's mismanagement of Cross River Rail, industrial action and disruption by their Labor mates at the CFMEU. Their Labor mates and the CFMEU were in bed, delaying Exhibition station. Exhibition station will re-open permanently for year-round services in line with the opening of Cross River Rail tunnels, which were also delayed by those opposite until 2029.

In even better news, back in 2022 catching a train to and from the Ekka from Ipswich would have cost a family of four using a go card more than \$38 in peak hour. Now, thanks to the Crisafulli government's permanent 50 cent fares, it is \$4 return no matter when that family travels. The Crisafulli


government is committed to giving Queenslanders better roads and better public transport as we deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (2.46 pm): Mr Speaker, I advise the House that the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation is absent today. I advise that the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games will answer questions for the minister in question time.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Redistribution Commission

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes media reports that legal advice has been obtained that calls into question the validity of the consultation process undertaken by LNP Attorney-General Frecklington—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General! Leader of the Opposition, you have the call. I will hear the motion in silence.

Mr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker—

—to appoint individuals to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission.

2. notes that the actions of LNP Attorney-General Frecklington and the Crisafulli LNP government are at conflict with the views of Liberal Party elder Santo Santoro..

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will not say it again.

Mr MILES: I will continue with my motion—

3. endorses statements regarding electoral redistribution commissioners by former Liberal Clayfield member Santo Santoro in this parliament when he said: '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.'
4. pursuant to standing order 27 require the Attorney-General to table by 5 pm, 12 June 2025, all documents, including advice, correspondence and emails in respect of the Queensland Redistribution Commission appointments.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney! We will have silence.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier and those on my right!

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I will continue—

5. establish a select committee known as the 'Prevention of corruption in Queensland electoral boundaries committee':
 - (a) to inquire and report into:
 - (i) the LNP government's appointment process to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission, in particular the appointment of John Sosso.
 - (ii) whether the LNP government misled the Governor of Queensland via Governor in Council regarding the appointment process and the consultation which occurred.
 - (b) with the committee consisting of six members, three government members and three non-government members with a non-government member chairperson.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr MILES: And further—


- (c) with the committee having the power to call for persons, documents and other things.
- (d) with the committee reporting to the Legislative Assembly by 11 July 2025.

Mr SPEAKER: Before we go to question time, I have been advised that the youth member for Maryborough, Emily McGrath, is in the gallery.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 3.50 pm.

Corrective Services

 **Mr MILES** (2.50 pm): My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services. How many prisoners have escaped from Queensland jails and custody under the minister's watch, and how many are still on the run?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for the question. I can tell the member that the number is half what it was under Labor this time last year. The number is almost half. Under Labor there were 14 prisoner escapes. What is more, we saw our correctional system at breaking point under the former failed corrections minister, who has a CCC inquiry happening into the Parole Board and what happened in the parole system under her watch.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are going to improve a lot on that. One person has the call. Minister, you have the call.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am grateful for the question because it gives me an opportunity to talk about not just what is going on in our prisons but the system we were left by those opposite.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I cannot hear the minister.

Mrs GERBER: The previous Labor government left us with a correctional system at breaking point—a correctional system where prisoners were in double up, where they were not getting rehabilitation and where they were not getting the services they need in order to rehabilitate so we can have fewer victims in this state. Why did they leave us with a system like that? Because they did not care about victims. Their focus was on prisoners.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Once again, I am struggling to hear the minister.

Mrs GERBER: Our focus is on the rights of victims; their focus was on the rights of prisoners. Our correctional system was at breaking point. Those opposite not only failed to fund the infrastructure that we needed but also failed to have the rehabilitation and services in our correctional system in order to turn the tide on crime in this state.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Those opposite promised numerous times that the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre would be open, and where is it? Is it open? They stood up last year and said that it would be open under their watch, but they have failed to do it. The Crisafulli government has not only got our infrastructure back on track; we are also changing the culture in our correctional facilities. We are supporting the staff in our correctional facilities to prevent violence happening in our correctional facilities. Under those opposite, violence against staff in our correctional facilities reached an all-time high. If those opposite want to talk about our correctional facilities, they need to look at their own record because we have been left a broken system by those opposite.

Mr SPEAKER: Before we progress any further, member for Cooper and member for Cairns, you are both warned for constant interjections.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

Ms FARMER: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Question on notice No. 245 states that the minister attended a meeting with the Expert Legal Panel on 24 February. However, this meeting does not appear in the minister's diary extract. This matter has now been referred to the Premier's office after my complaint to the director-general for breaching the Ministerial Handbook. What other meetings is the minister hiding from Queenslanders? I table the relevant correspondence.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to the Queensland Ministerial Handbook and the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Laura Gerber.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on for a moment, please. I will ask you to rephrase the last part of that question because there was definitely an imputation in there.

Ms FARMER: Could the minister explain if there are any other meetings she has not declared in her minister's diary extract?

Mrs GERBER: I will say to the member for Bulimba in response to the question she has just raised that she has had a fulsome answer back from me to the question on notice.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I have already answered this in a question on notice. I provided a fulsome answer back to the member for Bulimba, which they are well aware of. They did not like it so they are proposing to use a question time strategy today to impugn and make spurious allegations that are wholly incorrect.

Yes, I popped into an Expert Legal Panel meeting, as I told the member for Bulimba in response to her question on notice; and, no, it was not a meeting that was in my diary but in the interests of completeness and in the interests of disclosure—in the interests of complete disclosure—I put it in my answer to the question on notice from the member for Bulimba. Why did I do that? I did that because we are a government that respects honesty and integrity. We are a government that cares about transparency. If those opposite want to talk about a lack of transparency and integrity, I have a four-letter word for them—t-r-a-d; Jackie Trad and the CCC inquiry and the integrity inferno that engulfed those opposite. We know that those opposite have a track record that completely—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: No, Minister, we have not got silence in the House. I am not calling you until we have silence in the House. Minister, you have one minute.

Mrs GERBER: If those opposite want to talk about transparency and being honest, let us also talk about the State Archivist's report. Let us talk about the member for Algeester and how under her watch she got reports changed in order to hide and in order to have a lack of transparency—

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

Mrs GERBER: I withdraw. Those opposite have complete form when it comes to having integrity and openness, and the hide of them—

Mr Power interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER: What about the hide of them to come into this House when they have history as long as my arm, when they have the CCC report and Trad, and when they have the Coaldrake report, *Let the sunshine in*, where they had to investigate integrity into their own government because of their own conduct. Then there is the State Archivist's report which I just referred to.

Ms FARMER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have heard the point of order on relevance. You have seven seconds left to round out your answer.

Mrs GERBER: The member for Bulimba already has the answer to this question. I think it is the member for Bulimba who needs to look to herself for relevance.

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will have silence first. We can waste as much time as you like.

Budget

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by treating taxpayers' money with respect, and is the Premier aware of any approaches that did not respect taxpayers' money?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Keppel for the question—indeed, the most researched, articulate and probing question of the day. I want to thank him very much for the work he is doing and the work he has done for his community over a long period of time, including as a great servant of his council. The member asked about the budget, and I have to say our first budget is about

as much as restoring Queenslanders' faith in the democratic processes as it is about restoring the structural credibility this state needs when it comes to finances. We have already seen the results of 10 years of Labor mismanagement with the credit outlook downgrade and the implications that will flow from that for many years to come. We all know and understand that is a challenge, but it is a challenge we are up to and it is a challenge that is essential we rise to as Queenslanders.

I look at the starting point and I think of the missed opportunities: how those opposite, in the middle of a boom, were able to not just squander those financial opportunities, not just have debt careering to \$218 billion by 2027-28 with a trajectory for it to continue—deficits indefinitely into forwards—but also I think about the things that truly matter and that is the services for Queensland. I think of the health crisis, the youth crime crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. I think of all of those missed opportunities to have delivered a budget because, in the end, budgets are not about numbers, they are about people. This budget is about helping Queenslanders. That means that there will be targeted cost-of-living relief, but, more than that, there will be the structural change, the long-term change that is needed.

I look at the struggles of Queenslanders and I think to myself, 'How is it that those opposite could allow the situation to reach a point where Queenslanders, in the state that is so blessed, could be under such attack from things like cost of living? How could the state with the abundance of resources have a 19.9 per cent increase in electricity costs which was three times the national average?' The answer to that is the following: our coal-fired power plants were not maintained; there was no strategy around developing gas; and when it comes to pumped hydro, rather than listen to the market, they were going to embark on a \$37 billion con job that would have not only sent the state into absolute disarray but also would have jacked up electricity prices. It was a con job.

I say to Queenslanders, through you, Mr Speaker, this budget will be one that restores people's faith in governing. It will be one that restores Queenslanders' faith in aspiration. That means a government that can deliver for them and give them a future, and that is what delivering for Queensland looks like.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services. How many of the minister's staff have been fired, resigned, sent to another office or requested a transfer since becoming a minister?

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold! We will have silence before we go to the minister.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek clarity as to whether there is a matter for ministerial services which is under the Premier's portfolio.

Mr SPEAKER: It is one that either one could answer, but the minister should be able to take the question.

Mrs GERBER: Certainly, Mr Speaker. What a disgraceful question! What an absolutely disgraceful question! Those opposite have form when it comes to treating staff. Labor ministers from that side of the House locked staff members in cupboards. They locked them in cupboards!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Here we go again! Order!

Mrs GERBER: Labor ministers threw staplers at staff members. They threw staplers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be opening another door shortly, Deputy Premier. Let's have a bit of order in the House.

Mrs GERBER: Not to mention—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition interjecting. I think he was the one who had a camera outside his office filming staff. So, if those opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We are very close to a general warning. I am deadly serious. This is very poor.

Mrs GERBER: Those opposite want to talk about staff. My staff, by the way, are the most amazing staff; they do phenomenal work.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, you are warned.

Mrs GERBER: Those opposite come into this chamber time and time again and try to bring staff members into disrepute. They have nothing else better to do other than come in here and besmirch staff and public servants who are working their hardest to deliver for Queenslanders, to deliver on mandates that Queenslanders voted for. Those opposite come into this House to talk about the way staff have been treated, yet we have all read the Coaldrake report and what happened there. We all read how they had to have a complete inquiry into the culture of bullying under the Labor government. There was a culture of bullying.

I am going to read into the record a couple of quotes. 'Comments from interviews and submissions made to the Review suggest a range of reasons for' fear in the public sector under those opposite.

Ms BUSH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are down to a minute. It was a really direct question around staffing levels and attrition rates in the minister's office. If she does not know, perhaps she can take it on notice.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it is a valid point of order. The question was around staffing. You have 58 seconds left.

Mrs GERBER: I say to the member that my staff are amazing, and my staff are all there, in my ministerial office right now, working extremely hard to try to deliver—

A government member interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I take the interjection, member—trying to fix the mess that Labor left behind. If you want to talk about the way staff have been treated, let's talk about what happened to staff under those opposite. There was a 'fear of unwanted career impacts and loss of employment status for unwelcome advice' under those opposite. If they want to talk about staff getting sacked—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 21 seconds. The question was around staff numbers.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, Mr Speaker, and all my staff are currently working diligently in my ministerial office right now, either across the road or right now in this House. Those opposite treated their staff with utter disrespect. They locked them in cupboards, they threw staplers at them and Coaldrake found they bullied them. They bullied their staff members.

(Time expired)

Budget

Mr DILLON: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Can the Treasurer please outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will lay the foundations for a fresh start, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr JANETZKI: I want to thank the member for Gregory who knows all about the contribution his great electorate makes to the budget of Queensland, and in his ministerial portfolio responsibilities in water and primary industries—we know how primary industries drives our terms of trade and water delivers our productivity—I want to honour his effort, and I thank him for the question. The member for Gregory will be happy to know there are less than two weeks to go until the first Crisafulli government budget. Work is continuing. We have made it very clear that this budget will be delivering on our election commitments. It will be delivering enhanced services and it will be delivering employment security for our public servants because we need to be delivering better and more services across Queensland. That is what this budget will do. The work continues.

We will be laying the foundations for a fresh start. We will be delivering the budget repair that is so important. As the Premier has said already today, the debt that has been left that will be \$218 billion by 2027-28—the highest debt per capita at \$40,000 per man, woman and child. We know the legacy that those opposite have left. We will invest in long-term structural cost-of-living reform to drive down cost-of-living pressures over the long-term, as well as delivering targeted and cost-of-living measures. This morning in Hervey Bay we were discussing again the First Home Owner Grant boost that we will be continuing.

What of those opposite? I saw an extraordinary announcement from the Leader of the Opposition just outside this House yesterday. He talked about what he would do if it were his budget. I reckon if I just turned to three announcements or three positions of the Leader of the Opposition, I would already find \$50 billion worth of extra borrowing and spending that those opposite would be undertaking. I think of Pioneer-Burdekin at \$36.8 billion, I think of rebates north of \$11 billion and I think of free lunches—how can we forget that? That is more than \$50 billion. I am just going to use those three because that is \$50 billion. The question for the Leader of the Opposition today is: how will he find that \$50 billion? That is just the tip of the iceberg. We have 15 days until the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech and there is only one answer. It is: he will raise taxes on the people of Queensland. That is how he is going to pay for it. He will be looking to apply land tax to the family home. He will be lifting stamp duty as property prices increase. I want to understand his secret tax plan for Queenslanders.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

Ms HOWARD: My question is of the Corrective Services Minister. On 23 May, the *Australian* reported the minister was ordered into managerial training earlier this year following a string of departures from her ministerial office. How many managerial training sessions has the minister attended, and has the minister skipped any of those training sessions?

Mrs GERBER: The answer is 'none' to that question, but—

Mr SPEAKER: I will call you first.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have silence.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mrs GERBER: I take that interjection. It is really interesting that they are getting the backbench to ask these ridiculous questions which I completely reject. I completely reject the imputations and the accusations that are embedded in these ridiculous questions, but do you know what? I think it speaks to the culture on that side of the House.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have a little bit of decorum.

Mrs GERBER: I think it speaks to the culture on that side of the House. They have a culture where bullying is normal, where it is normal to make accusations and try to pass them off as fact, where it is normal to spread furbies, where it is normal to try to convince—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER:—where it is normal to try to create a culture of fear and then perpetuate that as truth. That side of the House has absolutely no integrity and not a leg to stand on. They are getting the backbenchers to ask these questions. None of the shadow ministers want to ask any of these questions because they know they cannot stand on their own record when it comes to integrity so they are getting the poor backbenchers to ask these questions.

Ms HOWARD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I would ask the minister to answer the question.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has answered that question. She answered it right at the beginning. Minister, you have 1.30 left to go.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I do have more to say because I think the shadow ministers need to take a good hard look at what parliament is meant to be used for and what question time is about. It is the time for the opposition to ask questions of the government in order to hold us to account for the promises we made to Queenslanders, but do you know what? I would love a question about early intervention.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mrs GERBER: Yes, shadow minister for youth justice, I would love a question about early intervention—

Mr SPEAKER: Address your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mrs GERBER:—which they have not asked at all.

Ms Camm: Because you are delivering it.

Mrs GERBER: I will take that interjection. There is probably a good reason they have not asked a question about early intervention, and that is because this government has one of the largest investments in early intervention.

Ms McMillan interjected.

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

Mrs GERBER: I really want to address what I think that question speaks to in relation to the culture that exists not just in the Labor Party but in this incompetent opposition. They have a culture of bullying and a culture of disrespect. What is worse, is they are now putting backbenchers up to do their work because they are not prepared to ask the questions themselves.

Mr Crisafulli: They're embarrassed because they're embarrassing questions.

Mrs GERBER: They are probably embarrassed by their own questions, I take the interjection from the Premier. It is really disgraceful. You guys need to start having a question time strategy.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr DALTON: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Will the Attorney explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by restoring victims' access to justice, and is the Attorney aware of approaches where victims were denied justice?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Again, I really want to thank the member for Mackay who is a long-serving, hardworking and decorated police officer. He is someone who has fought hard for the protection of victims of crime in Mackay.

Mr Bleijie: Citizen of the Year!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection—and Citizen of the Year. How good is that! This is a man who knew that the former government were failing victims of crime. They were failing them. They were not taking the people of Mackay seriously. It would have been Shandee Blackburn's birthday today. She would have been turning 36. When Shandee's mum, the people of Mackay and others were talking about the failures of the DNA lab—the failures of those opposite—what did they say? They said we were scaremongering. They said we were playing politics. They said that we were just beating it up. It took a Crisafulli government to get in to sort out this mess. Not only are we not waiting for the end of the review to sort out Labor's DNA debacle but we have also put our money where our mouth is. We have secured \$50 million over two years to ensure we are giving faster access to justice.

I sat at a cafe in Mackay with Shandee's mum a couple of weeks ago, or maybe a month or so ago now, and we talked about the families who were desperate for answers because of the failings of the former Labor government. There were over 40,000 historical backlogs and what were they doing about it? Absolutely nothing. They were sitting on their hands. What we have done is taken action: \$50 million over two years, faster access to justice for victims of crime and ensuring those unopened rape kits get taken to a lab where they can be tested immediately for those serious crimes. We have invested in the DPP and ensured the QPS and the DPP can work together to get these cases through. That is what good government does. We do not sit back and wait for all these issues to bubble up; we genuinely get in and work with the victims of crime and the people who are looking for answers. Of course, we now know that errors happened under their watch in 2022. In February 2024, they knew that they had covered up another major DNA debacle.

Youth Detention Centre

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Corrective Services minister. In February the Premier scrapped a new youth detention facility in Cairns, and I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Cairns Post*, dated 22 February 2025, titled 'Premier ditches centre plans'.

When will a new 40-bed detention centre be delivered in Far North Queensland to alleviate pressure on the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre?

Mrs GERBER: I am really glad that I have been asked this question because there are a couple of things that need to be put on the record when it comes to the detention centre that the Palaszczuk

government announced last year. There are a couple of things that need to be put on the record in relation to that.

Firstly, the Labor government went into the Cairns community and announced a detention centre without consulting the Cairns community, without a business case and, what is more, they did not even tell the department and did not even tell the other ministers. No-one knew that this was happening or being announced. It was another thought bubble by those opposite. That is the history of the question that is being asked in relation to the announcement about the Cairns detention centre by those opposite, because that is all it was: it was an announcement in the shadows of an election to try to win an election. It had no business case attached to it, it had no funding attached to it, it had zero consultation with the Cairns community attached to it.

What has the Crisafulli government done? What did we do when we came into government? We are consulting with the Cairns community. In fact, the Premier put it in my charter letter that we will consult effectively with the Cairns community on a detention centre for North Queensland. Why? Because we are a government that prioritises the community, we are a government that cares about consultation and we are a government that cares about making sure communities get their say.

If honourable members want an example of consultation with communities, they should look no further than what the Deputy Premier did with the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4 in my own community. They are asking about a facility that under their watch had zero money behind it, had zero business case, the community was not told, the community was not consulted and now they are asking, 'Please Crisafulli government, what are you going to do about it for us?' Are they kidding me? This happened under their watch. It is completely mind blowing that they would not know these facts. If they do know these facts and they are still asking these stupid questions, then I think it speaks to those opposite—

Mr BUTCHER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I am taking a point of order. I did not hear it. Did you refer to the member?

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

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am trying to take a point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, to assist you in your deliberation on that, I think the statement by the minister just referred to the nature of the question that was put by the shadow minister.

Mr SPEAKER: He said personal offence. It was not directed personally but it is probably not very parliamentary, so I ask you to be more careful with your language. You have 16 seconds left.

Mrs GERBER: To those opposite I say that the Cairns community will be consulted fulsomely.

Mr Butcher: When?

Mrs GERBER: They are currently being consulted. That consultation is happening, unlike those opposite, who failed to even consult.

(Time expired)

Road and Rail Infrastructure

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver critical road and rail infrastructure, and is the minister aware of any approaches that neglected our transport network?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Lockyer for his question. He is a man who understands that what Queensland needs is calm, competent and stable government, methodical government, that governs for Queenslanders rather than engages in cheap political games, like the former Miles government and the now opposition.

Mr Janetzki: Stay calm.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will stay calm; I take that interjection from the Treasurer. We are focused on delivering a road and rail network that is efficient, reliable, productive and safe. Part of that is ensuring that we, one, maintain the existing network well. Those opposite presided over a succession of

underinvestment in maintaining the road network, a multibillion dollar shortfall in road maintenance that we must now climb and claw back.

How does that manifest itself? What happens when you do not maintain what you have is that assets underperform—roads like the Mount Crosby Road overpass. We recently saw an incident where a truck impacted the Mount Crosby Road overpass and we are focused on dealing with that in a very responsive and quick manner. Unlike those opposite, we did not go out and fearmonger, we did not get on social media like the member for Aspley and the member for Ipswich West and her Labor council mates. We worked constructively with the Ipswich City Council Mayor, Teresa Harding, we informed the community and we rectified the issue as quickly as possible.

I am very pleased to inform the community that as of tomorrow morning, the Mount Crosby Road overpass will be open both ways, north bound and south bound, in time for peak hour. There will be a 20 kilometre speed limit because the bridge is still damaged and there will be a 30-tonne weight limit. However, normal traffic will now be able to traverse that bridge. I want to thank our Transport and Main Roads engineers and RoadTek crews who have done that work through the night.

We are not going to engage in fearmongering like those opposite. We will invest in a calm and methodical manner, we will maintain the network and we will respond to incidents when they happen. Those opposite should take a leaf from the book of the Crisafulli government and engage productively rather than spread fear. Those opposite have been getting around the community saying that they had an investment in the Mount Crosby interchange—\$277 million the member for Aspley said. Where is it in the budget? More than \$200 million of that money—most of it funded by the federal government I might add—is out past the forwards. What did they do about fixing that interchange?

Mr Janetzki: Calm.

Mr MICKELBERG: Sorry, I will be calm. Nothing, they did absolutely nothing. Contrast that with the approach of the Crisafulli government. We will get on with building the infrastructure we need, whether it is road or rail, but we will maintain the existing network. We will invest in road maintenance, we will respond quickly when incidents do occur and we most certainly will not spread fear like those opposite.

Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

Mr POWER: My question is to the Corrective Services minister. The *Townsville Bulletin* has reported that juveniles are getting lighter sentences due to staff shortages and capacity constraints at the Cleveland detention centre. Has the minister failed to plan for the minister's laws and failed the minister's KPIs already?

Mrs GERBER: I completely reject some of the imputations in that question. I do want to address the first part of the question. Under Labor detention centres became breeding grounds for criminals and the specific detention centre that the member is talking about has a 96 per cent recidivism rate—96 per cent of kids released from that detention centre go on to reoffend. The member is now talking about the courts. Let's talk about why the courts are dealing with these youth offenders. They are dealing with them under our Making Queensland Safer Laws. They are dealing with them under Adult Crime, Adult Time now and we are starting to see the green shoots of that. However, it is going to take so much time for us to unwind the 10 years of Labor failing to invest in the staff needed for our detention centres, failing to invest in the infrastructure that we need in order to keep Queenslanders safe, 10 years of Labor not building detention centres, 10 years of Labor failing to make sure that we have the appropriate staff in those detention centres.

I want to address just one aspect of that, because it does speak to some of the issues that are happening in our detention centres. I spent a full day in the Cleveland detention centre not long ago. I spent that full day there to not just do a walk-around tour but so I could be on the ground for a full day to see exactly the state of our detention centres in Queensland, and I was completely and utterly dismayed. How Labor left those detention centres is completely disgraceful. It is disgraceful. We have implemented mandatory education for all kids in detention centres. When I went into that centre and spoke to a group of girls, those girls said to me, 'We've been getting more education. Can we keep having more education?' Under Labor, they were not getting education. In fact, the latest Auditor-General's report showed that they were getting three hours, and in some cases it was less than that.

If those opposite want to talk about what is happening in our detention centres, let us talk about how the Crisafulli government is doing detention with a purpose, ensuring that every single kid in that detention centre has mandatory education and ensuring rehabilitation with our Staying on Track

program. Every single kid in those detention centres will get 12 months of intensive rehabilitative support. Right now during periods of separation young people continue to have access to health and therapeutic services, caseworkers, education, cultural supports and contact with family, legal representatives and oversight bodies, but those opposite completely failed those kids in detention centres, and they know it. That is why their heads are down right now because they know it. The Crisafulli government will ensure effective rehabilitation to keep Queenslanders safe.

Tourism Industry, Planning Approvals

Mr VORSTER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise how planning approvals and new tourism development are being supported under the Crisafulli LNP government, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any examples where former governments sought to preserve the state's interest?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. I have been waiting for the member for Woodridge to muster the courage to ask me a question about something that he has been very public in the media about, and that is the department of state development and planning intervention in the Maleny Manor matter that the former deputy premier has been muckraking over and spreading misinformation about, but he has not so I thank the member for the question because it allows me to put a few things on the record. One: I did not call in the Maleny Manor development. The department of planning has intervened in a court process independent of government and the independent judge said, 'Yes, the department can join the court case to protect the state interest of tourism', because we have a tourism plan—Destination 2045.

I remember that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is a former planning minister himself, was out there saying with this one intervention by the planning department, 'Local governments should be very worried.' I thought, 'Let's have a look at the history of the member for Woodridge when he was the planning minister,' because he has the record of the most interventions by a planning department in the last 10 years. During his period as planning minister from 2017 to 2020 his department intervened in court matters 88 times—88 times! Not only that, I refer to an article where he actually intervened and called in a development. He said in the media—

The State Government has overridden a central Queensland council by overturning a decision to knock back approval to a billion-dollar development proposal for Hummock Hill Island off the coast of Gladstone.

...

Planning Minister ... Dick said he was making that order because, as a state-prescribed project, the Pacificus development had the potential to transform the central Queensland region.

Ready? He went on to say—

I don't exercise this sort of power very often, but I think [this project is] critical to the region and the state ...

Ministers for planning have intervened in matters since the dawn of time since the Planning Act was enacted. If members want another example of—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from former minister Grace Grace, because she intervened in a CFMEU case in the Federal Court of Australia. She backed the CFMEU when—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair please, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE:—the CFMEU took a private provider to court and at the time then minister Grace intervened on behalf of the CFMEU. Grace Grace supported the CFMEU. She backed the CFMEU. I sacked the CFMEU!

Noosa Electorate, Social and Affordable Housing

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. Will the minister fast-track the construction of the Doonella Street, Tewantin, social housing units for our residents to downsize their tenancies and make available the resulting 30-plus family-sized homes to our community housing providers for Noosa families?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for the question. I know the member has been a strong advocate for this project in her community over many years. It has been six years since in 2019 the former government acquired that site, and this project has been sitting in limbo for most of that time

since it was acquired. It clearly was not a priority of the former Labor government. We in fact had three Labor housing ministers in that time since that site was acquired—the members for Springwood, Algester and Gaven. All had the opportunity to get something going on that site and all of them failed. When that site was acquired in 2019 the existing dwelling that was there was taken away not long after, so it has been an empty site for six years under the former Labor government. This is of course part of its record of delivering just 509 homes on average to our social housing stock over the last decade—far below the numbers that Queensland needed to see and barely a third of the rate of population growth over the last decade.

However, I have some good news for the member for Noosa. The Crisafulli government is getting this project underway. We have now appointed an architect to this project and design is commencing. The department will put a tender out for the construction of this project by the end of this year and the contract will be awarded early next year, with the project forecast for completion by the middle of 2027. This project will deliver 32 new social homes for the Noosa community—part of our commitment to deliver 53,500 new social and community homes by 2044.

I am very pleased that the member did mention the availability of these homes for downsizing. More than 30 per cent of the households on our social housing waitlist are families with children who are ready to accept housing as soon as it should become available. The member would be aware of the Crisafulli government's announcement this week that we are incentivising downsizing. We are going to pay for removalist fees and we are going to give people rent-free periods if they decide to downsize. We want to have that choice available to as many people as possible. I want to thank the member for her advocacy for this project. We have many more homes to come. I very much cannot wait to detail what we have in the budget around the ramp-up of our social and community housing construction program. We have ambitious targets and we are doing everything possible across the housing system to make sure more vulnerable Queenslanders can have a place to call home.

India Fest

Ms MARR: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Townsville's India Fest has had a massive blow, with council recently withdrawing major funding for this event. Can the Premier advise the House if there is anything the state government can do to save a vital festival that faces closure because of this funding withdrawal?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Thuringowa for her question, for her advocacy, for her genuine affection for the Indian community and this wonderful event. I have seen how successful India Fest has been. In fact, I had a small role in 2014 with that community in its infancy and have seen the way that that festival has grown and mirrored the growth of that community. Townsville is a better city because of the Indian community and it has made a wonderful contribution across a vast array of fields and this festival is something that means a lot to them, and I want to thank the member for her advocacy and how much it means to her.

When the Queensland Day winners were announced last week, it was great to see that regional Queensland had been backed hard across all categories. One of the events that shone through was India Fest. It was named the best event in Queensland. Over 60,000 people voted. That just shows how much this festival means.

The member mentioned the funding from Townsville City Council. I am not going to get into the mechanics of that—that is a matter for that council—but I will make the observation: the funding for India Fest has always been \$50,000, and the change means that the most they could get is \$25,000. That change comes two months out from the festival and would have a massive impact. When I spoke to the members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville, as well as Binu and Nick from the festival, it became clear that this festival was at risk of not going ahead because of this.

I want to reflect on what the Minister for Tourism has done as part of our Destination 2045 plan. It has a real focus on putting tourism front and centre in this state. It is about product development. It is about attracting new opportunities for flights. It is also about events. Events mean something. They are a way of getting people to come back time and time again to our state and to our regions. They are also about who we are and the kinds of things we want to celebrate.

We should celebrate our multicultural story, because we are better for it. We should celebrate migration and what people have done by coming to this country. We are better for it. The last thing I would want to see is that festival go by the wayside. As a result of the advocacy of the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra, today I can announce that the Crisafulli government will be making a \$25,000 donation to that festival. The reason is that we do not want that festival to fall by the

wayside. We do want to see council come on board in bigger way in years to come, but we will not let that festival die on our watch. We will be supporting it.

(Time expired)

Toowong Private Hospital

Mr MILES: My question is to the Treasurer. The 58-bed Toowong Private Hospital is closing today. It treated about 3,000 patients per year and employed 154 staff. Will the Treasurer use his upcoming budget to save this hospital from closing, protecting jobs and access to mental health services?

Mr JANETZKI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I acknowledge that it is a troubling time for that health service and that private hospital. We know that private health institutions and privately listed companies involved in the health services sector are facing challenging times. We have seen that in Queensland and right across the nation. I recommend that the Leader of the Opposition ask the question of the health minister.

From my point of view, it is very clear that right now, as I know the health minister is doing, Queensland Health is observing very carefully and closely, watching how it can help with patients and patient care. That is vitally important. I know that the minister and the health department are watching carefully and ready to help as necessary.

Mr Nicholls: All patients successfully transferred.

Mr JANETZKI: As the health minister said, all health patients have been successfully transferred into a public health bed. Our clear direction in this year's budget is to further strengthen the public hospital system here in Queensland. That is the absolute focus of the health minister and the absolute focus of the Crisafulli government. We must heal the health crisis in Queensland. We must have capacity in our health system to stand by and step in as necessary to support facilities under duress, as we are observing right now in Toowong in the western suburbs of Brisbane. We must have a public health system that can step in and assist those patients who are requiring care. That is what our budget will be delivering.

I contrast that with those opposite, who failed to invest appropriately in the hospital system. I think about the service delivery black holes. I think about the Toowoomba Hospital, where they had a two-campus solution that would have added \$400 million in operational costs at that one hospital. I acknowledge the health minister's efforts in the Hospital Rescue Plan. I note the rate of ambulance ramping—the worst in the country at 45 per cent—and the surgical waitlist blowouts. We know that those opposite left a funding black hole and a capex program that could never be delivered. This budget will finally deliver the services and the funding to heal the Queensland health crisis.

Hervey Bay, Health Services

Mr LEE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Hervey Bay locals rely on accessing health services close to home. Will the minister inform the House how the review of hospital facilities will improve health services for our community and what was missing from this plan for Hervey Bay locals under the former government?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Hervey Bay for his question. Once again, I refer to my 'little black book of Labor's hospital failures' in answer to that question. The longer I go on, the more that book contains. In fact, I think I am on to volume 2 now. I also have here the Crisafulli LNP government's Hospital Rescue Plan—a rescue plan that details how we will save the hospitals in Queensland from Labor's feckless, reckless and hopeless spending program. It was a \$7 billion unfunded hospital program—a program that was described by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia as a mirage of media releases. That is exactly what we found when we commissioned Mr Sangster to investigate the failed capacity expansion program.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has still failed to apologise for the disgraceful attack on Mr Sangster that was so shamefully wrong and misguided, in the usual fashion that those opposite attack our hardworking public servants. It does not matter whether it is the director-general of Health, the director-general of the department of state development, Mr Sangster or the many hundreds and thousands of other hardworking public servants they attack.

The member for Hervey Bay knows all too well the failures in his part of the world. Regional hospitals like at Hervey Bay are under sustained pressure, plagued by infrastructure delays and cost overruns such as the \$54 million blowout in the Hervey Bay Hospital expansion program—a failure we

have rectified—and the expansion of the long delayed modular ward, which was only able to be opened because of the intervention of the Crisafulli LNP government. We open the wards; they failed to build them. I thank the member for Hervey Bay for opening that ward for us.

I am asked: what is the alternative? The alternative is something we are still waiting to hear. The three former failed Labor health ministers opposite have still refused to front up to the media, side by side, and answer what they knew, when they knew it and how they were going to pay for it. They have still failed to stand up and do it. Not one project was on track. It was described as an exercise in abject futility, and it was going to cost taxpayers \$7 billion. The alternative under Labor would have failed Queenslanders and left us poorer and Queenslanders sicker.

Mount Isa Mines

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Regional and Rural Development. The future of the Mount Isa copper smelter and the Townsville copper refinery hangs in the balance, with thousands of jobs at stake. Will the minister immediately intervene to ensure job security for the workers at the smelter and the refinery to assure the economic security of these two great Queensland cities?


Mr LAST: This is an issue that we are taking very, very seriously. It is an issue that the Premier and I have been working on now for several months. We have actually had two meetings with the CEO of Glencore in recent months to discuss the future of that particular smelter, a smelter which is pivotal not only to the North West Minerals Province but also to the Mount Isa community. We understand that not only does it provide a lot of jobs in the Mount Isa community but also it is pivotal for the operation of the Incitec Pivot fertiliser plant and, of course, the copper refinery at Townsville.

We have managed to secure an agreement from Glencore that they will allow third-party access to the tailings dam at Mount Isa Mines which, of course, will provide jobs going forward. There is already interest coming from a number of parties to undertake that work. We have also secured an agreement from Glencore to look at opening the Black Star open-cut mine that is on the current tenure of the Mount Isa Mines area. We have given an assurance to Glencore through the Resources Cabinet Committee that if necessary we will fast track all the approvals, whilst maintaining the environmental standards, to ensure that that project gets off the ground as soon as possible. We understand that that smelter is absolutely crucial. There are a number of other copper mines in the North West Minerals Province that will be relying on that smelter going forward. We are committed, as a government, to working with that community. Mayor Peta MacRae is involved in those discussions as well. This is an absolute priority for the Crisafulli government. We are committed to saving the community of Mount Isa.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by the Member for Ferny Grove

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.50 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising under standing order 248. It has been brought to my attention that during question time there may have been an unparliamentary interjection by the member for Ferny Grove directed towards the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. I ask you to consider that matter, potentially review the tapes and make a determination.

Mr SPEAKER: We will look at that.


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

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)


Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 10 June (see p. 1616) and Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill resumed from 10 June (see p. 1616), on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.52 pm), continuing: It is with great honour that I continue my conversation with the Queensland parliament and the Queensland people with respect to this cognate debate. With the indulgence of the House, I will go back a little bit for the benefit of those listening in to remind them of some elements of the commencement of my contribution. It was with no small dismay that I read the dissenting report from the member for Maiwar. I quoted his opening paragraph where the member stated that there is a very real risk of discrimination and harm against already over-policed populations. I said that these were the very same populations that have sent no less than six former frontline police officers to this place—one of whom is now the excellent police minister who was also a detective; another the chair of the justice committee, the member for Nicklin, whose work I have commended in this place before; and our terrific colleagues from Mackay, Burdekin, Lockyer and Mundingburra. This act, sending these six frontline officers here, is not evidence of over-policing; it is evidence that their communities want people elected to this place who will make a difference, will make their communities safer and will restore Queensland to a better place.

Over the last two years, over 1,100 weapons have been seized. Making these laws permanent, as well as amending the conditions leading to the ability to undertake this screening, is giving frontline police officers the tools they need to ensure the practical application of delivering safer communities. Unfortunately, the member for Maiwar also stated further in his dissenting report that governments are taking options other than 'community-led and evidence-based alternatives'. Here is a newsflash for the member: Jack's Law came directly from community-led advocacy, tragically driven by a heinous crime robbing a young man of his life and his parents of a son. I acknowledge here today Brett and Belinda who have been subjected to the most horrific loss and have championed change—a change they wish they did not have to champion and we wish we did not have to stand here and defend.

The member for Maiwar also wrote and spoke here yesterday in his contribution about the bias or discriminatory application of powers. I will not keep quoting the member because it is embarrassing and, frankly, disrespectful to our frontline police officers. These are dedicated men and women who risk all to keep us and our loved ones safe, yet their integrity and judgement is being questioned by a member elected to this place in his commentary on the very bill that strives to make permanent and extend the scope of the very thing our police and communities need and are desperate to see implemented permanently. The constant surety of devices such as body worn cameras, as well as an extensive training framework for all officers involved right throughout the process, completely negates the argument perpetrated by the Queensland Greens. Perhaps though the greatest fact to highlight the absolute fearmongering and weak-on-crime approach of the Greens—or is it 'green' singular these days in this place?—is the fact that in the tens of thousands of instances where Jack's Law has been utilised only two complaints have been lodged, and the matters raised had nothing to do with the officer's conduct. I and the members on this side trust and value the work of committed professional Police Service representatives and I will demonstrate this with my vote on this bill. In light of the dangerous and scary thoughts of the member for Maiwar which I have given voice to again today, I want to close with a quote from our police minister: every instance of a knife crime leaves a lasting impact on victims, their families and the community. We will not stand by while innocent lives are lost.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the cognate bills—the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. In contributing to the debate on making Jack's Law permanent, I would like to acknowledge the devastating loss that underpins the legislation: the tragic death of Jack Beasley. In 2019, 17-year-old Jack Beasley was enjoying a night out with his friends when his life was brutally cut short in a random attack—a senseless act of violence. This devastating incident shook not only his parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, but it has also had a lasting impact on Queensland. I would like to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley who are in the gallery. They have responded to their profound loss by founding the Jack Beasley Foundation and championing legislative changes to prevent other families from facing the same heartbreak. This tragic incident and their advocacy has led to changes made by the former Labor government to implement new police powers which would detect knives and keep our communities safe. The Labor government listened and acted to keep Queenslanders safe.

Jack's Law represents a careful, considered, evidence-based approach to tackling knife crime. The legislation allows police officers to use handheld metal detectors in places where Queenslanders should feel safe and young Queenslanders like Jack should be able to enjoy themselves without fear. Since Jack's Law was introduced by the former government, police have taken more than 1,000

weapons off our streets across Queensland, with over 100,000 wandering operations conducted. Every weapon removed is a potential life saved, it is a tragedy that has been prevented and a family that has been spared heartbreak. I would like to acknowledge the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, for his significant work in this space.

We understand and support the need for police to have the appropriate tools to respond to serious threats, which is why the Labor opposition will move amendments to ban the sale of machetes across Queensland unless you have a permit. Just last month there were two machete related incidents—one where a 20-year-old roamed free with a machete in the streets of Scarborough and another in Rockhampton where a machete was used for an armed robbery in broad daylight. Banning the sale of machetes is a sensible amendment that will keep Queenslanders safe.

Mr PURDIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance, on the back of the Speaker's ruling earlier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): I will seek some advice. Thank you, Minister, for your point of order. Member for Sandgate, the point of order has validity, particularly in light of the Speaker's ruling earlier today. I ask you to come back to the bill before the House, please.

Ms ASIF: Thank you, I will. The direct relevance to the bill being debated is that, as far as I know, a machete is a form of knife and, multiple times in his second reading speech, the minister made reference to machetes. I will move on. If the government does truly want to keep Queenslanders safe, which the government says they do, they would support these amendments.

The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 aims to clarify and affirm specific decision powers regarding the board's ability to review decisions that are made by individual prescribed board members in all circumstances. It also intends to retrospectively verify decisions made following the board's review of a decision from individual members. We support a strong and effective parole system—a system that protects the community, upholds the rights of victims and ensures fair and timely decisions that support rehabilitation and the reduction of reoffending.

Firstly, I acknowledge and thank the organisations that took the time to engage with the parliamentary committee process and provide written submissions. I thank the Justice Reform Initiative, the Prisoners' Legal Service and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. As a member of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, I acknowledge the enormous benefit we gained from the insights of those working at the coalface of the justice system, from legal advocates to corrections staff, victims support organisations and community representatives. Their evidence is a clear reminder of the real-world impact the decisions we make in this place have outside.

Submissions provided to the committee noted that, while procedural efficiencies are welcome, the bill does not address the core issue of resourcing, especially around staffing and systems support. Concerns were raised about the potential for the bill to increase parole suspensions or worsen prison overcrowding. In fact, some submitters warned that expanding the board's powers without adequate investment in rehabilitation services and community reintegration support may simply shift problems downstream. Victim advocates also made compelling submissions. They reminded the committee that parole decisions are not just administrative processes; they are deeply human ones and must be accompanied by consistent and respectful communication with victims and their families. These are thoughtful, constructive contributions and they should not be brushed aside. They reflect a genuine desire to strengthen our parole system without compromising fairness, transparency or community trust.

However, I would like to know why these clarifications required a stand-alone piece of legislation, particularly when a broader community safety bill was already before the House. These amendments could have been easily incorporated in the Making Queensland Safer Bill, which has been through this place multiple times I might add. It seems as if those opposite have not quite finished reading the 'how to govern effectively 101 manual'. Frankly, this raises serious questions about the government's ability, their legislative agenda and whether the bill is more about political optics than genuine reform.


Victims must be at the front and centre of these legislative changes. Too often, victims of crime are forced to re-engage with the trauma of the original offence when parole decisions are delayed, inconsistent or poorly communicated. We support the rights of victims to participate meaningfully and safely in the parole process and believe this is a critical area where investment could make the most difference. Improved communication, better notification processes and dedicated support services are essential, yet once again this bill is silent on all of those fronts. We know that parole works best when it is combined with genuine efforts to address the causes of offending—housing, mental health,

addiction treatment and employment pathways—yet there is little in the bill that addresses those, or the government's broader agenda I might add, that indicates a willingness to invest in any of those supports.

The bill also introduces new operational powers but no obligations for public reporting or review. There is no additional transparency requirements and no independent evaluation mechanism. There is no requirement to report back to parliament on how these important powers are going to be exercised or whether or not the changes are working. The public has a right to know how parole systems are being managed, particularly when those decisions affect our community's safety.

I acknowledge the hard work of those in our corrective service system, parole board members, corrections staff, psychologists, rehabilitation workers and victim support officers who turn up every day, often to face incredible challenges in their work and they do so with great professionalism and care. They deserve our thanks but they also deserve to work in a system that is properly funded, fairly governed and publicly accountable.

Before I conclude, I take a moment to acknowledge and thank our local Sandgate police officers for their work in keeping our community safe. Last week, I had a regular meeting with the Sandgate police who took the time to brief me on community safety matters affecting our area. Their dedication and commitment to protecting our Sandgate community is commendable. Behind every policy decision and every piece of legislation are real people. While the Labor opposition supports efforts to improve the operation of the Parole Board, we also want to see proper scrutiny, transparency and long-term thinking, which this government seems to lack. We will continue to fight for a system that is fair, independent and effective and one that puts victims first and serves the safety of all Queenslanders. Justice must never be about convenience or headlines; it must be about fairness, integrity and the long-term interests of our community.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of two very important bills being debated in cognate: 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. Both bills are about restoring community confidence in the systems designed to protect Queenslanders. The first strengthens police powers to prevent knife crime before it happens. The second ensures that decisions about high-risk parolees are reviewed properly when lives may be at stake. These bills reflect the priorities of the Queensland government because they reflect the priorities of Queenslanders and they are about restoring safety where we live.

Jack's Law has been the subject of much debate in this House. I want to be very clear: the LNP has always backed this law, not just in words but in action. What we are doing today is not tinkering around the edges. We are making it permanent, cutting the red tape and expanding its reach so that frontline police can use it to protect Queenslanders without delay.

Some members opposite would have the House believe that Jack's Law is a Labor initiative, that they introduced and, therefore, own it. Let us unpack that. Yes, the former government trialled wanding powers, but what they gave with one hand they took away with the other. They built in sunset clauses and convoluted authorisation requirements. Those were not measures designed to empower police. They were escape clauses—caveats for a divided caucus that I surmise never fully believed in the law's necessity. We are not dealing with a united Labor Party on the issue of youth crime. Let us not forget their own backbench revolt on the Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms, in ugly scenes played out through the media. We have seen it, we have heard it and Queenslanders know the difference between leadership and hedging.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Morayfield, if you wish to make a point of order then you know the process.

Mr VORSTER: Thank you very much for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. I contrast that with what we are doing today. The Crisafulli government is making Jack's Law permanent. We are removing the barriers that stop police from using it at major events and we are sending a clear message: Queensland will not tolerate knife crime. That is an issue I have raised many times because it matters to the people I represent.

In 2023, as a local councillor, I hosted a town hall meeting on community safety with residents from Varsity Lakes, Burleigh Waters, Burleigh Heads and Palm Beach. Knife crime was a dominant concern—far and away the biggest issue raised. People were frustrated, scared and, above all, tired of inaction. Following that meeting I wrote to the then minister for police, the member for Morayfield, and

passed on suggestions from the community, which included support for expanding wandering powers and making them permanent. Not only was that suggestion completely ignored; the then minister did not even acknowledge wandering in his reply to me.

I invited the former minister to visit Burleigh and meet with residents to hear directly from them. He never did visit, despite telling me in writing that he was a regular visitor to the Gold Coast. The former minister did not take up my offer to meet and hear from my community why they wanted wandering made permanent. I ran for parliament so the member for Morayfield would have no choice but to listen to the people of Burleigh. I am here as part of a government to do what Labor would not: listen to the Burleigh electorate and restore safety where we live by making Jack's Law permanent. We are listening. We are acting. We are delivering the fresh start that Queensland voted for.

The second bill before us also goes to the heart of community safety. The Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 fixes a flaw that has undermined public confidence in parole decision-making. Under the old laws, if a single board member decided to send a parolee back to prison that decision had to be reviewed by the full Parole Board. That was a safeguard for the prisoner. If a board member made the opposite call, keeping the parolee in the community, there was no requirement for that decision to be reviewed at all. That meant the system gave more legal protection to prisoners than to the public.

This bill fixes that imbalance. It makes sure that when Queensland Corrective Services recommends a parolee be returned to custody because their behaviour is risky, or they have breached their bail conditions, the full Parole Board must review the decision if it were rejected by a single member. This is a safeguard for the community. It means no-one stays on the street without that call being double checked. The bill also confirms that past reviews—where the board took action even though the law did not clearly say they could—were lawful. That is about certainty and common sense.

We have heard experts call the current situation under Labor's laws 'a gap' and 'a legislative oversight'. They are absolutely correct. We are closing that gap because the former Labor government did not. To make matters worse, under their watch the board had no permanent president and no direction for seven months, which meant further delays and uncertainty in decisions that affected community safety. We are fixing that failure too. This is a clean, targeted bill that puts victims and safety first, and it gives our Parole Board the powers it needs to protect the community.

Queenslanders expect their government to act when lives are at risk. These bills deliver. We are backing police to stop crime before it happens. We are giving the Parole Board the power to act when supervision fails. We are putting victims and the community's safety where they belong: at the centre of our justice system—no more loopholes, no more delays and no more excuses. This is a fresh start for Queensland, and it is the one the community voted for.


Before I conclude my remarks I will read into the record the suggestions put forward by my community in 2023, and I will table this document.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence from the former councillor, Division 11, Gold Coast City Council and current member for Burleigh, Mr Hermann Vorster MP, to the former minister for police and corrective services and minister for fire and emergency services, Hon. Mark Ryan MP, regarding crime and community safety on the Gold Coast.

My letter to the former minister states—

While holding out little or no hope the state will act, residents want to be proactive and have made the following suggestions they say warrant investigation: increased real police numbers on the southern Gold Coast; tougher laws and strengthened sentencing options for repeat offenders; the removal of the presumption of detention as a last resort in the Youth Justice Act; and wandering made permanent and available to police everywhere.

How right my community was, and how good of them to put someone in the parliament who will make sure their voices are translated into action. The men and women on our side of politics put community safety at the heart of their work as a government. I thank the member for Bonney, our police minister and our youth justice minister for doing an incredible job shepherding these laws through the parliament. They have been fine and strong advocates for reform. They have listened to Queenslanders, and I trust they will make sure our community is far safer than it was under Labor.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise to contribute to the 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 2025. It is a cognate debate, so I will be making remarks with respect to both bills. It is particularly relevant and important to acknowledge the journey that we have been on to this point with Jack's Law, and I will make some particular remarks in respect of those amendments.

Firstly, I would like to join others in acknowledging that today is Thank a First Responder Day. I thank the members of: the Queensland Police Service; Queensland Corrective Services; the Fire and Rescue Service; the Rural Fire Service; Marine Rescue Queensland—including the Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue; and Surf Life Saving Queensland as well as all the personnel who make up those agencies for the contribution they make to community safety.

I would also like to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley, who I understand are in the gallery. They are two outstanding Queenslanders whom I have had the honour of meeting, getting to know and working with, and I also have the honour to call them friends. They are great people who have turned tragedy into an important legacy—a legacy that will ensure the people of Queensland and the people of Australia will be safer forever.

I also acknowledge the Queensland Police Service legislation team. I ran into Hendo in the cafeteria last night, and I know that their work over many years has contributed to these laws being able to be made permanent today. I have reflected in debates previously that for these extraordinary powers to be permanent they needed to be evidence-based, to have community support and to recognise that police act professionally and in a way that is accountable to the community. These laws had to be perfect before they could be permanent because they are in Jack's name, and we wanted to make sure that these laws were being used appropriately and in the best interests of Queenslanders to keep all Queenslanders safe forever.

As part of building the case to make these laws permanent we worked with the police, with the community and with Brett and Belinda and the Jack Beasley Foundation to build that evidence. We supported the Jack Beasley Foundation with funding to help them deliver their education programs. A suite of actions have been taken to get to this point.

Brett and Belinda should be very proud of their advocacy and their focus. Brett and Belinda are trailblazers in many ways. To the best of my knowledge, they are the first external representatives to address the Police Ministers Council. When the Police Ministers Council met in Brisbane, we arranged for Brett and Belinda to do a presentation to all police ministers and all police commissioners—and so began a conversation for Jack's Law to be rolled out across the nation.

With legislation passing in Tasmania in recent months, my understanding is that Jack's Law has a presence, or there is an awareness of it, in pretty much every single Australian state. Well done, Brett and Belinda. It is a legacy that is recognised around the nation. We are all very proud and thankful for your efforts.

Jack's Law does make a difference: by detecting knives you can save lives. As I mentioned in earlier remarks, it is part of a suite of actions that improves community safety and enforces a knife-free culture in our state, in our nation, in our communities. If you can limit access to knives, if you can have people informed about the consequences of knives, if you can create proper deterrents in the community around the carrying of knives, you can create a safer community.

One part of that suite of actions is wand because detecting knives not only removes those knives from the community but creates a culture around deterrence and people not feeling compelled to carry a knife on them. As Brett would say, it is a no-brainer when it comes to wand. I have a particular question to the minister, because I know that Brett is a strong advocate of this. With the expansion of wand to more locations across the state, there is a good case for the personal issue of wands to every single officer. Does the Queensland Police Service have plans to ensure the fleet of wands is expanded so that every single officer could have a wand personally issued to them? As I said, Brett would say it is a no-brainer.

The suite of actions was also complemented by previous amendments which were included in last year's expansion of Jack's Law around the retail sales restriction of knives and other bladed elements and items to young people. I wanted to particularly reflect on the remarks of the minister and the Premier in their media release when they announced the most recent amendments around Jack's Law. They 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.


That is why the opposition are supporting this legislation. The point I want to make is that the suite of actions is about limiting the availability of knives and other bladed items including machetes. That is why the opposition's amendment around machetes is not only relevant to what the minister has said but relevant to improving community safety.

I also wanted to make some remarks in respect of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. The opposition is supporting this because it provides legislative clarity around an existing practice of the board. It ratifies existing board practice. It validates existing board practice. I note that the committee's report highlights that, since 2022, only 61 requests which were initially not suspended by an individual prescribed board member are captured within this legislative clarification. Of those, 39 were confirmed by the board and 22 were overturned. The fact of the matter is that this was an existing practice. This is a practice which has continued and this is a practice which is being ratified and validated by the amending legislation.

I did have a particular question for the minister in respect of the amendment bill—and that is, in the period between identifying the need for this legislative validation of an existing practice and when this bill will commence, has Parole Board Queensland stopped its practice of reviewing the decision-making of the individual board members in the situation we are considering here? If what the Minister for Corrective Services has said is correct—that this is essential to clarify an oversight—then surely the board would have stopped its existing practice once the issue was identified and surely, in that intervening period, to use the words of the Minister for Corrective Services, the community would have been less safe because the Parole Board was not then reviewing the decisions of the prescribed board member in the intervening period, or is it as opposition members have made clear during our contributions—that this is an existing practice of the board which has been continuing, which has been happening since the beginning and which is only now being legislatively clarified, ratified and validated?

The minister cannot have it both ways. If she says it was a legislative oversight, if she says it was a problem, then surely the practice would have stopped in the intervening period and the community, to use her words, would be less safe. As I would submit to the House, her statement in that regard was a nonsense and it does not reflect the reality of the board's existing practice.

This is a very important suite of legislation that we are considering today. The opposition supports both bills. I encourage members to support the machete ban amendment proposed by the opposition. I once again thank Brett and Belinda, who are proud Queenslanders, good Queenslanders and Queenslanders who have made our state a safer place.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.25 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. I will also briefly touch on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill—a vital reform to ensure parole decisions ensure community safety, not just procedure.

Jack's Law matters because every Queenslander deserves to feel safe walking through a shopping centre, catching a train or heading out with their mates at night because what happened to Jack Beasley in 2019 should never have happened. At just 17 years of age, Jack was senselessly killed in a knife attack in Surfers Paradise. I still remember hearing the news—a young life lost, a family forever changed, a community shaken. In the weeks and months that followed, Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, did something extraordinary. They turned unimaginable grief into action. They demanded change.

As a father, this is heartbreaking. I have lived on the Gold Coast my whole life and my sons often went out to Surfers Paradise as young adults. I cannot imagine the pain of the phone call that Jack's parents received that night. As a young person, I also went into Surfers myself many times through the seventies and eighties. It is tragic to think that Surfers Paradise has become a place where we even need to consider such laws and laws of this magnitude, but unfortunately it is a reflection of the times.

Jack's Law began as a trial in the Gold Coast safe night precincts—first in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. It gave our police handheld scanner powers to wand for weapons in high-risk areas. The results speak volumes. Between April 2023 and May 2025, more than 1,000 weapons were taken off our streets. That is a sobering thought. Over 115,000 people were wanded and more than 3,000 charges were laid—one law saving countless lives.

Instead of using it to protect the community to its maximum potential, the former Labor government watered it down. They introduced so many roadblocks and bureaucratic hurdles that police were forced to jump through hoops just to do their job. They created an evidentiary test requiring senior officers to prove a serious crime had occurred in the area within the past six months before wanding could even begin. Then they added a subjective test, asking officers to judge whether wanding might deter crime based on comparisons to previous authorisations.

What they created was an unworkable mess, one that disincentivised proactive policing and missed major events like schoolies, some of the local music festivals and the Supercar weekends

entirely—places and times where common sense says you would want the strongest protections in place. I have spoken to officers based on the coast who were frustrated. They told me plainly that the paperwork was too much, the process was too long and sometimes they simply did not have the time or resources to jump through all the hoops.


People do not feel safe in parts of Southport, and this bill will help. In Australia Fair constituents are regularly sharing their complaints and fears of knife crime. Nerang Street Mall business owners want more wandering and they are fed up with people having bladed weapons in their stores. Crime at tram stations in the CBD also has locals crying out for Jack's Law. This law is sensible and it is about safety; that is why this bill matters. It cuts red tape, it restores the original intent behind Jack's Law and it empowers our police to act when and where they need to.

Under this legislation, police officers will now be able to use handheld wandering devices in designated relevant places such as safe night precincts, shopping centres, stadiums and transport hubs without first seeking authorisation from a senior officer. In other public places wandering can still occur with authorisation, but we have made that process clearer and more responsive. This approach is fair, it is balanced and it is effective. We have listened to the feedback from police, councils and the public. Gold Coast City Council and Cairns Regional Council have backed this bill. So too have the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union and of course the Jack Beasley Foundation.

Belinda Beasley said it best: 'Every weapon off the streets is a potential life saved.' Let's be clear: Jack's Law is not about targeting people; it is about protecting them. This bill does not just make Jack's Law permanent; it improves it, it strengthens it and it ensures Queensland stays a leader in tackling knife crime. This is about making sure no other Queensland family has to experience what the Beasleys did. It is about every mum and dad who wants their child to get home safely after a night out. It is about every school principal, every security guard, every officer and every community leader who has said 'enough is enough'. This bill honours Jack's legacy by delivering real change. We said we would make Jack's Law permanent, and today we are.

I will now turn to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill. This bill fixes a longstanding flaw in the system—one where decisions to release parolees into the community could be made by a single board member without mandatory oversight, even in cases where correction officers raised serious safety concerns. Labor's laws gave offenders more protection than the victims. This bill restores that balance. It ensures the full board must review those decisions, placing community safety at the heart of the process. The bill also confirms that past decisions made by the full board, particularly where a parolee was returned to custody after a risky release, were valid and enforceable. These are commonsense changes that address a serious legislative gap.

Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their communities, and that starts with a parole system that works in the public interest. Adult time matters; parole laws need to reflect community expectations. A failed parole system has the ability to water down our judicial system, so I am happy to commend both of these bills to the House.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (4.32 pm): I rise to contribute to this cognate detail, and because it is a cognate debate I will touch on Jack's Law first. I recognise that the Beasleys are present today and I commend their continued advocacy. In recognising the Speaker's ruling earlier today, I will also briefly mention that I will not indulge in it, but I endorse the amendments made by the member for Gladstone and that is the way I will be speaking. I will leave it there.

I also want to particularly give a shout-out to the member for Morayfield. In my previous role I saw up close and personal how passionate and personally he took this issue. He deserves credit for getting this bill to where it is today. For those opposite to carry on as if this is their legacy I think is very unfair to him and his team and the police force and their legislative team, who delivered so much.

In my contribution, I want to focus particularly on the corrective services bill. I have not only a public policy interest in this area but also a personal one. I note that the member for Everton is on the speaking list after me today, which is good timing. I do not know if people in this House remember when the member for Morayfield, as corrections minister at the time, was attacked by the member for Everton for appointing too many women to the Parole Board. The member for Everton—he has his head down—probably remembers that.

Mr Mander: I remember it well.

Mr SULLIVAN: Yes, I am sure you do. As it turns out, member for Everton, I had the privilege of marrying one of those women who served as a professional board member, or a PBM, as this bill particularly relates to. As my register of interests show, she no longer works in that role so I am not conflicted in contributing to, or voting in, this debate, but do I have some insight. The carry-on from those opposite, including by the member for Currumbin, the member for Burleigh, the member for Rockhampton and others that the amendments to the corrective services bill is some grandstanding safety bill is utterly ridiculous because we all recognise that they already do it. The Parole Board of Queensland has a very broad power for community safety, and the practice of the Parole Board is to already endorse these sorts of decisions. Even Mr Woodford, whom I have great respect for—I had a lot to do with him, particularly when he was parliamentary crime and corruption commissioner and I respect him in his new role—during the committee process, particularly under questioning from the member for Bundamba, confirmed that yes, this was an existing practice that already had a head of power. In my own experience—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I beg your pardon?

Mr Crandon: Under 205, member, and not under 208. That is the point. That is the point you are missing. That is the point he missed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order, members. Order, member for Coomera!

Mr SULLIVAN: I am not going to be lectured to by those opposite that this is some massive reform. I have been woken by these calls in the middle of the night. Obviously, I have not been party to them, but I have been woken by them. I have stood there making dinner while my wife sat there tied to her desk taking these calls, writing these files and preparing matters for full board meetings—which they already do.


Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, I have called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders. You will cease interjecting

Mr SULLIVAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. In terms of endorsements, I know the workload these PBMs go through. I am a bit offended by some of the tone from those opposite in government who have insinuated poor judgement or lack of leadership from PBMs. They are the workhorse of Parole Board Queensland and they deserve respect.

If this is all about Mr Woodford's recommendation that we just go and affirm previous judgements—and they are individual decision-makers, quasi-judicial in their process—if this bill is about reaffirming those decisions, let's just do it. Compare that to what we had to do in government when the member for Kawana appointed Tim Carmody and he unilaterally tweaked the swearing-in process for magistrates. I am happy to be corrected as to the exact number, but I think it was something like 28 magistrates were not sworn in properly, so tens of thousands of decisions were at risk of being overturned. What did we do as a Labor government? In my former role obviously I did not vote in this House, but I was part of this process. What we did as a responsible government was to brief the opposition—Mr Walker at the time—bring urgent amendments into this House and not play politics with it so the courts would not be flooded with appeals. We passed the bill on day one on a bipartisan basis. That was our approach as a responsible Labor government.


Instead, we had the rhetoric and the carry-on from the likes of the member for Currumbin in her introduction of this bill that was over the top and out of control when it comes to what this bill is doing. This bill is a technical amendment at best endorsing what already occurs. I am not going to be lectured to by those opposite about legislative gaps or huge community safety reforms. It is an absolute joke. They should accept that they are simply endorsing what a Labor government delivered and what a Public Service already does.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.39 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I am only going to make a brief contribution in this cognate debate but I want to put on the record my support for making Jack's Law permanent. This bill will help deliver on our commitment to make Queensland safer, a commitment that we went to the election with. 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 pay tribute to the Beasleys, who are in the chamber tonight.

On this side of the chamber, we know that taking bladed weapons off Queensland streets can only be a good thing. We have been supportive of Jack's Law from day one, and today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. We echo the sentiment of the police minister, who was a detective, who remarked while introducing the bill that every instance of knife crime leaves a lasting impact on victims, their families and the community and that we will not stand by while innocent lives are lost.

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 its expiry on 30 October 2026; 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; 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; simplifies the notification and reporting framework for the police; and improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying Jack's Law. As the Premier said before, and as most members on this side of the House have said, we will be a government that keeps our promises. This is an example of one of those promises.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.42 pm): It is a privilege for me to rise and speak on the cognate bills. At the outset I would like to recognise Brett and Belinda Beasley who are here in the gallery today for the wonderful work they have done with the Jack Beasley Foundation for their son Jack. No parent should have to bury a child.

When I was growing up, I was taught that it is not how you perform in times of triumph that counts; what counts is how you perform in times of sadness and tragedy. There is nothing more tragic than what Brett and Belinda Beasley have faced in the loss of Jack. Every parent knows when their children go out that they are coming home safe. Brett and Belinda did not have that privilege, and our sincere thoughts are with them. I am so sorry for your loss. As Brett and Belinda have demonstrated, they are not interested in people's sorrow; they are worried about the legacy and making sure that Jack's loss is not in vain. Brett and Belinda, I can tell you that you are making Jack very proud wherever he is. Well done on your efforts. As your motto says, every knife detected is another life potentially saved.

It is a privilege for us to be part of a government that is making Jack's Law permanent. I recognise the introduction of Jack's Law in the first place and the efforts of the member for Bonney with Brett and Belinda. I note their strong friendship and the community outpouring that supported the cries for Jack's Law in the first place. There was an absolute groundswell of support, and I thank our leadership at the time for listening to that and bringing that fight to this House. I appreciate that the former Labor government did introduce that law in its initial form, albeit with a sunset clause. I am proud to be here today listening and supporting the police minister's call to see Jack's Law made permanent.

There are some very sensible amendments to that law. I recognise that a number of members in this place are former sworn police and understand the operationalisation of laws. I want to put into context a couple of obvious differences between both sides of the House and I want to try to make it really clear so that people understand that this is not about politics. When operational police are on the front line, they want to have certainty so they know what they can do. When they are second-guessing about a subjective test or getting authority from a senior officer, they are just not quite sure. I am pleased to see that the police training is making sure every officer from constable to inspector is trained in the use of scanning devices. That gives certainty to all of those officers because it is not being done by just a senior officer and it is not being done with limited training; there is a broad range of training.

The best thing for frontline police is to have support from their colleagues so that, if they do second-guess things, their mind is put at ease because they are acting in good faith and they can perform their duty the best they can. The bill contains a couple of sensible operational amendments that will make it easier for police. I have had a conversation with Brett about seeing every police officer being able to carry a wand. I think it would be great to see one in every car or at least one in every shift supervisor's car to make sure they are widely available. Maybe that is the process we can go through to get more wands out on the street.

We have seen the success of Jack's Law with police being able to wand over 115,000 people in a very non-invasive and low impact way. We are subject to this wandering when we go through every airport and we do not even think twice about it. I have been in the mall or a shopping centre and I have

seen the wandering operations occur, and nobody complains about it. I think there is a statistic that there have been two complaints in all of those 115,000 people because it is a very non-invasive method. When you actually distil it down and think about why it has not happened before, it is, in Brett's words, a no-brainer.

The success of the Jack Beasley Foundation is clear and it is now being rolled out across the nation. It is wonderful to see that Queensland is the first to make Jack's Law permanent and to make sure our police have the laws and resources they need. Congratulations, Brett and Belinda, on this achievement and the legacy you have left on behalf of your son Jack. He would be mighty proud of you. I wish he was here to see that. I wish he survived that night to be able to still fight for this legacy and put it in place. I applaud your foundation for the efforts you are making in schools. I have been fortunate to witness this wonderful program. So many kids going through school are desensitised to violence, whether it be guns or knives, and many young kids do not think twice about carrying a knife.

When you hear the rawness and the honesty around the dilemma and tragedy that Brett, Belinda and their team outline, you can see the penny drop with the kids as they realise that just carrying a knife for self-defence can turn very quickly into the tragedy of somebody dying or seeing the knife turned on themselves.

With those words, I want to say congratulations once again. I look forward to seeing the laws and resources continue to be provided to the police so that their operational certainty is further enhanced and that they know that they have a government that does have their back; they are not second-guessing that.


I want to quickly touch on the other part of this cognate bill because the Parole Board is a vital part of the criminal justice system. I was responsible for managing a high-risk DV approach in the Lockyer Valley. It was one of the first in the state. We had partnerships with DV action groups—supporters of the victims—and we had the Parole Board and Corrections involved, as well as police in our DV offices. When the Probation and Parole office know that people are coming out of jail on parole for one reason or another, they are able to develop some really strong target hardening or able to support the victims of domestic violence in their home. The Parole Board is a vital part of that mechanism, to make sure the right people are being released under the right conditions. Some of those conditions are targeted to make sure that they do not offend again. Unfortunately, as we have seen, many of those domestic violence offenders do offend again, so it is vitally important to put in place processes to make sure that they minimise that interaction and minimise any further domestic violence situations.

I am very proud to be part of the Crisafulli government, a government which promised a fresh start for Queensland and a government that told Queenslanders we would restore safety where they live. I am proud to support the police minister in moving this bill today, a bill that I know he is very proud of because of the friendship that he also has developed with Brett and Belinda Beasley.

Again, Brett and Belinda, I pay tribute to you for the efforts you have made and the wonderful legacy you have left through the tragic loss of your son Jack.

Mr SULLIVAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It has been brought to my attention that during my contribution and the interjections from the member for Everton, in speaking about the women who were appointed as PBMs, professional board members, the member yelled out, 'And they were cheery and beautiful, too.' I find that utterly offensive—not just personally; I find it unparliamentary. Considering that one of those women is my wife, I ask that he withdraw.

Mr MANDER: That is totally out of context, but for the sake of the House, I withdraw.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise today in support of two bills: Jack's Law and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. Together, they represent a turning point for community safety in Queensland, and they are particularly important to my community of Redcliffe. Residents from Clontarf, Woody Point and Kippa-Ring to Scarborough and Newport tell me one thing time and time again: they want to feel safe in their homes, safe in their streets and that their children and teenagers feel safe to go out to enjoy everything our beautiful peninsula offers. They deserve nothing less. These bills deliver on the LNP Crisafulli government's commitment. They are about putting victims first and about giving Queenslanders back their confidence in our justice system.

We in this House have all acknowledged Jack Beasley's tragic death in 2019—a senseless murder on the Gold Coast. What followed has been nothing but extraordinary from his parents. I, too,

like everyone in this House, admire Brett and Belinda Beasley's incredible courage to turn their tragedy and grief into passionate advocacy.

These laws have been trialled by police to give them real powers and to prevent such horrific crimes. Jack's Law has already made an incredible difference. We have heard from multiple members the numbers of weapons that have been seized. More than 3,000 people have been charged as a result of these operations, yet knife crime in other public spaces is still rising. That is why making this law permanent and giving the police the powers they need are so important.

Belinda has said that every weapon off the streets is a potential life saved. In Redcliffe, we have known our own tragedy in knife crime with the death of Angus Beaumont in 2020—another senseless stabbing murder. I want to honour Ben and Michelle Beaumont who have, together with the Beasleys, fought for justice for their Angus. Through their combined passionate parent advocacy these laws were introduced. Members in this House have listened to them.

I have heard firsthand from the police in Redcliffe and Moreton Bay about how these powers will empower them to intervene before tragedy strikes. We know that hotspots in Redcliffe like Kippa-Ring train station, the Redcliffe Jetty and even during events at Dolphin Stadium could benefit from police having proactive wandering powers, keeping knives off our streets and out of events before harm is done.

I want my community to know that I will stand with them and fight for these laws before other lives are lost. These laws will save lives. This bill cuts red tape, makes laws permanent and makes sure that police officers do not have to jump through bureaucratic hoops.

We have a lot of experience amongst members on our side of the House with six former police officers and 168 years of combined police experience. The police minister, himself a former detective, said, 'We will not stand by while innocent lives are lost.'

But protecting our community does not stop with knife crime. It also means making sure that dangerous offenders who breach parole or who pose an unacceptable risk to community safety are taken off our streets. That is exactly what the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025 does. Right now, if a prescribed board member of the Parole Board decides to suspend someone's parole and put them back in prison, the law requires that decision to be checked by the full board within two days. But if that same board member decides to leave the offender out in the community, there is no requirement for review. Just think about that. Labor's laws ensured that the rights of prisoners were protected over the rights of the community. That is just wrong. This amendment will ensure that the Parole Board is crystal clear and there is no gap. This gap will be closed with this amendment.

Why is this important for Redcliffe? Because when families go to Scarborough Beach for fish and chips on a Friday night or when parents let their kids walk to school, they deserve to know that someone with a serious risk history is not walking free among them. This bill is about fairness, consistency and, most of all, community safety.

I have spoken with a lot of families. As chair of Redcliffe Crime Stoppers, many who felt unsafe in their own home came to us. I have spoken to business owners who have had their shopfronts broken into multiple times. That is why they voted for a mandate with the Crisafulli LNP government to bring in Adult Crime, Adult Time—taking action, not excuses. That is what these two bills provide. They put community safety ahead of criminals' rights; empower police to do their jobs without excessive red tape; fix Labor's legislative failures, ensuring full reviews of parole decisions; and, most importantly, they save lives.

With these reforms, Queensland will have nation-leading laws in place when it comes to knife crime, alongside strong and sensible parole powers that put Queenslanders first. As Shane Prior, President of the Queensland Police Union of Employees, said—

It has empowered our police ... to go out into the community and seize these weapons when they should not be there in the first place.

In conclusion, the people of Redcliffe, like all Queenslanders, deserve a government that does not just talk about being tough on crime, but takes decisive, meaningful action to keep people safe. That is what we are delivering here today with Jack's Law and the Parole Board amendment bill. On behalf of my community, I am proud to support these reforms and I commend the bills to the House. Let's stand together for safer streets, safer families, a safer Redcliffe and a safer Queensland.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (4.59 pm): How good was that speech from the member for Redcliffe. She is a passionate member of her community. She is proud to stand up for keeping her community safe. Congratulations. We know this bill is about keeping our community safe, and it is about

keeping Queenslanders safe. We should be applauding those bringing these reforms forward. Can you imagine another decade of a soft-on-crime youth justice agenda? Let us acknowledge the Beasleys, the Beasley Foundation, the minister Dan Purdie, the police officers out there administering the wandering operations in the safe night precincts, minister Sam O'Connor and his advocacy in the early days, the Premier, the government, the committees and, of course, all those in the House who represent youth justice and youth reform in their communities.

We have all been supportive of Jack's Law from day one. Today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. We will keep working in this space for youth justice, community justice and community safety. Despite what you will hear from those opposite, let me remind the House that between 2023 and 2025: 1,124 weapons were seized, over 115,000 persons were wanded by senior police officers and over 3,000 people were charged as a result of operations. Importantly, statistics have shown that the number of offences involving knives in public place which is not a 'relevant place' have only increased so we need to increase our efforts. We know frontline officers are telling us that there were ineffective procedures and administrative arrangements that do not advance the fight against knife crime; if anything, they prevent the police from doing their jobs. The notification and reporting requirements are imposing significant burdens on police.

The bill before us tonight: appropriately balances community safety with civil liberties; prioritises the rights of victims over the rights of offenders; makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause scheduled 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 applications of Jack's Law to include public places that are not relevant places by allowing police officers to use handheld scanners, provided they have first obtained authority from a senior police officer to do so; simplifies the notification reporting framework from police; and improves policing efficiencies by streamlining the legislative framework underlying this law. These are important and necessary reforms that will enhance community safety and provide our police with proactive policing powers to address those crimes involving knives.

It is also important to remind Queenslanders of the work done since the election and the commitments we have implemented: the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024; the Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025; the Crime and Corruption (Restoring Reporting Powers) Amendment Bill 2025; Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025; and Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It delivers on a commitment that we made and we have a proud tradition of restoring the rights of victims. In addition, once this bill passes, it will make Jack's Law permanent and, of course, those nation-leading laws with knives.


A couple of amendments are included in this bill. The bill extends the operational period for the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act. It also amends the Marine Rescue Queensland Act, MRQ Act, to clarify that Marine Rescue Queensland is capable of receiving gifts. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, in respect of that particular clause, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Bundaberg volunteers who transitioned to the new Marine Rescue Queensland at a special citation event. Thanks to MRQ Bundaberg Unit Commander, Rod Studholme, and Chief Officer, Tony Wulff.

I also want to recognise William 'Bill' Ker OAM, a retired skipper who appeared in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List, receiving his OAM for service to the community through emergency services organisations. Bill is a retired Royal Australian Navy veteran, a passionate yachting enthusiast who joined Volunteer Marine Rescue Bundaberg at the tender age of 60. After 20 years he still epitomises volunteering in every way. Up until he retired from active work, he was an on-call skipper who regularly put his own life at risk, using his extensive knowledge to train and mentor young volunteers. Throughout his 27 years of the service of VMR—now MRQ—Bill has been involved in 612 activations and over 1,400 hours of sea time, including 1,268 hours as a vessel master. His passion for volunteering is shared by his wife, Mely, a marine rescue volunteer for the past 22 years. Marine Rescue Bundaberg, and our community, are proud of Bill's achievements. Well done, and congratulations.

Of course, the bill also amends the State Emergency Service Act 2024. I also want to do a shout-out to Kieran from the Bundaberg SES who has been acknowledged in the King's Birthday Honours List. I acknowledge all of the first responders in our community today, of course, with it being First Responder Day. I especially want the House to shine a light on the tragic events that have happened over the last couple of weeks in the Bundaberg region. We acknowledge all of those who were involved: our frontline service personnel, our police, our responsive fire, ambulances and all those

support services. It has been a tough time and our thoughts are still with the families in our communities as they find a way to grieve after the tragedies of the last two to three weeks.

As the Premier said, we are a government that keeps our promises. 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. With that, I am proud to support this bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (5.06 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. I will be confining my remarks, however, to the Jack's Law bill. With your indulgence, if I could please show my appreciation for all of our first responders as part of Thank a First Responder Day. I give great thanks to my former colleagues who join me in the chamber: the police minister, the member for Ninderry; one of my old officers in charge, the member for Burdekin; the member for Lockyer; the member for Nicklin; and the member for Mackay. Thank you so very much for all your service.

On this side of the House, we have always said that we will give our emergency services the laws, the tools and the resources they need to do their job. This week, we continued to deliver on that promise. This week we take another step to make Queensland, and my electorate of Mundingburra, a safer place.

Following Jack Beasley's tragic passing after a knife-related crime on the Gold Coast in 2019, Queenslanders demanded change. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of Belinda and Brett Beasley and the Jack Beasley Foundation, our state began that journey. The Beasley Foundation have done some incredible work in ensuring from deep tragedy has come necessary change. To echo the sentiment of my good friend, the Minister for Police: 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. We have been supportive of Jack's Law from day one and today's improvements will make it better and more effective than ever before. Let us be clear: this government is finishing what the last one could not because, while the former Labor government started by supporting Jack's Law, in 2023, they introduced a maze of red tape that made it virtually impossible for our police to use it effectively.

Operational police were buried under evidentiary tests and subjective thresholds so much so that major events such as schoolies were excluded as they no longer could meet the strict criteria introduced by the former Labor government. Thousands of young people attend schoolies every year, a place where they are celebrating completing their schooling and starting their adult life. They, too, should be able to celebrate in a safe environment and those opposite took away the powers of the police to make that a reality. Their legislation was simply a continuation of the soft-on-crime approach we have seen from the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government and that resulted in a decade-long youth crime crisis.

I was a police officer for 28 years. I worked the streets of Townsville and I know the heartbreak of walking into a family's worst day and I know what it means when our officers say this law will save lives. That is why I rise today not just as a former police officer, but as a mother, and I want to speak mother to mother to Mrs Belinda Beasley. Belinda, I cannot begin to imagine the pain you have lived through, but I want you to know your son's name will not be forgotten. His death has not been in vain and because of your strength and courage, thousands of weapons have been taken off Queensland streets.

Since April 2023 over 115,000 people have been scanned under Jack's Law, more than 1,100 weapons have been seized, over 300 charges have been laid and through that entire time there have been just two complaints—nothing to do with police conduct. This is a testament to the professionalism of our frontline officers and the effectiveness of this legislation when used properly and yet under the former government our police were blocked at every turn. They were asked to prove that a serious violent crime had occurred in a location in the previous six months before being allowed to act to prevent one in the next six months. This is not justice; this is a failure of common sense.

This bill does what should have been done long ago: it makes Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause that is due to expire on 30 October 2026. It allows handheld scanning in all public places, not just our safe night precincts, our transport hubs or our shopping centres. It removes the burdensome authorisation process for relevant places. It prioritises the rights of our victims over offenders and it restores confidence in the community. It does so while maintaining safeguards:


scanning is random, police must wear body worn cameras and officers are required to undertake specific training. We have struck the right balance between liberty and safety.

I have recently visited former colleagues in the Mundingburra electorate and told them that this bill was coming and their reaction was relief, support and gratitude. They have said thank you—'Thank you for listening to us and thank you for giving us the powers to allow us to do our job effectively.' The support for this bill has been overwhelming from the police, from the Jack Beasley Foundation, from the Queensland Police Union, from councils across the state and from Queensland families who just want to feel safe in their neighbourhood again. Queenslanders are calling for action, not excuses. They are tired of hearing what cannot be done. They want to see laws that work, that empower our police and that put community safety first, and that is exactly what this bill delivers. It delivers on our commitment to make Queensland safe. We will give police their power back—the power to keep our community safe.

We are making Jack's Law permanent. We are expanding it to cover all public spaces. We are restoring the authority of police to act decisively without unnecessary red tape slowing them down and we are doing it with safeguards in place. As the Premier has said, we will be a government that keeps our promises, and today we fulfil our commitment to make Queensland safer, to back our police and to honour the legacy of Jack Beasley with the laws that will save lives.

I note the parliamentary Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee tabled its report on the bill and it made just one recommendation: that the bill be passed. We thank the committee for its scrutiny and support of the bill and, likewise, I am also proud to support this bill.

To the parents and caregivers across Queensland who just want their kids to come home safe, I say: I hear you. To Belinda Beasley, from one mother to another, I say: your strength, your voice and your determination are making a difference far beyond what any of us can measure. Jack's name will live on not just in memory, but in action. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (5.15 pm): It is my great privilege to add my support to this bill to finally make Jack's Law permanent in Queensland and to deliver nation-leading knife-detecting legislation to our state. Today we are making sure Jack Beasley's legacy is forever enshrined in the statute books of our state. Making Jack's Law permanent means so much to so many people in my part of the Gold Coast. Jack's senseless murder on a busy street in the middle of our city at the start of the holiday period was devastating. He was a young man doing something we have all done: heading out for a night with his mates in Surfers. The impact of the series of decisions that the young men who attacked Jack and his mates made was unimaginable but because of this bill, change is now permanently going to happen in Jack's name.

I start by paying tribute to Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda. They are here in the gallery to see these laws passed, their legacy in their son's name. I am so proud of their strength and their determination. They will do anything to make sure no other family has to go through what they have: the trauma they have had to experience alongside Jack's brother, Mitch, the rest of his family and all of Jack's mates, especially those who were with him that night. Countless other families will be spared that because of this legislation.

Brett and Belinda, I hope you are proud of what you have achieved. Thank you for all you do. Together, we started with a simple petition about the Helensvale station where Jack's killer got off the train and onto a tram for the journey into Surfers. That turned into the Jack Beasley Foundation being created at our local pub. I have good news for Brett: I have some stubbies of Gold in my office for later on. One of my team members came back with cans of Gold, but I made sure that was corrected for you, mate. That is Brett's go-to drink.

Mr Minnikin: That is customer service.

Mr O'CONNOR: That is customer service; I will take that interjection. The message was clear from that petition: Detect Knives, Save Lives. It ultimately led to the first version of these laws. Since then Jack's Law has become the foundation for Queensland's approach to tackling knife crime and now under this bill it will be made permanent and better than ever.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 delivers on our commitment to back police and to keep communities safe. I want to acknowledge my colleagues, firstly, the now Attorney-General, whom I brought to meet the Beasleys in mid-2020 when she was our leader. She has been a wonderful supporter of their family ever since.

At the start of the 2020 election campaign, Deb visited the Helensvale Hornets. We stood on the field where Jack had played footy from when he was five years old, the field that is named in his honour. Once a Hornet, always a Hornet. We announced our firm commitment then to give our police the powers they need to detect knives. We said we wanted to see stronger stop-and-search powers in hotspots like Surfers Paradise.

I want to thank the Premier, who represents that great football club, for his strong support of the Beasleys from the beginning as well. During the most recent election campaign the now Premier visited the Arundel Tavern in my community to make a firm commitment to the Beasleys that we would make Jack's Law permanent. Unfortunately, that was not universally supported. The now opposition leader, Steven Miles—and I will quote the *Courier-Mail* reporting of our commitment to make Jack's Law permanent. The article states he—

... slammed the Opposition's announcement as "bizarre", but also did not explicitly say he would make the laws permanent.

I am happy to see that the Labor Party has had a change of heart and will be supporting this legislation. I also pay tribute to the member for Morayfield for getting the first version of Jack's Law through. I am still not sure how he got the members of the left faction to agree with it, but I thank him for his hard work to back the Beasleys. I do wish that he had supported our amendment to make Jack's Law permanent at the time because if he did we would not be here today, but I do acknowledge his work to bring forth the first version of Jack's Law. I also thank the police minister, who has been a longstanding supporter of the Beasley family and who has listened to police on the front line in every corner of our state to improve this legislation, and that is because these powers work. Since the expansion of the original knife detection powers of Jack's Law in April 2023, more than 1,100 weapons have been taken off the streets of Queensland. More than 130,000 people have been scanned since 2021 and there have been just two complaints from the public, which I am told were from the same person. That is a testament to the professionalism of our police.

In the committee's deliberation on this bill, Acting Senior Sergeant Michael Chalmers said—

The public perception as we are doing them is one of the best policing moves. I have been in the job for 20 years, and the positivity from the public as we are doing these is unbelievable. I have done nearly 6,000 people and 90 per cent of them are thanking me after.

...

... when people see what we are doing there is a preventive nature about it and even positivity from members of the public so I cannot think of any other power that police have had that has had such an impact.

This bill ensures Jack's Law can be used more flexibly at major events like schoolies, music festivals and sporting events across Queensland, including on the Gold Coast. We have listened to the feedback of police and made changes to sensibly simplify the process they have to go through. It puts the focus where it should be—on preventing violent crime, not responding to it, and removing unnecessary hurdles that were in place that made operations so bureaucratic that in many cases some were simply not approved.

This bill fixes the sunset clause that was placed into Jack's Law. It makes it permanent by removing that, it allows our police to wand in safe night precincts and high-risk public places without delay, it enables wandering in other public places with faster authorisation from senior officers and it strengthens safeguards in that wandering will remain random, recorded and only undertaken by officers who have had that training. It is underpinned by this practical training and clear guidelines from our Queensland Police Service. It is a law that has been shaped by those on the front line, by the officers who told us the old rules were not working and by the communities that said that they wanted these powers permanent to deliver more safety.

Reporting mechanisms are retained with the commissioner, so in the annual report the number of handheld scanner authorities issued will need to be reported as well as the number of people scanned, the number of knives or other weapons found, the number of times search powers were exercised and the number and types of charges made as a result of Jack's Law. In response to calls for more data to be collected, the QPS confirmed that, when scanned, a person is not required to provide their name or date of birth and that body worn cameras must be activated by police as a further safeguard. The QPS further told the committee—

At the moment, we are looking weeks ahead before we do an authorisation for an operation coming on because it is a burden, and you could be doing multiple handheld scanning authorisations.

Again, they still need to be authorised by a senior officer who must consider the effect of undertaking wandering, whether previous wandering identified knives or other weapons, whether wandering will deter knife crime and for some places an intelligence assessment on whether there is reasonable grounds to believe a relevant offence may be committed in the next six months. The best comparison I have heard to this legislation is random breath testing or drug testing. This is something that is long accepted in Queensland, and I think Jack's Law will come to be viewed in the same way as well. It is also similar to other scanning that we go through in everyday life at an airport and before going to a major event. It is really important.


Again for the Beasley family, for Brett and Belinda, this is deeply personal and they should be so proud of their legacy. It is personal for me too. Jack lived in our community. His family are across our community and we are so proud to see what they have achieved by channelling their grief into this extraordinary campaign. Through their school visits, their education campaign and advocacy on the national stage, the Jack Beasley Foundation is driving change. Its One Moment presentation has been delivered to around 100 schools, with more to come. They are helping kids understand that carrying a knife is never the answer and that one bad decision in just a few seconds can destroy countless lives. I will end my contribution with a quote from Brett and Belinda and the Jack Beasley Foundation's submission—

There is nothing that could ever replace the loss of our beautiful boy—

Jack—

but knowing that we have been able to make some changes has given some comfort. It means so much to us that the weapons will be taken off the street and that communities throughout Queensland and Australia will be protected under Jack's name.

I also want to thank the members of the Queensland Police Service who played a role in delivering this—Rhys Wildman, Brad Rix and the detectives from Jack's case, Ash and Shane. They have done an outstanding job in how they have supported the Beasley family. I want to thank the committee for its excellent consideration of this bill and again thank the Premier and the police minister for backing our calls to make Jack's Law permanent. I want to finally thank Brett and Belinda Beasley for their courage and their advocacy. Because of Jack's Law, young Queenslanders will be safer when they head out on a night with their mates. Because of this bill, Jack Beasley will never be forgotten.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to add my support to both bills being debated here in cognate, both putting victims above offenders. Particularly while the Beasleys are in the public gallery I want to thank them for what they have done out of their unimaginable grief. I had the privilege of meeting them with Sam in the tavern many years ago. Out of what they have done does not just come a change in the law; it is a turning point in the culture of Queensland. When I came to Queensland in 1989 I was not aware of anybody thinking about carrying knives when they went out. That is not to say that they did not, but it certainly was not commonplace. If I go back to my time as a publican, it had started to become commonplace. At my business we used to have a metal detector and we used it every Friday and Saturday night, and it is nearly 20 years ago now when we were doing that, so the knife culture has been creeping in Queensland.

Out of the senseless death of Jack, we now see legislation that I think will pass this House with support from all sides and it is a turning point in the culture of Queensland where this House is reiterating what the community is saying, and that is that it is unacceptable to carry a knife in a public place in Queensland for the purposes of causing fear, intimidation, threat and/or causing grievous bodily harm or worse. Making these laws permanent and trusting our police to be able to execute these laws says a lot about what we expect in terms of the professionalism of the Queensland Police Service, the culture that it will have around using this and being sensitive to the invasion of privacy that some people may feel, but I think that everybody is willing to give that up to ensure that when you go shopping with your kids or your grandkids you are not walking past someone who has a bladed weapon on them as you are going about getting your groceries or having a coffee or anything else.

The senseless violence that can come in a matter of seconds from someone carrying such a weapon is something that is foreign to the Queensland culture and should remain foreign to the Queensland culture, and this House should uphold laws to ensure that people who want to bring that culture to our great state feel very uncomfortable and either decide to change their behaviour and accept the culture of Queensland or leave. We do not want people carrying bladed weapons in public areas and having a Police Service that has both the power and the capacity to be able to provide the deterrent is critically important, and all of that has come from the good work of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Brett and Belinda.

Whilst the legislation is fundamentally important, the shift in culture that this legislation marks I think is more important. I think everybody in Queensland accepts that this behaviour is foreign to both Australia and Queensland. As we debate this bill and it hopefully passes through this House, people should be aware that out of 115,000 wandings there have been two complaints, and not in reference to police behaviour; there have been 1,100 weapons, each capable of causing a tragedy like Brett and Belinda suffered, removed from our streets; and people who would perpetuate this culture have been charged—there have been 3,000-plus charges.

I end my contribution by thanking the Beasleys and the foundation they set up. I thank them for the work they do in our schools to change culture and make this kind of behaviour unacceptable. That is much more reflective of the Queensland I came to and the Queensland I want to support going forward—a place where everybody feels happy and safe going about their business, particularly in public areas. I very much thank them and I support both bills before the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Watts, adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the House of those members on a warning: the members for Cooper, Cairns, Logan, Jordan, Nanango, Mansfield and Coomera.

MOTION

Redistribution Commission



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. notes media reports that legal advice has been obtained that calls into question the validity of the consultation process undertaken by LNP Attorney-General Frecklington to appoint individuals to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission.
2. notes that the actions of LNP Attorney-General Frecklington and the Crisafulli LNP government are at conflict with the views of Liberal Party elder Santo Santoro.
3. endorses statements regarding electoral redistribution commissioners by former Liberal Clayfield member Santo Santoro in this parliament when he said: '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.'
4. pursuant to standing order 27 require the Attorney-General to table by 5 pm, 12 June 2025, all documents, including advice, correspondence and emails in respect of the Queensland Redistribution Commission appointments.
5. establish a select committee known as the 'Prevention of corruption in Queensland electoral boundaries committee':
 - (a) to inquire and report into:
 - (i) the LNP government's appointment process to the independent Queensland Redistribution Commission, in particular the appointment of John Sosso.
 - (ii) whether the LNP government misled the Governor of Queensland via Governor in Council regarding the appointment process and the consultation which occurred.
 - (b) with the committee consisting of six members, three government members and three non-government members with a non-government member chairperson.
 - (c) with the committee having the power to call for persons, documents and other things.
 - (d) with the committee reporting to the Legislative Assembly by 11 July 2025.

As I said yesterday, for the LNP integrity is just a slogan but for us it is a standard. When it comes to the Queensland Redistribution Commission, it is not a joke. We are not just talking about a line on a map. It is a line we will not let this government cross—not without a fight. This motion is about one thing: ensuring the Queensland Redistribution Commission, the very body responsible for drawing the electoral boundaries that define our democracy, is above politics, above suspicion and above reproach.

We have seen the reports. We have seen the legal advice questioning the validity of the consultation undertaken by the LNP. We have a right to be concerned, to be suspicious. Instead of taking on feedback, this government has doubled down. In this motion we quote Liberal Party heavyweight Santo Santoro, who warned this very House—

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.

They are not my words; they are his. Yet here we are, facing exactly the situation he warned about.

Naturally, in a democracy those opposite will have contrary views to us on many issues. We do not have to agree on everything, of course, but what we should agree on is the principles that guide the formation of this House. The Queensland Redistribution Commission exists to ensure that electoral

boundaries are drawn fairly and transparently, that no party—not Labor, not the LNP, not anyone—can gerrymander the system to their own advantage. This is why we are demanding action with this motion. It is why we are calling on the LNP to change the membership of that commission, to remove Mr John Sosso from the Redistribution Commission.

This is not a matter of personal politics; it is a matter of public record that leads to legitimate concerns. His history, his associations, and the way this appointment was made have eroded trust. The answer is not silence or stonewalling; the answer should be transparency, which is why we called upon the Attorney to table the advice she received. Yesterday the LNP voted to keep that advice secret. Tonight, will they again vote to hide those documents from Queenslanders? That is not letting the sun shine in.

Yesterday the Attorney-General said that this secret briefing note advised her to appoint Mr Sosso. Did the department investigate his history? Did they consider the impact it would have on trust in the commission or in those processes?

Mr Bleijie: What history?

Mr MILES: These concerns have been well documented. For the Deputy Premier to so ignorantly claim that he is unaware of these concerns—


Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I note that your name is on the speaking list so you will get your turn very soon. At the moment, it is the member for Murrumba.

Mr MILES: We want to ensure the independence of the Redistribution Commission. Some members will be aware that I know better than most the implications of a redistribution, where seats can be abolished, but I never once questioned that decision in 2017 because I had confidence in the independence of the process. Members of this place who could well see their seats abolished or boundaries moved deserve that same confidence—that they were not singled out, that it was not a partisan decision, that the decision was made through a process they could have the same confidence in that I had in 2017. I want everyone in this place to have that same certainty and I want Queenslanders to have that certainty. They deserve nothing less.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you used some unparliamentary language in that outburst. I ask you to withdraw that.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'That this House' be omitted and the following paragraphs inserted:

- '1. notes media reports of legal advice provided to the opposition by a former Labor staffer and Labor's lawyer of choice, Peter Willis SC;
2. notes extensive consultation conducted by the Attorney-General;
3. notes media reports questioning the validity of the decision by the member for Woodridge to appoint his chief of staff, Michael Carey, as the Under Treasurer when in government;
4. notes media reports questioning the validity of the member for Murrumba's decision to appoint self-admitted electoral fraudster and former Labor MP and state secretary Mike Kaiser as director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet;
5. notes John Sosso's 40 years of public service under both sides of politics;
6. condemns Labor's constant and vicious attacks on independent public servants.'

You would wonder where this motion comes from. Those on the other side of the House start their motion with reference to 'media reports' regarding legal advice. Come on! The dial-a-lawyer for Albo has been busy. A media report states—

Peter Willis SC, acting for the ALP, said the legal bid was an 'omnishambles'.

That was a blow for Anthony Albanese. Another article is headed 'Federal court orders removal of anti-Labor signs ...'. Another article states—

... Peter Willis SC, representing the party's national executive, said the case should be dismissed.

Another article is headed 'Give us back our dues, union members tell Labor'. That is right: they were represented by ALP's legal counsel Peter Willis in legal hearings. I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles regarding Victorian electorates.

The opposition is publicly and in this House criticising a former District Court judge and slighting the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland. It is shameful. The process, as we know, was followed exactly. Let me tell the House about the government's consultation process, where I followed section 6 of the Electoral Act. Those opposite know it full well. Crown Law has said to me—

The Attorney-General has written to the relevant parties to obtain their views, in accordance with the act. This is an acceptable and standard process.

I like this bit—

Consult does not provide the person the right to veto an outcome.

Opposition members might want to google that, because it comes from a CFMEU case.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General was quoting from a document citing legal advice. I move—

That, under standing order 30, the Attorney-General table the advice.

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

AYES, 34:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, 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, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon

Resolved in the negative.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: When we talk about the consultation process under section 6, not only did I follow it, I went further. Back in December I wrote to the committee and I said, 'Are you happy with this consultation process?' They came back and they said, 'The committee has no further comments regarding the process proposed.' Then I wrote to the committee again suggesting the members and they wrote back and said, 'The committee has no further comments.' There are Labor members on the committee. At the time they had no problems with Mr Sosso, the District Court judge or the Electoral Commissioner. Then I wrote to the Katter party and I spoke to the Katter party. Then I went further than those jokers ever would have and I wrote to the party of one. Under the act I did not need to. I wrote to Michael Berkman, the leader of the Greens, and I said, 'I want to consult with the leader of the Greens.' I wrote to the opposition leader. Guess when I heard what his answer was? I read about it on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. Then I came in here and—talk about consultation—I stood up and I answered all the questions. I go back to that advice where it says just because—

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: You are not the Premier of the day, mate.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, Mr Speaker. The member for Murrumba has never got over the fact that he lost. I am going to have to give the remaining documents to the next speaker because I have got two more bombshells for those opposite. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, move aside and give it to Butch. He would do a better job.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (5.46 pm): What a display! Yesterday those opposite voted to make sure that the member for Nanango, the Attorney-General, did not have to table her evidence and today they have done it again. What do they have to hide? What does the Attorney-General have to hide? Why do they keep pulling down the shutters to make sure that she does not have to present any information whatsoever?

I rise in full support of the motion of the Leader of the Opposition which is rooted in one of the most fundamental principles of our democracy. The public must have absolute confidence in the integrity of the institutions that determine how their voices are represented in this parliament. When

former Liberal member for Clayfield, Santo Santoro, said in this House that 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, his words do not appear to have been partisan, they appear to be principled. They spoke to a truth that transcends political lines—that democracy must not only be fair but be seen to be fair. What we have witnessed from the Crisafulli LNP government undermines that principle. This government, which has spoken publicly about restoring integrity in public life, has appointed a redistribution commissioner without, it can be argued, genuine consultation across this chamber, without seeking the confidence of all parties and, it would appear, without regard for the legislative requirements. That is not a small oversight, it is a breach of the very trust upon which our democratic processes rely.

Further, one of the individuals appointed, Mr John Sosso, is someone whose longstanding associations with the LNP are not incidental, they are well known and well documented. While Mr Sosso may bring experience, experience alone does not equate to impartiality. When someone is appointed to an office that demands the highest level of independence, perception matters just as much as reality. Let us be clear: electoral redistributions shape the future of democracy in Queensland. The people who draw the boundaries must be independent, must be impartial and, crucially, must be seen to be both. Concerns have been raised not only by those on this side of the House but also by respected voices outside this chamber. Former judge Tony Fitzgerald, a Queenslander, as we all know, synonymous with integrity and institutional reform, publicly questioned this appointment. That should have prompted pause. Instead the government forged ahead.

The Attorney-General, the minister responsible for the state's legal and justice system, should have known that under the Electoral Act she is required to consult appropriately with political parties on matters related to the appointment of the Queensland Redistribution Commission. Given she says that one of the first briefs that was handed to her on 14 December 2024 was in relation to 'what we should do about the Electoral Commission' one would think that she would be aware of her responsibilities under the act. If the minister, who ironically is also responsible for integrity in this LNP government, is fair dinkum about her duties and agrees with the words of Santo Santoro she would release all relevant documents including advice, correspondence and emails in respect of the Queensland Redistribution Commission appointments.

This Crisafulli LNP government is blocking out any chance of letting the sun shine in and we have just seen it again today. It would seem that they are systematically drawing the blinds and boarding up the doors and windows to their government. That is why we are calling for the establishment of an independent select committee that will look closely at the appointment processes undertaken by the Attorney-General so that Queenslanders can trust that the next electoral boundaries are not drawn by a blue pencil in an LNP backroom. It is all about trust that the government is not rigging the system to favour their own political agenda, trust that this government's ministers are following the rules that make it fair for all Queenslanders and trust that Queenslanders can have confidence that the very principles that underpin this House are being upheld.

We are calling for an independent committee that will also investigate if this government misled the Governor in respect to the consultation requirements for the appointment of redistribution commissioners. This speaks to a much bigger issue and must have a bright light shone on it. To ensure the independence of the select committee, it must be led by a non-government chair. This motion is about protecting the democratic process; it is about ensuring the Queensland public can continue to trust that elections are fair and that those who draw electoral boundaries do so free from political interference or the appearance of it. That trust is not automatically granted, it is earned and it must be defended. That is why I am supporting this motion and that is why Labor will continue to defend the rights of this House.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I seek guidance pursuant to standing order 94 in relation to the scope of the original amendment. I refer you specifically to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the amendment. I submit that they are outside the scope of the original motion. The original motion pertains to legal advice about a process and not media reports about individuals. Therefore, I submit that paragraphs 3 and 4 are out of order. I seek your guidance in relation to that.

Mr SPEAKER: To your point of order, the original motion notes media reports that go towards the appointment and the amended motion also notes media reports that go to an appointment. I will allow the amendment as it stands.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.53 pm): I know why they are trying

to delete provisions of the amended motion. It is because if we were to refer to lots of media reports about Labor scandals and integrity over the last 10 years, or indeed 30 of the past 35 years of Labor governments, there would be no end. We would table integrity scandal after integrity scandal, media report after media report. This motion shows that you have a desperate member of parliament. The Leader of the Opposition is so desperate to cling on to his job that he wants to participate in theatrics and grubby politics. That is what this motion is about. That is why they will not let up on it. They say this is about integrity and transparency, but it is not. This is about grubby, dirty gutter politics. That is the Labor way and it is the only way they know how to play.

Mr Bailey: You know a lot about it. You are the master of it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take whatever interjection the member for Miller is making because he was the first minister in the Labor government to be subjected to a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation when he deleted emails. You want to talk scandals? The first mango scandal is sitting right over there! Out of all of them—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the gesticular interjection from the member. He should be quiet because he was the first member who engulfed the Palaszczuk government in a scandal. This is a desperate attempt by a desperate leader to cling to power, although I suspect it is not being driven by the member for Murrumba. I suspect it is being driven by the member to his right because the member to his right, the shadow Treasurer, wants—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: She is smiling and laughing. She loves it. She knows I am telling the truth. What is unfolding in the Labor Party is this: you have two left wing warriors, the member for Gaven and the shadow treasurer and member for Waterford, who are fighting for the position of opposition leader. They are trying to out grubby each other so they can show the backbench that they are a fighter; they are going to get a resignation; they are going to go into town and fight the good fight. That is what is happening and let us call it out for what it is.

Unfortunately, there is an independent public servant with 41 years of distinguished service in the middle of this fight between two grubby Labor politicians. John Sosso is the collateral damage for their ambition. That is what this is about and it is a disgrace. When they did it originally it was a disgrace, but what they have said now—and I note they are not saying much of it outside because they know that Mr Sosso would be able to sue for defamation. I wish he would, but I suspect he will not because he is an honourable man who has a distinguished career serving the public for 41 years. He just cops it and he should not. They are an absolute disgrace.

I suspect the member for Waterford will jump up in a minute and talk about Fitzgerald. Let's correct the record. It was not Fitzgerald who came out publicly. The member for Waterford phoned him and then the member for Waterford, in her words, drafted and released an email of his apparent concerns.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that highly offensive. It is wrong. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I wonder if the member who is about to speak would like to give context to that phone call. What did she say to Mr Fitzgerald to then produce that email from Mr Fitzgerald? Incidentally, if you read that email it is not quite what the Labor Party says. They are verballing Mr Fitzgerald. I would love to know what the conversation was and the reason for the call.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Oh here you are: the fighter!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you have had quite a go. You are now warned. You will get your opportunity to speak shortly.

Mr BLEIJIE: On full display is a war of ambition between the shadow attorney-general and the shadow treasurer. A man with a distinguished public service career is the collateral damage of Labor Party internal fights. Even more than that, this shows a lack of leadership by the member for Murrumba who has been led astray by the member for Waterford in terms of this attack. Mr John Sosso has given 41 years of service to both sides of politics. What they are doing is besmirching not only the reputation of Mr John Sosso but also former judge John Koppenol, who chairs the commission, and the ECQ commissioner. Their reflections on Mr Sosso reflect on the whole commission. The commission is

independent. They will do their job for all Queenslanders in terms of the redistribution and they will do it impartially and independently.

(Time expired)



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (5.59 pm): Reflecting on the Deputy Premier's contribution, it is interesting that he is lecturing us on this side when it was he who leaked confidential discussions with judges and heads of jurisdiction when he was the attorney-general. I cannot sit here and be lectured by the worst attorney-general in this state's history about phone calls and leaking confidential information. I will not take it, and I absolutely reject his inferences. I really do welcome the Deputy Premier getting on his feet in this place and fronting the cameras any time because we on this side of the House know that every time he is on TV their primary vote goes down.

An opposition member: Our vote goes up.

Ms FENTIMAN: And ours goes up. They remember what he was like when he was the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history. We know why the Deputy Premier desperately wants his director-general on the commission. It is for the same reason he directed the Attorney-General to put the same individual on the selection panel for judges: the Deputy Premier's hand-picked director-general will do just what the Deputy Premier asks him to do. That is why we are here. That is why we have moved this motion.

Tony Fitzgerald sounded the alarm bells because we are headed back to the dark old days of the gerrymander. I am sorry, but when Tony Fitzgerald has something to say on integrity I would have thought that the Premier and the Deputy Premier might want to listen. This is not just about John Sosso—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Waterford has the call. Member for Kawana, you have had your turn.

Ms FENTIMAN: This is not just about John Sosso; this is about a pattern of conduct we are seeing from those opposite. They are a government that believe the rules do not apply to them. They are a government that are willing to compromise the integrity of our electoral system.

Let's call this out for what it is: a deeply partisan appointment that is reminiscent of the bad old days of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Just this week the *Courier Mail* reported that legal advice shows that the consultation process undertaken by the Attorney-General under the Electoral Act may not have been properly followed. Let's be clear: the Attorney-General has a legal obligation to consult. That does not mean it is a tick and flick exercise. It does not mean that it is enough to send out a few letters; the Attorney-General actually has to demonstrate, according to law, that she took on board the feedback.

Of course, the Attorney-General was too busy and kept saying over and over that her nominee was above reproach. She never took on board the feedback. She never agreed to meet with the Leader of the Opposition. She has not complied with her obligations under the Electoral Act, and that has put the whole commission at risk.

This is fundamental to Queenslanders having trust in the electoral system and our democracy. I am absolutely certain that, if she wanted to be open and transparent, the Attorney-General could table any legal advice she has from Crown Law and any briefings she has from her department. That is what this motion is calling for tonight. We have already seen them vote against being transparent tonight, and I have no doubt they still will not be upfront and transparent with Queenslanders by providing that documentation.

This motion also goes further. We are calling for a full inquiry—a select committee with the power to call witnesses and scrutinise documents to get the truth not just about John Sosso but also about whether the Governor of Queensland was misled. I am certain that the Deputy Premier would love to be able to reassure His Majesty King Charles that his representative in Queensland was not misled by this government. I am sure he will lose sleep over whether or not King Charles's representative was misled. I am sure he would want to get to the bottom of that. I am sure he would want to know that no stone was unturned, that they have followed the process under the Electoral Act and that the governor was not misled.

This motion was absolutely about how arrogant the government really are. Despite our raising these concerns over and over again, they are determined to drag Queensland back into the murky waters of the past—a political past of gerrymandering and secrecy.

(Time expired)



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.04 pm): That is one of the most underwhelming arguments and cases I have ever heard put forward by the Labor Party in my time in this place, and I have heard plenty of them. When I listened to the Leader of the Opposition make his speech, he said that for Labor it is a standard. I was reminded of that old saying that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. When it comes to the Labor Party, they do not just walk past a standard; they sprint past it. They make Gout Gout look like a tortoise when it comes to the standards they are prepared to accept on their side.

Let's have look at the standards they have previously accepted which go to the heart of the electoral system in this state. They took 18 minutes to pass laws that were recommended by Tony Fitzgerald. That is their great shining light on the hill—18 minutes. They came in here and did a dirty deal to change the voting method to ensconce themselves. What happened then? What did they say then? They changed the optional preferential voting system to ensconce themselves. That is the standard that the Labor Party hold themselves to. There was no debate and no consultation. They just walked in and passed it in 18 minutes. They are the guilty party when it comes to that.

Let's talk about the financial gerrymander they brought in. They said to their mates in the union movement, 'Donate as much as you like, fellas. Go for it. You can walk down the street, you can hold public servants to ransom in front of the Main Roads building but you can still write out a cheque. You can threaten to rape people.' Remember when they disgustingly said that? Did they hand one dollar back? Did they hand back one dollar of the dirty donations? No. They rewarded them. What did they do? They appointed Dave Hanna onto the board and they appointed Jade Ingham onto the board of the QBCC. They appointed them to boards that regulate every aspect of people's lives.

What happened when David Barbagallo, the chief of staff of the premier of the day, gave himself a grant? What was the story there? The premier of the day did not even look at his disclosure statement, but when they did it was incomplete—\$400,000 of taxpayers' money without any let or hindrance. There is a litany of them. Former premier Palaszczuk threatened to cut the Katter party's funding if they did not agree with her in this place—the only premier held in contempt of this parliament. That is the standard that the Labor Party sets.

They had Mike Summerell, the State Archivist, driven out of the country. Nikola Stepanov was put under the microscope and the Stormtroopers ran in there. Then we had the shadow treasurer and the cover-up of the Peter Carne and Jackie Trad matters. In estimates, she had to come back and correct the record twice because she would not answer questions properly. Then we go back and remember Peter Beattie—the only premier who changed the law to remove misleading parliament as an offence from the Criminal Code so he could protect Gordon Nuttall. That is the standard of the Labor Party. It is hypocritical of the Labor Party to come in here and say that they are the guardians of democracy in this place. It is a complete and utter fabrication.

Make no mistake that this is being driven by one thing and one thing only: grubby political action. They have nowhere to go. They cannot find a crack in what we are doing. They cannot make inroads, so what do they do? They do what the Labor Party always does—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier—they cannot even ask a question in question time without being sat down on three occasions. That is the competency of the Labor Party. Go ahead and have another go.

Make no mistake: when they cannot win by playing fairly, they play the man. They get into the gutter, like they always have. It does not matter whether it is Mr Sosso—who Tony Fitzgerald has not said a word against—David Rosengren or Sam Sangster because they are the guilty party. They have nothing to stand on. Their case is hollow. They are truly the hollow men and women of the Queensland parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: Just before you resume your seat, member for Clayfield, you did use an unparliamentary term. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: Apologies. I withdraw.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (6.09 pm): I wonder why I do not participate in this one-hour blight on sessional orders very often! Nonetheless, I am here.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maiwar has the call.

Mr BERKMAN: Broadly, I am here because I think this is an issue that is important enough to be bothered supporting. I certainly support the general thrust of the motion. Some of the detail I will leave to later.

We simply cannot overstate the fundamental importance of our electoral system to politics generally in Queensland. The role of the Redistribution Commission is so pivotal to that. I will agree entirely with the words of the Leader of the Opposition, my erstwhile opponent in the now abolished seat of Mount Coot-tha. We need to have faith in the basis for the decisions that the Redistribution Commission is making.

I do not think many of us would have thought we would see the day when we would agree with Santo Santoro quite so emphatically. The idea, which is so fundamental to the quote of his that has been included in the motion, is that the public perception here is so fundamental. I am not going to spend any of my time reflecting on Mr Sosso specifically. Plenty of others have spent their time on that. Quite frankly, I think it should be entirely reasonable to expect that someone both participates in public life as a public servant and has engagement with a political party according to their views. It is not about his political and personal views; it is about the potential or the perception risk of him being a member of the Redistribution Commission.

These are appointments—in fact, let's move a step back. It is always important that government appointments are made on merit—that they are made for proper purposes. Just like with any potential conflict of interest, we need to be absolutely scrupulous in making sure there is no conflict of interest or potential or perceived conflict of interest. I think it is even more important in this particular case, where we are talking about the very integrity of our electoral system—that ground floor for the whole of democracy in Queensland that we are talking about.

I will go a step further. I think there is plenty of evidence on both sides of this House. They both have form in terms of appointing friends, or at least people who are friendly or people who are friendly to their ideology, into very important roles. One might even call it—I will quote here—'handing out sweet deals for their mates'. I think there has been a bit of that happen under governments of all colours. This is so much more important because of not only the role but also the risk of perception of improper motives from this government. They have really dug a hole for themselves. We are seeing form. We are seeing form similar to what we have seen with the previous LNP government. We saw how popular that was with Queensland, right?


I want to look at one other recent appointment that I think is particularly telling. It is the person I quoted just a moment ago: 'handing out sweet deals for their mates'. I have come to know, probably better than most or many in this place, one Julian Simmonds, the former member for Ryan. This is a guy who has been a party hack, I suspect, since the day he set foot in university—certainly since the day he stepped out of the place when he started working in the Walter Taylor Ward electorate office until he took the role on after his boss moved into federal parliament. He then had no compunction whatsoever stabbing her in the back when he wanted to knock her off to get himself into the federal parliament. He took that seat. He got turfed out—shock, horror—after one term. Then, in one of the most exquisite displays of like a butthurt loser I have ever seen, he goes and starts up Australians for Prosperity to stand directly against those members who turfed out the Liberals. This is the guy who they have now chosen to appoint as the CEO of EDQ. This is less than six months after he is on his Australians for Prosperity site whingeing about Labor 'handing out sweet deals for their mates'. The hypocrisy is gobsmacking.

If that is their form, if that is the kind of appointment they have made within their first six months in the Queensland government, how is any Queenslanders supposed to have faith in the rest of their appointments especially when they are refusing to hand over basic information like the advice, like the basis on which they have made this appointment? It is not hard.

Going to the detail of the motion, just give us the advice. It is nice to see Labor picking up on the idea that we should have impartial, non-government chairs on committees. Let's see how they go in estimates this year.

Mr SPEAKER: Your time has expired. I will also ask you to withdraw an unparliamentary term in amongst that too, if you would, please.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly, I withdraw.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.14 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Attorney-General after yet another subpar parliamentary performance from those opposite this week. It is always fun to follow the member for

Waterford, who must be the worst child safety minister this country has ever seen, who went to Splendour in the Grass when kids were dying on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. We know that she was the worst health minister in the country. The member for Waterford is the only health minister sacked by all of Queensland at the last election. We know that she is lining up for the poor old member for Murrumba's job. I actually feel a little bit sorry for him.

I have some advice for the member for Waterford: if you are going to run to be leader, the first thing you do is you do not believe your own publicity. Then you have to make sure you have the numbers. After that you have to make sure you can count. The worst thing you can do is have Jackie Trad ring round for your numbers and have the member for Miller helping!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: This is the member for Waterford who believes her own publicity—Jackie Trad's puppet. She is the Whistler ski bunny mate of Jackie Trad—Jackie Trad's little puppet. She is the shadow leader of the opposition in waiting.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: The member for Waterford is the smiling assassin, licking her lips to take the top job. My, what big teeth the member for Waterford has!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, if you can confine your debate—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER:—member for Pine Rivers you are warned—to the motion.

Ms BATES: Will do, Mr Speaker. Yet again we have seen those opposite more interested in besmirching the reputation of a dedicated public servant than delivering for their communities in Queensland. Here is another bit of information for the member for Waterford. There is an old saying, 'Wisdom has been chasing you, member for Waterford, but you have always been too fast.'

Mr Sosso is a public servant who has given some 41 years of service to this state. He is a public servant who has served diligently in both Labor and LNP governments. He is a public servant who worked on the electoral laws for the Goss government, no less. Yet those opposite come into this place and have tried repeatedly to besmirch his reputation, calling it into question and casting all sorts of despicable aspersions, none of which they will make outside of the chamber.

The truth of the matter is simple: the Department of Justice prepared advice regarding the membership of the Queensland Redistribution Commission. Consistent with the requirements of the act, the Department of Justice recommended the appointment of appropriately qualified chief executives. Those recommendations—from the Department of Justice—include the chief executive of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.


As a director-general for both the justice and planning portfolios, Mr Sosso is arguably one of the most qualified chief executives to ever be proposed for appointment to the Redistribution Commission, but the facts never matter to those opposite. Why worry about the truth when a cheap smear campaign will be run in the media. We should not be surprised about that, coming from a Labor Party that have demonstrated a total lack of respect for independent public servants during their decade in power.

What is this latest round of attacks based on? So-called unseen advice by a former Labor staffer turned Victorian barrister who has acted for Labor in the Federal Court. They could not even be bothered to engage a Queensland barrister! The advice, if the media reports are to be believed, argues that the appointment may not be valid. A lawyer, hired by the Labor Party, arguing that something may not be the case—an argument in full agreement with the Queensland Labor Party's position—well wonders never cease! This is not to mention, in sharp contrast, the actual advice—the Crown Law advice—has confirmed that 'proper consultation processes were followed'.

Further, let's not forget the form those opposite have in this space. Those opposite are quick to forget who they appointed as head of the Queensland Public Service. Here is a hint: he was a former Labor Party MP, a former Labor state secretary, a former chief of staff to Anna Bligh, a self-admitted electoral fraudster. He was the Leader of the Opposition's pick to head up the Queensland Public Service.

Let's not forget about other Labor appointments of note, like when the member for Woodridge appointed his chief of staff Michael Carey as the Under Treasurer when in government. Better still, let's not forget about the puppetmaster of the Labor Party, the former member for South Brisbane, Jackie Trad, who was besties with the member for Waterford—so much so they go skiing together. How hypocritical are those opposite to come into this place and talk about transparency given the cover-up performed by the member for Waterford and the member for Murrumba to benefit their mate Jackie Trad. How much did the member for Waterford cost Queensland taxpayers covering up for her skiing mate? When Jackie Trad applied to the Supreme Court to have the PCCC report withheld, it was the member for Waterford who facilitated it.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.19 pm): Given her history, the LNP is really struggling when all they can find is the member for Mudgeeraba to stand up and talk about integrity in appointments. The Premier spent a lot of time before the election trying to make himself out to be different to past conservative politicians, distancing himself from Campbell Newman despite the decisions made by those around the cabinet table, many of whom are still sitting across from us today, but how quickly the facade dropped when they came to government. It has not taken him long to show that, when he said integrity matters, it actually means nothing.

If the Premier was serious about making the redistribution of our electoral boundaries a nonpartisan issue and process, then he would have genuinely consulted with Labor, with Katter's Australian Party, with the Greens and Independents. He would have made his Attorney-General actually sit down with the opposition when we asked to talk about this in good faith, not consultation just when it is convenient. If he was genuine about making sure that the perception of the people who are appointed to draw our electoral boundaries was not rigged, then he would have admitted that the Attorney-General did not properly consider the concerns that were raised by the opposition, which, seemingly, is in contrast with her obligations under the Electoral Act.

He should have said, 'Yes, I acknowledge the concerns raised by Labor,' even if he did not agree with them, and then appointed one of the many other directors-general who did not have a political affiliation. Frankly, that would have made him look like a bigger person. Instead, we are here having to try and compel the Attorney-General to table documents in respect to the Redistribution Commission process and establish a prevention of corruption in Queensland electoral boundaries committee.

I will remind the House why we are here this evening. Corruption buster Tony Fitzgerald, whom I know those opposite do not like listening to, named Mr Sosso as being susceptible to influence. When he talks, politicians should listen. This is not a matter of personal politics; it is a matter of public record. That leads to some very legitimate concerns. The Attorney-General is keeping secret whether her department investigated Mr Sosso's history, his association with the LNP and his frankly bizarre relationship with the Deputy Premier. In fact, at no point does it appear that the Attorney-General met with Mr Sosso to discuss whether he believed he could be impartial, but I am happy to stand corrected if that is the case. We saw a lot of meetings with the Deputy Premier and not very many meetings with the Attorney-General and Mr Sosso.

We are in the middle of a housing crisis, and instead of asking director-general Sosso to prioritise the stack of affordable housing projects sitting on his desk or the Deputy Premier's desk, all of those projects that are waiting to get the tick-off, instead they have decided to appoint him to determine our electoral boundaries and who will be a judge or a magistrate in this state. No more obvious is the influence Premier Bleijie has—sorry, I mean Deputy Premier Bleijie—over some of the projects we have seen axed so far than in Birtinya, in his own electorate. They literally tore up an approval I gave to a community housing provider. Now we are supposed to believe that I was advised by the department to approve this project and then suddenly, after a change of government with no influence from the Deputy Premier whatsoever, after he has been railing against this project in his electorate, the department changes its position. Why was this project and no other project considered to be reviewed in the first place?

It is a pattern. Look at the decision to join an appeal on an LNP donor's luxury ecotourism project. Initially, the department said there was no state interest that warranted the department's involvement. Then, as court documents later showed, after a letter from the local member to the Deputy Premier they backflipped, claiming they were under a genuine misapprehension about the importance of tourism to the state interest, which apparently only became clear after receiving that letter from Jarrod Bleijie, the Deputy Premier. Influence, or even a perception of it, should not be part of the foundations of our democracy. If the Premier is different, as he purports to be, then he will listen not only to this side of the

House and not just to the media, but to Tony Fitzgerald. Do the right thing. Properly consult and admit that you have got it wrong.

(Time expired)



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.24 pm): That is grubby gutter politics from Labor politicians who are not able to accept that the Queensland public rejected them over their performance. After nearly 10 years of failure, 10 years of neglect, Queenslanders had their say in October. That is why we are here tonight, because they do not get it. They still think that Queenslanders got it wrong. They still think that they were the best government Queensland has ever seen, that they were the most transparent and capable government. Never mind what everyone else thought; they think they were wonderful.

Yesterday the member for Waterford said, 'Electoral boundaries determine who wins and who loses'. It was not record youth crime, not the country's worst ambulance ramping, not integrity failure after integrity failure, not a new tax like the patient's, tax, not a premier who was held in contempt of the parliament. Electoral boundaries: that tells you everything about their mindset. In their minds they know that Queenslanders got it wrong. They did not fail. They did not fail when people were killed in their homes. They did not fail when people died on a ramp at a hospital. Queenslanders got it wrong, and that is why we are here today. The member for Woodridge actually said at the last sitting 'when we're back on the government benches'. He did not say, 'When we're blessed with Queenslanders' confidence after we bring them back from the abyss of a failure of trust and a deficit of confidence in Labor.' He said, 'When we are back on the government benches'. That is how the member for Woodridge sees the world.

Mr Krause: So arrogant.

Mr MICKELBERG: Arrogance and hubris writ large from the member for Woodridge. If those opposite genuinely want to win back Queenslanders' trust, they can start by admitting their failures: ambulance ramping, youth crime, record debt and deficit.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 236. I do not see how any of this is relevant to the motion or the amendment. I know a wide berth is given during these debates, but this is completely irrelevant.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, there is a motion before us. If you could concentrate a little bit on that. It is a wideranging debate, I will grant you.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. They do not like it because they know it is the truth. The opposition leader said at the start of this debate that integrity is the standard they live by in the Labor Party. What about Trad? What about Carne? What about Barbagallo? What about Miller?

A government member: What about Kaiser?

Mr MICKELBERG: What about Kaiser? Who could forget Kaiser? What about when the opposition leader could not even accept the outcome of a democratic election? On election night he could not even bring himself to acknowledge that Queenslanders had had their say and they did not want him. I still have not heard him. Has anyone heard the opposition leader accept the outcome of the election yet? Crickets. That is the opposition leader's integrity.

The opposition leader talks about standards. I am frequently reminded of a former chief of army I served under who said that the standard you walk past is the standard you accept. Where was the opposition leader when his mentor, Jackie Trad, was before the CCC on corruption allegations—or some members of the opposition frontbench right now? Multiple members of the opposition frontbench currently being investigated by the CCC: he is silent on it.

Where was the Leader of the Opposition when he appointed Mike Kaiser as his director-general of Premier and cabinet, a man who was responsible for overseeing the opposition. He was hardly an impartial arbiter, I would suggest. A Labor Party MP, a former state secretary and an admitted electoral fraudster was appointed as the highest director-general in this state, responsible for overseeing the good governance of not just the government but the opposition, responsible for providing resources to the opposition. That is who the Leader of the Opposition appointed when he had his chance. That is what the Leader of the Opposition thinks about integrity and standards.

This is nothing more than a hollow attack designed to distract from their failures. They do not have a legislative agenda. They do not have a policy agenda. They are bereft of ideas because they will not accept the view of the Queensland public. Long may they stay on the opposition benches.

Mr SPEAKER: We have had a lot of interruptions so I am going to set the clock for two minutes.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.30 pm): Mr Speaker, thank you for your generosity this evening. I am delighted to rise this evening to say a few words in support of this important motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. After all of that hot talk about integrity, character and openness from the LNP, Queenslanders know this: they see the LNP revealing themselves each and every day, because it is the actions of the LNP that speak much louder than their words. Queenslanders see what the LNP do every day. Queenslanders are seeing it. They have broken promises with such speed and rapidity and in such large numbers that Queenslanders cannot keep up. Despite their words to the contrary, those opposite have delayed health infrastructure, they have axed housing projects, they have reneged on cost of living and there will be a new stadium. This goes to the heart of the integrity of the LNP.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance per your ruling when I was on my feet. I know it is a broad debate, but I am not sure that health infrastructure is a part of the debate.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, there is a point of order on relevance. You have one minute left. There is a motion before the House—your motion—if you want to speak to it.

Mr DICK: When it comes to integrity, we see it on display with the absolute abuse of power by appointing John Sosso to the Queensland Redistribution Commission. You could not find a worse person and a person less qualified to be appointed to this position. Why? Because he has been a partisan actor for political parties, in particular the LNP, for 40 years. This is a man who was chased out of the Fitzgerald inquiry by Tony Fitzgerald himself and told to go back to the justice department. That is the man who this government wants to appoint to the body that is going to determine the size and shape of electorates in Queensland.

It undermines the very nature of democracy in Queensland because the LNP have no respect for these institutions. They think every institution is their political play thing. When it comes to a lack of integrity and a lack of honesty, who is right at the centre of it? The Premier and his right hand man—the real premier, Jarrod Bleijie, who is pulling the strings about all of this.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the amendment be agreed to. Those of that opinion say 'aye'.

Government members: Aye.

Mr Dick: Aye.

Mr SPEAKER: Those against, 'no'.

Opposition members: No.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it.

Opposition members: Divide.

Mr SPEAKER: A division has been called. Ring the bells.

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

In division—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition voted 'aye' for the amendment. A division has been called. He is required to leave on his own motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for that.

Whereupon the honourable member for Woodridge withdrew from the chamber at 6.33 pm.

AYES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 33:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, 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, 1—Sullivan.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

AYES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 33:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Howard, J. Kelly, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes media reports of legal advice provided to the opposition by a former Labor staffer and Labor's lawyer of choice, Peter Willis SC;
2. notes extensive consultation conducted by the Attorney-General;
3. notes media reports questioning the validity of the decision by the member for Woodridge to appoint his chief of staff, Michael Carey, as the Under Treasurer when in government;
4. notes media reports questioning the validity of the member for Murrumbidgee's decision to appoint self-admitted electoral fraudster and former Labor MP and state secretary Mike Kaiser as director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet;
5. notes John Sosso's 40 years of public service under both sides of politics;
6. condemns Labor's constant and vicious attacks on independent public servants.

Sitting suspended from 6.40 pm to 7.40 pm.


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. 1662, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.40 pm): I rise to speak specifically on the amendments that were circulated a couple of hours ago, regarding toll amendments specifically. These amendments are a sneaky and shameless attempt to make it easier to increase and introduce new tolls. In terms of introducing tolls, this could affect the Story Bridge and the Coomera Connector. In terms of increasing existing tolls, this could affect the Gateway Bridge and the Logan Motorway. These amendments look technical but their implications are far-reaching. They quietly pave the way for tolls to be declared on Queensland roads with less scrutiny and less transparency. These laws mean they can slap a toll on any road or hike up an existing road toll without fear, favour or proper consultation.

Why have they smuggled this into a bill that is completely unrelated to these matters being raised? Why was this brought in after the sun has set on the night they want to pass this bill? What is the urgency? What is in the budget that they had to smuggle this in? What deal has been done?

The explanatory notes maybe let the cat out of the bag on this. When you go down to the objective of the amendments, the third dot point, it mentions 'remove a significant administrative burden to more easily facilitate and streamline necessary upgrade projects on the Gateway and Logan Motorways'.

What projects are there set to be announced in the budget, or is the government lining up? Who are they having discussion with about these 'necessary upgrade projects' which have not been mentioned publicly? What is to come?

The amendments remove longstanding restrictions that applied specifically to the Gateway and Logan motorways. That is not red tape reduction; that is clearing the runway for more tolls and increased tolls.

Local governments will also gain the power to declare tolls in stages. Why is that in this amendment? This opens the door for councils to seek tolling arrangements like we have seen with Brisbane City Council floating the idea of tolling the Story Bridge. We know the Story Bridge is in disrepair. Is this the LNP Brisbane City Council and the Crisafulli government's plan to pass costs onto Queenslanders? We know council have punted their chair this week responsible for the Story Bridge mess and they have shifted a few people around there. What is the LNP plan for the Story Bridge?

More broadly, this is not about reducing administrative burden; it is about removing safeguards. It creates a slippery slope for new tolls being introduced without proper community consultation or accountability. What does the LNP have planned for tolls on the Coomera Connector? What are they talking to Brisbane City Council about regarding the Story Bridge? At a time when—

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask if the speaker is talking to the long title of the bill. What he is saying does not seem to be relevant.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you very much, member for Mudgeeraba. As we heard in the Speaker's ruling this morning, standing order 139, I believe it is, outlines that amendments by the opposition which are outside of the long title of the bill may not be successful and may set an agenda outside the bill, whereas government amendments can be debated in the House because there is a likelihood that they will proceed. The member is entitled to proceed.

Mr MELLISH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is concerning that the member for Mudgeeraba, the Minister for Finance, has not been brought into the loop on significant amendments—the government's own amendments to their own bill—regarding tolling, or that tolling was an issue the finance minister might be across, but she is obviously not in the loop on this one. Raising toll prices in Queensland would unfairly burden commuters already grappling with rising living costs. The LNP seem to think cost-of-living pressures have magically disappeared. They have ruled out energy rebates, they have hiked up rego and now they want to chase Queenslanders for more tolls.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Up until this point, the member was most certainly being relevant to the amendments. These matters are administrative in nature. They address section 93AA. They most certainly do not relate to cost-of-living measures or the increase of tolling in any way whatsoever.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Buderim. Member for Aspley, for the benefit of the House, can you relate the contribution that you are making to the standing orders, please?

Mr MELLISH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was winding up my contribution there, but I am happy to talk about the specific tolling amendments as they apply to this bill. I am sure we will have more to say about this as the night goes on.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.45 pm): I rise today to address the cognate debate and to state my strong support for the new laws that the Crisafulli LNP government has introduced to make Jack's Law permanent and to further restore community safety across Queensland. Let's be clear, what we inherited from the previous Palaszczuk-Miles Labor government was a framework that was soft on crime, overly bureaucratic and, frankly, was out of touch with the realities on our streets. Labor's approach to knife crime, while well-intentioned, was riddled with red tape. They introduced an evidence-based test that required police to determine whether a serious violent crime had occurred at a location in the past six months before they could even authorise a wandering operation. That is not proactive policing; that is reactive bureaucracy.

It did not stop there. Even after that hurdle, officers had to conduct a subjective test asking themselves whether wandering would be likely to detect or deter crime, based on whether it had worked in the past. It was a system to tie the hands of our frontline officers, not empower them. For venues outside of safe night precincts, like shopping centres or licensed premises, officers had to go even further, proving that an offence might happen again in the next six months. That is not law enforcement; that is fortune telling.

We are listening to Queenslanders and we are listening to our police. We have heard that the old framework was difficult, complex and almost unworkable. It placed the onus on police to justify doing their core job of keeping us safe. Based on that and the actions of the Labor government when they were in power, it is my view that Labor do not believe in backing our frontline officers. We do. We know that these offences are not just numbers, they are lives potentially saved. These are tragedies potentially avoided, and that is what happens when we give the police the tools that they need and the trust that they deserve.

Under our government, Jack's Law will be expanded to include shopping centres, sporting precincts, licensed venues and high-risk retail outlets. These are areas where, in my previous shadow ministerial capacity, I raised the need for expansion of wandering powers in the last parliament, something that those opposite chose to ignore when they first brought this legislation to the House.

This is what it means to take crime seriously, and this is what it means to stand with our police and our communities. We are restoring safety because Queenslanders deserve to feel safe, whether they are catching a train, going to a concert or just walking through their local shopping centre. I want to commend that particular piece of legislation to the House.

In relation to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill, the Crisafulli government is committed to putting community safety first, and we want to ensure that communities' and victims' rights are put above those of perpetrators. We are all about giving Queenslanders greater protections when it comes to our parole system.

Currently, if a parolee has failed to comply with their parole order, the decision to suspend their parole can be made by either the board or a single prescribed board member. If a decision is in fact made to suspend such an order, the full board must convene to review that decision. On the flipside, if a decision is made not to suspend the parole order, there is no review mechanism in place to support our community and to ensure that the decision made was a correct one based on the circumstances.

This bill is targeted and it is necessary then not only to rectify this long existing gap but also to provide clarity and certainty to our Parole Board when they review a decision to allow a parolee to remain in the community and disagreed with the original outcome.

In fact, the Parole Board president himself clearly stated that this bill will correct a substantial gap which has existed in the parole suspension framework for some time. For Labor to suggest that there is no legislative gap is simply wrong. In the current framework, there is an express power to safeguard the rights of a prisoner being returned to custody but there is no express power to safeguard the rights of the community for a parolee who remains in the community but acts in a way that threatens community safety. That tells Queenslanders all that they need to know about where Labor's priorities are when it comes to community safety. Under the former Labor government, two former corrective services ministers also left the board without leadership for seven months, causing a backlog of cases and leaving both parolees and communities in the lurch.

In fact, last year in estimates we found out that the member for Pine Rivers—one of those former ministers—negotiated a resignation date with the former president that ended up being one single day after the seven-year anniversary of his appointment, securing him additional funds on top of an already significant pension. That tells you everything about the priorities of the former government when it comes to parolees and community safety. The soft-on-crime approach taken by Labor has directly resulted in poorer outcomes for communities and for victims. This bill will add to protections for the community to ensure Queenslanders will not be set aside when urgent parole decisions are made under pressure, and it backs our corrective services supervisors and our Parole Board to ensure actions are taken in the best interests of our community. I support that bill.

I want to address the amendments which the member for Aspley just spoke to, which have been circulated by the Minister for Corrective Services in relation to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. I can advise that those changes relate only to the ability of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to make a tolling declaration. In particular—this is important—this allows the minister to make a declaration to amend only one element of tolling amendments. The amendments retain transparency and accountability in declaring tolls, charges and payment arrangements for Queensland toll roads. I can hear the scare campaign from those opposite—I will get to their petty political games in a second. These amendments also include the repeal of the section which currently limits the minister's ability to further toll declarations for the Gateway Motorway and Logan Motorway.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Members, the interjections are not being taken.

Mr MICKELBERG: I would love to, but I would not have time to get through it all. Repealing this section will make legislative requirements for tolling arrangements consistent across the Queensland toll road network.

I have seen the social media posts from those opposite and I can categorically state that these changes have nothing to do with the Story Bridge. The Story Bridge is the little metal one. This is about the big concrete ones—the Gateway Bridge and the Logan Motorway. These amendments are administrative in nature, despite the scare campaign. They are so pathetic and bereft of ideas that they sit there and carp away, rather than addressing these issues when they were in government. Had they done their job, we would not be here tonight addressing these issues. Those opposite failed in every regard when it came to governing this state, and it is left to this side of the House to fix up their mess. These amendments are administrative in nature. They are needed to reduce unnecessary burden and expense, making legislative requirements for tolling arrangements consistent across Queensland's toll network. This is about making tolling arrangements consistent and reducing red tape across the network.

Those opposite want to purvey mistruths and falsehoods to suit their own pathetic political narrative. I categorically state again: this has nothing to do with the Story Bridge. It has nothing to do with increasing tolls in some sort of 'secret plan in the budget', I think I heard from the member from Aspley. The budget will be handed down and those opposite will be found wanting because this has nothing to do with that. This is about fixing their mess, making the process simpler and ensuring there is consistency across the tolling network. For those opposite to try to play pathetic political games says more about the Labor Party—they do not want to do the serious business of governing. They have abrogated that responsibility. This is about section 93AA of the TIA—only that; nothing else. It is not about tolling roads that do not have tolls right now. It is not about secretly increasing tolls on the Logan Motorway or the Gateway Motorway.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Those opposite would do well to listen rather than sit there, interject and run pathetic little scare campaigns—pathetic scare campaigns from the member for Inala.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, you are warned.


Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Jump on your feet, member for Inala, and have a chat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Inala, you are warned.

Mr MICKELBERG: Those opposite pedal fear because they have nothing else. They have nothing else because they do not have policy. They do not stand for anything and they will not accept that Queenslanders have found them wanting. They just will not accept it. Until they accept it, we will continue to come in here and fix up Labor's mess. We will continue to come in here and fix up a decade of Labor failure because that is what Queenslanders voted for in October last year.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: For the benefit of members, I could clearly hear the member for Buderim so I did not need to stop him while he was on his feet, but I point out that the member for Jordan and the member for Inala are both warned.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.55 pm): I want to speak tonight about a couple of matters before the House. Firstly, I want to speak to the amending bill itself, particularly in respect of making Jack's Law permanent. Then I want to speak to the amendments that in the middle of the night the government has decided to rush into the parliament under the cover of this bill to make it easier for the Minister for Transport to apply tolls in Queensland.

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the reforms that are being moved through the House that started with a Labor amendment. It was a Labor initiative but, most importantly, it came from a terrible tragedy that befell an outstanding Queensland family. I acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley tonight for the courage and determination they have had to take a tragic shocking circumstance that befell their son and their family and to try and turn that into some good for young people today, for young people tomorrow and for young people in the future. I acknowledge the great work they have done. We responded to that tragedy. I want to acknowledge the member for Morayfield, the former minister for police, who worked closely with the Beasley family and other stakeholders to craft the initial legislation

that was moved through the parliament, and that made Queensland safer. I know the former minister is passionately dedicated to ensuring his community of Morayfield and this state can be as safe as it can be, not only from any form of criminal activity but also from the scourge of knives. We know that the circulation of knives in our community have been increasing. This reform, which was designed to take knives out of the community—to protect all of the Jack Beasleys of the future—was something that we were proud to have worked with the Beasley family to implement. We are proud of that reform which is before the House again tonight.

I also want to speak to the amendments to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. What an extraordinary contribution we heard from the transport minister tonight. He had 10 minutes to speak and he decided to give us the wisdom that he had in the final four minutes of his contribution. A very substantial reform to the tolling power the government has in this state. I see the minister laughing. He thinks it is funny for these amendments to be moved in the middle of the night in the parliament and to ram them through under the cover of another bill that is entirely unrelated to this. I just want to speak to these amendments.

The net effect of these amendments is to ensure the minister has greater power to apply tolls in Queensland. For my community, in particular in Woodridge and in the city of Logan, I speak to the amendment to clause 9 of the bill, which will omit section 93AA of the Transport Infrastructure Act. The explanatory notes make it clear the current law in Queensland limits the transport minister's ability to make further toll declarations for the Gateway and Logan motorways, two motorways that are used every single day by tens of thousands of residents of the city of Logan, and I acknowledge the member for Logan today. He holds the same concerns as do members of the opposition. Why would you seek to move such a substantive reform in the middle of the night under cover of a bill that is unrelated?

Ms Scanlon: Dodgy.

Mr DICK: Because it is dodgy; I take the interjection from the member for Gaven. The LNP lectures the Labor Party—in fact, anyone—about red-tape reduction. This is the sort of red-tape reduction the LNP is into: making it easier for them to toll hardworking people who live in Logan and across Queensland. They want to remove the current restrictions on the minister and make it easier for tolls to be imposed, and that is clear in black and white in the bill and as set out in the explanatory notes. Honourable members have to ask themselves, after lecturing the Labor Party and anyone else in Queensland about the need for greater transparency, accountability and openness, why would they not introduce a bill or an omnibus bill that these amendments could be included in and then send it to a committee for proper examination? Why does the LNP always defer to being sneaky, slick and slippery? We know that is the character and form of their leader, but why are they doing it this way? They claim that it is something to do with consistency. We do not know that. We had a four-minute lecture from the transport minister—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Bulimba; 'lecture' puts it far too highly. It was a four-minute rant from the minister, half of which was attacking the Labor Party on their administration of the state, and I am happy to debate that at another time.

Mr Mickelberg: Queenslanders have already had their say, mate.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. You should get on and govern.

Mr Mickelberg: We had a debate and you lost.

Ms Farmer interjected.


Mr DICK: I take the interjection. You should stop rewriting history and do your job. The minister should do his job.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Woodridge, ensure your contribution is through the chair. Member for Bulimba, you have had a fair go.

Mr DICK: We do not know what this is about. The opposition does not know what it is about. The Labor Party does not know what it is about. The crossbench does not know what it is about. I doubt half of the backbench—in fact, all the backbench and half of the cabinet do not know what is going on. Certainly the finance minister, who is responsible for this sort of regulation, had no idea when she took a point of order that was completely wrong. This government does not know what it is doing. I called them an L-plate government and that is for a reason, because they are trying to hoodwink people. I tell them what the people of Woodridge and Logan know: the LNP is always up to something.

The LNP is up to something and they are up to something in tolling tonight. As the shadow transport minister, the member for Aspley, said this quietly paves the way for tolls to be declared on Queensland roads with less scrutiny and less transparency, and that is simply wrong. It is wrong for these amendments to be moved in this House tonight. It is wrong for the minister to conduct himself in this fashion, to sneak these amendments through. It is wrong for the government to do that because it is completely contrary to the values and principles the Premier said he would adopt in government, and we have seen those values and principles of this Premier put through the shredder every single day for the last seven months.

The opposition is greatly concerned by these amendments. We have not had an appropriate and proper explanation of them. We are very deeply concerned about this. This is not the way for the law to be changed in Queensland and certainly it is not the way for this matter to be moved by the government through the House this evening.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (8.04 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the other piece of legislation relating to corrective services. I want to focus on the permanent Jack's Law part of the bill. There has certainly been a lot of fulsome debate tonight. I will not go into too much of the specifics of the bill, mainly because I just want to use my contribution as a thankyou message to the Beasley family.

It was Friday, 13 December and Jack was enjoying a good night out with his friends when a moment of absolute madness cut Jack's life short. No parent would ever want to outlive their children, especially due to an action which was completely and utterly senseless. The Beasley family have channelled their grief into meaningful change so that no other family will have to go through the same grief. Therefore, I thank the Beasley family—Brett, Belinda and Jack's brother, Mitch—for their strength and their absolute dedication in fighting for fundamental change, and that change is to be made permanent here tonight.


The Beasley family could not do it alone. We have a wonderful community on the northern Gold Coast that got around the Beasley family to support them in their time of need. That was especially so for the Helensvale Hornets Junior Rugby League Club, Jack's old Rugby League club. As the saying goes, once a Hornet, always a Hornet. I would like to also thank people like Wayne and Leanne from the Hornets club for all their hard work over many years. I have come to know them very well and they are good friends. They are very passionate about this cause.

Every year the Beasley family organise a walk in the electorate of Theodore at Damian Leeding Memorial Park and every year we put on Jack's favourite colour, green, and walk around that lake with the Beasley family. I just want to say that every year Brett is getting a faster lap time, so good on him for doing all that extra exercise getting around that lake. It highlights how important this is for my local community to remember what actually happened on that senseless night and to prevent it from happening again. I thank the Beasley family, Brett and Belinda, for participating in programs at our local schools and trying to educate the next generation, but a lot more needs to be done.

A little while back I was doing my community roadside and a teacher stopped—this was on a Saturday—to have a chat to me. We were talking about the Beasleys and knife crime and a group of young people happened to walk past. We asked those individuals if they had ever carried a weapon, a knife or a sharp object. Unfortunately, they admitted they had, because they felt they needed it for self-defence. We do have a long way to go, and I thank the Beasley family for what they are doing in our community in trying to make it a safer community for all. As I said, there is a long way to go.

These amendments tonight will make Jack's Law permanent by removing the sunset clause, which was set to expire on 30 October 2026. It also allows police officers to use handheld scanners in relevant places without obtaining the authority of a senior officer. It also expands the use of handheld scanners in non-relevant areas. Police officers can use handheld scanners in other areas when a senior officer gives authority. This will give far better coverage and, therefore, increase community safety.

I again say to the Beasley family that, whilst I am devastated for your loss, I thank you for your strength and how you have channelled your grief into something good for our community. It is a testament to Brett and Belinda. I have to say that Brett is a bit of a larrikin and I could certainly see that Jack would have been a bit of a larrikin too. Thank you to the Beasley family for all of this hard work in terms of their dedication for this wonderful cause.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (8.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate, but to start I want to acknowledge the Beasley family and the amendments that have been put forward in

the House today. As many others have remarked, the Beasley family has certainly turned an unimaginable tragedy into advocating for law reform, for education, for preventive measures that make our community safer. I, too, would like to join the member for Woodridge and others in recognising the member for Morayfield, who was the minister at the time and who in good faith worked with the Beasley family and frankly worked with members of the opposition at that time to enact law reform that the Beasley family advocated for, many people in the community on the Gold Coast advocated for and police officers advocated for in a bipartisan approach in this House. I want to recognise all of those people who have been involved in pushing for this law reform that we are voting on here today. It is a shame though that we now have last-minute amendments that take away from some of the good work that has happened to recognise families like the Beasleys. These last-minute amendments have been put forward by the transport minister effectively to make it easier for the LNP to increase toll roads.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection. I do not know if those members of the backbench of the LNP have actually read the law reform, but it does make it easier for the government to increase toll roads and whatever the member for Buderim says I do not believe because the LNP also said that it was not going to build a stadium and we now have a stadium, don't we? When those opposite say something, it means absolutely nothing. That is very clear about this government. What I think is really telling—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. He is more focused on stadiums than hospitals. Those opposite are going to axe hospital beds in Robina, but he is advocating for stadiums. I think these amendments are pretty reflective of where the LNP's priorities are. When we put forward amendments to remove good character evidence for perpetrators of rape and sexual assault, those opposite said that that was not urgent, that we could not pass those amendments urgently. In fact, when we said that we would even vote on the government's amendments, those opposite said, 'No, you can't do that. That's got to go through the committee process. It has to be thoroughly examined,' but tonight they want to ram through changes that allow the LNP to increase toll roads. I think that is pretty reflective of the LNP's priorities. It said the Trusts Bill was urgent and increasing toll roads is urgent, but apparently rape victims and sexual assault victims are not as important to the LNP. These amendments, I suspect, are a cover for some of the LNP aligned mayors who want to increase toll roads. I agree with the mayor on the Gold Coast on some things—

Mr Vorster: Oh, you're attacking Tom now?

Ms SCANLON: I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh, because he certainly does not agree with him on the light rail even though I agree with the mayor on the light rail. I will tell members what I do not agree with Tom Tate on, and that is increasing toll roads.


Mr Vorster interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I take the member for Burleigh's interjection that he is now suddenly a big advocate for Mayor Tom Tate increasing toll roads, just not for the light rail, it appears. That is a very interesting position that I am sure Gold Coast business leaders would be really interested to know about. In the middle of so many cost-of-living pressures, why on earth would the LNP think it is sensible to increase tolls? If it was not going to do that, why would it have these last-minute amendments? Those opposite wonder why we are critical of these last-minute amendments—

Mr Smith: Two weeks before a budget.

Ms SCANLON:—two weeks before a budget; I take the interjection. These last-minute amendments will be rushed through. If those opposite did not want us to make these accusations, then maybe allow it to go through a thorough committee process so we could actually understand the intent behind these reforms, but what this looks like is a dodgy cover-up to try and do the bidding of mayors who want to increase toll roads. No-one on this side of the House thinks it is acceptable to slug families who are already struggling with more cost-of-living pressures. We have already seen those opposite come out and admit that they are going to be increasing rego for hardworking families, and now they want to slug Gold Coast motorists with toll roads as well. I campaigned against a toll road in 2017 and I will continue to advocate against it because it is the wrong thing to do, particularly when people are struggling. As I said, I think it is pretty disappointing that a government that came in and said that it was going to be about integrity and transparency continues to just rush and ram through laws without any proper scrutiny on things like trusts and tolls but will not take the same principle to other areas of law

reform where there is bipartisan support. I think this is pretty shameful and I would ask the minister to explain more about why he is rushing through these amendments.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (8.15 pm), in reply: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley who are here this evening and have been here all day watching this debate. Without this courageous couple, we would not have Jack's Law, but I know Brett and Belinda Beasley wish we did not know their son's name. They wished they never had to advocate for change or for the creation of Jack's Law. They would give anything to have their footy-loving boy back. Jack Beasley was 17—a young man on the cusp of adulthood. All of that was taken away in seconds. Tonight we honour Jack and ensure his legacy lives on.

Before we continue, there are a number of other people I would like to make mention of—four of our finest who were instrumental in the implementation of Jack's Law and by coincidence are here at Parliament House this evening: Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, Inspector Jim Munckton, Senior Sergeant Brad Rix and Senior Sergeant Paul Hunter for their work with the Jack Beasley Foundation, including helping to develop the education campaign around knife crime prevention and ensuring other states were able to adopt these life-saving laws. This awesome foursome was nominated for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award just about an hour ago. In breaking news, they did not win, but they are still winners in the eyes of Queenslanders.

I would like to thank all members who made a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) Amendment Bill 2025 and the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025. In relation to Jack's Law, the Crisafulli government is committed to restoring community safety. This government is taking the scourge of knife related violence in our state seriously. Our government understands the urgency of addressing knife crime and the importance of doing it effectively. We are committed to taking decisive and proactive action to combat this issue which will enhance the safety of all Queenslanders.

The bill will improve public safety by allowing our frontline police to proactively use handheld scanners to detect knives and weapons. It will provide a strong deterrent for those who wish to carry dangerous weapons in our community. It will provide efficiencies by streamlining the underlying framework. The bill will remove the onerous authorisation environment in prescribed relevant places within the current framework and remove the requirement to notify a manager or occupier of a premises prior to exercising Jack's Law. The bill will also expand the framework to other public places with an authorisation from a senior officer.

I will now address issues raised by members during the debate. Turning first to those opposite, I note from many contributions that, although they say they support Jack's Law, it is clear they do not. It would not be the first time those opposite did not have the courage to say what they really believe. Sometimes they employ ruses to get their message across to their supporters while pretending to the wider community that they actually believe something entirely different. Yesterday we saw that strategy in play. The member for Cooper said—

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.

Shortly after, the member for Mansfield stated—

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.

These are the true voices of Labor—sowing doubt, criticising process and raising roadblocks to change. These are code words to reassure those on the left who have no commitment to keep communities safe and who prioritise offenders over victims. Just as so many of those opposite opposed our Making Queensland Safer Laws, Labor speaks through its followers, not its leaders. I contrast this behaviour with that of the member for Maiwar, who said that Jack's Law is biased and discriminatory. I strenuously disagree with what he said, but, unlike Labor, at least he has the courage to say what he believes. I also note the words of the member for Miller when he claimed credit for the opposition for this initiative. He said—

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 ...

I direct the honourable member to *Hansard* of 29 March 2023, where my colleague the now Minister for Natural Resources and Mines foreshadowed an amendment to make scanning permanent. The member for Burdekin said that removing the expiration of the trial and making scanning provisions permanent would ensure the Queensland Police Service and the community have certainly and the necessary laws to keep the community safe. Just one day later, the former Labor government, including the member for Miller, rejected the amendment.

Over two years ago the LNP proudly sought to make wandering permanent and in doing so make Queensland safer. Now we know where the honourable member for Miller gets his ideas: from someone else. Labor never attempted this reform throughout its entire period in government, despite what the members say. The Crisafulli government has acted swiftly to correct Labor's lack of action. This is another step towards keeping communities safe—something Labor failed to do.

During this debate, many of those opposite have tried to claim credit for the nation-leading legislation, but the only people we should be thanking are Brett and Belinda Beasley and the Jack Beasley Foundation. On Brisbane radio this morning Brett Beasley said—

It's a no-brainer, and to make Jack's law permanent now ...we're overwhelmed, we really are, we just can't wait.

It is also pleasing to see that the National Retail Association and the Australian Retailers Association have both offered their public support for this bill. With retailers and their employees—often young and unsuspecting members of our communities—being at the forefront of the increasing scourge of knife crime, their support is welcome.

I am equally pleased to report on the support of our police for this initiative. The member for Gladstone might want to take note of what Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman said this morning before he stands up soon to move his amendments. If he missed it, I can say that the assistant commissioner hit the nail on the head when he stated—

These laws are very proud in nature in relation to the type of weapon—any edged weapon. It is a very prudent course of action the government has taken to encapsulate all weapons in relation to these laws and not specify individual weapons, because that makes it quite difficult for our frontline police then to actually operationalise. So it is important for us to maintain the laws as they are and make them permanent. It's a fantastic piece of legislation.

This is a ringing endorsement of our approach, and this government will continue to work with our police to make sure Queenslanders are served by the most effective and appropriate laws to keep them safe.

In response to the member for Morayfield's question—I acknowledge his long-term support of the Beasley family—about the government personally issuing every police officer with a handheld scanner, I agree that it is critical that our frontline police are adequately resourced and trained. I am advised that the QPS are satisfied that they have sufficient handheld scanners to operationalise the amendments.

Our government is committed to being transparent and accountable, and we are mindful of maintaining effective safeguards under Jack's Law. Safeguards maintained in the bill include requirements that the police officer must exercise the power in the least invasive way that is practicable in the circumstances, and the police officer may only detain the person for so long as is reasonably necessary to exercise the power. Additionally, the bill maintains appropriate reporting requirements. The commissioner is required to include handheld scanning information in the QPS annual report, including the number of handheld scanning authorisations 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 the power to search was exercised, and the number and type of charges resulting from the use of handheld scanners. This bill is testament to our commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe.

In relation to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, the opposition has suggested that amendments in this bill are not necessary or that these are merely clarifying provisions. This is inaccurate and is an example of Labor putting offenders before victims and the community. The Parole Board bill gives the board the power to review the decision of a prescribed board member after they have refused to suspend a prisoner's parole—a power that was never enshrined in the Corrective Services Act. When a request to suspend a parole order is received under section 208A, it must be decided under section 208B and can only be reviewed under section 208C. That is the way the legislative framework operates. This is a new power. This is not a clarifying amendment.

While the board has the power under section 205 to suspend parole, that is not the same as the power to review a decision made by a prescribed board member. That is why the Crisafulli government is amending the Corrective Services Act to give the Parole Board Queensland the powers it needs to prioritise community safety.

This bill is about the specific circumstances set out in section 208A and 208C. The argument those opposite are making about section 205 is an attempt to distract that they either failed or forgot to include provisions to protect the community. In 2018, section 208B was amended to allow the Parole Board to decide suspension requests alongside prescribed members. The amendment was telling. If the Parole Board could simply rely on its general power to suspend parole under section 205, it would have been unnecessary to amend section 208B in 2018. The law is clear. There is a legislative gap, and the Crisafulli government is closing this gap.

I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge officers from the Queensland Police Service, in particular Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Kelly, Acting Assistant Commissioner Rhys Wildman, director Michael Shears, Inspector John Henderson, Manager Anna Papoutsakis, Acting Senior Sergeant Michael Chalmers, senior strategy officer Ashley Weavers and strategy officer Shayne Kromberg. I also thank the officers from Queensland Corrective Services, the Public Sector Commission and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I also wish to acknowledge the staff of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their work on this bill. As referenced in my second reading speech, I will move amendments during consideration in detail of this bill.

In closing, I want to reaffirm the Queensland government's unwavering commitment to addressing knife crime and enhancing community safety and security. We will continue to take firm, proactive and decisive action to protect Queenslanders and build a safer future. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mr BUTCHER (8.29 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 33:

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

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon

Resolved in the negative.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr PURDIE (8.35 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr PURDIE: I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1

After clause 19

Page 10, after line 6—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Public Sector Act 2022

19A Act amended

This part amends the *Public Sector Act 2022*.

19B Amendment of ch 9, hdg (Repeal, savings and transitional provisions)

Chapter 9, heading, 'savings and transitional'—

omit, insert—

transitional, declaratory and validating

19C Amendment of ch 9, pt 2, hdg (Savings and transitional provisions for Act No. 34 of 2022)

Chapter 9, part 2, heading, 'Savings and transitional'—

omit, insert—

Transitional

19D Insertion of new ch 9, pt 4

Chapter 9—

insert—

Part 4 Declaratory and validating provisions for Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025

Division 1 Preliminary

330 Definitions for part

In this part—

fire commissioner means the commissioner under the *Fire Services Act 1990*.

fire services department means the department in which the *Fire Services Act 1990* is administered.

repealed Act means the repealed *Public Service Act 2008*.

331 Particular references

In this part—

(a) a reference to the *Fire Services Act 1990* is a reference to that Act as in force from time to time; and

(b) a reference to a provision of the repealed Act is a reference to the provision as in force from time to time

Division 2 Provisions relating to Fire Services Act 1990

332 Particular fire commissioner

(1) This section applies in relation to a person who—

(a) before the commencement, was appointed under the *Fire Services Act 1990* as a fire commissioner; and

(b) was, under the repealed Act, section 94, appointed or purportedly appointed by the relevant Minister to act, during the validation period, as the chief executive of the fire services department.

(2) It is declared that, despite the *Fire Services Act 1990*—

(a) the relevant Minister is taken to have always had the power to appoint the person to act, during the validation period, as the chief executive of the fire services department; and

(b) the person is taken to have been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act, during the validation period, as the chief executive of the fire services department.

(3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person, or another entity, during the validation period is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for that period.

(4) Anything done or omitted to be done by an entity, relying on the validity of a decision made or other thing done by the person or an entity during the validation period, is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been

had the person been validly appointed to act as the chief executive of the fire services department under the repealed Act, section 94 when the decision was made or other thing done.

(5) In this section—

relevant Minister means the Minister administering the fire services department when the appointment or purported appointment mentioned in subsection (1)(b) was made.

validation period means the period from 1 November 2013 to 30 June 2014, both days inclusive.

333 Particular acting fire commissioners—1 November 2013 to 20 May 2014

(1) This section applies in relation to a person who, during the validation period—

- (a) was, under the *Fire Services Act 1990*, appointed or purportedly appointed by the relevant Minister to act in the office of fire commissioner for a particular period (the **acting period**); and
- (b) was, under the repealed Act, section 94, appointed or purportedly appointed by the relevant Minister to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for the acting period.

(2) It is declared that, despite the *Fire Services Act 1990*—

- (a) the relevant Minister is taken to have always had the power to appoint the person to act in both of the following offices (each a **relevant office**) for the acting period—
 - (i) the office of fire commissioner;
 - (ii) the chief executive of the fire services department; and
- (b) the person is taken to have been validly appointed, under the *Fire Services Act 1990*, to act in the office of fire commissioner for the acting period; and
- (c) the person is taken to have been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for the acting period.

(3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person, or another entity, during the acting period is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to act in both of the relevant offices for that period.

(4) Anything done or omitted to be done by an entity, relying on the validity of a decision made, or other thing done, by the person or an entity during the acting period, is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to act in both of the relevant offices when the decision was made or other thing done.

(5) In this section—

relevant Minister, in relation to an appointment or purported appointment, means the Minister administering the fire services department when the appointment or purported appointment was made.

validation period means the period from 1 November 2013 to 20 May 2014, both days inclusive.

334 Particular acting fire commissioners—1 November 2013 to 30 June 2014

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) during the validation period, a person was appointed under the *Fire Services Act 1990* to act in the office of fire commissioner for a particular period (the **acting period**); and
- (b) no one was appointed, or purportedly appointed, under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for the acting period.

(2) Subsection (3) applies if the person was appointed under the *Fire Services Act 1990* to act in the office of fire commissioner before 21 May 2014.

(3) It is declared that, despite the *Fire Services Act 1990*, the person is taken to have been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for the acting period.

(4) Subsection (5) applies if the person was appointed under the *Fire Services Act 1990* to act in the office of fire commissioner on or after 21 May 2014.

(5) It is declared that the person is taken to have been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the fire services department for the acting period.

(6) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person, or another entity, during the acting period is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or

would have been had the person been validly appointed to act as the chief executive of the fire services department under the repealed Act, section 94 for that period.

- (7) Anything done or omitted to be done by an entity, relying on the validity of a decision made, or other thing done, by the person or an entity during the acting period, is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to act as the chief executive of the fire services department under the repealed Act, section 94 when the decision was made or other thing done.
- (8) In this section—
validation period means the period from 1 November 2013 to 30 June 2014, both days inclusive.

Division 3 Provisions relating to Police Service Administration Act 1990

335 Particular commissioners under Police Service Administration Act 1990

- (1) This section applies in relation to a person who, during the validation period—
- (a) was appointed as commissioner of the police service under the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*, section 4.2; and
 - (b) was not declared to be the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service under the repealed Act, section 95.
- (2) It is declared that the person is taken to have been validly declared under the repealed Act, section 95 to be the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service for the person's appointment period.
- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person, or another entity, during the person's appointment period is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly declared to be the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service under the repealed Act, section 95 for that period.
- (4) Anything done or omitted to be done by an entity, relying on the validity of a decision made, or other thing done, by the person or an entity during the person's appointment period, is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly declared to be the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service under the repealed Act, section 95 when the decision was made or other thing done.
- (5) In this section—
appointment period, in relation to a person, means the period, during the validation period, the person held office as the commissioner of the police service under the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*.
validation period means the period from 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2023, both days inclusive.

336 Particular acting commissioners under Police Service Administration Act 1990

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) during the validation period, a person was appointed to act as commissioner of the police service under the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*, section 4.11 for a particular period (the **acting period**); and
 - (b) no one was appointed, under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service for the acting period.
- (2) It is declared that the person is taken to have been validly appointed under the repealed Act, section 94 to act as the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service for the acting period.
- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person, or another entity, during the acting period is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to act as the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service under the repealed Act, section 94 for that period.
- (4) Anything done or omitted to be done by an entity, relying on the validity of a decision made, or other thing done, by the person or an entity during the acting period, is taken to be, and to have always been, as valid and lawful as it would be or would have been had the person been validly appointed to act as the chief executive of the Queensland Police Service under the repealed Act, section 94 when the decision was made or other thing done.
- (5) In this section—
validation period means the period from 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2023, both days inclusive.

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

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Dan Purdie's amendments.

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. Dan Purdie's amendments.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 23, as read, agreed to.

Mr BUTCHER: I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 33:

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

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon

Resolved in the negative.

Clauses 24 to 25, as read, agreed to.

Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill

Insertion of new heading—



Mrs GERBER (8.40 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1

Before clause 1

Page 4, before line 2—

insert—

Part 1

Preliminary

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

Tabled paper: Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Laura Gerber's amendments.

Tabled paper: Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Laura Gerber's amendments.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1—



Mrs GERBER (8.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs GERBER: I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

2

Clause 1 (Short title)

Page 4, line 4, before 'Amendment'—

insert—

and Other Legislation

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Insertion of new heading—



Mrs GERBER (8.42 pm): I move amendment No. 3 circulated in my name—

3

Before clause 2

Page 4, before line 5—

insert—

Part 2

Amendment of Corrective Services Act 2006

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mrs GERBER (8.42 pm): I move amendment No. 4 circulated in my name—

4

Clause 2 (Act amended)

Page 4, line 6, 'This Act'—

omit, insert—

This part

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mrs GERBER (8.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mrs GERBER: I move amendment No. 5 circulated in my name—

5

After clause 5

Page 7, after line 11—

insert—

Part 3 Amendment of Transport Infrastructure Act 1994

6 Act amended

This part amends the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

7 Amendment of s 92 (Definitions for pt 7)

Section 92, definition *image processing fee*, 'section 93(6)(a)'—

omit, insert—

section 93(8)(a)

8 Amendment of s 93 (Tolls)

(1) Section 93—

insert—

(2A) The Minister may, by gazette notice, make a declaration to amend the notification of a matter mentioned in schedule 5 included in a declaration made under subsection (1).

(2B) A declaration made under subsection (3) must—

(a) if the declaration relates to a matter, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, items 1 to 4 or 9, relating to a toll payable under a declaration made under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 1 to 4 and 9; or

(b) if the declaration relates to the administration charge and the user administration charge payable under a declaration made under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 5 and 7; or

(c) if the declaration relates to a way of making payment of a toll liability, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, item 6, and a description of an arrangement for paying a toll, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, item 8, under a declaration made under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 6 and 8.

(2) Section 93(4), 'Subsection (3)'—

omit, insert—

Subsection (5)

(3) Section 93(5), 'An administration charge under the gazette notice'—

omit, insert—

If a declaration made under this section relates to an administration charge, the charge

(4) Section 93(6), 'A user administration charge under the gazette notice, for a toll'—

omit, insert—

If a declaration made under this section relates to a user administration charge, the charge

(5) Section 93(7), 'the gazette notice'—

omit, insert—

a gazette notice under this section

- (6) Section 93(2A) to (7)—
renumber as section 93(3) to (9).

9 Omission of s 93AA (Application of s 93 to QML network)

Section 93AA—

omit.

10 Amendment of s 105B (Definitions for pt 8)

- (1) Section 105B, definition *designated vehicle*, 'section 105ZB(1)'—
omit, insert—
section 105ZB
- (2) Section 105B, definition *image processing fee*, 'section 105ZB(6)(a)'—
omit, insert—
section 105ZB(8)(a)
- (3) Section 105B, definition *user administration charge*, 'section 105ZB(1)'—
omit, insert—
section 105ZB

11 Amendment of s 105ZB (Local government to give notice of tolling matters)

- (1) Section 105ZB—
insert—
- (1A) The local government may give notice to amend the notification of a matter mentioned in schedule 5 included in a notice given under subsection (1).
- (2) Section 105ZB(2), 'Notice under subsection (1)'—
omit, insert—
Notice given under this section
- (3) Section 105ZB—
insert—
- (2A) A notice given under subsection (2) must—
- if the notice relates to a matter, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, items 1 to 4 or 9, relating to a toll payable under a notice given under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 1 to 4 and 9; or
 - if the notice relates to the administration charge and user administration charge payable under a notice given under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 5 and 7; or
 - if the notice relates to a way of making payment of a toll liability, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, item 6, and a description of an arrangement for paying a toll, of a type mentioned in schedule 5, item 8, under a notice given under subsection (1)—include notice of the matters mentioned in schedule 5, items 6 and 8.
- (4) Section 105ZB(4), 'Subsection (3)'—
omit, insert—
Subsection (5)
- (5) Section 105ZB(5), 'An administration charge under the notice under subsection (1)'—
omit, insert—
If a notice given under this section relates to an administration charge, the charge
- (6) Section 105ZB(6), 'A user administration charge under the notice under subsection (1) for a toll'—
omit, insert—
If a notice given under this section relates to a user administration charge, the charge
- (7) Section 105ZB(7), 'the notice under subsection (1)'—
omit, insert—
a notice under this section
- (8) Section 105ZB(1A) to (7)—
renumber as section 105ZB(2) to (9).

12 Amendment of s 105ZC (Liability for toll and user administration charge and satisfying the liability)

(1) Section 105ZC(4)(c), 'section 105ZB(1)'—

omit, insert—

section 105ZB

(2) Section 105ZC(5)(b), 'section 105ZB(1)'—

omit, insert—

section 105ZB

13 Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary)Schedule 6, definition *image processing fee*—*omit, insert—****image processing fee—***

(a) for chapter 6, part 7—see section 93(8)(a); or

(b) for chapter 6, part 8—see section 105ZB(8)(a).

Ms GRACE: I rise to speak against this amendment. These laws are a sneaky and shameless attempt to make it easier to toll roads—roads such as the Story Bridge and the Coomera Connector. These amendments look technical but their implications are far-reaching. They quietly pave the way for tolls to be declared on Queensland roads with less scrutiny and less transparency. These laws mean that they can slap a toll on any road or hike up an existing toll road without fear, favour or proper consultation.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection. Why have they smuggled into this bill something that is completely unrelated to the matters being raised? Why the urgency? What is in the budget that they had to smuggle this in? The minister will now be able to amend tolling arrangements one piece at a time, changing the toll amount or the payment method without having to declare the full tolling scheme. That reduces oversight and makes it easier to sneak in toll increases. The amendments remove longstanding restrictions that applied specifically to the Gateway and Logan motorways. That is not red tape reduction; that is clearing the runway for more tolls.

Local governments will also gain the power to declare tolls in stages, which opens the door for councils to seek tolling arrangements and we have seen the LNP Brisbane City Council floating the idea of tolling the Story Bridge. We know the Story Bridge is in a disgraceful state of disrepair. Is this the LNP Brisbane City Council's and the Crisafulli government's plan to pass costs onto Queenslanders? This is not just about reducing administration; it is about removing safeguards. It creates a slippery slope to new tolls being introduced without proper community consultation or accountability. So much for respecting Queensland's money.

At a time when families are struggling from cost-of-living pressures, rising toll prices in Queensland will unfairly burden commuters who are already grappling with rising living costs. They are refusing to extend a number of cost savings to families yet they want to slap tolls on those same families.

These changes are all about an easier green light to put a toll on the Story Bridge and other roads. Is this the way in which the LNP plans to support their incompetent LNP Brisbane City Council mates, by making these changes without the scrutiny of a committee? They are coming in here at the last minute to put tolls on roads such as the Story Bridge. This is a disgrace and we will be voting against this amendment.

Ms MULLEN: I think what the LNP has done tonight by bringing in these amendments is actually really disrespectful to the Beasley family. I say that because making Jack's Law permanent is really important. It should have been a stand-alone bill. Not only does the government cognate two bills; they sneak in these late-night amendments to the Transport Infrastructure Act regarding tolls. It is disrespectful and it is sneaky.

We know that tolls have been on the mind of this government for a while. Certainly they have been on the mind of the Brisbane City Council as they try to deal with their irresponsible failure on maintaining the iconic Story Bridge. Certainly they have been on the mind of the Queensland Treasurer as he sets his sights on a potential Coomera Connector toll. It is clear these amendments may be paving the way for tolls to be declared on Queensland roads with less scrutiny and less transparency. You cannot get less transparent than what we have seen tonight. If the minister asserts, as he did

earlier, that this is just about tidying up the legislation and simplifying the administration, why not put it through the proper committee process?

I have grave concerns about the specific impacts that this will have on the Logan Motorway, which many of my constituents use to get to work each and every day. Those of us who live in the outer suburbs rely on those major roadways to access not only employment but also social connection. The government may be effectively penalising the very people who can least afford it. Queenslanders are moving further and further away from the city for more affordable housing and this has the potential to significantly impact the cost of living for many of the people we represent.

Saying that this will reduce a significant administration burden may just be code for reduced oversight and sneaky toll increases, but we simply do not know because all the minister did today was effectively read the explanatory notes back to us. We could have read those ourselves.

I represent the industrial area of Carole Park, which also relies on the Logan and Gateway motorways. Those are heavy industries such as manufacturing and distribution and they rely on the motorways. What does this mean for big industry?

The most concerning aspect of this relates to the highways and motorways that are not tolled yet but potentially could be. What about the Centenary Motorway? It is not part of the national road network. Albo is not coming in to save the Queensland government as he is with the Bruce Highway funding. How will upgrades be funded on those roads? How they will be paid for without a toll? That will affect the electorates of the member for Moggill, the member for Mount Ommaney and the member for Bundamba. Those are important questions but we simply do not know because of the minister's lack of scrutiny.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Mullen, adjourned.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.49 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That for today's sitting, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the House will continue to sit past 9.30 pm to consider government business until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House, to be followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.

In briefly addressing this motion, I say that this is important legislation. The Beasley family is here tonight. The extreme importance of this legislation to them and their family is well recognised. I have consulted the Manager of Opposition Business with respect to this motion and I thank him for his cooperation. We understand that this is important legislation that needs to pass tonight and we are going to do that with due respect to the Beasley family. I thank the Manager of Opposition Business for his discussions and his cooperation with this course of action.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill

Resumed, on insertion of new clauses—



Dr O'SHEA: I rise to speak briefly to the amendment. This amendment amends the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, which from the statement of compatibility appears to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of declaring tolls for the minister and local governments. I have not been in this parliament long but it does seem strange to me to be using a corrective services amendment bill to amend the Transport Infrastructure Act.

The timing of this amendment concerns me due to the lack of current funding available for the repairs to the Story Bridge in my electorate. The residents of South Brisbane have already lost pedestrian and cyclist access to the city, after the abrupt closure of both footpaths on the Story Bridge on 5 March this year. The most recent advice from the Brisbane City Council is that these footpaths are likely to remain closed for another few months. As I pointed out in the last sitting of parliament, the lack of access to the city due to these paths being closed has particularly inconvenienced residents of Kangaroo Point, which, despite being one of the most densely populated suburbs in Brisbane, is still waiting for a CityCat service.

I asked at that time for the Queensland government to play an active role in the planning process to restore the bridge and commit to funding a portion of the restoration works, alongside the local and federal governments. I am shocked if the government has decided instead to put a toll on the Story Bridge and make my residents pay for the restoration of the bridge. If this is the case, I am particularly concerned as we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. To end this confusion—

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was waiting to see if the member would come back to something relevant. This amendment relates to the Gateway and Logan motorways. Section 93AA has absolutely no relevance to the Story Bridge whatsoever. They know it. I said it in my second reading speech. I am on the record, and they know it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was going to draw your attention to the fact that attempting to make a point of order is not an opportunity to debate the matter. I was going to ask that you provide that guidance to the minister but he has taken his seat.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you have 56 seconds left, so be relevant to the substance of the amendment.

Dr O'SHEA: To end this confusion and what will be understandable concerns of my constituents of South Brisbane, I would ask that the government tonight make a clear, emphatic statement that there will not be any tolls on the Story Bridge.

Mr MICKELBERG: For the benefit of the member for South Brisbane, this amendment does not relate to the Story Bridge.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I move that the member for Logan be heard.
Division: Question put—That the member be heard.

AYES, 33:

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

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker—

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Buderim. You have three minutes.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the benefit of the House, let's place some facts on the record. I want to respond directly to the member for South Brisbane's contribution because I have always found her to be a faithful participant in the democratic process. With my assurance, this provision relates only to section 93AA, which specifically relates to the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway and has absolutely no relevance whatsoever to the Story Bridge in any regard. Hopefully, that may reassure the member for South Brisbane. Let's be very clear: this clause only applies to the Logan Motorway and the Gateway Motorway—only the Logan Motorway and only the Gateway Motorway. This is about ensuring that we harmonise the approach across all toll roads in Queensland.

Let's have a look at why this clause was put in place in the first place. This clause was put in place during the sale of Queensland Motorways. I note the member for McConnel's contribution was not terrible until she started running the same pathetic Labor attack lines around the Story Bridge. She actually understands what we are talking about here. I wonder why that is the case. She was a member of the government—the Bligh government—that chose to increase tolls on the Logan Motorway. They included this provision to only apply to those two toll roads specifically to address the concern in the community that came from them privatising toll roads in Queensland. They inserted this clause to solve a political problem when they privatised Queensland Motorways.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to hear.

Mr MICKELBERG: Incidentally, the only party to ever increase tolls above CPI on the Logan Motorway is the Labor Party, and they did it in 2016. Those very members were members of that government and are the beneficiaries of that road. Only those opposite have ever increased toll charges on the Logan Motorway or the Gateway Motorway above CPI.

Toll charges on Queensland toll roads will be managed in the same way they have been before this amendment. They will increase with CPI. This is pathetic scare campaign—that this is part of a grand conspiracy in the budget or the Story Bridge or the Coomera Connector. I have heard a litany of stupid scare campaigns from those opposite tonight. None of them are correct. This is to solve an administrative process that those opposite ignored. Those opposite ignored it because it was politically inconvenient for them. It was a poison pill, a provision they put into legislation to solve their political skin way back when they privatised Queensland Motorways, way back when they raised the rate of tolls on the Logan Motorway by greater than CPI. Only Labor are responsible for this mess and we are fixing it.

(Time expired)

Mr POWER: This should be an evening of great unity for both sides—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr POWER:—of great unity for all of us supporting Jack's Law and the other changes. That is why it is so unfortunate that this amendment was put in place just half an hour ago with zero consultation. How do I know that? I know because the explanatory notes to the amendment states—

No public consultation has been undertaken as the amendments relate to administrative matters ...

Why would they do it? The stated reason is to 'reduce administrative burden'. Let me say that it is not reducing any administrative burden for the people of Logan. It only reduces the administrative burden for one person—and they are in this chamber and they were the one who was yelling extremely loudly twice in this debate, screaming at us. It is only to reduce an administrative burden for the Minister for Main Roads. The minister might not use the Logan Motorway very often, but the people in Logan use it all the time. I did not learn much from the minister's 10-minute rant about—

Mr Mickelberg: Maybe you should have listened a little bit better, mate.

Mr POWELL: Stop your yelling and listen for a change.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, make your contribution through the chair, please—this chair here.

Mr POWER: I did not learn much from his rant, but it is insulting and hurtful to the people of Logan that he screamed at them in that way. The people actually want to know what is happening with their tolls. This is a cost-of-living issue for Logan residents, and it does not get better by being yelled at by the Minister for Main Roads.

We have a simple question that we want answered. With apologies, I would be derelict in my duty if I did not put this question. Using this mechanism, will there be in the future an increase in tolls on the Logan Motorway, especially the sections between Mount Lindesay Highway and the Kingston Road interchange? That is where the people use the Logan Motorway the most. The minister needs to rule it out tonight. Tell us the truth.

Why are you sneaking these amendments into this bill on such an important night? Why are you undermining the goodwill we had in this place? I am sure the police minister is aghast that you are doing such a thing on such a special night for him when he is trying to do the right thing. Why are you making it easier for yourself but harder for the people of Logan? They deserve to know the truth.

It seems as though the member for Currumbin has been set up. Many people on the Gold Coast will be asking, 'What's he up to? Why does he want to increase our tolls on the Logan Motorway that we use?' The member for Gaven knows this. The member for Currumbin probably knows this. They were set up by the main roads minister. Why did you not go through a proper process, put it to a committee, have an examination and let the people of Logan have their say?

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 48:

LNP, 48—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, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Grace, 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.

Pairs: Lister, King; Powell, McMahon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.11 pm): I move—

That the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.12 pm): I move—

That the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.12 pm): I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

2 Long title

Long title, after 'the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*,'—

insert—

the *Public Sector Act 2022*,

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Making Jack's Law Permanent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.13 pm): I move amendment No. 6 circulated in my name—

6 Long title

Long title, after '*Corrective Services Act 2006*'—

insert—

and the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.14 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Souths Sunnybank Under 12s




Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (9.14 pm): Today I rise to recognise the incredible efforts of one of my local football clubs, the Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Under 12s. This is the club where Johnathan Thurston played junior Rugby League. The Muspratt Cup is annually hosted by the Burdekin Roosters Junior Rugby League Club, and earlier this month the determined under 12s, a passionate group of young athletes, travelled to North Queensland to take part in the Shane Muspratt Cup in Ayr. Shane Muspratt was born in Ayr and played professional Rugby League for the North Queensland Cowboys and Parramatta Eels. He played a total of 64 games in the NRL.

It was a huge adventure and a wonderful opportunity for the team to test their skills, represent their club and make memories that will stay with them for life. None of it would have been possible without the hard work of their team manager Letitia Law. Thanks to her tireless fundraising and unwavering commitment, the team was able to make the trip. And what a trip it was! On 9 April the team, led by coach Michael Steel—known to everyone as Coach Steely—flew to Townsville to begin their journey. Their base camp was in Wulguru, giving them time to prepare, bond and enjoy some local highlights, including a visit to the Cowboys' team shop. In my opinion, the Cowboys are the best Rugby League team in the NRL competition.

The carnival itself was held in Ayr over two days, and Souths Sunnybank was proud to be the team that travelled the furthest to take part. There was a special connection—Coach Steely's family is from Ayr. His local ties helped the team access training fields, store their gear and feel at home. The team played six touch matches in true North Queensland conditions—hot, humid and challenging—but they played with heart, spirit and respect, representing their club with pride.

A special mention to the players recognised by opponents as players of the match: Jeremy Marsden, Coen Ashton, Tauraa Teinaki, Nate Patterson, Lucah Ekeroma and Kullen Law. We cannot forget the team mascot, Mav the Mischievous Magpie, who brought plenty of cheer from the sidelines. To the coaches, managers, volunteers, families and supporters, thank you. You are the backbone of grassroots sport. Well done to the Souths Sunnybank Under 12s. Your efforts, passion and sportsmanship make your club and your community proud.


Thank a First Responder Day

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.17 pm): Today we pause to say two simple but powerful words: thank you. Today is Thank a First Responder Day. As somebody who proudly served the Queensland community for 28 years in the Queensland Police Service in Townsville and in my electorate of Mundingburra, I know the weight of the uniform. I know the long shifts, the night shifts, the short changeovers, the missed meals, missed birthdays, school functions and Christmases, and I know the quiet moments between the chaos where you ready yourself for whatever may come next. First responders—our police officers, ambulance officers, firefighters and emergency crews—do not just run towards danger: they run towards people—people in pain, in crisis and in fear, and they do it without hesitation every single day.

I have worked those streets at 2 am. I have comforted victims, knocked on doors with hard news and stood shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues in the face of tragedy. Through it all, I have seen the unbreakable spirit that defines the people who are our first responders, but here is what many do not see—the quiet resilience, the mental toll and the burden they carry home. Yet still they show up—for us, for our families, for complete strangers. Now, as the member for Mundingburra, I carry those lessons into parliament. I will never stop advocating for the men and women who serve on the front line because when we back our first responders we strengthen the very fabric of our communities.

Thank you for the work that you do day in and day out to keep our communities safe. Today you have come to work, kitted up, and have just gone about doing your job like you do each and every day, but please know that you are appreciated and we thank you. Today, whether it was a handshake, a kind word or a heartfelt thank you, we reminded our first responders that they are seen, they are valued and they are never alone. To all our heroes in uniform, we thank you. Your courage keeps us safe, your sacrifice does not go unnoticed and your service will never be forgotten. Thank you.

Story Bridge, Repairs


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (9.20 pm): It is a disgrace that after more than three months footpaths on the Story Bridge remain closed to the public with no end in sight. Last week the Story Bridge was named the state's best landmark in the Queensland Day Awards yet it has been allowed to crumble before our eyes by a tired, incompetent 20-year-old LNP Brisbane City Council. The blame for the poor state of the Story Bridge lies squarely on the shoulders of Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner and Councillor Andrew Wines, who was the civic cabinet chair for infrastructure but who I now know has been sacked. They should both hang their heads in shame.

I understand that Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner was told in 2019 that the footpaths needed to be replaced within one year, but he did nothing about it and the footpaths have been closed with no warning, no plan and no end date. This is due to mismanagement and the BCC's failure to maintain them, and it is totally unacceptable. The Story Bridge has been described as the second most important bridge in Australia and the transport artery of the inner city. The LNP BCC has known that this iconic bridge was deemed at risk since 2016 but it was ignored and has been left to fall into disrepair due to much needed but neglected major maintenance. I am sorry, but \$120 million over 20 years spent on maintenance just will not cut it. This amount has been clearly inadequate, and they have failed to prioritise required funds for Brisbane's greatest asset.

The BCC have owned the Story Bridge since 1947 and it is their sole responsibility to ensure that it is safe, well maintained and not left to deteriorate. It is adding insult to maintenance injury to now be calling on the state and federal governments for urgent funding to save our bridge, as well as contemplating a toll or levy on ratepayers to pay for their mismanagement. In a recent letter from Councillor Andrew Wines, the BCC chair for infrastructure, he talks about a temporary, not permanent, deck over the footpaths with no completion date and that they are confident that all levels of government will want to be on the right side of history when it comes to this national icon. We can see from the amendments that went through tonight that the LNP Crisafulli government will be on their right side, ensuring that they toll the Story Bridge.

My message to the Lord Mayor is clear: do your job and fund and plan for the restoration necessary. It is your responsibility. Tell the LNP to save our bridge. Tell the LNP: no Story Bridge toll. We rejected that amendment tonight. They put in the amendment. Mark my words: there will be a toll on the Story Bridge.

Coomera Electorate, Community Events

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.23 pm): The northern Gold Coast and the Coomera electorate is a very vibrant and active community with massive growth. At the centre of that community

is the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama. They have everything—from young people right the way through to the elderly and everything in between. Coming up on Sunday, 27 July we have the Teddy Bears Picnic at Norfolk Village State School, which is in its second year. That is the young folk taken care of and they will have a wonderful day on 27 July.

From August, we will see the Probus Club of Pimpama become the sister club to the Probus Club of Ormeau, again sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama, of course the sister club being the Pimpama club which was, in fact, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ormeau-Pimpama as well.

The North Gold Coast RSL is celebrating 25 years this year with a gala dinner at Club Helensvale. Ken Golden, who has been the president down there for years, heads up an amazing executive in a very active RSL subbranch. I am told that just this month, from small beginnings 25 years ago, they have hit 300 members. Premier David Crisafulli, the member for Theodore, the member for Bonney and I have invited the fantastic North Gold Coast RSL club members to Parliament House in October to celebrate their 25 years here with us in the parliament.

Every year I have been sponsoring a Shred-X Day at my office. It is an opportunity for our fast-growing community to get rid of very valuable, important or sensitive documents that they do not want to just throw away. If community members who cannot afford to throw them away and do not want to spend an absolute fortune getting rid of them would like to make a small donation to Neighbourhood Watch on the northern Gold Coast, they can come along to Shred-X Day, which is 5 July, between 9.00 am and 12.00 noon.

In closing, I want to congratulate Brett Wing OAM on behalf of the northern Gold Coast community for his recognition in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours with a Medal of the Order of Australia. Congratulations to Brett, and eight-time World Barefoot Water Ski champion and 14-time Australian champion. Congratulations, Brett.

Ipswich Rugby League



Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.26 pm): I rise this evening to speak on Ipswich's NRL bid. It is time for Rugby League to respect its own heartland and give Ipswich the NRL licence it so justly deserves. Let me quickly tell you why. Ipswich has been a city built on sport—a place where passion, talent and community spirit come together on the field, in the pool, on the court and beyond. Ipswich has produced some of Australia's finest sporting talent, whether in tennis, weightlifting, bowls, hockey or soccer. In fact, Ipswich has—and we say this with pride—produced the most Australian sport representatives of any region in Australia.


But there is one sport that has truly shaped our identity and that is Rugby League. Our proud history dates back to 1910 when Ipswich officially affiliated with Queensland Rugby League. That same year, we entered the Brisbane competition and won the premiership against Toombul, claiming senior and junior titles. That was just the beginning. In 1924 and in 1928, Ipswich played against England and, by 1932, during a Rugby League test between Australia and England in Sydney, three players from Ipswich took the field for Australia. Our local legend, JG Stephenson, not only led the Ipswich league but also went on to become a selector and President of the Queensland Rugby League, putting Ipswich and Queensland firmly on the world's Rugby League map. In 1959, the whole of the Australian front row were from you Ipswich.

Fast forward to recent decades and our legacy only grows stronger. Ipswich is the heartland of Rugby League. It has given us household names like the Walter brothers, Allan Langer and the iconic Ali Braggins—all proud products of our community.

The Ipswich Jets, formed in 1982, have been a crucial stepping stone for countless players who have gone on to represent NRL clubs, their state and the nation. The Jets have become a cornerstone of Rugby League not just for our region but for Queensland. That is why I am incredibly proud that all three levels of government have committed \$40 million to upgrade the North Ipswich Reserve and create a centre of excellence. The commitment for a boutique stadium is hugely important for our region.

I have had many discussions with Steve Johnson who is a passionate Rugby League advocate and has been an integral part of the Ipswich Jets for 30 years. We are ready for the next big step—the 20th NRL licence. There is overwhelming support across Ipswich so it is time for the ARL Commission to recognise Rugby League heartland—its strength, history and future—and support a 20th NRL licence. On behalf of our players, clubs, the game's best fan and for the greater good of Queensland, let's bring home the fifth Queensland NRL team based in Ipswich. It is time to score the try we have been working towards for nearly two decades.


Mermaid Beach Electorate, Homeless Camps

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.29 pm): Of significant concern for residents in the Mermaid Beach electorate is the rise of presumably homeless people setting up camps along the beachfront in prime public locations. Whilst I and many other people feel very sorry for them, given the Labor induced housing shortage and ridiculously high rental prices, it is not acceptable for them to just set up camp in these highly visible and environmentally sensitive areas such as Broadbeach, Miami and North Burleigh. With some having mental issues, or perhaps drug and alcohol dependency, it may also present clear and present danger to the many tourists and residents who have to pass these camps either early in the mornings or at night when many women, in particular, feel very uneasy about their presence. The smells of urination and defecation are also present and there are many local voices contacting my office to ask what I am doing to protect their residential amenity. My first call, of course, is to my local police station to try and get some resolution to some very bad behaviour. One local father took his son into the public toilets at North Burleigh and unfortunately, ran into some of these illegal campers fornicating in the public toilets. I repeat: this is not acceptable.

The police reluctantly tell me they have no legislative power to move these people on, which I find incredibly disappointing. The vagrancy act is no longer applicable and unless there is demonstrable public disturbance the police, I am told, cannot move them on. This is unacceptable. The police's answer to the illegal camping is to refer them to the local council who have a designated relocation unit for their intervention but obviously, council officers have no physical capacity to force the removal of these illegal campers. When they do get temporary removal of these camp sites, it is only a short time later before the illegal campers are back on some of the most sought after locations anyone could wish for—absolute beachfront.

Whilst I do understand that there must be solutions to where the homeless people can be moved to, it is imperative a solution be found that includes giving law enforcement officers the legislative power to enforce the removal of these illegal camp sites from these visly and environmentally sensitive sites. Some of the campers, I am sure, do not want the provision of mainstream housing and prefer their nomadic lifestyle. The overall interest of the community must take precedence over the preferential desires of an individual, regardless of their mental competence to understand the gravity of their situation. As part of a Crisafulli government determined to shape a better Queensland, I look forward to legislative solutions coming forward that will alleviate this shortcoming in Queensland's society and prevent these camps being set up in main public areas along the Gold Coast region.

Paniyiri Greek Festival, South Brisbane

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.32 pm): I had the great privilege of attending the 2025 Paniyiri Greek Festival in my electorate of South Brisbane last month, a wonderful, joyous celebration of Greek culture and, of course, featuring the most delicious Greek food, all homemade with love. Now in its 49th year, Paniyiri is the longest running Greek festival in Australia, as well as Queensland's largest cultural festival. This two-day event attracts over 50,000 visitors every year to enjoy traditional dancing and musical performances, honey puff eating, plate-smashing competitions and the always-popular communal Zorba dancing. I was very pleased that the Premier, along with the members for Jordan, Maroochydore and Maryborough were all able to join Ms Freda Valassakis, president of the Greek Orthodox Community of St George and His Grace Bishop Bartholomew of Brisbane in opening this cultural spectacular.

The South Brisbane electorate has a long and proud association with the 30,000-strong Queensland Greek community. For many first-generation Greek Australians, it was their first taste of life in Australia, the place where they found a home, started businesses, sent their children to school and with their strong work ethic and focus on family, built a community. Each year the Paniyiri Greek Festival draws Queensland's Greek community back to South Brisbane to share their rich cultural history with a broader community and raise funds for charity.

As the member for South Brisbane, it is an immense privilege to represent the hundreds of Greek Queenslanders who continue to call our community home. Of course the Paniyiri Greek Festival would not be possible without the efforts of over a thousand volunteers who give up their time to plan, prepare food and run the festival. I would like to thank all the Greek organisations who work so hard coordinating and organising this spectacular event including the Greek Orthodox Community of St George Brisbane and the Lions Club of Brisbane Hellenic. I know the whole community eagerly awaits Paniyiri 2026, which will mark the 50th anniversary of this iconic festival.

Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program



Mr JAMES (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.35 pm): I am honoured to present the achievements of the 2025 Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program in Mulgrave. The Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program in Cairns is a joint initiative between the Australian and the Queensland governments aimed at eradicating the invasive species from within and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. The eradication program is crucial to protecting the Wet Tropics World Heritage area, maintaining biodiversity and preventing economic and social impacts.

Yellow crazy ants are among the world's 100 most invasive species, threatening our environment, wildlife, agriculture, industry and lifestyles. Yellow crazy ants kill their prey by spraying formic acid, a powerful acid, into their eyes, blinding them before they attack. Tracy Black, a resident within the Mulgrave community, first identified this pressing issue. Tracy took the lead after spotting infestations in her backyard. She noticed that these ants were attacking native wildlife and turning her garden into a war zone.

Tracy raised the alarm, rallied local residents, held meetings, disseminated information and established a community Facebook page. She collaborated with all three levels of government and partnered with the Wet Tropics Management Authority who then took over the management of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program supported by the Queensland and Australian governments. Unfortunately, this program was about to lose its funding. Thanks to the Crisafulli government, an additional \$6 million funding package for two more years has been committed, a critical step in the right direction.

The Invasive Species Council stated—

Queensland's biosecurity system has long been slow to respond to environmental threats, with frontline agencies understaffed and overstretched. That's why these new commitments are so significant.

This program has become a global model in invasive ant management, blending strong leadership with community partnerships and science driven solutions. It eradicated these ants from 728 hectares, including some within the World Heritage area, and over 1,500 residential properties within Mulgrave. The Wet Tropics Management Authority aims to expand activity by 1,000 hectares over the next three years. They are collaborating with Goldsborough residents, stakeholders, landholders, businesses, industry and government agencies to assess—

(Time expired)

Noosa Electorate, Environment




Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (9.38 pm): Noosa is iconic for its natural assets that have been hard fought for over decades and Queensland is one of the most diverse environments on the planet. We have 13 out of the 14 different types of world biomes, four World Heritage listed sites and three of five Australian UNESCO biosphere reserves. These are key selling points for our tourism.

The protection of these must be prioritised yet seems to be a missing component of the Destination 2045 plan. Attaching labels such as ecotourism is not enough, especially when it is regenerative tourism that is internationally trending. While the plan proposes doubling the size of the tourism industry to \$84 billion annually within 20 years—that is 47 million visitors flying in and an additional 40,000 hotel rooms—there is nothing on how we are to manage this increase, whether to our beaches, roads, hospitals or policing, though it seeks to ensure controlled access to sensitive environments, which is a positive. We already see the impacts from uncontrolled access to our Cooloola Recreation Area where dangerous driving, dune habitat and turtle destruction as well as dumping of human waste has not been properly addressed. For eight years we have fought to get an equivalent ratio for maintaining our national parks as other jurisdictions. NPAQ says an extra \$220 million over four years and \$80 million ongoing annually is needed. The extra \$118 million announced has no time period nor detail of what it is for, and it is not enough.

Then we go to the Queensland shark plan. The KPMG review said that the current program harms our environment, recommending to remove shark nets during whale migration season as done elsewhere. Despite this and after five years of trialling and researching environmentally friendly alternates, including drones, the plan instead increases outdated approaches by emphasising all year shark net use, the expansion of nets and more baiting. We are going backwards instead of forward into harnessing our unique and key selling points. The reality is we are constantly pleading for extra resources for front-line agencies, mitigating practices to reduce damages and consistent funding for our volunteers who work endlessly to wage wars—wars against plastics on our beaches and in our

waterways, rubbish, weeds and waste—while applying in the never-ending cycle of yearly applications for funds which is disempowering. Ultimately, if we cannot manage the current impacts and fund mitigations, how would we going forward with even more? We cannot trash what is our most valuable drawcards. This is business 101 protecting the very thing essential for our businesses and communities to prosper now and into the future. Controlling access to sensitive areas will be a positive start, including the Cooloolo Recreation Area.

Scenic Rim Electorate, Mount Lindesay Highway

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (9.41 pm): The Labor government failed the Scenic Rim electorate on the Mount Lindesay Highway over its long 30 years out of the last 35 in government. What we need for the Mount Lindesay Highway is a plan for upgrades between Jimboomba and Beaudesert, but Labor left us with no plan—no plan at all for any improvements or upgrades on that stretch of the highway. There was no funding to even do the plans, especially between Cedar Vale and Beaudesert. It did its so-called 10-year plan about seven years ago, but Cedar Vale to Beaudesert was always left out of the planning envelope under those opposite. That is why at the election last year the LNP committed extra funding to plan for this stretch, and we are getting on with the job right away with an extra several million dollars in funding to put in place plans for upgrades, for improvements, for safety initiatives that need to be done on that busy stretch of highway between Cedar Vale and Beaudesert that was constantly left out of the equation by the Labor Party.

The record shows that it is only because of the coalition in Canberra and particularly through the strong advocacy of our local member Scott Buchholz that significant upgrades have been done on the Mount Lindesay Highway. These are the \$75 million upgrade around Stoney Camp Road which was significantly funded by the federal government; the \$95 million upgrade underway at the moment in Jimboomba, significantly funded by the federal government when the coalition was in office; and the \$20 million upgrade around North MacLean, again significantly funded by the federal government when the coalition was in office. It is clear to say that without that funding backed by the LNP and the coalition there really would have been not much work done at all in the last 10 years on the Mount Lindesay Highway, so we thank the coalition when it was in government in Canberra for that funding and we hold the Labor government to account for the fact that it did not put in place any plan for that stretch between Jimboomba and Beaudesert, and that is what we are getting on with the job of doing right now.

I want to know: where is Albanese and the Labor government in Canberra now? Like Scott Buchholz and the coalition put money on the table for the Mount Lindesay Highway, will the Labor government in Canberra do the same and cough up the funds to do the upgrades that need to be done all the way down to Beaudesert and into the Bromelton industrial area? I call on the member for Logan and the other Labor members in the region to get on the phone to Albo in Canberra and to get money on the table for the Mount Lindesay Highway, which is part of the National Highway network and which we have seen through the coalition government there can be upgrades made to when the government in Canberra gets on with the job of putting its dollars on the table for that upgrade. Recently the Deputy Premier visited the Scenic Rim council in Beaudesert to talk about infrastructure needs and planning issues. I thank the Deputy Premier for his reassurance to support council when it comes to dealing with planning issues and with infrastructure issues. Council now should be assured that it has the state on its side in dealing with those pressures in our growing region of Scenic Rim and that it can address those issues into the future.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.45 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, 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, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young