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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### PRIVILEGE

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in a letter dated 8 May 2025, received 13 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 30 April 2025. The matter relates to a statement made during debate on a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition about the Townsville University Hospital. In this matter the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have used different terminology but the outcome is the same—that is, the option of the original contract will not be taken up and a new contract will be awarded for stage 2 of the project. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House by 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 Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba [625].

I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

In a letter dated 8 May, received 13 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 30 April 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during debate on a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

'First it was the Townsville University Hospital. That was a project to deliver a new clinical services building and an extra 143 beds by 2026. The contract for that expansion, which was already underway, was torn up and sent back to tender.'

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because while there was a contract in place for Stage 1 of the Townsville Hospital expansion, and that contract was honoured, there was no contract in place for Stage 2 of the hospital expansion program and no contract was torn up.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition submitted that the minister was using semantics by taking issue with the legal definition of a contract, however, he states there was a two-stage contracting model in place and that has been returned to market.

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

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

In this matter, the minister and the Leader of the Opposition have used different terminology, but the outcome is the same. That is, the option in the original contract will not be taken up and a new contract will be awarded for stage 2 of the project.

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, in a letter dated 8 May 2025, received 13 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Cairns deliberately misled the House on 30 May 2025. The matter relates to a statement made during debate on a motion moved by the minister about the Cairns surgical unit. At what stage the project can be considered locked in is simply a difference of opinion between the minister and the member in which they may use differing expressions. 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 member for Cairns [626].

I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

In a letter dated 8 May, received 13 May 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (minister) wrote to me alleging that the member for Cairns deliberately misled the House on 30 April 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during debate on a motion moved by the minister.

Specifically, the member stated:

'The Cairns surgical unit—a 32-bed surgical facility locked in under the former Labor government—is now in doubt.'

The minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading because it was the former government who split the Cairns Hospital project into two tranches and that the second tranche, which was the 32-bed surgical unit, was not progressed by the former government prior to the election last year.

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

The member submitted that just because the surgical unit was to be built under a separate tender did not mean it was not 'locked in' by the former government. He noted that a project does not need to be in the construction phase to be considered 'locked-in' and that he based this opinion on the last official advice the former government received on the hospital expansion project.

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

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

From the submissions it is clear the former government had a plan to build a Cairns surgical unit. At what stage that project can be considered 'locked in' is simply a difference of opinion between the minister and the member in which they may use differing expressions.

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 2 June 2025 the Minister for Education and the Arts wrote to me alleging that the member for Ferny Grove deliberately misled the House on 3 April 2025. Standing order 269(2) requires a member to write to me at the earliest opportunity. In this matter the minister wrote to me 60 days after the alleged misleading statements were made in the House. On 10 June 2025 I indicated that I considered any time in excess of six weeks, or 42 days, to be unreasonable delay. I do not consider that this 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 member for Ferny Grove [627].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### International Cleaners Day



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this Sunday, 15 June, marks International Cleaners Day, a day to acknowledge and thank the essential workers who maintain cleanliness and safety in our daily environments, allowing us to live and work comfortably. On behalf of the members I would like to formally express our gratitude to the dedicated cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service. Their hard work ensures that the chamber offices, dining areas and sleeping quarters remain clean, allowing us to carry out our duties in a well-maintained environment.

As a small gesture of our appreciation I hosted a morning tea for the parliamentary cleaning team earlier this week where I learned that cleaning supervisor Azra Besic, who many members would know, recently celebrated 41 years with the Parliamentary Service. I am sure all members will join with me in congratulating Azra and thanking the cleaners of the Queensland Parliamentary Service for their important work.

### Longman, Ms I



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Mrs Irene Longman was elected to the Queensland Parliament on 11 May 1929 and was only the third woman to be elected to an Australian parliament. Mrs Longman faced numerous challenges as the only female member of parliament. She was not allowed in the parliamentary dining room, nor were there female toilets for her to use.

I wish to advise the House that as part of the 100 Women in Parliament celebration I have approved a proposal for a bronze sculpture to be commissioned to honour Mrs Longman's service as the first woman elected to the Queensland Parliament. The proposed bronze sculpture is to be life sized and to depict Mrs Longman eating at a table. It will represent the fact that being a woman she was never allowed to use the parliamentary dining room and was required to take her meals on the verandah. I wish to advise the House of this proposal prior to the Parliamentary Service commencing a procurement process.

### Visitors to Public Gallery



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Kimberley Park State School in the electorate of Springwood; Moorooka State School in the electorate of Toohey; and Burleigh Heads State School in the electorate of Burleigh.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Chapman, Mrs YA



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Yvonne Ann Chapman, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the State.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased lady the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Yvonne Ann Chapman was born in Brisbane on 20 January 1940. She grew up on her family's dairy farm at Youngs Crossing on Brisbane's northside and was educated at Petrie State School and Banyo State High School. After leaving school Mrs Chapman began work as a secretary at the Australian Paper Manufacturers, also in Petrie. There she met her husband-to-be, Graeme, and they went on to have two children and run a successful steel fabrication business.

In 1976 Mrs Chapman was approached by the then state member for Pine Rivers, Rob Akers, to stand for election to Pine Rivers shire council. She took this advice and was elected. Mrs Chapman served on the Pine Rivers shire council from 1976 to 1983, including as the council's deputy chair from 1982 to 1983. During this time Mrs Chapman became involved with the National Party and she had her first tilt at election to this place at the state election of November 1980 in the electorate of Murrumba. Whilst unsuccessful on that occasion, she tried again at the election of October 1983, this time in the electorate of Pine Rivers. Mrs Chapman narrowly won the seat for the National Party. In doing so she helped the National Party to form government in its own right for the first time.


Yvonne Chapman will forever have a place in Queensland's history as the first female to serve as a cabinet minister in this state. In February 1986 she was elected to cabinet to serve as minister for

welfare services, youth and ethnic affairs. In December 1986 her ministry was changed and she became the minister for family services, youth and ethnic affairs and she served in this role until December 1987.

Mrs Chapman later served as minister for transport and ethnic affairs until the Cooper government lost office in December 1989 and Mrs Chapman lost her seat in this place. Determined to continue representing and serving the community, she attempted to return to this place in the seat of Nundah at a by-election in May 1991, before again turning her mind to local government. In 1995, Mrs Chapman was elected as the first mayor of the Pine Rivers shire council. Mrs Chapman was the first and only mayor to serve Pine Rivers. In 2008 she decided to retire when the shire was amalgamated into the new Moreton Bay regional council.

It is clear that Mrs Chapman had a love for the Pine Rivers region, proudly representing that area in one form or another for almost 30 years. She has been described by those who knew her as a strong character with a strong belief in protecting family and helping your neighbour. I spoke with her family this morning and they spoke of her love for the region, her passion for her family and her role as a trailblazer. Mr Speaker, on the day that you have acknowledged Irene Longman, it is fitting that we acknowledge Mrs Chapman's service in breaking through. We thank her family for their time. In 2001, Mrs Chapman was awarded the Centenary Medal for her many years of service to the community through local and state government.

Yvonne Ann Chapman passed away on 27 October 2024, aged 84 years. On behalf of the government, I place on the record our thanks for her service over many years. I extend my sympathy and that of this House to her family and her friends. Vale, Yvonne Chapman.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): On behalf of the Labor opposition, I rise to express our condolences on the passing of Yvonne Chapman and to support the motion moved by the Premier. Yvonne Chapman was a woman of firsts. She was the first female cabinet minister in our state's history. She went on to be a long-serving and much respected mayor of the Pine Rivers shire.

I remember Mrs Chapman best as my local member of parliament when I was growing up. The Premier is right when he says that she loved the Pine Rivers community and she served it with dedication for decades. When I was growing up and living in the Pine Rivers area, I knew her as an institution. We both attended Petrie State School, although a few years apart. I happened to be there from 1983 to 1989, which were the very same years that she was the state member for Pine Rivers. I can remember her coming to school assemblies and handing out certificates and badges. I can still remember when she talked to us about how she had attended Petrie State School and how any one of us could grow up to be a local member of parliament. That was the first time I thought that maybe I would like to do that. In later years, I am not sure if she was pleased or regretted encouraging me into politics. I guess that is a reminder to us all of the impact that we can have in our roles here.

In more recent years, I would catch up with Mrs Chapman each year at Anzac Day on the dais in Kallangur, waving to the diggers, the school groups and the Scouts as we waited for the spitfires to come past before laying our wreaths at the Kallangur RSL. While I did not agree with everything she did, I always admired and respected the contribution she made to our local community.

Yvonne Chapman broke barriers. She fought for representation and she paved the way for those who followed. In this term we celebrate the 100 women of the Queensland parliament. Yvonne is No. 6 on that list. From her start as a secretary at the Australian Paper Manufacturers in Petrie to her time as a prominent local businessperson and her service in government and cabinet, Yvonne Chapman played a significant role in shaping our state, contributing to the foundations of women in leadership roles for decades to come. She was a trailblazer, which is something we can all appreciate and respect.

Yvonne Chapman's time in politics, both at a state and local level, were marked by determination and service. Though we may have differed in politics, there is no doubt that she made her mark not only on this House but also on the people and communities she served. I acknowledge Yvonne's son, Greg, her daughter, Wendy, and their families who are in the gallery today. On behalf of the Labor opposition, we thank Yvonne Chapman for her service to Queensland. Vale.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (9.44 am): I rise to pay my respects to and express my condolences on the passing of Yvonne Chapman. Yvonne made history as the first female cabinet minister in the Queensland parliament, commencing as the minister for welfare services, youth and ethnic affairs in 1986 under the Bjelke-Petersen government. Yvonne was proud to be a female member of parliament and to use her




platform to protect and advocate for all Queenslanders as well as her beloved Pine Rivers community. Yvonne carried those responsibilities, both as a minister and as a trailblazer, with grit and grace and a sense of duty matched only by her sharp wit and profound passion for community service. Yvonne was enthusiastic about supporting women from all walks of life—those who pursued careers, those who chose to take on carer roles at home and those who strove to do both as she also experienced.

As the member for Pine Rivers and with a background in local government, Yvonne's door was never closed to those who reached out for help. She made sure every person she represented felt seen and supported. She was especially passionate about sport and recognised its importance for community connection. She did a power of work in underpinning the community development of sporting facilities in her area.

Yvonne's ministerial career spanned five portfolios. As the Premier outlined, she worked in more portfolios than the one I mentioned. She had many special interests, particularly family and welfare services. In her maiden speech, Yvonne spoke about women's voices in parliament bringing new and important perspectives to welfare, education and health services. She was particularly proud of the National Party government putting computers into all TAFE colleges during the 1980s.

After six years as a state member of parliament, Yvonne returned to local government as the first and last mayor of Pine Rivers—prior to that time, mayors were called 'chairman' or 'chairwoman'—until her retirement in 2008 when the Pine Rivers shire amalgamated into the Moreton Bay regional council. From the first instance, Yvonne's deep love for Queensland and her community shone through. That love, in addition to her love for her family, continued until her passing on 27 October last year.

I extend my condolences to all of Yvonne's family and friends. We know that her legacy will live on in the many projects that she championed and the community events and facilities that stand as a testament to her contribution. I think many in her community and more broadly are missing their community champion who did so much for them in the Pine Rivers area. Yvonne's legacy lives on for all she met in her 60 years of public service. Vale, Yvonne Chapman.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.47 am): Yvonne Chapman dedicated 30 years of her life to local and state levels of government, but it is fair to say that she spent her whole life serving our community. She was a post-war kid who was used to doing without. Youngs Crossing was her first home and her father handcrafted the bricks that would be the strong foundations for their family home in Petrie. The AMP paper mill transformed many lives in our community, including Yvonne's. It was her father's employer. Following his sudden passing, the paper mill stood behind the young family as they worked through their loss and their new reality.

Yvonne described her mother as strong and loving. Like her mother, strength would be one of Yvonne's defining attributes. Yvonne was described as the glue that held the family together. Her childhood was stable but not easy. It was the hardships that Yvonne experienced that shaped the community representative she would become.

Like her father before her, the paper mill became Yvonne's employer when she worked there as a secretary. That was where she met her husband, Graeme. Once married, it was frowned upon for Yvonne to continue to work. In 1957, Yvonne partnered with Graeme in a steel fabricating business. It was a panel-beating business that they transformed into a niche business making dairy milk tankers. Through expanding that enterprise, Yvonne sought to stand as a community representative.

Yvonne is often described as a trailblazer. In 1970, she held both Liberal Party and National Party memberships. She resigned from the National Party to run on the Liberal ticket in local government and later would return to the National Party when invited by Premier Sir Joh to run for state parliament. She sought to be herself while being our community's advocate. She was a normal person who talked in normal terms. She was, she said, someone who still walked around barefoot, mowed the grass and went out to do the shopping.

Her first term in council was in 1976—one year after the first sex discrimination bill came into effect in our nation. This reform paved the way for women to continue to work despite their marital status and provided protections from gender discrimination in the workplace and education systems. In local government, her focus was on delivering ordinary things that mattered a lot to ordinary folk, particularly improving our local parks and sporting areas.

Yvonne recounts originally being unsuccessful as a candidate for Murrumba in the state election. Joe Kruger, she reported, skewered her chances with a campaign around a sewage plant and a slogan 'Yvonne Chapman says Kallangur stinks'. She later ran for Pine Rivers reluctantly when asked by Sir Joh. She appreciated that the National Party needed a candidate to run in that election. Although she

did not feel right about running against Rob Akers, she also felt that he was not going to win. Not wanting Labor to gain the seat, she ran in that election and made history.

In 1983 Australia signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—the first international treaty to address the fundamental rights of women in politics, health care, education, economics, employment, law, property, marriage and family relations. Once signed, Australia created legislation designed to give it effect—the Sex Discrimination Act.

Queensland politics in the 1980s was, indeed, a different world. In 1986 Yvonne Chapman made history when she became our state's first female minister. She tells the story of how she really let rip in the party room and was called up the next day to the executive building by Sir Joh. With trepidation, she entered the room and was told by Sir Joh that he had decided to make her a minister. When retelling the story of the encounter, she said at that point she looked around for another person standing in the room.

After a prompt press conference she was driven home, but the press had jumped into a helicopter to go and see her home. A real interest existed for Queensland's first lady minister. She phoned Graeme to let him know because, as she had rushed to the morning's meetings, the beds had not been made and the dishes had not been done. He straightened up the house, which included collecting the tablecloth and all of its contents and putting it in the front bedroom. When she later discovered the scene and asked him what on earth had happened, he said that it needed clearing away and he was thinking of either the front room or the loo, but because the guests may have needed to use the loo he decided on the front bedroom.

When she was asked in an interview what it was like to be the first female minister around a cabinet table with 18 men, Yvonne said, 'They used to forget I was there.' It is undeniable that she made a meaningful impact in her ministerial role. That extended to one instance when, as the family services minister, she put her name down to adopt two children who were stranded in Chile so they could be reunited with their family here in Queensland. Not much stood in the way of Yvonne's determination and desired outcomes.

She acknowledged that she lived a protected life in so many ways—the hard knocks had shaped her but it was a life steeped in strong traditional, conservative family values. It was these values that unashamedly shaped her contribution to public policy and community representation.

She had a number of sparring partners across the chamber, which is laid bare in the records of this place. Undoubtedly, as only the sixth woman to be elected to this chamber, the standard of behaviour she was subjected to by her male colleagues would never be accepted by today's parliament. She dealt with all of the misogyny that she was exposed to in her trademark robust style. A personal favourite of mine was the time she took personal offence at being called a feminist.

Her seat in this place was won on the precipice of a changing world for women, and her journey had a meaningful impact on all women. Caught in the strong swings of the 1989 election Yvonne was unseated due to a 16 per cent swing, but a long history of strong female representation in this place for our community was set in train.

In 1994 she was back on the election trail and poor Rob Akers was, once again, in her political sights. She had a giant billboard on the back of a truck for the mayoral race with the slogan 'Do you want to elect a mayor or a gelding?' She defeated Rob and four others and became the first, and last, mayor of Pine Rivers Shire. One of her former councillors Mike Charlton recalls that Yvonne's genuine love and care for people made her a natural for public life. She was known as a person of strong convictions and commitment and was never afraid to take action to solve problems. Councillor Yvonne Barlow remembers Yvonne as a personable mayor who was strong in character. She was the voice for the people, and the residents loved her. She identified as an everyday person—neighbour helping neighbour. Her love for her fellow man was evident. She was outspoken, but she stood up for what she believed was right.

Her love for our community, her family and our country was present in all that she did. Yvonne was a trailblazer for women. She took the title of the 'First Lady of Pine Rivers' and turned it on its head, demonstrating steadfast leadership and resolve. I recognise her family, who join us in the chamber today. Thank you for sharing Yvonne with us. On behalf of the people of Pine Rivers, we say a heartfelt, 'Thank you, Yvonne, for your dedication and lifetime of service.' Vale, Yvonne Chapman.



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.55 am): I rise to extend my condolences and contribute to the parliamentary condolence motion for Yvonne Ann Chapman, Queensland's first female cabinet

minister. Yvonne was born in Brisbane in January 1940. She grew up on a dairy farm at Youngs Crossing, the eldest of five children. She worked as a secretary at the Petrie Paper Mill, where she met her husband Graeme. They later raised two children—Wendy and Greg. She rode her horse to school at the Petrie State School. She enrolled at the Banyo State High School; however, there was no chance of going to university as the family needed her. Sadly, her father passed away at the age of 38 and her mother passed away at the age of 56. Her family were humble and the children had learned to live without. At her funeral, Councillor Yvonne Barlow, who served on the Pine Rivers Shire Council with Yvonne Chapman, said that Yvonne was the glue that kept her family together.

Yvonne took the unusual approach of joining both the Liberal Party and the National Party. After receiving advice regarding this dual party membership she chose the Liberal Party. Her distinguished political career began in 1976 as a councillor for the Pine Rivers Shire Council. She also served as the shire's deputy chair from 1982 to 1983. Her humble beginnings stayed with her in council. She never sold up properties for unpaid rates because she knew about the many hardships that people endured.


Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen asked her to join the National Party and run for the state seat of Pine Rivers. Yvonne entered state politics as the member for Pine Rivers in 1983, winning the seat for the National Party. She went on to become Queensland's first female cabinet minister as the minister for welfare services, youth and ethnic affairs in the Bjelke-Petersen government and then later served in the Cooper government as the minister for transport and ethnic affairs.

Yvonne was at times outspoken and stood up for what she thought was right. She promoted quite controversially the development of a policy that single mothers could receive welfare payments for their first child but not for subsequent offspring. Those who served in the parliament at the time can recall Yvonne saying, 'Single mothers can have the first one; however, I will have the next.' She also had great compassion for these people. In cabinet she once requested a washing machine for some single mums who she had observed were doing it very tough.

In December 1989 she lost her seat and she returned to the family business. After losing a court case with the local council over land use, she was urged to return to local politics. In 1995 she was elected the mayor of the Pine Rivers Shire. This was the first time a preferential ballot was used and Yvonne won that position after the distribution of preferences.

In the 2004 election the position of mayor was uncontested and she remained as mayor until her retirement in 2008, making her at the time one of the longest serving female heads of local government in the nation. Yvonne was the first, last and only mayor of the Pine Rivers Shire. She did not recontest the 2008 amalgamation election.

Yvonne passed away on Sunday, 27 October 2024. One thing she missed out on was to hear that the LNP had won the state election. Yvonne had an incredibly warm character. She had a great love for the Pine Rivers and Moreton Bay region. She will never be forgotten by those of us who were very privileged to know her. Rest in peace.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.59 am): I rise to speak on the motion moved by the Premier in relation to Mrs Yvonne Ann Chapman, a pioneering figure in Queensland politics and a formidable force for her community.

In 1983, Yvonne was elected to the Queensland parliament for the National Party. Just three years later, she made history as Queensland's first female cabinet minister. This was more than a symbolic milestone; it was an important moment in our state's democratic story.

As someone who now holds the title of the youngest woman ever elected to this parliament, I stand on the shoulders of women like Yvonne. She made it possible for people like me to take a seat in this chamber, to speak up and to serve. Her courage cracked the glass ceiling long before that phrase became common, and she did it not for the glory but because she believed in service, in conviction and in the great good that government could do for people.

Yvonne represented the seat of Pine Rivers from 1983 to 1989. She brought with her not just intelligence and grit but a lived experience that grounded her in the needs of real people, of working families, of children and of rural and outer-suburban Queenslanders who deserve to be heard.


Her ministerial appointments in welfare services, family services, youth and ethnic affairs, and later transport, were marked by her unapologetic advocacy. She was bold. She was firm. She believed welfare should support those in genuine need, and she was not afraid to say so. Her remarks could spark debate, yes, but they were never hollow. They were rooted in her deeply held values and her belief in personal responsibility, family and community.

Before and after her time in state parliament, Yvonne also left a lasting legacy in local government. She was first elected to Pine Rivers Shire Council in 1976 and later returned as the first, and ultimately the last, mayor of the Pine Rivers shire. She led that community from 1994 until its amalgamation in 2008, securing three elections with overwhelming support including one uncontested. That speaks volumes.

Yvonne Chapman was not a politician in it for the spotlight. She was a battler who rose from humble beginnings leaving school at 14, caring for her family after the death of her father and helping her mother each day. Those early experiences shaped her world view and fuelled her determination. She understood hardship and she used that understanding to inform policy and connect with real people.

Those who served alongside her often remarked on her determination and strength of character. But more than that she was principled. She knew who she was, she knew what she stood for and she never wavered. Even in retirement she remained engaged and unafraid to speak up. As she once said, she was already ready to be a 'thorn in their side' if it meant holding the government accountable.

To her family—her beloved husband, Graeme; son, Greg; and daughter, Wendy—I offer my deepest condolences. You shared Yvonne with the public for many decades, and her contributions will echo after her passing. Vale, Yvonne Chapman—a woman of grit, a woman of firsts, a woman who made history and never asked for credit. Queensland is better for her service, and I am grateful to honour her legacy here today.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (10.02 am): I rise to address the motion of condolence, as moved by the Premier, recognising the extraordinary service rendered to the state of Queensland by the late Yvonne Ann Chapman. Yvonne Chapman, the former member for Pine Rivers, was a trailblazer, a woman of immense resolve and a proud servant of Queensland and the Pine Rivers community.

Born in Brisbane on 20 January 1940, Yvonne Chapman's story is one of humble beginnings, deep connection to her community and a lifelong dedication to public service. Raised on a dairy farm at Youngs Crossing, she was the eldest of five children. At age 14, Yvonne Chapman had to take on significant family responsibilities, including caring for her siblings and her ailing mother, who required daily medical attention.

Yvonne Chapman began her working life as a secretary at the Petrie Paper Mill, where she met her husband, Graeme. They married in 1957 and went on to raise two children, Wendy and Greg. Yvonne also became a partner in her husband's steel fabricating business. I take this opportunity to acknowledge both Wendy and Greg and all family members who are present here in the gallery.

Yvonne's entry into public life came in 1976 when she was elected to the Pine Rivers Shire Council, beginning a political career that would span more than 30 years. She served as a councillor until 1985 and later returned as mayor, but it was her election to the Queensland parliament in 1983 that made history.

Yvonne Chapman won the seat of Pine Rivers for the National Party, unseating the then Liberal MP Rob Akers. Her victory was instrumental in allowing the National Party to form government in its own right. In the 44th Parliament of Queensland, she had the distinguished honour of moving the address-in-reply debate to the Governor's speech and, in doing so, she gave her maiden speech to the House.

On 31 January 1986, Yvonne Chapman became Queensland's first female cabinet minister when then premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen appointed her Minister for Welfare Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs. Yvonne Chapman later served as Minister for Family Services, Youth and Ethnic Affairs and subsequently as Minister for Transport and Ethnic Affairs under Premier Russell Cooper.

Yvonne Chapman was not just the first woman in cabinet; she was a bold, principled voice in a male-dominated political landscape. Yvonne Chapman was known for her conservative values, her passionate defence of the family unit and for standing up for what she believed in, no matter how unpopular. Beyond her ministerial responsibilities, she participated in the parliamentary delegation to Japan, Hawaii and the United States in 1985 and was a member of the Printing Committee and the Refreshment Rooms Committee.

After leaving state parliament in 1989, and following a bid in the Nundah by-election in 1991, Yvonne returned to local government in 1994, again defeating Rob Akers—this time to become the first mayor of Pine Rivers Shire. Due to legislative changes, Yvonne Chapman was also its last mayor. She was re-elected decisively in 1997 and 2000, and was unopposed in 2004. She led the shire until its amalgamation in 2008.

Yvonne Chapman was also a long-serving and long-standing member and patron of numerous community organisations, supporting local sports, emergency services and civic associations. She was at one point considered a contender for Queensland Governor and was even approached by multiple political parties to run federally. However, she remained devoted to serving her local community.

Yvonne Chapman was a pioneer for women in Queensland politics—a proud conservative, a staunch advocate for her community and a woman of great personal strength and conviction. She brought the same determination to politics that she had brought to her family life. She believed in people taking responsibility, in strong families and in the power of service.


On behalf of this House, I extend my condolences to Yvonne Chapman's family, particularly Wendy and Greg, and to all those who knew and loved her. Her passing marks the end of an era, but her legacy lives on in the history of this Queensland parliament, the Pine Rivers community and in the many lives she touched. Vale, Yvonne Chapman.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Community Safety; Jack's Law

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.08 am): Our government is delivering on our promise of restoring safety where you live. Today marks six months since our government passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We implemented Adult Crime, Adult Time for youth offenders before Christmas, just as we promised. We are committed to turning the tide on the youth crime crisis left behind by Labor. We are committed to putting victims first. The laws are a direct result of listening to Queenslanders who are crying out for change. We have already expanded the list of offences, passing the second tranche of the laws just last month. There will be more, just as we promised. We are starting to see our laws delivering consequences for actions. It is heartening to see change in the right direction, but there is much more work to be done to drive down crime.


Tougher laws are crucial to providing greater support for frontline police; so too is early intervention and rehabilitation. We promised that our government would support police with the resources and laws they need to keep Queenslanders safe. Overnight we took another step in strengthening police powers by making Jack's Law permanent. Jack's Law is named after Jack Beasley, who tragically lost his life in a knife attack in 2019. He was just 17 years old. Jack's Law delivers on our commitment to strengthen community safety by preventing knife violence. Brett and Belinda Beasley, Jack's parents, were in the gallery last night to see their son's legacy permanently made into law. Jack's Law will help save lives and spare other families the pain the Beasleys live with every day.

Since the introduction of Jack's Law, police have removed more than 1,100 knives off the streets. In making it permanent, police will be able to search for weapons in any public area wherever the need arises. These changes will take dangerous weapons off our streets. That means more lives will be protected and more lives saved.

I also acknowledge the member for Bonney, who has stood beside the Beasleys and his community from the very start to champion this change.

We promised a fresh start for Queensland, and we are proud to be delivering the change that is needed to keep Queenslanders safe. We will continue to strengthen our laws and do everything we can to make sure there are fewer victims of crime in Queensland.

### Jack's Law; Victims of Crime

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.10 am): As the Premier just said, last night the Crisafulli government made Jack's Law permanent. Last night we delivered on yet another promise to Queenslanders. This is a law that takes knives off Queensland streets. This is a law that saves lives. This is a law that makes Queensland safer and reduces the number of victims of crime in this state. Alongside the Beasleys, we have fought tirelessly for change and to strengthen our knife crime laws after the death of their son Jack nearly six years ago. I too acknowledge the member for Bonney and his contribution, walking alongside the Beasleys in their fight for change.

This government will always stand with victims of crime. That is why we have been advocating for these stronger laws so another family does not have to go through what the Beasleys went through and so there are fewer victims of crime in this state. That is not all. It has been six months since we passed the first tranche of our Making Queensland Safer Laws. These laws removed detention as a last resort; they made Adult Crime, Adult Time law; they ensured the full criminal history of youth offenders can be available and considered; and they made the rights of victims a primary consideration during sentencing—just like we said we would do.

Under this government, victims will always come first. That is why we are continuing to strengthen our laws. Last month this House passed the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time Laws. We promised there would be consequences for actions. For 10 years youth offenders were given the green light under Labor to keep terrorising our homes, our streets and our businesses. We are a government that delivers on our promises, but there is a lot more to be done. We are fixing a decade of Labor's weak crime laws which put the rights of offenders before the rights of victims. It will take time to reverse Labor's decade of despair, but we will not stop until there are fewer victims of crime.

We are starting to see small decreases in the number of stolen cars, break-ins and robberies. The latest police data shows that robberies are down more than 15 per cent, stolen cars are down five per cent and unlawful entry is down nine per cent across Queensland. It is a start, but there is a long way to go, especially in communities in the North and Far North, which we know were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis and continued to suffer under that youth crime crisis—a crisis that saw them ravaged for almost 10 years. We will work every single day to make those communities and the whole of Queensland feel safe again. We will continue to deliver strong laws alongside effective early intervention, crime prevention and rehabilitation programs. We will continue to build a state where there are fewer victims of crime and where justice is served.

### **Jack's Law; Youth Justice**



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.13 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We said we would be tough on crime, and we are delivering on that commitment. Last night here in the House was a momentous occasion. The LNP Crisafulli government took decisive and necessary action to confront Labor's youth crime crisis head-on and passed the Jack's Law bill, making it permanent.

Today I rise to update the House on the early results of another piece of tough legislation: our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Today marks six months since we stood up for Queenslanders and delivered on our election promise to put victims first by delivering our Making Queensland Safer Laws. In the months since then we have delivered a second wave of these laws, making young offenders charged with 33 serious crimes face adult sentences. Importantly, I am pleased to advise the House that since 13 December more than 2,200 juveniles have been arrested and charged with almost 10,000 Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, including more than 2,800 charges for stolen car offences alone. These figures not only speak to the seriousness of Labor's legacy but also demonstrate that, when we empower our police with the tools they need, we can turn the tide and drive down crime.


It will not surprise many to also learn that the crime hotspots where our police have been arresting the most juveniles are the Cairns and Townsville police districts. It is these communities that were the most forgotten under the previous government. They heard more about denials and deception than decisiveness and delivery. Just this week the bolstered State Flying Squad has been in Cairns. I can advise the House they have arrested 72 juveniles and charged them with 235 offences. Across Queensland, since December when these new laws were brought in there has been an almost 15 per cent decrease in robberies, a 4.4 per cent decrease in stolen car offences and a 7.6 per cent decrease in unlawful entry. To put that in real terms, that is more than 1,700 fewer homes broken into since the end of last year.

But we are not standing here to celebrate these figures, as we recognise there is much more work to be done. Areas like Townsville and Cairns require ongoing focus by our police to dismantle a decade of decline under Labor. I also pay tribute to our police officers. Their commitment, professionalism and resilience have been instrumental in enforcing these new powers. It is the 769 new police officers who have joined our front line under this government, including 130 who will be sworn in tonight, who deserve, and will continue to receive, the full backing of this government.

Let us be clear: this is only the beginning. These early results show what is possible when we act decisively. Our resolve will not weaken. We will continue to pursue tougher laws and give our police the resources they need to keep our communities safe. This is a turning point. For too long victims of

crime have felt overlooked, unheard and let down by a system that prioritised offenders over victims. That changes with us. Our commitment continues to be with victims—to the service station operator threatened with a knife, to the unsuspecting mother whose car was stolen, to the family living in fear. We will not step back. We will go forward. We will restore Queensland and bring it back to a place where victims are protected, perpetrators punished and justice is not delayed; it is delivered.

### Jack's Law; Youth Justice

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.17 am): Last night we made Jack's Law permanent. This delivers on a very significant election commitment we made to Queenslanders. The LNP have been right behind Brett and Belinda Beasley and their campaign to make Jack's Law permanent since they tragically lost Jack to knife crime in 2019. Like the Premier, I also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the member for Bonney and his advocacy in standing beside Brett and Belinda. As I said to Belinda yesterday when we were discussing this, it was a bittersweet day for them. These laws will save young lives, these laws will take knives off our streets, these laws will protect more people and these laws mean more lives will be saved. We know they work, so we have done the sensible thing and we made Jack's Law permanent. It is just the latest way the Crisafulli government is delivering on our commitment to restore safety where you live.

Six months ago this parliament passed the first stage of the Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer Laws—before Christmas, just like we said we would. The laws delivered our Adult Crime, Adult Time policy that we took to the election, they finally removed detention as a last resort and they put victims' rights ahead of offenders. We made this a priority for good reason. Queenslanders had endured a decade of Labor's escalating youth crime crisis, fuelled by a generation of hardened youth criminals—kids who had never been subject to consequences for their actions, kids who had spent significant time in detention but who would front up to court the day after they turned 18 with a clean record because their childhood history had been erased.

Queenslanders said enough was enough, and six months ago the Crisafulli government took the first step towards turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. It is still early days—10 years of damage will take time to repair—but there are green shoots.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! One person has the call. I want to make something very clear. I am not going to have a repeat of yesterday so everybody be aware.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That outburst shows Queenslanders why the former Labor government did not deserve to govern. It shows Queenslanders that they had forgotten all about them. Those opposite are in denial. There is a generation of untouchable, hardened youth criminals, running around our streets because 10 years ago those opposite watered down the laws. That is why we are here today. We have seen a 30 per cent decrease in the number of Making Queensland Safer cases being lodged with the courts compared to the same time last year. When magistrates come to sentence these youths—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Again, they are in denial.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** When magistrates come to sentence these youths, many of them are reflecting on our tough new laws, like one magistrate who recently noted—

The laws were changed recently because of children committing offences like these.

It is no longer the case that she receives a child's punishment. She is to be sentenced as if she were an adult.

When we passed these laws six months ago, we said our work was not done. We told Queenslanders there would be more to do and that is exactly what we have set—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We told Queenslanders there would be more to do and that is exactly what we are doing. There is no expiry date on our commitment to keep Queenslanders safe.

## 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) (10.22 am): Everyone has a right to feel safe, whether it is walking the streets of their communities, in the shopping centre purchasing their groceries or in their home day or night. That feeling of safety in your home is twofold, and in my role as Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence this is what drives me each and every day.

In my capacity as the child safety minister, I am charged with delivering the interventions for children with extremely complex and traumatic histories—children who are living in the out-of-home care system who have fallen into the youth justice system; children who are now deemed serious repeat offenders. Many of these children have no parent other than the state. For a decade these children were neglected by the former Labor government and by four former ministers—no real plan of action to deal with their complex needs, no desire to end the cycle of offending and abuse. In fact many of those opposite delivered the youth crime crisis through their failure to address those children in the child safety system.

I can report that 111 of the 388 serious repeat offenders are in out-of-home care. There are also 222 children under strict supervised youth justice orders in the care of Child Safety. According to the 2024 census on children in out-of-home care on supervised youth justice orders: 67 per cent have been in the care of the state for longer than five years; 77 per cent have had more than four placements; 72 per cent have been excluded or suspended from school; 56 per cent have self-harmed; 40 per cent have attempted suicide; and 70 per cent have a diagnosed or suspected disability. You can see how children with these backgrounds and complex needs end up on the streets committing crime. Those opposite did nothing. Delivering a residential care road map to nowhere left these children turning to a life of crime and falling into the youth justice system.

That feeling of safety in your homes is not just restricted to young criminals breaking in and stealing your property and cars or attempting rape or sexual assault; it also expands to domestic and family violence—abuse perpetrated behind closed doors, unseen, unheard. Many of these children are now another generation perpetrating violence. The correlation between domestic and family violence and children ending up in the out-of-home care system is astounding, with 68 per cent of children who are now in care having been impacted by domestic and family violence, yet those opposite spent barely any funding on early intervention or the prevention of domestic and family violence in their time in government.

The recently announced Commission of Inquiry into the Child Safety System will independently investigate the connection between serious repeat offenders and other vulnerable children in the out-of-home care system. We must understand the connection between these children, the out-of-home care system and the youth justice system. The previous government did not care enough or, worse still, did not want to know about these children and as a result there is a lack of meaningful data collated on the correlation.

We have taken action. Today marks six months since the Making Queensland Safer Laws became law. We will take action and deliver on behalf of all Queenslanders. Last night, Jack's Law was made permanent and that law is readily accepted and welcomed across communities, including mine in Mackay and the Whitsundays. Let Queenslanders never forget that those opposite created the youth crime crisis, with multiple ministers for child safety failing in their obligation and duties. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to delivering the change that Queenslanders and vulnerable children deserve.

## United States of America, Trade Mission



**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.27 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is unlocking investment opportunities for Queensland. I am pleased to advise the House that tonight I will be travelling to the United States as part of an important trade mission, leading the Team Queensland delegation at the 2025 BIO International Convention in Boston. This year, Team Queensland represents a delegation of 114 business leaders and industry experts to what is the world's largest biotechnology conference, promoting the emerging biomedical sector which is being supported strongly by our government.

Queensland is open for business, and it is vital to our interests that the new Queensland government spruiks everything that we have to offer. There is no closer security relationship that



Australia has than with the United States of America. The deepening of this security relationship aligns clearly with the government's priorities in state development to focus on biomedicine, biofuels and the defence industry. As Queensland's eighth largest export market, the United States presents significant investment opportunities for Queensland and American businesses.

As many in the House would know, the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games is being hosted in Los Angeles. While in the United States, I am taking the opportunity to meet with the LA28 infrastructure delivery team and tour some of the major stadia, minor venues and transport precincts which are being unlocked for their games.

When the Premier and I were working through the 2032 Delivery Plan, we made sure that legacy for Queensland from the games was put at the centre of our approach. All Queenslanders deserve a games that delivers generational infrastructure, and that is what the LNP government has promised and will deliver after more than 1,200 days of Labor games chaos and crisis.

Checking on delivery progress in LA will mean the Queensland government can see firsthand how our direct games predecessor is promoting a delivery model that secures long-term legacy with a focus on generational infrastructure. Queensland will learn the lessons from the experience of LA which will inform how we do things in the lead-up to 2032, making sure we maximise this fantastic opportunity for our state. The opportunity to engage with stakeholders is essential to the Crisafulli government's vision to secure Queensland's economic future, particularly in light of recent challenges facing global trade and international supply chains. Our government will always stand up for Queenslanders, which includes making the case for free and fair trade between our two jurisdictions.

Following the commencement of formal market sounding for the new Gabba entertainment and housing precinct last month, there has been international investment interest which will include key engagements in Washington DC and Dallas as part of our mission. This includes meetings with major global defence companies, keen to explore opportunities in Queensland. This trade mission will deliver for Queenslanders and bolster our state's reputation on the global stage as not only a safe place for investment but also as a willing partner for delivering jobs and infrastructure right across the great state of Queensland.

My message on the world stage is: Queensland, under Premier Crisafulli, is finally open for business.

### **United States of America, Trade Tariffs; Trade**



**Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (10.30 am): While Queensland is less exposed to tariffs from the USA than other Australian states and territories, it is no secret that tariffs and non-tariff barriers have increased volatility when it comes to trade and investment. Beyond the direct impact of higher prices on Queensland exports to the US, tariffs can also increase investment uncertainty and supply chain complexity and complicate trade flows with our trading partners. However, the Crisafulli LNP government also recognises that tariffs present unique opportunities for export substitution and diversification that can benefit Queensland businesses.

While foreign affairs remains the responsibility of the federal government, it is incumbent on us as a state government to ensure that our Queensland exporters are supported during this time of volatility. We know that affected businesses are looking to our government for advice and leadership at this time, which they never saw from those across the floor. We are guiding Queensland businesses in the trade space. We are helping them to explore other markets and to mitigate risks.

To assist local exporters, I have asked Trade and Investment Queensland to form a dedicated Tariff Response Unit to coordinate support to exporters impacted by the rolling US tariffs that were stood up on 2 April this year. This unit is delivering a 100-day plan that includes a series of regional round tables and webinars to provide information to exporters, along with online resources and tools. Unlike Labor, we deliver on our plan. This is what making sure Queensland is open for business looks like. Round tables have been held in Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Mackay and Ipswich in May and early June, and the next series will be held in Brisbane over the coming weeks. Whilst there may be uncertainty surrounding trade tariffs, Queenslanders can rest assured that when it comes to trade and investment, the Crisafulli LNP government is here to support businesses. Industry round tables are occurring through to July for targeted sectors, including food and agribusiness, mining, resources and energy, manufacturing and technology and creative industries.

In addition, online resources and tools are available such as the Trade and Investment Queensland Tariff Hub to help exporters make the best decisions for their businesses. These resources will continue to support Queensland businesses as the US tariff policy continues to evolve and

international markets adapt. Staff throughout the Trade and Investment Queensland global network are also working diligently to provide information and advice direct to Queensland businesses.

As the trade minister, I am continuing to re-establish relationships with our critical trade partners after years of neglect by Labor and their haphazard approach. I have been on three trade missions so far and there are more to come as the Crisafulli LNP government works hard to put Queensland back at the forefront of the global trade landscape. We are hard at work delivering for Queensland, just like we said we would. My colleague, the Minister for Primary Industries, is currently in Japan and South Korea as we work together as a government, laying the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland after a decade of crisis and chaos from those opposite.

During my most recent trade mission, I visited China and Hong Kong, and I am pleased to report that those deals are already flowing. As mentioned previously, I had the opportunity to formally open a new Trade and Investment Queensland office in Shenzhen, further cementing Queensland's presence in that fast-developing Greater Bay area and providing a local hub to deliver deals and results for Queensland. I was pleased to reassure trusted partners in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Shenzhen that Queensland can successfully navigate the current erratic global trade environment on account of the stability, certainty and growth opportunities the Crisafulli LNP government provides to our international trade partners—far more so than under those opposite as I outlined here earlier this week.

During my trade mission, I also opened the Queensland pavilion at this year's Hofex trade show, Asia's largest food, beverage and hospitality trade exhibition. I can report that 191 new leads have already been generated for the participating Queensland companies and already more than \$3.99 million in outcomes are in the pipeline.

We are continuing to monitor all developments and impacts of US trade policies, and the Crisafulli LNP government will continue to support local businesses during this uncertain time for international trade. Queensland is open for business.

### **CopperString**




**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (10.35 am): On 24 June, I will hand down the Crisafulli government's first budget. This budget is about delivering for Queensland and it is laying the foundations for the fresh start we promised. I had the pleasure last week of travelling to Townsville to make a significant commitment that represents a massive opportunity for North and North-West Queensland, and indeed our entire state. The commitment was simple: the Crisafulli government is saving CopperString and it will be built from Townsville to Mount Isa. It will be delivered for a lot less than what it would have cost under Labor.

The 2025-26 Queensland budget will include \$2.4 billion to go towards constructing CopperString. That is a record investment in this project. It is real money to be spent on building the transmission line, and real investment in the economic growth of our state, including our mineral-rich and renewable-rich north west. It means real on-the-ground work in the upcoming financial year as work progresses to connect the \$225 million Hughenden hub to future renewable energy and wind projects around Flinders to the National Electricity Market. It means Powerlink can prepare site accommodation across the Eastern Link and oversee the procurement of transformers, lines and tower steel needed to build CopperString. This is the biggest energy project in North Queensland's history and it is being delivered by the Crisafulli government.

Powerlink and QIC continue to work with local governments to ensure CopperString delivers for North Queensland. This investment in our state sends some very clear and important signals. It sends an explicit message to communities in North and North-West Queensland, to industry and to business that we are delivering on our commitments, giving them the confidence and certainty they need. It means QIC can use that certainty to help drive private investment into and around the project to reduce the cost to taxpayers which, under the former Labor government, had been forecast to blow out to \$13.9 billion. It shows we are delivering on our vision of providing economic development and industry-sustaining infrastructure in our vast interior.

It shows that Queensland is open for business, and it shows that our word matters. When we say we are saving CopperString, we mean it. Under Labor, CopperString never would have been delivered. We are delivering CopperString and together with it the jobs, economic growth and wealth-creating opportunities for our great state.

### **Flu Vaccination Program; Blood Donations; Illicit Smoking Products**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.38 am): The former Labor government failed to provide funding for the 2025 Free Flu Vaccination Program in their last budget—not a brass razoo. It is another failure by those opposite, led by the member for Waterford at the time. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government has stepped in to fill the breach and allocated \$25 million for this year's program.

As a result, I would like to thank the more than 1.3 million Queenslanders who have already rolled up their sleeves to receive the free flu jab this year. We want as many Queenslanders as possible to get vaccinated, especially those under the age of five and over age 65 who are most vulnerable to serious illness. I see a few thumbs up. Member for Lockyer, well done to you. Although I did not know you were over 65! Alongside the member for Thuringowa, I received my free flu jab at Cate's Chemist in Townsville. It is quick, easy and free for all Queenslanders aged six months and older to get vaccinated at their local community pharmacy or at their GP clinic.

Flu vaccination is not the only public health message we need to focus on in the cooler months. We know that blood and plasma donations decline during winter but the demand for these products does not slow down just because it gets cold. Australia needs more than 1.7 million donations every single year to keep up with demand. That is three donations every minute. I joined the members for Rockhampton and Keppel and some of our fantastic paramedics Susie, Angela and Brooke at the Rockhampton Lifeblood donation centre to remind Queenslanders of all blood types to spare 10 minutes to donate much-needed blood. I rolled up my sleeve and donated 500mls of Queensland parliament's finest at the time. The record to beat, for those interested, is five minutes and 30 seconds so there is a challenge. I am encouraging all those in this place to do the same.


Finally, I recently informed the House that a few months ago Queensland Health conducted the nation's largest ever haul of illegal tobacco and vape products by a public health authority in the country, and the record breaking continues. Just last week, the Mackay Public Health Unit confiscated approximately 3.3 million cigarettes. That is 165,000 packets of cigarettes and almost 300 kilograms of loose tobacco known as chop-chop and almost 20,000 vapes from a single illegal warehouse in Mackay.

As the member for Mackay knows from his time as a police officer, you need to be tough on organised crime and criminal gangs and deprive them of their ability to generate a profit, and that is what the Crisafulli LNP government is doing. To put this recent raid into perspective, in that one single raid in Mackay more cigarettes and loose tobacco was seized than was seized during Labor's entire final month in office in the entire state. The Crisafulli government is sending a clear warning to every retailer who pedals these harmful products: if you are pedalling these dangerous and illegal products your time is up. We are coming after you. We are looking after the health of Queenslanders and we are particularly protecting Queensland kids.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.42 am.

### Minister for Transport and Main Roads

 **Mr MILES** (10.42 am): My question is to the transport minister. It is understood a number of staff in the minister's office have deep links to toll motorway operator Transurban. Have these affiliations influenced the government's decision to make it easier to toll roads and to increase tolls and are appropriate conflict management plans in place?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. What I have to say is: nothing surprises me when it comes to the conduct of Leader of the Opposition. Not content with attacking public servants, he now also wants to attack ministerial staff. Unlike those opposite, I am more than comfortable to reassure the House that all appropriate conflict of interest management plans are in place. Appropriate advice has been taken and acted on from the Integrity Commissioner. The reason we brought the amendments into the House last night was on the advice of Department of Transport and Main Roads public servants—the same people who those opposite choose to attack day in, day out—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, I have cautioned you once already, you are warned.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite seek to weaponise public servants while pretending they are their friends. Nothing could be further from the truth and it was whit large in the Coaldrake report. We

respect the advice of public servants. We act on the advice of public servants and that is exactly what I did yesterday when we brought those amendments to the House. I made it very clear what those amendments yesterday related to. They relate to one specific provision. Those opposite have chosen to engage in a scare campaign for pathetic political purposes. I have categorically ruled out that this relates to the Story Bridge in any way. Those opposite keep pedalling the same mistruths. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition—despite sitting in this place while I said that—went outside and said the exact opposite. He knows it is wrong, they know it is wrong, yet they pedal the same rubbish for petty political reasons.

Unlike those opposite, I will respect the advice of public servants. I will listen to the advice I receive from respected public servants—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Many of those who served under those opposite—including my own director-general—served under the former minister for transport and main roads. Do you want public servants tell me when I go and listen to them? I was in a room with 60 public servants from the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Townsville on Friday. They say it is so refreshing to have ministers who actually come and listen to them and who front up and answer difficult questions. Whenever I go, TMR—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There should be no cause for the minister on their feet to yell. Minister, you have the call.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Everywhere I go—

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am trying not to yell. I have been exposed to too many high explosives over the years. Everywhere I go, TMR staff tell me I am the first minister they have seen since Paul Lucas. That tells you everything about how those opposite treat public servants.

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads**

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the transport minister. Did the transport minister join the Deputy Premier at his meeting with Transurban on Tuesday before new tolling laws were rushed through parliament?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the opposition leader for the question. The answer is no, I did not. I have met with Transurban. I will continue to meet with Transurban, as disclosed in my register of meetings; that is entirely appropriate. They are an important stakeholder in Queensland's road transport network. We will continue to engage with Transurban and local councils and road users and the Australian Road Safety Foundation. I will meet with any stakeholder that is an important stakeholder. In fact, I met with the RTBU. I was questioning my thought process after I accepted that meeting but nonetheless, I did meet with the RTBU. I will meet with anyone who is an important stakeholder in the road and rail transport network in Queensland because that is my role. Absolutely, I will meet with Transurban. I will continue to meet with Transurban; they are an important stakeholder.

Did I meet with them on Tuesday? No, I did not. We have made it very clear what these provisions relate to. The opposition leader knows what these provisions relate to, yet they continue to pedal fear. We will continue to come into this House and fix up Labor's mess. We will continue—I will continue—to mop up 10 years of Labor mismanagement in action while those opposite will continue to pedal fear because it is all they have. Now those opposite have said, when it comes to the provisions we brought into the House last night, that this is part of some—

**Mr Miles:** Sneaky.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection—this is part of some sneaky plan to toll the Story Bridge. If the opposition leader genuinely believes that is the case, if there is not a toll road on the Story Bridge in 2028—resign. I will categorically rule out that we are tolling the Story Bridge. Resign! If you can make it to 2028, which is going to be a stretch—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Once again there should be no need for a minister on their feet to yell.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am happy to make it—

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will happily rule out a toll.

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** To be clear, member for Bundamba, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** If the opposition leader is true to his conviction that this is part of some sneaky plan to toll the Story Bridge, he should resign. If there is not a toll on the Story Bridge he should resign.

**Mr Miles:** No new tolls, no increased tolls.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the opposition leader, who is interjecting while on a warning. The opposition leader should resign. I will stand here and categorically rule it out. Those opposite know exactly what the case is. Despite their interjections, those opposite know this is about a specific provision that we dealt with last night. They know exactly what this is about, yet they choose to peddle fear for political purposes. Whether it is this issue or youth crime, they try to walk both sides of the fence. They are sneaky and they do not really stand for anything. Those opposite had 10 years to fix this mess. They did not. We are mopping up Labor's failures and those opposite should hang their heads in shame.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Mr HUNT:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Will the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will prioritise keeping Queenslanders safe, and is the Premier aware of any differing approaches?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for Nicklin for the question. The question relates to police and community safety, a topic near and dear to his heart. He has dedicated much of his adult life to it and I want to thank him for his service and his deep connection to his community in a policing role.

The member asked about the focus for police. It is twofold. First is to make sure that they have the laws they need to do their job, and we saw another extension this week. The second is the resources. I am going to unpack that because the member asked about alternative approaches. Before I do, I make this point. This budget is as much about repairing people's faith in a government, as much about repairing people's faith in a body that does what it tells the people it will do, as it is about repairing the underlying issues of the budget that those opposite have left us.

The member asks where we are heading when it comes to law and order. In the first 200 days of this government, the increase in numbers of police was in the order of 240. The former government increased police in net terms by 174 in the entire term. A lot of the reason for the change lies with the great work of several ministers when it comes to strengthening the laws. A lot of it rests on the shoulders of the police minister, who has been categorically going around to police stations of all sizes and reassuring those officers that we have their backs. We have their backs.

The member asks about alternative approaches. Let me give him an indication of how much those opposite did not understand the importance of police. Firstly, their strategy for funding police recruits was to do so by allowing the attrition rate to continue to run off the rails. That is the first reason. That is the reason the net increase in police numbers barely moved over the course of the term. The second is it chose not to fund critical services into the forwards. Today I am going to reveal to the House two which will make Queenslanders shake their heads. The first is that RBT machines at the end of their life were unfunded for replacement. What were they expecting police to do—go back to the days of people walking the white line? They were unfunded. Then there was an underfunding of tasers. The Police Union, to its great credit, called out the need to replace the tasers with the more modern version not only for law and order but also for the safety of our officers. They have a superior role when it comes to keeping officers safe as well as dealing with offenders, and the replacement of tasers was underfunded in the forwards. If honourable members want to know why Queenslanders do not trust those opposite with law and order, it is because they weakened the laws and they refused to fund police. They do not have their back and this government does.

*(Time expired)*

### Toll Roads

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Why were Queenslanders not consulted on the new toll laws that now allow the LNP to increase tolls by any amount?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Not content with trying to peddle falsehoods and mistruths last night, those opposite continue to do so today. Let's be very clear: nothing has changed with respect to the ability of the government—the government of any colour—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order. I want to hear the minister's answer.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can yell if you want; it does not worry me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, we do not need to yell. There will be warnings before then.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am trying to remain calm, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Nicholls:** It is very difficult.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It is difficult. I take that interjection. The provisions we debated last night related to section 93AA of the Transport Infrastructure Act, something that those opposite put in place under Anna Bligh because it was politically convenient to do so when they privatised Queensland Motorways. Let's be very clear: that is what we addressed last night—a difference in the legislative framework to administer toll roads because those opposite put in place a poison pill, and members of the current opposition sat in that government.

**Ms Enoch** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Some of them are interjecting right now. They chose to put in place a framework that was different to every other toll road in the state.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Cross-chamber chatter will cease.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The changes that we made last night allow for tolls for heavy commercial vehicles to continue to be levied from 1 July this year. It is very interesting to see who is not asking some of these questions. One might ask why the member for Miller is not asking some of these questions. It is because he knows the truth.

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

**Mr Bailey:** I've got health, you moron.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That was very unparliamentary. I will ask you to withdraw that.

**Mr BAILEY:** I am happy to withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, the question was about consultation, whether it had occurred, so the point of order is on relevance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, the point of order was about consultation. Come back to that.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** If those opposite had read the explanatory notes to the amendment they would see very clearly that it addresses consultation. It is clear that it addresses consultation. The reason the member for Miller has a little bit of a glass jaw on this matter is that he knows it was his incompetence that has put us in this place. He knows that when he was the minister for transport and main roads he did not do his job.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has found the comments personally offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw. The 'overrun overlord' and his apprentice would find it personally offensive because over their decade of mismanagement they failed to address the issues that are affecting Queensland. Whether it is toll roads or the \$8 billion backlog in road maintenance, Queenslanders have to deal with that because of their incompetence.

We will continue to govern in a calm, methodical and consistent way. Those opposite will come in here and they will continue to try to weaponise fear and pervade falsehoods because they have nothing. They have still not accepted the election result, which was that Queenslanders rejected them.

Queenslanders rejected the member for Miller, the opposition leader and the rest of the frontbench because they were incompetent for a decade.

*(Time expired)*

### Budget

**Mr KEMPTON:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver respect for taxpayers' money, and is the Treasurer aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I want to thank the honourable member for Cook for the question because first and foremost in our mind as we have been preparing the budget is that we will be showing respect for taxpayers' money. That is fundamental to every line that we have gone through, every number that we have examined, every service delivery commitment from those opposite that was unfunded, every capital expenditure program that was promised but had overrun or had not been delivered. We have taken a very calm and methodical, serious and sober, targeted and responsible approach to the preparation of this budget and I look forward to delivering the Crisafulli government's first budget the next time we gather in this House.

We have been absolutely clear on our commitment to delivering a budget that delivers respect for taxpayers' money. We will be guaranteeing employment security, we will be enhancing services and, most importantly, we will be delivering on our election commitments. That is fundamental: we will be delivering on our commitments to the people of Queensland, and that is something that we have taken very seriously. When we deliver the budget, we will be delivering targeted and responsible cost-of-living measures, we will be delivering investments into productivity enhancing measures and we will be investing into those essential services that we so desperately need that Queenslanders deserve in the 21st century no matter where they live. That is the approach to our budget and that is what we will be delivering on 24 June.

The honourable member asked me for alternative approaches. I talked about it yesterday, but the Leader of the Opposition has some significant tests of his own in the next couple of weeks before he stands to deliver his budget reply speech two weeks today. With regard to his announcements over the last couple of months and again two days ago in respect of rebates or school lunches or Pioneer-Burdekin, already that is north of \$50 billion that those opposite will be committing to in response and in reply to our first budget in a fortnight's time. The serious question for the Leader of the Opposition is how those opposite will fund it. Where will they find it? We know it cannot be borrowed—it is too much—so there is only one option for those opposite, and it will be tax. So what tax will they be introducing? Will they be applying land tax on the family home?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Maybe there has been a secret deal from the former treasurer talking to his next-door neighbour down in Logan. Maybe they will be taxing the unrealised gains on the family home.

**Mr Crisafulli:** The patients tax.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Maybe he will bring back his renters tax. Maybe they will bring back renters tax.

**Mr Crisafulli:** The patients tax.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Maybe they will be making it more expensive to see the family doctor and bring back the patients tax. Maybe they will be bringing back first home buyers stamp duty. We will deliver a responsible and targeted budget, and I cannot wait to deliver it.

### Toll Roads

**Mr POWER:** My question is for the Premier. What is the current toll amount for a Linkt account holder to travel from Stapleton Road to the Pacific Motorway in Logan?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Day 3, question 1 from the opposition, and I am delighted to get it. I want to thank the honourable member for the question because I want to put a few things straight. I think the minister has done a fine job, but allow me to be crystal clear. The first is that the minister mentioned what this matter addressed and there was simply one provision. It is clearly administrative, but just to be crystal clear there will be no rise above CPI, and that has been crystal clear, and there will be no toll on the Story Bridge, and that is crystal clear, so for those opposite to try to peddle it shows complete and utter desperation. The opposition lacks credibility and stability.

I want to touch on a few contributions from last night. Firstly to the member for South Brisbane, the member for South Brisbane's contribution was good and I want to acknowledge it. I want to say to the member for South Brisbane: we rule out a toll for the Story Bridge. For the sake of her and her constituency, she deserves to know that. The member raised it in what I think was a respectful fashion and she deserves a respectful answer. To the member for McConnel, the member for McConnel says that in the budget Queenslanders will see this so-called rise. When the budget is handed down—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was not from the member for McConnel, or anyone else; it was from the member for Logan—a simple question about a figure the Premier should know—

**Mr SPEAKER:** So relevance?

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you heard the question around a specific toll.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will just continue to talk about this while I have the remaining time and of course I will continue to address the question.

The member for McConnel, always looking to overreach, overreached a little bit too much, and so in the budget the member for McConnel will be again exposed for the scare campaign that we have seen. However, the prize went to the Leader of the Opposition who said last night there would be a toll on the Story Bridge, and he will continue to be reminded of it every budget for the next several budgets when he is proven to be incorrect.

We continue to see the overreach from those opposite and there is a great example today, and it is from the health minister—the health minister whose blood is worth bottling—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I understand a note is available in front of the Premier. Perhaps he could answer the question now.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not a point of order by the Manager of Opposition Business and I would ask that you consider giving him clear guidance in relation to that.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes. A point of order is not a chance to make another speech. I accept that. Keep your point of order to the actual point of order. Premier, you have 26 seconds to round out your answer.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We have had members apologise in this House for the way that they have misled. The Leader of the Opposition needs to put his money where his mouth is. He knows full well what they are talking about. It is completely and utterly a furphy—another scare campaign from a desperate opposition that lacks credibility and stability. The answer to the member's question is \$5.65, and under the LNP it will only increase by CPI.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will have silence.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Silence.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will have—

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Morayfield, I was on my feet. You can join the list. You are warned.

### **Forensic Science Queensland**

**Mr FIELD:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney-General outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will properly resource Queensland's forensic services, and is the Attorney aware of any examples where this did not occur?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I thank the member for Capalaba very much for his question, because there is not a member in this House who is more passionate about victims of crime.

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Those opposite can groan all they like but, when there are perpetrators of crime still wandering around our streets because of the failures of those opposite and the DNA debacle that we know happened under those opposite that they thought we were politicising, I do not think the opposition should be groaning like that. When we are talking about the budget and we are talking about the foundations for a fresh start, I for one would like to put a few things on the record. When the opposition was in government, it talked about—it was actually the shadow treasurer who talked about and announced—extra funding for domestic and family violence courts. She announced funding for Maroochydore, Rockhampton and Mackay in July 2022, and guess what? Those opposite forgot to fund it. There was no funding for that. Their heads are down now because they know full well that the Mackay Court House was unfunded for that DFV court.

What about when those opposite announced a Children's Court in Mount Isa? The former government announced a new magistrate, so I am sure the member for Mount Isa in particular would have been very happy with that. But guess what? They failed to fund any support staff for that new magistrate: 'Don't worry. Just go out to Mount Isa with no funding for any support staff, no extra staff for the court, no help, no extra security, nothing. Just off you go.' Again that is another failure by the former Labor government. It just did not get it. It was all about announcements and not about delivery, and there is no greater example than the failed DNA lab and the fiasco that was FSQ under those opposite.

In stark contrast, within a very short period of time we commenced a review. I can announce today that in the next few months that review will come to an end and we will be in a better position to understand what we need to do going forward. We did not wait for the review to conclude. We allocated \$50 million to clear the backlog and \$12 million to the DPP to sort out the mess before it gets to the courts. That is how this government is working—in stark contrast to those opposite.

### **Toll Roads**

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister categorically rule out any new toll roads in Queensland in this term of parliament?

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take that interjection: who sold the assets? Who was the member of the then government who sold the assets? Who sold Queensland Motorways? Who was sitting there in the caucus room when this—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Quiet in the House.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Who sold the assets? Labor sold Queensland Motorways—\$3 billion. Some of the members opposite sat around the cabinet table while these decisions were being made. Now they come in here and ask the question. Why did we have to come in here and remove section 93AA? It is because the Bligh Labor government deliberately deceived Queenslanders.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

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

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Those opposite had a politically inconvenient problem they needed to solve, so they carved out the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway and made them different from every other toll road in the state.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the health minister. Only those opposite have ever increased the toll on the Logan Motorway. In 2016 the Palaszczuk government chose to increase the toll on the Logan Motorway by more than CPI. The Leader of the Opposition has just categorically ruled out putting a toll on the Story Bridge and increasing tolls—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Sorry, the former Leader of the Opposition. Long may he reign as the Premier. Sorry, member for Broadwater.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I was going all right; I have just blotted my copybook! He has just categorically ruled it out. For those opposite to purvey this any longer would be just a cynical political ploy. We have to ask why. When the Story Bridge is shut down by a protest, will those opposite be there with their

green mates purveying these mistruths? I would use a different word, but it is unparliamentary. Those opposite do not have a credible platform to stand on, so they resort to a fear campaign built on falsehoods. They know it, too. Queenslanders see through this rubbish, because they know that this rabble opposite stands for nothing. We had 10 years of Labor failure. Over those 10 years, who jacked up tolls above CPI? Only Labor. That is their record. Queenslanders know it. That is why they showed Labor the door. The Leader of the Opposition knows that he is not—

*(Time expired)*

### Training and Skills

**Mr BAROUNIS:** My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver for Queensland by ensuring funding is provided for critical training services, and is the minister aware of any approaches that do not protect these services?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. He truly is the nicest man in parliament—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms BATES:** Sorry, Treasurer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am not sure I shouldn't be rising to take offence!

**Ms BATES:** I was just about to say: other than you, Mr Speaker. I know how passionate the member for Maryborough is about manufacturing and training services in his electorate, and I thank him for representing me on many occasions. He has done a fantastic job up there in Maryborough.

The Crisafulli LNP government is laying the foundations for a fresh start for Queensland's VET industry—supporting Queenslanders by investing in the critical training services they need. Our first budget will address the gaping holes left by the former Labor government, who loved to make announcements and stand in front of shiny new banners but failed to provide the funding to back up those announcements. We, on the other hand, have taken a calm, methodical and forensic approach to uncovering the unfunded promises made by Labor.

We have committed to fix Labor's mess by supporting critical training services that deliver the skilled workers of the future and create the pathways they need to find high-paying, permanent and highly skilled jobs. We continue to build world-class TAFE facilities, investing in our centres of excellence across the state, with key work already underway—just like we said we would.

After a decade of Labor inaction, we know that the VET sector is facing workforce challenges in engaging trainers and assessors, especially in regional areas like Maryborough, and attracting and retaining a high-quality workforce due to a tight labour market. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government is already taking action to support the VET workforce, having committed \$2 million for a recruitment drive to employ the next generation of VET trainers. This includes attracting trade professionals, Defence Force vets and stay-at-home parents.

Unlike Labor, at the last election we actually made tangible commitments in the skills and training space. Labor's last budget left a funding shortfall—tens of millions of dollars missing. That would have hampered the government's ability to deliver the critical skills industry needs. That means that apprentices and trainees would have missed out under Labor. Worse, because of the Labor government's poor planning, 336 TAFE staff would have been facing job losses. That is completely unacceptable behaviour from those opposite, leaving TAFE to go by the wayside. The hypocrisy from those opposite is unbelievable.

It is also the LNP Crisafulli government that saved VET in Schools. Under Labor it was either unfunded or there was no funding in the forwards. Queenslanders do not trust Labor. That is why they voted them out. After funding fell off a cliff under Labor, the Crisafulli government is going to provide services to Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

*(Time expired)*

### Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is of the corrective services minister. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that the government is struggling to recruit psychologists for the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Will the minister confirm that this lack of psychologists may impact the

commissioning of the new prison, and will the minister rule out privatising or outsourcing services at the centre, including psychiatric services?

**Mrs GERBER:** The member asks about the new Lockyer Valley correctional facility. I will get to some of the later aspects of this question, which I would like the member to authenticate. Under those opposite, the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre was promised to already be open. They stood up and told Queenslanders that it was on track and it would be opened by now. It has been left to the Crisafulli government to get the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre back on track. It has been left to us to try to renegotiate and support that centre getting back on track. Why? Those opposite also blew the budget for the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Under those opposite, the project blew out to almost a billion dollars. That is taxpayer money. That speaks to the incompetence of those opposite in government. The fact that it is not open now has resulted in the system pressures the correctional centre is facing right now. We have that centre back on track. We are employing the staff needed to facilitate that centre.

The Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre will have rehabilitative services. We will ensure that DV perpetrators get rehabilitation services. We will ensure that there are psychologists, member—thank you for the question. We will ensure that there are the health services needed in the Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre. Those opposite did not do it. The member is asking about a matter that they failed to do when they were in government. When they were in government they had the opportunity to have this correctional facility up and running with exactly the services that the member is talking about and they failed to do it. Then they come into this House and ask the Crisafulli government to deliver on what they failed to do.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the Premier. We are delivering not just the beds that are needed to help our correctional facilities deal with the crime crisis that those opposite created, but we are ensuring the staff in those centres have the support they need. We are ensuring violence against staff is not tolerated.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mrs GERBER:** We are ensuring that we clean up Labor's mess. Let's face it, we have this problem in our correctional facilities because of the crime crisis that was created under those opposite. Those opposite created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders and they failed to take accountability for it. Our prisons will be built and the Crisafulli government will continue to provide the services that are needed in those prisons.

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

### Central Queensland, Road Infrastructure

**Mr G KELLY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver progress on critical regional road projects in Central Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I want to thank the member for Mirani for his question. I had the privilege last week of spending a couple of days with the member for Mirani driving on roads—big roads and small roads—throughout Central Queensland and meeting with local community members, not just with Transurban but with the mayor of Isaac shire, Kelly Vea Vea, the trucking industry and the pastoral industry. We had a meeting at—what was the pub we went to?

**Mr G KELLY:** Kabra pub.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We had a great turnout at the Kabra pub with local residents concerned about Labor's failure to invest in regional roads. Only this side of politics, the LNP, genuinely care about rural and regional Queensland. Only this side of politics is committed to delivering the road and rail infrastructure that every Queenslanders deserves, not just those in the South-East. I was really pleased last week to stand alongside the member for Mirani and the member for Rockhampton to announce that we are getting on with the job of delivering the Rocky ring-road. I reflect on campaigning for the Rocky ring-road alongside my federal LNP colleagues back when those opposite were in power. I think the member for Miller was the minister at the time. He said it was going to cost \$1.065 billion. How much do you reckon it blew out to under their watch, Mr Speaker? You are not going to answer me so I will tell you: \$1.98 million—nearly double.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection. It is not too bad compared to what we usually get under the 'overrun overlord'. Not only that, they hid it. They went to the last election with an extra \$250 million blowout that we discovered when coming into power. We were able to release that information when we disclosed a \$6.7 billion unfunded gap in QTRIP. That is the record of those opposite. Rocky ring-road is just one of those projects.

The budget will be focused on delivering a foundation for a fresh start. It is about delivering for rural and regional Queensland projects like the Country Roads Connect initiative—a great LNP commitment which will close the gaps in local and regional roads that are dirt with bitumen on either end. Local communities are losing their mind. It is a great commitment. The budget will fund that. Under the Beef Roads initiative, \$20 million will go to the May Downs Road in the electorate of the member for Mirani. It is a great initiative. We look forward to working with local councils and communities to make our regional and rural roads better. It is not good enough that at Spider Creek, where we visited last week, there is a ridge in the middle of the Bruce Highway that is, frankly, dangerous. That is what our \$9 billion commitment to fix the Bruce Highway is all about. We will be getting on with the job of delivering for rural and regional Queensland in the budget in the next sitting of parliament.

### **Public Sector, COVID Vaccination Mandate**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question is to the Premier. As reported last week, the Queensland Police Service has reinstated staff who were persecuted for refusing COVID vaccination, deeming the directive unlawful. Will the Premier confirm that all Queensland government employees who were sacked, stood down or penalised during this shameful period have been fully reinstated with full pay?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Hill for the question. I want to make two observations. The first is that the member has been putting forward this case for some time. That is the first thing I will acknowledge. The second is he has taken the time to come and talk to me about it on some occasions. I thank him for doing that and for the way he has advocated. I can confirm to the member that as of today there are no mandates remaining in place for any Queensland government departments when it comes to COVID vaccines. I want to make that crystal clear for the member and thank him for raising it. I want to explain to the member why that is the case. The reason is that in this state we are facing a number of crises that have to be overcome and it can only be overcome with a Public Service that does feel empowered and respected and it can only be overcome with a Public Service that has the numbers and the horsepower to be able to provide those services.

I think of it through the eyes of a Queenslander who calls triple 0 in their hour of need. They have just gone through a horrendous time and something has happened—someone has broken into their home. They just want to know there is a blue uniform to come and help them. That is why it is important that that blue uniform is there. At a time when we have seen the level of police leaving the service higher than we have seen it before, what we need to do is remove every barrier to get them to come back. It is important that we do that. It is important that police, wherever they are able to serve, are given that opportunity. It is the same for health where we have such a desire and a need for frontline staff, people like nurses, doctors and OTs. We have never needed more of them than we do now. We spoke a lot about that during the election campaign. We spoke a lot about workforce retention and attraction, but it is also about getting them to come back. There have been some good people who have not been given the opportunity to serve and we want them to come back. It is the same across the board. Whatever department they work in, whether it is a role that has interface with the public or whether it is someone serving back of house, we need a Public Service that feels empowered. We need a Public Service that feels respected.

Above all, the reason it is essential that those mandates are not in place is we have to put that all behind us. We have to move on. We have to move forward. We have to do so in a way where the community understands that the division that has been experienced cannot continue. The division that existed, for whatever reason, must be a thing of the past. I want to thank the member for the way he has taken the cause forward and I want to ensure the member that that is no longer the case in Queensland.

### **Health System**

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver better access to healthcare services for Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that differ?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for her question. Obviously, the answers are yes, I will and obviously I can. I will take great delight in doing so. The member for Rockhampton is one of the great contributors to the Crisafulli LNP government. Her service both as a local councillor and now as an MP stands her community of Rockhampton in great stead. I was in Rockhampton last week. Minister for Transport, I also drove some big roads and some small roads on the way out to Moura and Biloela where we opened some new facilities that are being opened by the Crisafulli LNP government.

The member for Rockhampton makes a valuable contribution. I remind members that we are still facing the health crisis that three Labor health ministers left the Queensland Health system in, with the worst ambulance ramping and the longest elective surgery waitlists in its history. We have not waited for the budget; we have already started healing Labor's health crisis. We are analysing the gaps that Labor left in the maternity workforce. We are publishing real-time hospital data—something that Labor could not do in 3,000 days and we have been able to do in 93 days. We have renamed our satellite health centres.

As of last week, more than 10,000 patients have been referred from the elective surgery waitlist through our \$100 million Surgery Connect Surge. Before 30 June, 10,000 people were able to get the surgery that they were on the waitlist for under Labor. In April, the elective surgery waitlist fell by 2,750, which is the greatest decrease in a single month since 2015—that is, in a decade. In Rockhampton, over the year the ramping rate dropped by 12.3 per cent from 43.9 per cent to 31.6 per cent. In the last month alone, it dropped by 8.8 per cent. In our first budget, the LNP government will return proper budgeting to Queensland to ensure easier access to health services and it will deliver a record investment in health infrastructure, supported by our Hospital Rescue Plan.

I am asked about alternative approaches. The alternative is a trail of unfunded commitments and an inability to plan for the future of our health system. Under those opposite, there was no money in the budget for flu vaccines, no money for legislated midwife-to-patient ratios and no money for the existing enterprise bargaining arrangements of \$1.88 billion. The former government also rebadged billions of dollars from sustaining capital and left sustaining capital vacant, with no funding to sustain our asset portfolio. Labor's legacy is one of failure and overspending. We were elected to provide Queenslanders with a fresh start and the Crisafulli budget will deliver a fresh start for Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### Public Sector, Consultants

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Treasurer. In relation to Queensland Government Consulting, how many public servants are currently working there and how many are needed to realise the \$7 billion in savings?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question because it does give me an opportunity to step in and stop the honourable member from embarrassing herself with more public statements. The honourable member simply misunderstands what we have been saying. Perhaps the honourable member should speak with the former treasurer, two doors down from her.

Our election commitment was to slow the exponential growth in consultants and contractors because we back in our Public Service in a way that those opposite never did. The Coaldrake report was clear on that. The former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, promised twice, in 2021 and 2024, to save \$3 billion over four years and he was going to do that on consultants and contractors. He said that he would reduce the spend from where it stood 'right there'. He did not just produce zero reductions from 'right there'; he oversaw the exponential growth—11, 12, 13, 14 per cent, year on year—on consultants and contractors here in Queensland and the former treasurer knows it. The Auditor-General made it clear. That is the truth. I am looking forward to detailing the operationalisation and the structure of Queensland Government Consulting in the budget, as we have always said we would do. The shadow treasurer does not have long to wait for that.

I do not think anyone in the House would argue that I have pretty thick glasses. When I woke up this morning, I read the clips of the day. I thought that I might need a new prescription when I saw a comment from the Queensland Council of Unions. The QCU said that our election commitment to deliver on Queensland Government Consulting was both—wait for it—'significant and commendable'. In that minute I thought, 'I know I have thick glasses but maybe I need thicker glasses.' I thought maybe it was time to head back for a new prescription because that was an unlikely supporter of our commitment on Queensland Government Consulting. Members opposite can rest assured that, in the budget in two weeks time, I will be talking about how we are structuring and setting up Queensland

Government Consulting, how we will be rebuilding capacity in the Queensland Public Service and how we will be backing in their capability to help us deliver more and better services for future generations of Queenslanders.

### **Bribie Island, Erosion**

**Ms MORTON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government is listening to local communities on important issues such as the Bribie Island breakthrough and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Caloundra for the question. It is an important question for her community and one that I have spoken about. We have had breakthroughs 1, 2 and 3, most recently with ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The first breakthrough occurred in 2022 with ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, but nothing was done by the former Labor member for Caloundra or the Labor Party when they were in government for 10 years.

We immediately set about doing a review. Within the first six months of this government, we appointed independent experts to look at what we could do to ensure residents, particularly in Golden Beach and Pelican Waters, and businesses, particularly at the marina, are protected. I thank not only the member for Caloundra but also the PPCMB, Jen, Ken and all the team. The Premier has met them, I have met them and the member for Caloundra has met them. We have had community consultation. They have been fighting the good fight. They were a lone voice in Queensland. When the Labor Party were in office they did not listen to them. Jason Hunt, the then member for Caloundra, refused to do anything on this issue to protect his own community. The Bribie Island breakthrough and the residents of Golden Beach and Caloundra were neglected by Labor.

We have done a review. We have released stage 1, which covers the history of the breakthrough over about 50 or 60 years. The second part of the review is about the immediate action we can take. I have the review. Today I can announce that the Crisafulli government will take immediate action. We are going to invest \$20 million to fix the Bribie Island breakthrough with four actions. First, we are going to close breakthroughs 2 and 3. Second, we will buffer the island segment between breakthrough 2 and breakthrough 1. Third, we are going to construct an inner sandbank inside breakthrough 1 and reduce wave energy entering the passage. Fourth, we are going to create a temporary channel, maintaining it from breakthrough 1 to the northern end of the passage. In a matter of months, we have accepted those four immediate recommendations to deal with four issues. We are getting on with the job. I thank the member for Caloundra.

In contrast, I was surprised to see recently that Bart Mellish MP had posted a photo of the passage on Facebook.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There will be no props.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That was the first time the Labor Party has shown an interest in the Pumicestone Passage. He said—

Bizarrely Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie promised this week he will turn back the Pacific Ocean at northern Bribie Island ...

Flying to Gladstone for work today I got a good view of the naturally changing shoreline ... Do you reckon he can do it?

I reckon I can and I reckon the member for Caloundra can as well.

The member for Aspley was part of a government that neglected Caloundra for 10 years. This LNP government and this member for Caloundra, Kendall Morton, are not neglecting Caloundra. She is a terrific member for Caloundra. I say to the member for Aspley: do you know what we are going to do? Dredge, baby, dredge! We are going to fill the gaps. We are going to dredge and fix it. We are going to protect the residents of Caloundra, which is something that the Labor Party would know nothing about.

*(Time expired)*

### **Western Queensland, Train Services**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Regional train services are critical in connecting communities, particularly in Western Queensland. Can the minister guarantee there will be no reduction in services on the *Spirit of the Outback*, the *Inlander*, the *Westlander* and tilt-train services under this government?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It is tremendous to finally get a question from the minister for transport—sorry; the former minister for transport and main roads. He was there for five minutes. That is twice today.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am sorry, but we had been in opposition for a while and it is easy to forget. I think it has been in excess of four months so it is great to finally get a question from the minister—the former minister for transport and main roads.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We obviously all need to catch our breath.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It is alright—he was just as surprised that he was there as I was. When those opposite were in government for 10 years, they presided over a road network that had an \$8 billion maintenance backlog and regional rail services that had historic underinvestment in maintenance. It was not only a failure to maintain; it was a failure to plan and deliver. Services like the Savannahlander were left to wilt on the vine under those opposite to the point where services had to be discontinued. Regional rail services like the Savannahlander were stopped under the member for Aspley and the member for Miller. Those two incompetent former ministers presided over a decade of failure in regional rail and our road network.

Those opposite have a thick hide to come in here and ask questions about investment in regional rail after they failed to do anything for 10 years. We are committed to delivering for regional and rural Queensland. It is why I actually moved further north than the Sunny Coast. From what he has said in the House, I think the last time the member for Aspley drove the Bruce was to go to Noosa. Unlike the member for Aspley, last week I was in Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Toowoomba listening to regional and rural voices. Next week I will be in Goondiwindi listening to regional and rural voices.

We are delivering for regional and rural communities with both rail and roads. We have the Country Roads Connect Program, the beef roads program and a \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway—something those opposite said they could not deliver. Those opposite walked away and sided with their mates from Canberra. Those opposite do not care about regional Queensland. They do not care about regional Queensland because they do not get regional Queensland. They do not listen.

**Ms Leahy:** They don't know where it is.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They do not know where it is—I will take the interjection from the member for Warrego. They do not even know where rural and regional Queensland is. The Crisafulli government will always deliver for regional and rural Queensland, unlike those opposite.

*(Time expired)*


## Education and Arts

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government values strong and productive working relationships with stakeholders right across the education and arts sectors, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not prioritise these relationships?

**Mr SPEAKER:** As much as we were looking forward to that answer, Minister, I am afraid the period for question time has expired.

## PRIVILEGE

### Proceedings of Chamber

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (11.42 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I am advised that at 10.43 am today the government issued a media statement appearing to indicate the parliament has established a new parliamentary inquiry. As I understand it, no such inquiry has been agreed to by the House. I raise this matter to ensure that the proceedings and the dignity of the House have not been compromised. The opposition asks that this matter be thoroughly investigated by you, Mr Speaker.

## HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11:42 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Health Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill, with the minister to be called to reply to the bill by 8.00 pm today and all remaining stages of the bill to be completed by 9.00 pm today.
2. If all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 1., Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Gladstone is warned.

Motion agreed to.

## CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.44 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[628\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[629\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[630\]](#).

It is with great pleasure that I rise today to introduce the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. The bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to ensure all mining related reportable deaths on Queensland's mine and quarry sites are thoroughly examined and any lessons from these tragedies inform future systems and practices. As I will outline, this bill realises our election commitment by amending the Coroners Act 2003 to establish the Mining and Resources Coroner, a dedicated coroner who will conduct investigations and inquests for all accidental mining related reportable deaths.

The bill restores a vital justice service for Queensland's important resources sector, ensuring inquests are conducted in a timely and transparent manner. In Queensland before 2001 inquiries into fatal and serious accidents were carried out by the Mining Warden in the Mining Warden's Court. The Mining Warden's Court also had jurisdiction in relation to mining claims, compensations and lease applications. These types of disputes are now heard by the Land Court.

In March 2001 the Mining Warden's Court ceased inquiries into serious and fatal accidents, and all fatalities on mine and quarry sites were subsequently dealt with by the Coroners Court. The establishment of a Mining and Resources Coroner is the most effective way to address current concerns about lengthy wait times for mining related coronial matters to be heard.

Under the Coroners Act, a coroner must conduct an investigation into a reportable death—for example, if the death was violent or otherwise unnatural. Unless the Coroners Act mandates an inquest, an inquest is only conducted if in the public interest. Between 2014 and 2024 there have been 27 accidental mining related deaths investigated by Resources Safety & Health Queensland. During the same period coronial inquests have been held for two deaths as well as for two deaths that occurred prior to 2014. The bill removes this discretion and provides that inquests must be conducted for all mining related reportable deaths.

The government has listened to the voices of families who have suffered the loss of loved ones in our state's mines and quarries. Families have asked for more support, more information and better access to justice. Families have asked for greater transparency into the findings and recommendations that result from investigations of these matters. Today we heed those calls through the establishment of a dedicated coroner who will investigate and conduct mandatory inquests for all accidental mining reportable deaths. Families will get certainty that their loved one's death will be investigated and a vital layer of accountability for the mining and resources sector will be restored. I would like to thank Minister Last for his work in progressing this bill. He has been a champion for these reforms and of the numerous families affected by the tragedies.

To support the families of the deceased, I am pleased to advise a position will be established within the Coroners Court of Queensland to provide family and liaison engagement throughout the coronial investigation and inquest process. As Minister Last and I have heard from the families, it is



important that there be a liaison person acting as a touchpoint for families during the stressful and difficult process of a coronial investigation. This role will act as a direct point of contact for those grieving families and agencies, ensuring they are supported throughout the process. This is consistent with our commitment to deliver a justice system that puts victims and their families at the centre.

The Coroners Court of Queensland will work closely with specialist investigation liaison support officers, within the Office of Industrial Relations. These officers provide support to family members of a person who dies from a workplace fatality, from the time that Resources Safety and Health Queensland commences its investigation, to ensure a consistent continuity of support.

The Crisafulli government recently announced that respected barrister Wayne Pennell will become Queensland's first Mining and Resources Coroner. Coroner Pennell served two decades as an officer in the Queensland Police Service before being admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court in 2003. In recent years Coroner Pennell has gained significant experience as a member of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, a senior member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and as a general member of the Administrative Review Tribunal.

Following his appointment as a magistrate, Mr Pennell has commenced work as a local coroner and will spend the first 12 months of his tenure as a coroner based in Brisbane before transferring to Mackay. The State Coroner will dictate what matters Coroner Pennell will be working on before the bill commences. However, I understand the newly appointed magistrate is becoming familiar with the mining and resources jurisdiction and will be ready to use his extensive experience in the judicial system to carry out his important work.

The bill establishes the position of the Mining and Resources Coroner and the formal appointment process. Under the bill, Governor in Council will appoint a local coroner as the Mining and Resources Coroner in consultation with the State Coroner and the Chief Magistrate. The bill provides that, on commencement, the State Coroner is taken to have reassigned the investigations into mining related reportable deaths to the Mining and Resources Coroner. In addition to ensuring prompt attention to mining related matters, when the Mining and Resources Coroner is not dealing with mining related matters, the role will undertake general coronial work to assist in finalising coronial matters generally and help reduce the backlog for investigations and inquests.

I will now turn to the scope of the work to be undertaken by the Mining and Resources Coroner. The Mining and Resources Coroner will conduct coronial investigations and hold inquests for all mining related reportable deaths. The bill provides that a person's death is a mining related reportable death if: the death was a reportable death under section 8(3)(b) of the Coroners Act, meaning the death was a violent or otherwise unnatural death; the person died at any time after receiving a mining related injury that caused the death or contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died; and the mining related injury was received at a coal mine, a mine—including quarries and mining railways—or at a certain type of petroleum and gas site.

The bill draws on the definitions for these sites used in the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.

Specifically, the bill defines a mining related injury as an injury from (a) coal mining operations under schedule 3 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999; or (b) operations under section 10 of the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999; or (c) data acquisition activities; or (d) petroleum tenure activities; or (e) water monitoring activities.

The bill provides that a mining related injury does not include an injury that a person has intentionally self-inflicted. Other deaths that are outside of the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner for mandatory inquest include deaths that occur on public roads, such as where a worker is commuting to or from a site. However, where these deaths are reportable deaths more broadly under the Coroners Act, the Mining and Resources Coroner must still conduct an investigation into the deaths and may conduct an inquest if it is in the public interest to do so. For example, this may include where the death was connected to safety and health obligations of the mine operator.

I turn to the functions and powers of the Mining and Resources Coroner. Under the bill, the Mining and Resources Coroner will utilise the existing coronial framework and will have all the powers and functions of a coroner to conduct investigations and inquests for accidental mining related reportable deaths under the Coroners Act. During an inquest the Mining and Resources Coroner will have the power to: order a person to give evidence as a witness, including self-incriminating evidence; require a person to produce a document; inspect anything produced at the inquest, copy it and keep it for a reasonable period; and engage experts to provide information relevant to the matter being investigated.

The establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner will complement the existing processes that occur after a death. For example, Resources Safety and Health Queensland will still conduct an investigation under their regulatory obligations; police will still investigate if an offence has been committed; and the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor may commence criminal prosecutions, if appropriate. The outcome of these investigations will be provided to the Mining and Resources Coroner to support their investigation.

The government has listened to the issues raised by families about the timeliness of coronial inquests. Under the bill, the Mining and Resources Coroner will be allocated all mining related matters, and those which fall within the scope of a mining related reportable death will be subject to an inquest, giving families certainty.

We have also listened to stakeholders that any relevant criminal investigation or prosecution must not be jeopardised, particularly where an employer has been charged with industrial manslaughter. The bill does not change the current process, where an inquest can only commence once any related prosecutions have been finalised. Despite this, the bill clarifies that any preliminary work may occur to expedite consideration of the matter, which may include holding a pre-inquest conference to determine the issues to be investigated at the inquest.

If charges are not laid, having a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner means inquests will be able to commence as soon as possible. This will not only provide certainty to families that their loved one's death will be investigated and an inquest to determine the cause of the death conducted but also ensure people are held criminally responsible for the death of their loved one if prosecutions are considered warranted.

The establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner is not just about justice for families; it is also, importantly, about improving safety in one of Queensland's most critical industries. As a result of an inquest, the Mining and Resources Coroner will make written findings that may include comments or recommendations about anything connected with a death, such as public health and safety matters or the administration of justice, with the aim of preventing future deaths. Importantly, these findings will be transparent and publicly available, ensuring accountability across the mining and resources sector.

For recommendations directed at government agencies, the Department of Justice will request and publish responses to the recommendations, as well as implementation updates. This is consistent with current practice. This will ensure that the lessons learned from these investigations lead to tangible improvements in safety standards and practices.

If passed, the bill will commence on assent. The bill provides transitional provisions to ensure clarity in how the Mining and Resources Coroner will investigate injuries and deaths that occur before and after commencement. As I have already noted, open coronial investigations into mining related reportable deaths are to be reassigned to the Mining and Resources Coroner upon commencement. For a mining related reportable death that occurs after commencement of the bill, this will be subject to an investigation and mandatory inquest by the Mining and Resources Coroner. Let's hope there are none.

Mining related reportable deaths that occur before the commencement of the bill will be subject to an investigation and mandatory inquest by the Mining and Resources Coroner if all of the following criteria apply: before commencement, the coroner investigating the death has not made all the findings of an investigation into the death; an investigation has not gone to an inquest; a pre-inquest conference has not taken place; and the coroner has not stopped the investigation into the death under section 12(2) of the Coroners Act.

For mining related reportable deaths that occur before commencement of the bill there is an ability for the Mining and Resources Coroner not to hold an inquest if satisfied it is not in the public interest. The bill provides that, in deciding whether it is not in the public interest to hold the inquest, the Mining and Resources Coroner must: consult with and consider the views of a family member of the deceased; consider the length of time since the death happened; and consider when the investigation is likely to be completed. The bill also makes it clear that if there has already been a decision to not hold an inquest into the death by the State Coroner or District Court, the Mining and Resources Coroner is not to hold an inquest into that matter.

The bill will also make minor amendments to the Coroners Act to achieve greater efficiencies in the broader coronial system. The amendments will allow for the appointment of more than one deputy state coroner and enable preliminary examinations to occur after a death has been reported to the coroner rather than limiting them to cases reported by police officers.

In conclusion, the bill demonstrates the government's commitment to prioritising the safety of every Queenslanders working in our mining and resources sector. We are a government of action. Today we deliver on another election commitment for the people of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (12.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


### Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

## HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 March (see p. 508).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee in conducting its inquiry into the bill and for its report. I want to extend my thanks to the individuals and organisations who provided valuable feedback during that inquiry. There were 11 submissions to that inquiry during the course of its investigations. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I appreciate the committee's support for the bill.

I also foreshadow that I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail to the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2004 and that those amendments—which I circulated on Tuesday—will clarify the terms and conditions of the employment of staff of the newly established Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council. This will include the terms and conditions of any staff who may be transferred from Queensland Health, which currently regulates the operation of community pharmacies. These amendments need to be put in place immediately to ensure that the council can employ staff before the licensing framework under the act commences, and that is to protect the entitlements of staff and to ensure they can be employed appropriately.

There are a number of matters that were raised in the committee and that are enlivened by the policy behind this bill. Queensland's frontline health workforce is the backbone of our public hospital system. Each day thousands of frontline clinicians across Queensland deliver critical care and support to their communities, yet until now those frontline clinicians have had limited input into how hospital and health services across our state are governed.

The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to ensure that each hospital and health board includes at least one practising frontline clinician from that hospital and health board area. This delivers on a clear government election commitment and provides for greater clinician engagement in strategic decision-making.

I note that during the committee process questions were raised about whether it is possible to manage conflicts of interest for board members who are also employees of the particular hospital and health service. I am confident that any conflicts of interest that arise can be managed appropriately through the existing mechanisms. In this respect, I note that the Queensland Integrity Commissioner noted the same. In her evidence to the committee she said—

... if this proposal proceeds, I do not propose any further amendments to the Bill as I am of the view that the existing statutory requirements regarding disclosure and management of conflicts of interest are adequate.

This is very clear.

For the benefit of those opposite, I would like to remind them that there are currently five serving hospital and health board members who are employed or engaged as clinicians by the same hospital and health service. In fact, the chair of one of those hospital and health services is an employed clinician of that hospital and health service. That chair is also the chair of the chairs' committee of all 16 hospital and health services, so this role is already being filled. It is currently the case that there are five board members who are also employees of hospital and health services. These board members were appointed by the former government. The former government was clearly of the view at the time when those appointments were made that these types of conflicts of interest were manageable.

Hospital and health boards make significant decisions about how health services are delivered in their areas of responsibility. These are decisions that affect workforce planning, resource allocation, service priorities and models of care. Ensuring those decisions are informed by clinical perspectives from within the service will strengthen governance and drive the more responsive, patient-centred outcomes that the residents in those communities are demanding.

The bill also strengthens enforcement against vaping goods. Vaping represents an urgent and escalating public health challenge. Earlier today I indicated some parts of the LNP Crisafulli government's crackdown on this illegal and illicit trade by rogue traders. Some of the biggest seizures of illegal products in Queensland's history have taken place in the last three months under the LNP government.

Despite clear evidence of harm, including respiratory illness, cardiovascular risks and nicotine addiction, illegal vaping products continue to be sold across Queensland. These products are often marketed as safe or nicotine-free, but we know this is not the case. Since November 2024 Queensland Health has seized more than a quarter of a million illegal vapes. In March, as I have indicated, Queensland Health officers executed the largest seizure of illegal cigarettes and vapes by any public health authority in Australia. More than 76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco with a street value of \$20 million were seized.

With rising seizure volumes we face growing logistical challenges in storing and destroying these hazardous items. The more successful we are, the bigger the problem has become. Currently, seized vapes must be stored for a minimum of eight weeks to accommodate existing forfeiture, show cause and appeal processes. Due to the risk of fire and toxic leaks, storage is expensive and destruction is complex. These risks and costs are borne by the state and ultimately by taxpayers.

This bill enables the immediate forfeiture and destruction of seized vaping goods. This ensures swift removal from the community, reduces fire and environmental risks, and relieves pressure on enforcement resources. We can direct our resources to do what they should be doing; that is, taking more action to crack down on criminal gangs and illegal tobacco and vapes.

Additionally, the bill introduces a new court ordered cost-recovery mechanism. This will ensure that those who profit from the unlawful sale of products such as vapes, illicit tobacco and ice pipes can be held financially accountable for the costs they impose due to their illegal conduct. I have spoken many times about the need to break the financial imperative that drives this trade. Courts will now have clear authority to order convicted offenders to pay the costs of enforcement, including seizure, storage, destruction, investigation and prosecution.

In conclusion, this bill delivers pragmatic, considered reforms to support stronger governance and improved public health outcomes. Importantly, it delivers on an election commitment that was endorsed by the people of Queensland in October 2024 when they chose to throw out the past and deliver a fresh start for Queensland with the Crisafulli LNP government. It gives clinicians working in our hospitals a meaningful voice in board decision-making and strengthens the state's capacity to enforce the law against the supply of illegal vaping products.

Queensland Health enforcement officers are working tirelessly to protect our community, and I want to thank them. I make it my business to visit them whenever I can when I am travelling throughout the regions or here in the south-east. They are doing a terrific job. They are enjoying being given the powers to do what they are doing, and they are doing it even more successfully. They deserve the right legal framework to continue to do so effectively. With those few words, I thank the committee, I commend the bill to the House and I look forward to constructive debate.



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (12.10 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill addresses two very different sets of amendments: firstly, to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and, secondly, to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. The

LNP went to the last election promising to put doctors, nurses and clinical staff back in charge of hospitals. We have already seen how insincere that pledge was under Premier Crisafulli and health minister Nicholls with a variety of their decisions, such as the cessation of funding for pill testing and the refusal to release the contents of the final report into that, despite strenuous objections from groups like the AMA, the RACGP and other peak medical bodies representing clinicians.

The amendments contained in part 2 of the bill supposedly give effect to that LNP election pledge by requiring that at least one member of each hospital and health board be a clinician employed directly by the hospital and health service which that board oversees. However, when you scratch beneath the rhetoric, the reality is that these amendments are nothing more than political posturing—yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government treating health policy as an opportunity for political theatre rather than an area of serious focus and serious outcomes. This is another example of a government which had a plan to win an election but no plan to actually govern Queensland well.

Why would I say this? Because this so-called reform is based on what can only be described as a shallow election commitment to win votes, not to improve actual health outcomes. The LNP has failed to recognise that, of the 16 hospital and health services in Queensland, 13 currently have a person with a clinical background appointed to a top-level decision-making role—chair, deputy chair, chief executive—and section 23(3) of the existing act already requires boards to include clinicians, so that exists right now. Clinicians have a role to play. That is the current status, so this is a bill looking for a problem to solve where one actually does not exist.

What is actually new here? The only so-called reform is creating a requirement for that clinician to be an employee directly of the same hospital and health service. That is not reform; this is posturing. If the minister had actually bothered to consult properly on this, he would have understood the serious conflicts of interests this bill creates. Let me underline the fundamental problem with this bill. Under this bill, a hospital and health service employee would sit on the board that oversees their very own workplace. As an employee of the hospital and health service, the clinician takes direction from the health service chief executive—that is their boss in their day job—but, as a board member, suddenly that same chief executive has to report to them. Now they are the boss of their own boss. It is an absurd situation straight out of *Yes Minister*. They are simultaneously the boss and the subordinate in the same relationship. It is the government's equivalent of a dog chasing its own tail.

Perhaps we should not be surprised that this has occurred under this minister's watch. After all, he is the minister responsible for the failed Strong Choices under Premier Newman; he is the member who cut the health and hospital plan to ribbons; he has already cut a range of programs, including funding for the Transfer Initiative Nurse and the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme for placing health specialists in rural and remote hospitals; he halted hospital expansions across Queensland last November as one of the very first acts he did upon election; and he now refuses to act to save the 58 beds at the Toowong Private Hospital. That is a very poor record and a very poor start from a health minister who is out of his depth.

The Integrity Commissioner noted that conflicts, or at least perceived conflicts, would inevitably arise and she gave concrete examples—the first being whether a chief executive would be perceived as impartial and objective when dealing with an employment issue involving a hospital and health service employee who is also a board member? Would that employee be perceived as impartial when making board decisions about their own workplace on matters impacting their colleagues and close work friends and about their own boss? While a comprehensive conflict of interest management plan might appropriately manage the risks of this model, the Integrity Commissioner was clear that these plans would be complex and involve placing a heavy administrative burden on the relevant clinician, the hospital and health service itself, the board secretariat and chair. Clearly, this would be an increase in red tape and overregulation to say the least.

Even the bill itself acknowledges those conflicts that are created, and this is something the minister did not mention in his outline. It bars local clinicians from becoming the chair or deputy chair. The bill specifically prevents local hospital and health clinicians from taking on these leadership roles. If they are not allowed to lead, what does the LNP's promise to put clinicians in charge really mean? Once again, when Premier Crisafulli says something it means nothing and this bill is further evidence of that. Why create this mess when there are better alternatives? We could appoint more clinicians from outside the local health service or strengthen how boards consult with clinicians at every level—getting genuine frontline insights without forcing our hardworking nurses, doctors and health professionals to navigate mountains of conflict-of-interest paperwork. Even stakeholders broadly supportive of the bill stressed the importance of avoiding conflicts and instead called for clinical representation that reflects contemporary healthcare provision.

That is why Labor will not support the amendments contained in part 2. We will not rubberstamp a hollow political stunt that adds unnecessary complexity for clinicians, locks in poor governance and creates new conflicts of interest. This would be a change that would actually restrict clinician input by forcing them to recuse themselves from the boardroom when matters concerning their own workplace or section are discussed—something no clinician on a board currently needs to do as they are generally not directly employed by the HHS. There may be one or two exceptions, but generally they are from outside the HHS.

This is our responsibility in this House—to balance the complexity and costs of proposed amendments against the public interest and consider whether a less complex model can achieve better outcomes. The evidence is clear; there are better ways to deliver meaningful input into health governance that do not tie up our hardworking nurses, doctors and health professionals with red tape and overregulation that burdens them. Our health workers deserve better than this cynical political gain. They deserve a government that takes health governance seriously, not one that actually reduces clinician input at a board level.

Turning to the amendments in the bill in relation to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act, this bill gives Queensland Health the power to forfeit illicit vaping goods immediately upon seizure without an effective eight-week show cause delay. Labor supports any measure that disrupts the trade of illicit vapes and keeps dangerous products away from young people. In government Labor introduced and delivered the toughest antismoking and vaping laws in the nation. Personally, I have had a lifelong commitment against the impacts of smoking and tobacco use from my teenage years. My father was a very heavy smoker—a three packets a day kind of man—and I was an early member of the non-smokers movement because I could see the sorts of impacts that was having on him and others.

The reality is that vaping today is the new smoking. Our nation has led antismoking measures over the last three or four decades. One only has to travel to see how far other countries are behind Australia in this regard. We need to continue to push the envelope to be best practice when it comes to vaping as well as smoking. We need to keep driving those rates down and Labor supports measures that do that.

Of course, we agree with expediting the forfeiture of seized vapes and with empowering courts to order offenders to pay costs. Enforcement teams have seized more than 100,000 illicit vapes, and good on them. These goods pose serious safety and health risks—flammable lithium-ion batteries, carcinogenic fluids and toxic heavy metals. Storage alone has become a nightmare, costing up to \$65,000 per container.

By removing a show-cause requirement, the bill preserves safeguards while cutting through costly delays. As Queensland Health stated, this change is a necessary step to ensure enforcement remains effective, efficient and sustainable. However, again, when it comes to developing a comprehensive plan, what we see is short-sightedness from the Crisafulli government.

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia has warned of serious gaps in vape waste disposal. As many as 12,000 fires have been linked to battery powered product disposal, including 200 battery related fires here in Queensland in the last year alone. This is not insignificant. Although vapes include a battery, they are outside the scope of the existing Battery Stewardship Scheme. The financial and safety burden of managing vapes within the community and the waste management sector is already growing. Under the current Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation guidelines, vaping products must be incinerated before land use disposal due to their designation as pharmaceutical waste, and there are limited safe disposal options here in Queensland. We need to do better.

Where is the Crisafulli government's plan to address this? Where is the consultation with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation? Where is the comprehensive strategy for disposal, storage and environmental harm? Crickets is all we have. That is all we hear—crickets and radio silence from the Crisafulli government. We should not be surprised by the lack of proactivity from the environment minister, given that he is a recycled Newman government environment minister after 10 long years in the wilderness. No promotion for him. In fact, he got a demotion after being sacked as Leader of the House and replaced by the member for Moggill. In any LNP government, the member for Glass House getting the environment portfolio means any action to protect the environment is highly unlikely as we have the same level of commitment under Premier Crisafulli—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Given the shrill interjections from a number of members over there, I will repeat that. The reality is that any action to protect the environment is highly unlikely as we have the same level of

low commitment under Premier Crisafulli as under Premier Newman with the very same environment minister we suffered from 2012 to 2015—next to zero commitment when it comes to protecting the environment. Witness the Moonlight Range Wind Farm approval abolition and reversal in Central Queensland by Deputy Premier Bleijie, trying to roll Queensland back to the Newman government era against clean energy.

The LNP are good at coming up with slogans, but when it comes to delivering well thought-out and effective policy, when it comes to not cutting hospital funding and health staff and it when it comes to backing evidence-based policy, you know it is not in the LNP DNA.

This bill contains provisions Labor does support—expedited forfeiture of illicit vapes and cost recovery measures that hold offenders accountable—but Labor will not support a misguided attempt to deliver on a hollow election promise by sacrificing good governance on health and hospital service boards with this retrograde step backwards which will actually reduce clinician input on the hospital boards. It does not make governments better to introduce new conflicts of interest and swathes of new conflict of interest management plans and red tape, or to actually reduce clinician input on boards because they will have to recuse themselves from discussions on matters related to their workplace or their section. It is making health and hospital boards less effective. We cannot and will not support such ill thought-out legislation.

We will vote to pass the bill, except for the amendments contained in part 2. We do not have an objection to the late amendments from the minister, but the government should go back to the drawing board and work with stakeholders to develop a model that truly puts clinical expertise at the heart of the health system, not posturing, without sacrificing good governance. However, given this government's track record of health cuts and chaos over the last seven months, I will not be holding my breath.

I endorse the passage of the remainder of the bill with the caveats that I have already outlined on behalf of the opposition.



**Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.24 pm): Don't you just love to hear from the other side when it comes to talking about legislation? It is almost like they have completely forgotten that they were the government for the last decade. We just heard the shadow minister talk about a lack of credentials in respect of the environment, but where were they on making these amendments and changes in regard to the disposal of vapes and tobacco-related products in the past? We had nothing from them in the past, yet they stand here today and accuse us, who have only been in government for what, six months, that we fail to act.

As chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill reflects the Crisafulli government's unwavering commitment to improving the performance, accountability and integrity of our health system and to taking decisive action against the public health crisis posed by illegal tobacco and vaping products. This legislation makes amendments to two key pieces of health law: the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. These are smart, targeted changes—changes that respond to the genuine frontline feedback and deliver practical outcomes for Queenslanders.

Let me speak first to the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. Across our state, thousands of hardworking clinicians deliver lifesaving care every single day. They are the ones on the floor in other hospitals, in our community clinics, in our aged care and out in the field, but for too long, those same clinicians have had a limited say into the governance of the very health services they work in. We are implementing an election commitment of the Crisafulli government to ensure that at least one frontline clinician is appointed to every hospital and health board in Queensland; that means a doctor, a nurse, a midwife or an allied health professional who works directly with patients for at least eight hours per week and has done so for at least two years. This is about giving our health boards access to people who understand firsthand what is working and what is not, and what our community needs. It is about giving those on the frontline a seat at the table.

Concerns were raised about potential conflicts of interest. I asked that the committee seek formal advice from the Integrity Commissioner who provided both written advice and appeared at the public hearing on 23 April. The commissioner advised that she did not have any concern and that any potential conflicts could easily be managed. It should be noted that there have been clinicians on some health and hospital boards previously. Further, she advised us that the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest was adequate and further amendments were not required.

These amendments will come into effect on 1 April 2026, aligning with the end of a major cycle of board appointments. That gives Queensland Health the time needed to recruit the right people and to support a smooth transition.

I turn now to the second part of the bill—reforms to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. Let me say this plainly: the illegal tobacco and vape trade in Queensland has exploded in recent years. Under Labor, it flourished in plain sight. We saw hundreds of illegal stores selling to children, dodging regulation and undermining public safety. I have seen this firsthand across my electorate with what feels like an illegal tobacco and vape store at every corner.

Between 2017 and 2023, the rate of vaping amongst Queensland high school students has tripled—tripled—and we know from the Cancer Council that young people who vape are 29 times more likely to start smoking traditional cigarettes. This is not just a minor health concern; it is a looming public health crisis.

The Crisafulli government has responded with action. Since our government was elected, Queensland Health has seized more than 250,000 vapes. In March this year, we led Operation Appaloosa, the largest seizure of illicit tobacco and vapes by any health agency in the country. That operation netted more than 76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco, with a street value of over \$120 million.

But with that success has come a challenge: once seized these products must be stored, sometimes for months, while legal processes play out. That means higher costs, greater risks of fire or toxic leaks and a mounting environmental burden.

During committee hearings, we heard reports that it could cost as high as \$65,000 per unit to store vapes at a local hospital and health service while waiting for proceedings to be completed. That is why this bill introduces the power for the immediate forfeiture of seized vapes. In other words, if they are illegal they can be destroyed without delay—no more unnecessary storage, no more fire risk; just a clear, fast response that keeps our community safe.

This bill also introduces a new cost recovery power for the courts. If someone is convicted of illegally selling vapes or tobacco, they can now be ordered to pay the full cost of enforcement. It is simple: if you profit from breaking the law, you should pay for the damage that you caused. Since we have introduced these reforms, we have seen real results. In just one week in April, illegal traders were hit with over \$5 million in fines. To put that in context, Labor averaged less than \$250,000 a week when they were in charge. We have seized \$468,000 in assets from dodgy tobacco retailers and taken the fight to more than 20 stores across South-East Queensland. These changes send a strong message: the days of looking the other way are over.

I want to acknowledge the many stakeholders who contributed to our committee's inquiry into the bill from hospital boards to public health advocates to integrity experts, including the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners and the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia. They particularly raised issues of product circularity and that disposal is a huge issue. While this legislation makes provision for the cost recovery of illicit products, there is still more to be done in terms of the full cycle of disposal. It is important to note that the Product Lifecycle Responsibility Bill recently passed in New South Wales may be something that we will need to as we continue to make improvements to what has been a very broken system under Labor. I look forward to further reforms by the Crisafulli government. While these laws give further powers to the department for dealing with illicit traders, it still leaves open an issue around online retailers that are based and operating in and outside of Queensland. The committee still has concerns around online retailers, particularly those who are seeking to get around the laws by masquerading as pharmacies.

In closing, I do want to thank my fellow committee members for their contribution and participation in the process. I want to thank the secretariat for their hard work in arranging public briefings, for assisting in compiling the final report and for their ongoing work. This legislation is needed to protect Queenslanders. It is built on the simple principle that Queenslanders deserve a health system that works for them, one that listens to its frontline and one that tackles emerging threats and puts the community first. I am happy to commend this bill to the House.



**Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.32 pm): At the core of this bill is the objective of giving nurses, doctors and other health professionals a greater say in the running of hospitals and health services. Apparently, it is all about listening to health professionals. This objective seems to fly in stark contrast to the actions of this government. They have ignored the advice of professionals and shut down pill testing and gender clinics, ignoring health professionals and endangering the lives of young Queenslanders. Of course, we have seen through the current enterprise bargaining agreement



negotiations with the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union that listening to nurses and midwives is certainly not on the agenda of this government.

I want to categorically reject this notion that nurses and doctors are not in charge of hospitals. It is a cheap political statement. A quick scan of any HHS leadership team will show they are all filled with experienced clinicians and health administrators. I do want to give a plug to health administrators. To suggest that somebody who has devoted their life to hospital administration is incapable of making a contribution to the leadership of a hospital and health service is, frankly, quite insulting and is completely derogatory and false in respect of the great people who do that work.

Let us just look at a couple of HHSs. Let us look at Metro North. The CEO is Adjunct Professor Jackie Hanson, a registered nurse. The Chief Digital Health Officer, Dr Jason Brown, is a burns specialist who is still practicing as a burns specialist. The Clinical Governance Safety, Quality and Risk Grant Executive Director is Mr Grant Carey-Ide who is also a registered nurse. There is a chief medical, nursing and allied health officer and director. Those who know Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alanna Geary's story will know what an incredible and inspiring person she is. I would love to be in the meeting where it is suggested that she is not in charge of her hospital. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Executive Director Adjunct Professor Sherry Holzapfel is a registered nurse and midwife with 25 years of clinical experience in Indigenous health. These are the people who are in charge of Metro North HHS.

Let us look at South West HHS. Dr Anthony Brown is a rural generalist with over 30 years of experience in general rural practice. The Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services, Mr Chris Small, is a registered nurse who holds four graduate certificates and an MBA. The Executive Director of Primary and Community Care, Rebecca Greenway, is an Augathella local with over 20 years of experience in rural and remote nursing. The Executive Director of Allied Health, Helen Wassman, has 30 years of experience as an occupational therapist. I could go on and on through every one of the HHSs, but I hope this demonstrates that our hospital and health services are led by teams of highly qualified, skilled and dedicated health professionals who work collaboratively with non-clinical administrators to deliver health services across our entire state. This demonstrates that the statement that this bill is about putting nurses and doctors back in charge of hospitals is completely false—they are already in charge. I think the real problem here is not that doctors, nurses and health professionals are not in charge of hospital and health services; I think the real problem is that those opposite do not listen to health professionals—not on pill testing, not on gender services and not on enterprise bargaining agreements.

How does this bill propose to fix this fictitious problem? By putting a HHS employee on the board. I want to note that of the 16 HHS boards—and it took me all of about five minutes of research during the committee hearing to work this out—13 have a clinician in either the chair, the deputy chair or the CEO role. They are senior leadership positions and all require at least one clinician to be a member of the board. As I said, this government demonstrates again and again that they do not listen to health professionals. I can tell you who else they did not listen to—that is, the Integrity Commissioner. We consulted with the Integrity Commission about this bill because myself and opposition members were deeply concerned about governance issues in this bill. The reality is: placing a practising clinician from within the HHS on the board creates a significant potential for conflicts of interest. The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners suggested that getting a clinician from a neighbouring HHS might be a better approach. The Integrity Commissioner advised the committee when balancing the complexity and cost of this proposal against the public interest whether a less complex arrangement could achieve the same end. The Integrity Commissioner suggested that appointments of clinicians from outside the HHS was an example of an alternative model worthy of consideration.


One of the roles of the board will be to review risk registers, which will involve reviewing critical incidents. A clinician from a HHS could possibly become aware of an incident that they themselves were involved in; be called on to provide expert advice on, including expert witness advice in courts; or they might even have a related supervisory role. This puts that clinician in a very difficult situation that could possibly jeopardise their ability to participate in future investigative processes. The Labor opposition has suggested an alternative approach, as has the Integrity Commissioner and the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, yet this government ignores this issue and pushes ahead with the change based on a falsehood that they are putting nurses and doctors back in charge of hospitals. Labor supports clinicians having a greater way in their workplace but we want it done in a way that protects clinicians, the organisation and, most importantly, patients. Perhaps a better start for this government would be to start listening to health professionals, starting with, say, listening to people about pill testing, gender clinic services and perhaps even the nurses and midwives EB.

I want to turn to the part of the bill that deals with vaping. Labor will support any measure to promote health and limit the impacts of smoking and vaping. We have seen action on this issue for many years by governments of every persuasion at every level. I am particularly proud of the work that we did when we were in government of passing tobacco and vaping laws that carried the harshest penalties in the country.

I do want to note the changes made by the Albanese Labor government that have paved the way for the more effective enforcement actions now being undertaken. The provisions in this bill should not be controversial as they simply allow authorities to destroy confiscated vapes. The problem is that these provisions demonstrate, once again, the short-sightedness of the Crisafulli LNP government. While we pass laws to destroy vapes, as we learnt from the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia, we have no environmentally safe way to do this. The explanatory notes to this bill acknowledge that the presence of lithium ion batteries, which can overheat, leak or explode under certain conditions, in addition to hazardous materials such as liquid nicotine, heavy metals and carcinogens complicates the handling and disposal of vaping goods. There is limited availability of safe disposal options existing in Queensland, with a growing financial and safety burden of managing vapes within the community and waste management sector. Although vapes include a battery, they are outside the scope of existing battery stewardship schemes. In the last 12 months 12,000 fires were caused due to the incorrect disposal of batteries and battery powered products, with 200 battery related fires here in Queensland alone.

Under the current designation as pharmaceutical waste, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation guidelines require vaping products to be incinerated before disposing to landfill. At the moment these vapes will be burned, a wasteful and environmentally unfriendly practice. We put forward recommendations to deal with these, but of course the government would rather charge ahead with its flawed plans than listen to experts like the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia.

While the objectives of this bill are supported and commendable, because this government does not want to listen to health professionals, the Integrity Commissioner or waste management experts, these provisions could have been so much better. We will certainly be opposing the sections of this bill that ignore the advice of the Integrity Commissioner and health professionals, and we call on the minister to work to ensure that vapes can be disposed of safely and in an environmentally sound manner. This bill again just demonstrates worrying patterns with this government. They do not listen, they are arrogant and they would rather play politics than get sound policy outcomes.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (12.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 that will strengthen both the governance of our health services and our ability to protect Queenslanders, particularly our young people, from the growing harm caused by illicit tobacco and vaping products. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering on its commitment to strengthen the performance, accountability and integrity of our health system while at the same time taking decisive action to protect public health. This bill does exactly that.

For too long frontline clinicians—our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—have been delivering critical care in our hospitals with limited input into how those services are governed. This bill changes that. As part of our commitment to put doctors, nurses and clinical staff back in charge of hospitals, this legislation will ensure at least one frontline clinician, someone working in that local hospital or health service, is represented on every hospital and health board across Queensland. This is a deliberate and meaningful step forward.

Those with firsthand, on-the-ground experience can help guide service delivery, identify practical solutions and champion improvements in patient care. Locally at Redcliffe Hospital we have dedicated clinicians who not only provide excellent care but have deep knowledge of what our community needs. Having their voice at the decision-making table will ensure that health services in Redcliffe are shaped by those who know their hospital and community best, unlike as was demonstrated by Labor's flawed capacity expansion plan. Clinicians have indicated that they have highlighted important measures that needed to be factored into the redesign and these were ignored. Under the LNP Crisafulli Hospital Rescue Plan, we will listen to clinicians to ensure we get a design that is fit for purpose for the community of Redcliffe and beyond.

Importantly, this reform has safeguards in place. To help manage conflicts clinicians cannot be appointed as the chair or the deputy chair of the board. Even the Queensland Integrity Commissioner advised—


... I am of the view that the existing statutory requirements regarding disclosure and management of conflicts of interest are adequate.

This bill does more than just strengthen governance. It also protects Queenslanders, especially our children, from the dangers of vaping and illicit tobacco products. In Redcliffe, like so many other communities, I hear from parents and school principals about the alarming rise in vaping among young people. It is a threat to their health and their future health. Under Labor's watch, vaping rates among Queensland high-schoolers tripled between 2017 and 2023. As the Cancer Council Queensland reminded us, young children who vape are 29 times more likely to subsequently try cigarettes. That is unacceptable.

Since coming to government, we have acted swiftly. Just a few months ago Operation Appaloosa saw Queensland Health seize more than 76,000 vapes, 90 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco, the largest seizure by any health authority in Australia. However, success brings challenges and right now we are required to store seized vapes for at least eight weeks, posing an environmental risk and high storage costs. This bill fixes that by allowing immediate forfeiture and destruction of these dangerous products. Importantly, those who profit from this illegal trade will now be held accountable, with courts empowered to order convicted offenders to repay the cost of enforcement, seizure and destruction.

This is not just about cracking down on illegal activity; it is about protecting our young Queenslanders from addiction, disease and the long-term burden on our health system. I want to thank the health minister, Tim Nicholls, for introducing this bill to the House. As a member of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, I thank my fellow committee members. I also want to thank the organisations and peak bodies that came and gave expert evidence in our public hearings. One of those was Cancer Council Queensland. I also say thank you to the committee secretariat for their amazing work in collating the report. The report made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

In Redcliffe we know that healthy communities are thriving communities. This bill backs our Redcliffe health workers, strengthens our hospitals and protects our children. It is decisive, it is responsible and I am proud to support it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise today to address the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I should inform the House that I am registered as a medical practitioner, now non-practising, with the Medical Board under Ahpra, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. In addressing this bill, I would like to first acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, all the submitters who provided contributions and the hard work of the secretariat in supporting the committee in its review of this proposed legislation.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 amends two acts: the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, or TOSPA, and the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. The proposed amendments to TOSPA allow for illegal vaping goods to be forfeited and destroyed upon seizure and for persons convicted of an offence under TOSPA to be ordered to pay for costs incurred due to the offence.

Vaping is a major public health issue, particularly for our young people, who are targeted with sweet flavourings and the aerosol liquids used in these devices. The National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022 to 2023 that looked at young people's use of vapes found that 28 per cent of young Australians aged 14 to 17 reported having used a vaping product—almost triple the percentage from three years earlier. The nicotine in vapes is highly addictive, with a strong association between vaping and future smoking behaviours. Young people who vape but have never smoked are more likely to take up tobacco smoking compared to young people who have never vaped.

As well as high levels of nicotine, illegal vaping products have been shown to contain formaldehyde, heavy metals and other carcinogens linked to a range of serious health problems. As Queensland Health stated at the public briefing—

The evidence shows that vaping products can cause respiratory conditions, can contribute to cardiovascular illness and can also contribute to mental health concerns such as anxiety.

In 2024 the Commonwealth government banned the importation, manufacture, supply and non-personal possession of vaping products. That same year Queensland amended TOSPA, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, to allow illicit nicotine products, including vapes, to be seized and forfeited. In Australia the only lawful vaping products now are plain packaged vapes sold through pharmacies. No other store is allowed to sell vaping products, so illegal vapes are easily identified. However, these harmful products are still widely available in our community through a plethora of illegal stores. In my electorate of South Brisbane residents have raised their concerns about

the ease with which young people are able to access these illegal and harmful products. This bill supports the work of Queensland Health in removing these illegal vapes from sale and reducing harm to our community, particularly to our young people.

Currently enforcement officers in Queensland Health are required to store seized vapes for a minimum of eight weeks. With over 200,000 vapes seized in the past six months, storage facilities are reaching capacity which will affect the ability of officers to continue to enforce the new laws and protect our community. Storage of vaping products also presents significant safety and environmental risks. Vaping goods are highly flammable, containing lithium ion batteries that can overheat and explode, as well as toxic chemicals and plastics. Storing these products is complex and expensive, requiring specialised fire resistant facilities. This bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, or TOSPA, to allow for the prompt destruction of seized vapes which will reduce costs and the safety risks associated with prolonged storage of these illegal products and enable enforcement to be sustainable. This bill also addresses the significant financial gain from the commercial sale of illegal vapes and illicit tobacco, introducing a cost-recovery provision allowing courts to order persons convicted of an offence under TOSPA to pay for the costs of storage and destruction of these illegal products as well as costs incurred through investigation and prosecution of the offence. This would not only defray costs associated with these offences but also serve as a deterrent to the continued sale of these products.

While I strongly support the amendments to TOSPA which facilitate enforcement of laws related to illegal vape sales, this bill fails to address concerns raised by the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia regarding the safe disposal of these products, particularly with respect to the risk of fires in collection vehicles and waste facilities. Vaping products are currently classified as pharmaceutical waste and excluded from the existing battery stewardship scheme. Due to the hazardous and flammable materials contained in vaping products, including the presence of lithium batteries, further consultation is required between Queensland Health and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to determine the most appropriate classification and methods of disposal of vapes to ensure safe and effective disposal.


As mentioned previously, this bill also proposes to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to ensure that hospital and health boards include at least one clinician who is working for that particular hospital and health service. However, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 already requires that at least one member of a hospital and health board must be a clinician, and out of the 16 hospital and health boards in Queensland 13 currently have a clinician on their board providing input into decision-making for health service delivery. The risk of requiring a clinician from the particular hospital and health service to be represented on the board was addressed by the Queensland Integrity Commissioner during the committee review process. The commissioner stated—

While ... it is necessary for a properly composed Board to include clinical knowledge ... I question from a policy perspective whether this is best or only achieved by appointing a clinician employee of the HHS—

hospital and health service—

to its Board, particularly given the inherent and significant conflicts that come with this type of arrangement.

The Queensland Integrity Commissioner used the appointment of a clinician from outside the hospital and health service as an example of an alternative model. In our statement of reservation the member for Greenslopes and I expressed our concerns about the conflict of interest inherent in the proposed amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and asked the government to outline how this would be addressed. Notwithstanding these reservations, the important legislative changes contained in this bill support Queensland Health's work in enforcing the current laws related to illegal vape sales as well as providing a financial deterrent to the continued sale of these harmful products in illegal stores. Strengthening the laws around the illegal sale of these dangerous products is of vital importance in protecting our community, and particularly our young people, from the effects of these harmful products. I strongly support the passage of this bill.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a bill for an act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. I will speak substantively to the health act and then make a smaller but by no means less important contribution to the tobacco act. We are taking a calm and methodical approach to improving governance in our hospital and health services, and that is why we are putting health clinicians back in charge. Hervey Bay has the highest rates of chronic disease as a total proportion of the Fraser Coast population in Australia. Our Hervey Bay median age is 51 compared to a Queensland median age of 38. Some 31 per cent of our population is aged 65

years and over. We need local clinicians who comprehend the impact that Labor's healthcare crisis has had in my community. We need local clinicians who will advocate for a well-considered Hervey Bay service plan and master plan that addresses the identified needs in my growing community. We need local clinicians engaged and grounded in their local communities.

What better way to fulfil the objects of the Hospital and Health Boards Act in Hervey Bay than to appoint a locally engaged hospital employee or a contracted clinician. This bill will amend sections 23 and 25 of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to require at least one member of each HHS board to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the service. However, they cannot be appointed to the hospital board as a chair or deputy chair. Currently under section 23(3) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act, at least one board member must be a clinician. That clinician could potentially be located anywhere. Arguably, they could be city based as a fly-in fly-out clinician sitting on a rural or regional hospital board. That is simply not good enough. Let us methodically lay the foundations for better health governance by appointing local HHS employed or contracted clinicians to the board to better strengthen the performance, accountability and integrity of our healthcare system.

I now turn to the statement of reservation, which states—

... of the 16 HHSs, 13 ... currently have a person with a clinical background appointed to at least one of the following ... representative positions: Chair, Deputy Chair, or Health Service Chief Executive ...

This statement is illogically premised on the assumption that the clinicians are already in charge of hospitals. Labor's assumption unreasonably infers our hardworking Queensland Health clinicians are responsible for Labor's healthcare crisis including, but not limited to, billions in capital blowouts, record elective surgery and specialist waiting lists, ambulance ramping and the PA spinal unit debacle. Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are pliable. The statement of reservation numbers imply healthcare clinicians have overseen Labor's botched decade of health care. Thankfully the Crisafulli government has a Hospital Rescue Plan. If Hervey Bay is ever to achieve the right care at the right place at the right time, we need local legislated board clinicians who live and breathe frontline clinical experience.


I now turn to the matter of conflicts of interest.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lee, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Labor Party, Performance


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): A key motivation of Queensland Labor is to improve the lives of the working men and women of this state. It is one of our guiding lights. That is why our Labor government introduced 50-cent fares. It is why our government introduced a \$1,000 power bill rebate for every Queensland household. It is why our Labor government delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers to hundreds of thousands of families to keep kids in sport and active. It is why our government slashed car rego bills by 20 per cent. It is why in government we backed a \$200 million investment in Virgin airlines by the Queensland Investment Corporation. While the LNP described our actions to help save Virgin as 'economic incompetence' and a 'laughable investment', that investment protected Queensland jobs, kept Virgin's headquarters here in Queensland and is now delivering Queenslanders a decent return on that investment. That is what real respect for taxpayers' money looks like: real cost-of-living relief and sensible investments that protect jobs and provide a sound return on those investments.

When we look at the efforts of the L-plate LNP government, the contrast could not be more stark. Of the litany of broken promises from the LNP L-platers, one that will hurt Queenslanders particularly hard is the complete absence of any real cost-of-living relief—no hip-pocket help for Queenslanders, nothing. Before the election, the Premier promised energy bill relief. Now, nothing—a broken promise and a whack to the hip pocket for Queenslanders. It is the same with car rego. Pretty soon, a typical four-cylinder vehicle will cost nearly \$90 a year extra to run in Queensland and a six-cylinder vehicle nearly \$150 extra. So many families are deeply concerned about the end of FairPlay vouchers. These \$200 vouchers that Labor provided to around 300,000 families helped keep kids involved in sport.

While Labor will always seek to make people's lives better, those opposite clearly have a different agenda. While we seek to make lives better for hardworking, battling Queenslanders, the LNP would rather focus on their own interests and obsessions and especially the interests of their donors. While Labor is on the side of battling Queenslanders, those opposite seek to create a climate of fear,

threatening to turf Queenslanders in public housing out onto the streets. No matter how much the LNP fail to act in the interests of Queenslanders, Labor will never resile, never stop and never give in. We will always stand up and fight for the interests of hardworking Queenslanders.

### QFleet

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.03 pm): QFleet operates more than 11,000 vehicles which are vital to frontline service delivery across our vast state. From nurses and welfare officers in remote communities to child safety and housing officers, QBuild tradies and youth justice staff, our vehicles help our public servants work hard for Queenslanders every single day. Last year alone, public servants in QFleet vehicles travelled over 165 million kilometres.

We all know that transport is a major source of carbon emissions. Unlike Labor, we also understand that genuine emissions reduction requires more than just slogans and sound bites. Labor's EV-only policy was classic political spin, mandating 100 per cent of 'eligible' passenger vehicles must transition to electric vehicles by 2026—a policy that, in reality, covered only around 3,600 vehicles across government.


EVs will be a large and growing part of our fleet, especially in South-East Queensland, but they do not suit all parts of our state. Labor's policy completely ignored the practical realities for regional and remote Queensland, where charging infrastructure simply does not exist and where EVs often are not fit for purpose. In Far North Queensland, multiple electric vehicles required costly towing—\$400 each way from Mareeba—simply to attend recalls and servicing hundreds of kilometres away. Youth justice officers reported electric vehicles were forced to shut down for 10 minutes in the extreme heat you see in so many parts of our state—a serious safety risk if those staff needed to leave a dangerous situation urgently. In Health's Metro South, mental health outreach teams working with vulnerable patients struggled to safely use EVs where charging infrastructure was unavailable or unreliable. Clinicians reported losing valuable care time while waiting hours for public chargers, some with acutely unwell patients or critical medication on board.

The former Labor government was more focused on counting vehicles in the car park than cutting emissions on the road. That is why the Crisafulli government is taking a very different approach—one that applies emission reduction policies across the entire 11,000-vehicle fleet. We are moving beyond mandating one type of vehicle to delivering measureable results for our environment. I am proud to table the *QFleet Vehicle Emissions Reduction Strategy 2025-2030*.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: QFleet Vehicle Emissions Reduction Strategy 2025-2030 for the Queensland Government motor vehicle fleet, June 2025 [\[631\]](#).

This new strategy sets a clear and achievable target to cut total QFleet emissions by 10 per cent by 2030, even as the fleet grows by around nine per cent over that time. Our target represents a 63 per cent reduction on our 2005 levels. I want to thank Deputy Director-General Andrew Bennett and QFleet General Manager Vince White. We are delivering real emissions reduction and genuine choice for our public servants.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Planning

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.06 pm): When it comes to planning in our state, it is an absolute clown show under the Crisafulli LNP government. Since their election we have seen some of the most blatantly political planning decisions that should be of grave concern to the people of Queensland. If you want to build social and affordable housing in Queensland then you have no idea what to expect from this government. Whilst they are happy to turn the first sod on housing projects approved and funded by the former Labor government, they are actively rejecting social and affordable housing in LNP seats: in Arundel, 130 fewer affordable homes as a result of ministerial intervention; in Birtinya, 90 fewer affordable homes as a result of ministerial intervention; and in Tewantin, 40 affordable homes supported through a state facilitated development process cancelled by the Minister for Planning.

The government will say that this is all about giving voice to local councils who are unhappy about these affordable housing developments. The developer behind the Tewantin project, Bruce Bairstow, has sounded the alarm, saying—

It's introducing a new sovereign risk to developers from the state government if we go down this pathway to get affordable housing delivered.

To be honest, it is all Bruce's fault. Instead of investing in affordable housing that our state desperately needs, he should have invested in a luxury tourism development on the Sunshine Coast and made a little donation to the LNP.

We have a situation where the Sunshine Coast Regional Council has rejected an application to build 38 new short-stay luxury units in Maleny—but hang on, the government suddenly will not give voice to council's concerns on this one. Instead, they have joined the developer's appeal in the court, citing what they say is an important state interest: tourism.

Here are the facts. The only relevant state interest identified in the planning process was proximity to a state controlled transport corridor. TMR reviewed the matter and recommended the state not join the appeal. On the basis of that advice, the planning department formally determined on 14 March to not join the appeal. Then on 28 April the member for Glass House wrote to the planning minister advocating for state involvement in the appeal. Suddenly the director-general, John Sosso—remember him?—effectively directed the department to join the appeal, despite no new advice from his department or the tourism department and no change in the state interest trigger. I table the department's affidavit on the matter. It makes for very interesting reading on what is a truly murky matter.

*Tabled paper:* Affidavit of Mr Philip Martin Joyce, Acting Executive Director, Improvement and Assessment, Planning Group, Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, in relation to proceedings in the Planning and Environment Court against the Sunshine Coast Regional Council [\[632\]](#).

The developer of this oh-so-important luxury tourism development is, unsurprisingly, also an LNP donor. Last year in opposition Premier Crisafulli said that he wanted 'a Public Service empowered in decision-making and free to give frank and fearless advice'. He obviously forgot to add that this does not apply in projects involving their LNP mates.

### **Medal of the Order of Australia, General Division; WorldSkills Australia 2025 National Championships and Skills Show**




**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.09 pm): I rise to pay tribute to two outstanding South Burnett residents who have been honoured in the King's Birthday 2025 Honours List with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division. Mr Vern Clark, the long-serving owner and director of Kingaroy Engineering Works, has made a remarkable contribution to our region for nearly 70 years. Through his work in engineering and design, and his vital role as a consultant to the Australian peanut industry, Mr Clark has not only built a successful business but also helped strengthen one of our most iconic agricultural sectors. Mr Clark is well known for his specialised machinery and equipment designs that can now be found all around the world. His contributions to the industry are truly commendable.

Mr Don Davey is another local champion whose service and dedication deserve the highest praise. A proud veteran of the Australian Army, with two decades of service from 1968 to 1988, Mr Davey has continued to serve his fellow veterans and broader community for decades and has served on too many boards and committees to list. With over 30 years as a Justice of the Peace and a tireless advocate for veterans and their families, Don represents the best of our community spirit.

These are two great South Burnett advocates whose recognition is richly deserved and, on behalf of our community, I extend warmest congratulations and deepest thanks for their lifelong service and dedication.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate three outstanding young people from my electorate—Peter Anderson, Kaitlyn Barber and Brendon Newman; all three of whom I remember presenting with school captain awards at some stage during their life. These talented individuals have been selected as our local skills champions and are currently representing our region at the WorldSkills Australia 2025 National Championships and Skills Show taking place right here this week. I had the pleasure of seeing Peter, Kaitlyn and Brendon this week and heard firsthand their passion, determination and aspirations for the future. Their achievements reflect the strength of our local training pathways and the incredible potential for young people from the bush. Brendon was there for electrical and Kaitlyn and Peter were there for primary industries. I wish them all the very best. I know they can represent Queensland and I am sure they can even go on and represent Australia. All the very best for the coming days and I look forward to hearing more of your success.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.12 pm): The LNP promised to put doctors and nurses back in charge of our hospitals, but what Queenslanders have instead is a government that puts spin doctors in charge and a health minister who cannot even be bothered to learn the basic facts of his own portfolio. Last week Minister Nicholls appeared on ABC *Drive* to defend his insulting pay offer to 45,000 nurses and midwives. When challenged to justify short-changing our hardworking health frontline staff, he could only quote one cherrypicked example of a Queensland nurse being paid more than interstate colleagues before folding his cards and admitting he did not know. During the biggest nursing pay dispute in 23 years, Minister Nicholls came woefully unprepared for a major interview. That is just not incompetence, it is an insult to our hardworking nurses and midwives who deserve to maintain their nation-leading pay otherwise we will have them migrating to Victoria and other states—a disaster for patients here in Queensland—under this minister's watch. Clearly, at the moment we are in trouble.

This government's insulting offer leaves a Brisbane midwife earning \$7,500 less than her Melbourne counterpart. These are skilled professionals doing life-saving work and Minister Nicholls seems to think they are worth \$7,500 less than their interstate colleagues. What a disgrace? His failures do not stop at the embarrassing car-crash radio interview. Toowong Private Hospital has now closed. With 3,000 vulnerable patients each year, 58 acute mental health beds and 154 specialist staff no longer there, what was his response to justify inaction and letting 58 beds disappear? He said that they were mainly low acuity, which is not factual. Everyone who worked at Toowong Private Hospital knows that is not true. The minister does not know the basic facts or he is deliberately misleading. Either way— incompetence or poorly organised and not in control of his portfolio—he is damned for that.

Even more damning, on 4 May there was a patient-on-patient assault and, unfortunately, a tragic death at the PA Hospital. Did we find out about that in the couple of days that followed? No. There was a month of radio silence from Minister Nicholls as the health minister—no disclosure, no transparency, a deliberate cover-up. It was only a brave whistleblower who revealed the truth. This is a minister who will not front up to the difficult—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to sub judice. I presume the matter that the member is referring to would be under investigation by the police and also the coroner.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): I will briefly take some advice. Member for Miller, could you assure the House that these matters are not before the criminal courts?


**Mr BAILEY:** My understanding is it will be before the coronial court as a standard health investigation. I am not commenting on the details of the case; I am simply referring to the fact that it happened.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can assure the House that it is not subject to sub judice?

**Mr BAILEY:** I am not aware that it is. We did not hear about it. The minister hid in his office and did not share the basic facts of what had occurred. I understand there is an investigation, that is appropriate, but a minister should front up with the bad news. That is our responsibility when we have those roles. We have the pill testing report. They want to put doctors and nurses back in charge, but they will not release the evaluation report which we know will show that it has been effective. They say one thing and do another. That is Premier Crisafulli's modus operandi.

*(Time expired)*

## Sugar Industry

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.16 pm): I want to talk about the sugar industry and the opportunities that are coming the way of that industry. I remind the House that our committee is proudly holding an inquiry into the sugar industry. Today the website went live and I encourage everyone to look at the scope. I thank the committee for their work. We are excited about the opportunities for Queensland in looking for potential biofuels and alternative power made from sugarcane. The inquiry will seek to unlock new investment, identify regulatory barriers and diversify the industry. Sugarcane offers a cost-effective base ingredient to produce bioenergy, including aviation fuel, biodiesel and biomethane. I am sure there are many more and I hope the committee can uncover opportunities. The potential for bioenergy and value-adding sugar production in Queensland will be put under the microscope with the Primary Industries and Resources Committee putting that new inquiry up live today. The committee will examine how to unlock new investment, support value-adding opportunities in the sugar industry and overcome regulatory barriers that may be holding the sector back.

The inquiry aligns with the ambitious target to grow the value of primary production in this state to \$30 billion by 2030. We have seen other countries push ahead with bioenergy and we look forward



to what the opportunities for Queensland might look like. The scope is based to back primary producers and committed to supporting emerging industries and ensuring Queensland's agricultural sector has a strong future.

Sugar is our state's No. 1 agricultural export, contributing \$4.4 billion annually to Queensland's economy and supporting over 20,000 jobs. I understand nearly 4,000 small mum-and-dad businesses also contribute to regional towns. Queensland is uniquely positioned with the scale, skills and natural advantage to lead the world in alternate fuels and value-added agriculture. We hope this inquiry will shine a spotlight on the regulatory and legislative barriers to help the bioenergy industry and identify levers that we can pull.

The chief executive of Canegrowers has welcomed the inquiry and said it highlighted the potential of bioenergy to add to the sugarcane industry's long-term sustainability. We welcome those comments. He also stated that the potential to develop Queensland's bioenergy sector presents an enormous opportunity for sugarcane growers. Australian Sugar Manufacturers chief executive Ash Salardini said the bioenergy in sugar could potentially put downward pressure on energy prices. He further stated—

The sugar industry can be a powerhouse energy producer for Queensland, including through the production of biofuels and renewable baseload electricity.

The only way we are going to get there is with industry and government working hand in glove to capture these opportunities.

A successful bioenergy agenda will help underpin investments in our manufacturing plants, making our factories some of the most efficient and reliable in making sugar and securing our international competitiveness for the next fifty years.

We welcome those early comments from key stakeholders. We thank them for their involvement and cooperation as we continue with what bipartisan support for Queensland's future should look like.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance; Nurses and Midwives, Wages and Conditions**



**Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.19 pm): I look forward to the member for Burnett joining the member for Bundaberg in campaigning against the impending toll on the Burnett Bridge. No doubt that is coming.

Apparently, the Premier does what he says, he says what he does, he means what he says, he walks the talk and so on and so forth. We have heard it all before. He said he would put hope ahead of fear but, when it came to shutting down the treaty process, which was something that he supported, he crushed the hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and anybody who supports reconciliation and treaty in this state. Of course, there is not much hope when you are racing around shutting down renewable energy projects faster than you can say 'climate change is real'.

The Premier was going to govern with accountability and transparency. Remember that one? We saw that on full display last night when, on the back of Jack's Law, they disgracefully rammed through laws to let councils toll roads. His deputy thinks smashing the integrity of the Redistribution Commission is such a joke that he joked about naming a stadium after John Sosso. He promised to listen to the experts but, apparently, not if they oppose the far right of his party on things like pill testing and gender treatment. However, that is not the end of the promises that the Premier has made.

On 11 October 2024, the then opposition leader and now Premier promised that he would maintain nation-leading wages and conditions for nurses and midwives. The QNMU is calling for fair pay, not just for themselves but because fair pay saves lives. Without it we lose nurses and midwives and that is very bad for patients. Every day over 300 nursing shifts are not filled and that is going to get worse if the government does not start to seriously listen to the members of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union.

According to the QNMU, fewer nurses and midwives mean more patients die. It is really that simple and it is that serious. Instead of the nation-leading wages and conditions they promised, the LNP government is offering less than other states. Queensland cannot afford to lose more nurse and midwives. They are already stretched to the limit. I join with the QNMU in saying that better pay is not just fair; it saves lives.

Perhaps this is best expressed by Meg Briffa, a rural midwife, who wrote an open letter to Premier Crisafulli. She said—

Yes, we chose this profession.

But we didn't choose unsafe staffing.

We didn't choose to carry moral injury.

We didn't choose to be stretched so thin that we fear for our patients—and ourselves.

EB12 is not just about wages.

It's about safe ratios, fair workloads, mental health, retention, safety—and survival.

I join with my fellow members of the QNMU in calling on the Premier to honour his commitment to nurses and midwives. There is a simple solution here: Premier Crisafulli can honour his government's commitment to Queensland nurses and midwives by fully funding nation-leading wages and conditions in the June state budget. It is only fair and it will save lives.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements**



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.22 pm): Queensland has voted for a fresh start and that is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP state government is delivering. Ours is a government that listens, acts and delivers for communities in the electorate of Moggill and across our state of Queensland. We are focused on delivering safety where people live, a better lifestyle through a stronger economy and health services when Queenslanders need them. The Liberal National Party is providing a strong plan for our future.

Since the October 2024 state election, the Crisafulli LNP government has provided real and immediate cost-of-living relief. We have extended and boosted the first home owner grant to \$30,000 for new builds until June 2026. Combined with the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers, this is helping more Queenslanders to secure the great Australian dream of home ownership. Since the removal of stamp duty came into effect on 1 May 2025, first home buyers have saved an average of nearly \$17,000, easing pressure on young families and individuals entering the housing market for the first time.

The Liberal National Party is also investing in frontline health care. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver more than 2,600 new hospital beds across Queensland in the largest hospital infrastructure investment in the state's history. We are building new hospitals, upgrading existing ones and recruiting more healthcare workers, making it easier for Queenslanders to access health services when they need them.

To support primary care, we have committed \$24 million this year to assist early career general practitioners. Under the General Practice Trainee Incentive scheme, eligible trainees will receive a one-off \$40,000 payment to support their training. This is part of our plan to build a stronger and more supported health workforce right across Queensland. It is crucial to note that important medical and health sector organisations such as the Australian Medical Association, the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine have welcomed and support this important initiative.

The Crisafulli LNP state government is also making our community safer. Through our new \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program, we are backing small and family businesses with real crime prevention measures.

As the state member for Moggill, I continue to work constructively with ministers across our state government to deliver our local election commitments and financial support for various community organisations. I have held positive and ongoing discussions with the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Minister for Education and the Minister for the Environment as well as many others. Together the Liberal National Party is focused on real outcomes for families and local organisations that contribute so much to the electorate of Moggill. Together we are continuing our work to deliver on the commitments that have been made and to shape a better future for the electorate of Moggill, the western suburbs of Brisbane and all of Queensland.

### **Cost of Living, Relief**



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.25 pm): I want to address some of the things that we have just heard from the member for Moggill who talked about how the LNP is delivering real cost-of-living relief. I would contest that. It is just not so. Soon we will see rego go up 24 per cent for every working Queenslanders. They will get rid of the electricity rebates, which has been a hugely beneficial and welcomed cost-of-living relief measure that was delivered by the former government. We have heard that they are going to get rid of the FairPlay vouchers that help ordinary kids get into sport. I spoke to a Rugby League club representative in my area who said that 70 per cent of their junior players rely on

those vouchers to play Rugby League. If we are serious about getting kids off the streets and keeping them in sport, we need to keep those vouchers. That is absolutely crucial.

The LNP have said that the cost-of-living relief measures that we delivered were a sugar hit that we could not afford. I say that that is really disrespectful to working people in Queensland who need that structural relief to help them out in a time of increased cost-of-living pressures. People are facing huge cost-of-living pressures with rent being what it is. That structural change supported the working people of Queensland who generate the wealth of this state. They need real support. If you believe in the working people of Queensland then you would deliver those cost-of-living relief measures. That is absolutely crucial.

I want to briefly touch on the fact that homelessness and the threat of homelessness has got worse during the last six months under the LNP. The number of people experiencing homelessness or the threat of homelessness is increasing. I see more people in my electorate office now than I did six months ago, suffering from this. Crucially, we now have cases that can be attributed to what the LNP has been doing. In recent times, the minister has caused confusion and angst because of the differing messages about the income threshold. Will there be a review of the threshold or will they stick with the old one? All the residents hear is that may be losing their homes. That is what they hear. They heard that over 10 years ago under the LNP and now they are hearing it again.

In my area, one mother and DV survivor has lived in her home for 20 years. She works in a lower level Public Service job. Her daughter now has an entry level job there. She thinks she could be ineligible. She is really upset, she cannot sleep properly and she cannot go to work. She fears she could be forced into the private market—

*(Time expired)*

### **Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, Upgrade**



**Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (2.28 pm): It is a real relief, and a long awaited milestone, to be standing here today to share that from this Friday Cleveland-Redland Bay Road will be open between Anita Street and Magnolia Parade. It will be open to four lanes during peak times. It is another step forward. While this progress is encouraging, I know many in my community, myself included, are frustrated that we still do not have the final completion. We all want the job finished because, for so many Redlands families, workers and business owners who rely on this road every day, this upgrade has been a long and trying journey.


We have dealt with excessive congestion, long wait times, inconsistent communication and delays. While I did not start the project, I inherited the responsibility. I have made it my business to fight for answers on how an almost five-year project of 1.5 kilometres of road came to be. I sincerely thank every resident who has written to me, flagged issues or shared their stories. Their persistence and fresh start with the LNP Crisafulli government has driven this forward.

From the day I was elected I made it clear that I would fight for better transparency, regular progress updates and accountability from the contractors delivering this work because the Redlands community deserve that. They deserve to know what is happening in their own backyard, and they deserve to see real action.

This reopening is a welcome change. It will ease pressure during peak times and bring some much needed relief. Let me be clear: this is not the victory lap; it is a step closer to finishing. It is also a reminder of why I committed to doing better for our community than my predecessor. I have established the Redlands Road Advisory Committee—the RRAC—to bring together experts in planning, engineering, transport, business and local government to drive better outcomes for our region. Stage 2 of this road upgrade is RRAC's first priority, and it will be closely followed by broader transport planning for the Redlands, including growth areas like the Southern Thornlands PDA.

The RRAC met for the first time last week, and I am hopeful these voices will be the strategic advocates we need because Redlanders are tired of being stuck in traffic and left behind. The Redlands is growing and we cannot afford to fall further behind. The RRAC is our proactive step to plan smarter, move faster and deliver the infrastructure we need not years down the track but now. I again thank the Redlands residents for their patience, resilience and persistence. Today we acknowledge progress and recommit to getting the Redlands moving again.

### **Mount Ommaney Electorate, FairPlay Vouchers**


 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.31 pm): It is my year of living dangerously, so I have signed up to play sport for the first time in a very long time at the St Catherine's Football Club as part of the women's team. I am very lucky to play alongside an amazing group of women, and I have loved my time on the women's Reds team so far. What I get out of being part of this team is the same thing that pretty much everybody who plays team sport gets out of playing in a team: a sense of camaraderie and friendship, a chance to work on my physical fitness, very occasionally a sense of achievement if I do something good, a strengthening of my teamwork skills and a bit of old-fashioned fun, which is really important for everyone's mental health and wellbeing.

St Catherine's is just one of the many fantastic sporting clubs in my community. It caters to almost 1,000 kids, and that number has been growing consistently since our government introduced the FairPlay vouchers. It has been especially fantastic to see the number of girls playing increase after a concerted effort by this amazing club and many others in my community as well.

In Mount Ommaney there are many wonderful places that FairPlay vouchers can be used: the Centenary Archers, the Jindalee Girl Guides and the oldest soccer club in Brisbane, Oxley United, where my boy used to play. I make special mention of the Centenary Stormers Football Club at Darra, which takes so many of these vouchers. Many of those vouchers come from young people who have recently arrived in Australia as refugees or migrants who do not speak English and they are assisted to attend the games and training by a wonderful local charity called Pushing Barriers. Playing sports assists young people to stay meaningfully engaged in our community and the vouchers add so many layers of value to our community, ensuring these young people have a real chance to integrate successfully into our community, which is, I am sure, what every single member of this House would want.

Everyone in my community is very keen for so many reasons to see the FairPlay vouchers be continued in this upcoming budget. Our government introduced broader guidelines for FairPlay vouchers and the pay-off for local families has been huge. The president of one of my local clubs texted me earlier this year to say that they have taken over \$45,000 worth of FairPlay vouchers, allowing hundreds of children to play. I am calling on the government to recognise the huge value these vouchers hold for families. They do not just help financially; playing sport from a young age improves mental health and physical fitness and teaches life skills. In my view, which is the same view of my community, the FairPlay vouchers are absolutely non-negotiable. They need to be locked in to this year's budget. In a cost-of-living crunch, we know that discretionary spending can be the first to go from family budgets. We need to continue the vouchers so that those kids have the opportunity to keep playing.

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Business Excellence Awards**

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.34 pm): Small business is the backbone of communities right across our state, and our community in Pumicestone is no different. Just the other week we celebrated the 2025 Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards—a night of connection, recognition and community spirit. Over 300 locals came together at Sandstone Point Hotel to honour the incredible work of our small businesses. With more than 2,500 nominations and 3,000 votes cast for the People's Choice award, it is clear how much pride our community takes in our local economy.


We were privileged to welcome Premier David Crisafulli and Small Business Commissioner Dominique Lamb, whose presence reaffirmed that, under the Crisafulli government, small business success is not merely a political promise; it forms the ethos of our strategy to grow our state's economy for generations to come. The Crisafulli government's commitment to small business is simple: we respect them, we nurture them and we will fight to ensure that small business plays a leading role in our economic future.

The calibre of our finalists was outstanding. I congratulate all the nominees, winners and highly commended businesses. I particularly want to acknowledge Little Mike's Cafe in Woorim, named Business of the Year for their exceptional service, their warm hospitality and the role they play as a much loved local gathering place. Bribie Island Subway took out the People's Choice award, which was a powerful reflection of the trust, loyalty and support they have earned from our community. Sunburnt Country Designs was the winner of the Creative Industries award. Each of its handmade hats tells a unique story—a true celebration of individuality and craftsmanship. Beachmere Butchery was the recipient of the Customer Service Excellence award. Their dedication to quality and community, including their popular Beachmere Bangers Facebook group, is a brilliant example of how businesses can bring people together.

I also want to take a moment to honour someone whose impact extends far beyond commerce. Anna Coxson, a finalist in the Community Impact category, is not only a business owner but also a cherished member of our Bribie Island community. Through The Little Sensory Shed and her tireless work with carers at MyTime, Anna has brought comfort, care and inclusion to so many. Recently we learned that Anna has been diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. Throughout her own challenges she has continued to put others first, offering support, understanding and a listening ear to families across our region. Today we stand together to recognise Anna's remarkable contributions and to send her our heartfelt thoughts and best wishes.

The Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards showcase the very best from our community: resilience, creativity and compassion. These awards are just one way to recognise the incredible impact our small businesses and community champions have on our region. I congratulate everyone involved again. They make Pumicestone thrive.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Environment**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.37 pm): A troubling pattern is becoming increasingly clear under this Crisafulli LNP government. It is a pattern of broken promises, sidelined experts and decisions that undermine the protection of Queensland's environment. Let's begin with the government's disgraceful backflip on funding for the Environmental Defenders Office. A clear promise was made verbally in meetings and reaffirmed in writing by the LNP's then environment spokesperson when in opposition to Queensland's key environmental organisations. That promise was simple: if elected, the LNP would continue funding the EDO, which provides free legal advice and support to Queenslanders—landholders, First Nations groups, farmers and everyday citizens—who are trying to protect their local environment from potential harm. The former shadow environment minister, the member for Bonney, said—


Queenslanders care about their local environment, so landholders and communities deserve some form of access to legal advice when potential threats arise to the special places they love.

Sam was right about that, but clearly this government cannot be trusted to keep their word because they have cut the funding to EDO. They said one thing in opposition and they are saying another now that they are in government. Their word means absolutely nothing. It is a lot easier to override planning regulations and water down environmental protections when the public's ability to hold the government accountable is limited. Those opposite are no different from the Newman LNP government; they are operating from the same playbook. They were environmental vandals then and they are environmental vandals now.

Their real agenda is becoming clearer by the day. It is not just the EDO in their sights; it is the board of the Wet Tropics Management Authority. The Wet Tropics is one of the most significant ecological treasures in the world—home to ancient rainforests, rare wildlife and deep cultural heritage. It is World Heritage listed. You would think it is pretty obvious that its management should be guided by science and conservation expertise, yet this government has chosen to replace a land management expert and a rainforest ecologist with two new tourism representatives—on a board that already had two members with a tourism background.

They claim this is about balance, but balance already existed. What we are seeing is the deliberate tipping of the scales to prioritise tourism interests over conservation. As a result, there is just now one member of the board with an environmental science background—one member. This is not sound governance. It is a clear signal of where this government's real priorities lie, and it is not with genuinely protecting Queensland's environment. The pattern is clear: a government replacing science with spin, a government of broken promises, a government ignoring expert advice for political gain. Queenslanders deserve better.

### **ICPA Queensland State Conference**

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.40 pm): I rise today following my recent attendance between sitting weeks at the ICPA Queensland State Conference held at St George. I was joined—the parliament was very well represented—by the member for Toowoomba North, and the local member and minister, Ann Leahy. Shortly I will touch on the quality of that advocacy group.

**Ms Farmer:** And me.

**Mr DILLON:** I also acknowledge the member for Bulimba, for those who are nervous that I might have forgotten her. We had a good chat on the sideline.

In particular, I want to talk today about the work of the ICPA as a group, which may slide under the radar quite often in Queensland's advocacy, and the work they do for our children in regional areas. I acknowledge the work of the patron of the ICPA, Mrs Patricia Mitchell OAM, who not only is the patron now but also when the conference was previously held at St George she served as the chairwoman. I also want to thank the current president, Wendy Henning; the federal president, Louise Martin from Blackall; and my own local Alpha-Jericho branch delegate, Loretta Goodwin, along with hundreds of other delegates.

The ICPA is made of up of 1,200 member families, with 45 branches across Queensland. It came from humble beginnings in 1971, when the first branch was formed in Cunnamulla, quickly followed by Kindon, Dirranbandi and Bollon. The ICPA has a long and rich history of working to deliver outcomes for bush and remote children and their families. I myself am a product of both the correspondence and boarding schools that they fought to make a better place.

True advocacy and polite, genuine and targeted conversations from people who represent the ACPA are truly something to be seen and believed. Around that conference was excellent conversation, not necessarily aimed at changing the government's approach but, more importantly, guiding departmental officers around such things as the new curriculum that is being rolled out for correspondence students and the ongoing access to integrated learning materials or their eventual replacements.

The ICPA has morphed from representing pre-HF radio correspondence papers to a new digital age. They have advocated strongly right throughout the history of correspondence, not for higher standards of education than our urban cousins, not for better than what anyone else gets, but simply to achieve the same level of education.

The work that was done when this side of the House was last in government with the living away from home allowance, to ensure that it was more reflective of what was required for people who live in remote areas to attend boarding school, is, once again, reflective of the strong work that we will do alongside the ICPA moving forward.

### Cost of Living



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.43 pm): I am hearing more and more from local families, local young people and pensioners in our Bundamba community who are doing everything right—they are working hard and they are budgeting carefully—yet they are still falling behind under this LNP government. The LNP promised to help Queenslanders, but what we are seeing are costs going up—costs like rego. We are seeing reports of cuts to essential cost-of-living relief like energy rebates and FairPlay vouchers.

Every week, more and more Queenslanders are being forced to make impossible choices that they should not have to make between paying rent and buying groceries or between putting fuel in their car and paying for school uniforms. That is not fair. It is not sustainable and it is not what Premier David Crisafulli promised. He promised to continue cost-of-living support through things like energy rebates. When he was trying to earn the trust of Queenslanders, that is what he promised. We are seeing that trust being repeatedly broken.

Under the LNP, people are paying more for power than they ever have. They will be paying more from 1 July with at least a 3.7 per cent hike. We have seen media reports this week that in the upcoming budget that nation-leading energy rebates that were implemented by Labor will be cut. That means that, in real terms, from this financial year into next financial year there will be an increase of over a thousand dollars for every single Queensland household energy bill. That is the reality of the LNP.

There could, and should, be more energy rebates in the upcoming budget. As long as there is no confirmation from the LNP that they will continue Labor's nation-leading energy rebates, there will be more anxiety in communities like mine and right throughout Queensland. We will see households having to make a choice—a choice between buying groceries and turning on the heater.

Instead of helping people, the LNP are hurting people. They are hurting people with higher prices. They are hurting people by taking away essential cost-of-living support. It is not what Queenslanders were promised. Queenslanders deserve so much more.

*(Time expired)*

### Far North Queensland Legacy



**Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (2.46 pm): I rise today to acknowledge and give thanks to all veterans, veteran families and veteran support services in our great country, but I give a special thanks to those in Far North Queensland. I am compelled to share their stories to share why we need to build a Legacy House in Far North Queensland. For men and women who serve our country, too often when they come home, the battle does not end.

Far North Queensland is home to one of the largest veteran populations in Queensland, with more than 11,000 veterans living across the electorates of Leichhardt and Kennedy. In fact, our state has the highest concentration—nearly a third—of veterans in the country and with it unfortunately some of the most heartbreaking statistics. On average 1½ veterans suicide every three weeks. These are not just numbers; they are fathers, mothers, partners, children, lives lost and families forever changed. Mel, who works at Far North Queensland Legacy, sadly knows this reality. Her husband took his own life eight years ago—a powerful reminder of why this work is essential.

The support veterans receive in our community is commendable. I want to mention the Stratford Bowls Club, who host a once-a-month meeting for the TPI association. I also want to thank Michelle and Laurie Woods from Speewah Country Tavern, who host regular veteran events including their annual Anzac Day dinner, which is an event that I really look forward to every year and brings together over a hundred dignitaries and veterans.

The Cairns RSL Sub Branch, led by president Nathan Shingles, are responsible for many beautiful commemorative events throughout the year in Far North Queensland, from the Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony I recently attended to Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Vietnam Veterans' Day. This is also the largest RSL subbranch in the district, with over 700 members, 40 volunteers and three incredible full-time staff members—a true testament to its enduring impact in the community and the vital role they play in supporting and connecting veterans across Far North Queensland.

Another incredible organisation is FNQ Legacy, who leads the way for veteran support in our region. The work they do is nothing short of inspiring. Under the leadership of Alfie Santos, Rebecca, Mel and others before them, FNQ Legacy have been serving our region for nearly 100 years, supporting over 300 beneficiaries—from war widows and young children to veterans with mental health challenges. I look forward to the FNQ Legacy fundraising gala in June.

FNQ Legacy also founded the Legacy Links program, the only program across the entire Legacy network that assists veterans and their families in transitioning from military life to civilian life—a time when many need it most. What we need is a Legacy House, and FNQ Legacy have developed a plan for one—a shovel-ready project that will create one central location for veteran support services. It will include accommodation, wellness spaces and administration. I am really backing this project. It is a place we need for our veteran community. I will continue to fight for funding for this important audience.

### **Toll Roads; Western Queensland, Train Services**



**Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.49 pm): Last night we saw a shameful act by the government that means it is now easier to jack up tolls or introduce new ones. After 5 pm, after the sun had set, we saw the introduction of these amendments. They were passed by 9 pm. These laws mean the government can slap a toll on any road or hike up an existing road toll without fear, favour or proper consultation. Why did they smuggle this into a bill when it is completely unrelated? What was the urgency? What is in the budget that they had to smuggle this in now?

They say it does not include the Story Bridge, but under these laws councils gain the power to declare tolls in stages. It opens the door to make it easier for Brisbane City Council to put a toll on the Story Bridge. We know it is in disrepair. We know it has been poorly managed by council. Is this the LNP Brisbane City Council and the Crisafulli government's plan to pass costs on to Queenslanders? We know they do not care about the cost of living. We know they are talking down the cost of living in the lead-up to this budget. How can we trust anything this Premier says? We heard him say there would be no new stadiums. He broke that promise. What dodgy deal has been done between the Lord Mayor and the Premier?


This morning the minister could not explain why Queenslanders were not consulted on these amendments. At times, he could not even remember he is the transport minister. We still do not have a clear explanation. We got a couple of paragraphs at most and three minutes of screaming. It was very disappointing. It was also disappointing to hear this morning that the transport minister refuses to rule out reducing rail services in Western and regional Queensland. There are concerns that these connections to the Outback could be cut in the upcoming budget. This morning I asked the transport minister to guarantee that *Spirit of the Outback*, *Inlander*, *Westlander* and tilt train services will not be

scaled back. For three minutes he failed to answer the question. As well as being a linchpin of the state's Outback tourism industry, Queensland Rail travel services also give rural, regional and remote Queenslanders vital access to health, education and job services in regional centres.

This coincides with recent news that the government knocked back major overhauls for tilt trains in Maryborough, putting more than 100 jobs on the line. The transport minister needs to give Queenslanders a direct answer on the future of Outback rail services. Any cuts will be a cruel blow not only to tourism operators in the regions but also those who rely on these trains to visit family and access medical appointments. This government has cut vital maintenance to rail services in regional Queensland and now they cannot even guarantee they will continue. More than 600,000 people took regional and rural transport last year and now they are facing the very real possibility of being left stranded at the station.

Maybe we should not ask the transport minister these questions. It is pretty clear that the Deputy Premier is the one running transport. We have seen this before with the cuts to rail to Maroochydore. We have seen this with the Gold Coast Light Rail mess. Is he behind this push for tolls? The transport minister clearly does not know what he is on about when he was trying to answer questions this morning. Should we be asking the Deputy Premier these questions about transport? At the moment, it is clear that no-one from the government is looking after it.

### Keppel Electorate, Housing Supply

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) 2.52 pm: I rise to speak to the efforts being made by Central Queenslanders to have a share in the Crisafulli LNP government's vision for more Queenslanders to have a place to call home and address the strong housing demand across our region.


The communities of Keppel are growing, with the latest data demonstrating strong, consistent growth of two per cent on the Capricorn Coast. This equates to more than 1,000 residents joining the community each year. Livingstone's population will grow to over 44,000 next year. Rockhampton has also seen solid growth and will have some 85,000 residents by 2026. As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, David Crisafulli and our LNP team are committed to working with Mayor Belot, Mayor Williams and their councillors to deliver for our region. As our beautiful region grows, we need all levels of government to work together to provide the investment necessary to provide the services and infrastructure our locals deserve.

Both councils have submitted strong projects for consideration in the Residential Activation Fund, and I am very keen to promote and advocate for the benefits these projects can bring to our region. The Rockhampton priority project—the Alexandra Street extension—will drive housing growth and unlock new homes in Parkhurst. The project—a new 1.85-kilometre collector road from Birkbeck roundabout along with footpaths, the provision of trunk water main and associated works—could see over 2,200 homes delivered across the master planned Ellida Estate and is an enabler to delivering new homes in the Rockhampton market.

In Livingstone they have applied for stage 1 of the East West Connector Road. If funded, this project will be a two-kilometre arterial road connecting Neils Road and Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road. It would provide a new intersection opposite Neils Road and the extension of Pineapple Drive to link with the new corridor. This project is designed to unlock access to around 1,500 new residential lots in the Hidden Valley precinct.

The Crisafulli government's Residential Activation Fund is a much needed enabler which supports our regional communities; however, it requires genuine partnerships. I am proud to say that the Livingstone and Rockhampton regional councils have taken a critical step in seeking investment for growth. I commend these bold, forward-thinking initiatives to the government and support their capacity to supercharge housing in Central Queensland.

### COVID-19, Vaccination Mandate

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.54 pm): I have been outspoken in my objection to the disgraceful COVID vaccine mandate implemented by the previous government in December 2021 which destroyed hardworking Queenslanders' lives. Around the globe we are now seeing investigations into the actions of governments. They crossed the line in terms of their responsibilities to their citizens by taking away their fundamental rights. There are questions being raised about the safety of these vaccinations, the speed with which they were approved for release and the motives of large pharmaceutical companies, which placed profits ahead of public safety. It was a shameful period during which the previous state




government overstepped its authority by targeting and prosecuting valuable nursing, ambulance, teaching, police and other staff who made the personal decision not to be vaccinated.

It was great to see media reports last week that 15 Queensland Police Service officers have been reinstated. Their freedom of choice and fundamental human rights were trampled when the former police commissioner issued a vaccine mandate directive in 2021. Staff were suspended or sacked for not complying. Their position was upheld in a decision handed down by Justice Glenn Martin in early 2024 which deemed the directive unlawful. But that did not mean they could automatically return to work, and they had to take their fight to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal before they were finally reinstated. Their relief was clearly demonstrated by their comments after the ruling. One said, 'Since being suspended in 2021 it's been extremely difficult and emotional, because the career that I had loved had basically been flushed down the toilet. While it's great to be back at work, it should never have got to this stage.' I could not have said it any better myself and I agree 100 per cent. This is a wonderful story of Queensland Police Service staff who stood by their principles through enormous obstacles. Their stance has been vindicated and they are finally returning to work after years in limbo.

I thank the Premier for today confirming to me that no mandates are in place in any government department. I believe that he was genuine when he said he wants valuable frontline staff back at work. However, there are still ongoing issues and legal challenges from staff who are still sacked or suspended separate to those who took their case to QCAT. The Premier stated that we must put this period behind us and move forward. I agree with him; however, before this can happen I urge the Premier to instruct that any outstanding matters and legal challenges are settled as soon as possible so staff can get back to work on the front line where they belong.

### Capalaba Electorate, Vocational Training

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.58 pm): I rise today to let everybody know what wonderful work yourtown in Capalaba is doing. Training our next generation of workers in vocational skills is hugely important for our state in terms of driving economic growth and improving social outcomes. I know this is a high-priority area for the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, who is focused on addressing critical skills shortages.

Recently, I was again privileged to be invited by the minister to speak and present certificates on her behalf to graduates at yourtown Capalaba who had successfully completed a certificate II in retail services as part of the Get Set for Work project. I understand that alongside this qualification they received training in barista basics, the responsible service of alcohol and the responsible service of gambling, giving them a wide range of potential options for their careers. I was particularly impressed that the graduation ceremony was organised by the students themselves, helping them gain valuable project management, budgeting and event coordination skills.


The Get Set for Work project at yourtown is a fantastic initiative for 15- to 19-year-olds who are not enrolled at school or who are at risk of disengagement to assist them in gaining nationally recognised qualifications. yourtown not only offers vocational training but assists with all of the things that are needed for new jobs, such as licences, driving lessons, clothes, transport and much more. The support does not just extend to getting a new job either; yourtown offers ongoing support to help with any challenges during the initial months of their employment.

As the member for Capalaba, it is a distinct pleasure to see the achievements of local residents, particularly young people, being recognised. I would like to reiterate my congratulations to the graduates for their commitment to improving their employability. My own apprenticeship was a truly formational period in my life, and it is heartening to see others taking responsibility for their futures and following that same path. I would like to commend the team at yourtown Capalaba and of course the graduating students for their contributions to the local Redlands community. I look forward to working with yourtown and seeing graduates thriving at their new jobs in the local community over the next few years.

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

## EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee Report No. 3, 58th Parliament, *Report on visit to Hope Vale and Cooktown with the Family Responsibilities Commission*, tabled on 23 May 2025.

It was the pleasure of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee to visit the communities of Hope Vale and Cooktown with the Family Responsibilities Commission. In February this year, our committee received an invitation from the commissioner, Ms Tammy Williams, who for the benefit of members who are not aware leads the Family Responsibilities Commission. The FRC is a partnership organisation which was created in 2008 by the Australian government, the Queensland government and the Cape York Institute, an initiative founded by Noel Pearson.


The Family Responsibilities Commission is designed to directly support individuals and families from the five welfare reform communities of Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. It uses a model of community-led conferencing to promote the rights and wellbeing of children, vulnerable persons and families living in these communities. The FRC engages residents in place-based programs to respond to the challenges of school enrolment and attendance, the impact of convictions in state-based courts, child welfare notifications, tenancy agreement breaches and, in some communities, domestic and family violence incidents. It works towards strengthening the foundation of socially responsible standards of behaviour for the community, by the community.

The FRC is administered by the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism, and under the standing orders our committee has oversight responsibilities. The Education, Arts and Communities Committee spent three days in Far North Queensland and met with local commissioners who play a special role in providing on-the-ground support to communities and who help link individuals and families to both government and non-government services.

We had the privileged opportunity to witness the FRC in conferencing with two families and saw firsthand the tender yet direct way they work together. We bore witness to a mother and child who received a small hamper to recognise the huge changes the family had sustained in seeking to improve the quality of their lives. We also had the opportunity to meet with local police and participated in an FRC and Cape York Institute justice reinvestment roundtable discussion.

Among our agency visits, a highlight was attendance at Cooktown State School, a prep to year 12 school, and the Hope Vale Campus, prep to year 6, of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy. The deputy chair and I both enjoyed the opportunity to be restored to a life before parliament. We assisted some of our smallest Queenslanders with their maths and their spelling. I offer the thanks of the committee to the school for opening their arms to us and giving us the opportunity to be involved in this way. The geography of Queensland is one of our greatest attributes and undoubtedly provides wondrous and diverse environments, yet the tyranny of distance adds a layer of complexity which requires a steadfast commitment to making a difference for government, families, and not-for-profit and service agencies.

I thank the committee members for committing their time to visiting these communities. I thank the secretariat for all their work in organising and keeping us on track and on time. Most of all, I thank the communities for their partnerships and engagement. It is an honour to serve Queensland and it is a great way to learn more about Queensland through this experience.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise today to speak on the report of the committee's recent visit to Hope Vale with the Family Responsibilities Commission. The EACC has parliamentary oversight of the Family Responsibilities Commission. The FRC plays a unique and valuable role in supporting five discrete communities in Far North Queensland—Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. Through case management conferences led by a local commissioner, local families are supported through some of life's challenges. The commissioner's duty is to protect and support vulnerable people, including children. It is a wonderful model of leadership development, ensuring leadership density across some of our most at-risk communities.

I acknowledge the work of the FRC commissioner, Tammy Williams, and the deputy commissioner, Rod Curtin, as well as the entire FRC team. The FRC's commitment to these five discrete communities is inspirational. Commissioner Williams is truly a transformative leader and a person of immense vision and integrity. Like her beautiful mother Aunty Lesley Williams—who for nearly six years guided my principalship at Glenala State High School—Tammy is a formidable and driven First Nations woman who will make her mark on modern Queensland. I am honoured to know and work with Commissioner Williams and feel adoration for all that she has achieved for her people to date.

Hope Vale is a proud Indigenous community north of Cairns, home to about 1,500 residents. The Thubi Warra people are the traditional owners of this land. I acknowledge and congratulate the local Hope Vale commissioners: Cheryl Florence Cannon, a fellow retired principal colleague who continues to contribute immensely to her community during her semiretirement; Erica Deeral, the granddaughter

of another great First Nations leader Eric Deeral, who would be immensely proud of her commitment to the young people in Hope Vale; Priscilla Gibson; Robert Gibson; Doreen Hart; Selina Kerr-Bowen; and Kathryn Dora Gibson.

The visit assisted the committee to better understand the work of the FRC and to witness case management in action and see how the process supports the community more broadly. The committee visited the Hope Vale O-Hub, the Wellbeing Centre and the Hope Vale and Cooktown state schools and engaged with the Cape York Institute. This was a valuable chance to better understand how the Cape York Institute supports children's learning and encourages the aspirations of young local people. Precise teaching strategies unique to ESL learners and school staff who truly understand factors affecting learning in remote Queensland are nurtured by the Cape York Institute. I acknowledge former director-general Julie Grantham and Noel Pearson for their leadership of the Cape York Institute.

I acknowledge the hard work also of the former Labor government in securing important resources for these five communities. They include discounted prices of essential goods, the pathways for jobs program, billion-dollar funding boosts for Far North Queensland healthcare and new social housing in Cape York through Homes for Queenslanders. We recognise there is still more to do. We support working together to listen to First Nations peoples and respect their cultural and community needs.

The FRC also highlighted the Premier's charter letter to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. This letter commits to forming an economic security team to improve outcomes for Queenslanders. It is the responsibility of this minister and her economic security team to take substantial action in order to create long-lasting change for communities such as Hope Vale and supporting the FRC.

The Labor opposition, through the member for Algeester and the shadow minister, will continue to hold the government to account for improving the outcomes of not only the Hope Vale community but also every remote Aboriginal and First Nations community in Queensland. I commend the report to the House.



**Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 3 of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, detailing our visit to Hope Vale and Cooktown earlier this year, alongside the Family Responsibilities Commission. This was more than just a committee trip. For me, it was a powerful reminder of the strength that lies in community-led solutions and the importance of respect, trust and cultural understanding in delivering better outcomes.

We travelled north at the invitation of Commissioner Tammy Williams whose leadership of the FRC was not only principled but also deeply personal. I was struck by the compassion and clarity with which she and the local commissioners approach their work. One moment I will never forget happened during a conference at Hope Vale. As we sat in the room, we watched a young woman quietly nod while the local commissioner spoke to her. He did not speak at her; he spoke with her. It was firm, honest and wrapped in dignity. There was no lecturing, no judgement, just a conversation between equals who both wanted the same thing—a better life. Afterwards, we were told that the young woman had volunteered for income management. That is the kind of change you cannot write in policy. It cannot be forced, it has to be grown from within, and the FRC is doing just that.


Visiting one of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy campuses—the Hope Vale campus—was another standout. The pride of the children in their classrooms was contagious. The way they were learning was different to what I have seen before. The students repeated their teacher and were able to learn effectively in a way that worked for them. It was beautiful and, as a former teacher assistant, it made me miss being in a classroom.

Hope Vale's story is one of resilience. From its forced relocation during World War II to the proud return of its people, this is a place that carries both history and hope in equal measure. But challenges remain: school attendance, youth justice, domestic violence and the availability of culturally appropriate services. The Elevated School Response strategy was impressive, but it is not sustainable without long-term resourcing. When a local commissioner is riding the school bus to keep kids safe and accountable, it tells you everything about the strength of the community and also about the gaps in the system.

As the member for Pumicestone, I know our electorates are vastly different in geography but not always in challenge. Disconnection, youth disengagement and intergenerational hardship look different in Beachmere or Caboolture, but their root causes are not dissimilar. What we can learn from Hope Vale is that the answers must come from the community, not be imposed upon them.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent passing of Victor Gibson OAM, a founding local commissioner in Hope Vale. Mr Gibson was a pillar of strength, serving as deputy mayor and councillor, and dedicating his life to building up the community. His contributions were recognised in 2015 when he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services in the community. Mr Gibson's legacy is one of unwavering commitment to his people and his culture. His leadership and guidance have left a mark on Hope Vale and the FRC. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Commissioner Priscilla Gibson, and their family.

I want to thank Commissioner Williams, Deputy Commissioner Curtin, the local commissioners and every teacher, student and community member we met. To the children we met at the schools: thank you for reminding us why we do this work because every child, no matter their postcode, deserves to walk into a classroom where they feel safe, proud and seen. Let's ensure that the lessons we learned in Hope Vale do not stay just in Hope Vale. Let them shape how we advocate, legislate and govern every day for every Queenslanders.

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.14 pm): I rise today as a member of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee, tasked with providing oversight to the Family Responsibilities Commission. It was great to see firsthand the work of the FRC in Cooktown and Hope Vale, and I say to the House it was a real privilege to visit Cooktown and Hope Vale, my very first trip to those communities.

I would like to begin my speech by acknowledging Commissioner Tammy Williams who is doing an incredible job as Commissioner of the Family Responsibilities Commission, a true leader in the community. I would also like to acknowledge the local councillors of the FRC—Cheryl Florence Cannon, Erica Deeral, Priscilla Gibson, Robert Gibson, Doreen Hart, Selina Kerr-Bowen and Katheryn Dore Gibson.

The FRC operates in five communities—Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. Their strategic objectives are to: support the restoration of socially responsible standards of behaviour; help people in welfare reform communities to resume primary responsibility for the wellbeing of their communities; create a capable, culturally safe, agile and innovative organisation; and improve engagement through co-design and partnerships.


The Education, Arts and Communities Committee's role is oversight responsibility to: monitor and review the FRC's performance of its functions; report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter concerning the FRC, its functions or the performance of its functions; examine their annual report; and report to the Legislative Assembly any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the FRC. The FRC plays a unique and valuable role in supporting communities. Through their conferences, they encourage socially responsible behaviour. Their duty is to protect vulnerable people, including children.

I appreciate the time the FRC gave us when visiting Hope Vale, particularly when they were in a period of sorry business with the loss of Mr Victor Gibson OAM. Mr Gibson was the founding local commissioner of the Family Responsibilities Commission and continued to serve until poor health forced his retirement. It would be remiss of me not to mention his family and community who have lost this cherished elder—his wife, Commissioner Priscilla Gibson, and his sister, Doreen Hart, who is also a founding local commissioner in Hope Vale. This visit helped us better understand how the FRC operates and how they serve their communities. I acknowledge all commissioners and respected community members who encourage individuals to take steps to make lasting changes in their lives.

Commissioner Tammy Williams, along with local commissioners, were very gracious with the time they gave us during that three-day visit. We took part in a round table discussion with FRC staff and representatives from the Cape York Institute which was a valuable chance to hear their views and ideas. It was also a privilege to be part of a private meeting with a family during this visit where you could see firsthand the wonderful work that the commission do. FRC commissioners spoke to the committee about their success of voluntary income management and their client engagement approach showing the commission as being valued and respected within the community.

During our visit, we visited several key places such as Hope Vale O-Hub, the Wellbeing Centre and the amazing Cooktown State School. These visits gave us a better picture of the supports in place.

I support the great work this commission does and hope that the current government is looking at renewing funding for this very vital service. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.18 pm): I was privileged to accompany the Education, Arts and Communities Committee on their visit to Hope Vale and Cooktown. I thank them for their hospitality and for inviting me to attend. Thank you also, Mr Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity. It was great to be

accompanied by Family Responsibilities Commissioner Tammy Williams. We had the privilege in the last term in opposition to have oversight of the FRC as a committee, so it was great to reconnect with the commissioners and Commissioner Williams' company was really worthwhile.

The purpose of the visit was for the committee to meet with local commissioners in Hope Vale and to learn and observe the work of the FRC in community. For the new members of the parliament who got to travel, I hope it was all that you expected and I hope we can do more in the future. I readily accepted the chance to meet up again with the FRC, having served on different committees over the years, and feel lucky to have had oversight of the performance and functions of the FRC and their work.

The work of the FRC is not well known or celebrated. It was established in 2008 in partnership with the federal and state governments and the Cape York Institute. In holding conversations with community members to work with individuals and their families to engage in socially responsible standards of behaviour, looking after children and other vulnerable people in these communities. The FRC operates in five welfare reform communities in Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge.

I note that there is interest from other communities to participate. Personally, I would welcome and expansion of the welfare reforms across Queensland and across the Cape. Why? Because there are many challenges in our communities and we benefit if we can assist where we have triggers and examples of contrary to community expectations we should be doing all we can. This may include: Failure to enrol or send a child to school; convictions in the Magistrate, District or Supreme Court; Child safety and welfare issues; Breaches of housing tenancy agreements and Domestic and family violence incidents—those five communities are not isolated but they are important—and they deal with alcohol management plans as well.

The visit to Hope Vale and Cooktown allowed the committee to observe FRC community client conferencing and engagement—to see firsthand the work occurring in communities and the work of justice reinvestment round table discussion with FRC and the Cape York Institute. Meeting with local commissioners provided insights of the work being done. I was privileged to meet Erica Deeral. I believe she is the daughter, not the granddaughter of Eric Deeral the first indigenous person elected to this place from 1974 to 1977. I was asked to drive Mrs Deeral back to Cooktown after our visit to Hope Vale. Erica was in the car. It was great to learn about her political life and her family's involvement. She not only talked about her father with much love and passion but also about how the community embraced that community back in the 1970s when he was the elected member for Cook. One of the other things that I hope the other members took away is how passionate the local Indigenous people are, particularly Erica, about the memorial and the work that has been done to celebrate the arrival of Captain James Cook in Cooktown. We spent an afternoon there, looking at the work that has been done over a long period of time to celebrate and acknowledge the history—both white and black—but more importantly, the respect that was shown was wonderful.

I want to pick up on issues of resourcing. We met with the police and, of course, they were under-resourced at the time of the visit and they had been for a long time. There were issues with housing and retaining staff there. A lot of times there was questions asked about their capacity to be able to respond to events in the evenings, something that is not ideal. I place on the record: That was a takeaway for me. I also want to talk about some of the issues that were raised after our O-Hub meeting, the wellbeing centre, the Cooktown State School, the Hope Vale campus, the academy and the additional information that we took from visiting that community and seeing the work that is going on there to try to make that community a better place.

I quickly want to touch on the Family Responsibilities Commissioner's letter to the committee. It was not taken to me that I would be hearing about issues of housing and the barriers with QBuild and a couple took two hours to build a home, the travelling and the links they have to that community. It is an opportunity for us all to acknowledge we should be empowering young people to become tradespeople in communities like Hope Vale. It is an employment pathway. Real barriers do exist that prevent qualified tradespeople within these communities. Of course, I talk about public works and housing and QBuild. To have those houses sitting there for two years and not being constructed I found really quite disturbing. There was instability in policy settings, program longevity in achieving sustainable employment in remote communities. There used to be programs that used to employ young people and governments used to work with those but clearly in Hope Vale those sheds were shut and there is work for us to do in those communities. There is limited visibility and accessibility—I am out of time. Thanks for the trip, guys. Let's do it again!

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.23 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to Standing Order 136 that the Primary Industries and Resources Committee report on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 by 15 August 2025. The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's *Report 15: 2024-25* titled *Education 2024* be referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for consideration.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.34 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—  
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 24 June 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Report



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.24 pm): I seek leave to table an Ethics Committee report in the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

**Mr STEVENS:** I lay upon the table of the House Ethics Committee Report No. 235 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 April 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by former federal member for Griffith, Mr Max Chandler-Mather*. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 235, 58th Parliament—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 April 2025 relating to an allegation of publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House by former federal member for Griffith, Mr Max Chandler-Mather [\[633\]](#).

## HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1741, on motion of Hon. Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.25 pm), continuing: All this confected outrage about conflicts of interest. Labor has no problem appointing their union mates to superannuation and other statutory boards. Talk about hypocrisy. Conflicts of interest can be managed on a case by case basis. Clearly those opposite have little real-life governance experience. The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services informed the House today that five HHS employees had been appointed under Labor as board members. Talk about political pointscoring. There are established health board disclosure requirements in place for the management of conflicts, including section 31 and schedule 1 to item 9 of the Hospital and Health Boards Act and section 40F of the Integrity Act. There is also a Queensland Health Good Practice Guide for Hospital and Health Boards. The Integrity Commissioner in correspondence dated 16 April 2025 said—

The existing statutory requirements regarding disclosure and management of conflicts of interest are adequate.

Mr Booth acting on behalf of the Integrity Commissioner in the relevant committee's transcript of proceedings underscored the importance of training, education and awareness in managing conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest can be managed on a case by case basis because we have adequate statutory disclosure requirements in place.

I now turn to the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act, TOSPA. The objective of this bill is to allow Queensland Health to promptly forfeit vaping goods under seizure. To

empower courts to order convicted TOSPA offenders to pay the state the reasonable cost incurred in prosecuting the offence and make technical amendments to the act.


The Commonwealth government has banned the importation, manufacture, supply and non-personal possession of disposable and recreational vapes to combat the illicit trade on vaping and tobacco goods. This bill supports the enforcement of these bans and empowers enforcement officers to seize nicotine products.

Since 1 October 2024, Queensland Health enforcement teams have seized more than 170,000 vapes from stores with a street value exceeding \$5 million. Just last week, 3.3 million cigarettes, nearly 20,000 vapes and 300 kilograms of illegal chop-chop were seized in a Mackay warehouse. So, it should come as no surprise that Queensland Health is under significant pressures from managing the increasing volume in seizing vaping goods. Under TOSPA, Queensland Health has authority to forfeit illicit tobacco and nicotine products subject to issuing a 28-day show cause notice before forfeiture takes place. After 28 days, a forfeiture decision is made; however, the owner of the illicit products can appeal the decision within 28 days of receiving the notice. Currently, TOSPA provides that a court can grant a stay and prevent destruction of the illicit nicotine products.

The current situation is simply not sustainable and is further compounded by the existing show cause provisions. Vaping goods pose a significant safety and environmental risk to our community. Vaping goods are highly flammable, contain lithium ion batteries that can overheat and explode and include hazardous materials such as liquid nicotine, heavy metals and carcinogens. The non-hazardous plastic materials pose an environmental risk. It currently costs up to \$65,000 per shipping container to store seized vaping goods because of the specialised storage requirements including fire resistant ventilation and cooling of the shipping containers.

Aside from high storage costs, there is further cost associated with the destruction and disposal of the vaping goods. Vaping goods are classified as pharmaceutical waste and class 9 miscellaneous dangerous goods. Queensland Health have advised that this is the costliest type of waste to dispose.

In closing, this bill provides clear authority to the courts to order convicted offenders to pay the costs of enforcement including seizure, storage, destruction, investigation and prosecution costs. I commend the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.30 pm): I recall it was not too long ago when those opposite were carrying around a little blue book everywhere they went—their right-wing priorities. One of those major—and if I recall one of only two—policies around how to heal the health system was to put doctors and nurses back in charge of said health system. The other, of course, was real-time reporting. We have seen what an absolutely monumental and inaccurate system that is for health care in Queensland. The feedback we are receiving from community around how that does not, in fact, achieve those goals and in many cases is not actually accurate around wait times has been stark and scary and is leaving Queensland in a position where they do not believe the data they are seeing. It is frightening that as a government they do not believe in harm minimisation. They do not believe in gender-affirming care. They do not believe in rural and remote incentives for healthcare workers. All of those things are things that have already been cut under an LNP government.

This bill does deliver on a slogan. It delivers on slogan from the LNP's perspective around putting doctors and nurses back in charge. One of the things I want to know is who on earth has been in charge of Queensland Health for the last 228 days if doctors and nurses have not been in charge? We know that this is something that the member for Hervey Bay, who spoke before me, said—that they have not been in charge at all. Who on earth has been running our hospitals, because we know it has not been the LNP?

When we look at workforce attraction schemes that have been ripped out of the regions, when doctors are ignored around pill testing and clinic closures, when some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders have had to endure puberty in a body that does not align with their identity, who is taking responsibility for that? Who is taking responsibility when doctors are talking out against these things? Who is in charge when all of that is happening? Who is taking responsibility for our state's nurses striking for the first time in over 20 years?

I tell honourable members who is not taking responsibility for it. The member for Mudgeeraba is not taking responsibility for it because she has been relegated to the 'minister for petty cash and stationery' while the member for Clayfield has taken up the scalpel. I want to make a very important distinction. Of course, he has changed the cuts knife that he wielded as Campbell Newman's treasurer to a scalpel, making incisions and cuts all the while smiling and saying that there is nothing to see here. It is little wonder that the Queensland Health workforce has dubbed him Elon Musk. This is a health

minister who had a rescue plan with no detail. My community wants to know when the Redcliffe Hospital expansion will be delivered. They cannot get any sense out of the member for Redcliffe.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask whether this is within the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): I am going to take that point of order. I ask you to bring your speech back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** We know how important health care is, and our growing region needs a growing health system now, not at an undefined time into the future. The only time that doctors, nurses and clinical staff are not in charge at a hospital is when there are politically motivated attacks and cuts made by this government. One of the things I know for sure is you cannot heal with cuts.

One of the other things that this bill addresses is waste disposal. We know there are several barriers to effective disposal of vapes under the current designation. Local government probably know it best of all. Our Queensland Fire Department sees the damage they can cause. Those vapes with lithium ion batteries can overheat, leak and explode in our community. The challenge is real here. Mayors inform me of council dump trucks that are literally dropping massive dumpster fires in the middle of our city streets as they catch fire through routine kerbside support.

**Mr McCallum** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Bundamba; it is horrible. That is why I support the calls from the members in the statement of reservation for more cross-sector consultation to accelerate effective and safe disposal of these products because this bill does not fix it. Why would we expect it to? Why would we expect that from a government that will not listen to local government? They claim to be equal partners, but their actions prove this is now not the case, and there is no starker example than in the waste recovery sector. Rockhampton Regional Council, Cairns Regional Council, Bundaberg Regional Council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Gladstone Regional Council, Townsville City Council and Mackay Regional Council—these are seven councils with government MPs representing every single one of them that have written to the Premier and the environment minister pleading with them to reverse their decision to impose a \$137 million bin tax on their community.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It relates to relevance again. I would ask you to bring the member back to the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I take that point of order. Member for Pine Rivers, please return to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** When it comes to waste disposal of hazardous materials, when it comes to waste disposal of heavy metals, when it comes to waste disposal of lithium ion batteries, all of which this bill directly speaks to, at the centre of that is our local governments, and our local governments know—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on a point of relevance. This bill does not speak to the disposal of lithium batteries. This bill speaks to the health department's ability to move rapidly to disassemble and move away with vapes. It has nothing to do with it, and nothing that the member has raised is in relation to the policy intent of the bill or the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, if I may assist your deliberations, the statement of reservation—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some advice first. Member for Pine Rivers, I will give you the opportunity to point out where the discussion you are having is in the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** I will do with that absolute pleasure, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to draw the minister's attention and the House's attention to the statement of reservation where on the final page and the fifth paragraph from the top it talks about the disposal of lithium ion batteries and waste disposal. Further, it talks about the fact that it is in the explanatory notes—explanatory notes I presume the health minister has read. That is how it is relevant to the bill. That is how it is relevant: through the explanatory notes to the bill and through the statement of reservation in the committee's report. This is very relevant to this debate. It is very relevant to the cost impost of our local governments that will have no choice but to pass on—

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Moggill, if I could just have a moment. Member for Pine Rivers, you have explained where it is in the bill. You can continue with your speech in a moment. Let me take this point of order first.



**Dr ROWAN:** You have ruled, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I am going to bring up the point of relevance again in relation to the proposition as put by the member for Pine Rivers. I would submit to you that this is not within the long title of the bill and the contribution does not relate to that.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: I know the reference here is—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, but I will just take some advice. Please, one at a time. It does not talk about lithium ion batteries specifically, so if you could please just get back to the bill.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: every vape has a small lithium ion battery in it and I know this may not be familiar to the health minister, but disposal and waste—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. You can take a seat, member.

**Mr BAILEY:**—are very much a part of—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can take a seat, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:**—this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, it will not surprise you that I take offence and ask the member to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member takes offence and he asks you to withdraw.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If I could just have silence from everybody for a moment, please. There seems to be a little bit of disorder. I am just going to repeat the Speaker's earlier response to this. We wish to stress that standing order 139 does not mean that one phrase or sentence in a written or oral submission to a committee or the committee's report or statement of reservation or dissent can become a new or alternate debate to the debate on the bill. Member for Pine Rivers, I ask you to bring it back to the bill, thank you. You have three minutes and 42 seconds to do so.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Can I specifically reference the explanatory notes—the green—which say—

Vaping goods present unique safety risks that make their management more complex than other seized substances like illicit tobacco. Vaping goods are highly flammable and create significant fire hazards, particularly when improperly handled, stored, or destroyed. The presence of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, leak, or explode under certain conditions, further complicates their handling. Additionally, vaping goods contain hazardous materials ...

And it goes on. Specifically in relation to this, the Cairns Regional Council raised concerns—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. The proposal in the bill itself under clause 21, 'How property may be dealt with', says 'including, for example, by destroying the thing'. That is the entire reference to vapes within the bill itself. I would submit, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the member continues to be irrelevant.

**Mr BAILEY:** To the point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker: previous speakers have referred to the waste element. The disposal of vapes is clearly what this section of the bill is about. Other speakers have spoken about the waste implications of it and not been held up or harassed by the minister. The member is simply speaking—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, maybe you can take your seat, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:**—to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have taken your point of order.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not time to debate or to have insults across the floor.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence at the language used by the member and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member.

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If I can have some silence, thank you, for a moment—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:**—and if I have to continue to hear backchat towards me in the chair, we will deal with that as well. Member for Pine Rivers, I understand what you are saying about the bill, but if you could please not use that as your whole sole speech but bring it back to the title, I will give you the time.

**Ms BOYD:** I got you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let us reference the statement of reservation at paragraph 4 which talks about the evidence provided that estimated as many as 12,000 fires were caused due to the incorrect disposal of battery and battery powered products, with 200 battery related fires reported in Queensland in the last 12 months. This is a safety issue for Queensland. This is a safety issue that those—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** It was submitted by a submitter. The WMRR submitted it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, member for Pine Rivers, but there is a point of order. I will take the point of order, member for Clayfield.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The evidence in relation to 12,000 batteries is totally irrelevant to the policy and the contents of the bill. It does not refer to 12,000 lithium ion batteries from vapes. It was a broad statement made by the submitter to the inquiry about the general—

**Mr BAILEY:** That is not a point of order. Point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—disposal—

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a debating point—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is a debating point, not a point of order, respectfully.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** If I could finish my point of order, that would be handy.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to take final advice on this. We are wasting a lot of time just on one part of the bill.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the point of order that the health minister was raising. He was not given the opportunity to finish his point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you cannot use that part of the bill—

**Ms BOYD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, if it assists, it is a submission made by a stakeholder.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can use the statement of reservation, but you cannot use the broad scope of the bill, so can I please ask you to bring it back.

**Ms BOYD:** I am speaking specifically around what was submitted to the committee through stakeholders just for the purposes of those opposite so they are clear on this. There was also reference to the Cairns Regional Council. It specifically talked about a fire with an estimated cost of \$30 million to replace—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order again on relevance.

**Ms BOYD:** Why are you silencing me?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The Cairns Regional Council—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers!

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—did not even make a submission to this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, this is the last time that I will ask you to bring it back to the bill. In terms of that last comment, the member is right; I will take his point of order. Please bring it back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is information contained within the statement of reservation—that is, a \$30 million bin tax that is now being left with local governments due to the decisions of the LNP government.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, I will ask you to take your seat please.

**Ms BOYD:** This is an important issue that I am being silenced on by those opposite.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers! I have taken advice and, as per the statement that I read to you previously, you cannot take just one sentence out of the statement and make it your whole topic of conversation. Can I please get you to bring it back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. One of the things that was really clear through submissions to the committee process was that there is a real danger in disposing of these products—something that the minister himself has acknowledged is a true and legitimate problem. At the heart of that problem, at the heart of waste recovery, at the heart of waste disposal is the local governments and the issues that they have instead of what we are actually seeing—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, please take your seat. Member for Clayfield, your point of order?

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—I rise again to a point of order and the point of order is that it has nothing to do with councils and their issues in relation to disposal of the waste. As valid as that might be, it is not the subject of the debate in this bill and it is not the subject of the bill or the long title of the bill and I would ask you to bring the member back to relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, this is your last opportunity to come back to the bill or I will ask you to take your seat.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This bill refers to cost orders. The member is speaking to the explanatory notes. She is being relevant to the issue of a new technology and how it is disposed. The bill is engineered around the government's difficulties around disposals, but there are other entities—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I do not need you to debate your point of order. The whole bill is not talking about disposal of an item. I have made it very clear that the member should bring her contribution back to the bill. I do not want to be challenged again, thank you. Member for Pine Rivers, I bring you back to the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** I want to see a safer community. Whether that is cracking down on illegal chop-chop shops or providing protection for our frontline firefighters or safety for workers performing their jobs each and every day, it is important. It is important that they have a government that supports them—a government that does not see rates increase as a result of bin taxes that they are imposing on seven local governments right now. These are real issues that are facing Queenslanders.


**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you have 18 seconds left. Please, just get to the end. Can I say: members should not think for a moment that I will not start giving warnings when I am challenged from the floor inappropriately.

**Ms BOYD:** In what is the longest 10 minutes of my life, can I support the non-government members in the contributions they are giving and the statement of reservation—

*(Time expired)*

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. What we have just seen with the contribution by the member for Pine Rivers is an inability to adhere to the processes within this parliament with respect to addressing the bill that is under debate. There are serious matters being dealt with in this bill with respect to clinician engagement and with respect to vaping. They are important matters that need to be discussed and debated here. The principles of adhering to the processes of the parliament are very important. I would say that we have seen an example of that not occurring and previous examples, through estimates hearings and other processes, of the former minister not doing that and finding herself in some serious circumstances.

This legislation delivers on two key commitments of the Crisafulli LNP state government. Firstly, it strengthens—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Moggill, please take your seat for a moment. Member for Pine Rivers, if you want to challenge relevance, please do it in the appropriate manner, thank you.

**Dr ROWAN:** Firstly, it strengthens clinical leadership within our hospital and health services. I heard the contribution of the member of the Pine Rivers in relation to clinician engagement. Over the past 10 years, doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have not been listened to by Labor governments and, therefore, we have had the Labor health crisis here in Queensland which the LNP government is cleaning up. Secondly, this bill ensures strong practical measures to protect Queenslanders from the harms of illicit tobacco and vaping products.

From day one, the Crisafulli LNP state government has been focused on fixing Labor's health crisis. Across Queensland, our public health system has struggled under years of mismanagement and poor ministerial oversight, with waitlists that have blown out, ambulance ramping worsening and frontline workers desperate for change.

The reforms contained within this legislation represent just one of the many actions by the Crisafulli LNP state government to restore integrity, performance and confidence in our public hospitals and health services. Specifically, this legislation will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to ensure stronger clinical representation on all hospital and health service boards. For too long, decisions affecting clinical care and hospital operations were made without the direct input of those delivering critical health services. It is important to note that those clinicians have important information and contributions. They are seeing what is happening in the health system and they can ensure not only quality assurance but also quality improvement.

This legislation will implement our election commitment to put doctors, nurses and allied health professionals back in charge of Queensland's health services. This legislation will introduce a new requirement that there be at least one frontline staff member employed in a local health facility on health and hospital boards. To be eligible to be appointed to a board under the amendments contained within this legislation, a clinician must be a registered health practitioner such as a doctor, nurse, midwife or allied health professional. They must also have worked for the health service for at least two years and be working a minimum of eight hours per week providing direct patient care in a public hospital or health facility within the relevant hospital and health service. These reforms will ensure that hospital and health service boards are better informed, more responsive and more grounded in the real-world challenges and solutions of modern public health care.

Turning to the significant second component of this legislation, I want to address our state government's firm action against illicit tobacco and vaping products. As Queenslanders know, the sale of these products exploded under the previous Labor state government, with hundreds of illegal shops operating in broad daylight. The health consequences, particularly for our young Queenslanders, have been profound. Vaping rates amongst Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. The Cancer Council Queensland has warned that children who vape are 29 times more likely to try cigarettes. The risk to lung health, to brain development and of long-term addiction is very present and real. That is why we certainly need to address this as a public health issue not only here in Queensland but also across Australia.

Since the election of the Crisafulli LNP state government, Queensland Health has led a determined enforcement campaign. Queensland Health has already seized more than 250,000 vapes and led the largest seizure of illegal cigarettes and vapes by any health authority in Australia. That is under the Crisafulli LNP government. Importantly, this legislation enhances our enforcement capability even further. Firstly, it allows for the immediate forfeiture and destruction of seized vaping goods without the need to store them for eight weeks under outdated legal provisions. Secondly, this legislation introduces a new court ordered cost recovery scheme. This allows our courts to require convicted offenders to pay back the costs incurred in enforcement, investigation, seizure, storage and prosecution. Queenslanders should not have to bear the costs of cleaning up the mess created by those who profit from illegal activity. This cost recovery mechanism sends a strong signal that not only will the government shut down your trade; we will make you pay for it as well.

This legislation is a clear example of how the Crisafulli LNP state government is getting on with delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for by enhancing clinical leadership in our hospitals and acting to keep our communities healthy and safe. I want to re-emphasise clinician engagement. If we are to continue with a modern healthcare system here in Queensland, we need to ensure that our clinicians are engaged, that they are developing those services and that they are contributing to not only the clinical but also the management oversight of those health services. It is very important that their voices are heard and listened to, because they are able to contribute not only to clinical governance arrangements but also to corporate governance. They are able to ensure efficiency and productivity within the health system and to ensure good clinical outcomes for patients right across the board. That is not only in our public health system but also in the private health system. This is very

focused, practical legislation. It certainly supports our frontline staff. It strengthens public health enforcement and it delivers on our commitments to Queenslanders. As such, I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. As has been mentioned by almost every speaker, this bill effectively does two things: in relation to our Hospital and Health Boards Act, it requires at least one member of each health and hospital board to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the HHS itself for which the board is established; the second major thing that this bill does is it effects reforms to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 which expedites the forfeiture of seized vaping products and goods and enables the courts to order people convicted of an offence under the act pay reasonable costs incurred as a result of that offence. I will deal firstly with the amendments relating to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. The fundamental premise associated with these amendments to HHS boards is based on an election commitment of the LNP government. We heard from the member for Moggill in his contribution where he referenced that and, indeed, in the committee report it specifically states that during the election campaign last year the now government committed to putting doctors, nurses and clinician staff back in charge of hospitals. That is what the member for Moggill was referring to.

However, what is not in the committee report and was not mentioned by the member for Moggill or, indeed, any other speaker that I am certainly aware of from the government benches in relation to this bill, is any recognition whatsoever that of the 16 HHSs that we currently have in Queensland, 13 of them currently have a person with a clinical background appointed to at least one of the top senior decision-making positions, meaning a chair, a deputy chair or health service chief executive. I think every member in this House would be united on the fundamental proposition that clinicians in a particular health area or region should be able to provide input and use their expertise and their knowledge of their region to deliver the services and make sure that they are the best services being delivered for that particular region. As a fundamental principle I think that everybody agrees on that.


When it comes to what the reforms in this legislation are about I think it is very important that we do start from what is currently happening out in our HHSs. There is an incredibly high amount of representation from local clinicians currently in 13 of the 16 HHSs in Queensland. Let us get that on the record and let us have a little bit of a factual basis when it comes to the broader context of the reforms that are contained in this bill where it requires at least one person in each of the 16 HHSs to be a clinician from that particular HHS.

The difficulty with the way that the proposition that we would all agree on is being implemented in this bill is that it does give rise to situations where there will be complex conflicts of management. The bill is silent on any framework on how those conflicts of interests could and should be managed. This is an issue that received quite a lot of attention throughout the committee's inquiry into the bill. Indeed, the Integrity Commissioner made a submission which pointed out several problems with the model that is contained in this bill that has been brought forward by this government. Frankly, it does not surprise me that the Crisafulli LNP government would have a problem and, frankly, stuff up bringing forward reforms that require any level of integrity.

The issue with what is proposed in this bill is that conflicts of interest could arise in matters which relate to their employee interests, such as their role in their work area or unit. Put in plain terms, what that means is if you are an oncologist who is working in an HHS and you are put on the board, you would have to recuse yourself of any consideration around any papers or any matters that come to the board in relation to oncology. Probably what is not immediately thought of is the corollary of that person's role as an employee of the HHS and whether or not the chief executive of the HHS would treat that board member the same knowing that they are a board member as the person that they report to. If you are a clinician and you report to your CEO, the Integrity Commissioner has raised the issue that that particular employee might not be treated in the same way that the CEO would treat another employee who is not a board member. That is an important point.

Nothing in this bill does anything to shed a light or provide any systems or framework for how these complex conflicts of interest would be managed. That is just for employees of the HHS. It does not even take into consideration that clinicians may also have private interests and practice in a private capacity in that area. They might be compromised and conflicted as an employee for the HHS and then they might also have conflicts of interests of a commercial manner in their private capacity if they are practising privately in the region that is covered by the HHS and there are matters that come up before the board in relation to budgets or contracts, et cetera.

Time has gotten away from me and I do want to finish off my contribution on HHSs by acknowledging the incredible work of the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service and the hardworking board members. We have a good crew on the board who do an amazing job, as does every single person who works for West Moreton Health who takes care of our community when we need it in fantastic local facilities like the Ipswich Hospital, which has been upgraded several times by Labor, and the stage 2 billion dollar expansion that is underway at the moment which will be overseen by the HHS board and, indeed, other facilities in West Moreton such as the satellite health centre down in South Ripley in our Bundamba community which itself has a 90-bed subacute facility that is under construction right now, once again under the purview of the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. These are all wonderful facilities full of dedicated, passionate people caring for our community and proudly delivered by Labor.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which delivers on our commitments to strengthen public health protection, improve system accountability and bring frontline clinical voices back into decision-making. The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate: to rebuild confidence in our health system and to take action where the former Labor government failed to deliver. This bill does exactly that. It delivers two critical reforms. First, it ensures that clinicians—real frontline health professionals—have a seat at the table on every hospital and health board in Queensland. Second, it enhances Queensland Health's ability to enforce the law against the illegal tobacco and vaping market, which exploded under Labor's watch and continues to harm our young people and undermine decades of public health progress.

I will begin with the reforms to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. Every day, thousands of doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals deliver life-saving care to Queenslanders. Those are the people who know what works and what does not. However, until now, they have had limited input into how our health services are governed. That ends with this bill. We are fulfilling our election commitment to require every hospital and health board to include at least one practising clinician. That must be someone with direct patient experience, not someone working in policy or administration but in the wards and clinics, doing the work. To qualify, the clinician must be a registered health practitioner, have worked in the health service for at least two years and be currently providing at least eight hours of patient care per week within that hospital and health service.

This is not symbolic; it is a deliberate, meaningful step to embed frontline experience into board-level decision-making, to give those who live the system a voice in shaping it. These changes will take effect from 1 April 2026, aligning with the expiry of many current board appointments and giving Queensland Health time to properly recruit, vet and appoint qualified clinicians.


Some members opposite may raise the issue of conflicts of interest. I say this plainly: we have addressed that. Under the bill, clinician board members cannot be appointed chair or deputy chair, which is a clear mechanism to manage any perceived or actual conflicts. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner reviewed the proposal and confirmed that no further amendments were required, stating that the existing statutory requirements for disclosure and management of conflicts are adequate. Let us not forget Labor themselves appointed five current board members who are also working clinicians. Any conflicts there are being appropriately managed. This government is not just allowing it; we are embedding it into law and ensuring every health service benefits from frontline insight.

I turn to the second half of the bill and our decisive action to crack down on the illicit vape and tobacco trade. Under the former government, the number of illegal stores selling vapes and tobacco skyrocketed and they often operate in broad daylight with little consequence. From 2017 to 2023, while Labor looked the other way, the rate of vaping among high school students tripled. According to the Cancer Council Queensland, young people who vape are 29 times more likely to go on to smoke cigarettes. We are now dealing with the consequences of Labor's inaction and this bill gives us stronger powers to fix it.

Since taking office, the Crisafulli government has seized more than 250,000 vapes and led Operation Appaloosa, resulting in the largest seizure of its kind in Australia. That one operation alone netted 76,000 vapes, 19 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco, worth over \$20.8 million. However, with success comes new challenges. Right now, seized vapes must be stored for at least eight weeks due to current forfeiture and appeal processes. That means we are holding onto flammable, toxic products at high cost and risk. This bill introduces the power for immediate forfeiture, allowing Queensland Health to destroy seized vapes without delay, protecting both public safety and the environment.

The bill also introduces a new court ordered cost recovery mechanism. If you profit from selling illegal vapes, tobacco or ice pipes then you will now be liable for the full cost of enforcement. That includes seizure, storage, investigation and prosecution. The message is clear: if you do the crime then you pay the price. We have already backed this with tough penalties. As of April this year, fines for the commercial supply of illicit tobacco or vapes sit at \$32,260 for individuals and \$161,300 for corporations, which are the toughest penalties in the nation. In the first week after these fines were introduced, illegal operators were hit with \$5 million in penalties, which is 20 times more than Labor was issuing weekly. We also used the State Penalties Enforcement Registry to seize nearly half a million dollars in cash and assets from illegal traders. That is not just enforcement; it is a whole-of-government approach to stop organised crime and protect our children. Let me be very clear: vaping is not safe, it is not harmless and it is not welcome in Queensland schools, shops or streets. This bill gives us stronger powers to act faster, hold offenders accountable and dismantle the criminal networks profiting from addiction.

In conclusion, this is a bill that reflects the Crisafulli government's priorities: public health, system integrity, frontline trust and community safety. We are putting clinicians back at the heart of hospital decision-making. We are cleaning up the mess Labor left behind on vaping. We are making Queensland safer and healthier. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset, I acknowledge the Metro South Hospital and Health Service for the number of very professional clinicians who deliver outstanding care in our hospitals on Brisbane's south side.

The bill proposes changes to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. It would require that at least one member of each hospital and health service board be a clinician currently employed or engaged by the relevant hospital and health service. The government says the bill is about putting clinical staff back in charge of hospitals. However, this does not hold up when you look at the details, as clearly outlined by the member for Greenslopes. Further, this LNP government says it wants to listen to health professionals, but where is that commitment when clinicians speak out in support of gender affirming care? Where is it when experts call for pill testing to save lives?

The LNP cannot have it both ways. They cannot claim they listen to health workers when the truth is they only listen when it suits their far-right agenda. This contradiction is an issue that many in my community have raised with me and I dare say the good people of Clayfield are also well aware of this dichotomy. Those who know, know and they are aghast at this inconsistency and absolute nonsense. Before this bill, the legislation already required that each board include at least one clinician. Out of the 16 hospital and health services in Queensland, 13 already have at least one person with a clinical background in a senior position—that is, chair, deputy chair or health service chief executive. This change is just a smokescreen to cover up the LNP's disgraceful track record with our frontline health workers and it is playing out right now.

In correspondence to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner pointed out several problems with the model the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services has provided. They raised the risk of conflicts of interest if those clinicians work on the frontline of the same service they are overseeing and other issues involving personal interest such as matters impacting their colleagues and close work friends. The Integrity Commissioner also raised concerns about the employer/employee relationship. HHS employees report to the health service chief executive. However, if the employee also serves on the board then, in their board capacity, the chief executive is accountable to them; in their employee capacity the employee remains accountable to the chief executive. The Integrity Commissioner noted this relationship will contain the potential for significant conflicts or at least perceived conflicts. The Integrity Commissioner advised that management plans to address such conflicts could be complex and administratively onerous.

In this House, we have a duty to assess whether the complexity and cost of this amendment are justified or if a simpler model could achieve the same results in the public interest. Some stakeholders agree that there is a better model, one that involves consulting employees and gathering their input when performing the functions of the board. Stakeholders have also supported continuing the current approach where clinical board members remain actively engaged in healthcare practice to stay in touch with frontline issues. The government has not explained how it will manage the significant conflicts of interest in this arrangement. That is why we will not be supporting the amendments contained in part 2 of the bill.

The bill also amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to fast-track the destruction of seized vaping products and to enable courts to order persons convicted of an offence

under the act to pay reasonable costs incurred as a result of the offence. We are in a position where we will always work to crack down on illicit vapes that harm our children and our communities. I am proud to have been a part of the former Labor government that passed tobacco and vaping laws that carried the harshest penalties in this country. While we support the principle of the amendments of this part of the bill, we highlight the short-sightedness and missed opportunities of the approach taken by the LNP government.

The committee heard from the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia. They identified a number of barriers to the safe disposal of the products. The explanatory notes explain that lithium ion batteries in vaping products can leak, overheat or explode. Those products also contain hazardous substances such as liquid nicotine, heavy metals and carcinogens. Their plastic components do not break down, which causes harm to the environment.

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association advised the committee that up to 12,000 fires have been caused by incorrect battery disposal. In Queensland alone 200 battery related fires were reported in the last year. The costs from these fires are significant. For example, the Cairns Regional Council is facing an estimated \$30 million cost from a single fire—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is a repeat of the arguments that were put by the member for Pine Rivers in relation to councils and those sorts of things, and I would ask you to return the member to the subject matter of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): I make it very clear that the Speaker told us earlier this morning that one phrase or sentence or a written or oral submission to a committee, a committee report or a statement of reservation or dissenting statement cannot become an alternate debate on the debate of the bill. Member for Mansfield, I ask you to keep that in mind as you proceed, please.

**Ms McMILLAN:** With all due respect, the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association was a submitter to this bill. I have spent nearly nine years in this place, and I have been the chair of a committee, a deputy chair and a shadow minister. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association was a submitter to this bill, and I am simply quoting from the submission.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, again, but also on the conduct of the member for Mansfield in reflecting on the chair regarding your ruling and your guidance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, I know you are trying to stay within the scope of the bill. Please do not question my ruling, and make sure you stay within the bill.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I acknowledge, as does the opposition, the contribution of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association and its support of the organisations that it advocates for and represents and the work that it does in our communities. I also acknowledge the many fires that have occurred in local council dumps—a total of 200 in the last year.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, again. This is the third attempt by the member for Mansfield to go to a matter not covered by the subject matter of this bill by simply referring to a submission made by a submitter group that has no relevance to the policy, to the bearing of the bill or to the words in the bill itself.


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some further advice. Member for Mansfield, in the submission it actually says that they have gone broader than the scope of the bill, which is what you are actually commenting on. Can I please ask you to keep that in mind and go back to the bill.

**Ms McMILLAN:** I also acknowledge the immense impact that vaping and vaping products have on our young people. I acknowledge that there are many vaping stores illegally operating in my electorate. I have written to the minister and to the department of health about those stores, particularly the ones that are close to major schools. Vaping poses a significant risk to the young people of our community.

When I was growing up, smoking posed a similar risk. We saw the impact that smoking and the tobacco industry had on the young people of Australia with their convincing marketing. It is thanks to people like Dr Jeannette Young and others who were significant advocates for change in relation to smoking in Queensland. Sadly, we have seen the vaping industry replace the tobacco industry. The tobacco industry was very effective in convincing young people to take up smoking, and the vaping industry is doing the same.



I endorse the bill with the exception, as I mentioned in my speech, of the amendments contained in part 2 of the bill. Again, I thank all of the public health workers in my electorate at the PA Hospital, the QEII Hospital, the nurse-led clinic and, of course, the Eight Mile Plains satellite hospital. I still refer to it as the satellite hospital, as does the rest of my community. It will take a long time for us to get used to the changed name of the satellite hospital—old habits die hard. As I mentioned, I commend the bill to the House with the exception of the amendments contained in part 2 of the bill.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that brings tangible, community based reforms to our health system and has particular significance for Far North Queensland. In six short months the LNP government have introduced real-time health data. We have launched the ambulance ramping reduction program, and it is working. We are recruiting an additional 34,200 frontline health staff by 2030. We are delivering our Hospital Rescue Plan, and this is just the beginning.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a bold step towards rebuilding Queensland's healthcare system after years of neglect, and it starts by putting clinicians back where they belong—at the decision-making table. For too long critical health decisions have been made without enough input from those on the front line: the nurses, doctors and allied health professionals who care for our communities every single day. That is about to change.

This bill will ensure that every hospital and health board across Queensland includes at least one local clinician—someone with at least two years of hands-on experience, who is still working in direct patient care and who is deeply connected to the people whom they serve. Importantly, these clinicians will not be able to serve as chair or deputy chair as a safeguard to maintain good governance while still valuing the insights of frontline staff. Right now, just five clinicians serve on boards across only four of Queensland's 16 hospitals and health services. None of them is from Far North Queensland: not one. There is no voice from the cape, the Tablelands, the Torres Strait or the coast.


Regional services need regional voices. From chronic diseases to long travel times and children with heart conditions who need more access to paediatric cardiology services, the challenges in Far North Queensland are not the same as those here in Brisbane. Without a seat at the table, local clinicians cannot shape the solutions. Putting frontline clinicians on hospital boards is not just about better governance; it is about smarter, faster and more informed responses to real health crises, like vaping.

Under Labor's watch, vaping rates among Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. Since the Crisafulli government was elected, Queensland Health has seized by more than 250,000 vapes. That is 250,000 products that are illegal that could have ended up in the hands of our children and our youth.

The vape crackdown continues. Not only are we actively seizing vapes, but we have put into place the nation's toughest on-the-spot fines for the sale of illicit tobacco and vapes, which means individuals can be fined \$32,260 and businesses up to \$161,300 if caught selling illicit tobacco and vapes. In just the very first week of those new fines, illegal traders were hit with fines totalling \$5,094,560. To put that into perspective, Labor averaged less than \$250,000 in fines per week in their final months in office.

This bill continues the work we have already started. This bill also allows Queensland Health to immediately destroy seized vapes, avoiding toxic storage risks and delays. Under the current laws, seized vapes must be stored for a minimum of eight weeks to accommodate existing forfeiture. This poses a shelf full of problems—risk of fires, toxic leaks, environmental contamination. The vapes crisis is all around us. You need look no further than in any high school bathroom in Cairns to see the evidence. Sadly, it is not just high schools; it is also primary schools. Children as young as eight have been caught with vapes bought illegally, stolen or given to them to try.

This bill gives Queensland Health the power to put an end to this vaping crisis, to seize vapes at the source before they are trickled down into the system and into our schools and playgrounds. This bill is about less red tape and more action on our streets and in our healthcare system. It is about empowering the clinicians who know our communities best to shape the services that we can all rely on. It is about holding illegal vape and tobacco traders to account. It is about protecting our children and keeping our towns and our schools safe. Above all, it is about building a healthier, stronger Queensland. I support this bill and commend it to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I want to acknowledge the work of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee in progressing the bill for debate. The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011

and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. The amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act seek to require at least one member of each hospital and health board to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the hospital and health service for which the board is established. The amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act seek to expedite the forfeiture of seized vaping goods and enable courts to order persons convicted of an offence under the act to pay reasonable costs incurred as a result of the offence.

As I said, the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act seek to require at least one member of each HHS to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the HHS for which the board is established. I remember the LNP before the election—probably for about 12 months in the lead-up to the election—using this phrase quite a lot. It is a wonder that I cannot remember it word for word, but it is pretty much what they have all been saying today—that they would put clinicians back in charge of the HHSs. Clearly all of the backbenchers have been given the same speaking points, as happens with the LNP. They have all been given the same speaking points but not many of them have been given a briefing on what the actual situation is. They are talking about these wonderful things—great aspirations of clinicians being in charge of health decisions. No-one could possibly dispute that. The problem is that they already were. That is something that the LNP has failed to mention. They are so good at slogans and things that sound good. The average person who would not know the reality would think, 'That sounds amazing. That is so good.' They can thump their chest and proclaim how amazing they were, but it was literally just a cynical view to win votes for a problem that was already sorted.

They failed to recognise that, of the 16 HHSs in Queensland, 13 currently do have a person with a clinical background who is appointed to at least one of the top decision-making positions—chair, deputy chair or health service chief executive. I want to give a big shout-out to the hard workers in the Metro South HHS, with the mighty Janine Walker as chair, who does an amazing job, as does every single one of those workers who come to work every day and think about the health and wellbeing of the people in my region. I just want to say good on you and thank you so much.

Section 23(3) of the current act already requires that one or more of the members of a board must be a clinician. This amendment just proposes a different way for that to happen. We have seen much in the committee report—and it has been spoken about by both sides today—about some concerns that the Integrity Commissioner raised about possible conflicts of interest. She talked about the possibility that conflicts could arise, particularly in relation to matters before the board relevant to the board member's interests as a HHS employee and the employee-employer relationship, and that management plans would be required to address conflicts of interest which could be complex and onerous.

A number of stakeholders talked about the idea of appointments to the board. The QNMU supports merit-based appointments that reflect the 16 registered health professions who are regulated under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The Australian College of Nursing is supportive. Everyone is in agreement that this is a good thing to do. There is strong support to make sure there are clinicians on the board—basically to reinforce what is already the status quo.

However, concerns were also raised by a number of stakeholders about establishing effective mechanisms to consult or obtain input from all employees when performing the functions of the board and ensuring clinical representatives to the boards maintain their current practice to keep in touch with contemporary healthcare concerns. There are clear compromises. If you have the possibility of people within an HHS actually being Caesar judging Caesar—the capacity of people who are working within an HHS then having to make decisions about people they work with—I think that is a very challenging proposition. We believe that balancing the complexity and costs of the proposed amendment against the public interest and whether a less complex model can achieve the same outcome would be better. That is why we are not supporting the amendments contained in part 2 of this bill.

I want to turn to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. Again, a lot of misinformation has been given to government backbenchers. I particularly want to take issue with the member for Pumicestone, in fact, who is the most recent one I heard. She talked about how the Labor government had done nothing about vaping, when in fact nothing could be further from the truth. We introduced some of the strongest laws around vaping. She made reference to young people. In fact, there has been significant work done in Queensland schools in particular to address the use of e-cigarettes and vaping. It is banned in all states schools and for five metres beyond their boundaries.

All state schools provide health and wellbeing education. When the education minister was asked about this earlier in the year, he was pretty ho-hum. He did not even really know about it. The Queensland government invested \$5 million to enable secondary students to access Griffith

University's Blurred Minds online modules. Our consultation and research particularly went to the heart of why vaping had become so popular with young people which included this misconception that it was a healthy alternative to smoking. The packaging and marketing of vaping was seen as extraordinarily attractive.

As a result of our program, our preliminary data showed that school disciplinary absences attributed to vaping declined by 72 per cent between 2023 and 2024, so that is a clear indication of the action that was taken by this government to directly target young people. I completely reject any suggestion by those opposite that nothing has been done.

I will read directly from the explanatory notes for those opposite, because I know there has been a lot of conversation and I do not want to in any way appear to be challenging any of your judgements, Madam Deputy Speaker. There are clearly challenges with the way vaping goods are stored and dealt with. The explanatory notes talk about this quite specifically—


... unique safety risks that make their management more complex than other seized substances like illicit tobacco. Vaping goods are highly flammable and create significant fire hazards, particularly when improperly handled, stored, or destroyed. The presence of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, leak, or explode under certain conditions ...

The explanatory notes further state—

Storing vaping goods requires specialised, fire-resistant facilities, such as ventilated and cooled shipping containers, that can cost up to \$65,000 each.

If one reads through the explanatory notes it is very clear there are some significant challenges. I understand the legislation is aimed at addressing part of that but, as with everything this government does, they have only done a bit of it. We are still to see what they are going to do to address the specific and highly dangerous implications as a result of the increased seizure of vaping goods. We are supporting this part of the bill, but I urge the government to accompany it with a really well-developed management plan so we can make sure the community is safe.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (4.41 pm): I rise in strong support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This legislation delivers on the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to restore trust, strengthen performance and bring real change to Queensland's health system. As the member for Redlands, I know how vital a strong and responsive health system is to our community. One of our largest local employers is the health sector, which is filled with dedicated nurses, doctors and allied health workers and support staff who care for us at our most vulnerable. These are the people delivering babies, treating emergencies, supporting mental health and walking families through chronic illness and rehabilitation. They do not just know the system; they live it every single day. I am proud to say that my own aunt worked as a nurse at the Redlands Hospital for more than 25 years. I watched her navigate shiftwork, change and constant pressure, always putting patients first. That personal connection shapes my deep respect for those who work on the front line. This bill recognises that value by giving those workers a seat at the table.

Under the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, every hospital and health board in Queensland will include at least one frontline clinician, someone actively working in direct patient care. These are not token appointments. Clinicians must have at least two years experience and continue working a minimum of eight hours a week in public health settings. They will bring real insight into how policy impacts practice, ensuring boards are guided not just by KPIs or reports but by practical, patient centred knowledge.

In the Redlands I have heard directly from our hardworking health professionals about the issues they face: workforce shortages, rising demand and the need for better local decision-making. They do not want bureaucratic solutions imposed on them from above; they want smart, workable change that reflects their realities. This bill delivers that. The reform takes effect from April 2026, giving time to recruit the right people who will bring genuine frontline experience into Queensland Health's governance.


Some may raise questions about conflicts of interest, but let us be clear: even under the former Labor government, appointed board members currently serve as practising clinicians. The Integrity Commissioner has confirmed that existing safeguards are sufficient, and under the bill clinicians will be excluded from serving as chair or deputy chair to further protect good governance.

The Crisafulli government is not just promising change; we are delivering it. This bill goes beyond governance. It also tackles one of the fastest-growing public health threats: illegal vapes and illicit tobacco. Under the former Labor government enforcement was weak. Vape stores operated openly

and vaping among Queensland students tripled between 2017 and 2023. That is not just a concern; it is a crisis. This bill strengthens enforcement under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. It allows for the immediate forfeiture of seized goods, cutting down storage risks and delays. It also introduces court-ordered cost recovery, meaning offenders will foot the bill for seizures, investigations and prosecutions.

The results are already clear. One week after we introduced the nation's toughest fines, \$5 million in penalties were issued. That is over 20 times more than the weekly average under Labor. In March, Operation Appaloosa saw Queensland Health lead Australia's largest seizure of illicit tobacco—76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of tobacco—off the streets and out of the hands of our children. As a parent, I take great comfort in knowing this.

This bill reflects the values of Redlanders. We care for one another. We believe in empowering those who serve on the front line, and we will not stand by while public health is undermined. To our local nurses, doctors and healthcare workers: this bill backs you. The LNP Crisafulli government backs you, and I will keep fighting to ensure your voice is heard and respected because you are essential to building a healthier Redlands and Queensland.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill will amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. During the state election the LNP promised they would introduce changes to hospital and health boards to ensure at least one clinician serving on the board is employed or engaged by the hospital and health service for which the board is established. Obviously there is merit in this idea. There is so much merit in the idea that it has already been happening across most of the HHSs, including mine in Ipswich, the West Moreton Hospital and Health Board.

It is one of those boards that is incredibly active in our community. We have an amazing chair in the form of Sue Scheinplug, who is doing a great job. Recently we opened a new dental clinic and one of the board members attended. It does not matter what event I go to in Ipswich, there is someone from the hospital and health board attending, just engaged in the community. I do commend them for the work they do. We have people on those boards who are clinicians, which does help them do their work, but we also have people from all walks of life on the board, which adds value to the work they do.

It is not a simple change to the legislation: it introduces potential problems we have heard about to the governance of the board. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Linda Waugh, highlighted some of those concerns in her advice to the committee and said there may be potential conflicts of interest arising in two areas where an individual is both an employee and a member of a board. I think most people could logically understand how that could occur. One way could involve issues pertaining to the employee's role or work area, some of the services provided, employment terms or conditions or other interests affecting their colleagues or close work friends. I have several family members who work in hospitals. My daughter is an anaesthetist at the Gold Coast hospital and my sister is a social worker at the Sunshine Coast hospital. They are on the front line of those kinds of issues when they arise.

The second issue that was mentioned involved concerns in relation to the employer-employee relationship. HHS employees who are also board members report to their health service chief executive, but the health service chief executive also reports to the employee in their board role. We can clearly see potential governance risks in that model. For instance, would a health service chief executive be impartial and objective when dealing with any employment matters involving an employee who is also a member of the hospital and health board? Could they remain impartial if that situation arose?

While theoretically a plan could be put in place to manage these conflict of interest risks, it would also place a significant administrative burden on the relevant clinician, the HHS and the board secretariat and chair. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner suggested a more effective alternative model would be to appoint clinicians from outside the HHS and ensure boards establish effective mechanisms to consult with employees and parts of the HHS when performing their functions.

In the overall scheme of things, this amendment does not deliver any real world benefits when it comes to patient outcomes. It does not reduce elective surgery wait times or emergency wait times. It does not reduce ambulance ramping or deliver more hospital beds. Instead, what we have here is just some tinkering around the edges by the LNP government to give the impression that they are doing something. It is similar to how they changed the name of the satellite hospitals to satellite health centres, or the implementation of the misleadingly named 'real-time hospital data' dashboard which is failing to provide accurate wait time data to any patients.

These cosmetic changes are part of the Crisafulli government's Hospital Rescue Plan, but what we have seen of their rescue plan so far has been underwhelming. Compare this with Labor's real

transformative changes to our public health system while we were in government. In Ipswich alone the former Labor government invested over \$1 billion in a range of new hospital and health infrastructure for our city. I mentioned earlier the recent opening of a new dental clinic in Silkstone which will drastically reduce the waiting times for people on the dental waiting list.

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Ipswich, I will get you to come back to the bill.

**Ms HOWARD:** Thank you for your guidance. We have seen the difference those investments have made to our community. When we are talking about health and hospital service boards, that is their role; they want to make sure that the data is matching the work they are putting in and that is what we are talking about in this bill. It is incredibly important to Ipswich people and probably every person in this House. Those facilities have vastly improved access to these services for people. We see it as our responsibility to weigh up the complexity and cost of this proposed amendment against the public interest and whether a simpler model could achieve the same results. Since section 23(3) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 already requires that one or more members of a board must be clinicians, part 2 of this bill is not supported, as we have heard from other members on this side.


I will turn my attention to the other amendments in the bill relating to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. This amendment will expedite the forfeiture of seized vaping goods and allow courts to order persons convicted of an offence under the act to pay reasonable costs incurred as a result of the offence. Labor strongly supports any moves to crack down on illicit vapes in Queensland. As we heard from the member for Bulimba, the measures that we introduced made a huge difference in schools. My husband works at one of the big high schools in Ipswich. Before we introduced those changes for young people, vapes were just everywhere—all over the school. Kids were vaping everywhere you looked. There was a sentiment in the community at one time that vaping was somehow a healthier alternative to smoking cigarettes—which I admit is something I did when I was at school—but we soon found out that was wrong. We know how dangerous vaping is for kids. Queensland leads the way in having the toughest vaping and tobacco laws thanks to the former Labor government, but I do acknowledge that the Crisafulli government is very well intended in proposing the amendments in this bill.

Obviously, we have heard some concerns. As the member for Ipswich, I can say that we have a lot of waste disposal facilities and we have an issue with public health concerns for residents living in Ipswich. I certainly applaud any measure the government can take to protect the health of people who live in areas where there are a lot of waste facilities, like my constituents. I urge the government to keep that at the forefront of their mind.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance, and I am sure I do not need to say it again. I am happy to talk to the member about what is happening at Ipswich at another time. I accept her thing, but it is not relevant to this bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Ipswich, I was listening very intently and you are very close to going away from the bill. Please keep that in mind. I have ruled on this and there will be no tolerance from this moment on.

**Ms HOWARD:** As the member for Ipswich, we do what we do out our way. Given that vapes are currently classified as pharmaceutical waste, we hope the government will listen to the serious concerns of residents around that disposal. I encourage them to consult with Queensland Health and DETSI on the most appropriate classification of vaping products and the most appropriate method of disposal. This will mean a lot to Ipswich people. While we appreciate the need to expedite forfeiture and disposal of seized vaping products, we need to see a clear plan on how that is going to unfold.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.55 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It is a crucial step in strengthening Queensland's healthcare system and protecting our communities from the growing threat of illicit tobacco and vaping. The first component of the bill delivers on a key commitment of the Crisafulli government to put doctors, nurses and clinical staff back in charge of hospitals by amending and improving the Hospital and Health Boards Act. We are ensuring that frontline clinicians have a direct voice in the decision-making. While they may not serve as chairs or deputy chairs, their presence on the board will guarantee that the needs and concerns of those working on the ground are actually heard and acted upon. This amendment bridges the gap between policy and practice, allowing for experiential, evidence-based decisions that directly and positively impact patient care.

During my campaign I spoke with countless hospital practitioners who expressed frustration at the disconnect between board and executive decisions and the realities of frontline health care. This bill addresses that concern by establishing clear eligibility criteria for clinicians wishing to serve on a board. They must be registered practitioners—doctors, nurses, midwives or allied health professionals—who have worked within the hospital and health service for at least two years and who provide direct patient care for a minimum of eight hours per week in a public hospital or health facility. This requirement is vital. Clinicians must work within the health service they represent to ensure accurate and meaningful advocacy. The challenges faced by regional HHSs differ significantly from those in metropolitan areas, whether it is access to specialty services or simply the tyranny of distance. This bill ensures those differences are acknowledged and addressed.


The second component of this bill tackles the alarming rise in the illegal sale and possession of vaping products. Across Queensland, from major cities to small rural towns, illicit tobacco and vape stores have been operating in plain sight—blindsiding communities with their insidious takeover. The previous Labor government failed to take decisive action, allowing this crisis to escalate. Between 2017 and 2023 vaping rates among school-age children tripled, and that is a frightening statistic. According to the Cancer Council Queensland submission to the committee inquiry, young children who vape are 29 times more likely to subsequently try cigarettes. After years of investment in antismoking initiatives, Labor stood by and allowed the new dangerous trend to undo that progress.

The vaping issue has also been widely discussed online, with many Rockhampton residents expressing frustration over the ease of access to vapes and the lack of enforcement against illegal sales. Some have described vaping as a plague among young people, warning of long-term health consequences for generation Z. Parents, teachers and health professionals alike are calling for stronger action to protect our children from the dangers of nicotine addiction.

The Crisafulli government refuses to let this continue. We have doubled down on enforcement, taking swift and decisive action. In March, Operation Appaloosa, led by Queensland Health, resulted in the seizure of 76,000 vapes, 19 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco. This was followed in April by the introduction of the nation's toughest fines for businesses supplying or possessing illicit tobacco and vapes. Just last year, Queensland Health alongside the Australian Border Force, seized over \$2 million worth of illegal tobacco products, including 54,000 vapes, in coordinated raids across the state, including in my electorate of Rockhampton. These raids send a clear message: illegal tobacco and vape traders must clean up their act or face consequences.

Given the sheer volume of seized products, the bill also establishes protocols for their safe storage and destruction. These hazardous items must be handled properly to prevent further harm. Additionally, the bill introduces a new court-ordered cost recovery system, ensuring that offenders, not taxpayers, bear the financial burden of their crimes. Courts will have the authority to order convicted individuals to cover the cost of enforcement, including seizure, storage, destruction, investigation and prosecution.

The bill is about accountability—accountability in our healthcare system and accountability in law enforcement. It ensures that frontline clinicians have a seat at the table, that illicit tobacco and vape traders face serious consequences, and that Queenslanders can trust their government to act in their best interests. I commend the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise today to address the health bill and specifically I would like to address the parts of the bill that work to curtail the rise of vaping right across our community and Australia wide. I come from a generation where smoking in nightclubs, pubs and near buildings was the norm. I remember somebody lighting up inside a McDonald's when I was sitting next to them once. We always came home wreaking of second-hand smoke after a night out, and nobody ever complained about this; it was a fact of life. Smoking everywhere was commonplace. Eventually, as the tide and social opinion turned, the commitment to stamp out smoking was equally universal in its commitment.

We now know, of course, that smoking causes cancer and the health campaigns to change societal attitudes were very successful, and they worked to significantly lower smoking rates in Queensland. A large part of that success in lowering those rates was, of course, cessation devices like patches, and vapes have historically played a cessation role as well.

I look to my own family. My mum and aunts showed incredible commitment and quit smoking. I hope it is clear to everybody that I would never judge anybody who partakes in an addictive substance like both vapes and cigarettes. That is why we always need to have a compassionate approach that treats this issue as addiction and not as a moral shortcoming.

I was talking to a colleague today about this bill and I reflected that, in more ways than one, vapes are a bit like cane toads. We all know that cane toads were introduced to Queensland to rid us of the terrible problem of cane beetles. How did that go? I do not know if I have ever seen a cane beetle in my life, but I sure know what a cane toad looks like. For my generation, I have spoken of the ubiquity of cigarettes, but my children were well into primary school before they ever laid eyes on somebody smoking a cigarette. However, for their generation now, vapes are absolutely everywhere, including, as previous speakers have mentioned, in schools. The point I make is this: sometimes the solution to the problem you are trying to solve can be just as bad as the issue you are seeking to address in the first place. We all know that smoking has many drawbacks, but what we have replaced it with is equally terrifying.

As previous speakers have mentioned, we are currently witnessing nothing short of a public health crisis as vaping has taken roots in our schools, in our parks and even in our homes. It is worth mentioning that although many speakers have reflected on young people participating in vaping, there are many older Queenslanders who vape as well. The pervasive rise of vaping among Australians is an issue that does demand our collective and urgent action and consideration. I do not think this should be a matter for partisan debate. It is a shared responsibility that we have to safeguard the next generation from addiction and from long-term health consequences. I have been disappointed to hear some members opposite acting as if this is not a bipartisan issue that we all care about very deeply.

The statistics are alarming. We see report after report of young people becoming addicted to nicotine at unprecedented rates. It is easy to be drawn in by the deceptive marketing, by the attractive flavours and the insidious ease of access to these dangerous products, and when you contrast that with the world-leading Australian smoking packaging that is deliberately ugly and off-putting, the contrast is all the more clear. The notion that vapes are a safe alternative has been thoroughly debunked many times over. Vapes are not harmless. They are not benign. They are a gateway to addiction and their long-term health impacts are only just beginning to reveal themselves.

This legislation strengthens our ability to fight back against those who seek to profit from the ill health and addiction of Queenslanders, especially our young people. It empowers our enforcement agencies to disrupt the black market that is currently flooding our communities with these harmful devices.

As the committee report notes—and this is not a direct quote from the committee report, but a translation—it is recognised that while previous efforts from the state and Commonwealth governments have made inroads, some operators continue to trade illegally because of the high profitability of supplying illicit vaping goods. In the committee report, Queensland Health advised that since 1 October 2024, more than 150,000 vapes have been seized, with a street value of over \$5 million.

The provisions allowing for the immediate forfeiture and destruction of illicit vaping products are an important step forward. We cannot afford for these devices to simply be confiscated and then re-enter the market. They must be removed from circulation entirely, sending a strong deterrent message to those involved in this unlawful trade. This streamlined enforcement process is a necessary evolution of our legal framework to meet the scale of the challenge.

I am particularly pleased to see the legislation clearly define ‘illicit nicotine products’ to include vaping goods, regardless of their advertised nicotine content. In discussions with some of the committee members—and I thank the member for South Brisbane for her assistance in consideration of this—it is really important to note that however vapes are advertised, they are not harmless and they are not nicotine-free products. The problem we have with vapes is that it is just so unclear what is in them. There are some excellent resources on the Queensland Health website that outline the many dangerous and deadly products that make up vapes.


The alignment of our state’s efforts with the Commonwealth’s ban on the importation and supply of non-therapeutic vapes is also really important. This unified approach, working across jurisdictions, is essential to stem the tide of illicit vaping products entering into our state. We cannot hope to effectively tackle this problem in isolation. It requires a coordinated and robust response from all levels of government. I noted earlier, that Australia has previously been a world leader in tackling nicotine addiction with the response that we had with our cigarette packets, and I think a similarly innovative approach in tackling vapes in the future is certainly something we are capable of doing again and rising to that challenge, because vaping is just as much of a challenge to health as cigarettes posed all of those years ago.

Beyond the explicit enforcement measures, I also note the broader impact these provisions will have on our public health messaging. By tightening these legislative screws, we can reinforce

campaigns like ‘There’s nothing sweet about vapes’ and support cessation programs. Our laws are not just about punishment; they are about education, prevention and reinforcing the message that vaping is not a harmless trend but a serious health threat.

I reflect on historical campaigns run about cigarettes. There was a very successful campaign that I think really underpinned societal attitudes around smoking. It was not a campaign based on shame. The ‘Nobody smokes here anymore’ campaign is one I particularly remember as being quite effective in terms of starting to make inroads into the public’s mindset. In many ways, I think that vapes pose a greater threat in terms of attracting and addicting young users than cigarettes because cigarettes obviously do not taste great and they do not smell great. Vapes are sweet, they are easy to use and they are easier to mask after you have used them. It is harder to pick up the smell of somebody who vapes, which means you can have an intervening conversation with a young person earlier—all of these things mean that vapes are so much more insidious.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that vaping is truly a modern health scourge of our time. As an opposition, we are very supportive of the changes this legislation proposes to allow vapes to be properly regulated, to intervene earlier and to prevent young people from becoming addicted to these insidious devices. The protection of our children from the grip of vaping is a really important issue. I certainly will be strongly supporting the measures in the bill that pertain to that. Other members of the opposition have outlined the aspects of the bill that do not pertain to vaping that we do have some concerns with. I have run out of time to canvass those, but I will be supporting the measures that pertain to vaping.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a significant and timely reform that strengthens the foundation of our health system and ensures Queenslanders continue to receive the high-quality, safe and accessible care they rightly expect. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to improving performance, increasing accountability and upholding integrity across our health system. This bill delivers on those commitments. It also sends a clear message: we are taking serious actions to protect public health and to stand up to the threats posed by illegal vaping products and unlawful tobacco sales.

One of the most important changes in this bill is the amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. Every day thousands of frontline clinicians—our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—deliver critical care across Queensland. Yet, until now, they have had limited input into how hospital and health services are governed. That is changing. This bill provides a key election commitment to put frontline clinical staff back at the heart of decision-making. The bill requires that at least one board member on every hospital and health board is a current clinician—someone with real on-the-ground experience who is working in a local public health facility. To be eligible, they must be a registered health practitioner such as a doctor, nurse, midwife or allied health professional who has worked in their local health service for at least two years and is actively engaged in patient care for at least eight hours a week.

This is a practical, meaningful reform. It ensures people who understand the system from the inside are shaping the services their communities rely on. Their insights, their experience and their compassion will help drive improvements in patient care. These changes will come into effect from 1 April 2026, aligning with the end of the current board appointments and giving Queensland Health time to conduct a fair and thorough recruitment process. Importantly, the bill includes safeguards. Clinicians appointed under this provision cannot serve as a chair or deputy chair of a board. This helps manage potential conflicts of interest. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner reviewed this proposal and confirmed that no further amendments were needed.

Our current laws are a gateway to ensuring proper disclosure and conflict management. Let us not forget: those opposite already appointed clinicians to boards during their term. This reform formalises that commitment and ensures consistency across all 16 boards statewide. This is fantastic news for my electorate of Maryborough. We have hardworking, compassionate staff at Maryborough Hospital—staff who genuinely care about the wellbeing of their patients and families. The people of Maryborough praise our hospital workers for the unwavering professional care they provide. It is only right that their voices help shape the future for our hospital in our region.

Recently, I was informed that the Maryborough Hospital is an absolute star in terms of performance. The performance in ER is fantastic considering the numbers who attend the department. The hospital is continuing to get busier; however, staff continue to rise to the challenge and provide excellent care to all patients. I was informed that the feedback from patients with regard to the staff is very positive. On all the visits I have made to Maryborough Hospital, all staff have been welcoming,



friendly and accommodating. I am very proud of my local constituents who work hard at the hospital for the commitment that they make every day. The current hospital score is three out of three. This is the highest result achievable and, again, I am very proud of them.

The bill also takes crucial steps to combat the growing harm caused by vaping and other unlawful smoking products. Under the previous government, the number of stores illegally selling vapes and tobacco exploded, and they did so in plain sight. Vaping among Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. According to Cancer Council Queensland, kids who vape are 29 times more likely to try cigarettes. This is an alarming public health crisis, and we are taking it seriously. Since coming into office, the Crisafulli LNP government has acted. Over 250,000 vapes have been seized. Operation Appaloosa saw more than 30 illegal premises raided, resulting in the confiscation of 76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco.

In my electorate of Maryborough alone, the Wide Bay Public Health Unit conducted a total of 14 inspections. Two warrants were executed at offsite bulk storage locations and 38 prescribed infringement notices were issued under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act for offences including the sale and possession of illicit tobacco. I am happy to report that the Queensland government is doing their job and trying to take these illegal operators off our suburban streets.

In total across Queensland, this was the largest seizure ever conducted by an Australian health authority but this enforcement success has come with challenges. The storing of seized vapes for the mandatory eight-week period creates a risk of fires, toxic leaks and environmental contamination. It is also incredibly costly. This bill fixes that. It allows for the immediate forfeiture and destruction of seized vaping goods so we can remove these dangerous items from our communities faster and more safely. It also introduces a new court-ordered cost recovery scheme. Those who profit from illegal trade—whether vapes, tobacco or ice pipes—will now be held financially accountable. Courts will be able to order offenders to pay for the cost of their illegal behaviour, their seizures, their storage, the investigations and the prosecutions.

In Maryborough, we have seen a concerning rise in illegal tobacconists opening up in the CBD. We have six illegal tobacconists that have popped up on the same street within 300 metres. The licensed tobacconist in the same street now has to close their doors as they just cannot compete with these illegal operators.

This bill is a welcome relief for our community and for licensed tobacconists who are doing the right thing. The message is clear: if you break the law you will be held accountable.

This bill is about more than policy; it is about people. It empowers our frontline health workers to have a voice in the system they serve. It protects our children and communities from the dangers of illegal vaping. It restores confidence that public health is being taken seriously.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Hon. Tim Nicholls, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and his department for their record work. For all the people of Maryborough—for the nurses, doctors, families, patients and small family businesses, I fully support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.20 pm): This bill, as we have heard, amends the legislation controlling the appointment of hospital and health boards so they must have as a member one clinician who works in that particular health service. It also amends the tobacco control legislation to streamline the seizure and destruction of illegal vapes.

The first of these implements an election commitment of our new government that frontline staff be added to the board of every hospital and health service. In practice, this has been implemented by changing the current requirement that each of the 16 hospital and health boards have at least one clinician on the board to having one clinician who is also employed by that health service. Queensland Health said this requirement will enable the clinician to bring a unique, on-the-ground perspective to the board. However, as has been raised, this is already occurring via other board positions and specifically appointing a local clinician means they will definitely have conflicts of interest. This is partly addressed in the bill with a requirement that a local clinician cannot be appointed chair or deputy chair given the management roles of those positions. However, as the Integrity Commissioner advised, conflicts remain where the board considers issues relevant to the clinician's area of employment and their role as employer and employee of the CEO.

As the report states, the Integrity Commissioner questioned whether the bill as drafted is the only way of achieving the policy objectives. While the report said that there was strong support for this change, there were only 12 submissions on the bill and three-quarters of them did not even cover these

changes. A preferable process to identify the approach would have been a longer consultative process working with the community to examine the best way to achieve local frontline input, including from the primary health networks, which did not submit yet have critical interactions and interdependencies with hospitals. Even though I agree that there is an increased potential for conflicts of interest regarding the hospital boards, the response from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner gave reassurance that the statutory requirements for disclosing and managing conflicts of interest are appropriate to ensure this does not occur.

The second part of the bill deals with the enforcement by the state health department of the Commonwealth ban on recreational vapes and the seizing and storing of illegal vapes prior to destruction.

I will not go into the history of vapes, illegal or legal, as it has been covered sufficiently in this chamber. However, both state and federal governments of either colour have dropped the ball on this in terms of the early warnings when they were first made available. That is all I will say on that.

I return to the amendment, which deals with the forfeiture and destruction of vaping goods promptly upon seizure and to mitigate the safety risks associated with storing them for extended periods. This is because they are highly flammable and contain embedded lithium ion batteries that can overheat or explode.

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia pointed out that the safe management and disposal of unwanted vapes is not just an issue for the health department; it is one for the whole recycling industry. It is not just batteries in vapes, but also batteries in e-scooters and a whole range of other devices which has become a major issue. The waste association emphasised the urgent attention needed—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on a point of relevance. We have been through this with a number of speakers already. This is beyond the scope of the bill. The submission from the waste management association acknowledges it is beyond the scope of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): I take your point of order. Try to stay within the confines of the bill if you would. There have been previous rulings—

**Ms BOLTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do not argue with me.

**Ms BOLTON:** I am not arguing with you. I thought I was being relevant—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Listen to me please for a moment. There have been previous rulings about this tonight—about moving into that component of the bill—that were disallowed by the previous Deputy Speaker. I will ask you to stay relevant within the confines of the bill, thank you.

**Ms BOLTON:** As a member of that committee, I will go to what was raised and what I will say can be achieved. While Queensland Health did respond that its responsibility in this arena is limited, the government as a whole should move forward and not say it is too hard. The issue of addressing circular economy objectives and establishing a whole-of-life product stewardship for waste products starting with vapes and batteries is imperative.


**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Nothing in this bill goes to the circular economy. This goes to the destruction of vapes. The submission by the waste management association itself acknowledges it is outside the scope of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will give you one opportunity to explain how this is relevant to the bill. If I have to warn you again I will ask you to take your seat.

**Ms BOLTON:** I believe it is relevant because I would like to see a new inquiry sent to either the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee or another appropriate committee to look at a whole-of-life product stewardship scheme as is done in other jurisdictions.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, this is my last warning. I am asking you to go back to the bill. This is your last warning.

**Ms BOLTON:** Thank you. I would like to thank my fellow committee members, our chair and secretariat for their work on this inquiry and for all who gave valuable feedback to our committee including what needs to be done.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (5.26 pm): I rise to make a modest contribution to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli government is committed to strengthening the performance, accountability and integrity of our health system while also taking decisive action to

protect public health. The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 reflects both these commitments by ensuring stronger clinical representation on hospital and health boards and by enhancing enforcement powers to respond to the growing harm of vaping goods and other unlawful smoking products. Today I am going to focus my contribution on amendments associated with illegal tobacco products.


The sale of illicit tobacco, vapes and other nicotine products grew significantly under Labor, with hundreds of illegal stores operating in plain sight. I would like to take a moment to reflect on vapes. Vapes pose a serious health risk due to harmful chemicals and nicotine addiction. They can damage lungs, increase heart disease risk and expose users to toxic substances like heavy metals. Long-term effects remain uncertain and youth are especially vulnerable to addiction.

Unlike cigarettes, vapes come in flavours like fruit, candy and watermelon, making vaping more appealing to children. Under Labor's watch, vaping rates amongst Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. We have heard stories of children as young as six being caught vaping at schools as well as teenagers admitting they are so addicted to vapes that they suffer withdrawal symptoms, including anxiety and headaches, unless they sneak puffs inside their classroom behind the teacher's back.

In addition to vapes being accessible to students through illegal stores, they can also be easily concealed. Many vapes come in novelty designs that appeal to children while others are packaged and cleverly designed to avoid easy detection, making it nearly impossible for parents and teachers to identify a vape and intervene early. Unfortunately, vapes are finding their way into my schools in Townsville. Of concern, according to the Cancer Council Queensland's submission to the committee inquiry, young children who vape are 29 times more likely to subsequently try cigarettes.

Labor's failure to tackle the illicit tobacco and vape market risks putting decades of public health progress at risk. We recognise that the most effective way to combat vaping is to focus on the supply. Since the Crisafulli government was elected, Queensland Health has seized more than 250,000 vapes and, under the Crisafulli government, Queensland led the largest seizure of illegal cigarettes and vapes by any health authority in Australia. One operation raided more than 30 premises, resulting in the seizure of 76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco. However, our enforcement success means that we are facing growing logistical challenges in storing and destroying these hazardous items. Currently seized vapes must be stored for a minimum of eight weeks to accommodate existing forfeiture, show cause and appeal processes. During this period, the risk of fires, toxic leaks and environmental contamination is significant and the storage costs are high. To address these issues, this bill enables the immediate forfeiture of seized vaping goods, allowing for the destruction of these illicit products without delay.

Additionally, the bill introduces a new court ordered cost recovery mechanism. This will ensure that those who profit from the unlawful sale of products such as vapes, illicit tobacco and ice pipes can be held financially accountable for the costs they impose due to their illegal conduct. Courts will be given the clear authority to order convicted offenders to pay the costs of enforcement, including seizure, storage, destruction, investigation and prosecution. Vapes pose real health risks to our next generation, the extent of which is currently unknown. This bill will strengthen Queensland Health's ability to take action against the illegal supply and possession of vaping products. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.31 pm): I rise to address the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—a piece of legislation that proposes significant changes to the governance framework of Queensland's hospital and health boards. This bill seeks to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 by mandating that each board include at least one clinician employed or engaged by the relevant hospital and health service. While the intent of this amendment—namely, to better integrate frontline clinical insights into strategic decision-making—is clear, it is critical that we examine the broader implications of such a change.

Under current legislation, each hospital and health board must consist of five or more members, with at least one being a clinician. This existing framework already provides for clinical input, and the current practice supports this. According to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, 13 out of 16 hospital and health services currently have a person with clinical experience serving as chair, deputy chair or health service chief executive. This demonstrates that clinical voices are already represented at senior levels within our health governance structures. The proposed amendment therefore raises the question: is it necessary or even wise to compel the appointment of a clinician who is actively employed by the same hospital and health service? A significant concern is the potential for conflicts of interest. The Australian College of Nurse Practitioners has warned of the risks that may arise when a practising clinician assumes a governance role within their own organisation. These risks

are multifaceted and include tensions between their clinical duties and strategic oversight responsibilities.


The Integrity Commissioner has also expressed strong reservations. She outlined that appointing current employees to the boards may lead to complex and administratively burdensome conflict of interest management plans. These conflicts could concern decisions relating to the appointee's own department, their professional responsibilities, employment conditions or even the interests of their immediate colleagues. Moreover, the inherent employer/employee relationship could undermine objectivity in boardroom deliberations. The Integrity Commissioner further questioned whether this is the best or the only way to ensure clinical input in governance decisions. She noted that such an arrangement comes with inherent and significant conflicts that cannot be easily managed.

In light of this, alternative approaches should be seriously considered. One viable alternative is the appointment of clinicians who are external to the relevant hospital and health service. This would allow for clinical expertise to inform governance while substantially mitigating the risks posed by direct conflicts of interest. It is also important to evaluate whether the benefits of the proposed model outweigh the complexity and cost of implementing and monitoring conflict management frameworks. Striking the right balance between clinical input and governance integrity is essential. A further issue with the bill is the lack of provision for an independent review. Any change of this magnitude to public health governance should be subject to rigorous post-implementation evaluation. To ensure that the legislation remains effective and responsive, there should be independent review of the bill's impact within two years of its commencement. This would allow for evidence-based refinement of the policy.

The bill also amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 as part of the state's continued efforts to combat the scourge of illicit vaping. In 2024 the Australian government enacted the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Act 2024, which came into effect on 1 July 2024. This act introduced a national ban on the importation, manufacture, supply, commercial possession and advertising of non-therapeutic and disposable single-use vapes. These reforms are part of a broader strategy endorsed by all jurisdictions through the National Tobacco Strategy 2023-2030 to reduce the public health harms associated with vaping, especially among young people. Vapes will now be regulated as therapeutic goods and may only be dispensed by authorised health professionals via registered pharmacies.

While the Commonwealth has provided the legislative foundation, enforcement remains largely a state responsibility. Queensland Health, in cooperation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration and Queensland police, plays a crucial role in upholding these laws. The amendments within this bill empower the chief executive of Queensland Health to swiftly forfeit and destroy seized illicit vaping products. Additionally, they propose to grant courts the authority to require convicted offenders to reimburse the state for reasonable costs associated with enforcement, including the storage, destruction and disposal of seized goods. I want to be very clear: I support any measure that continues the crackdown on illicit vapes. These products pose not only health dangers but also serious safety and environmental risks. I am proud to have been part of a government that passed the toughest tobacco and vaping laws in the nation.

In conclusion, while the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 introduces important reforms, including clinical engagement in health governance and enhanced enforcement mechanisms for vaping regulation, the proposed changes must be carefully scrutinised. Conflicts of interest, the absence of an independent review mechanism and unresolved operational and environmental challenges raise valid concerns. These issues must be addressed if the bill is to deliver on its intended objectives without unintended consequences. Accordingly, the opposition supports the passage of the bill, with the exception of the amendments contained in part 2 relating to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. We stand ready to work constructively to ensure that Queensland's healthcare governance and public health legislation remain transparent, effective and in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (5.39 pm): Listening to the contribution from the member for Toohey I was drawn by the fact that he, along with so many of his Labor colleagues, continue to be fascinated with this conflict of interest provision which continues a long history in this place and in their unfortunate governance of this state to remove people from any role with which they may have experience or, Heaven forbid, actually know what goes on in that particular role. This legislation moves to restore that. Here today and in the preceding years in this place we have seen Labor continue to remove anyone who might have any knowledge of how to actually make something work.

I rise today in strong support of this legislation and congratulate the minister. What a wonderful job the health minister has done, in the short time he has had in this role, to rectify some serious

deficiencies both by regulation but in this particular case through legislation. I congratulate him for the work that he and also the parliamentary committee have done in this place. This is a bill that speaks directly to the core values of the Crisafulli LNP government: restoring integrity to public administration, empowering those on the frontline and protecting the health of every Queenslanders whether they live in Brisbane or Boulia, Charleville or Chermside.

For the people of Gregory and communities across regional and remote Queensland, this bill delivers two major reforms that will have a real and lasting impact. First, it ensures that frontline clinicians—the boots on the ground in our rural hospitals—are given a voice and a seat at the table. Second, it enables tough, decisive action against the vaping and illicit tobacco epidemic that is sweeping through our schools, small towns and remote communities.

Let me speak first to the amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. For far too long the experience and local knowledge of regional Queensland's doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health staff were ignored by those opposite regarding regional public health governance. In the bush our regional health professionals are at the heart of our communities. They deliver babies at 2 am in the morning and they are our lifeline when tragedy strikes on an outback road or cattle station. By ensuring that a clinician with direct patient care responsibilities sits on every hospital and health board the Crisafulli LNP government is putting people in the room who understand the consequences of their decisions and also understand that remote health care requires contemporary solutions. These clinicians will bring their knowledge of local cases, transport limitations, patient conditions and medical urgency into the decision-making process. This is where the reforms in this bill matter deeply.

By legislating that at least one practising clinician must serve on every hospital and health board the Crisafulli government is building a mechanism for clinical advocacy from within the governance structure itself. That means that these clinicians, grounded in real world experience, working in the hospital system week in and week out, will now have a formal role in influencing how health policy is applied on the ground. They will be in the room when decisions are made about resourcing, appeals and procedural frameworks. They will be empowered to speak for the patient and their carer who lives 800 kilometres from the nearest specialist. They will understand why an oncology patient simply cannot withstand a 12-hour road trip when flights are available. They will advocate for procedural fairness, clinical appropriateness and genuine regional equity.


For remote and regional Queenslanders who often feel like decisions are made about them rather than with them, this reform puts someone at the table who understand their circumstances firsthand. More importantly, it empowers rural clinicians who have long fought to get their voices heard. It validates their expertise and experience, it creates pathways for evidence-based advocacy and it sends a powerful signal that local, qualified experience matters in public health governance. This bill does not just improve the governance of our health boards, it also improves the lived experience of the people our health system is meant to serve. Whether it is access to specialist care or just having someone speak up when a policy does not make sense or suit their local needs, this reform gives clinicians the voice they deserve and their patients the outcomes they need.

This bill also cracks down hard on one of the fastest growing threats to community health in Queensland: the flood of illegal vapes and tobacco products saturating our regions. This government will not stand by while that happens. Under the leadership of the Crisafulli LNP government we have already seized over a quarter of a million vapes and led the nation's largest enforcement action, Operation Appaloosa, which took more than 19 million illegal cigarettes off the street along with tonnes of loose tobacco. However, success brings new challenges.

These products are hazardous to store. They pose risks of fire, environmental contamination and community exposure. Right now we are forced to keep them for weeks just to satisfy an outdated process. This bill changes that. With the new amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act seized vapes and illicit goods can be forfeited and destroyed immediately—no more waiting, no more risks and no more taxpayer money spent storing contraband that should never have reached our communities in the first place. This bill also introduces a cost recovery mechanism because it is time that peddlers of poison pay their own way. If you deal you will not only face the toughest fines in the nation but also be forced to cover the cost of enforcement. That is justice, it is deterrence and it is what the people of Queensland expect.

Let me be very clear, this bill is about protecting our next generation. It is about making sure that year 8 student in Barcaldine or Blackwater does not walk out of an illegal premises with a vape hidden in their schoolbag. It is about making sure that rural hospital and health boards have clinicians who understand the reality of treating a stroke when there is no CT diagnostic capability or delivering

palliative care when the next of kin is six hours away. This bill is rural health reform, this bill is public health protection, and this bill is another demonstration of how the Crisafulli LNP government governs not just for the south-east corner, but for every Queenslander no matter what their postcode. I support this bill and especially commend this reform to every rural Queenslander who has ever felt invisible within their own health system.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill which proposes amendments to two key acts: the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. It is worth noting from the outset that the LNP only know how to cut funding, cut staff and cut resources from our health resources. They would not have the foggiest idea about health governance.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members, I am struggling to hear this contribution. Can we keep the noise down, please.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you for your protection, Deputy Speaker. This may explain their knee-jerk reaction to this legislation before the parliament. I would like to begin by talking to the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. We support measures that strengthen enforcement against the illicit vape market. The bill will enable the expedited forfeiture of seized vaping products and allow courts to order convicted offenders to reimburse Queensland Health for costs incurred in enforcement.

Queensland families, schools and community health professionals have been sounding the alarm over the rising use of vapes, in particular by young people. I was extremely proud to be part of the committee that inquired into the matter of vaping under Labor. As a result of our recommendations some of the toughest tobacco and vaping laws in the country were introduced. For those opposite who have got up one after the other to say that we as a government before you guys came in did nothing, I have information for you that you might find useful. I have a copy of the vaping inquiry to reducing the rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. Those members opposite might like to cast their eye over it. That was in August 2023. I will table that report.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, through the chair, please.

**Ms PEASE:** I would also like to table Report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament of the Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee dated August 2024: *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*. I would also like to table the government's response to our initial report.

*Tabled paper:* Copy of Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland [\[634\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Copy of Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee: Report No. 10, 57th Parliament—Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 [\[635\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Copy of Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 38, 57th Parliament—Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland, government response [\[636\]](#).

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the point of relevance. Yet again this is not something that is covered by the bill. Whilst there has always been a discussion, and I accept the discussion, about vaping, tabling reports that are already reports of this House is completely irrelevant. We are debating a completely different piece of legislation: the destruction, seizure and forfeiture of vapes. This is completely irrelevant to it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I take the point. I do not think that is relevant to the bill.

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With the greatest respect, various members on the government's side—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat. I do not propose to argue it. Member, keep your debate to the matter before the House.

**Ms PEASE:** I refer to the explanatory notes and, for the benefit of the House, I will continue with my speech. Unfortunately, obviously the Minister for Health is not happy to hear a bit of history. I am trying to give a bit of history and a bit of an education.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comment made by the member and ask that she withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): The member has taken personal offence.

**Ms PEASE:** I withdraw.

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to point of order. There was an existing point of order, with the greatest of respect, that has not yet been heard.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am in control of this.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is a longstanding tradition that in debate members refer to the reports that have come before the House that led to the introduction of laws and that inform other members of the House about the nature of the debate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat, please. Member, I will give you some leeway in terms of your presentation on the history, but I ask you to return to the bill, please.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I said, I will move on. In relation to the recommendations in the report, the member for Southport was a member of that committee and he participated actively in it. We came together and worked in a bipartisan way to come up with recommendations that the government of the day accepted. As a consequence, a number of pieces of legislation were put in place. Now we see some amendments put forward. We are calling out the government for acting again without thinking about the practical consequences, as have been highlighted by the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you cannot stray into that argument. It has been ruled on a number of times tonight. I warn you not to persist or I will sit you down.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding of the ruling this morning was that someone could not take a singular line in a submission and construct an entire argument about it. We have not—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I do not propose to argue about this.

**Mr POWER:** We have not in this case—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not propose to argue.

**Mr POWER:** I am making a point of order. In this case we have not seen but a sentence since first mentioning this and no argument has been constructed around it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There has been a number of rulings today in relation to the matter that I just referred to. The report itself says that those comments are outside the debate and outside the bill. I ask you to remain relevant. If we go back to this, I will warn you.

**Ms PEASE:** As we know, vapes contain lithium batteries that can leak, overheat or explode as well as liquid nicotine, heavy metals and carcinogens. That combination possesses significant environmental, health and safety risks.

I am interested in talking about this bill that has been introduced—this kneejerk reaction—but that does not fulfil all of the expectations. It is interesting that it has come about in such a hurried manner and has been called urgent. I wonder if that has something to do with the donation of \$55,000 made by the British American Tobacco company to the National Party. They made that donation to contribute towards access to the government, to bring about reducing illicit tobacco sales. Not only have British American Tobacco done that; Philip Morris has also made significant donations to the National Party.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order goes to relevance again. None of the matters that have been raised by the member are relevant to the debate here, which is about the forfeiture, seizure and destruction of vapes and vaping products and the inclusion of additional materials as illicit tobacco substances. The member fails to draw any coherent connection to the bill before the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please take a seat while I get some advice in relation to that.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I note the minister's contention that the member for Lytton's commentary is not relevant. I would submit for your consideration that indications or opinions of members about the motivations of key stakeholders in the tobacco industry and a government response to products that they sell are directly relevant to this bill. To suggest otherwise would be absurd.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I ask you to come back to the bill, which relates to the seizure and forfeiture of vapes.

**Ms PEASE:** The opposition supports certain parts of this bill, particularly the measures aimed at combatting illegal vaping. Having been on that committee, I know what a terrible and insidious product it is. I am happy to do anything that removes access for our young people and, indeed, anyone.

Unfortunately, we cannot support part 2 of the bill, which amends the composition requirements of hospital and health boards. It is our responsibility to ensure legislation enhances good governance, public health and practical outcomes, not simply ticks and flicks political boxes. On the hospital and health board amendments, why do we not support part 2? Because the proposed amendment in part 2 of the bill would mandate that each hospital and health board must include a clinician currently employed or engaged by that specific service. Let us be clear: this proposal stems from another kneejerk reaction that was an election commitment by the LNP. It was a move designed for election time. Rather than improving governance, it is an unnecessary duplication of existing legislation. In fact, under section 23 of the current act, boards must already include one or more clinicians. Moreover, of the 16 hospital and health services in Queensland, 13 already have a clinician serving as a deputy chair or chair.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, interjections are not being taken.

**Ms PEASE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am so pleased to be getting advice from those opposite who talk about integrity and question the words of the Integrity Commissioner. Some people who have been in this House for 18 weeks have the audacity to stand in this place and question the word of our Integrity Commission, which made it very clear that they did not stand up for this position.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** I love being yelled over by the males opposite.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just proceed with your presentation, please.


**Ms PEASE:** Of most concern is that the bill introduces real and significant risks for the integrity of board governance. The Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Linda Waugh, advised the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee of the potential for conflicts of interest. I am prepared to take the word of the Integrity Commissioner. If someone is both an employee of the HHS and a member of the board, their dual role creates a conflicted reporting structure. As an employee, they report to the chief executive; as a board member, the chief executive reports to them. How can the chief executive be expected to remain impartial in a disciplinary matter involving a board member who is also their employee? On the other side, how can that employee exercise impartiality when making decisions about their employer?

The Integrity Commissioner was clear: even with conflict of interest plans in place, this model creates complexities and an administrative burden. For a government that is talking about removing red tape, it is creating more. These perceived conflicts are not just theoretical risks; they undermine public trust in how our health services are run. There are better and simpler models to achieve the same aim—for example, appointing clinicians from outside the service or ensuring comprehensive consultation with frontline staff across a HHS to inform board decisions.

Some stakeholders at the public hearing acknowledged these alternatives. They supported the idea that clinical voices should be heard and should inform governance, but this should be achieved without putting governance integrity at risk. For all of these reasons, the opposition will not support part 2 of this bill. It is a political stunt and distracts from the government's ongoing failure to deliver genuine support for frontline health workers.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** I am delighted to hear them all laughing over there when we are talking about governance and the protection of our HHSs—some of the most important bodies in Queensland. The opposition supports the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act but calls for urgent planning on disposal. The opposition cannot support the amendments to part 2 of the bill as they pose an unacceptable risk to board governance. This government must stop using legislation as a vehicle for slogans and start delivering clear, coherent policy. Queenslanders deserve health laws that are workable, balanced and respectful.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise tonight in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Our healthcare system has been under pressure for too long, and the Crisafulli government is committed to fixing it. We are putting Queenslanders first, ensuring our frontline health workers have the support they need to deliver the care our communities deserve. Those who work on



the front line know our health system better than anyone: they live it every day. They see the challenges firsthand. They know the gaps in care, the staffing shortages and the pressure that comes from having under-resourced hospitals. They have done an incredible job despite these challenges, but they deserve better. They deserve a voice in how their workplaces are run. That is why we are pushing ahead with our commitment to put frontline staff on hospital boards. This is not just about ticking boxes; it is about ensuring we have local solutions to local problems. Every hospital has unique challenges and the best people to guide the solutions are the ones who work there.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a key part of this plan. It sets out to ensure frontline health workers have a real say in hospital management by requiring their representation on health service boards. This means local staff can directly influence the decisions that impact patient care and hospital operations. It focuses on tailoring healthcare solutions to the unique needs of each region, particularly in rural and regional areas like the electorate of Mirani.


According to the 2021 census data, my electorate has a population of 50,190. In Sarina—a town of nearly 6,000 people—the hospital has just 21 beds. Mount Morgan has only nine. Our residents often have to travel to Rockhampton or Mackay for care, adding hours of travel to an already stressful situation. Rockhampton and Mackay hospitals are critical to the people of Mirani, but they are facing their own challenges—bed shortages, specialist gaps and rising demand as our population grows. It is clear that these hospitals need more local voices at the table to address these issues.

Since coming to power in October 2024 the Crisafulli government has delivered real improvements where it counts. Rockhampton Hospital is set to receive a \$50 million upgrade to its emergency department, which will ease the pressure on frontline staff and improve patient flow. The \$92 million expansion of the Adult Mental Health Inpatient Unit at Rockhampton Hospital is also underway, addressing the long-standing need for better mental health support in our region. Mackay Base Hospital will benefit from a major \$250 million expansion—adding 128 beds, new birth suites and specialised women's and children's units. This project reflects our commitment to supporting families and reducing wait times for essential care.

Bricks and mortar alone are not enough; we need to support the nurses, doctors and support staff who keep our hospitals running. I recently received an email from Megan, a nurse at Mackay Base Hospital, who shared the daily struggles faced by our frontline health workers. She told me about the pressure of managing eight acutely unwell patients while also acting as team leader during night shifts, often without the support she needs to ensure patient safety and staff wellbeing. This is the reality for too many of our nurses: burnt out, overwhelmed and struggling to balance patient care with the pressures of an under-resourced system. Megan's story is a powerful reminder that our healthcare system is not just about buildings; it is about people. This bill is so important because it gives those like Megan a real voice in how their workplaces are run, ensuring that decisions about staffing, patient care and safety are made by the people who understand these challenges best: the frontline workers themselves.

The second key focus of this bill is tackling the vaping crisis, which has become a significant health concern in Queensland. I have heard directly from high schools in the Mirani electorate about the challenges they have in managing vaping on school grounds, particularly in areas like toilet blocks where students can hide from supervision. In 2022-23, 35.6 per cent of Queensland high school students had tried vaping and over 78,000 had used these devices in the previous month. This is a health crisis, plain and simple. These devices pose a serious risk not just to the young people using them but also to the broader community.

The bill cuts through the red tape, making it easier to seize and destroy illegal vaping products and freeing up Queensland Health to focus on patient care. This means illegal products can be destroyed quickly, cutting costs and removing the need for unnecessary storage. This legislation aims to protect young Queenslanders from the health risks associated with vaping, reduce youth access to illegal products and ensure that our enforcement officers can focus on keeping our communities safe. It is about putting the health and safety of our kids first, supporting our communities and backing our frontline workers, just like we promised. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise to contribute to the bills being debated this evening. The amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 seek to require at least one member of each hospital and health board to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the Hospital and Health Service for which the board is established. On the surface, this amendment appears to be a reasonable and considered approach to ensuring greater oversight of the hospital and health board, but when we look a little closer it is pretty obvious that during the election campaign last year the LNP

were scratching around, it seems, for election commitments regarding health. Today they are scratching around for ways to distract from their woeful history with our frontline health heroes.

It is pretty ironic that now they say they are all about listening to health professionals. Where was that same approach with pill testing or with their appalling decision regarding gender affirming treatment, for instance? What the LNP have failed to recognise with this amendment is that, of the 16 HHSs in Queensland, 13 currently have a person with a clinical background appointed to at least one of the top senior decision-making positions—chair, deputy chair or health service chief executive. These are incredibly qualified clinicians who are already in charge of our hospitals.

If the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and this government looked closer at the existing legislation, they would recognise that section 23 of the current act already requires that one or more of the members of a board must be a clinician. These amendments have the potential to actually add an extra burden on hospital and health boards.

In correspondence to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, the Queensland Integrity Commissioner pointed out several problems with the model the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services has proposed: firstly, that conflicts of interest could arise in matters which concern or relate to their employee interests. We have heard this already tonight, but I think it is worth repeating. Those concerns relate to their role and work unit area, the services they provide, employment terms and conditions, or other personal interests like matters impacting their colleagues and close work friends.

There were also concerns in relation to the employer-employee relationship highlighted by the Integrity Commissioner. HHS employees report to the health service chief executive. Where that employee is on the board, the chief executive then reports to them in their board role, but they still report to the chief executive in their employee role. The Integrity Commissioner noted that, in both directions of that relationship, potential conflicts, at least perceived ones, could arise. The Integrity Commissioner gave a clear example: will a chief executive be perceived as impartial and objective in dealing with an employment issue involving a board member, for instance, or will an employee be perceived as impartial and objective in dealing with or making decisions on matters concerning their employer?

The health minister cannot guarantee that an employer or employee in their board role could be impartial and/or objective. Yes, a comprehensive conflict of interest management plan may appropriately manage the risks of this model. The plans created for this scenario are complex and involve an administrative burden for the relevant clinician, the HHS, and the board secretariat and chair.

In this House we must consider balancing the complexity and costs of this proposed amendment against the public interest and whether a less complex model can achieve the same outcome. It appears across every front that the LNP are failing to understand the very basis of integrity and are more concerned in keeping up appearances, which is exactly what this amendment is. It is a lazy election commitment to win votes and appear as though they have Queensland health workers' best interests at the core of their policy. As it turns out, some stakeholders agreed that establishing effective mechanisms to consult or obtain input from all employees when performing the functions of the board and ensuring clinical representatives to the boards maintain their current practice to keep in touch with contemporary healthcare concerns would be a better model.

At the core of all health services and hospital management plans is ethical decision-making. On this side of House we know how incredible our health workers are but they should never be in a position that impacts their employee-employer relationship or their integrity in decision-making. Maintaining integrity protects the reputation of individual practitioners and their healthcare institutions.

Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act should be calculated, considered and provide solutions to an industry that deals with complex and often difficult decision-making. It should not create questions of impartiality or objectiveness and it should certainly not raise issues of an employee-employer relationship or vice versa. If the Integrity Commissioner is questioning the legitimacy and ethical standards of these amendments then how can the Crisafulli government move in good faith to proceed with this bill? It is a blatant disregard of advice and goes to show the lack of integrity that we are continually seeing from this LNP government.

Mr Deputy Speaker, given these issues, as you have already heard tonight, we will not be supporting the amendments contained in part 2 of this bill. However, to be clear, we are supportive of any move to continue the crackdown on the epidemic facing Queensland in the sale of illicit vapes and the harm to our communities including our young people. This is something we have seen a significant rise in right across Australia and of course internationally.

I want to put on the record that for me personally—very similar to the member for Miller's contribution—to have watched my father be a very heavy smoker from, as he says, the age of about 14 and then to see him struggle with lung cancer in the final 10 months of his life, smoking and anything that relates to that kind of illness that can take over a person's body and impact a family is something that we should all be absolutely on the same page about. That is why we absolutely will be supporting aspects of the bill with regard to illicit vapes and the harm to our communities including very young people.

The former Labor government was very proud to pass tobacco and vaping laws that carried the harshest penalties in the country when we were in government. We know the strain that the impact of vaping has on our health system and on our environment—health impacts such as respiratory problems; nicotine dependence; increased risk of cancers; and impacts to heart rate, blood pressure, brain development and so much more.

The impact on our environment is also concerning. That is why we take no issue with the principle of the amendments in this part of the bill. However, this has been again approached with some short-sightedness from the Crisafulli government. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia stated there were a number of barriers to the effective disposal of vaping products.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member, there have been a number of rulings tonight in relation to reference to the waste management report. I will give you an opportunity to come back to the matter before the House.


**Ms ENOCH:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Obviously we are talking about the disposal options that do exist in Queensland. I think that is pretty important when you consider that this is about the forfeiture of vaping materials. We know that vapes do include batteries. We will need to think very carefully about how these things are disposed. It is part of a bigger picture of how we deal with this particular issue. We know that some components of these products have lithium batteries, so we will need to think about that. It may not be in the remit of the health minister, but it is something that I think as a government and as parliamentarians and lawmakers we will need to think about.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. As the member has clearly indicated, it is not within the remit of the health minister. It is not in this bill. It was outside the scope when it was referred to in the waste management association's submission.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member. I ask you to stay within the confines of seizure, not the process of disposal afterwards. It has clearly been held to be outside of the bill on a number of occasions in this debate. I will give you an opportunity to get back to the matters before the House.

**Ms ENOCH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. I am referring to the explanatory notes, but I will move on as per your instruction.

The changes to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 would expedite the forfeiture of seized vaping goods and enable courts to order persons convicted of an offence under the act to pay reasonable costs incurred as a result of the offence. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you have already heard, the opposition supports the principles of the amendments in this bill in relation to the crackdown on illegal vaping and their disposal. However, as you have already heard, we will not be supporting part 2 of this bill for the reasons that we have already outlined. It is an important bill, but we do not want to see unintended consequences that have been outlined by the Integrity Commissioner. We do not want to see that happening. That is why the member for Miller, the opposition spokesperson, will be leading our position on not supporting part 2.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (6.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which will strengthen the performance, accountability and integrity of Queensland's health system, as well as take decisive action to protect public health. I note the bill will provide stronger clinical representation on hospital and health boards across Queensland, as well as enhancing enforcement powers in relation to vaping goods and other illegal smoking products.

This legislation is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to supporting our frontline services and addressing public health objectives. I commend the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services for taking such swift, decisive action, particularly in relation to illegal chop shops and vapes.

The sale of illegal vapes and illegal cigarettes is not a new issue. In the electorate of Mudgeeraba, the local community has tried over many years to see the regulation and policing of these illegal chop


shops, many of which undercut legitimate small businesses and were often operated by individuals with connections to organised crime.

Since 2021, I had been writing to the then Labor health minister about illegal chop shops and vapes in my electorate and, indeed, across Queensland. The response from Queensland Labor was underwhelming to say the least, and the chop shops continued trading in plain sight. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government took immediate action on this important issue, equipping Queensland Health with the laws necessary to take action against the illegal supply and possession of vaping products. The effects were instantaneous.

Since the Crisafulli LNP government was elected, Queensland Health has seized more than 250,000 vapes, with Queensland Health spearheading the largest seizure of illegal cigarettes and vapes by any health authority in Australia. I am very pleased to report that in the electorate of Mudgeeraba the local chop shops are not faring much better. We have already seen the chop shop next to Coles close and I am sure that the other chop shop next to the tattoo parlour will not be too far behind. These tough new laws are having an immediate impact. In fact, between 3 and 10 April 2025 alone, illegal traders were fined a total of \$5,094,560 in just one week. In stark contrast, the former Labor government averaged less than \$250,000 in fines per week.

Our success in targeting these illegal operators has brought some challenges; namely, the logistics of storing and destroying such hazardous items, as the current legislation requires an eight-week storage period for seized vapes, allowing for a show cause and appeal process. Of course, this increases the risk of fires, toxic leaks and environmental contamination, not to mention significant storage costs at taxpayers' expense. This bill addresses these concerns, allowing for the immediate forfeiture and destruction of illegal seized goods. Further, the new court ordered cost recovery mechanism will see chop shop owners held financially accountable for the cost of prosecuting these illegal products.

This bill delivers on the Crisafulli LNP government's election commitment to put doctors, nurses, and clinical staff back in charge as well as taking decisive action to address the scourge of illegal vapes and cigarettes. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. We support parts of this bill. Cracking down on illegal tobacco and vapes is important. As a Labor government, we were proud to pass tobacco and vaping laws that carried the harshest penalties in the country at the time. The proposed changes to hospital and health boards are nothing more than a reaction off the back of a kneejerk election commitment. That is what this legislation in relation to health and health boards is. It is not serious health reform; this is just politics. It is reverse-engineered reform to cover for their electioneering because, under the current law, boards already have clinicians. Section 23(3) of the act requires it. Section 23(3) outlines that clinicians are on health and hospital boards. In fact, 13 out of the 16 hospital and health services already have clinicians in some of the most senior positions, including chairs, deputy chairs and chief executives. The point is that clinicians are at the table running hospital and health services now, and that proves this amendment is just a stunt. It is classic LNP: announce a headline, but do not do anything practical to help Queenslanders achieve better health outcomes.

Worse still, as we have heard from a number of speakers tonight, this bill creates serious risks. The Integrity Commissioner made that very clear. When employees sit on boards that oversee their own jobs, conflicts are bound to arise. Those conflicts are not theoretical; they are real. A clinician sitting on a board will make decisions that affect their own department, their own colleagues and their own employment. The chief executive may have to manage the same staff who sit on the board that oversees them. Who reports to whom? Who makes the decisions? Under this health minister it will be a mess. Even if conflict management plans are put in place, they are complicated. They take time and they increase the administrative workload for the boards and clinicians who are supposed to be taking care of the health of Queenslanders. Instead of focusing on patient care, boards will be tied up managing conflicts created by this legislation—which is surprising for a government that purports to be about cutting red tape. There is a better way. Boards should absolutely consult widely with clinicians, listen to their entire workforce and get advice from every corner of the health service. That ensures clinical input without compromising governance. This bill ignores that opportunity. It locks boards into conflict, into confusion and into more red tape.

The truth is that the LNP does not really care about fixing problems in Health. This is a stunt to distract from the woeful record of this government when it comes to the administration of health and hospital boards like their failed real-time health data promise, something that health and hospital boards

would be very interested in. This dashboard was supposed to give Queenslanders clear real-time information on hospital wait times—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This bill has nothing to do with real-time health data. I ask you to bring the member back to the subject matter of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member, I will give you the opportunity to bring it back to the subject matter.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Boards must provide strong and independent oversight. They rely on data to do that. Data needs to be accurate, timely and accountable. That responsibility will sit with hospital and health boards, the individuals who will be appointed by this legislation. At the moment, that data is not accurate. It is delayed—


**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Yet again we have a foray into an area that is not covered by this bill. This bill and the policy intent of this bill and all of the reports of this bill go to the appointment of members to the HHBs, not to any of the matters that have been raised by the member for Springwood in respect to real-time data. He has had many opportunities to raise that and could have done so. In fact, I welcome him to do so.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, when there is a point of order I would ask you to remain silent, please. Member, would you again bring it back to the subject matter of the bill.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. One could only assume that the purpose of having doctors and nurses on boards would be because they know the truth about the data being reported about their hospital. I would have thought that is why the health minister is doing that. If he is not, then he should stand up at the end of this debate and explain that to this House and Queenslanders.

Labor took health seriously. We built hospitals, we hired doctors and nurses and we delivered new hospitals. Their record is already so bad. All they have is this stunt to distract Queenslanders from what they are actually doing. Now they want to tinker with the boards while patients wait longer. On this side of the House we believe that Queenslanders deserve better. They deserve a government focused on real outcomes, not media stunts. We support strong boards. We support clinical advice. We support boards that listen to health professionals. Most of all, we support transparency.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (6.26 pm): Under the former Labor government's watch we saw a significant increase in the sale of illegal smoking and vaping products in Queensland and there were flow-on effects in our communities. As Cancer Council Queensland stated in their submission—

Over one-third of Queensland secondary school students aged 12-17 have tried vaping at some stage—  
—and over a quarter of all adults.

These figures are alarming and highlight more of Labor's failures. Thanks to those opposite turning a blind eye for many years, the illicit tobacco and vape market risks putting decades of public health progress at risk. The Crisafulli government, however, will not turn a blind eye. We are committed to strengthening the performance, accountability and integrity of our health system and we prioritise community safety. Queensland Health is working with state and federal governments to combat the sale of illicit tobacco and vaping products in Queensland.

In 2024 we saw national reforms introduced to bolster enforcement efforts with the banning of the importation, manufacture, supply and non-personal possession of disposable and recreational vapes. The penalties for these vaping offences were increased to attract penalties of up to seven years imprisonment and fines of up to \$21.9 million.

The Crisafulli government has taken a firm stance on youth crime and illegal trade. In March 2025 the Queensland Health-led Operation Appaloosa saw the seizure of more than 76,000 vapes, 19 million illicit cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose illicit tobacco, with a combined estimated street value of over \$20 million. On 3 April 2025 the Crisafulli government introduced the nation's toughest fines for shops supplying or possessing illicit tobacco and vapes: \$32,260 for an individual and over \$160,000 for a corporation. We have also included fines for landlords who turn a blind eye to illegal trade, with a possible term of imprisonment of one year.

This bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act to remove the show cause and appeals process to allow the chief executive to forfeit and destroy illegal vaping products once seized. Streamlining this process will overcome the difficulties associated with storing these seized items.

I have been contacted by many businesses across the electorate of Callide that are legitimate businesses, including Helen, Ash and Robyn and Darren. These businesses and law-abiding citizens have been heavily impacted by this illegal trade. I thank them for continuing to come to me. I take these matters up. I know the businesses that have been impacting them have been raided—in some instances, on several occasions. I am not going to stop fighting until they see their legitimate businesses return to what they were. I refuse to turn a blind eye to this important matter.

Another important change is delivering on an election commitment we made to put nurses and doctors back in charge of our hospitals. We note that the QNMU also supports this change. Going forward, each hospital and health service board will have at least one board member who is currently employed as a registered practitioner within the same hospital and health system. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr HEAD:** As I was saying, I do commend the bill to the House but I want to finish with a couple more points. It was a great steak for dinner, thanks to Stanbroke the suppliers. I will just make that point as well.

Before the election, we said that we would put nurses and doctors back in charge, and this important change to the positions on the hospital and health service boards across Queensland is how we will go about delivering that key commitment we made to Queenslanders. There are key stakeholders across the board who support this change as well, and many frontline staff will be looking forward to the opportunity to put their hand up to serve in this important role for our hospital and health service boards. Under the former Labor government, these frontline clinicians had limited input into how our hospital and health services were governed. There are many shortages of medical professionals across rural and regional Queensland and in metropolitan areas as well, and that is why we have to treat these staff with respect and make sure they are listened to.

The Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, has been working hard to re-empower the front line so these staff want to stay and deliver the world-class health service that Queenslanders expect. It was fantastic to have the minister talking to some of those staff at Moura and Biloela only last week. I thank him for taking the time to come out. I also thank the DON at Moura, Craig, and the facility manager at Biloela, Liz, for taking time out of their days to show us around those facilities. There are great things happening there under a Crisafulli LNP government. This is one of the many things we are doing to deliver easier access to health services. It is fantastic that we have a government that is getting on with the job. As I said, this was an election commitment and part of the LNP's fresh start for Queensland.

I want to make a quick comment in reply to comments made by Labor MPs in the House. They said that this is trying to cover up the failures in the health system; the only failures I am aware of—and there is a very long list across the board—are the failures we inherited from the former Labor government. That government was checked out and we had a former premier who was more worried about red carpets and the glitz and glamour, and that is what led to the neglect of our health system.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member is straying a long way from the bill. I request that he be brought back to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Callide, if you could confine your comments to the bill that would be great.

**Mr HEAD:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I know that members of the former Labor government do not particularly like some of that history, but nonetheless this is a great change. We are re-empowering the frontline staff to help deliver world-class services right across Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.33 pm): I will start my contribution around the health board amendments and reflect upon some of the contributions which were made by those who have already spoken. They were allowed to put forward these points in their contributions and they were deemed relevant, so therefore they are up for debate and rebuttal.

I will start with the member for Gregory. The member for Gregory suggested that because the opposition was opposing part 2 of this amendment bill it would be removing people of experience and denying them the right to contribute within their HHS. Can I say that the best way to remove experience from the health system is to do what the previous LNP government did and sack 4,400 health workers. I reckon that would be a good way.

**Mr DILLON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There is no reference to that matter within the long title of the bill.

**Mr SMITH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the member for Gregory's contribution, he spoke widely and broadly about health workers and he suggested that their experience would be somehow removed by blocking this. He spoke directly to the health workers that I am speaking to. He was deemed in order and I have a right to rebut.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Bundaberg, I ask you to continue but confine your comments to the bill and make it relevant.

**Mr SMITH:** The best way to ensure that people of experience can remain in the health system is to ensure that they have a place there—that they have the full-time jobs to provide that service.

I also go to the member for Mirani. The member for Mirani spoke specifically about doctors and nurses, and indeed he quoted a nurse. He spoke about its importance in that it is not just the infrastructure being delivered but it is also about having the employees. I wonder whether the member for Mirani will be requesting that the Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme be extended in the budget.

**Mr HEAD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. One of the member for Bundaberg's colleagues, the member for Miller, rose on a point of order during my speech in relation to me straying from the bill, and I suggest that the member on his feet is also straying from the long title of the bill.

**Mr SMITH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Mirani, whose contribution went through what I am debating—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, if you could succinctly mention your point of order.

**Mr SMITH:** The member for Mirani spoke specifically about doctors and nurses and their role and making sure that the investment is in staffing and not just in infrastructure. Therefore, it is relevant.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some guidance. Member for Bundaberg, when you are speaking at this moment in this session I ask you to confine your comments to matters contained in the bill. That is my ruling at the moment.

**Mr SMITH:** We need to consider this proposed amendment where it speaks to having a clinician on the board of the health service they are currently employed by. I pose a question about the Wide Bay health service to those opposite, especially those representing the electorates of Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Which hospital will that one clinician come from? Will they come from the Maryborough Hospital, the Hervey Bay Hospital or the Bundaberg Hospital? We know that the member for Hervey Bay does not support health care in Bundaberg; in fact, he said the hospital should not be built and it should go to Hervey Bay. Which hospital will this one clinician come from to represent all of the facilities across the Wide Bay? It is a question that is worth posing.

We need to consider whether it gives a greater level of equality to one employee to then be the active voice on the board. Does it take away equity and fairness from every single health worker who is employed? Does that mean there will be advocacy for one part of a health service over another? Does that create conflicts of interest? Are we going to continue to see that clinician having to excuse themselves from consideration after consideration because there is a proposed conflict? Will other staff members think that particular clinician has a conflict of interest and who will they report that to? What are the provisions for the other clinicians who believe there is a conflict of interest? Who do they report to?

I know that the member for Whitsunday does not understand what is actually happening here and cannot follow along, but that does not really surprise me.

To move onto vapes, it is very important that we work collaboratively as a parliament to highlight the dangers in terms of vapes and, of course, illicit tobacco.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Bundaberg. Can we have less talk in the chamber, please, so I can hear the speaker?

**Mr SMITH:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am but a wilting flower. Students being aware of the dangers of vaping is something that is very important. As has been noted across all sides of the chamber, we do know that there is an element of risk-seeking in young people. It is part of their evolutionary biology; they are there to risk-take. It is important that we continue, as a community and as a society, to demonstrate what those dangers are. I have spoken to students in our high schools in Bundaberg who will openly tell you, because they do trust their local members, what they are doing—

**Mr Stevens:** Do you keep up your teacher's registration?

**Mr SMITH:** Yes, I do, thanks, Ray. Good on you. Go back on the punt, brother. What we need to know—

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Unparliamentary language and directed towards another member is inappropriate conduct in the chamber.

**Mr SMITH:** I withdraw and move on, Madam Deputy Speaker.


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bundaberg.

**Mr SMITH:** I want to highlight one particular principal in Bundaberg and that is Dan McMahon, the principal of Shalom Catholic College, who does a lot of work within the diocese and the schools who made it very clear that his school would have a zero tolerance to students vaping and association with vaping as well. He took a very tough stance, and that reflected the views of the community. We saw that the previous government took those steps through a number of inquiries and reforms as well to ensure that not only was the message, the information and the education around the dangers of vaping was getting out there, but that we were working towards getting rid of not only illicit tobacco but also illegal vapes.

A lot of members have spoken about their chop-chop shops—the unbranded tobacco stores is one way we could describe them. It is something that is concerning. Only the other week, there was a raid in Bundaberg and a store did have to close for a number of days. On the very day it reopened on a Saturday morning, there was a traffic jam throughout the streets of Bundaberg's CBD. As I drove around the backstreets of where Targo Street is situated, there was a line-up of over 100 metres. There were people lining up for 100 metres to get into this store.

Whilst we do need to consider that, of course, it is absolutely legal to smoke cigarettes and to consume legal tobacco, it is a concern when these shops that have been closed down and that we know are selling illicit tobacco are becoming one of the most popular small businesses in town. Of course, we all need to work together to ensure that not only the dangers of smoking and vaping are understood but that we are working to close down these illicit tobacco stores because they are indeed a blight on all of our communities. It is simply not acceptable.

With indulgence, I would like to speak on a very serious matter. I will be quick, but this is the only opportunity I have had to speak this week. I want to note the Bundaberg community has gone through a pretty harrowing last few weeks with some tragedies that are unspeakable and unthinkable. I want to thank all of the community. Bundaberg stretches a long way across our part of the world, and I know that the member for Callide and the member for Burnett would share with me in thanking our community for the strength they have shown, and in thanking all first responders for the great leadership they have shown as they have had to endure what have been very difficult times.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.43 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is a bill grounded in reform and focused on results. It delivers on clear election commitments because it empowers clinicians. It removes dangerous products from your communities and, most importantly, it reflects the priorities of the people of Queensland.

The first key reform in this bill ensures that at least one member of every hospital and health board is a clinician employed or engaged by the local Hospital and Health Service. That is a fundamental shift, away from bureaucratic tokenism toward local, practical experience. It means voices from the frontline will now sit at the table, not just to be heard but to actually shape decisions.

Importantly, this reform delivers on our election commitment to put doctors, nurses and clinical staff back in charge of hospitals. It reflects the values in our Easier Access to Health Services Plan and underlines this government's belief in genuine clinical leadership, not just symbolism. We are empowering those who treat patients daily to help set direction for how services are delivered locally. We are doing so with integrity. That is why this bill also prevents these clinicians from being appointed as chair or deputy chair of their boards, avoiding potential conflicts of interest while preserving their voice in the boardroom.

This government listens to the frontline, something the former Labor government consistently failed to do. They had nine years to fix the boards. Instead, too often clinicians were used for appearances rather than influence. Our approach is different. We respect their professionalism and we trust their judgement. I can say from personal experience, after countless hours of doorknocking in Burleigh, Palm Beach and Varsity Lakes, I have met many incredible health workers. These are people with ideas, with insight and with a genuine passion for improving patient care. These are not just clinicians, they are natural leaders. This bill gives them the opportunity to help shape decisions that affect the way we deliver care in their own community.



The second major part of this bill, something I am very passionate about, tackles a growing scourge in our communities: illicit vaping and illegal tobacco. This government will not stand by while criminal enterprises exploit children for profit. Since 1 October 2024, more than 150,000 illegal vapes have been seized. In just the first quarter of 2025, more than 81,000 more were confiscated. These products are dangerous: they contain lithium-ion batteries that can explode, they leak toxic chemicals, and they are marketed to children with bright colours and sweet flavours.

Under the former government, these stores were allowed to flourish. They appeared in plain sight in neighbourhood centres and suburban strips, preying on young Queenslanders. Labor let it happen. This government will not.

The message is loudest from our youngest voices. Just today, I hosted the year 6 leaders of Burleigh Heads State School. When asked about vaping, they were emphatic. They told me they hated vapes and wanted them gone. That kind of clarity coming from an 11-year-old says it all. If they can see the danger, so must this House. That is why this bill empowers the Chief Executive of Queensland Health to immediately forfeit and destroy seized vaping goods, without delay. No more eight-week storage windows. No more show-cause delays for clearly illicit products.

We have also included robust safeguards to ensure legitimate therapeutic products, such as those available through pharmacies, are not affected. Enforcement officers must reasonably believe an item is linked to an offence under the act, and individuals who are wrongly impacted retain the right to pursue compensation through the courts.


We are already seeing results. In my own electorate, at least one tobacconist, operating on James Street in Burleigh, has been shut down. That is not a coincidence. It is the result of the prospect of clear laws, stronger enforcement and the kind of firm and assertive public messaging that leaves no room for ambiguity.

I want to place on record my thanks to the health minister, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, for his leadership in this space. His clarity, his conviction and his follow-through are already making a tangible difference, not just in policy but on the streets of communities just like mine. His work sets the tone for a government that is not afraid to act and not afraid to back words with actual enforcement.

This bill also includes an important new principle: if you profit from illegal activity, you should not leave taxpayers to pick up the tab. Under the reforms in this bill, courts will be empowered to order offenders to repay the state for the cost of investigating, seizing, storing and destroying illegal tobacco and vaping products. These are not trivial sums. The storage facilities alone cost up to \$65,000 each. The work is dangerous, and the burden on the system is growing. This cost should not be borne by Queenslanders doing the right thing; it should be borne by those knowingly breaking the law. This change is fair, is proportionate, is overdue and treats Queensland taxpayers with respect.

This is a practical bill. It protects young Queenslanders. It empowers clinicians and it delivers on our commitments. It is precisely the kind of disciplined, outcomes focused policy that Queenslanders voted for. It draws a clear contrast with the failures of the former government—failures in governance, failures in service delivery and failure to listen to the people on the ground. The Crisafulli LNP government said we would restore integrity, strengthen local voices and take action on crime. This bill honours all three.

Before I commend the bill to the House, I want to draw attention to what I thought were very unfortunate remarks made by the member for Lytton. The members elected to this place have been elected to represent the views of their communities, to enliven their aspirations and to speak up for them. It should not matter whether we have been in this House for a day or 20 years, we are here because of the mandate and the trust of our communities. For the member for Lytton to dismiss the voices of newly elected MPs dismisses the concerns of those communities including, might I say, the electorates of Sandgate, South Brisbane and Inala. I found the remarks very unfortunate. It just goes to show that they do not care because they are only interested in their own voices. They are doing their market research in the mirror. We are doing it on the streets of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (7.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I note the hour and I note that the government has moved a guillotine motion, so I will not be able to use my full 10 minutes to make my contribution, which is a shame because this is an important piece of legislation which should be appropriately scrutinised. Members should be able to raise particular matters that they wish to have addressed by the minister in consideration in detail, and even that component will be limited by this government's guillotine. I am conscious that there has been a lot of debate around relevance in the debate on this bill so I wanted to


be very relevant by noting that the objectives of the bill are to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to require at least one member of each hospital and health board to be a clinician who is employed or engaged by the hospital and health service for which the board is established, to provide that they may not be appointed as chair or deputy chair of the board and to also make amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

I want to address each of those amendments in turn. I first turn to the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act. I wonder if this is an amendment that is a problem looking for a solution. We saw those opposites make remarks last year about how they would improve hospitals by putting the doctors and nurses back in charge—until they realised that the doctors and nurses were already eligible to be appointed to hospital and health boards. They have now said, 'Well, we will just make it a local doctor or nurse to be appointed to the hospital or health board,' but then they put this rider in to say 'but they cannot be chair', so they are not allowed to be in charge of the board, let alone in charge of the local hospital and health service. I wonder if this is just a bit of nuance to cover up an embarrassing misstatement that they made last year, as they typically do when they throw slogans out without actually thinking through the consequences.

In respect of that amendment, I have a question to the health minister around clarity because, on my reading, there is an automatic exclusion for someone who is appointed to the board if they fail to meet the minimum requirements. Among other things, they have to be a registered practitioner, they have to be an employee of the HHS and they have to have worked in the HHS for two years. But I am particularly interested around the average of at least eight hours a week and how that average is calculated. Is the average over 12 months or two years, or is it over one month? My understanding is that it is an automatic exclusion, so how do you calculate the average of eight hours?

I want to turn now to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. There is a challenge in the community about illicit tobacco and vape products. One of the challenges is the issue I rightly identified: to date, enforcement has been somewhat constrained because of the issue around forfeiture, storage and disposal. My question around this particular amendment is relevant to the principles around proper process and safeguards. I get it. We are both lawyers. I get that this is a streamlined process. We are removing the show cause notice and we are not having any convictions before the chief executive can forfeit those products, but the question is around the process for those people who may well be innocent but have yet had the chief executive forfeit. My reading of the process is that they nonetheless still have to apply to court. So does the chief executive retain *ex gratia* powers when they are clearly in the wrong, they have made the forfeiture but then they are forcing the innocent party to incur costs?

I acknowledge that this has been an important debate. I acknowledge the amendment to the hospital and health board bill. They are amendments that the opposition are opposing but we support the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.57 pm): I want to thank the minister because in the last couple of months he has not got in the way of the Labor's anti-vaping laws put in place on 1 October. I am glad that he has not got in the way, but he really should recognise that they were Labor's laws which were put in place and came into force on 1 October. Not many on that side have recognised that. They should also have recognised that much research has gone on in previous parliaments. The new member may not been aware of all of the work that had gone on before, including that these are Labor's laws. I congratulate all of you who said how good our laws are.

I support the amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act. I support them, just as others have done, for a variety of reasons. We have seen members support these bills because they do not like the fact that vapes have bubblegum flavours aimed at attracting children. I did not see that in the explanatory notes. It is a perfectly normal practice for members to bring their own experience about why they support the bill. Equally, people who are concerned about the nature of the disposal of goods could give that as the reason they support the bill. Indeed, it is mentioned in the explanatory notes. In the explanatory notes it says that vaping goods are highly flammable. The only part of those goods that is highly flammable is the lithium ion battery, often cheaply made by dangerous manufacturers. A very good reason members would support this bill is that the disposal of those products is problematic.

If there are more of them in our society we will have more of them being disposed. This is a perfectly valid reason. If only we had received a submission from someone who had experience in waste management that we could perhaps quote, but I would not dare to do that because it would be seen as being outside the long title of the bill.

I am passionate about the proper disposal of these dangerous goods. That is why I support this bill. I note it says here—

The presence of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, leak, or explode under certain conditions ...

This is a really good reason to support the bill—

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. We have had a number of rulings in relation to these matters and I draw your attention to those previous rulings.

**Mr POWER:** Respectfully, I am reading directly from the explanatory notes. It is on page 2 at the bottom for the benefit of the Leader of the House.


**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Logan, it is now eight o'clock. I ask you to take your seat, thank you.

**Mr POWER:** I am being guillotined, but we have been guillotined all night by the health minister.

**Dr ROWAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that that was disorderly conduct and also a reflection on the chair.

**Mr POWER:** My apologies, Madam Chair, if I made any reflection or if I was in any way disorderly.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.00 pm), in reply: Let me deal with the two matters raised by the member for Morayfield because they are the two most sensible things that have been said by those on that side of the House, so let me just knock them on the head. I do not just say that because he is also a lawyer. The member asked about the exclusion and the eight hours average per week. That is 0.2 of an FTE, so it is an average of eight hours a week. That is how that calculation is done.

In relation to the show cause matter and the forfeiture matter the member raised, there are a number of additional safeguards included in the legislation. They are only permitted where an authorised officer reasonably believes the goods are evidence of an offence. There is a policy around personal use items that should not be used and you can seek compensation. An individual who may claim that they had items improperly seized and forfeited can claim compensation under section 219 of the act if lawful goods are forfeited in error. Yes, they do have to make an application to the court in order to be able to do so.

I want to thank the members for their contribution to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to thank some more than others, but that would not be surprising. It is refreshing to hear so many positive contributions on this side of the House. Many members are working hard for their electorates who understand the health needs of their communities and know how important it is to put clinicians back in charge of their local hospitals.

I thank those who participated in the committee process and would especially like to call out the contribution of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union. It is no secret that we are currently in a bargaining process with the union, but nonetheless they made a valuable contribution. This is what they said in their submission to the committee—

The QNMU supports the requirement to have at least one Hospital and Health Board ... member be a registered health practitioner employed by the same Hospital and Health Service ... for which the board is established.

They support a registered health practitioner from the HHS being on the board of that HHS. They go on—

The amendment to the Act will provide local clinicians a greater say in the governance and delivery of public health services in their geographical area.

In fact, all submitters to the bill supported the proposition; not one opposed it. Not one submitter out of the 11 who put in a submission opposed the bill in any way, shape or form. That is both in relation to the hospital and health boards and in relation to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act amendments that are being proposed here.

The members for Miller and Greenslopes and the rest of those opposite raised concerns about conflicts of interest for clinicians appointed to boards. It was disappointing to hear the shadow minister effectively disparage our frontline health professionals by suggesting that a fully qualified professional cannot manage their own conflicts. That is the view that the Labor Party have in relation to frontline health staff.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is clearly misquoting me. I find it personally offensive and I ask it to be withdrawn. That is not what I said and he knows it.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I withdraw. What was being promoted by those opposite was that frontline clinicians cannot be trusted to exercise their professional judgement for the benefit of their HHS and their patients, that they do not know what they are doing and that they will act in their own best interests over and above the interests of those to whom they are professionally obliged to provide services. Madam Deputy Speaker, you yourself are a former medical practitioner and this disparages you and your profession in that you are not able to distinguish between your own personal interest and the interests of your customers, clients and the HHS. That is exactly what the members opposite are promoting when they say it cannot happen. Do they say the same thing, for example, in relation to the member employee of the ABC board? Do they say the same thing in relation to an employee member of the ABC board? No, they do not.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): One moment, Minister. Member for Miller, I ask you not to keep interjecting please.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I say, it is a disgraceful slur on the professionalism of the clinicians who may wish to put up their hand to serve their communities in the communities in which they live and work. It is a disgraceful slur to say that they cannot differentiate between their own private interest and the interests of the HHS in which they wish to serve. It is backed up and supported by the advice of the Integrity Commissioner, who says if this policy is to persist—and this is a matter for government; government has the right to set the policy—she does not see the need for any amendments to the act in order to address conflicts of interest. That is the clear, concluding advice in her submission to the committee: she does not see any need to make any changes.

Any conflicts of interest that may arise from a clinician working on the board in the HHS within which they work can and will be dealt with appropriately. I have confidence in our clinicians and our frontline health workers. The LNP Crisafulli government has confidence in them. Clearly all the submitters to the committee have confidence in them because none of them opposed this proposition, including the QNMU, which actively supported it. The only people who do not believe that frontline clinicians cannot manage their conflicts of interest are the ALP. That tells honourable members everything they need to know about what the ALP think about frontline clinicians. The Integrity Commissioner is confident about it and—

**Mr Bailey:** Not what was said. Not what I said. Don't be dishonest. Don't be dishonest. You're being dishonest.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, if you interject again I am going to have to put you on a warning.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is a pity that the Leader of the Opposition was not able to persuade the member for Miller in respect of this, because the Leader of the Opposition was also confident of it when he was the health minister. I have had a look at some of the history of the appointments of board members. In 2020 when the Leader of the Opposition was health minister as he fumbled and giggled his way through the COVID response he appointed and reappointed a total of nine board members who were also clinicians working in the same hospital and health service as the board. The Leader of the Opposition appointed nine of them. In 2022 there were a total of seven board members who had been appointed or reappointed by those opposite who were also clinicians in the same hospital and health service. As I said in my second reading speech earlier today, there are currently five clinician board members who work for the same hospital and health service, all appointed by those opposite.

As the member for Algeester says, the First Nations officer who works at the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, who is the deputy chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, should not be on the board of that hospital and health service. Yes, she does because that is what she came into this place and said. She came into this place and said, 'You cannot and should not be on that board because you will not be able to manage your conflict of interest.' The member for Miller says it; all those over there say that because their argument is—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is an inaccurate comment and I find it offensive. You are continuing to repeat something that was not said. I find the comment by the minister, which he keeps repeating, offensive because it is inaccurate. These are comments that were not said in the debate and I ask that he withdraw and that he cease repeating a falsehood in this chamber.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Health minister, may I ask you not to repeat comments that you have had to withdraw previously. Thank you.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. All of those opposite in their arguments to this place have clearly indicated that they do not believe that clinicians can manage their conflicts. The member for Algester said it in her contribution in relation to the inability to manage conflicts and it seems that, having been hauled up and been exposed for the sham that they are, they are now taking exception to the argument that they have raised for cheap and base political purposes. That is the problem with the inconsistency of the argument that those opposite make. It is clear that these conflicts of interest can be managed. They have been managed in the past. They continue to be managed with the assistance and guidance of the Integrity Commissioner, together with the valued contributions and determinations of those clinicians who have been appointed and those who will be appointed to deliver this service. It is shameful that those opposite do not trust those clinicians to be able to identify and manage their own conflicts of interest when clearly when they were in government they thought it could happen, not once, not twice but on three occasions, as I have already pointed out—on three occasions—including the current chair of the Central West Hospital and Health Service who is a hardworking clinician from Barcaldine who is the chair of that service who worked during the recent floods, as the member for Gregory knows, and who continues to make a valuable contribution to the HHS as chair of the HHS.

With regard to tobacco issues, I turn to the amendments that target the illegal vaping trade. I thank members across the chamber and I acknowledge those concerns that were expressed by many across the chamber, including yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker O'Shea, in relation to vaping and smoking. We have heard members opposite raise concerns about inaction on vape related waste and battery disposal despite it not being part of the bill, but I want to remind the House that, despite holding office for a decade, Labor failed to deliver a meaningful response to these growing challenges. What did it do over 10 years? Why did it not do any of what those opposite are talking about tonight as part of its term in government? It did not do anything about it.

In February of this year the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation announced a three-point plan to improve battery disposal and reduce fire risks in Queensland and he announced a \$2 million funding program in grants to support local councils in expanding battery collection points throughout Queensland's regions and committing to work closely with the waste industry to reduce the fire risks. We are taking action in the first eight months—something that those opposite were unable to do in 10 years. This clearly contradicts the claim by the member for Pine Rivers that we are ignoring local councils. As I said, the government is supporting councils facilitating the safe disposal of batteries, including those found in vapes.

The bill delivers practical and meaningful reforms that strengthen our health system and protect our communities and particularly our young people. By embedding clinicians on hospital and health boards, we are fulfilling our commitment to the people of Queensland made at the last election, we are elevating frontline voices and ensuring those making strategic decisions are aware of impacts on delivery of care. These changes will lead to a more informed, locally responsive governance service with a clear focus on improving patient outcomes. At the same time the bill confronts the growing threat posed by illicit vaping products and delivers stronger enforcement powers and these measures protect public health, support our enforcement officers and disrupt the illegal trade that is undermining honest business. I commend the bill to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): I note that Ian Walker, the former member for Mansfield, is in the gallery.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 8—

 **Mr BAILEY** (8.14 pm): I rise to outline why Labor cannot and will not support part 2—that is, clauses 3 to 8—of this bill in terms of the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 that this government claims will improve clinical representation but in fact will not and will actually reduce clinician input on health and hospital boards. Let us cut through the LNP spin. These amendments require at least one board member to be a direct employee of the HHS board that it oversees. We

already have clinical representation under section 23(3), which requires boards to include clinicians, and we know that 13 of the 16 HHS boards already have clinicians in senior roles. The only change in this bill by the government is forcing that clinician to be an internal HHS employee.

The Integrity Commissioner has provided damning analysis of this proposal, identifying the fundamental governance failures that would result. Under this model, health service employees would report to the chief executive in their day job but that same chief executive would report to them in the boardroom. It is a governance nightmare that they are simultaneously the supervisor and the supervised. The question is: how can a chief executive be perceived as impartial when dealing with employment issues involving someone who is already their board member? How can that employee be objective when making board decisions about their own workforce, their colleagues and their boss? Even more telling, this bill prohibits these internal employee board members from becoming the chair or the deputy chair. So much for putting doctors and clinicians in charge. The government itself recognises that those conflicts are so severe that it has banned the clinicians from the leadership positions on the board, so it makes very little sense. So much for putting them back in charge.

Here is the most damaging aspect though: these amendments actually reduce clinical input. Under the current system, clinician board members participate fully in all discussions because most times they are from outside the HHS. Under these changes, they would be forced to leave the room whenever there is a workplace, a section or workmates being discussed. We are actually creating a system here where clinicians have less of a voice on boards, not more. That is the point that was being made by the opposition, not that being misrepresented by the minister earlier when he was trying to claim that we were attacking clinicians. Our point is that clinicians will have less of a say under these new laws than they currently have because they will not be able to comment on matters to do with their own workplace, their own workmates and their own sections. It is not that the matter cannot be managed. Yes, it can be managed, as the minister said, but it is managed because they will not be able to comment on certain matters and that means less of a clinician input. These are so-called reforms but they are faux reforms—they are fake reforms—and that is why the opposition will not vote for them.

Division: Question put—That clauses 3 to 8, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 47:**

**LNP, 47**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 30:**

**ALP, 30**—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, 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.

Pair: Lister, King

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 3 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



**Mr NICHOLLS** (8.22 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name.

**1 After clause 8**

Page 6, after line 19—

*insert—*

**Part 2A Amendment of Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024**

**8A Act amended**

This part amends the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024*.

**8B Amendment of s 213 (Definitions for part)**

- (1) Section 213, definitions *existing instruments*, *health employment directive*, *initial council employee*, *new certified agreement*, *public sector directive*, *Queensland Health award* and *Queensland Health certified agreement*—

*omit.*

- (2) Section 213—

*insert—*

**health senior officer** means a health service employee employed by Queensland Health in the position known as health senior officer.

**officer** means a public service employee mentioned in the *Public Sector Act 2022*, section 13(1)(d).

**promote**, a person, means employ the person at a higher classification level, other than temporarily.

**8C Replacement of pt 14, div 3 (Employment terms and conditions of initial council employees)**

Part 14, division 3—

*omit, insert—*

**Division 3 Employment terms and conditions of particular council employees**

**Subdivision 1 Transferred health senior officer**

**223 Application of subdivision**

- (1) This subdivision applies in relation to a person who—
  - (a) immediately before the commencement, was a health senior officer; and
  - (b) after the commencement, is transferred to the council as a member of the council's staff, other than the chief executive officer, under the *Public Sector Act 2022*, chapter 4, part 4.
- (2) However, this subdivision stops applying in relation to the person if, after the transfer, the council promotes the person.
- (3) This subdivision applies despite any other Act.

**224 Terms and conditions of employment**

- (1) The terms and conditions of employment of the person are the terms and conditions that applied, immediately before the transfer, to the person as a health senior officer as decided by the chief executive under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*.

*Note—*

See sections 45(g) and 66(1) and (4) of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* in relation to the chief executive deciding conditions of employment.

- (2) For subsection (1), the decision of the chief executive about the terms and conditions is taken to apply—
  - (a) to the person to the same extent the decision applied to the person as a health senior officer immediately before the transfer; and
  - (b) to the council in place of Queensland Health, in relation to the council's employment of the person, to the same extent the decision applied to Queensland Health in relation to the employment of the person immediately before the transfer.
- (3) If a change of the decision of the chief executive mentioned in subsection (1) takes effect after the transfer, the change applies for the purposes of the application of the decision under this section.

**Subdivision 2 Other transferred health service employees**

**225 Application of subdivision**

- (1) This subdivision applies in relation to a person who—
  - (a) immediately before the commencement, was a health service employee other than a health senior officer; and
  - (b) after the commencement, is transferred to the council as a member of the council's staff, other than the chief executive officer, under the *Public Sector Act 2022*, chapter 4, part 4.
- (2) However, this subdivision does not apply in relation to the person if a certified agreement, covering the person as a member of the council's staff, takes effect before the transfer.
- (3) Also, this subdivision stops applying in relation to the person if, after the transfer—
  - (a) the council promotes the person; or
  - (b) a certified agreement, covering the person as a member of the council's staff, takes effect.
- (4) This subdivision applies despite any other Act.

**226 Terms and conditions of employment**

- (1) The terms and conditions of employment of the person are the terms and conditions that applied, immediately before the transfer, under the following instruments to health service employees employed by Queensland Health—
  - (a) the certified agreement called 'Queensland Public Health Sector Certified Agreement (No. 11) 2022';

- (b) the award under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* called 'Hospital and Health Service General Employees (Queensland Health) Award – State 2015'.
- (2) For subsection (1), an instrument mentioned in the subsection is taken to apply—
  - (a) to the person to the same extent the instrument applied to a health service employee, other than a health senior officer, employed by Queensland Health immediately before the transfer; and
  - (b) to the council in place of Queensland Health, in relation to the council's employment of the person, to the same extent the instrument applied to Queensland Health in relation to the employment of a health service employee, other than a health senior officer, immediately before the transfer.
- (3) If a change to an instrument mentioned in subsection (1) takes effect after the commencement, the change applies for the purposes of the application of the instrument under this section.

### **Subdivision 3 Particular other employees**

#### **227 Application of subdivision**

- (1) This subdivision applies in relation to a person, other than a person mentioned in section 225(1), if—
  - (a) the person is employed by the council as an officer; and
  - (b) a certified agreement, covering the person as a member of the council's staff, has not taken effect.
- (2) This subdivision applies despite any other Act.

#### **228 Terms and conditions of employment**

- (1) The terms and conditions of employment of the person are the terms and conditions that applied, immediately before the person was employed by the council, under the following instruments to officers employed by Queensland Health—
  - (a) the certified agreement called 'Queensland Public Health Sector Certified Agreement (No. 11) 2022';
  - (b) the award under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* called 'Queensland Public Service Officers and Other Employees Award – State 2015'.
- (2) For subsection (1), an instrument mentioned in the subsection is taken to apply—
  - (a) to the person to the same extent the instrument applied to an officer employed by Queensland Health immediately before the person was employed by the council; and
  - (b) to the council in place of Queensland Health, in relation to the council's employment of the person, to the same extent the instrument applied to Queensland Health in relation to the employment of an officer immediately before the person was employed by the council.
- (3) If a change to an instrument mentioned in subsection (1) takes effect after the commencement, the change applies for the purposes of the application of the instrument under this section.

### **Subdivision 4 Other provision for transferred health service employees**

#### **229 Preservation of rights of transferring health service employees**

- (1) This section applies to a person mentioned in section 223(1) or 225(1).
- (2) The transfer of the person to the council does not—
  - (a) affect the person's benefits, entitlements or remuneration; or
  - (b) prejudice the person's existing or accruing rights to superannuation or recreation, sick, long service or other leave; or
  - (c) interrupt continuity of service, except that the person is not entitled to claim the benefit of a right or entitlement more than once in relation to the same period of service; or
  - (d) entitle the person to a payment or other benefit from the State because the person is no longer employed by Queensland Health.
- (3) This section does not limit the operation of the *Public Sector Act 2022*, chapter 4, part 4 in relation to the transfer of the person to the council as a member of the council's staff.

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

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Tim Nicholls's amendments [\[637\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Tim Nicholls's amendments [\[638\]](#).




These amendments have been circulated since Tuesday morning. They go to the employment conditions for the pharmacy business ownership group. They ensure the continuation of entitlements for employers who transfer from Queensland Health to the PBO. They are very straightforward.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 25, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.24 pm): I move—


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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Mr NICHOLLS:** (8.24 pm): I move amendment No.2 circulated in my name. This goes to the long title of the bill.

2 Long title

Long title, after '2011'—

insert—

, the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024*

Amendment agreed to.

**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.24 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 22 May (see p. 1508).

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (8.25 pm): What a pleasure to rise in this 58th Parliament to give the address-in-reply with such a full House. It is an honour and a privilege to be elected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, member for Scenic Rim. If members could leave the chamber in silence so that we can hear the member for Scenic Rim.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was saying, it is an honour and a privilege to be elected for the fifth time by the communities that I represent. Above everything else I need to say thank you to the electors of the Scenic Rim electorate for placing their faith in me to be their representative for this term of parliament. I reiterate my resolve to be the best representative I can be for not only those who voted for me but also those who voted against me because we are all Queenslanders, we are all Australians, and when you are elected to this place you take a job which requires you to represent sometimes people who you do not agree with. You need to take that all in your role as a representative. Thank you to the electors of the Scenic Rim electorate.

I congratulate Mr Speaker on his elevation to the position of Speaker. It is an honour to hold that position in our system of democracy. I am sure you will do very well in that role. I am pleased to be serving the parliament as deputy speaker and to strengthen this institution of parliament through that role. It is vital to our democracy.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Could we have less noise in the chamber, please, because I cannot hear the speaker at all. If we could have less noise on both sides.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I had better speak up, Madam Deputy Speaker. The role of Speaker and deputy speaker is vital to our democracy. I look forward in that role to guiding members of the House in the

way in which it operates. I can assure members even at this juncture of the 58th Parliament there are some who need more guidance than others, but it is something that I am relishing in that role.

I congratulate the Premier, David Crisafulli, and Deputy Premier, Jarrod Bleijie, for their successful campaign in the 2024 election. The 2024 election highlighted many issues in the Scenic Rim electorate that are the result of long-term neglect by Labor governments. We cannot forget that we have had Labor governments in this state for a very long time—too long for the people of the Scenic Rim electorate.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I hear the interjection from the member for McConnel, but it has been too long and too many people in parts of Queensland have been simply forgotten about by long-term Labor governments that serve only their sectional interests and forget about significant parts of the state that contribute so much to our economy and to our community. They have been neglected by Labor for far too long.

We are in a health crisis, something which has come about because of Labor's neglect of the health system. We have had record ramping—the worst in the nation. It topped out at 45.5 per cent. That is something that members opposite should hang their heads in shame about. It impacted access to hospitals across the electorate of Scenic Rim, such as the Ipswich Hospital, but also access to ambulances because when ambulances are ramped in hospitals they cannot get out to people in the Scenic Rim electorate. That impacted people in the Beaudesert corridor and the Tamborine Mountain corridor as well.

The crime crisis, which has impacted so many families and their sense of security in their own homes and on the streets of our towns across the state, this government has already dealt with decisively by putting in place new laws to put the rights of victims and the community ahead of the rights of offenders and rebalance the scales of justice.

Across their entire time in government, but particularly in the last term, we saw the waste of Labor. Queenslanders were getting less and paying more. There is a great example of that just outside the Scenic Rim electorate: a Main Roads project that is underway at the moment in the electorate of Logan. It was originally budgeted at \$53 million but blew out under the stewardship of the former minister for Main Roads to \$95 million. It was a huge blowout. Under Labor you pay more and get less.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** That is what the member for Logan is trying to defend.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, if you could stop interjecting, please, so I can hear the member for Scenic Rim.

**Mr KRAUSE:** We saw the police crisis where members of the Police Service were leaving the service in droves because they knew they were not supported by the government. We saw the lack of investment and planning in our roads. I mentioned the Mount Lindesay Highway before but many others were chronically underfunded by Labor over 30 of the past 35 years since the 1989 election. We saw the fire ant crisis with former minister Furner—

**Mr Head:** The fire ants friend.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection. I could not even get the words out of my mouth before the member for Callide said it: Mark Furner, the friend of the fire ants. The member for Gympie and Minister for Primary Industries is taking that problem by the horns, as it were, and putting \$24 million—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Scenic Rim. Member for Logan, I am going to have to give you a warning if you interject again.

**Mr KRAUSE:** The minister has committed \$24 million of extra state funding to the suppression effort around the fire ant zone in Queensland. The former government was content to let the fire ants continue to multiply within the suppression zone.

We saw the energy crisis under the former Labor government. I have always had a very simple view when it comes to energy: affordable, reliable energy is what we need in Queensland and in Australia because it underpins the entire economy. We get it, but regrettably we are subject to the uber inflationary boondoggle policies of the Albanese federal Labor government that will no doubt send energy prices through the roof again and again. That impacts our farmers. It impacts our manufacturers. In fact, it impacts the entire economy. One of the main reasons we are seeing a cost-of-living crisis is

the increased cost of energy over the past several years. The policies of the federal government will continue to see that occur.

We saw the planning crisis. In certain parts of the Scenic Rim electorate people are very worried about the densification of areas that really should not have a particular level of density because of their location, not only in respect of where they are in South-East Queensland but also because of environmental factors. We saw the advent of state facilitated development areas under the former government, which really amounted to nothing but an attempt by the state to take over planning powers. That really was a cause for concern because the Scenic Rim, for the most part, does not take in suburbs of Logan, Ipswich or the Gold Coast. We are a unique community with our own identities. Our planning policies, as determined by councils in consultation with the community, need to reflect that. The state policies regarding planning need to give power to local communities to make those decisions.

We talk about the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Cunningham Highway, the Boonah Beaudesert Road, the Canungra traffic issues and the Canungra water project and all the development that has gone on around there. Those are all infrastructure and planning issues that have been failed for so long, as has water for industry. All of those challenges will need to be taken up in this term of the parliament, but there is a new government that is determined to see business grow and that will enable development, from a residential point of view, in line with community aspirations in the Scenic Rim electorate. We have hardworking small businesses and farmers—some of the best in the nation. Finally, after almost 10 long years, we have a government that supports people in business and people who are willing to invest and to have a go. It will be a long process to remedy all of the mistakes of the past Labor government, but it is one that we must embark upon.

I certainly look forward to seeing the budget of the Treasurer, David Janetzki, in a couple of weeks time as it will be a key milestone in the journey that began on 26 October last year. On 26 October last year, the people of Queensland decided to dispatch the former government, after all of their failures. The trust that has been placed in the LNP is something that, as a member of the government, I do not take lightly and I know my colleagues do not take it lightly either. It is a heavy responsibility we have been given but it is one that we are all extremely thankful for.

In this address-in-reply speech, I want to again thank the electors of the Scenic Rim electorate. I reiterate some of the comments that I made in my maiden speech.

**Mr McDonald:** Are you going to thank your neighbours?

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. He is a good neighbouring member of parliament. The member for Theodore is also a good neighbouring member of parliament as is the member for Mudgeeraba. In my maiden speech, I commented that we may not always agree on every issue but you can rely on me to keep coming back and to persevere to try to done the things that need to be done. I reiterate that today. I thank the LNP campaign supporters who contributed so much during the election campaign. While I will name some names, undoubtedly there will be people I do not name. I ask that they not be offended. There were so many.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I take that interjection. They are good supporters and I want to thank them all. I especially acknowledge Ian Pocock, the Scenic Rim state electorate council chair, for all of the work that he has done over many years in support of our campaigns in Scenic Rim. I thank Gary Stubbs for his steadfastness. I thank Ross, David, David and Eva, Elizabeth, Duncan, Sheila, Josh, JB—he knows who he is—Josh, Chad, Mary, Glen, Bryan, Aaron, Jilanne, Robert and Ken.

To the federal member for Wright, Scott Buchholz: thank you for your support. As I have noted in this place many times before, when the coalition was in government, the investment that Scott, as the federal member for Wright, directed into the Scenic Rim electorate over many years has been enormous. It was instrumental—in fact, I would say definitive—in the decision for investment to be made, especially in the Mount Lindesay Highway.

I thank the staff of the Scenic Rim electorate office. We can all reflect on this: no election campaign is about just the election. Throughout the entire term work has to be done to ask people to support you again. As members, we are all supported by staff. From the bottom of my heart I thank Tim, Sheila, Rachel, Gary, Jane, Kristi and Drew for their work up until the 2024 election, especially Tim and Sheila who have been helping people in the Beaudesert electorate and the Scenic Rim electorate since 2013 and 2012 respectively. One of them resigned in 2013 but keeps coming to work every day. I do not know how that is going to end because she is such a good worker and keeps coming in, even though she resigned many years ago. I thank her very much for that service to me and to our

community. Since the election, we have been joined by Poppy, Bridget and Emily. I thank them for their contributions so far in helping people in our community, who often contact our office for information about grants, information about federal issues and information about council issues. We point them in the right direction and make representations on their behalf as best as we can, wherever that may be.

I have always considered state MPs to be the best placed MPs in the entire system because we get inquiries about everything. We get inquiries about federal matters, about council matters and, of course, about state matters, so we as members and our offices need to learn a bit about all levels of Australian government. I see the member for Logan nodding in furious agreement. It is good that we can agree on that, member for Logan, because I know we have our disagreements sometimes. Be that as it may, I want to thank all of our staff for the work that they do.

I thanked the Premier and his team earlier on in this address, but I just want to mention it again. The now Premier displayed a terrific and outstanding example of leadership during the 2024 campaign, and it started all the way back in 2020 when he assumed the leadership of the Liberal National Party. The Premier has an unbelievable appetite for work for all of Queensland and for all Queenslanders. I have not met anybody in my professional work life who has a work ethic like our Premier.

The focus on fixing matters of concern to Queenslanders and on holding people to account was relentless in opposition, and now we are delivering results on crime, on health, on housing and on stopping waste. I congratulate the Premier and his team for that successful campaign and for our progress in government so far.

I thank all of my family for their support. I thank my wife and our sons for their unwavering support in my role representing the electorate, in particular my wife. It is a large electorate with many different parts. A lot of time is spent on the road. It is a large electorate for South-East Queensland. I know there are much larger electorates in other parts of the state, but for SEQ it is a large electorate and it means not only a lot of time spent on the road across the electorate but also time spent in and out of Brisbane and across Queensland. I am well aware of the toll it takes on my wife and our boys. I have become much more aware of the toll my not being there has on my sons as they get older. My family shares in the service of Scenic Rim, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

**Mr Boothman:** Kit's a wonderful lady.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Thank you, member for Theodore. To my brothers and parents-in-law: thank you for your support, which has been ongoing for many years. I wish to thank my parents for everything they have contributed to my campaigns over the years and their support over the course of my life. It is impossible to thank them enough. A lot of us could reflect on the incredible impact our parents and immediate family have when it comes to our reasons for being here, what it takes to become a candidate for political office and winning an election not just once but a couple of times.


Many members would know my father passed away in March 2025. He was a thoughtful and considered man and a steadfast LNP supporter. He was also willing to criticise us when he thought things were going wrong. Over the years there were times he was very frustrated with the things that the coalition, the National Party or the Liberal Party did and he was willing to criticise them. His influence on my political outlook was enormous, but his greater influence overall was as a dad to his sons and as a grandfather to his grandchildren.

I have not spoken in this place of his passing in March 2025, but I do thank everyone for their kind thoughts at that time. In this address-in-reply and reflecting on the 2024 election, I wish to clearly place on record the respect and gratitude that I have, along with all of my family and Dad's community, for his life. I say in this place: may Robert Arthur Krause OAM rest in peace.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr KRAUSE:** I have almost said everything that I want to say. In the time that I have remaining I just want to say thank you again to the Scenic Rim electorate. It is a huge honour for all of us to be in this place, but to be elected five times is very special to me. It is something we should never take for granted.

I, again, congratulate Mr Speaker on his elevation to that role. I am sure all members on the government benches will remember the 2024 election for all of the right reasons. It was a tremendous campaign—one that I think will be seen in the future as a turning point in Queensland's history. With that, I commend the Governor's opening address to the parliament. Thank you for the opportunity to say these few words in reflecting on the 2024 election.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (8.46 pm): I start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the lands of which I have the privilege to represent—the Kombumerri people—and pay my deepest

respects to those elders past, present and emerging. In preparing this address-in-reply, I went back to my first speech in this place and was reminded of my earliest memory of politics, which was when I was in grade 7. I had watched the movie *Rabbit-Proof Fence* and learned about the stolen generation. I was only 12 but I can distinctly remember how angry I felt as I discovered that our prime minister at the time, John Howard, was refusing to say sorry for the well-known and well-documented atrocities that were carried out against First Nations people in this country. It was really the first time that I understood the power of politics—in this case not for good.

I gave my first speech in this House on the week of the 10th anniversary of Kevin Rudd's national apology to the stolen generations. I said then that this was a timely reminder of how much more we needed to achieve on the path to reconciliation. The leadership shown by the then Rudd Labor government was one of the reasons I joined the Labor Party. I first handed out how-to-vote cards when I was still in school in 2007 at the Nerang PCYC, which is in the electorate that I have the privilege of representing today. It is one of the reasons that I still stand here today.

Unfortunately the politics of hope over fear is in stark contrast to what we have seen under this supposedly new Crisafulli LNP government. As *Courier Mail* journalist Hayden Johnson so rightfully put, history will show this government's 'first act in power was one of political cruelty, free from the decency and respect we were told would be a cornerstone', axing in the middle of the night the Path to Treaty and Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry. I, like a lot of Queenslanders, genuinely thought that maybe Premier Crisafulli would be different from some of the conservative politicians I was used to seeing when I was growing up. I believed him when he said Path to Treaty offers a fork in the road.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection of the member for Currumbin, who does not like listening to what is a really important issue for First Nations people. I will remind the member for Currumbin what the Premier said. He said that his word meant something, but clearly it means nothing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Could we not have so much noise and interjection because I cannot hear the speaker. Thank you.

**Ms SCANLON:** What he said was a Path to Treaty offers a 'fork in the road'—

**Ms Camm:** In 10 years what did you do?

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection: what did we do? We introduced a Path to Treaty Bill that was axed in the middle of the night by the LNP.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Whitsunday—

**Mr BUTCHER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point order. It is convention in this place that speeches in the address-in-reply debate are to be heard in silence. If those opposite want to keep going, this is not setting a good precedent.

**Ms CAMM:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point order. I refute the member for Gladstone's position. There is no point of order because the member took my interjection.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What we will do is we will continue the speech now. If we could just have order in the chamber, please.

**Ms SCANLON:** Those opposite have taken up a lot of time. I know they do not like hearing the words of the Premier, then opposition leader, who at the time supported the Path to Treaty and then got into government and backflipped.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Again, I cannot hear the speaker. It is getting late. If we could just have order in the House so we can hear the speaker.

**Ms SCANLON:** What was so cold about this decision was the fact that there were 60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people sitting in the gallery optimistic about Youth Parliament—only for their eyes to be filled with literal tears as Premier Crisafulli demonstrated that when he says something he means absolutely nothing. I will be doing everything in my power to hold this government to account and to remind Queenslanders that when they say things they mean nothing.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, I will ask you to cease interjecting. If you interject again, I will have to put you on a warning.

**Ms SCANLON:** I want to thank the Gaven electorate for placing their trust in me to continue serving the community I grew up in and love. I want to acknowledge the expectation of those who voted for me—I do not take the responsibility lightly—and, for those who supported another political party, I promise my door will always be open.

As part of my role, I am deeply aware of the responsibility to make the world a better place for the next generation, particularly for women. I am acutely aware that little girls are watching—all of us. They are seeing what is possible and imagining their own futures. One of my favourite parts of this job is seeing little girls have the confidence to come up to me and tell me their views and see no real barrier in being in spaces where years ago they would not have been welcome. I am conscious though that just being in this space is not enough. It is speaking up for meaningful change on wage parity, an end to gender-based violence, improved health responses and reproductive health care.

Investing in the next generation is one of the most important things we can do—even on the sporting field. I am incredibly proud to have secured funding for some of the great local sporting clubs in my electorate including the Mudgeeraba Nerang & Districts Cricket Club, the Carrara Saints ALF Club, the Nerang Bulls Rugby Union Club and the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre.

**Mrs Gerber:** Thank you, Bianca Stone!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, can we have some decorum in the chamber, please.

**Ms SCANLON:** That is reflective of the arrogance of this government. I was able to secure a commitment that a re-elected Labor government—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, could I ask you to stop interjecting.

**Ms SCANLON:** I ask the member for Currumbin to listen to this next bit—where the LNP did not commit to a whole range of organisations in my electorate who need funding.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, could you direct your comments through the chair?

**Ms SCANLON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. A re-elected Labor government had committed to upgrades to Nerang State High School, Nerang Eagles Football Club, Pacific Pines Football Club and Pacific Pines Netball Club. However, unfortunately, none of this was matched by the LNP, so I will continue to advocate for these clubs and schools to get the infrastructure they need to keep kids off the street and being active and healthy, because that is what this side of the House wants to do.

One of the other successes I am most proud of is securing funding for the On Demand Transport service, a service that has made a real difference to how people move around in our community. I will keep pushing to see it expanded to more suburbs including Carrara, Mount Nathan and Gaven.

As the only state Labor MP on the Gold Coast, I take incredibly seriously my responsibility to advocate for the infrastructure our growing city needs. That means ensuring the work that Labor started—the second M1, extending the light rail and the heavy rail to the airport, the Coomera Hospital and three new train stations—progresses. For too long the LNP have sat on fat margins and taken the Gold Coast for granted, so I know—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** We hear them laughing. They are taking for granted their fat margins already.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms SCANLON:** This was a hard fought campaign. It is very clear that the LNP wanted to take the seat of Gaven. That was evidenced by the fact that on some days on pre-poll we had nearly all of the Gold Coast LNP MPs not in their own communities representing them but instead on my pre-poll trying to get rid of the one Labor MP. I suspect that was because they do not like any scrutiny. They just want to have the entire Gold Coast because they do not want any scrutiny. They want to be able to do nothing.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Currumbin, you are on a warning now.

**Mr BUTCHER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Members are aware that there is a convention during the address-reply debate that members should be heard in silence. Can I please ask you to address them—

**Mrs Gerber:** Maiden speech!

**Mr BUTCHER:** Address-in-reply.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice. I would like the speaker to resume her speech. Could I ask both sides of the House to be calm and quiet so we can hear the rest of the speech. We only have a few minutes to go.

**Ms SCANLON:** This was a campaign focused on the things that matter—50-cent fares, cost-of-living relief, protecting abortion rights, community safety, more hospital beds and bulk-billing clinics through to housing.

**A government member:** What about housing?

**Ms SCANLON:** I can hear those opposite talking about housing, so I am really pleased to talk about it. We took to the election our plan of building 53,500 social homes, reforming the planning system, building more affordable housing in well-located areas, supporting renters and first home buyers, working towards ending homelessness and setting bold and long-term targets that will hold legislators, including the LNP, to account beyond even my time in this parliament.

Queenslanders will be watching very carefully to ensure these measures we fought hard for are not cut. Unfortunately, we are starting to see some of those measures already being wound back. We have an anti-housing minister in charge who was promoted to the job after railing against affordable homes on a disused golf course in his own electorate. He was okay with a wave pool being built up the road but not okay with affordable housing in Arundel.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, could I ask you to stop interjecting.

**Ms SCANLON:** In six months the LNP have axed 1,000 homes and there are more on the chopping block.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. You cannot cut something without any funding. I ask the member to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. I am happy to elaborate on the details on another point. Frankly, the housing minister has also kept secret the homelessness review. What we discovered last night is that, I suspect, the reason is that the member for Mermaid Beach is pulling the strings behind the scenes. He gave a speech last night about homeless people 'along the beachfront in prime public locations'—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, could I ask you to stop interjecting.

**Ms SCANLON:** What was his response to those homeless people who are struggling in his electorate? It was not to call Housing and Homelessness Services. No. He said, 'My first call, of course, is to my local police station ...'. When they told him that the vagrancy act is no longer applicable criminalising homeless people, his response was: 'Oh, it's unacceptable.' He doubled down. He has concerns around the fact that police cannot move people on. He said that 'regardless of their mental competence', those people should still be moved on. That is the position of the LNP.

**Mr O'Connor:** Oh, come on.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the groans from the housing minister. It is his own political party, so if he has some problems maybe he should go and talk to the member for Mermaid Beach who spent his entire speech in this parliament degrading homeless people in his community.

**Mr O'Connor:** That's not true.

**Ms SCANLON:** It is true, member for Bonney. It is true. You are just embarrassed because I would be too if I had a colleague like that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, if you could address your remarks through the chair.

**Mr Minnikin:** It seems very bitter, doesn't it? Very bitter speech—very bitter, very angry speech.

**Ms SCANLON:** I take the interjection. It is an angry response because it is a pretty disgraceful comment made, and the member for Chatsworth thinks it is funny. He thinks it is funny that the member for Mermaid Beach wants to put homeless people in jail.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Bonney, if you interject again, you will be on a warning.

**Ms SCANLON:** While the LNP sit on solutions Queenslanders are sleeping on the streets. They are right now sitting on a homelessness review that has a whole range of recommendations that homeless organisations contributed to and they are keeping it secret. They are also refusing to review the income thresholds of the Social Housing Register that have not been updated for 20 years. They are kicking people out, but they are refusing to acknowledge that the settings have not changed in 20 years.

Debate, on motion of Ms Scanlon, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

### LNP Government, Performance; Choum, Mr V



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.00 pm): The people of the Woodridge electorate know that the LNP L-platers have abandoned the idea of providing them with comprehensive cost-of-living relief. Under the LNP car rego is set to go up big time. Under the LNP all Queenslanders will not get electricity bill relief, and our community fears that another scheme that supports young Queenslanders being active and involved in community sport will be the next to fall under the LNP axe. Around 300,000 families have received \$200 Fair Play vouchers across Queensland to support their kids' involvement in community sport. Many parents in the Woodridge electorate have expressed their deep concern to me about the LNP axing this scheme. Queenslanders are not out of the woods yet when it comes to cost-of-living pressures. The LNP need to wake up to themselves and deliver much needed comprehensive cost-of-living relief to Woodridge families.

Tonight I want to pay tribute to a person who made a very real and profound contribution to my local community. On 14 April this year the Woodridge electorate lost a revered and valued person: His Holiness the Venerable Vanna Choum. His Holiness was a pioneer in our community, especially for members of the Cambodian community. He was a man of deep devotion to his faith. Becoming a Buddhist monk at the age of just 16, His Holiness dedicated his entire life to preserving Cambodian culture and practising the Buddhist faith.

His Holiness arrived in Logan City in 1990. In a city where thousands of people of Cambodian heritage now live, at the time he arrived there were just 26 Cambodian families living in the area. With deep devotion to his faith and community, in 1993 he purchased land on Third Avenue in Marsden. His Holiness went on to build one of the most beautiful Khmer Buddhist temples in Australia. Under his leadership the Marsden temple on Third Avenue became a place of peace and belonging. As others from within his community have said, he was not just a spiritual guide; he was as a visionary leader for his people. His Holiness was more than a monk: he was a guide, a mentor and a helper in times of need.

In time, the Marsden temple became not only a religious centre but also a landmark and tourist attraction in Logan City, welcoming people from all backgrounds and from all around the world. While his selfless service and his good works impacted people across the globe, it was in his beloved community of Logan that His Holiness spent over 30 years giving his all. It was apparent that His Holiness lived by three powerful principles: trust, transparency and integrity. They are principles we should all aspire to, and in that sense His Holiness leaves a lasting legacy for us all. Loved by many, revered by many, His Holiness the Venerable Vanna Choum will always be remembered in the Woodridge electorate and the city of Logan.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Maroochydore, there is way too much chatter. If you want to hold a conversation, take it outside the chamber.



**Longman, Mrs I; Mount Coolum National Park; Maroochydore Rugby Union Club**

**Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (9.04 pm): Mr Speaker, I firstly want to thank you and acknowledge the announcement you made today in regard to the statue that is being commissioned to acknowledge the legacy of Irene Longman, or Ireni Longman as some have called her—the first woman to be elected to the Queensland parliament. This is an outstanding announcement. We need to make sure people understand our history and our heritage. As we know, we all stand on the shoulders of those who have paved the way before us.

We have been celebrating that just over 100 women have been elected to the Queensland parliament since its inception, and Irene was the very first. I was No. 20, and it amazes me that since that time we have seen a lot of other women elected, and may there be many more good social conservatives and people from the LNP, just like back in Irene Longman's day. We acknowledge women across all sides of politics who have served in this parliament, but I am going to give a shout out to the first in Irene Longman as well as acknowledge the passing of Yvonne Chapman, our first female minister in Queensland.

I want to talk about a great achievement for my local area, and that is the new amenities for Mount Coolum National Park. This is a popular national park with a wonderful walkway at Mount Coolum yet there have not been any toilets there. Our government is providing \$425,000 in funding and we are working in partnership with the council, which are funding an additional \$50,000. It will be welcomed by all those who love our national park. We want to keep the national park pristine with an enjoyable walk for everybody. This is a great win. It is wonderful that the petitions and advocacy for this facility are now seeing this come to fruition under an LNP state government.

Keeping the lights on for our sports lovers is so important. We made an announcement during the election that an LNP state government would fund the upgrade of lights at the Maroochydore Rugby Union Club at Cotton Tree. They are end of life, they are rusty and they need to be replaced. This \$620,000 commitment by the LNP will make a huge difference to that club. They do not have a lot of money but they have a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of young and old people who love their sport. This will literally keep the lights on. I am absolutely thrilled to be part of an LNP government that is delivering for Queensland and my electorate of Maroochydore and for another generation of wonderful sportspeople who love their sports. They are going to be able to do that under lights.

**Gladstone Harbour Festival**

**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to highlight one of Central Queensland's most cherished community events, the Gladstone Harbour Festival, which was held again this year over the Easter long weekend. For more than 60 years the Gladstone Harbour Festival has been a cornerstone of the regional celebration, showcasing the spirit, culture and resilience of the Gladstone community, which I am so proud of. What began as a modest event to mark the arrival of the yachts in the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race has grown into a vibrant, multi-day celebration that draws thousands of locals and plenty of visitors into our region. This year's festival did not disappoint. It was absolutely amazing. With fireworks for kids over the harbour, free family entertainment all weekend, live music, carnival rides and local food vendors, the event once again delivered a world-class experience, and it was all made possible by the tireless efforts of volunteers and local organisers in the Gladstone region.

I want to pay particular tribute to the Gladstone Harbour Festival committee that organises this event every year. Year after year they dedicate countless hours to planning and executing this beloved tradition—one of the last free festivals held not only in Queensland but in Australia. Their commitment to delivering a free, inclusive and community-led event reflects the best of regional Australia and regional Queensland and Central Queensland in particular. Events like these do not happen without local engagement and supporters. I want to give a big thank you to the sponsors of the Gladstone Harbour Festival each year. They continue to keep it going with free entertainment for the kids and families in Gladstone.


The Harbour Festival also provides a vital boost to our local economy, making sure that tourists come in and the hospitality industry is supported. Businesses and community groups benefit on the back of that. In a region driven by industry and innovation, it is always good to see that a festival like ours offers a moment to celebrate what makes Gladstone a truly unique place to live and play, with our people, our harbour and our shared pride in the place we call home.

At times when regional voices are often overshadowed, events like the Harbour Festival remind us very strongly of the unity in rural and regional Australia. I extend my congratulations to everyone once again who was involved, and I look forward to seeing the festival continue to grow.

I want to give a shout-out to the Gladstone Regional Council who has brought back the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race and the festivities that go on with that event, particularly on the Brisbane to Gladstone Village that is set up by the boys from Lightbox every year to make sure everyone in Gladstone can go along and have a fantastic luncheon on the Friday and then a line-crossing party on the Sunday night where, I must say to everyone, I got up on stage in front of 500 people and sung *Sweet Caroline*. Wasn't that a great treat for the crowd!

With the eight seconds I have left, I congratulate Cameron Munster and the Queensland State of Origin side who are playing over in Western Australia on Wednesday. I wish them the best of luck.

### Rural and Regional Queensland, ICPA State Conference


 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.09 pm): I rise to speak on two important gatherings that took place that reflect on the heart of our rural and regional communities. The Isolated Children's Parents' Association State Conference was recently held in St George and the P&Cs Qld State Conference on the Gold Coast. Members of this House know just how crucial the ICPA are for rural and regional parents. The ICPA conference brought together Queenslanders from all corners of the state, and I was joined by the Assistant Minister for Western Queensland and member for Gregory, Sean Dillon, who has children who are currently on distance education, as well as the Assistant Minister for South West Queensland, Trevor Watts. I also want to commend Wendy Henning, the Chair of the ICPA. She did an absolutely fantastic job at chairing and keeping that conference going, as did Louise Martin, the federal president of the ICPA. The local ICPA branches absolutely excelled and did a fantastic job.

The ICPA are a great advocacy group, and I have known of their great work for a long time. It was fantastic to have them in my electorate on the banks of the Balonne in beautiful St George. Last year, I joined them for their state conference in Townsville, so it was really good to catch up with a lot of the ladies I had met previously in Townsville in my electorate at St George. They chose very well for a venue. The St George State High School goes above and beyond for their students. I would like to give a very special shout-out to the whole community of St George, but particularly the principal, Tom McKenna, a young principal who has come out to St George and he is really kicking some goals when it comes to agriculture in their school. The work they do there, including the work with ag is nothing short of special. I know assistant ministers Dillon and Watts toured the school and also the Agricultural School of Excellence. From what I have heard, it was a great insight into what they do for agriculture and young people there at the school. If there is ever a thought of an agricultural boarding school, I would have to say St George should be right at the front of the queue for that.

It brings me to the next volunteer event that I would like to showcase. Like the ICPA, the P&Cs are crucial for Queensland schools, and recently I had the honour of representing the Minister for Education and the Arts at the annual state conference. I am pleased to announce it was an incredible success. I had the great pleasure to engage with the P&C volunteers. I would especially like to give a shout-out to the P&C who showed tremendous commitment to come all the way from Yorke Island right up there in the Torres Strait down to the Gold Coast. It takes a day to get there and another one to get home, so good on those P&C from Yorke Island. It is testament to the great work that all Queensland P&Cs do. They are tremendous volunteers and what they do for our schools is absolutely commendable. I want to thank everyone involved in the conference, including the CEO of P&Cs Qld, Scott Wiseman. Our discussions on the work of volunteers will continue.

*(Time expired)*

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.12 pm): Eight months after taking office, the Crisafulli LNP government remains stuck in opposition mode. Their ministers have failed to make the crucial transition from criticism to governing, choosing instead to wage personal attacks in parliament and the media rather than develop meaningful policy. They ran a small-target campaign because they failed to use their time in opposition constructively, failing to develop real solutions to the critical challenges facing Queensland.


For years, they declared Queensland was in a health crisis. Eight months later, where is their plan to fix it? Instead of solutions, we have witnessed this government waging war on our hardworking

nurses while slashing vital health infrastructure investments. Queenslanders enduring lengthy hospital wait times and healthcare shortages deserve better than the scapegoating of frontline health workers, the very people who kept us safe during the pandemic and who continue to deliver essential care every single day.

The transport portfolio is in complete chaos. We have a transport minister who is so disconnected from reality and his responsibilities that he literally forgot he was the transport minister during question time today. Meanwhile, the Deputy Premier openly admits that Olympic transport connections have no plans but will cost the taxpayers 'a lot'. This is not leadership; this is the complete abdication of responsibility for the critical infrastructure that will define Queensland's future. As Queensland families struggle with the rising cost of living and mounting pressures on household budgets, what does this government deliver? Absolutely nothing. What has been made clear is that we will see a budget that is completely devoid of meaningful cost-of-living relief. Where are the measures to ease the burden on working families? Where is the plan to make lives easier for ordinary Queenslanders? Instead, we have a housing minister who is creating confusion and anxiety amongst some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. There are people in my electorate in social housing who do not know whether they will have a roof over their heads. One day they are told a certain eligibility criteria and threatened with eviction. Next, the minister backflips under pressure telling everyone there is nothing to see here; it is business as usual.

Queenslanders deserve so much better than this chaos. This LNP government has no economic vision for Queensland's future. No plan for jobs and no plan for industry development. They are more interested in looking after their mates rather than creating jobs and opportunities for everyday Queenslanders. Make no mistake: the truth is, this is not a serious government. They are not serious people running a serious government. Queensland deserves so much better. This LNP government is completely overwhelmed by the basic responsibility of governing. Queenslanders cannot afford a government that is this far out of its depth. They deserve action, vision and competence.


### **Rockhampton, Sporting Infrastructure Funding**

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.15 pm): Central Queensland is the heart of Rugby League and our region continues to be a powerhouse of talent. Just look at some of the household names that we have produced—Cameron Munster, our very own recently announced captain of Queensland for the 2025 State of Origin game 2. Then, there is Harry Grant, Ben Hunt, Tamika Upton, Steven Bell, Nev Callaghan, Jason Allen, Cyril Connell Jr—all proud NRL representatives from the Rockhampton area, with many more across our broader Central Queensland region. These players have shaped the NRL legacy, fuelling a community mad about Rugby League, with over 8,500 players across the region. We have elite development pathways through the Central Queensland Capras and Mackay Cutters and now, standing on the shoulders of the NRL greats before us, the next generation is pushing for a Central Queensland NRL team of our own—the CQRams—to unite our region under one banner and to foster future NRL legends at the grassroots.

However, across the board, our NRL facilities all desperately need serious upgrades just to meet the compliance standards enjoyed by most South-East Queensland clubs. We are grateful that local clubs have the opportunity to benefit from the Games On! grassroots sporting grants under the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032 Delivery Plan—crucial support for our overcrowded and outdated facilities.

Rockhampton's Browne Park is currently undergoing upgrades, with stage 1 due for completion in mid-2026, delivering a ground capacity for 5,500 spectators, which is expected to double on completion of stage 2. This will be the perfect home field for our CQRams NRL team, but there is a problem. Back in 2019, the previous Labor government initially funded the \$25 million Browne Park project. Later, due to blowouts, they needed to increase that to \$54 million. With costs more than doubling it is concerning—though not surprising—that the previous Labor government failed to rigorously assess the business case for this much needed facility. Now we have learned that the existing budget cannot deliver the full scope of stage 1. Additional funding is required for a scoreboard, lights suitable for broadcast and grass for field rectification. I have already begun advocating for this and I will continue to fight for the necessary funding to see stage 1 through to completion for our community, for the NRL, for Central Queensland and for our CQRams NRL bid.

### **FairPlay Vouchers**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (9.19 pm): My boys, like many young people in the Morayfield state electorate, love playing team sport. It is actually a very topical issue at the moment, particularly at

the Caboolture Show. I had my stall at the Caboolture Show and a lot of people were coming up to me and talking about the FairPlay vouchers. I was very proud to be part of a government that advocated not only for the increase in the monetary amount of FairPlay vouchers but, critically—and this was the biggest reform—the expansion of the eligibility criteria for FairPlay vouchers. We advocated for it, we delivered it and now we are advocating for it to continue.

I have been conducting a survey in my electorate gauging people's opinion about the FairPlay vouchers, particularly around the expanded eligibility, and I would like to share the results with the House. I did have an overwhelming response. In relation to the question, 'Without the FairPlay voucher, would your children will be able to participate in sport?', 39 per cent said no. So the government removing that eligibility, lowering the voucher amount or removing the vouchers would result in 39 per cent of young people who are participating in sport in the Morayfield electorate not able to anymore.

In respect of how important the FairPlay voucher is in helping to manage costs, 100 per cent of respondents said it was either essential or very important. In respect of whether they want to see the scheme continue, 100 per cent said yes. I also asked for some feedback from people around what it meant to them. One respondent said—

FairPlay vouchers have been invaluable. ... It gives kids a really good chance.

Another said—

The FairPlay voucher has enabled my 5 kids to all participate in sport when it would have been too expensive ... as a single parent otherwise.

Another one said, 'Our Scout Group has received over 200 Fair Play Vouchers, a huge increase in members due to the opportunity for young people to participate.' Another one said, 'It's been amazing to have the vouchers as it helps with the increased costs associated with sport.' Another one said, 'With club fees, uniform and travel it would be too expensive and it adds to the weekly bills. The FairPlay vouchers mean that we could afford new boots for our son to play instead of his old ones which were getting tight.' The final one that I would like to note tonight states—

My daughter has played club sport since she was 5 because of the ... FairPlay vouchers. She's now 12, playing multiple ... sports for school and clubs. Without Fair Play help she wouldn't have had that opportunity. My son also coming up to 5 years and he wants to start playing sport, without the Fair Play voucher he won't be able to.

I call on the Treasurer and the government to keep the expanded FairPlay. It makes a difference. It gets kids into sport.

### **Toowoomba South Electorate, King's Birthday Awards**



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.22 pm): I rise tonight to acknowledge a number of our community members who are making a significant difference. I want to start with Ash Powell, who is the youth member for Toowoomba South. I had the great privilege of meeting Ash recently and I see her popping up all around our community. She is a St Saviour's student. I have seen her at Protea Place. She is really committed in so many different areas of our community to really making every post a winner while the youth member for Toowoomba South. She is another reminder of why our future leadership is in very good hands. I say: congrats, Ash; continue making every post a winner.

I want to acknowledge a couple of King's Birthday award winners. Retired Major David Melandri is a significant contributor right around the Toowoomba community. David is heavily devoted to veterans matters and has volunteered with Legacy for many years, so I say congratulations David.


Congratulations also go to Rob Craig OAM. Rob is a significant contributor to the Society of St Andrew. Rob has also been a long-term Lions member for many years. I got to know Rob when he was business development manager at Concordia Lutheran College, my old school—and your son's old school, too, Mr Speaker, if I remember correctly. I am very pleased to see that Rob has been acknowledged in that way.

Finally, when talking about King's Birthday award winners I could not go on without mentioning Clive Berghofer AO. There can be no greater and more deserving recipient than Clive Berghofer, who recently turned 90. I ran into Clive and Sue at the Bronco's game and he was as fit as a fiddle and was supporting his Broncos to which he has contributed so much over the years. I also acknowledge Clive's more than \$140 million in donations to various charities, community groups, health organisations and a variety of other charitable causes over his lifetime—\$140 million gifted—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection: a true Queensland great and I reckon it was long overdue for Clive to get that deserving award, and I congratulate him for it. I also acknowledge that just most recently he gave \$75,000 to a fundraising lunch for Lex Bailey. I want to acknowledge Amelia who contributed significantly to holding that lunch in Lex's honour after he passed away recently of motor neurone disease in order to raise funds for additional equipment at the Toowoomba Hospital so patients can get better treatment earlier. Thanks to Clive who gave that donation and I want to acknowledge Lex's life and the business legends that are the Bailey family in Toowoomba. To all those people, congratulations.

### Climate Change


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.25 pm): It has been heartbreaking to see the scale of destruction in the Mid North Coast of New South Wales over the past few weeks with around 10,000 homes and businesses damaged or destroyed in major flooding. Many of those affected were uninsured after previous floods left them uninsurable. This will no doubt be a really triggering scene for countless people in my electorate and across Queensland who have experienced flooding in recent times. Queensland is Australia's most disaster prone state. Killer heatwaves, deadly bushfires, destructive cyclones, storms and floods are just part of the landscape, but it is only going to get worse and the flow-on effects will be devastating—increased disease, crop failure, water scarcity and economic and social instability. We are long past describing any of this kind of talk as alarmist. This is the future that we as decision-makers in this state and this country are lining up for our kids and our grandkids and their kids and their grandkids, yet both major parties have got their foot on the gas—quite literally—driving as fast as possible towards devastating climate collapse.

It took the majority federal Labor government less than a month post election to approve a 45-year expansion to the North West Shelf gas project off the coast of WA. That is even quicker than the federal LNP promised to approve the same project if elected. The people of Australia did not decisively vote against the LNP just to watch federal Labor implement policies at the same breathtaking speed. The project will contribute more emissions over its lifetime than all of Australia's coal plants together and this approval means it will operate out to 2070. That is 20 years beyond—a whole 20 years beyond—Australia's net zero commitment, and what was the Prime Minister's response to that when asked? He said, 'It's net zero, not zero.' How glib! Talk about gas lobby gaslighting from the pm. In that same week the Queensland LNP opened up nine new areas for gas exploration covering 16,000 square kilometres, threatening not just the stability of the climate but also the vitality of the groundwater resources that their regional and rural constituents rely on.

After years of fighting for climate action, I am still left baffled by how both major parties can continue to approve new coal and gas and with a straight face hide behind semantics and artificial emissions accounting. It cannot be for the tax benefits to constituents considering that gas companies do not pay any and it cannot be for supplying the domestic market and keeping energy prices down considering that the vast majority of domestic gas production is exported. It is for the hundreds of thousands of dollars that companies like Woodside donate to Labor and the LNP. No amount of money is comparable to the 50,000 years of cultural history in the Murujuga rock art and it is a pittance compared to the billions of dollars of damages we can expect from the climate disasters coming.

*(Time expired)*

### Moir Farming, 100th Anniversary

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.28 pm): Today I want to take a moment to pay tribute to our multigenerational farmers. The Lockyer Valley is the seventh most fertile in the world, but it is the multigenerational farmers who are the cornerstones of our community. Farming is more than a profession; it is a legacy. Farmers work the land, but they also work hard in our communities. They preserve the land and are stewards for future generations. Recently I had the honour of attending a milestone celebration of one such family when we gathered to mark the 100th anniversary of Moira Farming.

Moir Farming is owned by the farming family of the Brimblecombes. They have been there for four generations, not just tending the toil and cultivating the crops, but also the community spirit. At the celebration, patriarch and statesman of our Lockyer community Alan Brimblecombe, now in his nineties, shared with us a book chronicling his life and family history. I have known Alan for many years and deeply respect his wisdom, humility and unwavering commitment to others. He is a steadfast advocate for our community and always ready with thoughtful insight. The celebration was a wonderful bringing together of the Moira Farming family, not just the close-knit family that is the Brimblecombes but also

their extended family and all the stakeholders, businesses and companies that have supported Moira Farming over the years and generations in a lot of cases. I have presented the book to the Parliamentary Library and I have some copies to give to our local council library and school libraries.

I had the honour of meeting Alan for the first time when he was the chairman of the UQ Gatton Council at the time when there was the amalgamation of UQ and Gatton. There was a lot of fear in our community when the Queensland Agricultural Training College was taken over by UQ, but with Alan in that leadership position we were never going to miss out. It was a great experience. Alan's leadership continued all the way through the 2011 floods when he shared with me great advice to make sure that we got the best outcome from our community. Leadership has been passed down through the generations with the Brimblecombe family. I am grateful to be an associate of Linton and Mitch, the next generation coming through. It is wonderful to see great statespeople in our community who have contributed over many generations. Tonight it is an absolute honour to pay tribute to Alan Brimblecombe and his family.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

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