



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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## TUESDAY, 24 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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 16 June 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Marine Rescue Queensland Act 2024, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Sector Act 2022, the State Emergency Service Act 2024 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 and the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act 2024 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

16 June 2025

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 June 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 16 June 2025 [\[720\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Absence of Member



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice that the member for Mudgeeraba will be absent from 24 June to 27 June, inclusive of those days. I am satisfied that the member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

#### Panel of Temporary Speakers



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, due to the current absence of the member for Southern Downs, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have discharged Mr James Lister, member for Southern Downs, from the Panel of Temporary Speakers and appointed Mr Marty Hunt, member for Nicklin, to the panel.

## Ministerial Statements



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 62(1) provides for ministerial statements. That standing order provides—

A Minister during the time allotted by Sessional Orders, or any time during Government Business so as to not interrupt a debate of a matter, may make a statement relating to matters of Government policy or public affairs.

The previously expressed view of Speakers, with which I concur, is that a ministerial statement should be a statement confined to matters of government policy or public affairs. This could be a new policy or initiative, the government reaction to a disaster or incident, or reporting back on the outcome of government performance. In the context of the standing order, 'public affairs' does not include anything in the public domain. It must have a relationship to governing this state.

I would ask ministers to ensure that they are respectful of the intent of the standing order. Ministerial statements must be conducted in a way that is courteous of the House, temperate in language and observant of all the normal rules of debate. What I am saying today accords with previous Speakers' rulings and statements: see Speaker Mickel, 6 October 2010 on page 3591; Speaker Pitt, 30 November 2023 on page 3907; and Speaker Pitt, 5 March 2025 on pages 321-322.

## State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee Report, Unparliamentary Language



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it has come to my attention that report No. 8 of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill*, tabled on Friday, 20 June, contained some unparliamentary language. The unparliamentary language is in the statement of reservation tabled as part of the report.

I take this opportunity to remind all members that committee reports form part of the proceedings of the House and so the rules of the House in respect of its proceedings apply to them in their entirety. Committee secretariats support committee chairs to fulfil their role to ensure the rules of the House are followed. In this instance, an oversight saw this language overlooked. I therefore order that the report as tabled be withdrawn as a tabled paper. I would ask the committee to reconvene and do all that is necessary to ensure a replacement report is tabled today that accords with the rules of the House. I would also remind members that the work of committees in this House is important work. It should not be polluted by puerility.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Same Question Rule



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In summary, the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 45, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58 and 62 of the bill, contrary to standing order 87. A motion to suspend standing order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

### SPEAKER'S RULING—APPLICATION OF SAME QUESTION RULE—PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and other Acts that were amended within the 58th Parliament.

The Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced on 1 May 2025 and seeks to amend provisions within the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 that have already been considered by the House in this session of Parliament in the context of amendments contained in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, which was passed by the House on 28 November 2024 and received assent on 29 November 2024.


Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, Standing Order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a Bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Clauses 45, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58 and 62 of the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill propose amendments to provisions of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 that are substantially the same as amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament due to the passing of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024. This is contrary to Standing Order 87.

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 45, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58 and 62 of the Bill contrary to Standing Order 87. A motion to suspend Standing Order 87 would be required for these clauses to be considered.


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### *Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material*

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, sessional order 10 provides that for the debate on the annual appropriation bills it is not necessary for members to seek leave of the House to incorporate material in the *Record of Proceedings* provided members have shown the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker the material sought to be incorporated and have obtained the Speaker's or Deputy Speaker's consent as per standing order 25.

Before consent will be given, members must assure and undertake that, for a speech relating to the appropriation bills, the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 15-minute speech—thus no speech should exceed 2,600 words. Speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material; members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech; other members will be provided access, on request, to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*; and speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections, imputations and the like.

### 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 Brightwater State School in the electorate of Buderim and Meringandan State School in the electorate of Condamine.

## PETITIONS

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

### Police Service, Personnel

**Hon de Brenni**, from 1,941 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise community safety by maintaining and appropriately staffing our local police beats and stations [\[711\]](#)[\[712\]](#).

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

### Environmental Defenders Office, Funding

**Hon Linard**, from 1,810 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Government to deliver on its election commitment that funding for the Environmental Defenders Office would continue [\[713\]](#).

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

### Townsville City Council

1,340 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures regarding the governance and operations of the Townsville City Council [\[714\]](#).

### Buses, Safety Barriers

799 petitioners, requesting the House to have safety barriers fitted to all buses in Queensland and declare all buses unroadworthy and cancel the buses registration until such time as the barriers are fitted [\[715\]](#).

### Redbank Railway Station, Road Bridge

228 petitioners, requesting the House to address safety concerns arising from heavy vehicles using the road bridge after Redbank train station [\[716\]](#).

### Translink Bus Services, GPS Units

604 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure it is a legal requirement for all bus companies providing Translink routes to have a GPS unit fitted with the bus routes [\[717\]](#).

**Israeli Government**

906 petitioners, requesting the House to condemn the actions of the government of Israel for its actions in Gaza [\[718\]](#).

**Members of Parliament, Social Media**

939 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct MPs and in particular ministers to stop blocking voters on social media and to resume answering all emails [\[719\]](#).

Petitions received.

**TABLED PAPERS****PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)**

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

13 June 2025—

[639](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, May 2025

16 June 2025—

[640](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 1 April 2025

17 June 2025—

[641](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade mission to the People's Republic of China by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, 11-17 May 2025

[642](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on overseas visit by the Speaker to the United Kingdom, 3-17 May 2025

[643](#) Queensland Music Festival—Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2024

18 June 2025—

[644](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Refinancing) dated 19 February 2020

[645](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (First Close-Out Extension) dated 30 April 2020

[646](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Abatement) dated 22 May 2020

[647](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Second Close-Out Extension) dated 31 July 2020

[648](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Third Close-Out Extension) dated 30 November 2020

[649](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Fourth Close-Out Extension) dated 22 January 2021

[650](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Fifth Close-Out Extension) dated 23 April 2021

[651](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Letter of Amendment—Timing of Invoice for Floating Rate Component dated 20 May 2021

[652](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Sixth Close-Out Extension) dated 20 October 2021

[653](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Seventh Close-Out Extension) dated 18 February 2022

[654](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Eighth Close-Out Extension) dated 27 October 2022

[655](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Ninth Close-Out Extension) dated 28 March 2023

[656](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Tenth Close-Out Extension) dated 26 May 2023

[657](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Eleventh Close-Out Extension) dated 30 October 2023

[658](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Twelfth Close-Out Extension) dated 22 February 2024

[659](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Thirteenth Close-Out Extension) dated 24 May 2024

[660](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation (Fourteenth Close-Out Extension) dated 29 July 2024

[661](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Modification Order—Close-Out and Outstanding Works Completion dated 18 September 2024

[662](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Close-Out Modification—State Side Deed dated 18 September 2024

[663](#) Toowoomba Second Range Crossing: Project Deed—Deed of Variation dated 10 December 2024



19 June 2025—

- [664](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 9, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Reports to Parliament
- [665](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Palen Creek Correctional Centre Inspection Report, June 2025
- [666](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4200-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 2,643 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise critical upgrades along the Bruce Highway and Woolcock Street corridor for Townsville's northern suburbs
- [667](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4232-25) sponsored by the member for Bancroft, Mr Whiting, from 294 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce new and improved bus routes to better serve the communities of Burpengary East and North Harbour
- [668](#) Response from the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism (Hon. Simpson), to an ePetition (4195-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,670 petitioners, requesting the House to reestablish the Path to Treaty Act 2023 and the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry

20 June 2025—

- [669](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 5, 58th Parliament—Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
- [670](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4204-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 3,155 petitioners, requesting the House to update liquor licensing regulations to improve competition and end the era of protecting major retailers
- [671](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

23 June 2025—

- [672](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie), to a paper petition (4242-25) presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4174-24) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 94 and 671 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to not proceed with the Marmadua Energy Park and the Tara Wind Farm development due to the region's bushfire history
- [673](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4239-25) sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,573 petitioners, requesting the House to bring to the attention of the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data the lack of public accessible data regarding native forest logging
- [674](#) Electoral Commission Queensland—2024 State General Election Report

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Criminal Code Act 1899, Jury Act 1995, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991:

- [675](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 44
- [676](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 44, explanatory notes
- [677](#) Justice Legislation (Allowances) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 44, human rights certificate

Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002:

- [678](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Retirement Village Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 45
- [679](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Retirement Village Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 45, explanatory notes
- [680](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) (Retirement Village Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 45, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

- [681](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 46
- [682](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 46, explanatory notes
- [683](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 500) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 46, human rights certificate

Disability Services Act 2006:

- [684](#) Disability Services Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 47
- [685](#) Disability Services Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 47, explanatory notes
- [686](#) Disability Services Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 47, human rights certificate

Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Land Court Act 2000, Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [687](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 48
- [688](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 48, explanatory notes
- [689](#) Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 48, human rights certificate

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994:

- [690](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2025, No. 49
- [691](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2025, No. 49, explanatory notes
- [692](#) Motor Accident Insurance Indexation Notice 2025, No. 49, human rights certificate

Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980:

- [693](#) Body Corporate and Community Management (Body Corporate Certificate Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 50
- [694](#) Body Corporate and Community Management (Body Corporate Certificate Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 50, explanatory notes
- [695](#) Body Corporate and Community Management (Body Corporate Certificate Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 50, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

- [696](#) Major Events (British and Irish Lions Tour) Regulation 2025, No. 51
- [697](#) Major Events (British and Irish Lions Tour) Regulation 2025, No. 51, explanatory notes
- [698](#) Major Events (British and Irish Lions Tour) Regulation 2025, No. 51, human rights certificate

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003:

- [699](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2025, No. 52
- [700](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2025, No. 52, explanatory notes
- [701](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2025, No. 52, human rights certificate

Building Act 1975, Fire Services Act 1990, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999:

- [702](#) Fire Services and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 53
- [703](#) Fire Services and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 53, explanatory notes
- [704](#) Fire Services and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 53, human rights

Civil Liability Act 2003:

- [705](#) Civil Liability Indexation Notice 2025, No. 54
- [706](#) Civil Liability Indexation Notice 2025, No. 54, explanatory notes
- [707](#) Civil Liability Indexation Notice 2025, No. 54, human rights certificate

Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002:

- [708](#) Personal Injuries Proceedings Indexation Notice 2025, No. 55
- [709](#) Personal Injuries Proceedings Indexation Notice 2025, No. 55, explanatory notes
- [710](#) Personal Injuries Proceedings Indexation Notice 2025, No. 55, human rights certificate

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Budget



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.39 am): This afternoon, the Treasurer will deliver our government's first budget. This budget is about delivering for Queensland. It is the fresh start we promised. Since we came to government, we have been up-front and honest with Queenslanders. Labor hid cost blowouts and failed to fund critical services. We have been left with a lot of work to do to repair the budget, but we promised a calm and methodical approach and that is exactly what we have done. Structural reforms and long-term measures will provide certainty for Queenslanders and that is something that Labor never did. Our budget will respect taxpayers' money, just as we promised. Most importantly, it will be a budget that honours our commitments.

We promised easier access to healthcare services for every Queenslanders. That is why our budget will make a record investment in health. It is part of our plan to ease Labor's health crisis and deliver more free health services. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will save hospitals right across

Queensland. At hospitals like the Mater at Springfield, Labor promised to fully fund operational requirements but did not allocate a single dollar for critical services or staff. Our budget will fund the staff needed to deliver world-class health services where Queenslanders need them.

The budget will also focus on making our communities safer. We will back police by giving them the vital equipment they need to do their jobs. Labor ignored the desperate pleas of frontline officers for the equipment they needed. Paired with our Making Queensland Safer Laws, this investment will ensure police have the resources they need to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis.

To help more Queenslanders find a place to call home, we have already axed a Labor tax and extended the first home owner grant. Our new Boost to Buy program will see us help more Queenslanders into home ownership. It will be a nation-leading program. Investment in the Residential Activation Fund will help activate more housing supply. A major boost to homelessness services and crisis accommodation will deliver more support to vulnerable Queenslanders.

We know cost of living remains a key issue for Queenslanders. We have already made 50-cent fares permanent, which is fully funded across the forwards and that is something that Labor never delivered. Some 60,000 kids will benefit from free health checks at kindy, which will help our youngest Queenslanders get the best possible start for their education. Our \$200 Play On! sport and active recreation vouchers will help keep kids active and take pressure off the household budget. We have expanded the program to cover both summer and winter sports. It will be shared across the state and it will be the largest investment ever made. Here is the interesting part: unlike the former Labor government, we have fully funded our program across the forwards.

When the 2025-26 budget is delivered later today, Queenslanders will see that our government is delivering exactly what we promised when we were elected. This budget will lay the foundations for the fresh start that Queenslanders deserve.

## Budget



**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.43 am): Today Queenslanders will get to see what real positive change looks like when the Crisafulli government delivers its very first budget. Later today, the Treasurer will set out a budget that not only puts service delivery and respect for taxpayers' money back at the heart of government but also lays the foundations for the delivery of essential and generational infrastructure for our state, no matter where you live.


We know that Queenslanders are struggling as a result of the cost-of-living crisis created by Labor, so we will respond as we should by delivering key cost-of-living measures to ease pressure on households. We know that Queenslanders looking to get into their first home are facing a housing market in crisis because Labor failed to invest in housing. This budget will make it easier for first home buyers in this state who do not have access to the bank of mum and dad to get onto the ladder and achieve the great Australian dream of home ownership. The Crisafulli government is also unlocking land for homes across Queensland through our landmark \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, getting more Queenslanders into homes sooner, with at least 50 per cent of that funding to be spent in rural and regional Queensland.

Many Queenslanders know all too well about the budget black holes and underinvestment that the health system faced under Labor. Now they have a government that is committed not merely to flashy renders but to a capital works program that will heal the health crisis, which means that patients can get the quality care they deserve.

Who could forget the state of the Olympic and Paralympic Games under those opposite with an almost \$3.5 billion black hole for athletes villages, a cancelled Gabba plan that blew out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion and a flawed QSAC plan conjured up by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for McConnel that would have embarrassed Queensland on the world stage and have set Queenslanders back by \$2.2 billion, which is \$650 million more than the Labor Party first promised.

Labor's purported Big Build was nothing more than a big hoax. Budget blowouts, project delays and an underfunded and undeliverable capital works program is Labor's legacy. The Crisafulli government will do what it takes to get our state back on track—back on the right path. Queenslanders do not have long to wait to see what delivering a fresh start for them really looks like.

## CFMEU

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.45 am): I wish to address the disgraceful issues we saw last week involving the CFMEU. This government is taking action against the actions of the CFMEU. We have reintroduced 24-hour right-of-entry laws in this state, which the Labor Party abolished when they came to government in 2015. We reinstated those laws within the first six months of the Crisafulli government. We have hung up the batphone to the CFMEU in the Office of Industrial Relations. They do not have special access to the OIR anymore. We have hung up the member for McConnell's CFMEU batphone. It is gone. Everyone is equal in the Office of Industrial Relations.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Just moments ago, you provided a statement to the House in relation to ministerial statements. I think the Deputy Premier's contribution is well outside the scope that you outlined. I ask you to instruct him to ensure the dignity of the House is maintained.

**Mr Bleijie:** It was an action I took as a minister.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, could you instruct the Deputy Premier to ensure that his statement is a ministerial statement, not a political attack.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take it from here, thank you.


**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, there will be no quarrelling across the chamber. Member for McConnell, there will be no quarrelling across the chamber. Leave this with me. Minister, you heard my ruling. You are talking about policy issues but I ask you to be specific to those policy issues in rounding off your contribution.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Another policy we have suspended is BPIC, also known as the CFMEU tax. It is now suspended. We have set up the Productivity Commission in this state. Its first order of business is to look into the building industry. If there is more to do against the CFMEU then we will act. We are dealing with 10 years of Labor supported policy in the CFMEU and their disgraceful behaviour on work sites. In this government we believe that every worker has a right to be safe at work, not to be abused or subjected to fear and thuggish intimidation by the CFMEU. The Crisafulli government will act and if there is more to do then we will do it.

## Budget, Health Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): This budget is about doing what we said we would do: delivering a fresh start for Queensland, including providing easier access to health services. That includes delivering health care closer to home for Queenslanders living in the rapidly growing western metropolitan corridor. That is why on Sunday I was delighted to be joined by the Premier and the Treasurer to announce the Crisafulli government's \$638 million investment to fund operations at the new Mater Hospital Springfield.

Once opened in 2026, the Mater Hospital Springfield will provide 186 public beds, an emergency department, operating theatres, an intensive care ward, and maternity and paediatric care. Mater Mothers in the western corridor: who wouldn't want that? This is a critical project for the people of Ipswich and the West Moreton region. When we came to government, we expected to see funding set aside to commence operations at the hospital, but the cupboard was bare. Labor had allocated zero dollars for the staff, facilities and operational expenses that are actually needed to run a hospital. In a true *Yes, Minister* moment, the Labor Party would build the building but not put in any money to actually pay for staff or provide services.

We looked for the funding that would pay the doctors, nurses and midwives. What did we find? Nothing. We searched for the money set aside for vital operational staff—cleaners, cooks, orderlies and administrators. How much was there? Zero. We even looked for the funding that would keep the lights on, buy the surgical equipment needed, see the pharmacy stocked with supplies and power the sliding doors. Was there any? No, it was not there. It is abundantly clear that Labor did not believe in the Mater Hospital Springfield, but we do. We will not take the residents in the western corridor electorates for

granted like Labor did. We will provide \$638 million for these critical services for the people of Ipswich and the West Moreton region—something that Labor failed to do—as we rescue Labor’s failed hospital big build.

Mater Hospital Springfield is just one example of how the Crisafulli government’s budget is delivering a fresh start for Queensland when it comes to health services. In the lead-up to the election we also listened to parents and frontline professionals who told us that undiagnosed health and development issues were causing children to fall behind in their early years of education, preventing healthy development. The Crisafulli government is determined to give every Queensland kid the best possible chance to start school strong. That is why we are committing to giving every Queensland kid access to free vision, hearing and speech checks before starting prep, and this budget delivers \$37.5 million to do it.

I stood alongside the Premier and the Treasurer this past weekend and said that Healthy Kindy Kids will be implemented in Townsville from this October and will ramp up to reach 60,000 Queensland kids when fully established, which will give the future of Queensland the strong start it deserves. Through practical early intervention, we will give Queensland kids the best possible start and back parents with the support they need. Whether it is keeping kindy kids healthy or delivering the Mater Hospital Springfield, the Crisafulli government’s budget will deliver on our commitments to the people of Queensland.

### Budget, Education Funding



**Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (9.52 am): As honourable members are aware, we are in budget week. We on this side are keen to deliver for Queensland. Unlike those opposite, who have a paradoxical habit of overspending and underfunding, we respect taxpayers’ money. Judiciously, we have made decisions for the greater benefit of Queenslanders, and we are poised to deliver a fresh start for our education system.

A major achievement we look forward to delivering on is the implementation of the policies and programs related to the biggest education funding boost in Queensland’s history: the \$2.8 billion additional Commonwealth investment over the next decade and beyond. The Crisafulli government will have fully funded state education for the first time in Queensland’s history. The Crisafulli government stepped up and achieved a deal that Labor could not.

The last agreement, which the then minister signed up to, short-changed a generation of students by failing to increase the share of the state’s contribution to our education system for at least six years. I will table a copy of appendix 7 of the bilateral agreement between Queensland and the Commonwealth on the implementation of school education reform in late 2023. I draw members’ attention to page 8, which shows the state contribution did not increase from 2018 to 2023. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘Appendix 7: Bilateral Agreement between Queensland and the Commonwealth on Implementation of School Education Reform’ [\[721\]](#).

The stagnation of this reform was a reflection of Labor’s ludicrous attitude to our children’s education. How did those opposite expect to improve schooling with no funding portion increases? Once again, the paradox was laid bare: underfunding whilst overspending and leaving us in the red.

Something else Labor could not do was deliver on the building of schools. I would like to draw the House’s attention to their announcement in 2022 that they were going to build a state school in Caloundra. They promised it would be finished by 2025; however, Labor secretly reallocated the funding, failing to meet the promise they had made. Recklessly and deceitfully, they raised the hopes of the people of Caloundra only to disappoint them. It seems to be a common theme of those opposite.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. I can confirm that the Crisafulli government’s 2025-26 budget will allocate funding to build a new primary school for up to 1,140 children in the area. I was pleased to join the member for Caloundra and the Treasurer last Friday. This will meet the demand of one of the fastest growing areas in this state. It will mean that local children will be able to attend a school in their area, benefiting families, road traffic, lifestyle, the teachers and parents. Caloundra South is set to grow and will have an additional 50,444 residents by 2041—an additional 2,800 people each year. We have methodically reviewed the statistics. We have made decisions based on facts, based on need, based on listening to our communities and based on being a good government.

## Forensic Science Queensland



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.55 am): I rise to provide an update on the leadership and status of testing operations at Forensic Science Queensland. As announced on Friday, I have suspended the director of Forensic Science Queensland, pending a show cause notice for her removal. This action was taken in response to serious information brought to my attention about the performance of the lab, and as we continue to uncover more of Labor's failures to address longstanding issues at FSQ.

On Friday morning I was notified that FSQ had implemented a seven-day pause on routine DNA testing after concerns were raised about potential contamination issues. As part of his work on our government's independent review of the DNA lab, Dr Bruce Budowle had alerted FSQ to issues regarding contamination in laboratory environmental samples and possible sample-to-sample contamination. Environmental samples are routinely taken for quality assurance from laboratory surfaces and equipment to check for the presence of DNA. This helps to identify potential sources of contamination and to check if cleaning and decontamination protocols are effective. Sample-to-sample contamination occurs when DNA in a sample contaminates a different sample. This can be detected through various checks in the DNA analysis process.

Following meetings with Dr Budowle and his review team, the decision was taken by FSQ to temporarily pause all routine DNA testing while the issues were investigated. As I announced on Friday, the pause will occur for a preliminary period of seven days to conduct the necessary laboratory deep cleaning, staff training, root cause analysis, process review and environmental monitoring. This analysis will also reveal whether any retesting of samples is required and, if so, which types of samples and over what timeframe. We expect to understand more about these possible impacts over the coming week, and FSQ will review the pause at the end of the seven days.

Workarounds have been put in place to ensure high-priority samples from the Queensland Police Service can still be tested. My focus remains, as always, on the potential impact of these matters on victims of crime. I am advised that at this stage of the investigation no crime scene samples have been impacted.

As I have stated in this House before, getting to the bottom of Labor's DNA debacle has been an absolute priority for the Crisafulli government. In stark contrast to those opposite, we have been open and transparent with Queenslanders every step of the way and taken immediate action. The independent review we commissioned within our first 100 days in office is uncovering issues that Labor either ignored or buried in their 10 years in office. We will stop at nothing to deliver justice for victims and rebuild Queensland's forensic testing services to a world-class standard.

## Police Resources



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland and we are delivering for police to restore safety where you live. We are committed to giving police the laws and the resources they need, and we are doing just that.


As we announced yesterday, the Crisafulli government has proudly delivered on our commitment to provide the Queensland police with 6,546 top of the range Taser 10s, along with 1,623 tyre deflation devices; almost \$30 million—\$29.9 million—in funding for integrated load-bearing vests; and \$41.4 million to replace body worn cameras. We are also investing \$5.6 million in lifesaving tactical first-aid kits for every frontline officer; \$6.1 million to replace roadside breath-testing devices; and \$8.9 million for additional portable handheld radios. Our men and women in blue often place themselves in danger to keep our communities safe, so they deserve essential modern and reliable equipment.

After a decade of weak laws and underfunded police, the Crisafulli government is helping our state turn the corner. Taser 10s are a vital bit of kit in the police tool belt. They are renowned for their accuracy, range and ability to deploy multiple probes without the need to reload. It gives officers time and space to de-escalate conflicts and avoid using lethal force. It beggars belief that the former Labor government only committed to delivering 1,000 tasers by 2028. In stark contrast, yesterday we committed to a 650 per cent increase in the number of tasers. It was almost a cruel joke. Was a single taser really expected to be shared by a handful of cops on the front line? Like many Labor government decisions, it lacked practicality, risked safety and showed that Labor did not prioritise our police.

Before the election we told the Queensland Police Union that we would ensure every frontline police officer had access to a Taser 10, and I am proud to announce that we are delivering on that promise. It is not enough to just increase our front line; we need to invest in more equipment to support this growth. If our men and women in blue know that we have their back, we will foster a culture where they feel supported, valued and respected, and they will want to continue doing the job they signed up to do—to protect Queenslanders.

The benefits of more experienced and well-resourced cops will be felt right across the state. Queenslanders deserve a government that prioritises police resources to ensure that our communities not only feel safe but are safe. With the delivery of the first Crisafulli LNP government budget, we will do just that. For the first time in years our police have a government that is backing them in and delivering a fresh start for Queensland.

### Road and Rail Infrastructure

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering the rail and road infrastructure needed for a growing state—infrastructure that those opposite could not deliver. The best example is of course the Bruce Highway. When federal Labor scrapped the longstanding 80-20 arrangements to fund major roads like the Bruce Highway, those opposite put up their hands and said, 'Oh well,' and they sided with their Labor mates instead of standing up for Queenslanders.

We on this side knew the implications of Labor's decision. In simple terms, it meant less wide centre line treatments, fewer rest stops, fewer overtaking lanes and a massive lost opportunity to save lives on the Bruce Highway. That is why the Crisafulli government continued to fight for 80-20 funding. We have succeeded, and we are now getting on with the job of building a better Bruce Highway.

We succeeded in securing a \$9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program, and work has already begun on many projects up and down the Bruce Highway. Last week I visited a worksite at Bauple, where work is already well underway. The program will deliver wide centre line treatments, intersection upgrades, improved rest areas and overtaking lanes on priority sections of the Bruce Highway all north of Gympie to improve safety and to reduce the time this vital link is closed due to accidents.

The Mooloolah River Interchange in my community on the Sunshine Coast has also been needed for many years.

**Mr Bleijie:** And mine!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier—and his and the member for Maroochydore and the rest of us on the Sunshine Coast—but it was never properly funded or progressed under the former Labor government. It was neglected so much that in late 2023 the federal Labor government withdrew its funding commitment towards the Mooloolah River Interchange, and the former government allowed it to happen.

Our government sees the Mooloolah River Interchange as a priority. Just yesterday I announced, alongside the member for Maroochydore, that funding would flow for early works on the MRI under our government, just as we said we would do. This is a project that all of my LNP Sunshine Coast colleagues have campaigned to deliver for as long as I have been in the parliament and, for those who have been here longer than me, a long time before that as well. The reason we campaigned for it is that we understand how important this road upgrade is for the people of the Sunshine Coast, and we will deliver it.

Further south, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail blew out by more than double under Labor because they simply could not manage the project. We are now stepping in, and funding will also flow this year for design and preconstruction work. Labor gave up on the replacement of the Barron River on the Kennedy Highway between Cairns and Mareeba. We will deliver a safer, stronger and more dependable connectivity for residents, businesses and freight operators in Far North Queensland.

I announced last week that the Crisafulli government would match the federal government's contribution to \$245 million, and it is in this budget. That is my commitment. That is the Crisafulli government's commitment to the people in the Far North. I could go on because there are dozens more examples like this—examples where the former Labor government gave up and left much needed transport priorities on life support and they left Queenslanders wondering.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise in relation to your ruling this morning. The Deputy Premier, the Minister for Education, the Attorney and now the Minister for Transport have all cynically and systematically ignored your ruling that you made in relation to the intent of ministerial statements. I ask you to instruct them accordingly. The opposition attends to hear about government policy, not personal and political attacks.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have made your point. I outlined in my statement that I did not want personal attacks. I do not believe you have committed any personal attacks. You have been focusing on your policy, but I would ask you to focus on your policy specifically.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They will not be left wondering under this government because we are getting on with the job. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is just what the Crisafulli government is delivering.

### Housing and Homelessness



**Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (10.06 am): The first budget of the Crisafulli government will include the biggest boost to homelessness services and crisis accommodation support in Queensland's history. A total of \$592 million in new, additional, extra funding will be allocated to better support Queenslanders experiencing homelessness.

At the heart of our approach is certainty for frontline workers, for their providers and for the people they serve. That is why I am proud to confirm that the 20 per cent funding uplift we promised for specialist homelessness services will be locked in. We have gone a step further than our election commitment with \$209 million provided in this budget to lock it in for an extra year, taking this funding uplift for the entire four years all the way to June 2029.

This is the most significant ongoing investment ever delivered to help Queenslanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Many of our funded services are approaching the end of their current agreements, with most due for renewal by June 2026. Under Labor, these providers were expected to deliver over multiple years but were only given annual funding. Their workers would not be sure they had a job until they saw it in the budget every year.

Locking in the funding uplift is our down payment to finally allow us to move to longer service agreements with matched funding, giving frontline organisations the long-term security they need so they can focus on doing what they do best—helping vulnerable Queenslanders. It means services can plan ahead, invest in their workforce capability and focus on outcomes, not just surviving year to year.

I do want to address the fear campaign which has been irresponsibly spread by the Labor opposition. Their repeated claims about homelessness services funding were not just wrong; they were a deliberate attempt to frighten frontline workers and use vulnerable Queenslanders for political gain. This budget exposes Labor's scare campaign for what it was—baseless. Unlike the former Labor government whose last budget had the 20 per cent uplift ending this month, we have the funding locked in. We are standing with the workers who deliver life-changing support and backing them with record locked in investment.


We are also more than doubling funding for headleasing homes, injecting \$124 million over the budget period. We know people are spending an average of around four months in our hotels and motels Crisis Accommodation Program—an unsuitable long-term environment, particularly for families. Headleasing helps bridge the gap, offering immediate, stable housing while we get more supply out of the ground.

We are providing \$238 million for headleasing over the next four years—more than twice what Labor had budgeted. I want to thank Micah Projects, the largest manager of our hotel and motel Crisis Accommodation Program, for giving me the opportunity to spend a couple of hours last week with mostly single mums who are living in our hotels and motels. Their stories were impactful. I thank them for sharing their experiences with me. They reinforced what we all know: temporary accommodation, while essential, is not something for the long term. This budget will put more families, more seniors and more young people in secure properties across our state to better meet the diverse needs of the people we serve while we ramp up our construction of social and community housing to a scale our state has never seen before with a new model of delivery.



The Crisafulli government is proud to be delivering a record investment in homelessness services and crisis accommodation support to help more of those most in need, because every Queenslanders deserves a safe, secure place to call home.

### Play On! Vouchers

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.10 am): This budget is delivering assistance to families to get more kids active and more kids into community sport. A key measure in the Queensland budget is our new \$200 Play On! sports vouchers, building on a program the LNP started 10 years ago. Currently, around 30 per cent of Queensland children are not physically active outside of school hours. That is why we are investing a record \$62.5 million every year to provide 312,500 vouchers to Queensland families. These new vouchers will be available over two rounds for summer or winter sports. Queensland families will be able to use these vouchers to assist with registration and other costs for children between the ages of five and 17.

We are also making sports more accessible for more Queensland children through this program. Currently, an estimated 75 per cent of people with a disability in Australia would like to participate in physical activity but only 25 per cent of people with a disability do so. With this in mind, an allocation of vouchers will be reserved for children and young people with a disability. We will target unique activity providers with accessible sport opportunities. We will ensure that every child with a disability who wants to play sport will have access to these vouchers.

There will also be a dedicated allocation to children living in regional and country areas across Queensland to level the playing field and ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to engage in sport. One of the best games' legacies we can deliver is having more Queensland kids more active and living healthier lives. The Crisafulli government will do this by ensuring our young people have access to community sport and better grassroots infrastructure.


Parents and carers will be able to receive one voucher per financial year per child, with the first round opening on 4 August. Today I am pleased to say that since we announced the program almost 18,000 Queensland families have preregistered. This is a ringing endorsement of our new policy. From football to netball, tennis, cricket, gymnastics and even surf lifesaving, Queensland children will have more opportunities to use these vouchers, get active and lead healthier lives. Play On! vouchers are about putting more kids on the field rather than watching from the sidelines.

These sports vouchers were introduced in Queensland by the LNP government in 2013 because LNP governments are progressive and transformational. Under the former government's scheme, the vouchers were fair in name but not in nature. There was no equitable system for distribution right across the state. There was bias towards one season of sport. Of course, like most of their programs and promises they were not funded beyond 30 June this year. As is the case with the LNP's new policy of permanent 50-cent public transport fares, we will fund this right through to 2028.

Our new program will reach more Queensland children than ever before. Through our sports programs Games On! and Play On! the Crisafulli government will make the biggest investment in grassroots sports in Queensland's history. We want to make Queensland the undeniable home of Australian sport, and these measures will play a key role in achieving that goal. From grassroots to the elite level of sport, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland.

Queenslanders sent Steven Miles to the sin-bin in the 2024 state election. The Crisafulli government's first budget will ensure that Queensland kids can Play On!

### ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I advise that the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership will be absent from question time, as he is in an important briefing regarding the Crisafulli government's first budget that we will be delivering for Queenslanders which will be introduced into the House this afternoon. As such, I advise that the Premier and Minister for Veterans will answer questions for the Treasurer in question time today.

I advise that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training will be absent today due to illness. I advise that the Premier and Minister for Veterans will answer questions for the minister in question time today.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

1. following the introduction of the appropriation and associated bills by the Treasurer, proceedings be suspended for 30 minutes until the ringing of the bells;
2. upon resumption, government business take precedence until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House, with no adjournment debate;
3. the House will break for dinner from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm today.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Order of Business; Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. For Wednesday's sitting, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the House will continue to sit past 9.30 pm to consider government business until the adjournment is moved by the Leader of the House, to be followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate;
2. For the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025:
  - (a) That standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and any amendments circulated by the Deputy Premier to be moved and considered;
  - (b) under the provisions of standing order 137, the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill, with the minister called to reply to the bill by 10.00 pm on Wednesday and all remaining stages of the bill to be completed by 11.30 pm on Wednesday;
  - (c) if all stages have not been completed by the time specified in (b), 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.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.17 am.

### Nepalese Community, Victims of Crime



**Mr MILES** (10.17 am): My question is to the Minister for Police. Two jewellery stores in Chermside and Lutwyche have been violently robbed. Both are owned by families within the Nepalese community. I acknowledge members of the Nepalese community in the gallery today. Can the minister provide an update to those families and the Nepalese community on the progress of tracking down the perpetrators?

**Mr PURDIE:** I am aware of those two crimes. We did answer questions about that in the media during the last sitting week with the assistant commissioner in charge of the North Brisbane District, Rhys Wildman, who provided an update about the police investigation and the violent nature of those crimes. We assured the media at that point.

I am happy to inform the House and those present in the gallery that, like all serious and violent crimes of that nature, there was a vehicle that police were looking for. We put out an announcement calling for members of the public to provide any information. We will continue to work with the victims and our police to ensure crimes like that do not occur. Unfortunately, what we have seen in South-East Queensland, Brisbane, north Brisbane and across the state is that crime has escalated to a point of crisis across Queensland.

We have seen crime, particularly violent crime, increase by around 55 per cent across the state. Unfortunately, north Brisbane is no exception to that. By giving our police tougher laws and more resources—like we have announced today, and there will be more to talk about in today's budget—we

are seeing some green shoots and we are taking some steps in the right direction, and north Brisbane is seeing the benefit of that. We have seen a marked decrease in crime, particularly robbery, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, and break and enter.

However, crime is still too high. It is not just the crime stats we need to be mindful of; it is the perception of crime. We need to ensure that all members of our community feel safe—business owners, home owners, and those from any background and walk of life. Our police take these matters seriously and they will continue to do that. That is why, as I pointed out today, the budget is providing police with not only the laws but the resources to do their job. I was on the front line when those opposite tipped the balance of power away from police and into the hands of young, repeat violent offenders. They watered down the laws with every amendment. Their top priority when they won government in 2015 was to water down the laws.

**Ms Grace:** Absolute nonsense. What a ridiculous statement.

**Mr PURDIE:** I take that interjection. They continuously and proudly watered down the laws which created a generation of untouchable offenders. I commend our police for the investigations and the diligence they show in every crime. They work to hold all criminals to account to get justice for all victims. What we are doing is in stark contrast to those opposite, every step of the way. We promised and committed to give our police tougher laws, and we are doing that. In today's budget, we are giving them almost \$150 million to get state-of-the-art, top-of-the-range equipment so they can drive down crime and protect all members of the community—business owners, home owners and families. The Crisafulli government is the only government that backs our police and gives them the laws and the resources they need to solve crime and keep all people safe.

*(Time expired)*

### **Nepalese Community, Safety**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Police. Members of the Nepalese community who join us here today fear for their community and have been allegedly racially targeted by criminals. What has the Queensland Police Service done to allay those concerns of that community?

**Mr PURDIE:** I acknowledge the member for the question and—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I have only just called the minister.

**Mr PURDIE:** I acknowledge the members of that community for being here today because the Crisafulli government knows the highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens—all its citizens. Unfortunately, that is in stark contrast to what we had in this state for a decade. We are trying to turn the tide. We are doing our utmost every day in this place. I can say as a former police officer—and it is the same for the half dozen other police officers here—that the reason we put up our hands to serve is to give our police the resources they need and to restore safety for all people in all communities right across Queensland. We will continue to do that.

I am mindful that this question is essentially the same question I was just asked but I am happy to go through it again and answer it similarly. In today's budget we are delivering record investment in our police, but I do not want to give away too much too soon. Today is the day of our first Crisafulli government budget where we are putting a firm marker in the ground where we are investing in our police. We had a decade of those opposite who essentially defunded our police, and unfortunately communities right across Queensland from all walks of life have felt the brunt of that decade of those opposite who defunded our police and watered down the laws. For every day I am in this position and this government sits on these benches, we will continue to give our police tougher laws and we will continue to give our police the resources they need to stop crime before it happens and to investigate and apprehend those offenders.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Quarrelling across the chamber will cease.

**Mr PURDIE:** We know that the safety and security of our citizens is our highest priority—arresting more offenders, holding them to account and having consequences for their actions. There is a reason we have a crime crisis in this state no matter where you live; it is because we had a decade of those opposite in government proudly watering down the laws.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr PURDIE:** I take that interjection from the member for Bulimba because she is on the record in *Hansard* proudly being part of a government that watered down the laws. Rehabilitation in community was preferred. We know that these offenders need to be brought to justice, they need to be held to account and they need to feel the full force of the law. We will continue to do that and we will proudly do that. In every step in this place in legislation and in budget measures, we will give our police tough laws and more resources. We know that small business owners from every walk of life need to be protected. Those crimes need to be deterred, and when they are committed the police need to have the laws and the resources to investigate them and take forceful action. The Crisafulli government will do that and we will continue to deliver on that. Once again I want to acknowledge all victims of crime, but particularly the victims of crime who are with us today. I send a clear message to them today—like I do to our police—that we have got your back.

*(Time expired)*

### **Budget, Crisafulli LNP Government**

**Mrs YOUNG:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier inform the House how the LNP's first budget will show that the Crisafulli government is delivering what it said it would, and is the Premier aware of any views to the contrary?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the honourable member for Redlands for the question. It is a good question because today's budget is as much about restoring faith in government and doing what we say we are going to do as it is about fixing the budget. It is about fixing this state and the services that have crumbled under those opposite. The member mentions doing what we said we were going to do, and I can confirm that there will be a record investment in the health system. There must be because, when ambulance ramping can reach 45 per cent and surgery waiting lists can blow out every single year, only a dedicated and well-resourced front line can deal with that.

There will be nation-leading support for first home buyers because the great Australian dream has become a nightmare for young people and all people in this state. Our goal is to make that nightmare a dream again—to give them hope that there is an opportunity to own their home, to give hope for the vulnerable that there will be a roof over their head. There will be support for police for early intervention and for rehabilitation.

I can tell the member what was not there before today. There were hospitals without staff, there were police without equipment and there were schools without teachers. Those opposite today have to answer why. Why would you not fund those services? Why would you see the funding cliff across departments? Why would you say something to people on one side of an election and then have a con job afterwards? Today there will be a fog lifting, and that fog will be the scare campaign that everyone in Queensland saw and it will be exposed for what it is. When the budget funds the things that matter, they will be exposed for what it is. When all the scare campaigns around the Public Service, around housing and around health all come unstuck, so will the reputations of those opposite who led us to the crisis we are in.

Mr Speaker, I tell you what will be there. There will be hope for the next generation. Today in the gallery we are joined by the next generation. I look up and I see the faces and the community leaders of the next generation—high school leaders from schools throughout this state. They have come to the people's place today to see the budget that will deliver for their future, the infrastructure for their future, the schools for their future, a hospital system that is world class for their future—places where they will one day own a home, where they will have children in those hospitals, where their grandchildren will go to school. That is a generational budget and that is what delivering for Queensland looks like.

*(Time expired)*

### **Nepalese Community, Support**

**Ms MULLEN:** My question is to the Minister for Multiculturalism. Following a spate of recent attacks, can the minister outline what support or outreach services have been offered by her department to the Nepalese community impacted by these violent and traumatic incidents?

**Ms SIMPSON:** I firstly wish to acknowledge those in the gallery today, particularly those who have suffered from the impact of crime in this state which has come about through 10 years of neglect by the Labor Party. Unfortunately, we have seen a generation of untouchables so we needed to have a significant change in the laws to ensure there were consequences for their actions. We will not step

away from the fact that we have brought in very strong laws to address the neglect of law and order and justice in this state. It has bred a generation of young criminals and those who have transitioned to being older criminals who in fact thought they could get away with it.

We have indicated, under the Crisafulli government, that there has to be a reworking of the justice system. We have already seen several tranches with regard to the laws to ensure we can address those so-called untouchables with consequences for action and so that we can also address early intervention for young criminals who have come into contact with the law. We are committed to turning around the lives of those who were not only creating terrible impacts upon the community but also wasting their lives, by sustainable and great opportunities to be fully part of our community, contributing throughout their lives in a way that is meaningful without a negative impact on others.

**Mr Power:** That is not relevant to the question.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I just heard that is not relevant.

**Mr Power:** You are not answering the question.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I just heard from the other side that it is not relevant. I take that interjection because it is entirely relevant, because Queenslanders—

**Mr Power:** Why are you ignoring it?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan.

**Ms SIMPSON:**—whether it is from our great multicultural community who are out there working hard to contribute to build their families—

**Mr Power:** Why are you ignoring it?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I just cautioned you. You are now warned.

**Ms SIMPSON:**—to have the small businesses, who through their own labour, are contributing not only for their families but also for the greater community or those who come from other backgrounds who want to be part of our Queensland community, who want to be safe in their communities, it is entirely relevant.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b). I put to you that the response to the question is not relevant. The question was about outreach and support of the Nepalese community. I ask you to bring the minister back to a relevant answer to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** On that point of order, you did hear the question, Minister, asking about the Nepalese community and support for the community, so I ask you to come back to the question.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is entirely relevant to talk about the impact of the law and order crisis created by the previous Labor government. They somehow want to disconnect from the fact that it is their laws which failed Queenslanders. They are all connected, as all Queenslanders are connected, whether they are from a multicultural background with aspirations to create and have a safe community where they are able to contribute for their own families to other small businesses, to other Queenslanders. As the opposition well knows, there are support services also through our police, through services for victims of crime and through that integrated response where we want people to have access to timely and appropriate support with outreach, with the police having the primary responsibility as they firstly go after those who have impacted on lives with a breach and breaking the law. There are also support services for victims of crime.

*(Time expired)*

### Infrastructure

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is showing leadership by delivering critical infrastructure for Queensland through this budget, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Theodore for the question. Speaking of leadership, can I acknowledge Fin from Meridan State College in the gallery today who is a great promoter of inclusivity and people with disabilities for a better understanding. Welcome, Fin, to the people's house. Great to see you as always up there, mate.

The honourable member asks about the Crisafulli government's first budget. Well, members, it is budget day! What a great day for Queenslanders, no matter where you live, whether it is South-East Queensland, regional Queensland, country Queensland, Far North Queensland—east, west, north, south; everywhere will benefit from the Crisafulli government's first budget, no more so than with infrastructure. There will be a record investment in infrastructure in this state—getting on with the job, building the capital pipeline Queenslanders want; and it will be funded. There is going to be money in the budget for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Mr Crisafulli:** No way!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. The Premier says, 'No way!' I say yes way! I know you would not believe it because through the 10 years of the Labor government, we saw unfunded projects and glossy brochures. There is money in the budget. We are putting money where our mouth is, something the Leader of the Opposition never did.

The Leader of the Opposition has a test this week. Is he going to, in his budget reply speech, put money where his mouth is? We know during the election he had a big mouth, but no money. He talked about his policies. Remember Stevo's servos? Remember state owned power stations? Remember comrade Cameron on socialist Steven policies? That was their policies—economic vandalism! Economic vandalism, that is what it was!

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It was Stevo's servos, it was power stations, then it was going to be butcher shops, candlestick makers and bottle-os and bakers. That was their economic vandalism. Is he going to proceed this week with the stupid policies he announced during the election campaign? Economic vandalism—there were zero dollars attached.

**Ms Fentiman:** Rubbish!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** 'Rubbish!' the honourable shadow minister says. What, the state owned service stations? Great policy!

**A government member:** QSAC.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. But, Mr Speaker, you have to listen to the Unpacked sandwich podcast that was released where they talked about—

**Mr SPEAKER:** We do not need the props, thank you.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The opposition leader interviewed the member for Waterford and they talked about their leadership rivalries and she says—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** She says—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let us have some order before we go back to the Deputy Premier. Deputy Premier, if you intend to table that document, I would advise you to table it, but stop waving it around. You have 15 seconds left.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you. I will table it. She said, 'So we're all good.' Oh, you might be good, but the opposition leader is not. Everyone knows he is cooked. I table it.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by the member for Murrumba, Hon. Steven Miles MP [\[722\]](#).

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Look at his face, Mr Speaker, looking down—'Oh, no, I am absolutely cooked.' This budget will deliver for all of Queensland!

*(Time expired)*

### Children, eSafety

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Studies have shown that 70 per cent of boys have seen pornography before the age of 13. Will the minister respond to calls of advocates like Chanel Contos to have pornography literacy included in school curriculums?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** This is a very significant issue. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question because it fits right into the issue that we have had significant discussion about over the last couple of weeks with some schools and their reporting of issues that have happened at their schools,

including general issues of child safety. Of course, all of us would say that there is not one member on either side of this House who does not regard the safety and wellbeing of our children as our No. 1 priority. That is why, whether it is in early childhood services or in schools, this government has done a lot. Since we have been in government we have done a lot, and we are going to do a lot more, to make sure our children are safe.

We have taken a number of actions in the early childhood space. The department and I announced a statement of shared commitment with the Queensland early childhood sector that clearly outlines the responsibilities of educators, approved providers and regulators in keeping children safe. We also, given that those opposite had not funded the early childhood regulator beyond 30 June this year, announced, to the relief of the sector, that that will happen in this budget, and that is a significant announcement of over \$12 million.

We are also proactively supporting staff awareness and upskilling in a complex and sensitive area through an early childhood guidance pilot, which includes specialised training and support for educators around protective behaviours for children. I am working across government with my ministerial colleagues—Minister Amanda Camm and Minister Laura Gerber—to inform families around early intervention because we cannot ignore that these behaviours are learned at home. I know the Leader of the Opposition is asking us about what we are doing in schools. The important point that I like to make is that we are all in this together with families. We have students in schools between 9 am and 3 pm for four terms, less public holidays. That is only 13 per cent of the time, so many of these activities are being learned at home.

One of the other things that we have implemented are the child protection training requirements which were effective 1 April 2025. Staff in charge of early childhood services day to day must undertake child protection training requirements. This reflects our shared commitment to the safety of children in early childhood education and care. In other words, it will not be a simplistic ‘will we teach pornography literacy in schools’, as those opposite suddenly prescribe, having done nothing about it for the last decade, but a root-and-branch consideration of all the details. I have asked the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board to write to all schools to update them about their requirements in this area as well.

*(Time expired)*

### **Regional Queensland, Health System**

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government’s first budget is restoring access to health services, especially in regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw these services cut?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I want to thank the honourable member for his question. It is indeed a terrific question because the member is a devoted—some would say a ‘somewhat persistent’ advocate—for his electorate. I commend him for his advocacy and persistence. He is a classic example of why the LNP was elected to govern at the last election. I was with the member for Callide earlier this month to visit the newly updated operating theatre and birthing suite at the Biloela Hospital. This is a first and crucial step towards resuming the birthing services at the Biloela Hospital which have been closed for more than 1,000 days under those opposite. That is the alternative the members representing Biloela and Cooktown know only too well: under Labor they failed to restore birthing services for over 1,000 days. We know the member for Gladstone was going to quit if it was not open—but he is still here. That is the story of Labor: lots of announcements for headlines but no delivery of services. That is what happened.

In more great news for the Callide community, not only are we restoring birthing services—we saw the investment of nearly three quarters of a million dollars in the birthing suite and the hospital theatre there—but we also visited the Moura hospital and looked at the Moura hospital aged-care facility where we will be delivering eight new beds. They will go on. We are looking after people from the beginning of their life to their later years and their sunset years. They are services that we are delivering.

The Crisafulli LNP government’s first budget will provide record funding for health services in Queensland. We will be delivering more than \$33 billion. More than a third of the budget will be spent on delivering easier access to health services under our plan for Queensland across the state. This includes: investment in our Hospital Rescue Plan; more than 2,600 beds across the state; boosted surgery capacity; and better patient flow to reduce Labor’s record high ambulance ramping. We will deal with the mess that was left by those opposite. The budget will invest in nine new CT scanners and six new MRI machines and our regional hospitals will be bolstered by the delivery of those services.

We will provide 165 new overnight beds in Townsville, more and better beds in Cooktown, new dialysis in western Queensland, save the Bundaberg Hospital and deliver in Toowoomba. We are delivering where Labor failed.

*(Time expired)*

### Education Programs

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the education minister. Queensland women and girls do not feel safe given the rise in misogynistic behaviour online and in our communities. Will the education minister expand Queensland's existing consent education programs to include strong action against misogynistic behaviour?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I thank the honourable member for the question. As I said in my response to the previous question from the Leader of the Opposition, the safety of our children, whether it be in early childhood or all the way through our system, is of the utmost importance to all of us. That is why cyber safety and cyber safety awareness promotion for students, staff and parents is a key focus of the Department of Education. We provide support to all Queensland state schools for reporting and handling online misconduct, harmful content and digital technology misuse. We have empowered our schools to purchase professional online or face-to-face online safety education for students and parents through the eSafety Commissioner's endorsed Trusted eSafety Provider program. We are committed to working with experts, schools and the community to implement research informed strategies that support safe and inclusive school environments across Queensland.

I take the point from the member for Bulimba, the shadow minister, in respect of her question about her concerns about this behaviour—whether it is misogyny or any attitudes towards people that are not appropriate. We have seen examples of this in the House in the years that I have been here. We are the exemplars for the students who join us today, and who the Premier has already acknowledged. In my time in this place—over 21 years—I have said that we should be setting a better example, especially when these young leaders see the attitudes that we often express.

I want to make sure that there are programs at schools—from early childhood all the way through to university. What we have seen, especially since COVID, is a general lack of respect for people in authority, such as teachers in our schools. This is why a couple of weeks ago we announced parent communication guidelines as part of our red-tape-reduction measures. It is parents, again. As stated in the answer to the previous question without notice from the opposition leader about pornography, we need to have families working with us. We need to make sure that parents are communicating and passing things on to their children. Kids will not do what you say, but they will do what you do. If parents are behaving like that—these are learned behaviours—unfortunately, our schools and teachers often have to deal with the consequences.

Importantly, we have also said that we need to make sure there is appropriate reporting. We have seen a couple of cases in respect of Lutheran schools recently. They are investigating the matters; they have been referred to the QPS. That is why I said at the end of my last answer that the chair of NSSAB presented on child safety and protection. I have asked that chair to write to all schools to remind them of their reporting obligations.

### Education Funding

**Ms MORTON:** My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Will the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will deliver the foundations of a fresh start in education, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** What a delight it is to take this question from the member for Caloundra. I want to acknowledge her efforts in this regard. As I mentioned in my ministerial statement this morning, I was pleased to be with the Treasurer last Friday, along with the member for Caloundra, on an empty site—those opposite announced in 2022 it would have a school by 2025. I acknowledge that the member is a former teacher who, importantly, is very passionate about the education both of her children and of children in her electorate and across the state. We stood on this empty site with the Treasurer and we had a look around to see a school that was promised for 2025 and—guess what—there was no school.

As has already been announced, in this budget we have committed to allocate funds to build a new primary school for up to 1,140 kids in the Caloundra South area. This means that local children will be able to make a much easier commute and that families and teachers will be able to live and work in



that area and offer a world-class education. The contrasting approach, of course, would be to let those opposite have another four years of funding shortfalls that do not provide the infrastructure needs our students and teachers deserve. We got cost blowouts, failed promises and generational neglect. Those opposite cared about promising new schools when they did not have money for them. We have seen those opposite—the member for Jordan and the member for Logan—supposedly making commitments in the election campaign for a new school in their area which they did not deliver in their 10 years in government, yet we are supposed to magically, after a petition from those opposite, suddenly deliver something that they could not.

For the information of the House, we have also discovered that, ominously, Labor secretly diverted the funding to build this school in Caloundra to other projects and deliberately hid this from Queenslanders. The choice to hide this was reckless and deceitful. It has real-life impacts for the Queenslanders who made choices about where to live, work and raise a family.

We have repeatedly expressed our commitment to Queensland's education system. In the eight months we have been in government we have announced: a \$33 million anti-bullying plan; \$44 million for our Behavioural Boost initiative; a 25 per cent reduction in red tape for our teachers to get back to the basics of literacy and numeracy; and a \$75.8 million arts budget, laying the foundation for a fresh start to boost the screen sector in Queensland and invest in the arts precinct. The alternative is clear: the Labor government cannot be trusted with Queenslanders' money. We will deliver what we said we would and we will keep our promises and always be honest with Queenslanders.

### Children, eSafety

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Education. In light of the recent spate of sexual and pornographic incidents occurring online involving Queensland high schools, can the minister advise what action he has taken to prevent these incidents and if the upcoming budget reflects that?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Answering this question gives me a chance to reiterate some of the issues I have already mentioned. I am happy to refer to my previous answers, but I do want to go into some more detail without doing what the shadow treasurer has asked me to do, which is to reveal information from this afternoon's budget.

**Mr Janetzki:** Not long to go now.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Not long to go now. Do you remember the former premier saying, 'Not long to go now'?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, thank you, Minister.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Only one person has the call.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I have spoken about Behavioural Boost and anti-bullying. We have set up an anti-bullying stakeholder reference group, chaired by Professor Donna Pendergast—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Those on my left, I would have thought you were interested in the answer.

**Mr LANGBROEK:**—to look at the things we are doing. We are expanding Parentline services so parents can call. The director-general has chaired a meeting of parent association presidents—I participated last week—from across all education sectors to explore what collective actions can be taken to address cyberbullying. I intend to raise this at the education ministers meeting which I will now be attending via Teams on Thursday.

When it comes to the specific cases, a couple of Lutheran schools have been mentioned regarding the distribution of pornography by year 7 and 8 students. I note this was referred to the Queensland Police Service. The Child Protection and Investigation Unit reportedly has had the matter under investigation and has charged one person. Lutheran Education Queensland is also investigating the matter and made the referral to the QPS.

Importantly, as I have explained to many others, the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board is responsible for these non-state schools. It has taken a proactive approach to educating non-state schools and the chairs of their governing bodies about mandatory reporting requirements. The chair of NSSAB delivered a presentation on child safety and protection to an event organised by Lutheran Education Queensland in October 2024. However, given the events of the last couple of weeks, I have written to the chair of NSSAB directing her to write to all chairs of Queensland non-state school

governing boards to remind them of their mandatory reporting obligations for child safety and child protection issues. I will also be directing NSSAB to urgently undertake an audit of a minimum of 10 per cent of non-state schools to assess their child protection and child safety processes and their implementation of those processes.

*(Time expired)*

### **Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure**

**Mr BAROUNIS:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, my favourite one. Will the minister outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government has wasted no time in delivering for regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches where regional roads have been neglected?

**Mr Krause:** Where do you start?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Where do you start? I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. You can either talk about regional Queensland or you can get on with the job of delivering for regional Queensland, and that is just what the Crisafulli government is doing when it comes to regional roads or any of the multitude of issues that Queenslanders elected us in October last year to fix.

I want to thank the new member for Maryborough for his question. I have to say, I was a little sketchy about his likelihood of entering this House, but I could not be happier based on his work ethic and the way he listened to his community. I have to say, the trust that the people of Maryborough have placed in John Barounis is being rewarded now with his advocacy in this place. A harder working, more diligent and fierce advocate for his community you will not find in the Queensland parliament.

It is that advocacy that has delivered a \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway—something that those opposite said could not be done—on an 80-20 basis. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering it. Just last week I was pleased to visit the Bruce Highway in Bauple, just short of the member for Maryborough's electorate. I stood with the federal minister, Catherine King, announcing that we are getting on with the job. There are 16 projects up and down the Bruce Highway already under construction. Bear in mind that those opposite said this could not be done, but they are already under construction. We are getting on with the job and this budget will invest in regional roads up and down—

**Mrs Frecklington:** The Bruce goes further than Noosa, mate.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I will take that interjection from the Attorney-General; the Bruce most certainly goes further than Noosa, despite the assertions of the former minister for transport, who would not know the Bruce Highway if he drove it. His last experience of the Bruce was driving—

**Mr Bleijie:** He knows it from 30,000 feet up.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** There is too much content, Mr Speaker. I take the interjection from the Deputy Speaker as well—Deputy Premier. I was having a bit of trouble with that.

**A government member:** Demoted him!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I demoted him! Whether it is Walker Street and the issues we have seen there—and I want to acknowledge that tragically lives have been lost at the intersection of Walker Street and the Bruce Highway—these are the issues that we are committed to addressing in regional Queensland. For too long these issues have been ignored. We are focused on delivering real solutions and actual construction money, not just talking about them through a press release. We are getting on with the job of delivering for regional Queensland. Whether it is in Maryborough or the Rocky Ring Road, Country Roads Connect or the beef roads program, we will deliver for each and every community right up and down the Queensland coast and right throughout Queensland because we know that regional Queensland matters.

*(Time expired)*

### **Youth Crime**

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. Queenslanders have long echoed Katter's Australian Party's calls for bush sentencing to serve as a deterrent for youth offending. Can the minister update the House on the delivery timeframe of the government's version of this policy, Circuit Breaker Sentencing?

**Mrs GERBER:** I want to thank the member for his question and for his persistence in trying to pursue solutions to Labor's youth crime crisis. For the last 10 years our communities have had to deal with crime rising year on year because of those opposite weakening our laws and changing our laws so that youth offenders' rights were put before the rights of victims. I appreciate the member's commitment to solving crime in his community. I know that together we can work to drive down crime. Before I get to Circuit Breaker Sentencing and give the member a quick update on where the Crisafulli government is with our Circuit Breaker Sentencing policy, I want to put on the record a couple of statistics that are really relevant to the member's own community.

Under Labor over the last 10 years we saw stolen vehicles increase 91 per cent, we saw robbery increase 100.9 per cent, we saw armed robbery increase 82 per cent and we saw rape and attempted rape increase 92 per cent. That is the legacy of those opposite and that is the reason we need these solutions. Circuit Breaker Sentencing is one of our key policies to try to drive down crime. It is a sentence alternative to detention. Circuit Breaker Sentencing is designed to break the cycle of crime by offering an alternative to detention. There will be two locations, one in the north and one in the south. They will be remote.

It will allow for up to 60 kids to be sentenced into Circuit Breaker Sentencing to provide an alternative to detention. It will be market-led. The member's own electorate can feed into Circuit Breaker Sentencing and provide solutions that are market-led for his community. The reason we are doing market-led, place-based solutions is that we know that every region is different. We know that the north is different from the south. We know that different communities need different solutions.

For the past 10 years under Labor we saw a complete failure to invest in early intervention and crime prevention solutions. We saw those opposite talk about headlines and put politics before people but fail to actually invest in the solutions needed to drive down crime. In fact, they did the opposite: they weakened our laws, they made detention a last resort and they created the youth crime crisis that it is now incumbent upon us to fix.

Circuit Breaker Sentencing is one of our key initiatives to solve crime, alongside Regional Reset, which is currently closed for tender—those contracts are set to be awarded soon; and Staying on Track, which provides 12 months of intensive rehabilitative support for every single youth leaving detention. Circuit Breaker Sentencing is just one pillar of that crime-fighting solution about rehabilitation and intervention. It is a tool that is running alongside our Making Queensland Safer Laws so that we can deliver strong laws as well as early intervention and rehabilitation.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services—also my favourite minister.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Actually, you are all my favourites! Can the minister inform the House how the Crisafulli LNP government's first budget will help restore safety where you live, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members to stick to the question without any add-ins.

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for Southport for his question. He is a fierce advocate for his community. Just yesterday I stood with the member for Southport to make a key announcement in relation to one of the initiatives he asks about, in relation to community safety in his very own community. I stood with the member for Southport and announced a key initiative of the Crisafulli government to drive down crime and restore safety to the member's community—that is, funding Men of Business. It is a \$50 million commitment over five years to fund four crime prevention schools across Queensland, one of which will be delivered in the member's own electorate of Southport.

The Men of Business Academy is very close to the heart of the member for Southport. He has been a strong advocate for them. He has walked the journey with them for 10 years now. He supported them even before they had a building to provide the education and support they provide to young men in his community. I am very grateful for his advocacy to ensure Men of Business get this funding. Men of Business will get \$10 million out of the \$50 million commitment across five years for the four crime prevention schools. The other regions to be getting them are Ipswich, Rockhampton and Townsville.

These crime prevention schools are designed to ensure that youths from years 7 to 12 have a pathway out of crime. It is supporting alternative education models so that youths who become disengaged or may be disengaged from primary school to high school have the support of tailored education to give them mentorship, a pathway out of crime and some hope. We know that not every kid is suited to mainstream schooling. I acknowledge the children and young people in the gallery here today. I want them to know that the Crisafulli government is providing pathways of hope for young people with these crime prevention schools.

In the electorate of Southport, Men of Business have helped 639 young men. Some 639 young men have come through their doors. That is 639 young men who have had an alternative pathway into a job or into training—out of a life of crime and into a pathway of hope. That is in stark contrast to what the Labor Party did. That is in stark contrast to the way the Labor Party treated it. They denied there was a youth crime crisis. They failed to fund schools like our crime prevention schools. They created this crisis without acknowledging it. You cannot solve a problem unless you are prepared to acknowledge it.

I am grateful to the member for Southport for his advocacy to ensure that the funding for these crime prevention schools is realised and that Men of Business is the proud recipient of \$10 million of that funding.

### Cross River Rail

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. The Premier said—

Renaming Cross River Rail to the Elizabeth line is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Queensland to forever honour her life and legacy.

Can the minister advise when Cross River Rail will be officially renamed the Elizabeth line, in accordance with the LNP's 2022 petition? I table an LNP media release regarding this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 14 September 2022, by the member for Nanango, Hon. Deb Frecklington, titled 'All aboard The Elizabeth Line—Plan and petition to honour Her Majesty the Queen' [723].

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Deputy Premier.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The question was to the transport minister. We will have silence.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Woodridge for the question.

**Mr Crisafulli:** A big budget-day question.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** All the big issues on budget day!

**Mr O'Connor:** He misses the black-and-white photo.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Never one to shy away from publicity on budget day! The opposition come in here and ask the big questions about Cross River Rail—not about the \$17 billion blowout and not about the fact that they could not deliver it on time but about when it will be renamed. My focus is on finishing Cross River Rail—that is my first task—something those opposite said would be done by 2024, then 2025 and then 2026. When we came to office, what was very clear was that it would not be finished until 2029.

Those opposite presided over countless failures when it comes to Cross River Rail. The overrun overlord and his apprentice, the member for Aspley, presided over a decade of Labor failure when it comes to Cross River Rail. That is their record. We are focused on fixing those failures. We will deliver Cross River Rail. It will deliver benefits for Queenslanders when it is finally finished. When it is finally finished, I look forward to standing alongside the Deputy Premier and renaming Cross River Rail to the Elizabeth line—something we committed to doing.

**Mr Bleijie:** With Will and Kate.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am told reliably by the Deputy Premier that Will and Kate will cut the ribbon. I cannot confirm that, however, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Of all people on all days.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** On budget day, let's have a look at Labor's—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Why does it always get noisy when the transport minister is on his feet—on both sides of the House?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order on my left! Minister, you have one minute left to round out your answer.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** On budget day—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right! I just called for order.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** On budget day, let's have a look at some facts. Cross River Rail blew out to \$17 billion under Labor. Delivery of Cross River Rail blew out from 2024 to 2029 under Labor. That is their legacy.

We are focused on getting on with the job of delivering rail infrastructure here in Queensland. In fact, last week I was pleased to visit the electorate of Woodridge to announce that we are getting on with the job of Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail—something those opposite could not do. When I was at the station in the Woodridge electorate people told me they had not even seen the member. Apparently he was cleaning his gutters in the electorate next door and he could see his electorate from there. From Greenslopes he can see his electorate. The people of Woodridge want us to deliver rail infrastructure like Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail and like Cross River Rail. That is exactly what we will do.

### **Mental Health Services**

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the LNP Crisafulli government's first budget is supporting the mental health of Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Scenic Rim for his question. Mental health is an important issue. It is something that the then Crisafulli opposition, now the Crisafulli government, was committed to. I visited the member's electorate last month and saw just how important it is to have world-class health services closer to home, particularly in Boonah. While in Boonah I had a look at the old hospital and saw a plaque with Sir Llew Edwards's name on it, commemorating the opening of that hospital. He was a terrific health minister who delivered it very well.

We know that around one in five Australians will experience a mental illness in any given year. It is reported that almost half of us will experience mental ill health at some point in our lives. That is something we have actually seen in this place as well. That is why we are taking important steps to help Queenslanders who need specialist treatment and support for their mental health and wellbeing.

In this year's budget we are investing in more mental health beds across the state. We are doing that through our record \$18.526 billion Hospital Rescue Plan. Members will have seen this plan. They will hear more about this plan as the days roll on. Members will certainly hear more about it this afternoon. We are taking those important steps to deliver better services. That will include a new 32-bed mental health facility in Rockhampton, an uplift of nine beds—we have been there as well and we know the stresses in Central Queensland; 20 new mental health beds for the Redland Hospital—stage 1 has been delivered and we have inspected that as well; and a new eight-bed adolescent mental health inpatient ward for the Cairns Base Hospital. We are targeting investment for Queenslanders at higher risk of experiencing mental ill health, including young people and new mums.

I welcome the young people who are in the gallery today. I hope their mental health has not been impacted by what they have seen and heard today from some of us.

Our budget this year will include \$50 million for investment in two new six-bed step-up step-down services that we promised during the election and we will deliver. The first one will be delivered in Rockhampton. These will provide 24/7 care in the community, enabling young people to receive care closer to home. When it comes to perinatal mental health, we know those opposite cannot be trusted. The Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for health both had to correct the record in relation to their misleading statements in this House. We will be delivering eight perinatal mental health beds in Townsville, four in Cairns and two in the metropolitan area. Stay tuned—there will be more to come this afternoon. We will deliver what Labor failed to fund and deliver, despite their promises. Our approach is in stark contrast to those opposite, who failed to fund and failed to deliver.

*(Time expired)*

## Youth, Public Transport

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Youth. More than half of all people who use public transport are aged between 18 and 24. Has the Minister for Youth advocated to the Deputy Premier that young people's views on the light rail carry more weight than those of older people?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I will begin with some context, particularly for the young people in the gallery. Hello, I am the youth minister. You might not believe it, after seven-and-a-bit months in government, but I am the youth minister. A youth minister is something that our state did not have for a few years because those opposite to us here abolished the youth ministry in this House. Now they regularly come back into this chamber and claim to speak on behalf of young Queenslanders, despite the fact that they abolished this very portfolio that I am now very proud to hold. In some more exciting news for those young Queenslanders, not long after question time I will be coming and explaining the budget process to you. You will absolutely be wishing you were back at school by that point. I am so sorry in advance for that.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I will take that interjection from the education minister: we have the youngest woman ever elected to this House in the history of Queensland, since 1860. I thank the member for that question. This again shows the contrast between our side of the House and those opposite. We are listening to all Gold Coasters and all Southern Gold Coasters on light rail. It is a fantastic process that the Deputy Premier is undertaking to make sure that those views are considered.

The approach from the former government was to go against the views of communities and to regularly go against the views of councils. The member for Gaven on paper was the minister for local government but in reality was the minister against local government, because the member for Gaven did not meet a local government in Queensland that she did not want to go to war with. The member for Gaven loved going to war with local government, loved overruling communities and loved, in particular, overruling our Gold Coast communities. I do not think it is a coincidence that the member for Gaven barely won her seat—she won by a few hundred votes—while the rest of us on the Gold Coast did quite a bit better in our seats.

That shows, as the Minister for Education regularly points out, that Gold Coasters support the style of politics of those on this side of the House. This is the style of politics Gold Coasters want to see. They do not want to see relentless negativity. They do not want to see relentless mistruths perpetrated by the Labor Party. This side of the House enjoys great support from the Gold Coast community because of the approach that we take, because of the way that we listen to Gold Coasters, because of the way we serve our communities. That is what we are getting on with the job of doing. That is what the Deputy Premier is doing a fantastic job of on behalf of the member for Currumbin and the member for Burleigh in particular, and that is what we will continue to do over the coming months.

*(Time expired)*

## Far North Queensland, Road Infrastructure

**Ms JAMES:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister outline to the House how the Crisafulli LNP government have listened to locals in Far North Queensland and are delivering on what they said they would do, and is the minister aware of any contrasting approaches?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I want to thank the member for Barron River for her question. She is another tireless advocate—a bit of a pain in my neck, to be honest—when it comes to the Barron River bridge. There would not be a week, since before the member came into this place or after, that the member for Barron River has not advocated for us to deliver the Barron River bridge. It is something we promised before the last election. We are funding construction of a new Barron River bridge—something that those opposite could never do. In fact, those opposite could not even bring themselves to admit there was a problem. There was no funding from those opposite to build a new Barron River bridge. In the last budget there was some money for planning and a bit of talk about it, but no building. We committed to deliver a new Barron River bridge for the people of Barron River, the people of Cairns, the people of Mulgrave and the people of Cook and the broader Tablelands. I acknowledge the member for Hill as well.

I know that road very well. I drove it twice a day, every day for the better part of four years of my life—driving from the Tablelands to Cairns and vice versa—when I lived and worked in that part of the world. I know what it means to the people of the Far North when that bridge or the Kuranda Range is

closed. It has been closed far too often under Labor. A lack of investment and a lack of maintenance on those critical northern roads is why we are where we are today. We end that today. We will build a new Barron River bridge by 2031, and I am very pleased that the Crisafulli government will fund it fully in our budget which will be handed down after lunch. I want to pay tribute to the member for Barron River and the member for Cook.

**Mr Bleijie:** What should we call it?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** We can call it whatever you want, Deputy Premier. My focus is on ensuring that we build the thing and that is exactly what we will do. In the meantime, we will manage the impacts on the community. I acknowledge the advocacy of the members from the Far North delivering for the Far North.

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

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 12 June (see p. 1810).



**Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (11.18 am), continuing: I know I would not be here without some incredible people. I will inevitably miss mentioning some of these people by name, but I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of the amazing volunteers who contributed their time and energy to our campaign. To those who showed up early in the mornings with signs, especially Barbara, Garry, Cheryl and Terry, their visibility made a difference from the very start of the day. To everyone who spent weekends doorknocking or made evening calls—people like Chris Deeks, Dominique, Feargal, Rachel, Holly, Raife, Jack, James, Keaden, Sophia, Kylie and so many more—thank you. They persevered through rain, hail and plenty of sun with dedication and enthusiasm. Campaign work is not always visible. Behind the scenes there were hours of letterboxing, stapling and packing backpacks and booth kits. I want to especially thank Robert, Barbara Deeks, Peter and Peter, Nik, Ann Bunnell and Deb. Every task mattered. Every teabag stapled to a card played its part.

This campaign was built on their passion, persistence and belief in what we were working towards. I acknowledge some volunteers who were not with us this campaign, in particular, Margaret Cox, Ib Dyhr and Bruce Doleman whom we sadly lost and who are missed by the Gaven Labor family. I thank Megan, Rhiannon and Brianna, regardless of what role they have taken on, who have always been there to help or provide sage and sometimes brutal advice and, of course, the incredible Kate Flanders. I acknowledge Luke who, no matter what, has always been there, right from the very start.

To Simone, Adrian and Kathy in my electorate office, thank you for everything you did throughout the term, listening to my sometimes unrealistic ideas. Thank you for your relentless dedication to the Labor cause and for your friendship. I thank my former ministerial team of Kobe, Alyssa, Tim, Sharyn, Naomi, Beth, Emma, Steph, Sheena, Francis and Robyn. In particular, I thank Clare Manton, who is an absolute star. She always has my back, is fiercely passionate about the cause and is smart, funny and, most importantly, a friend. I thank Nick Heath, who started as my chief of staff in the environment portfolio and whose experience and enthusiasm, particularly as I was a young minister, was invaluable. He helped me try to overcome the imposter syndrome that so many women, in particular, experience.

I acknowledge my family. I thank the crack team of aunties and uncles who have flown from Victoria to help out at every election, including this one. They grew up in a working-class area in Victoria. Six kids and two adults lived in a three-bedroom social housing home. Their stories and values have played a part in who I am and what I fight for here today.

Last, but certainly not least, I thank my mum and brother or, as he likes to be referred to, my favourite brother, despite the fact that I have no other siblings. Callum is fiercely competitive and protective of those he loves, and naturally those attributes came in very handy on pre-poll. Callum constantly reminds me of why I entered politics in the first place. He is a kind-hearted, funny and decent bloke but there are some challenging times. A lot has changed thanks to Labor initiatives such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but there is still a lot more to be done. I hope that having more favourite sisters in this House helps make the world a better place for Callum and his mates.


Finally, I thank my mum. For a part of our lives she raised us as a single parent and she made up for that absence with double the focus. Anyone who tried to cross her on the polling booth would know just how much she cares about not just my brother and I but also the broader Labor cause. I do not distinctly remember it but I am told that throughout my childhood mum took me to many union

delegate meetings. She was a CPSU delegate and she very much instilled in me the importance of people standing up for workers' rights and conditions. I would not be here today without her strong values.

What Labor stands for matters. We took a whole range of really important matters to the election and, despite the result not being the one we wanted, we respect it. I thank the electorate of Gaven for putting their trust in me. The things that we took to the election really do matter. I was reminded of that most recently when I doorknocked in my community and met Cecile, a pensioner, and Jamie-Lee, a single mum, who really are relying on cost-of-living relief in this year's budget and in budgets to come. Only two weeks ago I met Liam, a nurse at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He and his colleagues deserve decent wages and conditions. I acknowledge the mighty union movement that played their role at the last state election in representing their members. I know the QNMU was on my polling booth, fighting for the right to fair wages and conditions that their members expect. In opposition, we will continue to fight for those people who did so much through COVID and continue to do to make sure that people are given the care that they deserve.

I said in my first speech that I come from a long line of working people, from my great-grandfather, who fought for better conditions following his coalminer father's battle with black lung, to my grandfather on my dad's side, who was an ETU shop steward during the infamous SEQEB dispute and whose disdain for Joh Bjelke-Petersen's autocratic style of government lives on in me today. It is one of the reasons this side of the House will continue to advocate for the need for the Fitzgerald inquiry measures to be implemented in full and not eroded, as we are starting to see in some of the decisions of this Crisafulli government. While the Gold Coast is seen as the glitter strip, I know where I have come from and I will continue to fight every day for the hardworking men and women of suburbs such as Nerang. They deserve a fair go.

I want to acknowledge some of the electorate staff who assisted in casual positions, although I have not written down all of their names. It was motivating to see so many young people get involved in this campaign. Some of them have gone on to work in the mighty Labor movement and the union movement. They really instilled energy into the campaign. I hope they continue in the Labor movement because we need them going forward to fight for the issues that we all believe in.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.24 am): I rise to deliver my address-in-reply speech and to formally acknowledge the Governor's speech to mark the opening of the 58th Parliament of Queensland. I begin by congratulating the honourable Speaker on his elevation to the role. I congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the important role of Deputy Speaker.

At the October election and since we commenced the 58th Parliament in November, it has become clear that Queenslanders had been crying out for leadership and not excuses. We know that at every corner of this great state people had been demanding the fresh start that Queenslanders deserved and needed. After nearly a decade of Labor, in too many areas things had not been good enough. I start my contribution by congratulating the honourable Premier, the honourable Deputy Premier, my many ministerial colleagues, new members, returning members and members who have come back into this House after a slight break. It is wonderful to be on this side of the chamber and to see the smiling faces of the amazing people we have.

In her speech to open the 58th Parliament, the Governor highlighted the priorities of the incoming Crisafulli government. She said—

It will be a government of accountability, focussed every day on the issues that matter to Queenslanders:

- safety where you live
- health services when you need them
- respect for your money
- a place to call home; and
- a government that works for you

I want to start with the issue that was raised more than any other in my electorate—that is, Labor's youth crime crisis. Across Queensland our communities have been shaken, from Townsville to Toowoomba, Rocky to Redbank and even in my own home patch of the beautiful South Burnett. After a decade of Labor, Queenslanders were waking up in fear. They were seeing increased rates of stolen cars, break-ins, ram raids and assaults. Far too often, the perpetrators were repeat youth offenders



who showed no regard for the law or their fellow Queenslanders and no fear for consequences. This is not just about statistics; it is about real Queenslanders upon whom the effects were personal and devastating.

I have sat with families whose homes were ransacked while they slept. I have listened to mothers who no longer let their kids walk to school. I have spoken with business owners forced to install bars on their windows and close early. I have stood with victims who felt completely abandoned by a justice system that had lost its way. That is why I am proud of the action the Crisafulli government has already taken in this place. We have done exactly what we promised to do and we will continue to do it because we have a very important role, which is to keep Queenslanders safe.

Forty-eight days: that is all it took the Crisafulli government to take the first step to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. I compare that to the Labor Party which, for a decade, was soft on crime. The first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws was in place by Christmas, just as we promised. That first tranche of commonsense community backed reforms will hold repeat serious youth offenders accountable for their actions. Our laws are not about punishment for punishment's sake. They are about restoring the balance to a system that is tipped too far in favour of offenders. This is about putting victims first and sending a clear message that if you commit adult crimes then you will face adult consequences. I know that not every young person who offends is beyond help. I believe in early intervention, community support and the power of second chances, but we must draw a line. We must protect our community and we must stop making excuses for those who continually cause harm.

The truth is Labor had a decade to fix it. They had reviews, councils, pilots and empty promises. What did we end up with? We ended up with more youth crime.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection. Labor still had not fixed it. They could not even decide whether to back our tough laws. We had more victims and more chaos. The time for Labor's excuses is over. The LNP are now delivering real reform and restoring safety for Queenslanders.

Crime was not the only area where the former Labor government let Queenslanders down. Let's talk about health. No matter where I go in my electorate—be it Esk, Kingaroy, Kilcoy or any other town—I hear the same heartbreaking stories: people have to wait too long in emergency departments, elderly residents are unable to get a hospital bed and paramedics are ramping outside facilities because there is no room inside. Our health workers are doing the best they can, but they are overwhelmed, overworked and under-resourced.

The further you live from Brisbane the worse the situation is. In my own electorate we have communities that struggle to attract GPs, clinics that are turning away patients and families who are forced to travel hundreds of kilometres for specialist care. That is not good enough. Every Queenslanders, no matter their postcode, deserves to have access to quality, timely and reliable health care. That is why the health minister's focus on regional health and more money for mental health and regional maternity services is so vitally important.

I will never stop fighting for better health services for the people of my electorate. I have advocated for upgrades to the Kingaroy Hospital. I have advocated for the beds in the short stay unit to be opened. I have pushed for more mental health support. I have pushed for cancer care in our regional towns. I have pushed for telestroke in our regional towns because our lives are just as valuable as those in the south-east corner and we do deserve better.

After a decade of inaction by the former Labor government, Queenslanders are tired of waste. They are tired of billion-dollar blowouts. They are tired of vanity projects that do not deliver results. The LNP are restoring integrity and discipline to government spending, and we will always put the priorities of everyday Queenslanders first and have respect for their tax dollars.

As promised, we have already scrapped not one but two taxes. We have scrapped the GP tax. We have scrapped stamp duty for first home buyers who are building a new home. How long has it been since a government has scrapped a tax? We have scrapped not only one tax; we have scrapped two taxes.

As a proud representative of regional Queensland I want to take a moment to speak about primary production. Our primary producers are the backbone of this state. They feed us. They clothe us. They export to the world. They manage their land with care, stewardship and pride. For years, though, the Labor Party, when in government, treated our farmers like criminals. They saw them as a problem to be managed rather than as partners to be supported. We were in opposition for a decade and during that time we stood in this House and fought against the unfair vegetation laws, the

bureaucracy that was out of control, the red tape that was strangling innovation and the policies that punished rather than empowered our primary producers. I will always back our rural producers. I believe in a future where agriculture is seen not as a relic of the past but as a powerhouse of this great state—a sector of innovation, opportunity and sustainability.

I will continue to fight for water security, better transport routes and genuine support for the next generation of primary producers. I look forward to Barlil Weir being built, as promised. I thank the Minister for Water for taking immediate action on this priority project for my electorate. Barlil Weir will be delivered by the Crisafulli government without delay.

The Nanango electorate is not just some lines on a map; it is a way of life. It is Saturday morning sport. It is local markets. It is show days. It is rural fires. It is SES units. It is P&Cs. It is our service clubs. It is the heart of this great state, but we cannot take it for granted. The Crisafulli government has promised to restore our regions, to fix our roads, to build infrastructure that lasts, to support small business and to ensure our children have access to great schools and job opportunities so they do not have to leave our regions to build a future. I am proud to be part of an LNP team that understands regional Queensland because, like the Deputy Speaker, the member for Scenic Rim, we live it. We get it. We will fight for it.

I acknowledge that public service is a privilege. We are not here for ourselves; we are all here for the people we represent. They deserve honesty, integrity and a government that works for them, not against them. Following the election, I was honoured to accept a call from the Premier, requesting that I take the portfolio of Attorney-General as well as be the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Integrity. While the role of attorney-general finds its roots in the 13th century—appearing in court to represent the King—the present day role is charged with overseeing the judicial system, providing vital protection of the interests of our state and representing the Queensland community as a whole.

As Attorney-General, my priorities include delivering a justice system that puts victims' rights first and enhances community safety. I am focused on boosting the capacity of our justice services to expedite cases, increasing support and transparency for victims, strengthening regional access to justice, implementing reforms to enhance transparency and accountability and supporting initiatives that uphold public trust in government institutions. I was honoured to take on this additional responsibility on behalf of the people of Queensland.

It is a great privilege to be returned to this House as the member for Nanango and to be given the trust and responsibility of representing the amazing people of the Nanango electorate in what is my fifth term. The Nanango electorate, as I have said, is the heart of regional Queensland. It is strong. It is proud. It is built on the hard work of our farmers, small business owners, frontline workers, volunteers and families who simply want the best for their children. From Comminya to Cloyna, Kilkivan to Kumbia and, of course, Woollooga to Durong—

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will get to you, Minister for Primary Industries—and everywhere in between, it is the great people of the Nanango electorate who drive me each and every day in this place. I am in this House because of the people of the Nanango electorate and I will never take their support for granted.

I want to thank my incredible family: my amazing and wonderful husband, Jason, and our three incredible and amazing daughters Isabella, Lucy and Elke. They have walked this journey with me, and they know all too well the long hours, the missed dinners and the endless meetings, events and phone calls. Anyone with young adult or teenage children knows that when they actually decide to pick up the phone and call you you have to answer it. The number of times I have had to quickly text them and say, 'It's question time,' goes to show they probably do not watch question time ever! Thank you, girls. Your father and I love you very much. We are so incredibly proud of the incredible humans you have turned out to be, even after my 12 years in this place. You are all in secure work, and it is quite amazing after the life we have given you.

I want to turn now to my amazing electorate staff. To Lenny, Sheree, Bronny, Steph and the two Caths: thank you, thank you, thank you. Your work is often behind the scenes and it is absolutely vital. You are the first voice that my constituents hear. When they call in need, which is often, it is your compassion, dedication and professionalism that make the difference. I know right now that you are watching. I know right now that the phone will be calling, so thank you.


I particularly want to acknowledge someone who has left my electorate office very recently—Belinda Pennell. Belinda was with me in the Nanango electorate from day one nearly 13 years ago, starting on this journey following my election to this place in 2012. Belinda's service to the people of my electorate has not ended, however, as she is now assisting my good friend and electorate neighbour, the honourable member for Gympie. How proud are we that she is having to help him out as the Minister for Primary Industries! I am so proud of my electorate neighbour, the member for Gympie, to be elevated to the Minister for Primary Industries. It is a real boon and it is amazing for our region, for the Nanango electorate and for the Gympie electorate. I am honoured to give the amazing Belinda Pennell to my good friend to assist him in the hard work as she continues her diligent and faithful service to rural Queenslanders in that role.

It would be remiss of me not to take a moment to thank the many LNP volunteers and supporters who assisted in my election campaign last year. There were more than 100 of them, so unfortunately time does not permit me to list them all. However, there are a few individuals I must acknowledge. To my campaign manager, Zac, who not only works so extraordinarily hard but who took time off to stand in the rain and the sun and everything else, thank you so much. To my state electorate council chairman, Tom; my incredible treasurer, Susan; my incredibly supportive sister, Jackie, and John and the boys; Sandy from Nanango; David from Blackbutt; Chris, Graham and Robyn, Andrew, Dan, Ray, Warren, Julie and many, many more: we can only do this together, so I thank you very much. I know my former campaign manager Chris Andersen, whom I have mentioned in every speech in this House—

**Mr Powell:** He was at the Woodford show on the weekend.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** He was at the Woodford show on the weekend. Thank you to you and your wife, Patricia. I know that Zac has done an amazing job following in your footsteps, but thank you for those years of service. To Zac and your team, I cannot thank you enough.

At the conclusion of this speech it is important that I do this. I reiterate what I said in my maiden speech in this place just over 13 years ago. I wish to thank the people of the Nanango electorate for giving me the honour of being their representative in this parliament. For those who voted for me, I hope my efforts over the next years will reward your faith. For those who chose otherwise, I will be working hard to earn your support. In either case, I am here to serve you.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): I am proud to have been chosen by the people of Murrumba to represent them in this House for another four years. It is a role I take great pride in. I want to thank them for giving me the chance to continue as their local MP. I want to thank my Labor colleagues for their support to continue as Queensland Labor leader. It is a role I have welcomed both for the new challenge it presents and for the opportunity to drive accountability, transparency and better outcomes for Queensland, because a government is only effective with proper scrutiny.

You have already heard from them on a number of occasions, but it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to welcome three new members to our team—the member for Sandgate, Bisma Asif; the member for Ipswich West, Wendy Bourne; and the member for South Brisbane, Barbara O'Shea. I know they will all be strong advocates for their community and for our shared Labor values. I want to thank the Labor members who were not re-elected for their work in this House. Their contributions made this House, their communities and Queensland a better place. Our Labor caucus is stronger for their time with us, and I know they will continue to represent their communities in some way.

It is my job now to listen to Queenslanders—for us to learn and to grow as a party and to apply those learnings to how we can serve the people of Queensland better. In my 10 months as premier of this state I showed Queenslanders who I am and what I believe in. Those values do not change just because the government has changed. I believe that Queensland households deserve a helping hand to get them through the hard times while doing what matters for the future. That is a Labor legacy that is saving Queenslanders hundreds of dollars every week.

There is no denying that Queensland is growing. We are growing so fast that our infrastructure is struggling to maintain pace. That is why investing in hospitals, roads, rail, housing and schools is so important. It is why Queensland's Big Build is so important. As we continue to face national and global headwinds, we cannot stop building. Right now the biggest ever hospital build program is underway—or at least it was. Three new hospitals commenced under Labor, as did 11 major hospital expansions. Already we have seen the Crisafulli government undermine the importance of this program. We have the architect of the Newman government health cuts, the member for Clayfield, at the helm—the same person who sacked 4,400 health workers.

Queenslanders are rightfully scared their local hospital build will go under the knife to save money and scared their health staff will be on the chopping block too. When it comes to this government, no hospital is safe. Work has stopped at a number of hospital sites including Coomera and Redcliffe. Now we have a 12-month delay while the Crisafulli LNP government slice and dice the health and hospital plan with no clear answer on how many hospital beds we will get by 2028. We were promised 2,200 by then. It seems it will be much fewer.

We have also seen this commitment to cuts when it comes to housing. This Crisafulli government committed to deliver more social and affordable housing, yet one of the first acts of the Deputy Premier and the new housing minister was to cut housing. More than 600 homes, including over 100 social and affordable homes, gone—on the Gold Coast no less, one of our state's fastest growing regions.

The short-sighted nimbyism from this government already is outstanding. There are now more than 1,000 homes that have been scrapped under this government including almost 300 affordable homes on the Gold Coast at Arundel, at Birtinya, at Tewantin and Redland Bay. With this attitude, how can young Queenslanders ever dream of breaking into the property market? With this attitude, where will vulnerable Queenslanders needing a safe place to call home go?

The Crisafulli government has a duty to deliver, but all we have seen so far is the groundwork laid for cuts—cuts to our front line, to services and to infrastructure this state needs. This LNP government claims to be all about action, but it appears the only action they have taken is a coordinated strike to the programs, services, budgets and big builds. Queenslanders need a government that builds for them. Now and for the future, it appears we will not get much of that from this LNP government.

Now we know the Crisafulli government was elected under a guise of integrity because, as the Premier said, when he says something it means something. Keeping the promises to Queenslanders at the election means something. It means something for those who voted for this government who were promised there would be no crime, who were promised there would be less debt, who were promised there would be no cuts. But we have already seen so many of these promises broken. It turns out that when the Premier says something it does not actually mean anything. Since becoming Premier we have seen the exact same song and dance we saw when Campbell Newman was elected. The Premier has been spending more time complaining about how hard governing is than actually getting on with the job.

The Premier has spent months softening Queenslanders up for hospital cuts. The Premier has complained relentlessly that the former government was building and expanding hospitals from Cairns to Coomera. The Premier has complained that the former government was investing in infrastructure—investing in infrastructure that will unlock the Queensland Renewable Energy Zone and critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province. The Premier has complained relentlessly about the construction of an underground train line that will transform how people move, live and interact in this great city. Instead of becoming Premier and delivering the projects this great state needs, the Premier is angling to cut or delay those same projects.

The Premier made a lot of promises during the election—a lot of promises he cannot keep. The Premier promised to reduce debt, increase spending and not cut one single project or sack one single worker. The maths simply do not add up. We also know the Premier's costings had some whacky logic too: finding \$7 billion in cuts to consultancy fees when the entire government spends \$50 million on consultancies. That money is simply not there, especially because their saviour, Queensland Government Consulting, has not even been established. Queensland Government Consulting was due to find more than \$700 million of savings this current financial year. There is only one week left. Where is that money?

I know the Treasurer will say that these cuts include relief teachers, locum doctors, contract prison officers, expert engineers and the fresh food and vegetables that feed patients in our hospitals, but that is not what the Premier promised before the election. The Premier promised that \$7 billion would be from consultants—the 'big four', he said. As I said, the 'big four' do not even get \$50 million a year from the government. This means the Premier has a \$7 billion black hole that was there before he even set foot in 1 William Street. Just look at the Premier's health plan. He endorsed Labor's 2032 Health Workforce Strategy but refused to include the ancillary things: 12,000 ancillary health workers. The House knows that Queenslanders can only judge the Premier on his actions, but his broken promises have revealed that, when he says something, it means nothing. His actions show that he will cut services, cut projects and cripple our state.

We must also keep the Premier honest about his promise to keep progressive coal royalties intact. Let's hope that promise is more robust than his promise to keep his cabinet intact. That is why our job on this side is so important. It is maybe also why Julian Simmonds had to be employed as the acting CEO of EDQ. As the biggest campaigner against progressive coal royalties, it was safer for the Premier to use taxpayer funds to put Julian by his side so they could quietly go about cutting coal royalties without Australians for Prosperity promoting their win on a billboard.

The Premier's promise to also deliver projects on time and on budget is a wonderful forward slogan but it is gaslighting Queenslanders. The Premier's word has been proven to mean nothing, which means that every decision he makes will show Queenslanders what he really believes in. The Premier was elected under a guise of integrity; however, as we have seen in the last few months, the Premier's definitive answers during the election were not definitive at all. He promised heavy rail to Maroochydore by 2032. I have laboured this point, but it was a promise made no ifs, no buts and no shortcuts, and now we get a bus. He promised no new stadiums, yet the 2032 plan now features billions of dollars for new stadiums. It was also promised there would be no public-private partnerships and that funding would be maintained within the \$7.1 billion budget. That could not be further from reality now.

He promised to be open and transparent. That has proven to be the biggest farce of them all. There have been cuts to health programs like Ready, Set, Grow—which we brought to life and have now been reversed. Workers were told they were losing their jobs at the Downer Maryborough factory due to a failure to secure a contract with Queensland Rail. There have been calls to release expert advice provided to the government—experts the Premier said he would listen to. What is to hide?

This government, in its short tenure, has become quite good at hiding things like a massive explosion at a coal-fired power station. The Treasurer failed to mention it in his big energy speech, which even mentioned the very same coal-fired power station. He did not think that was a big deal. He says that he was led to believe it was far less serious, such a non-event it was not worth telling anyone about. That same week we learned that the figures used by this LNP government for the CopperString project were fudged. Powerlink had to come out and clarify for their stakeholders that actually the cost of the original scope of the project had not changed. Is it incompetence on behalf of this Premier and his Treasurer that they cannot get those figures right? The CopperString kerfuffle came after global ratings agencies called out the midyear budget for being inflated and political. I mean, we suspected the LNP's costings were cooked, but that was all but confirmed. We know the Premier's integrity in business was questionable at best, but I thought he would take a different approach when he moved into the top job.


This highlights the reason Labor's role in this House has never been more important. We must scrutinise every single word the government says and, more importantly, we must scrutinise everything this government does. It is our job on this side of the House to shine a light in the darkness and inform Queenslanders. It is important. Because the Premier was such a small target during the election campaign, we have no clue what he actually stands for. He consistently refuses to answer questions. He continues to get off lightly, but when the rubber hits the road the Premier will be held responsible for the decisions he makes and for the actions of every single government department that reports to his ministry—like the departments of health, education and transport and main roads, which they have tried to distance themselves from recently, bizarrely stating that they are not part of the government. He will be held responsible for the decisions made in the budget today. As they get on with the job of making the big decisions, so will those of us on this side of the House get on with the job of holding them to account for their promises.

I am proud of what I have been able to deliver for my electorate of Murrumba, including: new school halls at Kallangur and Mango Hill; a health hub at Dakabin State High School; and new classrooms at Griffin, Kallangur and Mango Hill. There is so much more: the Kallangur satellite hospital; the new car park at Mango Hill station; and the big Bruce Highway upgrade, which anyone who has driven that road knows is much needed. There is much at risk too. We are already suffering from the decision of this government to suspend works at the Redcliffe Hospital, and who knows what the new QTRIP will mean for our Bruce Highway upgrade. People in Murrumba are good, hardworking people. They deserve the infrastructure a growing community needs. I will not stop fighting for them.

I will finish by thanking my team for their hard work and dedication during what has been an exceptional period of time, both in my ministerial office and my electorate office, as well as the volunteers in my community and now those staff in the opposition leader's office. I thank the union movement for their continued support. I thank Labor state secretary Kate Flanders—she is state

secretary for a couple of more days—for her dedication to that role. It is no secret that Kate and I have been great mates for a very long time. In her time as state secretary, Kate has dedicated her time to changing the lives of as many Queenslanders as possible.

Importantly, I thank my family: Kim, Sam, Aiden and Bridie. You are a big part of the reason I am here. I am fighting to make Queensland a better place for them and create opportunities. That work is not done. I will keep up the fight today and every day.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.59 am): I thank the opposition for coming in to listen to my speech in the address-in-reply; it is nice to have you all here!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Burnett, just wait a minute, please. I will take this opportunity to let the member for Logan know that he is on a warning until the break.

**Mr BENNETT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate you and Mr Speaker on your role. It has been a great privilege to see you roll on with that job. I want to welcome all the new members. It is a pleasure to serve the great state of Queensland with you all. I want to thank the LNP team, including our tireless liaison officer, Nathan. I thank our leadership team on a great and dignified campaign: David Crisafulli, Jarrod Bleijie, Deb, Brent, Bryson and Tony. They were all shadow ministers who did a great job to build a platform and deliver election success. This team worked hard and continues to work hard every day for the people of Queensland. What a privilege it has been to hear many of the first speeches from our fantastic new members on all sides of the parliament. They all share a passion and drive that Queenslanders deserve and expect.

It is an honour to be back in the 58th Parliament. It is never lost on me that it is a privilege to be elected to such a significant role—a role that comes with much responsibility, trust and expectation. As I look back over the photos, messages of support and the sheer amount of work that has gone into the last 13 years, I feel immense pride and gratitude. The significance of what has been achieved in the Burnett area and across Queensland has not been lost on me. I am humbled by the support and honoured to serve our community as the member for Burnett. After five elections, I am still blown away that I continue to have so much support from the people who live in the most amazing place in Queensland, and I could not be more proud to serve you. I want to thank the Premier for asking me to serve as Chair of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee. I will take on that role and responsibility; the work we have to do is immense.

The seat of Burnett is home to amazing agricultural and tourism enterprises: the outer islands of Lady Elliot and Lady Musgrave, the Mon Repos visitors' centre, where the amazing nesting sea turtles can be seen, and Bundaberg Rum and Bundaberg Brewed Drinks. We have the amazing coastal communities of Woodgate, Childers, Buxton, Apple Tree Creek Elliott Heads, Coral Cove, Innes Park, Bargara, Burnett Heads, Moore Park Beach, the Hummock, Gooburru, South Kolan, Bucca, Sharon, Givelda, Avondale, Yandaran, Rosedale, Miriam Vale, Bororen, Agnes Water, Seventeen Seventy, Turkey Beach and of course our destination of choice as a family, the Broadwater and Baffle Creek.

I want to thank all of the volunteers and supporters for their efforts. Thanks go to my campaign team and Burnett SEC members. Thanks Fiona, my wife who puts in a mountain of work not only during the elections but over the last 13 years and five election campaigns. I thank Tony, Sven, Brian and all the team who continue to put so much in every year to make sure the Burnett SEC is the strongest it can be. I thank you very much. I have been married for 38 years and I have three terrific kids and we enjoy six grandchildren in our lives. We are lucky that they all now reside in Bundaberg.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** We love them very much and thank them for all that they do. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank a dear friend and former Burnett electorate officer, Kath. Kath was supporting our community in her role with me. Each day she went above and beyond to help residents, groups, friends, colleagues and myself. Kath recently passed and I know that she will be missed by many in the House and members of our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kath's family. Kath was part of a team which always strives for excellence and never gives up, despite some of the challenges faced. As expected, the recent campaign was hard fought and I think many of us underestimated how difficult it would be. It was a dirty campaign, which I have spoken about, which had a personal impact on many, including Kath. Again, our thoughts go out to Kath Sowter and her family. I thank her sincerely for her years of service. I wish her family all the very best.

I want to thank Keith Pitt and the many staff who took leave to work on the state campaign. They are a great bunch in that office, which is now David Batt's office. I want to put on record my thanks and gratitude to Keith and Allison for their years of service to our region as the member for Hinkler. I wish them all the very best in their exciting new career. We will be watching that career with interest as that progresses.

The election was a referendum on the failures of the tired Labor government's performance. We all saw the looming storm clouds across our state, with cost-of-living challenges and pressures on businesses that came with rising electricity prices and increased input costs. We heard time and time again that everyday families were working through those bills at the kitchen table as they kept on rising. Locally, home ownership is a serious challenge that many face. Home ownership rates are down, while the number of families living rough under our bridges is up, which is unacceptable. We made it clear that we want our locals to be in their own homes and we have committed to making that a reality.

Unlike those opposite, we listened and we heard the aspirations of Queenslanders. When people want to own their own home, we have to make that a reality. We are going to give them those opportunities with the first ever state shared equity scheme. We promised during the campaign to remove taxes for the first time in a generation, and we have. What has been noticeable has been our commitment to work with the private sector and charities. We are committed to ensuring there is adequate land supply by releasing infrastructure partnerships to increase supply and get them to market.

What Queenslanders voted for was knowing that we share their aspirations for a home, and we gave them an opportunity to reach this goal. Our government's drive is on aspiration, rewarding those who are willing to have a go and helping those less fortunate who fall through the cracks. It is infrastructure supply partnerships that will get locals into the market, it is more supply which creates downward pressure on rent, and it is finally acknowledging that we must work with our community housing providers—which should have happened a long time ago—and the private sector to make things happen and make sure that every dollar of the Housing Investment Fund builds new supply.

I look forward to working with the community to deliver on the commitments made for both Bundaberg and the Burnett. I look forward to working with CQUniversity to develop the Wide Bay Sports Academy. This is a \$300,000 commitment from the campaign that will enable talented young athletes an opportunity to develop their sporting potential without having to leave the Wide Bay. The academy works with 13- to 19-year-old local athletes in areas like strength and conditioning, nutrition education, sports integrity and injury prevention to help them bridge the gap between being a talented young athlete and a state level athlete. This is an exciting opportunity to see our young athletes thrive.

I also look forward to working with Des at the Burnett Bowls Club on a major upgrade to improve facilities for their players and supporters. This \$500,000 upgrade will see improved disability access at the front entrance, a toilet with disability access, electronic doors at the entrance to provide better access for people with mobility devices, improved energy efficiency with new lighting and cold rooms, new air conditioning, updated floor coverings and furniture, and the removal of asbestos within the building. Our commitment will ensure this 77-year-old club is futureproofed and ready to continue serving the community.

I give a huge shout-out to Dave Facer at Brave Brothers. He and his team go above and beyond for our community around men's mental health and suicide awareness through their mentors. I was proud to stand alongside our candidate for Bundaberg, Bree Watson, to make a \$142,000 funding commitment, which is being honoured, to help deliver Brave Place Safe Space.

The team at Bundaberg Netball have been huge advocates for our region's athletes and they are doing a great job. I am proud to announce that the Crisafulli government will deliver a funding boost of over \$600,000 to improve their facility. The works will include new LED lighting to meet current training and playing standards, the resurfacing of the all-weather courts and the installation of accessibility pathways around the blue and bitumen courts. Needless to say, there are plenty of exciting times ahead for Bundaberg Netball at their courts.

I want to do a shout-out to the Winfield community who raised concerns about the boat ramp at Rocky Point. We have unfortunately seen many accidents and incidents happen there. We are committed to making sure that project is upgraded and meets the community's expectations going forward. Over the next few months, projects will start to come to fruition. We look forward to making sure that we enjoy the benefits of these projects.

**Mr Stevens:** Kalki Moon Distillery.

**Mr BENNETT:** Yes, Kalki is coming to parliament; I take that interjection.

Bundaberg will also be the location of one of the nine new Regional Reset programs as part of our \$50 million commitment to tackle youth crime across Queensland and restore safety where you live. These out-of-control youths were veering towards a life of crime and we are happy that Bundaberg has been selected as part of that. The Bundaberg program will offer one- to three-week live-in interventions to reset the lives of youth who are demonstrating high-risk behaviour such as aggression, truancy or substance abuse. It will divert them away from criminal activity. Early intervention is not a one-size-fits-all. Some kids will require more intensive intervention to rise above a life of crime, and that is where these Regional Reset programs will come in. I am proud of the promises we made to the electorate and the region. One of those promises was that we will make people safer where they live. Some of our new laws have now been implemented, with more work to be done across Queensland to make sure people are safe and their property remains in their possession.


On a not-so-nice note, I cannot let the actions of the Labor candidate in Burnett go unchallenged. This was the second election where she was rude and made outrageous statements. I say to her: your personal attacks are disgusting and relentless—shame on you. For the record, there is no domestic violence in my home and my wife does not have a brain injury as a result of a car accident, as she consistently claimed for weeks and weeks.

It was bitterly disappointing to not achieve an election result in Bundaberg. I acknowledge that the member for Bundaberg is in the chamber. I do need to do a shout-out to our candidate, Bree Watson, who did work extremely hard in a difficult campaign, but Bree retains her dignity and integrity going forward, and I am sure she will excel in whatever career she elects to pursue in the future.

Finally, to my staff: I thank you for your assistance and professional support. They are the brains trust behind what we do and I never underestimate the fact that Amity, Gemma and Tyler are the team that do such a mountain of work.

I say to the region that there is a lot of work to do after years and years of neglect under those opposite. Let's work to make our region even better. Let's work to ensure we respect our health workers, police, teachers and schools. Our agriculture sector cannot be underestimated and our primary producers deserve all the accolades they get as we drive toward our agricultural endeavours. Our tourism sector needs our support. Our region needs water security support. We need better roads and we need to continue to put the focus on the cost-of-living pressures. I also want to do a shout-out to the arts and festivals communities around the Bundaberg and Burnett regions. They do so much.

It is a pleasure to be a part of this 58th Parliament. I share the role with a lot of colleagues, new and old. I look forward to continuing to serve Burnett as best I can.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (12.10 pm): I rise to deliver my address-in-reply. I am extremely proud to stand in this House as the re-elected member for McConnel. As many others have said, it is an honour and privilege to be back here, and I believe this is the sixth occasion I have delivered my address-in-reply speech to this House.

McConnel, and before that Brisbane Central, has been my home for my whole life—I grew up in Spring Hill, across the road from St Paul's Presbyterian Church on St Pauls Terrace, with my family moving to the New Farm/Fortitude Valley area in 1972—and it is where I still live. Honestly, I could not think of living anywhere else. I absolutely love my electorate and absolutely love representing them here in this House. I do feel very privileged that the electors of McConnel have overwhelmingly endorsed me as their representative in this place and I want to assure the constituents of McConnel that I will represent their interests as I have done and, in doing so, will hold the government to account at every opportunity.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the new Speaker; I have not been able to do that until now. It is always an honour to be elected and elevated to Speaker. I congratulate all members of the House, both new and old, on their election. It really is worth something to put yourself up for election. I respect this institution, I respect this place, and I respect those who put themselves forward. Congratulations to all of you.

I congratulate those who have left us as well, whether they retired or lost their position. It would have been an honour and privilege for them to have been here, but it can be difficult times when you not only lose an election but also retire at the same time.

I welcome our new Labor members for South Brisbane, Ipswich West and Sandgate. I thank everyone for their efforts when they are elected to this place.



I also want to place on record my appreciation for the excellent directors-general and departmental staff whom I have worked with over many years and in many portfolios and my previous ministerial staff. I thank them for their efforts. Sometimes politics can be cruel, as ministerial staff lose their jobs when there is a change of government. Both sides of politics have endured that in the past. They worked tirelessly over the many years that I was a minister, and I particularly want to thank my two chiefs of staff, Sharon and Katelyn. The rest of the staff were absolutely amazing, and many of them are still with me in one way or another. It is really great that I have worked with so many dedicated, professional and expert people.

Again, the McConnel campaign was hard fought. It is never easy to win your seat. It was interesting in this election: the pre-poll votes in my electorate, those votes before the actual day, amounted to 50.22 per cent, indicative of an extraordinary trend that is happening. Around 18,000 of the 36,000 people cast their votes early—a very high pre-poll vote. Locally in the campaign, we made over 15,000 phone calls, we knocked on over 10,000 doors, we put up hundreds of yard signs, but, best of all, there were over 200 local volunteers involved in a truly community campaign.

I want to call out some of the aggressive tactics that are often deployed during an election campaign, and others have referred to them. We need to ensure that we conduct ourselves respectfully. It was great that I got on very well with all the candidates, from both the LNP and the Greens, as the two main ones who were around most of the time, but, at the end of the day, I call out the aggressive tactics that were deployed, particularly by the Greens, during the campaign. They are not acceptable and are not welcomed by constituents, and I think they should rethink those tactics the next time around. I certainly will not put up with it and I know that many in my electorate will not put up with it either.

I will start on the thankyou's because I want to make sure I get them all out. I want to start by thanking my campaign manager, Sam Jones. He did an absolutely fantastic job, coordinating everybody—like I said, there were over 200 volunteers—during the time of the campaign. There are so many people I wish to acknowledge: my treasurer, Matthew; and field organisers, Fahima and Seren, who came over from WA. I particularly congratulate our ALP State Secretary, Kate Flanders, who did a great job during the campaign, and our party organiser, Hayden Sheppard, who also worked tirelessly ensuring we did all the right things.

I had some great people on my digital team such as Ben. I thank Garry, Joel and Paula, who were in my office at the time, for holding the reins while we were out there day in, day out walking the streets of all the suburbs in my electorate. I thank all the hardworking members of the local branches—Kelvin Grove, New Farm, Fortitude Valley and Gardens Point. I thank the union movement for their support.

I acknowledge all the people who worked on my campaign. I know I will miss some out, but I will mention some names: Robert, Mary, Paula, Noel, Michael, Jay, Rob, Maria, Madonna, Richard, Peter, Sebastian, Annette, Matthew, Carly, Dylan, David and Anne. Thank you to the booth captains in Kurt, Michael, Stella Donatini—she was an absolute rock on my campaign; she is absolutely amazing—Peter Casey, Robyn, Joel and Hudson. Other volunteers that were there were Peter and Elizabeth. Ex-senator Claire Moore did an outstanding job. She was there for hours and was fantastic during the campaign. There was Pema, Ash, Gareth, Michael, Casey, Sam, Frankie, Frank and Alex, not to mention Phil, Mike and Yasmin and many others as well. We know in this place that we cannot do this alone. When you have a team of volunteers like that, there is no doubt that we are not alone and it is so good every day to have them around.

I leave the best to last, which is my family. My sisters were a wonderful support during the campaign. They had a great night at the celebration party. In particular, I honestly could not do this without my husband, Michael. He is an absolute machine when it comes to campaigning.

**A government member:** Needs a medal.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection from those opposite. He is a good fellow. He is a good egg. They must have broken the mould when they made him, and I say that in all sincerity. He is just so supportive, up every morning working endlessly—nothing is too hard. He will get out there with those yard signs. There is not a person who wants a yard sign who does not get a yard sign when Michael is around, and sometimes whether they want it or not. I kid! But Michael will also cajole those into ensuring that we do that. He is my rock. He is absolutely marvellous and I cannot say enough to thank my husband, Michael.

Of course, I have the loving support of my adult child, Bear, who is always only a phone call away. I think they are getting a bit sick of us at the moment because every time Michael and I are in the car together, we always ring Bear, sometimes many times during the day or the week because they are

in Melbourne. They are an amazing support. I am a very proud mother and Michael is a very proud father of a non-binary trans child who is on a journey and whom we absolutely love. I could not do this job without their dedicated support. Thank you to both Michael and Bear.

Can I offer congratulations on our recent federal government win. I think Anthony Albanese ran an absolutely fantastic campaign. I am so happy to have the member for Brisbane, Madonna Jarrett, now occupying the office at Albion which I visited last week. I also congratulate all of the other new members across Queensland. It was fantastic to see such a great win. The member for Bulimba together with the member for Griffith got up, as well as the member for Bonner, which is a fantastic win for the last government. Congratulations to them as well.

I was very proud to be a part of the former Miles Labor government and to deliver real change. Over the last 10 years—I looked at our population—we have grown by a million people. When we are using statistics and talking about percentages, we have to bear in mind that we have had an extraordinary growth in our population—500,000 of those came in the last four years post COVID—because people were coming to the best state in the country. The manner in which we handled COVID is a testament to what we did to keep Queenslanders safe. What we did was absolutely extraordinary and no-one should say anything but. There were a lot of attacks coming from down south and a lot of naysayers about what we were doing. At the end of the day, we kept Queensland safe and we made it one of the best states in the country.

I am very proud of our real action on climate change, with respect to publicly owned renewables and expanded protection for the Great Barrier Reef. We invested record amounts in infrastructure, particularly in my electorate with the new Fortitude Valley State Secondary College, which I saved from being sold off by the LNP government. It was the first high school built in the inner city—think of the growth in the inner city—for 50 years. We had a great progressive social reform agenda: protecting a woman's right to choose; supporting marriage equality; introducing voluntary assisted dying laws; and outlawing coercive control.

We started building Cross River Rail. We were tackling homelessness and delivering fairer rental reforms, which is very important. We had our Labor initiative of \$200 FairPlay vouchers—you can rebrand them any way you want but, at the end of the day, they are a Labor initiative. We had free kindy, free TAFE and 20 per cent off rego, and never forget: Labor introduced 50-cent fares. Others may want to claim them. They all want to claim the great ideas. They invent crisis in every other area—whether it is true or not—and they come in here with outlandish claims about no teachers in schools. I cannot believe I even heard the Premier say that. As for there being no staff in hospitals, you have to be kidding. As if the people of Queensland believe any of that rubbish. At the end of the day, these are great Labor initiatives and I have not heard one new decent idea from those opposite since they have been elected.

As the education minister for six years, I am most proud of the investment that we made in schools. We delivered, as I said, many new schools. I believe the number is 29 in 10 years—29 new schools. I see a lot of members in this place right now who benefited from those schools in our fastest growing areas. That is an average of three a year—an absolutely incredible result that is a record investment in schools. For any of those opposite to come in here and suggest otherwise is misleading this place. We believe in world-class education. I and the member for Bulimba, the recent ex-education minister, worked on getting that federal deal up. We negotiated that for nearly three years. Let me tell you: it takes more negotiation than two cannoli to sign that one off! I will not step back. The delivery of that deal was the work of me and the ex-minister, the member for Bulimba. The LNP then ended up signing it.

I cannot let the opportunity slip: we have air-conditioned every school. They would be waiting until 2028 for the LNP initiative. We did it on time—no, it was before time—and on budget. We did not take 'no' from the department. We delivered 200,000 solar panels on school roofs at the same time to help meet the cost. What an outstanding result. Can I say: we have done a fantastic job in delivering, and I will not hear anything to the contrary from those opposite. I despaired today when I heard the Minister for Youth Justice talk about a new school called 'crime prevention school'. I honestly hope and pray to God every night that not one of my relatives ever has to attend a crime prevention school. Talk about labelling a child for the rest of their life. 'Where did you go to school?' 'I went to the crime prevention school.' Can you imagine what kids will do with that? Can you imagine how that labels those young kids?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** For those interjecting, I hope none of your relatives—whether you are on the other side or on this side—ever go to a school with a name like that. There are other ways that we can help children; you do not give them a label them for life which they have to carry. My heart broke when I heard that term. I cannot tell you, as an ex-education minister, how shocking that is.

In respect of IR achievements, we decriminalised wage theft, we included labour hire regulations, we streamlined trading hours and we led the nation in the fight against silicosis. We have the best workplace health and safety laws in the country, the best WorkCover laws in the country. We have the best paid public servants because we know how to bargain. We had agreements that even met the high inflation cost-of-living adjustment. I am yet to see one agreement that those opposite have negotiated. We know firsthand what it takes to deliver, and we delivered in spades for workers right throughout Queensland.

When someone is sick or injured, they want the world's best health care. I notice that Ali France, the new member for Dixon, is passionate about our plan to build a world-class Queensland cancer centre. We need to do that. These people suffer a lot, and we need to make sure we provide that cancer centre. I am very proud, staunch supporter of the LGBTQ+ community as a proud mum and I will continue to be so. I stand on the fantastic results that we got on issues such as same-sex marriage, same-sex adoption and the rest.


I know how important housing is. We had a fantastic plan to deliver. I just hope that the government gets out of opposition and starts to act like a government and deliver for the people of Queensland. In respect of racing, it was an honour. We doubled that industry. We put in sustainable funding that was the envy of every other state and territory, and they followed us. It was fantastic to be able to do that as well. Anyone who says that the racing industry is not content with what we did in government is misleading this House.

I am very pleased that coercive control laws came into effect on 26 May this year. I cannot believe, when you look at the speech given by the Governor about what the government was doing, that we had an extraordinary move to stop any discussion on abortion rights—unbelievable. They closed down the pill-testing site in my electorate, CheQpoint, which many professionals and experts support, as do doctors and communities alike. It is about saving lives, not burying your head in the sand.

They abolished the state's Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry without even talking to the chair or its members—extraordinary. They banned gender affirmation health care for vulnerable young Queenslanders. I dread to think where my child would be if they required that at the moment in Queensland. That is absolutely heartless. They covered up an explosion at Callide Power Station and backflipped when it was brought to their attention. They backflipped on respectful relationships and health education program Ready, Set, Grow—and we will call it out every time they do. They cut funding after the Environmental Defenders Office were told they had nothing to fear, yet here we are and they have had their funding cut. We had to read between the lines: 'Sorry, did you think we were going to do it long term? No, it is only for this financial year.' How cruel. How absolutely terrible.

They politicised the Queensland Redistribution Commission by appointing the Deputy Premier's hand-picked director-general, John Sosso, ignoring the opposition's concerns and objections and even the warnings from Tony Fitzgerald. They continually play the blame game and are incapable of delivering what they promise on time and on budget, claiming juiced-up budget figures with no details, no evidence and no reports. That was even highlighted by Standard & Poor's questioning whether the MYFER was real or politics. Let me tell them: it is just politics. There were broken promises to my constituency regarding no new stadiums—12 times. I was telling them that is not true; they were going to build one. Guess what? I was right; they were wrong. A new stadium is going to be built in Victoria Park as well as other infrastructure with no consultation and no plan to do so.

There are broken promises on the rail line to Maroochydore. Remember they said they were going to build it in spite of everyone telling them they could not? But no, they were going to do it. To add salt to the wound, Queensland is becoming blue, not maroon. What a waste of time and money. How ridiculous. I thought it was an April Fools' Day joke but, no, it is true. It is an honour to be in this House.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.31 pm): I want to acknowledge and reply to the terrific speech of Her Excellency the Governor at the opening of parliament, now some nine months ago. It was a pleasure to be there for the first time in a long time to listen to an opening speech that set out a clear plan for the future of Queensland that had clear ideas and a clear way forward that would deliver for the people of Queensland, not just for select groups of people, whether they are in the labour movement or otherwise—something that actually addressed what Queenslanders said was the most important thing to them at the time.

It is a delight to respond to Her Excellency's address at the opening of the 58th Parliament. It is also interesting to note that this was the first time the Governor was representing the King of Australia, King Charles III. Parliamentarians from the 33rd Parliament in 1953 until the 57th Parliament in 2020 all swore allegiance to the Queen of Australia. This time around this was the first for us all here to swear allegiance to the King of Australia, King Charles III.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want you to pass on to Mr Speaker my thanks for the way he has diligently and with great aplomb and enthusiasm applied himself to the task of Speaker of the 58th Parliament since November. Mr Deputy Speaker McDonald, I also say thank you for the way in which you have calmly and methodically managed the House on the occasions that you have been in the chair. I have appreciated on occasions your guidance and on a number of times—actually, never—your protection. Nonetheless, I do want to congratulate you on your role. As a former sergeant in charge, I am sure you are bringing a lot of your skills to the chair.

It is good, though, that the member for Condamine is in the chair and is doing such a terrific job in that role. I also want to acknowledge his hard work in this place since he was elected as the member for Condamine in 2015 in a number of roles, including as a shadow minister. The Speaker worked on a number of committees as the shadow minister and continues to serve his community with pride, effectiveness and dedication, and that is a good thing. He has, as he said in his first speech, worked his way from the back of the chamber to the front. That has been a diligent and a long piece of work and he is thoroughly deserving of the support from this side of the House for the role—not always easy—that he has willingly accepted.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the Premier for the great honour—a somewhat surprising honour, I might say, on the morning of—that he bestowed upon me in appointing me the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. As I have often said in these circumstances, he has been very full in his support and very willing to listen to new ideas and to work to provide easier access to health services and to help heal Labor's health crisis. I want to thank him for the role that traditionally people would not have seen me in, but I have enjoyed learning a lot about it and have enjoyed making new friends and delivering services throughout the state.

A core commitment of our LNP team during last year's election campaign was to end the crisis in health and hospitals after Labor's decade in office—and crisis it was. We were elected to provide a fresh start for Queensland. Every Queenslanders, as I often say, from Currumbin to the cape and from Brisbane to Bedourie and beyond, deserves access to world-class health services. It does not matter whether they are in a health clinic on the border with the Northern Territory or whether they are sitting right here in the centre of Brisbane at the Royal Brisbane or at the PA; they deserve world-class health services. Since the election, the LNP government has been working hard at unravelling the mess that was left behind by those opposite. We inherited—and it is important to remember this—the worst ambulance ramping numbers in Australia at over 45 per cent—let's never forget that—and a record waitlist for elective surgery.

**Ms Grace:** Yeah and it's still there.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear the member for McConnel denying these numbers, but the numbers on the elective surgery waitlist almost doubled from 35,000 in 2015—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was incorrect. I take offence and I ask it to be withdrawn.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. The member for McConnel was a member of a government that saw the worst numbers in elective surgery waiting, from 35,000 in 2015 to 66,000 by the end of 2024. The member for McConnel was a member of the government that oversaw those numbers. She sat around the cabinet table. She was there at every decision. She looked at it every step of the way and that is the result: a 100 per cent increase in elective surgery waiting lists and a list of nearly 300,000

Queenslanders waiting to see a specialist. That is the record of the Labor government that the member for McConnel was a part of every step of the way. They also failed to deliver critical infrastructure that our Hospital Rescue Plan is now set to deliver.

**Mr Bailey:** The cuts plan.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear the member for Miller, who has strolled in. I knew he would come. I threw the hook out there and, like a goldfish, he came bubbling along to jump onto the hook. There he goes.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. The minister should not sledge and he should withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Clayfield—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. I heard the member for Miller come in and start interjecting from his seat over there. I think it pays to remind the House and those who are fortunate to be listening to me today that the member for Miller had to stand up and apologise for misleading the House in relation to false claims he made in this place. He is a member self-described as foolish. He described himself as a foolish minister who made mistakes, whether it was recording information on his phone or whether it was deleting information that he was lucky he was not prosecuted for, according to the CCC. That is the member for Miller's record in this place.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again the minister is going low. I find what he is saying inaccurate and personally offensive. I was cleared on those matters, and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. I am moving on. The member for Miller comes in here, having previously had to apologise for misleading the House—with all the record that the member for Miller has—and provides no solutions.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, not while you are leaving the chamber, thank you.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Exactly. We know what happens to people who leave the chamber without acknowledging properly, don't we? We remember the member for Miller on that score as well. That is the member for Miller's style—not even observing the simple courtesies of this place in acknowledging the chair while departing the chamber. Let me get back to Labor's record, as bad as it was, including their failure to deliver on infrastructure that people could believe in.

We came to government with a plan to treat, diagnose and cure Labor's health crisis and to restore health services that Queenslanders deserve. What did we do? We eliminated the GP tax that Labor had in place. We published real-time hospital data. Something that Labor said could not be done we did within 100 days. We assessed staff levels across regional maternity services to understand the gaps left behind by Labor. Let's not forget: as I said in question time this morning, Labor left Biloela without birthing services for over a thousand days, shut birthing services at Gladstone and had failed to restore birthing services in Cooktown.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** That is the record of a Labor government, for the vast majority of which the member for Miller sat around the cabinet table—for a decade. Let us not forget that that is the Labor record over that period of time. We are now acting—and have acted in the first nine months, as the member for Callide knows—to deliver those services. We listened to frontline clinicians—over 3,000 employees of those services, the people who actually work in them—and renamed satellite health centres to reflect the services they deliver. Imagine asking the people who work there what they thought about the name! They overwhelmingly told us that they wanted to rename them as satellite health centres.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It was not like the sham renaming undertaken by those opposite with respect to the Children's Hospital. We did not have people sitting at computer keyboards pressing the 'enter' key—

**Mr Head:** Rigged.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Rigged. We actually went out with a proper survey which asked frontline clinicians what they thought the name should be. We have delivered on those commitments. We have identified the most appropriate sites for additional CT and MRI machines to provide faster diagnostics and to reduce the need for patients to travel to another facility. We will be having a lot more to say about that over the next couple of months.

When it comes to diagnosing, to treating and to curing, the LNP Crisafulli government has wasted no time. We are cleaning up the mess that was left behind by the Labor Party and their failed members—by people who self-excluded themselves on the way through, people who knew their future was limited. We are getting on with the job of delivering easier access to health services no matter where Queenslanders might live across this great state. There will be more about that when the budget comes out this afternoon. Boy, is it going to be a cracker!

I am grateful to the electors of Clayfield for the opportunity to continue to serve Clayfield as a member of the team delivering the change Queenslanders overwhelmingly wanted in October last year. This is the seventh occasion I have been elected by the good people of Clayfield. Of course, the first time I ran as a former Brisbane City councillor, having resigned my position as a Brisbane City councillor to take on the challenge of beating the then Labor member for the seat of Clayfield, which I am happy to say I did—not as happy as my bank manager was at the time. Nonetheless, I have continued to be able to serve the people of Clayfield, and I want to thank them for their ongoing support in what have been on a number of occasions some hotly contested election battles.

It is no surprise that inner urban seats are not what they once were and the demographics are changing. Nonetheless, I thank the people of Clayfield. I have been keen to support them over a lengthy period of time—for the better part of 18 years, including two terms on the Brisbane City Council. There we saw another terrible Labor administration—the member for Miller was a part of that at the time—lose, and deservedly so. The member for Miller has a deserved reputation for losing. I was very happy to be part of the LNP council team that has been re-elected for more than 20 years. What an outstanding record that might be. In fact, I understand that the Labor team in council are now so dispirited that they have failed to turn up for budget information sessions. At the council equivalent of estimates, the Labor team did not turn up yesterday to ask questions. Imagine that. That is the quality of the Labor Party in the 21st century.

I am grateful for the support I have received from the voters of Clayfield. I also acknowledge all of those new members of this parliament. I met many of them on the campaign trail, and it is so nice to see them here today. Whether I was in Townsville, Mackay or Rockhampton, it was terrific to campaign with hardworking local representatives. I pay tribute to them. I know that some people on both sides of the chamber lost their seats, and I want to acknowledge their service. Being an elected representative is no easy task, so I acknowledge those who lost their seats. Some we obviously will miss more than others, but I do acknowledge the service everyone puts in to representing their communities.

We had tremendous wins, as I said. The seat of Mackay had been held by Labor for more than a century, since Forgan Smith in 1915. What a welcome addition the member for Mackay has been to the team as someone who represents his community. Even at the height of Joh's popularity, Mackay was held by Labor.

**Mr Stevens:** And Rockhampton.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** And Rockhampton, as the member for Mermaid Beach says. We know the stories of crime and the crime crisis in Mackay. Police minister Dan Purdie and I went up there a number of times and we are delivering. Pumicestone elected the youngest woman ever to the Queensland parliament, after a shameful campaign by the Labor Party—a shameful campaign that diminished not the member for Pumicestone but the Labor Party because of the way they behaved. It was Labor's refusal to listen to the concerns of locals in those seats that lost them those seats and saw the LNP win. I reassure those people that we are listening and will continue to do so.

By the end of this term of government I will have served my community as an elected representative for nearly 30 years. After six years as councillor for Hamilton, I stood for election to state parliament in 2006, defeating the Labor incumbent, because I wanted to see a better Queensland—a

safer Queensland, a Queensland that rewarded effort, a Queensland that acknowledged the importance of the individual, that saw the dead hand of the collective not delivering what the private sector can always deliver and deliver better.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, you are warned.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I have been a proud and staunch advocate for that ever since. It has been my job to help the community I represent to adapt to change—listening to locals, not preaching to them. My kids grew up there. They have been through school there. They are still with me. That continues, in the changing nature of kids at home these days: they go and they come back. It is a community we love. In October last year they supported—again—our direction and what we said we were going to do.


We saw pre-poll voters turn up in record numbers, determined to support the Premier's fresh start. They paid no heed to the candidate from the Libertarians, who was not aided by their nominal leader there, with only 800 votes, I am pleased to say. His brilliant campaign strategy was to boast about a yellow Lamborghini parked at a pre-poll entrance. As shallow as stunts like that were, what voters told me was that the only thing motivating them was the opportunity to show Labor the door—and show Labor the door they did.

**Mr Head:** It would be better with a LandCruiser.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Yes. In a desperate attempt to buy votes, those opposite were spruiking every thought bubble their advisers dreamt up. We heard from the Deputy Premier about Steve's servos, a second government owned energy retailer to compete against the first government owned energy retailer, and allegedly free lunches for schoolchildren. Labor had the wrong priorities every step of the way. We stayed focused on the issues that mattered to people in the campaign. The No. 1 issue was rampant crime, followed by the health system failures, cost-of-living concerns and worries about how to keep the lights on, as well as where our next generation are going to find a home. We are dealing with all of those.

Queenslanders gave us a mandate to deliver a fresh start after almost a decade of a stale, out-of-touch and arrogant Labor government, and we will deliver. I also want to thank my dad, Peter, who has campaigned with me every step of the way and at 86 continues to be an avid supporter, although not quite so active, as many of you know. I thank my wife, Mary, who has continued to put on an ill-fitting T-shirt and stand at election booths, make sure the sandwiches get delivered and make sure that I am kept on the straight and narrow. To the kids, Katie, Duncan and Jeremy, who, despite their great reluctance, still come, hand out and work on election day and pre-poll and fill in some of the gaps, I want to say thank you for your love, support and commitment. It goes to show that not all the younger generation are voting the other way. Some of them know which side their bread is buttered on. My daughter, Katie, who had some fortune in earning an income recently, finally got a tax bill and said, 'Dad, it's highway robbery.' I said, 'It is, and it is always worse under Labor.' She learns the hard lessons, as you do. The kids are doing a great job and I wish them all the very best. Last October we did it without Mum for the first time ever, so this one is for her.

I also want to thank my campaign volunteers and electorate office staff for their blood, sweat and tears, surviving on a diet of muesli bars, snakes and the free coffee at the local coffee shop that I put on—free to them, not to me—manning the roadsides and election booths as well as enduring the fumes of the stinking Lamborghini at pre-poll. They have done their very best. I want to thank my campaign manager, Councillor Julia Dixon from the BCC, and my SEC chair, Matt Crossley, who worked day and night despite having two young kids. To all of my team who came out and helped me, it is a team effort, and I thank my mighty Clayfield team. I want to thank all those who supported me financially and physically on the day. I am here on the platform built by the Clayfield team. I am grateful for their support and the opportunity to again serve the voters of Clayfield and Queensland and deliver on the foundations for a fresh start that I know we will deliver over the next 3½ years.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.52 pm): I rise to reply to the Governor's opening speech for the 58th Parliament. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to my very good friend the member for Condamine on his well-deserved promotion to the esteemed role of Speaker of this chamber. I also extend congratulations to the member for Lockyer for doing an absolutely fantastic job as one of the Deputy Speakers. In the last term of parliament I worked closely with the member for Condamine. His patience is certainly renowned. I note that this place will certainly

test that patience. All I can say is that I am glad he is in the role and not me because I do not have the patience that he has. As a few members have said to me, 'If they do not behave themselves, if in doubt, kick them out.' It is a good little saying.

I congratulate all the returning members from the 57th Parliament, along with all the newly elected members, those who have now joined the LNP team and those on the other side. Your names will be placed alongside the 1,200 names that adorn the walls outside of this chamber. To my deputy whips: congratulations on your roles. I believe that every member should be a whip at some time to learn what it is like to herd members and make sure people do their spot on the roster. I would also like to congratulate the opposition whip on his role.

**Mr Ryan:** It's easy.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** He does not need to have a quorum, does he? Most importantly, I wish the members who retired at the last parliament all the best in their life and their future ambitions and dreams. I wish Lachlan Millar, a good friend of mine, Mark Robinson, Michael Hart and Darren Zanow all the best in their future endeavours.

To the member for Broadwater: a sincere congratulations on becoming the 41st Premier of Queensland. Your discipline, work and inspiring leadership have motivated the LNP team to a remarkable achievement. To the member for Kawana, the Deputy Premier: your unwavering focus and legendary determination are commendable. Special thanks must go out to the LNP state executive.

Last year, on 26 October, the people of Queensland voted for change. They voted for safety where you live, health services when you need them, respect for your money, a place to call home and a government that works for you. The Crisafulli government will restore integrity in government. It is seldom that we ever hear of a government coming in and scrapping taxes. The Crisafulli government has scrapped two taxes. This is the fresh start that the Queensland population voted for.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the local Theodore LNP State Executive Council, the many groups that came out to volunteer and our local leaders who consistently offer their local support. There are so many people I want to thank and I am tempted to read out all their names, but I feel that it would take up pretty much the remainder of my speech. Many of those people spent days helping. I had a fantastic team of individuals who went out and did letterbox drops on a regular basis. I had individual SEC members who would wear out their shoes on a regular basis. They were quite proud to show me their footwear after the work they had done.

There are so many people I could mention here today—people like Steve, Warren, Robert, Daniel, the other Steve—for their outstanding efforts during the campaign. It was not only them but also community groups that supported what I was doing. The members of those community groups got behind me and pushed the voting population to support the LNP at this election. Those groups included my local men's sheds, cricket and other sporting groups. Environmental groups were very supportive after all these years I have done tree planting with them and given some of my electoral allowance to them to cover the cost of chemicals for their water testing. Something that I have always been passionate about is our environment, especially in our local community. Business owners and business groups were also supportive. The list goes on.

I want to thank my family: my wife, Kanako, and my three wonderful children, Eleanor, Samuel and Maya. My wife would say that she is not sure about the 'wonderful' part. She would say to me, 'Mark, while you've been away, they've been playing up and causing a bit of grief.' She is the anchor of my life. My family is everything to me. As most members in this chamber would say, we do this for our community but also for our families and to make a better world for our children.

My father, Peter, somebody who is certainly getting on in years—I will not say his age—works harder than somebody half his age. He is incredibly dedicated to the Liberal National Party cause. He rings me on a regular basis to express frustration about what is happening in Australia and around the world. He grew up as a sharefarmer's son and has a true passion for agriculture. He is never happier than when he is out there on the farm getting red soil all over his hands. To my mother, Marjorie: I know that you find it difficult helping these days. We know that you are there in spirit, egging us on. You cannot do the work you used to be able to do, but thank you for all your support. It is a trying time for our family.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Theodore, I think that is an appropriate point, after a tribute to your mother, at which to adjourn the debate.

Debate on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.00 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, HELEN PATRICIA BOWSKILL, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2025 and 1 July 2026

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 24 June 2025

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 24 June 2025, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 [724].

### Introduction



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.00 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2025 and 1 July 2026. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 [725].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025, explanatory notes [726].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [727].

I am pleased to introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025. The bill provides appropriation for the 2025-26 financial year and interim supply for 2026-27 to continue normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service until the 2026-27 appropriation bill receives assent. Our government is committed to maintaining the independence of the Legislative Assembly, which is why we are continuing to adhere to the longstanding convention of a separate appropriation bill for the Parliamentary Service. This funding supports the continued operations of the parliament, its committees and key services that support all members in this place.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk, Mr Neil Laurie, and the entirety of the Parliamentary Service for the important function they play in our democracy and for the support they provide to all members of this House. Our government is honoured to be supporting the Parliamentary Service in this budget. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.02 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.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

## BUDGET PAPERS



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.02 pm): I table the budget papers for 2025-26.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Appropriation Bills [\[728\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[729\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[730\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[731\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[732\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet [\[733\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [\[734\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business [\[735\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education [\[736\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety [\[737\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [\[738\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice [\[739\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers [\[740\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development [\[741\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Primary Industries [\[742\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games [\[743\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning [\[744\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation [\[745\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Trade, Employment and Training [\[746\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[747\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism [\[748\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support [\[749\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Corrective Services [\[750\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Fire Department [\[751\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [\[752\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management [\[753\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [\[754\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane Central [\[755\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane East [\[756\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane North [\[757\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane South [\[758\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Brisbane West [\[759\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Central Queensland [\[760\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Darling Downs [\[761\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Far North Queensland [\[762\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Gold Coast [\[763\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Ipswich [\[764\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Logan [\[765\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Mackay Whitsundays [\[766\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Moreton Bay [\[767\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—North Queensland [\[768\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—North West Queensland [769].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Redlands [770].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Scenic Rim [771].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—South West Queensland [772].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Southern Downs [773].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Sunshine Coast [774].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Western Queensland [775].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Regional Delivery Plan—Wide Bay-Burnett [776].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget Overview [777].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Budget At A Glance [778].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2025-26: Women's Economic Security Statement [779].

## APPROPRIATION BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.03 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Appropriation Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, HELEN PATRICIA BOWSKILL, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2025 and 1 July 2026

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 24 June 2025

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 24 June 2025, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill 2025 [780].

### Introduction



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.03 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2025 and 1 July 2026. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill 2025 [781].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill 2025, explanatory notes [782].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [783].

When the people of Queensland changed the government last October, they voted for a fresh start. They voted for a fresh start in the way in which its government approaches the budget. They wanted a government that understood the daily challenges they faced and could deliver a plan to deal with them—respect for taxpayers' money; respect for our public servants who work to heal the sick, teach and care for our young and protect our citizens; respect for the industries that underpin our prosperity; and respect for hardworking Queenslanders who deserve better than what a decade of Labor government gave them.

This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start. When the true state of the books was revealed in January it seemed the task was impossible, but the work we have done since coming to government is reflected today in the budget I deliver. It delivers for the Queensland people and keeps faith with their election of a new government. It honours our election commitments. It delivers cost-of-living relief that is responsible and recurrent, targeted and timely. It funds services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended. It saves infrastructure and projects that would have never been built. It makes investments in a stronger, more productive economy which will build a better lifestyle for all Queenslanders and it lays the foundation for long-term budget repair.

**Labor's legacy**

Labor's last budget update revealed the depths of their debt, deficit and deception. Debt was projected to reach \$217.8 billion in 2027-28. Debt per capita was forecast to reach almost \$40,000 per person—the highest in the nation; a four-year capital program that was ungoverned and undeliverable; project overruns everywhere—poorly scoped, badly managed and significantly underfunded. CopperString, Pioneer-Burdekin, Borumba, Cross River Rail, the Health capacity expansion program—the list was long.

Labor's announced but unfunded service delivery commitments were forecast to drive deficits across the forward estimates of more than \$30 billion—a consistent worsening trend with a forecast operating deficit of \$9.2 billion in 2027-28.

Queensland's budget papers cheapened into advertising hoarding, and who can forget the election campaign? State owned service stations, state owned GP practices, another state owned energy retailer and state sliced school lunches—all announced in a desperate attempt to secure political survival. That was Labor's legacy, and that is what we inherited.

**Delivering improved fiscal results**

We promised that we would adopt a calm and methodical approach to the budget. We promised that we would target budget improvements and, in doing so, develop a plan to improve the lives of Queenslanders. We promised we would do so carefully. We promised that debt would be lower under a Crisafulli government, and today we are delivering on that promise.

Today I can advise the House that total state debt is now forecast to reach \$205.7 billion at the end of the forward estimates in 2028-29. Under Labor, debt was forecast to reach \$217.8 billion in 2027-28 and was on a trajectory to balloon further, to \$252 billion in 2028-29. Interest costs across the forwards are now forecast to be \$2.3 billion lower than they would have been under Labor, which leaves more to be paid to our frontline workers rather than our lenders. Our four-year capital program is \$116.8 billion. This demonstrates our determination to lay the foundation for the future and to deliver a better lifestyle for Queenslanders.

I have repeatedly warned it would be a serious challenge to return the budget to surplus—and it is. The operating deficit forecast for 2025-26 is \$8.6 billion. Labor's consistent worsening deficits, including the \$9.2 billion deficit in 2027-28, are reversed across the forward estimates as we deliver consistent budget improvements, reducing the operating deficit to \$1.1 billion in 2028-29. This deficit is driven by a sharp drop in forecast GST revenue and the duty to deliver the jobs and services Queenslanders were promised.

We face significant revenue headwinds. Firstly, there are declining coal royalties. The former government collected more in coal royalties in two years than what will be collected in the next four. They promised progressive coal royalties would fund all their unfunded promises, but the revenue those opposite claimed to have banked is gone.

Secondly, Queensland's unprecedented GST reduction of \$2.3 billion between last year and our first budget has punched a hole in revenue forecasts. This redistributive loss comprises more than 25 per cent of this year's operating deficit and strips \$5 billion from revenue over the next three years. It is the biggest redistribution of GST revenue in Australian history.

Queensland is providing national leadership in developing our natural resources and improving productivity. We should not be penalised for doing the right thing, and our efforts must be acknowledged with a coherent, consistent and fair GST deal. If not, where is the incentive to grow our state's economy and, therefore, the nation's wealth?

Notwithstanding these challenges, the long-term debt trajectory is slowing, and the deficits will lessen over the forward estimates as revenues improve and expenses are carefully managed—as we promised. That is less debt and smaller operating deficits than our predecessors but with more to show for it. The former government promised 26 times there would be no new or increased taxes, and they broke that promise. They damaged confidence. They damaged our reputation. They damaged our state's interests.

In contrast, we are delivering what we promised. This is a budget with no new or increased taxes because it is beyond time that we restored taxation and regulatory certainty and stability. We are actually doing what matters for Queenslanders. Our fiscal position is stabilising, but the serious challenges we face will not be overcome in a single budget. It will take time—this term of government and the next. Today we are laying the foundation of a pathway to surplus.

### **Delivering fiscal action**

To deliver on this, we are making changes to our state's fiscal principles. We will now seek to stabilise the non-financial public sector debt-to-revenue ratio and general government sector net debt-to-revenue ratio at sustainable levels in the medium term, and we are targeting reductions in the debt-to-revenue ratio in the long term. The new approach concentrates on the debt that the state needs to service and closely aligns with credit rating agency measures of debt burden.

In a Queensland first, we are adding a productivity focused fiscal principle which is targeting productivity improvements across the public and private sectors. I now wish to table the revised Charter of Fiscal Responsibility.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Government: Charter of Fiscal Responsibility' [784].

Our re-established Queensland Productivity Commission will lead forward-leaning debate, analysing what the state can do to support the Commonwealth's efforts in driving productivity and deliver sustained improvement in living standards. We will also cap the number of non-frontline senior executives at current levels until 2028. This will be managed by the Public Sector Commissioner, in consultation with departments.

We are realising stronger debt and portfolio management outcomes by using the Debt Retirement Fund for its established purpose. Annual repayments of debt from investment returns, including through the transferring of \$3 billion of surplus defined benefit assets, will lower debt by \$4.8 billion by 30 June 2029.

### **Economic outlook**

Queensland is not immune to challenges facing other states and countries. Uncertainty in the global economy has grown in recent years, even weeks, exacerbated by trade volatility and wars in Europe and the Middle East that disrupt established trade balances. Despite these challenges, Queensland's economic growth is forecast to strengthen and remain robust in the forward estimates. Treasury is forecasting gross state product growth of 2¾ per cent in 2025-26. It is an early signal that our open-for-business approach is being noted.

Labour market conditions are expected to remain strong and the unemployment rate is expected to stay lower for longer and remain beneath the long-run average across the forecast period. Wages too are forecast to grow 3½ per cent in 2025-26, representing real wage growth.

Laying the foundation to overcome the budget challenges we inherited means we can find a way to meet the big issues Queenslanders face and deliver the fresh start they voted for.

### **Cost-of-living relief**

Household budgets continue to come under pressure. We promised to deliver targeted, responsible and comprehensive relief to those who need it most, coupled with investments into long-term structural reform to put downward pressure on the cost of living. Long-term structural reform is fundamental to improving living standards. Delivering safety where you live puts downward pressure on insurance premiums. We are increasing our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee to \$1.6 billion—building on the \$450 million already invested in 2024-25—to properly maintain our generation assets and put downward pressure on power bills.

Since forming government we have taken decisive and immediate action on cost-of-living relief, which this budget consolidates. We are providing \$37.5 million for free health checks for kids in kindy, and we have abolished the patients tax, which lowers the cost to see the doctor. Doctors are healers, not bookkeepers, and we want doctors to be with patients, not lawyers and accountants.

We have abolished stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home and we have extended the boosted first home owner grant to \$30,000 for 12 months, incentivising young people to get into the market in a new house, thereby encouraging supply through new-build construction. This budget also locks in the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares.

### **Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We will have order before we continue. The tradition is to listen to this speech in silence.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We are investing \$26.3 million for our Supercharged Solar for Renters program that will reduce power bills for renters. Building on a former Liberal National government vision to support families aspiring to see their kids play sport, we have provided long-term funding for the Play On! program that would have otherwise stopped next week under those opposite.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will have two days to debate this bill. You can have your say then. If there are any more interjections, I will start to remove people from the chamber.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Nearly \$8.5 billion in ongoing concessions are forecast to be provided to Queenslanders in 2025-26. Today I announce that we are restoring indexation to the Electricity Rebate Scheme for vulnerable households, providing an uplift in support that more than 600,000 Queensland households will receive. This is a 3.8 per cent increase that will reduce the average power bill for vulnerable households by \$386, rather than \$372, in 2025-26. This modest cost-of-living relief, frozen by the former government in 2022, will be indexed every year under the Crisafulli government.

### **Making Queensland Safer**

After a decade of weakened youth crime laws, Queenslanders are grappling with a long-term crime crisis that has threatened their safety and the sanctuary of their homes and businesses and exacerbated cost-of-living pressures.

The Crisafulli government is delivering stronger laws and consequences for actions, more police and a clear focus on rehabilitation and early intervention. This budget invests \$347.7 million to deliver our Making Queensland Safer Laws. These are investments in the front line, in our people, in our facilities, in our system—investments that are making our community safer.

In our first 200 days of government we delivered net 240 new police officers—considerably more than the net 174 our predecessors delivered in the last term of government. We are fulfilling our commitment to bolster our front line with 1,600 new recruits across the term, and those officers are being properly resourced to make our community safer, with \$147.9 million in this budget for new tasers, vests, body worn cameras and safety equipment.

We are delivering \$290.3 million to build new and upgraded police stations, facilities and beats at Burleigh, Nambour, Logan Central, Mount Gravatt, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Redcliffe, Edmonton, Palm Island and Goodna, giving our officers the facilities and resources they need to tackle crime. We are setting aside funds to buy land for proposed new police stations at Yarrabilba, Rainbow Beach and Caboolture West. To reduce attrition and boost morale, a new \$13.5 million mental health support framework will be implemented for current and former officers.

This budget provides more than \$38.8 million for intensive case management and \$75 million to the youth co-response models—intervening early and responding fast, wherever needed. We are investing \$24.4 million in bail programs and we are breaking the cycle of reoffending with our Staying on Track program, which provides intensive 12-month rehabilitation support.

We are sending a clear message that victims will not be forgotten or left alone. This budget is delivering an additional \$275 million in financial assistance to provide payments to victims of crime, a bolstered \$11.6 million victim liaison service to help navigate the court process and permanent funding of \$10 million per year for a new victims advocate service.

Our government has inherited a legal and prison system in disarray—backlogs of cases before the courts, failing infrastructure, unfunded community legal services. We are laying the foundations for a safer Queensland by investing \$2.4 billion to deliver new facilities for additional prisoner capacity across Townsville and Brisbane. Over five years we will inject \$76.3 million into developing new courthouse infrastructure including improved facilities for victims of domestic and family violence. We have provided certainty for our community legal sector, unlocking almost \$1 billion in joint Commonwealth-state funding. We are investing an additional \$73.5 million in repairing the serious issues plaguing our state's forensics system, working through the backlog and conducting historical case reviews as an interim step while we await the findings of the independent review.

### **Delivering a better education**

A strong start in life is key to a better future, and we want no young Queenslanders to miss out on the opportunities and experiences that can help them grow. Alarming, NAPLAN results show the state's outcomes for reading and spelling went backwards across every year level in 2024. Only a world-class education system can unlock world-class skills and knowledge that can power world-class

productivity. That is why the Crisafulli government is delivering the single largest investment into Queensland's public schools in our state's history. That includes new primary schools in Caloundra South and Ripley Valley as well as six new special schools and campuses—in Berrinba, Coomera, Springfield/Redbank, Beenleigh, Ipswich West and Moreton Bay South—in an \$814.8 million investment over four years.

Over the next 10 years the government will inject more than \$9.4 billion into our state's public school system, unlocking new funding as part of our historic deal with the Commonwealth. On top of that, we will provide an additional \$222 million to deliver on our commitment to slash red tape and provide 550 more teacher aides and support teachers. We are also targeting bullying in our state schools with a range of new anti-bullying initiatives and the innovative new rapid support squads to provide on-the-ground expertise to respond to bullying incidents.

In recognition of the support our young and their families need, today I announce that we will couple these record-breaking investments with a \$100 Back to School Boost, starting from 1 January, for every primary school student in Queensland. This is a new initiative that will support families with the cost of excursions, schoolbooks, uniforms—whatever they need to give their kids the best start to the school year. It applies across Queensland no matter where you go to school—state, Catholic or independent; big or small; urban, country or remote. Wherever you may go—Acland State School, Canossa Catholic Primary School, Caloundra State School or even Guluguba State School—we are investing in this targeted program across the forwards to support Queensland families as part of a responsible and comprehensive cost-of-living package.

#### **Delivering a place to call home**

Queensland needs more homes—more homes in the regions, more homes in the south-east; more homes for families, more homes for singles; more homes for renters; more homes for those living with a disability; more homes near public transport hubs. We know the challenges: rising rents, struggling mortgage holders, generations of Queenslanders losing hope of ever owning their own home, a record 52,000 Queenslanders languishing on social housing waiting lists, a community housing sector held back for too long.

This budget lays the foundation for our government's plan to deliver 2,000 new social and community homes a year by 2028—four times the rate of the former government—as we strive to meet a target of 53,500 new social homes by 2044. This budget includes a record \$5.6 billion investment in new social and community housing initiatives, and to support our most vulnerable Queenslanders we are delivering a \$366 million boost to crisis and temporary accommodation, complemented by a 20 per cent uplift for specialist homelessness service providers over the next four years.

Under the former government, new home approvals fell, investors were demonised and productivity on construction sites stagnated. We will deliver one million new homes across the state by 2044 by making it easier for the private sector to get to work and build the communities of the future. Today I announce that the first \$1 billion of the cornerstone \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund will be allocated by 30 June 2026. This key pillar of the Crisafulli government's housing plan is breaking down the barriers for infill and greenfield developments. The fund will support local councils and developers to fast-track critical infrastructure works like water, power and transport to get land ready to build more homes sooner. Half of this fund will be invested in regional, rural and remote Queensland, ensuring the benefits are spread across our state. Already we have seen \$1.8 billion in applications received, with a potential 158,000 homes to be unlocked. I know the Deputy Premier will be very busy naming successful applicants very soon.

#### **Delivering more home ownership**

As Queensland's first home ownership minister, I have been tasked with taking Queensland from the bottom of the national home ownership ladder to the top in the next decade. We have a generation despairing as their home ownership dream fades from view. Simply accumulating a deposit has put home ownership beyond the great majority who cannot turn to their parents for a contribution.

Today I announce that from 1 July people will be able to register their interest in our Boost to Buy program, a nation-leading home ownership scheme that will reduce the deposit gap for first home buyers. With up to 1,000 dreams realised over the next two years, this nation-leading program, supported by an investment of \$165 million, will see the government take an equity stake in new and existing dwellings to help more people get into the housing market with a smaller mortgage and a lower deposit—as low as two per cent. This program has the highest income thresholds of any related scheme in the country, with the government investing up to 30 per cent equity for new builds and 25 per



cent of existing homes, up to a home value of \$1 million. This important step, together with our whole-of-government focus on delivering supply, the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home, and extending the boosted \$30,000 first home owner grant for 12 months, will all work together to unlock home ownership for more Queenslanders.

The government alone cannot solve the housing crisis. We need collaboration and coordination across all levels of government, the community housing sector and the private sector. To facilitate the free flow of capital, I announce today that the government is reviewing how applications for ex gratia relief from foreign surcharges are assessed, to support the timely, expedited flow of capital to deliver housing, industrial and agricultural investment. The Property Consultative Committee, which we recently re-established after a six-year abeyance, will work with the government to complete updated guidelines by MYFER in December.

#### **Delivering health services where you need them**

For too long, Queenslanders have endured an ailing health system, with 45 per cent ambulance ramping, ballooning elective surgery waitlists and deteriorating infrastructure. When Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, they voted for easier access to health services where and when they need them. That is what we are delivering.

In 2025-26, the health budget will reach a record \$29.4 billion, a 10.2 per cent increase. More than \$6.5 billion over the next four years will ensure we can stabilise bed and system capacity across Queensland, add 30,000 additional elective surgeries in 2025-26 through the Surgery Connect program and provide funding to open stage 2 of the Mater Springfield project. This also includes investment of \$20.4 million over four years to establish women's and girls' health hubs.

We are also making a capital investment of \$18.5 billion over the five years from 2024-25 into the Hospital Rescue Plan—the biggest investment in health infrastructure in Queensland's history. We are investing in a new Queensland Cancer Centre and in new CT scanners and MRI machines in satellite health centres and regional hospitals. With new hospitals to be built at Toowoomba, Coomera and Bundaberg and expansions for 10 existing hospitals, it will deliver more than 2,600 hospital beds across the state.

We are boosting our frontline health workforce with more than 4,500 additional health workers in 2025-26, including doctors, nurses and paramedics, and we are investing \$38.5 million over three years for our step-up step-down program, delivering two 24/7 youth mental health facilities.

#### **Delivering a stronger Public Service**

The long-term driver of our productivity is our people—their skills, their hard work, their creativity. Our Public Service should be empowered and respected. Let's not forget the baseless scare campaign of those opposite. Today the misinformation and deception ends, because this budget confirms we are doing what the Premier said we would do by delivering a stronger Public Service, which will grow in 2025-26 to 277,352.

We are empowering the Public Service after the Coaldrake report exposed the former government's culture of fear and intimidation. It warned that the capacity of the Public Service was being hollowed out by a cumulative loss of expertise because of the former government's over-reliance on external consultants and contractors. Labor oversaw exponential billion dollar spending growth in consultants and contractors, despite promising to trim billions from the existing spend. We committed before the election to slow this exponential growth by building capacity in the Public Service, as recommended by Coaldrake.

From 1 July, the freshly established Queensland Government Consulting Services will continue our work of rebuilding the capability of the Public Service and equipping it with the tools to competently address a range of complex challenges. It will be seeded with an initial \$15 million investment over two years and will sit as a new business unit within Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Upon taking government, Treasury communicated clear expectations to departments demanding greater scrutiny when engaging contractors and consultants. As reported by the Queensland Audit Office, spending on external consultants and contractors increased from approximately \$2.1 billion in 2020-21 to \$3.7 billion in 2023-24, a compound annual growth rate of over 20 per cent. On this trajectory, total spending on consultants and contractors could have reached \$4.5 billion by 2024-25. Based on analysis of spending to March 2025, and pro-rated for the full year, the estimated consultant and contractor spend is \$4 billion.



Together with budgeted savings from reduced QGCS start-up costs and additional savings from consultants and contractors associated with the Borumba pumped hydro energy storage project, the total forecast savings on contractors and consultants for 2024-25 totals \$681.5 million. But the work has just begun as we deliver on this necessary election commitment to restore the Queensland Public Service.

### **Delivering the Energy Roadmap**

Work continues on our Energy Roadmap that will be completed by the end of this year. This year the budget includes a record \$2.4 billion investment in CopperString—real money to build the transmission line and real investment in the economic growth of our state, including our mineral and renewable-rich north-west. It means real, on-the-ground work in the upcoming financial year as work progresses to connect the Hughenden Hub to future renewable energy and wind projects in Flinders shire to the National Electricity Market, pending approvals.

In 2025-26, Stanwell will continue to work with Quinbrook on the proposed 114-megawatt Lockyer Energy Project near Gatton, while CleanCo will investigate a new gas turbine at Swanbank. This budget also invests \$479.2 million in 2025-26 into the development of the 400-megawatt Brigalow gas peaker project at Kogan Creek.

We promised to fund smaller, more manageable pumped hydro projects and we are delivering on that promise. We are investing \$79 million to progress ongoing development of CleanCo's Mount Rawdon and Stanwell's Big T pumped hydro projects, and CS Energy continues investigative works on the Capricornia project—all being progressed in partnership with the private sector. As QIC progresses a proper commercial assessment of delivery options, our budget allocates \$355 million towards early works on the Borumba pumped hydro project.

### **Delivering for skills and training to drive productivity**

Queensland's future workforce and productivity depends on the right investment in the right training and skills. We have inherited a skills shortage that has been a handbrake on productivity and the economy and applied significant pressure to industries, small businesses and households. This budget lays the foundation for a new direction for training and workforce development to meet the demands of a modern Queensland and to improve productivity.

We are investing \$201.1 million to establish four new TAFE centres of excellence: in Rockhampton, Moreton Bay, Caloundra and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. To help secure a pipeline of skilled workers, these centres will deliver cutting-edge training in priority industries. To support this, we will extend the 50 per cent apprentice payroll tax rebate for a further 12 months.

Through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative, we are investing \$80 million annually to support up to 15,000 people into jobs. We are also reforming key institutions, such as Manufacturing Skills Queensland, to better align with industry needs and improve access to practical, work-ready skills.

Quality investments driving the Queensland economy combined with the capabilities of the Queensland people are what will deliver a better future for this state—a future where Queensland will be ready to stand proud on the world stage.

### **Games Delivery Plan and sport investment**

This budget is delivering on our plan for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The games will deliver the largest infrastructure investment in Queensland's history. It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for generational infrastructure, to drive tourism and support our grassroots sporting clubs throughout the state. After the long runway had been squandered, the Crisafulli government has a plan to deliver the 2032 games. Together with the Commonwealth, we will invest \$7.1 billion for games venues including: a new 63,000-seat stadium at Victoria Park, a new National Aquatic Centre in Spring Hill, mountain biking on the Sunshine Coast, archery facilities for Maryborough and the upgraded Toowoomba Equestrian Centre. The first funding of the 2032 Delivery Plan includes \$950 million over the next four years as an initial provision for the athletes village and \$832 million to begin procurement and delivery of games venues.

Our investment in community sport spans not only our Play On! sports voucher program but also Games On!, our \$250 million program to take sporting opportunities across the state. From lighting ovals in Ferny Hills to funding feasibility studies in Sarina, changing room renovations for the Hervey Bay Hockey Association and Longreach Showground, clubhouse upgrades for the Whitsunday Brahmans Rugby League Club to upgrades at the Rosewood Showgrounds and the Cornubia Park precinct, this budget is about delivering for every corner of Queensland.

**Delivering transport and roads**

Fundamental to the Crisafulli government's vision for the games is the opportunity to leverage this global sporting event to deliver legacy transport infrastructure for our growing state. It is about delivering a plan to get Queenslanders home sooner, to enjoy the things that really matter. There is no road in the state as integral to our economy and prosperity as the Bruce Highway. Along with the Commonwealth, the Crisafulli government is investing \$9 billion in the Bruce Highway to deliver long-overdue safety upgrades.

We are delivering seamless public transport all the way from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast Airport with the Wave. Our \$41.7 billion Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program includes funding to deliver the Barron River bridge, Caloundra congestion-busting plan, Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail and Mooloolah River Interchange, and there is the \$100 million Country Roads Connect Program to boost the safety of regional roads.

**Delivering for women**

This is a budget that delivers for women—delivers for their health and wellbeing; delivers for their economic security; and, most importantly, delivers action with real outcomes. Breaking down barriers to women's economic participation and investing in women's economic security is not just about gender equality; it is about a stronger, more productive economy that delivers for every Queenslander.

A new four-year \$20 million returning-to-work package will offer practical assistance to women seeking to transition back into the workforce after having children, caring for family or illness. We are enabling Queensland women to scale up their businesses, investing in a new program designed to break down barriers for female entrepreneurs under the \$400,000 Female Founders Investment Readiness program.

We want a fairer system for women taking time away from work to raise a family, which is why we are also providing superannuation payments for the 52-week period of parental leave for Queensland public sector employees. By empowering women in the workplace, we are building a stronger, fairer and more prosperous Queensland.

**Supporting family and domestic violence prevention**

Domestic and family violence is a crisis that survives and thrives in darkness, but we are putting a spotlight on it and taking action. We are committed to prevention, better protections, holding perpetrators to account and getting better outcomes for victims. We are injecting \$209.7 million into crisis accommodation across Queensland, \$37 million to enhance the police response to domestic and family violence, \$25 million over five years to pilot a new electronic monitoring program for high-risk domestic violence offenders, \$3.5 million for the expansion of Hope Hub recovery centres, \$18.8 million to upgrade safe spaces in courthouses, and \$31.3 million to double the state's 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis response capacity. Our commitment to stamping out domestic and family violence will never waver. We will do whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.

**Delivering child safety**

At the heart of laying a foundation for a fresh start is the vision for a safer future for our youngest and most vulnerable Queenslanders. Since coming to government, we have exposed a range of critical failures and pressures and have recently announced a commission of inquiry into Queensland's child safety system.

The budget includes more than \$50 million for a Queensland-first SecureCare residential child safety facility to protect young people who are a danger to themselves and others. We are investing \$11 million over four years in the establishment of a dual-carer supervision model in residential care to enhance safety and oversight. \$28.8 million has also been allocated to pilot a new professional foster care program for children with disabilities and complex needs. A \$1,500 boost will also be provided to carers and guardians for young people in care to support participation in extracurricular activities. We have provided \$10 million to establish Daniel's Law, with a new three-tier public child sex offender register.

**Delivering for our resources sector**

Building a stronger economy requires a government that is supportive of the resources sector and creates economic settings that signal the state is open for business—and there is no doubt: we are open for business.

We are laying out an ambitious agenda for new and expanded mining opportunities across the state. We have made available for tender nine new areas across the Cooper, Eromanga, Bowen and Surat basins that are open to gas opportunities. We are investing in the future workforce through the expansion of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy to 50 more schools.

This budget invests more than \$13 million in new mineral exploration, including in our critical mineral zones and the operations of the Queensland Resources Common User Facility. From Moranbah to Mount Isa, from the bush to the boardroom and classroom, we are delivering for our resources sector.

### **Delivering more manufacturing**

It goes on. We are investing \$79.1 million over three years in our Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Program, unlocking existing funds and unlocking new ones to ensure that Queensland is not just making things here but making them better and smarter. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program, supported in this budget with \$950 million, will drive a generation of jobs in Maryborough. We are delivering \$10 million for two new manufacturing hubs, in Toowoomba and the Sunshine Coast, fostering next-generation jobs and supply chain resilience in regional Queensland.

### **Closing the Gap for Indigenous Queenslanders**

This budget lays the foundations for a better future for Indigenous Queenslanders. We are delivering the \$108 million Closing the Gap Priorities Fund to invest in projects in housing, education and employment in communities across Queensland, including \$19 million towards health, education and water infrastructure projects in Aurukun, Kowanyama and Cherbourg.

Our plan for a better future with better living standards for Indigenous people is built on empowerment. That is why we are supporting home ownership for Indigenous Queenslanders—introducing a historic rent-to-buy scheme on Palm Island with a 99-year lease agreement.

We know that the mentorship of touchable heroes and real-life role models can help build aspiration for young Indigenous Queenslanders, which is why we will extend the Former Origin Greats program, supporting attendance in up to 20 new primary schools.

### **Delivering a \$30 billion agriculture industry by 2030**

Queensland's farmers are the lifeblood of our regions and our diversified economy. That is why our government has promised to deliver a \$30 billion primary industries sector by 2030. Towards that ambition, this budget invests \$30 million in the Sowing the Seeds fund, supporting Queensland-first innovation and investment.

We are investing \$37.7 million to increase water storage and capacity to protect agriculture and deliver water security, with five new weirs along the Thomson River in Longreach, delivering the Barlil and Cooranga weirs, improving water supply reliability along the Burnett's Boyne River and Barambah Creek, and advancing the business case for the Water for Warrill Irrigation Project. This is in addition to a \$346.2 million investment to ensure state owned dams meet modern engineering standards and continue to operate safely during extreme weather events.

We are protecting industry and our farmers with \$51.9 million for key drought resilience initiatives and a new investment of \$60.9 million to boost regional biosecurity and deliver new frontline biosecurity officers. Fire ants pose a greater than \$1 billion a year threat to our agricultural sector. It is why our \$24 million boost to Queensland's Fire Ant Suppression Taskforce—taking total funding to \$61 million—is vital.

In a year in which our regions have borne the brunt of record floods, this budget will lay the foundations for future resilience from natural disasters with an investment of \$450 million over the next five years as part of the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program, jointly funded by the Commonwealth.

### **Delivering for the environment**

This budget ensures Queensland's environment is protected, restored and shared with the world. We are protecting more of what makes our state special: our priceless habitats and native wildlife. We will deliver more protected areas in one term than the former government did in a decade. This budget contains \$39.6 million in 2025-26 to work towards that pledge.

Since coming to government, we have added nearly 9,000 hectares to our list of national parks and nature refuges. This is equivalent to 9,000 Suncorp Stadiums, providing more protected areas for the state's endangered species, ecosystems, biodiversity and threatened flora.

We are also investing in 150 additional rangers, including national park, Indigenous and fire rangers.

**Delivering visitor experiences**

We want to share Queensland's stunning natural landscapes with the world, along with our vibrant entertainment and restaurant scene, thrilling sporting fixtures and world-class tourism offerings. As we prepare to showcase Queensland to the world, we are providing \$446 million over four years towards delivering our Destination 2045 tourism plan, which will position the state's tourism sector for long-term growth leading into the 2032 games and beyond. This takes our total investment into tourism to more than \$1 billion over four years.

We are establishing new programs to create direct connections to target markets, attracting new aviation providers to improve connections to regional Queensland and the world. Our Destination 2045 plan will facilitate 45 new ecotourism experiences by 2045, ensuring Queenslanders and visitors from interstate and overseas share in our beautiful natural landscape. We want all of Queensland to share in the benefits. We will deliver projects across our state—like in North-West Queensland, where we will revitalise the Boodjamulla-Lawn Hill Gorge; the Whitsundays, where we will deliver a new Ngaro track; or in the Far North, where we will deliver the Wangetti Trail.

**Supporting the arts**

The arts stamp Queensland's identity into Australian culture and society. In the lead-up to 2032, we will deliver a cultural program worthy of the national and international stage. We are investing \$75.8 million in the arts in this budget, including \$9.4 million for local festivals and events in the regions. Our investment includes \$42 million in our state's screen industry, with new funding for key incentives that will protect jobs and promote a sector crucial to our state's economic story and ensure local stories are told. A further \$10 million will fund improvements and upgrades across Queensland's Cultural Centre.

**Delivering new industries**

The Crisafulli government is investing in new industries central to our economic security. Our new \$180.6 million Sovereign Industry Development Fund will develop our national capability, leveraging industry strength and growing our regions. Across biomedicine, defence, biofuels and the tech sector, we will back new innovation and new jobs across Queensland.

**Delivering for multicultural communities**

Our vibrant multicultural communities are part of what makes this state so great to live in, and we will continue to promote their story to all. We are injecting \$5 million into the Multicultural Connect grants program to deliver upgrades for community group facilities, we are providing a further \$1.5 million to support the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and we are working hard to establish and improve relationships abroad as the trade minister rebuilds bridges and confidence that will return investment to Queensland.

**Backing local government and water infrastructure**

Delivering the best for Queensland requires a strong relationship between state and local governments. To enhance that relationship, we have signed a new Equal Partners in Government agreement that recognises the valuable role local councils play in local communities. We have made the Works for Queensland program permanent as well as put \$130 million towards a Resource Recovery Boost fund to support local government recycling initiatives.

**Delivering for small and family business and open data investment**

The Crisafulli government is backing Queensland small and family businesses to boost efficiency and productivity. We understand the unique role small and family businesses play in Queensland's economy and communities. We are reducing red tape and streamlining services for small business, with greater procurement opportunities as part of our \$130 million Small and Family Business First Action Statement. This includes \$16.8 million over three years to empower small business through the Small Business Support Network with financial counselling and coaching.

We are committed to being an open and transparent government through more accessible public data and information, and we are committed to ensuring that information and our systems are protected by the best cybersecurity measures. In this budget we are establishing a \$1 billion Queensland Government Digital Fund, which will help streamline access to government services and repair the IT systems that Labor failed to maintain. Some \$25.1 million will be invested to improve the online experience for Queenslanders accessing government services. Our government is one that works for the Queensland people, is easy to interact with and is forward thinking. That is what this fund delivers.

### Delivering social impact

Laying the foundation for a better society was behind our establishment of Queensland's first Office of Social Impact. Sitting within Treasury, the Office of Social Impact is working to identify impact investment opportunities and manages the Social Entrepreneurs Fund, planted with \$20 million funding a year across the forwards.

In a world of infinite need limited by scarce resources, the potential for collaboration between government, socially minded investors and the impacting business community to identify opportunities to access finance is vast. Already, with our clear 'open for business' message, we have seen the philanthropic sector commit match funding as the work continues on our social impact road map. Queenslanders are looking for new solutions that can move the dial on societal challenges, and a fully realised social impact sector can help deliver change.

### Conclusion

We promised a calm and methodical approach to the budget—serious and sober, mature and responsible: respect for taxpayers' money; delivering our election commitments; targeted and responsible cost-of-living measures to support pressured households; investing in services; finding a way to save, build and deliver infrastructure and projects; and beginning the work of long-term budget repair.

We know this is the start of a long journey and it will take more than one budget—and one term—to turn around. This budget marks an important first step. This budget is delivering for Queenslanders. This budget lays the foundation for a fresh start for Queensland.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.56 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.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

## REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.56 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, HELEN PATRICIA BOWSKILL, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Electricity Act 1994, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 for particular purposes

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 24 June 2025

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 24 June 2025, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [785].

## Introduction



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Electricity Act 1994, the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [\[786\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[787\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[788\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill amends the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to implement measures announced in the 2025-26 budget relating to the first home owner grant and the apprentice and trainee payroll tax rebate.

The bill also contains amendments to the Electricity Act 1994 to correct an historical procedural deficiency and an amendment to implement required revenue protection and clarification amendments to the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999.

Finally, the bill contains amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to provide that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly will preside as chairperson at the estimates public hearings in line with the government's election commitment to reform the estimates process.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The boosted First Home Owner Grant of \$30,000 for eligible first home owners buying or building a new home expires on 30 June 2025.

In the 2025-26 Budget, I announced that the boosted First Home Owner Grant will be extended for a further year, to help deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders sooner and support the delivery of more new homes across our State.

The Bill amends the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act to provide that, for eligible transactions entered into between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, the amount of the First Home Owner Grant will be \$30,000.

The Payroll Tax Act currently provides a 50 per cent rebate for wages of apprentices and trainees, expiring on 30 June 2025.

In the 2025-26 Budget, I announced an extension of the rebate until 30 June 2026. The Bill amends the Payroll Tax Act to extend this rebate for return periods in the 2025-26 financial year. This will provide a continued, additional payroll tax concession for businesses employing trainees and apprentices.

The Bill also includes critical revenue protection and clarification measures.

Further to revenue protection provisions included in the Revenue Legislation Amendment Act 2025, the Bill amends the Duties Act 2001 and Land Tax Act 2010 to provide additional protections to historic foreign surcharge revenue by making related amendments which would only apply in the event that existing provisions are found to be constitutionally invalid or inoperative.

As I noted during debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, the government will continue to monitor and actively manage any risks to validly collected state revenue so we can continue to fund the vital services and infrastructure our state needs.

The Bill also amends the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 to clarify that a registration fee has been able to be imposed in relation to all unpaid infringement notice fines registered by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry since 10 June 2022. This clarification aligns with longstanding practice and will remove any potential unintended interpretation of the Act.

The amendments to the Electricity Act will retrospectively validate the transfer of the generation authority to Tilt Renewables, correcting a technical error which occurred in June 2024.

Finally, the amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act will deliver on the government's election commitment to reform the Legislative Assembly's Estimates public hearings process to deliver accountability and transparency for Queenslanders.

The amendments provide that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly will preside as chairperson at the Estimates public hearings required under the Constitution of Queensland 2001.

This reform will ensure a more consistent approach to the Estimates public hearings process across all portfolio committees.

I commend the Bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.58 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 Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

### Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.58 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and not stand referred to a committee and be set down for its second reading to enable the bill to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting;
2. that, in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill for the second reading debate, but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill and (b) the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill;
3. that the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the Appropriation Bill and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (cognate debate) be completed within 1 hour of the Treasurer having finished his contribution in reply; and
4. that, if all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 3., 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 Treasurer, without further amendment or debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with the motion agreed to by the House this morning, the House will now be suspended for 30 minutes until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 3.01 pm to 3.30 pm.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE


### Report

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.30 pm), by leave: Pursuant to the Speaker's statement today regarding unparliamentary language in a committee report, I lay upon the table of the House the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report No. 8 titled *Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—Replaces Tabled Paper 5825T671 [\[789\]](#).

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 1860.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.30 pm), continuing: Before lunch, I got almost halfway through in the time that was allocated. I would like to thank my brother and his fiancé for the help they gave. As I said, there were so many people who helped in the LNP campaign in the Theodore electorate. It is truly an honour for me to see so many people coming out to help. Most importantly, I wish to thank the people of the northern Gold Coast, particularly the residents of the Theodore electorate. Whether you voted for me or not, I will continue to do my utmost when it comes to serving our local community. I am truly passionate about the northern Gold Coast. It runs deep in my veins. As

a person who is proud to call himself a South-East Queenslander, it is somewhere I have lived all my life. I can confidently say that there is no better place in the world than South-East Queensland, hence why so many people are moving to our region.

I want to acknowledge all of the candidates who put their names forward to represent their peers. Typically, campaigns on the Gold Coast are quite subdued and receive very little media attention, but this time Labor's candidate for Burleigh certainly made headlines when it came to her comments about the Queensland Police Service and the Theodore candidate faced scrutiny for being convicted for defrauding the blue card system with 42 blue card applications.

As I have always said, the Theodore electorate is in the lush green hills of the Gold Coast hinterland. We are the backdrop to the beautiful golden beaches of the Gold Coast. We certainly have a little part of paradise. We are also home to the beloved theme parks. Unfortunately, though, our beautiful location makes it very vulnerable to storm events. On Christmas Day 2023, as I have mentioned in this parliament previously, the northern Gold Coast suffered extensive damage and many houses continue to bear tarpaulins on their roofs. Once again, I urge insurance companies to fulfil their obligations and honour their agreements with their customers and pay the necessary funds to repair those properties.

One of the issues which certainly did come up with respect to the Christmas Day storm was the vegetation protection orders set down by councils. Many residents still have vivid memories of massive trees falling through their houses, destroying sheds and vehicles. Unfortunately, to this day, many residents continue to fight with council to remove these giant trees that are within striking distance of their homes. These trees—which go by the name of 'widow makers'—have the potential to claim more victims and to force up insurance costs. This is an issue that many residents have been expressing for quite some time—that we need to re-evaluate vegetation laws when it comes to councils and the protection of properties. We continually see cost-of-living pressures and higher insurance prices. It would help to alleviate some of that if councils could understand that vegetation management protection orders need to be relaxed when it comes to protecting one's homes and lives. During the storms we had individual houses, such as one place out near Maudsland Road, where if anybody was sleeping in the bed or in the bathroom on that evening they would have been a casualty of that storm because massive branches went through houses in those areas.

In the aftermath of the Christmas Day storms, and more recently during Tropical Cyclone Alfred, our community came together with remarkable strength to support one another. We are certainly very lucky on the northern Gold Coast. Not only do we have a fantastic SES but we also have a fantastic Rural Fire Brigade which goes above and beyond. I recently had the privilege of presenting medals to these dedicated volunteers at an awards ceremony on the Gold Coast. It certainly was a humbling experience. I felt genuinely proud to know many of the individuals who received this recognition. It is well deserved. There are many others on the northern Gold Coast who give up their time to support our local communities. None more so than the local community groups who fundraise for others, like Rotary clubs and Lions' clubs. I give a big shout-out to the Coomera Valley Rotary, the Lions Club of Helensvale and the Lions Club of Upper Coomera.

We have some of the best sporting groups on the Gold Coast, which I will talk about later in my budget speech, but the individuals who run these sporting groups spend an enormous amount of time keeping young people interested in sport. They are parents, they are non-paid volunteers and they are individuals who give up many hours on the weekend and on weeknights working with young people to make the next sporting champions. Whether it is the Helensvale Swimming Club, the Coomera Cubs baseball, the local cricket club the Helensvale Hawks, the Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club, AFL or Rugby League—you name it—we have it on the northern Gold Coast in the Theodore electorate. There are so many fantastic facilities.

In closing, as a lot of the topics I want to talk about will be in the budget reply speech, I will not elaborate but as I said in my maiden speech 13 years ago—

No matter what your political beliefs or your political ideals, I am here to represent all equally and fairly. I am your grassroots servant.

I have done my best over many, many years to continue on with that tradition. Thank you for allowing me to make my address-in-reply to the speech given by the Governor.





**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.38 pm): Representing the electorate of Woodridge in this House is an extraordinary privilege. Woodridge is a diverse and multicultural community, enriched and empowered by the range of people who call it home. In the Woodridge electorate, our traditional owners are the Yagara people and Yugambeh language group whose elders I respectfully acknowledge.

I am pleased to speak in reply to the Governor's opening speech to the 58th Parliament of Queensland. Seven months after the new parliament first sat the people of Queensland are seeing the stark contrast between the promises of the LNP and their performance. Today in parliament it is B-day—'broken promises day'—also known as 'L-plate LNP budget day', and what an LNP budget it is: economical with the truth, mean with the cost of living, short on the Big Build, big on delaying infrastructure and the biggest debt bomb in history. This is not a budget that brings home the bacon; it is a budget that brings home the porkies.

The LNP have handed down their first budget of broken promises. Debt is up, cost-of-living relief is down and building projects have been delayed. This is not a fresh start for Queensland; it is a false start for Queensland—a budget that exposes the Crisafulli government's duplicity, deceit and deliberate misleading of Queensland. Adding insult to injury, the Crisafulli government is cutting cost-of-living relief.

**Ms CAMM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a bill before the House that has just been presented by the Treasurer. Last time I checked, the order of the day was the address-in-reply. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your ruling.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): I will take some advice on that. There is a fair bit of latitude in these speeches, but I will take some advice.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I am taking some advice thank you. Member for Woodridge, that is anticipating debate. There is a fair bit of latitude in an address-in-reply and it does take in a lot of topics. There is a question before the House on the address-in-reply. I ask you to stick to that.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order was to clarify—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I will hear the point of order in silence.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. My point of order was to respond to the point of order raised by the minister in respect of—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I have ruled on that. I ask the member to come back to the address-in-reply.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, with respect I would like to put to you that the rule of anticipation as it pertains to the appropriation bills allows for very broad application of those matters. Here is my point: the matters that are outlined in the Governor's speech to this parliament are precisely the matters that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was addressing in his speech. It just so happens—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will take some advice on that.

**Mr de BRENNI:** It just so happens that the same matters are traversed by the budget and so they are in both.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice on that. I have received advice on that. You may continue, member for Woodridge, in the same vein.

**Mr DICK:** It is a budget that reinforces what Queenslanders have realised, and that is that the Crisafulli LNP government and its Premier say one thing and then do something else. They say one thing in the Governor's address, the speech delivered by the Governor for the government, and then they do something else. This is a government that cannot be believed, cannot be trusted and cannot be taken at its word.

Ever since the election, the LNP have conducted themselves as if they were in opposition. From today that changes. From today the LNP will be judged on what they have not delivered, on what they have not done in accordance with the speech that was given in the chamber at the other end of this building. From today the Premier, his bumbling Treasurer and all those L-platers in the government will be judged on the dodgy documents they introduced into the House today. This is a B-team delivering a bad budget. It is B-day—a bad budget from a bad government.

When the people of Queensland made their decision at the ballot box in October last year they did so on the basis of fair electoral boundaries, and everything that has happened since flows from that: the Governor's speech, this debate on the address-in-reply, the budget papers tabled today—all of it flows from the election last October. Ever since Tony Fitzgerald's corruption-busting inquiry, Queenslanders have been able to go to the ballot box confident that their vote will count the same as everyone else's. This is an inalienable principle of Queensland democracy—one vote, one value—and that is what happened at last year's election, but that has not always been the case in Queensland.

Tony Fitzgerald's corruption-busting inquiry forensically and excoriatingly laid bare the machinations of the notorious gerrymander that existed under the predecessors of those opposite. Not only did Tony Fitzgerald expose the mechanics of the gerrymander and its distortion of electoral fairness in Queensland, he made recommendations to avoid such manipulations occurring again. He recommended that an independent body be established to oversee electoral boundaries and future redistributions. Today that body is known as the Queensland Redistribution Commission. It comprises three members: a judge or former judge, the Electoral Commissioner and the chief executive of a department or equivalent. Tony Fitzgerald made it abundantly clear that the members of the independent oversight body must themselves be free from political influence or bias. Tony Fitzgerald made it clear that only in the absence of political influence could Queenslanders have confidence in decisions about the state's electoral boundaries. What we have seen from those members opposite is stranger than fiction. It is back to the future but not in a good way.

Tony Fitzgerald identified public servant John Sosso as a person who is politically influenced, a director-general in this government. Tony Fitzgerald identified John Sosso as someone who strived to interfere with the activities of the Fitzgerald inquiry. Extraordinarily, the current Crisafulli LNP government has appointed that same politically tainted individual to the Queensland electoral Redistribution Commission. Those opposite have appointed a person Tony Fitzgerald singled out as a compromised figure to the state's supreme body when it comes to electoral boundaries. It beggars belief. It is an affront to our democracy. When the Crisafulli government's intention to appoint this person to the QRC became known, it prompted Tony Fitzgerald to warn that Queensland was at risk of slipping back to the dark old days—in his words—of the notorious Queensland gerrymander.

Now that this completely inappropriate appointment has been confirmed, we know there is a risk to Queensland democracy. The appointment raises questions about the integrity of the Premier and the character of his new government. It is not an isolated example. In the same time this L-plate LNP government has been in power, Queenslanders have seen a litany of broken promises, backflips, missteps, bungled cover-ups and downright incompetence. While each of those examples are concerning enough taken in isolation, they are connected by the whiff of something more disturbing. The blunders of this government all have something in common. They all raise serious questions about integrity and character.

Media reports have raised serious questions about the Premier's propensity to mislead and deceive Queenslanders about important matters regarding his personal integrity. We have seen a string of promises made prior to the election abandoned in the most brazen and shameless manner. There was the commitment to deliver 2,200 extra hospital beds by 2028 and over 3,000 extra hospital beds by 2032. That promise has been broken. There was a commitment to deliver a new cancer care centre. That commitment has been delayed until no-one knows when. There was a commitment to deliver a new acute spinal care unit for Queensland. That commitment has been delayed until no-one knows when. That commitment will not be delivered any time soon.

There was a promise not to build a new stadium. That promise has been broken. There was a promise to fix the housing crisis. Instead, the government, the Deputy Premier and the housing minister have cut nearly 1,000 new dwellings, many of them in those ministers' own electoral backyard. There was a promise to treat taxpayers' money—of all days, I am proud to say this today—with respect, but as soon as they took power the LNP acted with speed and glee to spend public money on themselves. Finance minister Ros Bates, charged by Premier Crisafulli to drive 'responsible expenditure', spent almost \$70,000 on herself renovating her office including a new frosted front door.

Not to be outdone, the Premier quickly snaffled a new \$5,000 TV for his office. I have been in that office. I know where the televisions are. What sort of selfishness is it to buy another \$5,000 TV for your own office when you are denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders? Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie, a man who describes himself in this House as a 'working-class hero'—what a farce!—secured a new \$5,000 TV for his office and a black Lexus. There was a promise from the LNP

to act with integrity and accountability—except, of course, when it comes to LNP donors, who get a rails run when it comes to government support in appeals by those same LNP donors against local government decisions to reject those donors' development applications.

Then there are the massive regional energy projects that have been axed on spurious grounds, robbing our regions of massive investment in jobs and cheaper energy, robbing Queenslanders of cleaner power and sending a clear and direct message to investors that Queensland is closed for business. Then there are the symbolic actions that expose where the Premier's real loyalties lie—changing the state colour and crest on government branding from maroon to blue.

What are Queenslanders to make of all of this? 'A fresh start for Queenslanders,' the Premier claims. Along with so many other Queenslanders, I do not think so. Time and again the Premier promises Queenslanders one thing and then does another—often the complete opposite. You cannot take this Premier at his word. You cannot trust what the Premier says. The one thing you can rely on with this Premier is that he will do whatever serves the interest of him, his government and LNP mates, donors and cronies but not the interests of Queenslanders.

Queenslanders are witnessing a cocktail of political slipperiness, obfuscation and deception by the Premier and his government. Never have so many promises been broken so quickly. Rarely have we seen a political leader play so fast and loose with the truth. Never have Queenslanders been treated like fools to such an extent. The Premier's and his LNP government's facade of integrity, transparency and accountability is crumbling before the eyes of Queenslanders. The LNP have been discredited by their own actions and their in-built arrogance.

When the voters of Queensland bestow the honour of forming government upon a political party, it is a great privilege. It is an honour, and it requires that government must always work in the best interests of all Queenslanders—every Queenslanders, no matter who they vote for and no matter where they live. That is clearly not the case with this government. This is a premier and a government defined by self-interest. This Premier and his government ignored the warnings of Tony Fitzgerald about their chosen appointment to the Queensland Redistribution Commission. The Premier and the government tried to portray the resultant outrage as an opposition attack on the integrity of John Sosso. It was never about John Sosso himself. It was, as Tony Fitzgerald pointed out so emphatically, the risk of appointing someone with a political history to a body that should be supremely independent. Not only should that body be independent; it must also be seen to be independent. It demonstrates a wilful recklessness by the LNP—a willingness to put at risk Queensland's hard-won democratic safeguards.

There is in this chamber strong political combat—that is the normal course of events for the government and the opposition in the daily life of politics—but it is important to remember that each and every one of us is but a visitor to this grand institution. This institution of Queensland's democracy is eternal. We are not. For all of us here today, our time in this place will pass, but while we are here we are temporary custodians of the great honour that has been bestowed upon us.


It has been the greatest privilege of my life to work for, to advocate for and to fight for the people of the Woodridge electorate. Ours is a community of hard, calloused hands and open and welcoming hearts, which is why it is such an honour to represent such an amazing community in this parliament—a rich and diverse multicultural community, a community with strong connections to the oldest continuing living cultures in the world, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It was a privilege for me to deliver for that community a \$1 billion boost to Logan Hospital and the multibillion dollar upgrade to the rail line between Kuraby and Beenleigh which will transform our rail stations, will get rid of cursed level crossings and will create the opportunity for ongoing investment and economic opportunity in our community.

In conjunction with the support and advocacy of the Woodridge electorate, we returned community maternity services to community hubs in Woodridge and Logan that were cut by Campbell Newman and the LNP. There was the transformative upgrade of the Logan Motorway, including the upgrade to the Wembley Road bridge, the opening of the MultiLink community hub and the establishment of a new Rekon youth hub at the Wilbur Street Youth Centre in Woodridge. There will be a new business and economic hub for Settlement Services International, under construction now. All of those projects were funded and delivered by Labor. There are new school halls at Woodridge State High School and Browns Plains State High School and almost \$40 million to upgrade Logan City Special School. There is extra financial support for our mighty sporting clubs—Logan Roos Football Club, Logan City Netball Association including new courts, and the mighty Logan Brothers Rugby League Club. We recently celebrated 40 years of YSF, one of the many brilliant community organisations that have served our community so well for so long.

I am here in this chamber in very large part because of the contributions of many dedicated and committed people in my community. They are the grassroots of the democracy that makes Queensland special. In my case, they are our Labor true believers. These are people who worked tirelessly and selflessly during the last election campaign. I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart. I cannot name all of them, but I will mention a few who represent the qualities of all who contributed—people like Sovannary Uk and Brendan Herbst, no better campaigner and no better campaign director in Queensland. Then there is John, Girmay, Ahsan, Lawm, Dot and Arthur Forrester, Star, Glynis Holland, Shirley Collier, Morny, Barry Ramsay, Kur, John Dalton, Les and Pam Marshall, John and Judy Wilson, Peter, John, Nathan, Cassandra, Inez, Logan—and the list goes on.

I also want to acknowledge in closing my beautiful darling wife, Therese, and our sons, Sam and Jonny. It was not too long ago that I gave one of my first speeches in the parliament and I looked up to that gallery and saw two little boys who were standing below the top of the balustrade. Now they are great young men. As I have said on many occasions at many times in this parliament, I am so proud of my greatest achievement, Sam and Jonny. I was so proud that they stood with me in the sun at pre-poll and on election day—working so hard, believing in the cause of Labor and believing in me as well.

All of the people I have mentioned today care passionately about our democracy and our state, but they care most importantly about the community they love the most, the state electorate of Woodridge. They are champions one and all, and I salute them. The Queensland postcode for Woodridge and Logan Central is 4114, which is why my favourite social media hashtag is #all4114all, because in Woodridge that's how we roll.

 **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) (3.57 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hunt): I call the member for Woodridge—sorry, Whitsunday.

**Ms CAMM**: A bit of a slip of the tongue, Mr Deputy Speaker? I appreciate that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I have my L-plates on.

**Ms Grace**: I'd take offence if I were you!

**Ms CAMM**: I take that interjection from the member for McConnel. It is a privilege to be able to make my address-in-reply to the speech given by Her Excellency the Governor and to take my place in the 58th Parliament of Queensland. As Her Excellency did, I welcome the new members of the House, many of whom are on the government side.

In the previous four years, as the member for Whitsunday I engaged with both my community and my neighbouring communities in the Mackay and Mirani electorates. I welcome and make special mention of the new member for Mackay, Nigel Dalton, and the new member for Mirani, Glen Kelly. It was a lonely four years with Minister Dale Last as my sole neighbouring member of the LNP. I spent every day of the previous four years advocating for the people of Mackay, because the people of Mackay and the greater Whitsunday region deserved better than the lack of representation they had suffered by the previous member. I am very pleased to be joined by these new members of the government.

During that time we shone a light on what was the Mackay Hospital health crisis. Through that time advocating for women and families—sadly women who had lost their babies due to a failed health system under the former Labor government—I had the incredibly humbling experience of sitting at the kitchen table of my constituents in Airlie Beach, Jenna and Andre McGregor, who lost their baby boy at just four days old. I will never forget this sorrow, nor their courage in continuing to speak out at the failings of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service. I will also not forget the courage of Melissa Ferrier, who shared with me her personal botched surgery story and the almost 18 months of rehabilitation and repair. While many of those opposite claimed we were scaremongering, our community had women who were being butchered. I congratulate the health minister for his reforms to the health service and also in reinstating confidence in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service.

Across my community we have seen significant growth, in particular in the northern beaches of Mackay up to Proserpine and the Airlie Beach-Cannonvale communities. It has been wonderful to see the southern migration as my community has continued to grow. Throughout this growth we saw an emerging housing crisis with the lack of housing supply and cost-of-living challenges which were impacting the workforce and the availability to support our tourism industry.

Over the previous four years we also experienced a rise in youth crime—something I had never experienced in my hometown of Mackay. We saw a youth crime crisis, impacting everyone's ability to feel safe in their home and in their community. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Premier

David Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie on their appointment and their endorsement by the Queensland people. They took to the state election a disciplined plan that was focused on the things that mattered to Queenslanders. I am proud to be part of the cabinet that is now delivering, along with my ministerial colleagues and members, on healing the health crisis, investing in housing to ensure everyone can realise the dream of owning a home, bringing in the Making Queensland Safer Laws and investing in early intervention with regard to the youth crime crisis. I am proud to be part of a government that has not introduced new taxes and that is giving real benefit to Queenslanders to ensure they can afford to live in our great state.

Throughout my campaign and during the last four years advocating for canefarmers and those from the agricultural sector, they shared with me their frustration at the lack of engagement by the previous government when it came to water plans and water allocation and a fundamental understanding of primary industries and primary production. I am pleased to be part of a government that will deliver upon ensuring those farmers and primary producers are supported and our policies are implemented in a way that they are engaged and consulted with because they are part of the heartland of the Whitsundays.

The greater Whitsunday electorate has dealt with what can only be described as a diabolical lack of investment. When it comes to road infrastructure, whether it be Goorgana Plains, Hamilton Plains, Shute Harbour Road or the Bruce Highway, the lack of investment in maintenance, along with the lack of ability to deliver, was something that we saw from the previous Labor government. I am proud to be part of a government that will invest in both road maintenance and new infrastructure projects so that the tourism industry across my community can thrive and they are not cut off for three quarters of the year when it rains, when our airports are cut off and when the workforce that is needed is cut off.

When it comes to lifestyle, we enjoy some of the best fishing, both recreational and commercial, product in the world. Many times in this House I have expressed the frustration of constituents. I have brought forward the complaints and stories of injuries suffered by my local constituents at what was the most poorly designed boat ramp I have ever seen in the history of Queensland—the Shute Harbour boat ramp. I was pleased to take to the election a commitment to deliver, in partnership with the Whitsunday Regional Council, a new boat ramp facility for Shute Harbour. I know that my fishermen right across the greater Whitsunday region have welcomed that commitment.

We also took to the election, through the campaign and through consultation, a focus on grassroots community sports in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. I pay tribute to clubs across my community, such as the Eimeo Surf Life Saving Club, which is a hub for our community; the Dolphins Football Club that has seen a massive growth in participation of young footballers, both male and female, across the community and right up to the senior years; as well as the Airlie Beach Bowls Club and the Northern Beaches Bowls Club, which are hubs for the northern beaches with their investment in the local community and the support that they give to local clubs across the community. I was pleased to make a commitment, as part of our election campaign, to deliver shade for them and to contribute to their redevelopment, which will be a spectacular redevelopment to be opened later this year.

I was proud to stand with the member for Mackay and make a commitment to Mackay Netball and to Harrup Park that will be central to cricket to ensure we can deliver on our regional commitment as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will deliver on commitments to my Whitsunday Brahmanas to support clubhouse upgrades and the master plan vision that they have for Rugby League in the Proserpine community. My dad played Rugby League for the Whitsunday Brahmanas and I am proud to support that club and to see the younger generations who will go on to represent our region and our community. Grassroots sport is not only at the heart of my history but also at the heart of a future thriving regional and rural community.

I pay tribute to Elizabeth Hackett. We have made a commitment to the Whitsunday Skyway, a significant ecotourism project for not only the Whitsundays but also the entire state. I pay tribute to her tenacity, her commitment to the tourism sector, her commitment to customer service excellence and her commitment to First Nations and ecotourism when those opposite asked her to invest her own private funds and equity to deliver the Skyway project. We are a government that will make sure that the project is delivered. It is a significant tourism project in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. I am very confident it will be delivered well before that.

I pay tribute to those who work in our community each and every day, whether it be the Zonta clubs, Lions clubs or Rotary clubs, many of which I get to engage with each and every day. My volunteer marine rescues—I have three across my electorate: in Mackay, Midge Point and the Whitsundays—do incredible work volunteering across our community. I pay tribute to my surf life saving club and the

incredible work that they do in patrolling and saving lives and give a particular shout-out to significant volunteers Ross Gee and also Bill, who are incredibly hardworking volunteers. They have clocked up an incredible number of volunteer hours over the course of the last 12 months.

In my time as the shadow minister, we took to the election one of the most comprehensive policies for the child protection system in the Safer Children, Safer Communities policy as well as a policy platform and key actions and deliverables around domestic and family violence, both crisis response and prevention, along with a focus on perpetrator accountability. I think that is something that the state of Queensland has not focused on in the last decade.

Throughout that period, I was proud to be able to listen to the stories of victim-survivors from across the state. I heard constantly about how they were failed by the previous Labor government. They were failed through the DNA debacle. I take this opportunity to thank the Blackburn family for sharing their experience following the murder of Shandee Blackburn. Also shared with me was an experience of a constituent of the member for Toowoomba North. I will never forget sitting in his office and hearing her describe her harrowing experience as a victim of rape and how she was failed by the DNA lab, the Labor Party and the government of the day which did not ensure that she received justice.

I congratulate the Attorney-General for her commitment and her work, which I know is going to be nothing short of a challenge, to ensure we deliver integrity back to forensic services in Queensland. That is what Queenslanders deserve. For four years we watched the biggest maladministration ever played out by any government. It happened under those opposite and was overseen by multiple failed ministers, health ministers and attorneys-general. We should never let Queenslanders forget that victims of crime have had to live with the consequences, whether it is a family suffering the loss of a murdered daughter or a young woman who was raped by multiple people she still had to see in the streets of her home town.

I am pleased that the government has brought forward comprehensive policies and that I have been appointed a minister, across multiple portfolios, to deliver upon the policy platform of the LNP. It aligns with our values. It aligns with our commitment to respecting the money of Queensland taxpayers. We are continuing to do what we said we would do through our election commitments, the policies that we are rolling out and the budget that we will soon debate.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the tenacity of the volunteers who worked throughout the campaign. It was not an easy campaign as I spent a lot of time travelling the state to support other members in sharing the commitments and the policies that we took to the election. I thank the volunteers. I thank my campaign manager, Shelley Argent, and wish her every success in her future. I take the time to acknowledge my electorate staff, Manuela, Jakki and Belinda, who gave up much of their time to coordinate the volunteers who worked across the electorate and took leave to do so. I will never forget the number of hours they spent manning the polling booths. I also thank and acknowledge my federal member, Andrew Willcox, and his wife, Raylene, for the support that they provided me throughout the election campaign.

I acknowledge our local media and, in particular, our free paper, *Mackay and Whitsunday Life*. Rachel and Amanda do an incredible job in supporting our community by delivering really important everyday grassroots community news that people across Mackay and the Whitsundays rely upon. I also thank Deb at *Whitsunday News*. They have always been very respectful and very responsive in the way in which they have covered the stories of the day. I really thank them for that.

When I was first elected, I stood in this House and mentioned my grandmother Coral Camm. She had said that as a Camm had never been elected into opposition I was the first. My great uncle served in this House for almost 20 years as a member of government and a minister. I lost her a couple of years ago, while I was in opposition, so she never got to see me become a member of government and a minister. However, she is with me each and every day.


**Mr Nicholls:** She would be proud now.

**Ms CAMM:** She would be proud now and I thank her because she and my grandfather gave me considerable support. Right before the day of the election, we laid to rest my grandfather Joseph Carrello about whom I spoke in my maiden speech. It is due to him that I have the work ethic that I have. He was an enormous influence in my life. He will be forever missed by my family. We were able to lay him to rest just prior to the election.

No member of this House can do what they do without enormous sacrifice and support. I take this opportunity to thank my beautiful children—Lachlan, Abigail and Braithan. I am so very proud of them. They are young adults living their own lives and doing incredible things. My youngest son is in

year 12 and I spend a lot of time away from home. They have grown up to be independent, incredible and capable young people. They continue to inspire me and keep things light each and every day. I thank them. I thank my mum, my brother and my sister for their ongoing support.

I acknowledge and thank the LNP party, my SEC and all of the volunteers. We are a movement that embraces our values. I think we live and work our values each and every day, particularly in the policies that we brought forward to the last election. I am very proud to serve as part of the Crisafulli government. I look forward to delivering not just on behalf of the people of my community in the Whitsunday electorate but also for all people across Queensland.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.15 pm): To stand here again representing Noosa and for the third term as the only elected Independent member of the Queensland parliament is the greatest of honours. We live in an incredible state and country, as demonstrated by the phenomenal response to Cyclone Alfred in March. Every day I am thankful for the caring, dedicated and selfless people we are surrounded by.

As I have said before, I am most definitely biased towards my electorate, which has been my home for over three decades now and where I will remain until my last breath. Many are unaware that Noosa is not a town; it is an electorate and shire of great beauty and it is more than a holiday destination. It is very much an intentional community of shared vision and goals. Residents and businesses are internationally recognised and awarded in their respective fields, including innovation through young environmental warriors who can raise 50,000 signatures on a petition and so much more.

If they have not done so already, I hope our newer members of parliament—and congratulations to you all—get the chance to visit Noosa. I always have spare beds available as, understandably, I wish to share my community and the passion we have to retain its uniqueness so that future generations of Queenslanders and visitors can also enjoy it. Noosa is an incredibly valuable asset as an international drawcard for our state and, as a biosphere, it is a living laboratory in which we find ways to live with the least impact on our natural assets.

The election seems a very long time ago but it was only eight months. It highlighted the Noosa passion. Independent supporters of all ages and ideologies undertook a campaign free of misinformation, negativity and grubby tactics. They filled the streets, waterways and foreshores, proudly wearing their T-shirts and bandanas. I will be forever grateful for the positive energy and spirit that emanated everywhere they went.

Special gratitude goes to my campaign manager, Trish, and her very small team. It was a really difficult campaign. After the 2020 election, I had hoped that the disrespectful behaviours displayed by political parties in our electorate would desist. However, sadly again up popped those infamous scratchies that residents were appalled by. Disappointingly, we again saw the reply paid envelopes for postal votes. Even though my private member's motion to see an end to what is a deceptive practice was not successful, I hope our new government will address this as part of delivering greater transparency and respect to all Queenslanders. Again we saw people from across the state being bussed in to hand out flyers at booths and the huge—and I mean huge—third-party signage that swamped all others. Our communities deserve better.

In amongst campaigning, there was deep sadness with the passing of my mum, my mother-in-law and two girlfriends, all within that month. Suppressing the grief was exhausting. However, on election night I felt they were all with us. I am grateful for the very special moments that I will always remember, including the surprise bagpipe band that played *When the saints go marching in*.

To my much better half, 'Shoey', my family, including my children and grandchildren—we have 11 between us—my friends and all of my supporters, all I can say again is how much I treasure you. You are my family in all ways that matter, and I thank you for your love, your incredible efforts, the high-fives on the street, thumping on my car roof, which nearly made me have an accident, and the tooting of horns. You really do make my world.

I am thankful for so much that was achieved last term. The completion of Six Mile Creek Bridge No. 7; the completion of stages 3, 4 and 5 of our better river management; the beginning of a new life for our decommissioned TAFE; and the construction of domestic and family violence units are just some examples. With still lots to do, there have been excellent commitments from both our previous government and our new government on some of these, including on the Tewantin Bypass and the Pomona pedestrian crossing, and we look forward to seeing progress. Of note is the appreciation from our community for the government's commitment to ensure that any state facilitated developments

comply with Noosa's planning scheme, and I thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier for this. There are issues that are yet to have solid commitments, such as an end to the destruction of the Noosa North Shore and areas to the north, and broader Queensland issues such as better governance are much more than infrastructure and services. Of course, there will be more on that in my speech on the budget.

Collaboration and communication are key, and I hope our new government will address the flaws in our systems with an aim to delivering greater efficiency, transparency and value for taxpayers' dollars. I will say it again: system failures deeply impact residents' physical and mental wellbeing, which ultimately costs much more to address, whether that be from addictions, loss of productivity, increased domestic and family violence or increased crime.

Within my own electorate, we continue to experience an inappropriate volume of heavy haulage through our beautiful villages from the quarry four years on, and with the much awaited Planning and Environment Court determination delivering no resolution we ask our new government to do what no-one else has been able to do: end the trauma being experienced. This includes urgently appealing to the federal government to refuse an application to clear another 10 hectares of koala habitat, which is totally unacceptable in every possible way.

Other issues that we have advocated for and called on to be remedied finally look like being addressed, and I thank our new government for this. Announcements on bettering many realms, such as that recently passed legislation I mentioned before to allow the revoking of state facilitated developments, the suspension of the Best Practice Industry Conditions and the creation of a victims advocacy service, are all welcome. This includes our volunteers. Even though I do not believe we need an inquiry to identify why we have lost 10 per cent in our volunteer numbers, some form of action is appreciated. I trust that the funding of our volunteer organisations which work tirelessly will be assessed at the same time.

I will continue to seek an independent inquiry into the pandemic and the ongoing fallouts. Even though my private member's motion did not secure the previous government's support, given the importance of ensuring we are well prepared for any future pandemics, I hope our new government undertakes this to provide clarity and reassurance for Queenslanders.

In addition, our efforts to reform our estimates and committee processes, as well as chamber practices and standing and sessional orders, are key to better analysis and decision-making to ensure all voices of Queenslanders are heard. Creating an environment that encourages bipartisan agreement is vital to ending the wasting of taxpayers' dollars. Even though I have experienced how members of a committee can disrupt these efforts, this does not mean anyone should give up. We just need to mature as a parliament, and this is our opportunity to do that.

In our efforts and achievements, we do not thank enough those who make our communities in Queensland the most wonderful places to call home—everyone from front liners to departmental staff and ministers, to not-for-profits and volunteers and to fabulous residents, businesses and advocates. How blessed we are to live where we do with caring, compassionate and dedicated human beings. I make special mention of my staff—Lisa, Dylan, James and Jack—my work experience students and interns and volunteer Peta. You are all gold and you work so hard for our residents.

As I have said, we are in an era of opportunity to show appreciation for what was delivered under the previous government as well as for the new government addressing flaws, implementing policy for greater efficiency and equity and legislating based on evidence, not slogans. At the same time, we need to be empathetic to the needs of all Queenslanders, ensuring that decisions account for our diversity and, vitally, are considered beyond an election term to create a truly sustainable Queensland. Many of these decisions may be hard to make and may not provide instant gratification; however, by being transparent with Queenslanders, demonstrating true integrity and ending the grubby tactics and poor behaviour that we have seen in this chamber some of the lost trust in politicians and our democracy will be restored.

This must be our legacy for Queensland's future, and it is one that, respectfully, I will continue to fight for. Again, I congratulate all MPs on both sides of this chamber and I look forward to working with you this term.



**Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.25 pm): I thank the Speaker very much for the opportunity to attend today and give my address-in-reply speech. In previous years, my address-in-reply speeches have been very considered, written out and read word for word; however, in my third term I have come to the startling realisation that no-one is actually listening too much to what we are saying in here. The reality is that it is all about what we do outside rather than inside this place.



Saying that the last term was a bit of a roller-coaster would be a bit of an understatement. I thank the House for its indulgence of my leave arrangements to date, and I take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues and those around me whose support has been invaluable in the last six months. As I said, the last term for me was a bit of a roller-coaster in terms of life throwing many things at me that I had very little control over, resulting in having to take leave for the last six months. I now have the opportunity to start my full return to work program.

Members may be aware that in June last year I was diagnosed with a brain tumour. It caused a certain level of anxiety, one could say—not that we had much on last year! I had regular scans to check on how the brain tumour was going. On a quiet Monday in October last year, as our Octobers were generally fairly low key, I was told that the tumour was growing at a rate that would require surgery. I did advise my surgeon that I had some things to do that I wanted to finish. With his approval, I was able to delay surgery until earlier this year. Firstly, I had a job to do and, secondly, I wanted to spend my Christmas holidays with my kids rather than being laid up in hospital.

I successfully had the surgery earlier this year, and the most recent scans are very positive. I am now at a point in the process where I have to have annual scans to make sure the tumour does not come back. I am extremely lucky and fortunate, apparently, as my surgeon told me that the tumour I had was not cancerous so it was not going to spread and that many people do live entire full lives without even knowing they have the presence of this particular meningioma. However, the growth necessitated surgery. As someone who has always played sport and been very active, where the meningioma was located was right at the back where my cerebellum is, and that is where you get your movement, balance and coordination. That might explain some of those bouts of vertigo I had last term. With the thought of not being able to have that full and enriching engagement and being there for my kids to drive and to do all of those kinds of things, I opted to go for the surgery. The surgeon said I was lucky in terms of where it was located in that I would potentially have issues returning with balance and movement but that my cognitive functions would not be overly impacted, much to my children's distress.

I stood here in my first term giving that very considered first speech that we do. Every single word is considered because you think it is going to be transcribed somewhere and reflected on. I thought my 2017 campaign was going to be hard. I had a newborn and people said, 'That's going to be very difficult.' In my first speech I did reflect that when I welcomed her into my family I said, 'From here on, life is going to be a bit of a roller-coaster with this job.' I also said that we were experienced roller-coaster riders. I did not put that out to the universe as a dare to see what else it could throw at me!

I would certainly like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my family and my close supporters in terms of what it takes to get through some of the things that life does throw at you and the support that you need to have around you. Last term, I was going through some mental health issues, going through a divorce and then, 'Here's a brain tumour,' on top of it. Sometimes it can get a little bit too much. Your cup can sometimes be full and it can overflow, and then people give you more cups.

My family has been a source of strength for me—my three young kids. To my eldest, Luka, who at 15 years old is an absolute force of nature whether it be debating, public speaking or the whole works. Nothing has ever been or will ever be outside her grasp—in the way and with the passion that she takes on things, even if all of her feedback in both debating and public speaking is that she is the most non-conformist public speaker they have ever heard—nothing to do with me!

To my boy, Ronan, who many of you here in the House will be familiar with Ronan's exploits over the last six or seven years. I was absolutely proud to accompany him during the last sitting week when his school came in here. He has just come on in leaps and bounds. One of the biggest things that I have missed this year is my opportunity to provide my annual speech that I do for Autism Awareness Month. He was in here with his grade 6 class, and he had the biggest smile on his face his teachers had ever seen when he got to come in here. It is the most that they have ever heard him talk in a school setting. He just likes showing off now that he is taller than me, and he is going to have a growth spurt soon!

To my youngest daughter, Mackenzie, who has only ever known this life, and that comes with a lot of parent guilt in this House because there are a lot of things that you miss. It has turned her into a bit of a force of nature as well, but she makes me aware that I am alive every single day. She makes me work for it, that's for sure! I have to say that in my recovery the hardest thing I have had to do is to get her to school every morning when she knows I am going to be home because she does not want to go any further than two feet away from me when she has the opportunity. I would like her to sleep in her own bed. That is a goal.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the people of Macalister, my electorate, who have put their faith and trust in me for the third time. On the scale of elections, putting my name on the ballot paper this time was probably the hardest in terms of what I felt I could actually do in terms of campaigning. Certainly I have my staff and my team around me to thank. The overwhelming support that I have had since the beginning of this year from my electorate has been amazing. Schools have reached out to me, as have my sporting clubs and my local businesses. The support that I have had, even just going out for a coffee, has been overwhelming. I want to make sure that the work that I do over this term really does advocate and put forward the need that we have, to make sure that our places in Logan are not forgotten.

I joined the Labor Party and I only became interested in politics when the Campbell Newman government was in power, and that is because I had a son who was born with a disability and our child health services were cut. I joined campaigns because, well, that is what you do. If you want things and if you want change, you can sit back and wait for someone else to do it or you can put your hand up and you can get in there and do it and fight for it yourself. That is how I got involved in politics.

I can lightheartedly say that before that time I could not even possibly tell you who I voted for because I was just living my best life, but when I had kids everything changed—the legacy, what is left behind and the services that kids need, particularly our kids in Logan who are often left behind. We have some of the lowest child health check-up rates in the state. We have some of the lowest health vaccination rates in the state. We have some of the highest rates of undiagnosed conditions in the state. Many of our kids rock up to prep on day one and they have never even been in an organised classroom before. They have no idea about sitting on a spot on the floor. It is about making those opportunities available like the Free Kindy program that we had. That was a really big game changer, particularly in places like Eagleby.

The people of Macalister voted for increased service delivery. I have not heard anything yet about the timing of the new Beenleigh Police Station, the new Beenleigh Ambulance Station—

**An honourable member:** Not in the budget.

**Mrs McMAHON:** Thank you. They were also looking forward to a hopeful future for Beenleigh. What they do know is that the last time that the LNP were in government Beenleigh got nothing. It will be my job to fight for and advocate for services in my local area over the next three years to make sure that we are not forgotten, to make sure that the families who are moving to my area, as well as the long-term families who have been there as part of farming families for many years, do not have the legacy of Beenleigh abandoned. I thank the people of Macalister for their support, for their faith and for their trust. I will be advocating for them whether it is locally or in here.

I thank my team, whom I have had around me more so than ever before. We all talk about our electorate teams and our campaign teams. I made my immediate office team aware very early on what I was going through because they were the people closest to me. They made sure I could still do the job I had to do. They were touchstones for me. We went into this campaign with an unknown outcome, and I thank some of my mentors and key people in Queensland Labor like Kate Flanders, whom I spoke to really early on about this to make sure I had the support and the team we needed to make sure I could get through to the end of October still standing upright. I think I was mostly standing upright by then. I certainly thank my team in the electorate office, including Michael, Stella, Sophia and Portia, who has gone on to bigger and better things.


That is the key to what we do in Macalister. I look for young, passionate people, people who want to change, locals who want to see big things happen. I give them that chance and we give them the opportunity on the proviso that this is a stepping stone in their career. They go on to bigger and better things, and I expect all young Macalister people to embrace that opportunity. They are not allowed to give up their studying while they are in my office; they have to keep studying. My office and what we do is about broadening their world view, broadening their horizons and turning them into better people. That is one of the legacies I would like to see continue for Macalister as well as the infrastructure I have been able to deliver, including high school halls, intersection upgrades and new classrooms.

Those are great infrastructure legacy pieces, but for me it is what I can do to transform young people in my electorate who will make the biggest difference. Whether it is the staff who come through my office or my youth advisory committee, which is now up to its fourth iteration, many of them have used those opportunities to go on. Whether it is in politics or out of politics, it has given them exposure and the opportunity to see how to change things and to be that next generation of people who, rather than seeing someone or clicking on a petition, actually goes out and does something. To me, that is the biggest legacy I can leave the people of Macalister going forward.

To the Labor movement and my 'branchies', thank you very much for wrapping around me during the campaign and in the months since then. I thank the team at Queensland Labor and my organiser Meredith—who was always popping in to check on me to make sure I was still standing upright—the mighty Queensland Labor union movement and the team at the United Workers Union, including Jake. This is the first year I have not had Jeanette Temperley standing by my side going into a campaign, but she was on speed dial and we texted frequently, so she was always there and has always been a good sounding board. As I said, I thank my wonderful Beenleigh branch and my volunteers, who have been there since the very beginning in 2015 and are still going. They are in their 80s now and probably not as spritely as they used to be, but I am talking about the likes of Marlene, Fran, Betty and Judith. As the member for Woodridge said, it is the lifelong true believers who make everything we do in this House special.

Thank you once again to my family for supporting me over these last six months. My brother moved in with me to cook me food and drive me everywhere and all that kind of thing. Believe me, when we were last living together when he was a teenager I never would have seen that happening. Because I have acknowledged him in several speeches previous to this, I have to acknowledge Leigh, my now ex-husband. One of the hardest things to do, but one of the things I am most proud of having done as an adult, is to still be on good terms after a divorce. It is not as easy as some people think. When your relationship is based on respect and mutual love for our kids, making sure that we are still in this together—even if we are not technically married anymore—that is one of the biggest lessons I can leave for my kids. Not everything is going to go to plan, but it is how you roll with it.

If anything, I rolled with quite a lot last term. I am proud to say that I intend to keep on rolling right through this term as I work through my return to work with the indulgence of the House, the Manager of Opposition Business and the Leader of the House. I thank everyone in this House and I congratulate everyone in this House for being here. I try to be a person who only stands up when I have something to say. I am a person who believes in brevity, but I am also a person who will stand up when I do have something to say. And you will hear me when I do.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.45 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to contribute to the address-in-reply debate. I wish to extend my best wishes to Her Excellency, Governor Dr Jeannette Young. I hope Her Excellency receives this message as she is busy with her duties across the state. I especially acknowledge Her Excellency for the time she has spent with disaster impacted communities across the state.

My time in this House has reinforced a fundamental principle upon which I reflected during my maiden speech some 10 years ago in this House. As members of parliament, we are the servants of the people who have elected us. In my more than 30 years of working in politics, this is the underlying principle that has guided me. It is an honour to represent the people of Warrego and I thank them again for placing their trust in me. I am the first female member elected to the seat of Warrego since Federation. I now find myself as the first female cabinet minister to have held this seat since Federation. No matter where my work has taken me, I have never lost sight of my ultimate duty to the people whom I serve. As the people's servant, I know just how much the west and south-west bring to the table. More than this, especially as a minister I serve all of Queensland and all Queenslanders.

Before I turn to the portfolios I hold, I would like to highlight the beautiful Warrego electorate and what matters to those Queenslanders in the electorate who call it home. Before I do, I would like to thank my wonderfully dedicated electorate staff: Gerardine, Paige, Shae, Kate, Anita, Sarah, Bree and Briony, who comes back and helps us during her uni holidays—thank you for everything. I value your support so much and I cannot express enough just how grateful I am. Your work for the people of Warrego never goes unnoticed. I also thank the volunteers at the last election who worked on pre-poll across the Warrego electorate. I thank the volunteers of all parties, because it is certainly not easy to man all of those polling booths right across a seat that spans an area larger than the state of Victoria.

I have campaigned on roads, in particular the widening of roads and particularly those single-lane bitumen roads that carry heavy vehicles. Unfortunately, following 10 years of Labor neglect our roads are in need of maintenance and much needed upgrades. I have campaigned, and will continue to do so, for the widening of these state roads. One that is very high on my list is the Roma-Condamine Road, which is a great alternative road. Should anything happen on the Warrego Highway, we can certainly use that Roma-Condamine Road as a secondary route for access to much of western and south-western Queensland.

I also campaigned for safety upgrades to known black spots, like the intersection at the Gums and key disaster pinch points like the Eulo River bridge. The Eulo River bridge has been cut for six weeks at a time. It is a 90-year-old bridge and it needs to be raised. Also, the approaches at the Loudoun Bridge near Dalby are part of my plans to assist communities across the electorate and keep them connected with the rest of the world, particularly during weather events.

For some years I have also campaigned with the local community for a CT scanner at the Charleville Hospital. I know the local mayor, Zoro Radnedge, was particularly excited when I rang him and said that I wanted to run that campaign again. This is a most important piece of equipment, as lung cancer is the fifth most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths. CT scanning offers early detection, and up to 70 per cent of lung cancers can be detected at early stages through screening. We know that the south-west has a very high number of smokers as well as people who are exposed to a lot of dust so screening is particularly important in that south-west area. South-West Queensland has only one CT scanner based at Roma. With the changes for lung cancer screening, it is important that people further west have access to a CT scanner closer to them for lung cancer screening as well as for accidents and emergencies. Charleville is very well placed for this because it is a flying doctor base as well. Without that easy access to screening, these people will not be diagnosed. Many people are unable to travel the long distances and they simply will not access those screening services.

One of the most pressing issues across my electorate is the lack of housing. Unfortunately, Labor governments over the previous 10 years sat on their hands when it came to activating more land for housing and more housing in the Warrego electorate. If you want to buy a block of land in Dalby, Roma or many other communities, you simply will not find one. There are very few vacant blocks left in these communities to build on. If you want to rent a home, you will probably think there is a problem with realestate.com because when you type in these community names there is nothing to rent. If you had a look at realestate.com now for St George, Roma or Charleville, you will find that there are no properties at all to rent.

Our homes are full and our rental properties are full. We desperately need more housing, more blocks of land for housing and more homes to be built. The lack of housing is causing worker shortages, including childcare workers, and that is creating a compounding impact for many businesses and, might I say, government departments as well. Sadly, even places like Roma and Dalby are seeing people who are homeless. We need more supply of land lots and more homes built on that land so we can free up rental accommodation and ensure families have a roof over their heads. Our businesses have lots of jobs, and some of them are extremely well-paying jobs, but we simply do not have the homes or the land to build on to attract people to take up these jobs.

I want to give a shout-out to the country universities, of which there are a number in my electorate. In fact, the most successful country university in Australia is in Roma in my electorate. It is a great model for those students who want to stay in their own community and further their studies. Many students are the first in their family to be undertaking tertiary study and many are from an Indigenous background. It is giving them access to university education which they never would have done if they had to move away to undertake study.

I want to touch on the floods and severe weather events that hit us in the far west of my electorate. I want to thank all of the mayors—'Tractor' Ferguson, mayor of the Bulloo shire; Ben Hall, mayor of the Quilpie shire; Suzette Beresford, mayor of the Paroo shire; and Zoro Radnedge, mayor of the Murweh shire—because the region was particularly impacted. In Hungerford, we had water under the police station and homes that were flooded when people were away; it was very distressing for them. In Eulo, homes were flooded and the water overtopped the levee there. It was a very extensive flood in that area.

Sadly, in Thargomindah around 90 per cent of the homes and businesses were impacted by floodwater. We have a beautiful council facility and chambers out there and that was flooded right through. That is now being stripped out and repaired. The floods went through the Oasis Motel accommodation as well as the school, and the Premier and I recently visited the school. When I was at Thargomindah during the floods, I said to the engineer that it would be a good idea to put some marks at the flood height. As the Premier and I walked through the school, we saw those blue lines everywhere through the school indicating the height of those floodwaters—and that height was quite frightening. We had never in living memory seen water at that height through places like Thargomindah. In Eromanga, homes were flooded. The water went through the town but, fortunately, it did not go through

the Natural History Museum which is on a higher spot in Eromanga. It would have been devastating if it had got to our dinosaur museum because it is an extremely precious asset not just for the Warrego electorate but for the whole of Australia and the world.

In Adavale, all of the homes apart from the police station were flooded, and that has been a very traumatic experience for those Adavale residents. I met with many of them and I am happy to go back and meet with them again because it is a very difficult situation at Adavale. That community is in a couple of creek beds and it has already been moved once out of floodwaters, so there is certainly a lot of work there to do. What they have been through has been traumatic for them.

In between all of these communities, there are many homesteads which had never experienced floodwaters. Unfortunately, that has now happened and it has destroyed machinery, there have been stock losses and there is a huge amount of fencing across that region that will take some time to repair. In the Quilpie shire alone, it took 10 years to put in place all of the exclusion fencing. We have managed to get a package of \$105 million to help with the restitution of that fencing. I know it will take some time to do that and to help those people get back on their feet.

I want to say that, even amongst all of these things that happened, it looks absolutely amazing in the communities out at Jundah, Thargomindah and further west to Lake Eyre. If anyone is planning to visit Western Queensland and go out to Lake Eyre, now is the time to do it. It looks amazing; it is green and it is beautiful. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Those communities are absolutely open for business and they would love to have people come out and visit them during school holidays or at any other time because it helps their economy and it helps them get back than on their feet.

I would now like to turn to matters of my portfolios. I have been tasked with a number of portfolios, all of which I have a passion for when delivering for Queensland and its people. Local government, water, fire, disaster recovery and volunteers are portfolios that combine well with each other. They are all interconnected in some way and they are critical to the fresh start that Queenslanders deserve. The Crisafulli government knows how important councils are for delivering for local communities, and we appreciate that councils know their local communities best. We also know that we work best when we work together in a partnership with our local councils. We are ensuring that they have the tools they need to make these communities great places to live, work and raise a family, now and into the future.

No two of our 77 councils are the same and we must work together to best respond to the unique needs of Queensland's diverse regions. I am proud to say that we have already made inroads. Whether it is the new Equal Partners in Government agreement or the Works for Queensland program or the red-tape-reduction taskforce, we are working on empowering our elected local government representatives. For far too long, Queensland mayors, CEOs and councillors have been disrespected by those members opposite. The Crisafulli government are taking this stand for councils and we aim to empower our councils to deliver for their Queensland communities.

The Crisafulli government recognise how important water is to this state. In fact, the very fundamentals of life as we know it revolve around water. After nearly 10 years in government, Labor left Queenslanders with some of the highest water bills in the country and literally crumbling infrastructure. In fact, they actually tore down a dam at Paradise. Not only are consumers paying for the price of Labor's failures every time they turn on the tap; we also learned coming into government that there were infrastructure blowouts under Labor. Labor's mismanagement led to billions in infrastructure blowouts. The Paradise Dam cost blew out by \$3.2 billion. The Lake MacDonald cost was up by \$138 million. The Burdekin Falls Dam costs blew out by \$623 million. The Somerset Dam costs blew out by \$590 million.

Affordable and secure water resources are central to Queensland's economic growth, and the Crisafulli government has a clear vision for delivering water security for all Queenslanders. This includes an analysis of all 23 water plans in this term of government, with a focus on boosting supply and affordability. This will require input from key stakeholders. I look forward to continuing to work closely with our stakeholders to deliver this whole-of-state plan.

As well as this, we are undertaking an urgent review of the water sources for South-East Queensland. This includes a comprehensive review of the options for South-East Queensland's water supply, including attention towards flood mitigation for communities along the Brisbane River. Delivering long-term water infrastructure, boosting supply and increasing affordability are at the heart of this government's watertight plan.

Volunteers also help Queensland to function. Supporting this sector is vital and even more important in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. Volunteers give selflessly of their time, many of them putting their community needs in front of their own. Like everything else, the previous Labor government


took these vital Queenslanders for granted. Labor did not even have a portfolio recognition of volunteers. It took the LNP to do that. I am proud to be the Minister for Volunteers to recognise and empower those people who volunteer for our communities. That is why our government have established a parliamentary inquiry into volunteering within our first 100 days. We want volunteers' voices to be heard. The Crisafulli government is committed to removing barriers and creating more pathways to volunteering. We want to make sure that anyone who has a passion to make a difference in their local community has every opportunity to become a volunteer.

It is also an honour in my capacity as Minister for Disaster Recovery to work with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. Queensland is Australia's most disaster-prone state and we have seen this firsthand so far this year. At present, 73 of the 77 councils are disaster declared. Experiencing three major disasters back-to-back, we have Queenslanders' backs and we will be with them through this long tail of recovery.

As a government, we have worked with all levels of government to coordinate Queensland's recovery and reconstruction works within the disaster-affected communities. Whether it has been the historic floods hitting the North and Far North cutting Queenslanders off from the rest of the country, or the South-East where Queenslanders faced the brunt of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, or in Western Queensland where an area twice the size of Victoria was swamped with floodwaters, we have delivered joint packages funded by state and Commonwealth governments to support community clean-up, road restoration, environmental recovery, tourism support and mental health services. We will continue to deliver more support; we are there for the long haul.

I would now like to touch on our fires. From structure fires to road accidents, bushfires to navigating swiftwater rescues and disasters, our fire department go above and beyond for us. Both the Queensland Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire Service are there when Queenslanders most need them. Part of this important work includes making sure our fires have the new fire and rescue stations where they are needed most, expanding the digital fire rating signage for them and providing fit-for-purpose appliances for rural fire brigades. The dedicated Rural Fire Service volunteer members do an outstanding job, volunteering their time to protect people, their property and their communities. Queensland communities must have confidence in our fire department and its capabilities and their ability to respond to disasters and emergencies, no matter where they live.

The services provided by the Queensland Fire Department are world-class and provide an exceptional level of service to our communities. After 10 years of Labor failures and inactions, Queenslanders deserve a fresh start—a fresh start that will deliver water security and affordability, a fresh start that will empower our local governments, a fresh start that will make it easier for Queenslanders to give back, a fresh start that will put our frontline fires first, and a fresh start that will see us recover stronger from the disasters that have tested so many of our communities across the state. The Crisafulli government will deliver the fresh start Queenslanders need, restoring trust, driving opportunity and building a future that Queenslanders can all enjoy and believe in.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.04 pm): I would first like to thank the many volunteers and workers who helped me personally across 23 booths in Traeger and 428,000 square kilometres. It is a massive effort and it is pretty hard to put into words my thanks for all those people who stand out in the hot sun for you. I extend that to all the KAP booth workers right across seats where we ran candidates. We very much value what they do. I would even mention those other booth workers for the other parties. Many of those people believe in something and it is wonderful that we live in a democracy where they have the freedom to do so.

I have made the observation—and I think this is the best time to bring it up—that two weeks of pre-poll voting is absolute garbage. It is hard enough to get volunteers out there and a lot of them are elderly now. Making them stand in the hot sun for two weeks so it makes it more convenient for the Electoral Commission to do their job is not on. I do not think anyone is a winner there. If people within our electorates cannot get down to a polling booth to vote within one week, we have a real problem; there is something wrong. They do not deserve to have a vote. One week is more than what people need. That really needs to be changed. I would be pretty surprised if any volunteer within all of the party groups would disagree with us there.

I want to thank my staff personally. The KAP staff always put in 100 per cent effort. We owe a really big debt of thanks to Benny Fusco and his team. There are so many people who work for nothing.

With regard to my fellow KAP MPs here, what can I say? We are a small team with big areas with a lot of problems, and I think we do a competent job in representing our areas. I think they have done a terrific job getting themselves re-elected time and time again.

I have to mention a really negative part of the campaign. In the last few days there was signage that went up. There was some funny stuff—memes that had me hugging in a loving embrace the now opposition leader on the *Titanic*. That is funny; I get it. I can wear that, but saying I did a deal with Labor and seeing that and having to stand in front of it on election day was poor. It was really poor form. We can throw insults and innuendo, but saying that we had done a deal with Labor is a known lie. To propagate that was damaging. Well done! It might have even cost us a seat in one place, but it really takes away from the LNP's win, I believe.

It was an undignified way to win in those areas. It is a shame, because the Premier had done a sterling job of being an opposition leader before the election, worked very hard and deserved much of that win that was there from the hard work that was done. I think that was something that really took away from that win and something that upset me deeply. I wonder where the bottom is on this, because now can we all just tell lies every election without thought of any consequence? Someone said to me on polling day, 'Labor did it to us one election.' I said, 'That has nothing to do with me.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Traeger, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language, thank you.

**Mr KATTER:** I am not sure what that is. I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. That has to be addressed—there should be some consequence for any political party that tells a lie. You can throw mud if you want, but do not tell a lie.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Traeger, you are repeating the unparliamentary language. I once again ask you to withdraw.

**Mr KATTER:** I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am not sure how else to say that.

**A government member:** An untruth.

**Mr KATTER:** Untruth, thank you. I will go through the issues raised in the election that we saw as significant. Crime was an outstanding issue—and everywhere in elections beforehand—and we set out not to address every element of it but the areas where we thought it really needed some work: bush sentencing; relocation sentencing; Adult Crime, Adult Time; mandatory minimum sentencing; and the right to smack, which a lot of people reeled at and said, 'That is terrible.' Interestingly, that is probably the main issue I hear from the Indigenous communities in my electorate. They say, 'We have lost a lot of discipline and control of our kids,' so we introduced that as something to campaign on as well during the election.

A big issue that was raised was the itinerant population and the impact that has had in the Traeger electorate. It has had a very big social impact. There has been no control around that and no real effort made to this point to address that.

Airline prices are a perennial problem with some difficult solutions. FIFO and workplace composition is an issue. Nothing has been done in that space and it continues to be a cancer of the bush.

Housing and insurance were raised as issues. We have put forward solutions on the basis of first home buyer grant amendments to include existing homes and for the Australia Post banking service to fill the gaps where there is postcode discrimination so that the lack of private investment in rural and remote areas can at least be challenged.

Issues were raised about energy prices, climate tax and the pursuit of net zero and the impact it is having. We thought we had some pretty clear ground on that issue, as opposed to the majors. I think a lot of people had a strong appetite to see the pursuit of net zero thrown in the bin.

Roads and crossings in the Traeger electorate are really big issues because communities like Burketown and Doomadgee have been cut off for three or four months for a couple of years in a row. We need to get the Hann Highway finished. We need the upgrades to the Hann Highway at the Einasleigh River and the Bundock Creek crossings; at White Cliffs. We need improvements to Burketown and Doomadgee access with the Barkly River crossing, Running Creek and the Gregory River Bridge. We need an upgrade of the Gilbert River Bridge and upgrades to the Flinders Highway. Roads are a big issue, as you can imagine, because in that area most goods and freight travel by road.

Water came up a lot as an issue. Water is the future for us out there. We have a very dry monsoonal climate. If you do not have waterholes late in the year, the only water you get is what you store. We have not been permitted by the government for many years now to build any water storage. We continue to have big flood events, but we are not allowed to capture that water. There is a deep sense of frustration that takes away from the faith we can have in future prosperity when we are not allowed to take advantage of those natural assets.

Health is always, again, a perennial problem with the deficits there. New hospitals, renal units for Normanton, Cloncurry and Charters Towers, and upgrades to Mount Isa always come up. Renal units will continue to be a huge problem in my electorate. The patient travel subsidy and the ambulance station at Richmond are issues that came up.

As inspiration for this speech, I recently read a book on Alfred Traeger, who the seat of Traeger is named after. He, along with Reverend John Flynn—amongst doing other things—founded the Royal Flying Doctor Service. In fact, his legacy is much bigger than that. He went out in a busted old glorified horse cart, powered by a combustion engine, up to the gulf, down through Birdsville and everywhere putting up radios that he had engineered and pioneered in that era. He was personally known to my family at the time when they were using Cloncurry as their base. For the first time, Mornington Island station properties were connected to the rest of the world and those barriers of connectivity were beaten down.

More to the point, I drew out of this that he had a vision and he saw something that needed to be done for his country much more than himself. He had a sense of nationalism and a sense of duty. He served his whole life with incredible ingenuity and competency but did not use that to make himself or his friends rich. He did it as a vocation to make life better for others. Much of my electorate feels the same. We work at Mount Isa and all the other towns out there in Traeger. You put up with a lot, but you know you are doing something for the country. That is embedded in why people stay out there and put up with the adversity.

When I talk about adversity, let me build you a picture. Unlike in Brisbane where if you are buying a house you think, 'I will get capital growth on the house or the business premise. It is a good investment. Let's invest,' you might say the opposite out in my electorate, where the population projection is minus 0.9 per cent. It is not really a good prospect when you look forward. Health outcomes are challenging, with 27 per cent to 45 per cent higher potentially avoidable deaths. Specialist health services are a couple of hours driving distance from a hospital. We are a 20-hour drive from Brisbane and a 10-hour drive from Townsville, so then you are left with the connectivity issues of airline travel. The last time we checked it cost \$800 one way to Brisbane from Mount Isa. On the same day it cost \$200 to Melbourne which is a similar distance. We have full planes all the time, I can assure you. Interestingly, Qantas started to provide connectivity in my electorate of Traeger but now it an impediment to connectivity. Big corporates and free markets have allowed this activity that takes advantage of us in remote areas.

Let me go on: there is hidden postcode discrimination if you go to get a bank loan. Even if you disregard the fact that it will be hard to gain capital growth on your house, if you go to the bank for a loan—they will not say this to you and they do not broadcast it on the streets, but if you are in a remote area they will apply 40 per cent to 50 per cent LVR to you, not 80 per cent or 90 per cent like you will get in Brisbane. If you try getting a loan out in these remote areas, they will say, 'We will lend to you, for sure, but the terms are non-commercial,' so it is very hard to get a loan from a bank. That is why we always say you need a government bank to go into those places to fill the gap.

If we forget that for a second and go to grocery prices, if you are a family on Mornington Island, you do not pay \$300 a week for your groceries; you pay \$600 a week for your groceries. If you are on Mornington, that same person supplying for his family is in the lowest income bracket for Queensland now, based on the 2021 census data. Despite being on the lowest income on Mornington Island, if you are living there, even if you get a job to break out of the poverty system, you will have trouble because you still have the blue card system working against you. Even if you have a job and you have a blue card, you cannot buy a house on Mornington Island, so you can never really progress yourself anyway. That is the adversity that you experience if you live in Traeger. In Traeger, if you have home insurance, you can look forward to paying \$4,000 a year, not \$1,000 a year like you pay in Brisbane. It is much worse in Townsville and the coastal areas in North Queensland. You will be paying \$2 a litre for fuel, not \$1.50 like you do here.

It is very frustrating for us because we have to look at all of the natural assets that we sit on. We can see the benefit of the minerals, water and land. We cannot clear the trees, we cannot take the water and we cannot take the minerals like we used to be able to without enormous handbrakes being put on by this parliament in Brisbane, so we are very frustrated. I will be expressing that frustration for my entire time down here because it is just a reflection of what you will get when you go to these areas.

I think the antidote for all this is leadership. After the federal election I heard an interview on the radio where an MP was saying that we needed to use ChatGPT to see where we went wrong in the election. I reflected on that and I thought, 'That has to be the problem, hasn't it?' You are trying to follow



polling to see what people are thinking and then trying to jump in front of it—I think it has been called ‘triangulation’ in politics—instead of taking a value-based approach to this and say, ‘I don’t really care what the public think. I’m going to do this.’ I think there is real yearning in the public for leadership of that nature. We all say it in the backrooms. I have said it myself: ‘I would love to do that but it is just not going to fly in the electorate. People aren’t going to go for it.’ Collectively I reach out to people to think: can we just lean away from that a little bit going forward? Unless we do, we will not address some of those burning issues that are out there that need addressing.

This is my fifth term in this place, and I am compelled to look more discerningly at the things I want to change. Surely we are not all here just to get better parks and sports venues for our electorates. Surely, collectively there are some big things we want to address. That leads us to asking: are there some problems out there? Do we see some fundamental problems out there in Queensland? In the way that we see the world in our party there certainly are. I think we are lacking that nation-building activity, that long-term approach to prosperity and working to our traditional strengths. It is not just about better roads, transmission lines, rail, ports and dams. Governments have geared off those things for many years. Turning away from that, we have now diminished in so many ways.

There are a few factors that I think really tell the story. We had 1,970 dairy farmers in 1990; we are left with 230 now as a result of free market policy saying deregulation was a great provider. Manufacturing across all of Australia in 1975 accounted for 25 per cent of GDP; in 2024 it is six per cent. In terms of our gas reserve policy, we were competitive in gas and we had a huge advantage. That has been sold and it is now one of the big barriers we have in trying to do business in this place. So much of this comes back to worshipping the free market and using it as a hammer and seeing the whole world as a nail—that we will fix everything with this free market hammer. It really needs a reset.

Recently in Townsville I listened intently to Dr John Coyne from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. I think he said it quite well when he said you set your strategic objectives. You say, ‘We want to produce these things in the state,’ or, ‘It is important for Queensland to have a copper industry’—copper-processing facilities in the case of Traeger—or, ‘It is important for us to have dairy farming.’ I think nationally we have all of these objectives that we need to tie into. I do not think we can be blind to that as individuals in this place. All of that has fallen in front of our eyes. Dr John Coyne said—

Unfortunately, we’ve been on the globalisation train ... We thought that globalisation was here to stay. The economic reality hasn’t changed ... Our approach in Australia to that economic reality, user pays, just in time supply chains, centralisation of production, let the market forces roll, don’t work like they once did, and that’s because the market is distorted.

Either we will be left swinging in the breeze or we can get in front of some of these objectives and play an active role in activating some of them. I will be using my time here to oppose so many of those policies that constrain where we can be as a state and tapping into our strengths.

There are some big infrastructure items such as Hells Gates Dam. When I talk about these big infrastructure items, I am sure the Treasury boffins—all the advisers who gave the previous government advice and who are now giving this government advice—will not like any of these things. They will see them on a spreadsheet and say, ‘We don’t understand that.’ They do not have vision. They do not see where we can be as a state. They do not see our potential. They are just going to give an accountant’s view on a spreadsheet. Here is some of the infrastructure that we think will take this state forward.

Hells Gates Dam would unlock the potential of North Queensland by taking water from the high flooded areas—the electorates of the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Hill flooded at the beginning of this year. A lot of that water could be diverted across the Great Dividing Range and the black soil plains. There are literally millions of acres of arable land that just needs some water. We could do that in Australia but it continues to be ignored.

We could also build an inland highway from Cairns to Mareeba. Mulgrave Mill is under threat because they are going to run out of cane production land because Cairns is expanding onto the cane fields because they cannot expand anywhere else. They could expand up to Mareeba. It would take 20 minutes to go through two kilometres of tunnel. They have just built 12 kilometres of tunnel under the river here. We could build a tunnel two kilometres through that range and we could expand all we like. That would also unlock the North East Minerals Province, which no-one has ever really heard of because it is economically stranded at the moment. The tunnel would allow them to get product down to the Cairns port, which would pay for the tunnel. That is nation-building infrastructure but everyone says, ‘Don’t even talk about it. It’s not going to happen.’ Why is it not going to happen? It is because none of us are willing to talk about it, have that vision or take that long-term approach collectively.


Then there is CopperString, which would unlock \$740 billion worth of mineral wealth, but we are still sitting here saying, ‘Gee whiz, we can’t get it past Hughenden. I don’t know if that will add up.’ The HIPCo dam on the Flinders River at Hughenden is a no-brainer. Currently close to four billion megalitres

a year on average is being let run out of the mouth of the Flinders. Right now we are taking two or three per cent. According to the greenies in this country, we are allowed to take 20 per cent or 30 per cent, yet we are still squabbling over taking two per cent or three per cent from the Flinders and we cannot build a dam. We need to make water licences more accessible. That would cost us nothing for the Flinders River, the Etheridge River and the Gilbert River.

We need to build Ootann Road to allow triple road trains out of the cape to get cattle out in greater volumes. We should be turning our utilities—our dams, our roads and our rail lines—into economic enablers. Years ago the Treasury boffins, the economists, said about this privatisation model, ‘Let’s make these things all make money and act privately,’ and it has been disastrous. It is nuts what is happening in the Traeger electorate with these utilities trying to act like they are commercial when they should be economic enablers unlocking these things.

In my remaining time, I want to tell members what people were not interested in during this election. People in regional Queensland, remote Queensland and North Queensland were not interested in talking about the Olympics. They did not want to hear about the Olympics. They did not want to hear about Cross River Rail and how it will get people to work here in Brisbane 10 minutes earlier. They did not want to hear about climate change. They were not interested in how we were going to try to save the planet. They did not want to hear about the Path to Treaty and that our efforts to advance First Nations people in any other way were so bad. They did not want to hear about more barriers to tree clearing, reef regulations and things like that.

In conclusion, we will suck it up. Like Alfred Traeger, we will do our job out there. Even if the government wants to bring in daylight savings and those sorts of things, we will still suck it up out there. However, I hope that in this place we think more about the long-term future and unlock this wealth.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.25 pm): Today I rise with the indulgence of the House. Usually it is a very joyous occasion to make a contribution to the address-in-reply, but at the outset I have to place on the record of the House my great feeling of sympathy and loss for Adrian Shepley, who was the chairman of my state electoral council. Adrian passed away on Monday, 23 June. It was actually his 76th birthday. We called Adrian the ‘Big A’, and his email account was the bigA2 @ bigpond.com. He was the Big A in all facets of life. Adrian is survived by his wife, Margaret, and his large family: Paul, Aaron, Darren, Carmen, Lee, Luke, Peter, Bridget and Jeremy. Adrian’s funeral will be next Tuesday at 10.30 am at St Patrick’s in Laidley.

Adrian was a true champion of our community. He was Australian of the Year for the Lockyer area about six years ago and he was the chairman of the local Laidley Community Centre. He was a real champion and he was my chairman of the Lockyer SEC for the last five years.

Adrian, Margaret and I caught up on Sunday night because we knew Adrian was not well. He was actually diagnosed with cancer on about 12 May and he was intending to have an operation a week ago. Unfortunately, that operation was not a success. It was an absolutely humbling and joyous occasion to meet with Margaret and Adrian and have a few laughs. He was very *compos mentis*. He understood everything that was going on. He was smiling. He actually gave me a couple of pieces of advice which I will not share with the House tonight. Another opportunity will suffice for that. He never complained. He was a champion until the end. He even asked me about trying to find a volunteer for the bus that he drove because nobody has been able to drive that bus for the last five or six weeks. All the way through to the end he was still thinking of others. Rest in peace, Adrian Shepley, a true champion and a great mate. Thank you for your friendship.

Turning to the 58th Parliament, let me begin by offering warm congratulations to all of the members. I extend particular congratulations to all the new members in this House. I remember the feeling of joy and jubilation when I was elected the first time. I share in their excitement and I know that we have some fine members here, particularly on the government side of the House, who are already making outstanding contributions to debate and policy development.

Congratulations to the Speaker on his appointment to the esteemed position and also to the Deputy Speaker, my colleague and neighbour from Scenic Rim, on his appointment as Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to serve this parliament as a member of the Panel of Temporary Speakers.

To the Premier and the Deputy Premier I say congratulations on leading the government at this critical time in Queensland’s history. The campaign that they ran in opposition to seize the government benches was outstanding, disciplined and focused. To the newly appointed ministers, I say that after many years seated opposite, they now shed the word ‘shadow’ from their title and take up the full

responsibilities of ministerial office. Congratulations. The people of Queensland do expect diligence and integrity in that role and I wish them every success in meeting those challenges ahead. The capacity of our frontbench is such that I know they will achieve that high standard.

To all returning members and those elected for the first time, we each carry the trust of our communities. There is no greater honour than being chosen to represent them in this House. A smart lady once told me, 'You are the one person in 50,000 people who gets to come to this place and speak on their behalf. The day you lose the feeling of honour of having that position is the day you no longer should be here.' That smart lady was our Attorney-General, the first law officer, Deb Frecklington. I never forgot those very poignant words.

Above all I want to thank the people of the Lockyer electorate, made up of the Lockyer Regional Council and part of the Somerset Regional Council. Thank you once again for placing your trust in me to represent you in this chamber. I will continue to do my best and work hard to deliver the hopes and expectations you have placed in me. I also want to extend my sincere thanks to our leader, the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, and to Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie for their tireless efforts through what was a challenging and hard-fought campaign. Many thanks also go to the former shadow cabinet. The dedication and policy discipline laid the groundwork for what we are now delivering in government: doing what we said we would do. The media and policy teams in our opposition ranks were outstanding and a great foundation for our government.

I listened with pride as the member for Broadwater, our Premier, delivered his address-in-reply. It was a speech that spoke not just of promises but of performance. It is a report card that all Queenslanders, and particularly our LNP supporters, should take the time to read. It is a record of resilience, reform and responsibility, a demonstration of what the LNP stand for and the values that we are determined to achieve. It was filled with hope over fear. I also want to place on record my appreciation and thanks to our president, Lawrence Springborg, and state director, Ben Riley. Lawrence's leadership in the position has stabilised the ship of the LNP in Queensland and it is a great foundation. I thank him for his leadership and his friendship.

Since I was first elected in 2017 I have had thousands of conversations with people across the Lockyer electorate. What I heard time and time again was frustration with a government that was failing to deliver in the areas that matter to them most: health, crime, education, infrastructure and housing. Now with the LNP in government we are delivering the fresh start Queenslanders voted for and we are responding to that crisis that Labor left behind. We are doing so with purpose, clarity, determination, calm consideration and putting people before politics. Our focus is clear: we want Queenslanders to feel safe in their homes and communities, to access world-class health services when and where they need them, to enjoy a lifestyle supported by a strong economy and to have faith in the state's future. That is the foundation of our plan and we are committed to delivering it.

As a former police officer, and one of six on this side of the House, an issue that remains close to my heart is community safety, and in particular youth crime. It is not a problem with a single solution, as I have spoken about many times in this House; it is a complex situation and tackling it requires more than slogans. It requires a clear plan and we have one. Our approach rests with three pillars: prevention, intervention and detention, with Gold Standard Early Intervention and consequences for action at its heart. I pay respect to my colleagues the Attorney-General, the Minister for Youth Justice and the Minister for Police for developing a clear plan focused on victims and not criminals.

Prevention means identifying at-risk youth early and providing the support they need to change course before offending begins. We are investing in early intervention programs, things like mentoring, intensive case management, bail support services and co-responder teams made up of police and youth workers. These initiatives are not just well intentioned; they are evidence-based and are already helping to direct young people back into school, training and employment.

For those who continue to commit serious offences, we are taking strong action. We have introduced tougher legislation to make it clear that if you commit adult crimes you will face adult consequences. This is not about punishment for its own sake; it is about protecting victims, restoring community confidence and ensuring that justice reflects the severity of the offence and meets the community's standards.

Kids in youth justice are already talking about it. We interviewed dozens of children in that situation through our youth justice reform taskforce and what they told us clearly was they feared youth detention the first time. We want to make sure that they stop offending when they are 15, 16 or 17. We also recognise that detention should not be a dead end and that is why we are building capacity in our

youth detention and rehabilitation systems—making them places not just of consequence but of change. Already this balanced approach is showing results. Serious repeat offending is trending downwards and more young people are engaging with support services before offending escalates. That is what real change looks like.

Another area of deep concern for my constituents is health care, and rightly so. Fixing the healthcare system is not just a goal; it is a priority. The LNP government is making record investments in health, hiring more frontline staff, building and expanding hospitals and improving service delivery across Queensland, especially in our regional and rural communities. Billions of dollars are being directed towards new and expanded hospital infrastructure. Hundreds of additional beds are coming online across the state. This is not just a numbers game; it is about ensuring Queenslanders, no matter where they live—city, country, coast or hinterland—can access timely quality care close to home, including at the planned Laidley hospital. We are actively recruiting more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals and we are backing them with the resources they need, improving workplace conditions and providing clearer career pathways. Of course, there is more to do. We are not standing still, because every Queenslanders deserves a healthcare system they can trust. That is the commitment we are delivering on.

As the member for Lockyer, I am proud to represent a region that plays a vital part in Queensland's economy and identity. The Lockyer Valley is described as Australia's salad bowl, one of the best regions in the world—in fact, the seventh most fertile region in the world—and I argue Australia's best. More than that, our agricultural success is underpinned by generations of families who have dedicated their lives to farming. These are the people who know the land, who innovate and who persevere. They are the stewards of the land for future generations. Agriculture is more than a livelihood; it is who we are. The industry supports thousands of jobs not just on farms but also in transport, processing, logistics and export. Its impact reaches far beyond the paddock, strengthening local businesses, schools and community services. When our farmers do well, the entire region thrives. Pivotal to our community is the University of Queensland Gatton Campus and the School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability and the innovation that they provide. Our responsibility as a government is to support and protect our way of life. That means securing vital infrastructure, advocating for water security, improving market access and ensuring that regulation supports, not stifles, productivity.

Equally, I am focused on protecting and enhancing our rural lifestyle in Lockyer. Our region is growing as part of the western growth corridor. Lockyer is seeing an increase in population, housing and traffic. I recognise the Deputy Premier for his Residential Activation Fund and support that great initiative to stimulate housing supply. Our key arterial roads, like the Brisbane Valley Highway and the Warrego Highway, are critical for safety and connectivity. Whilst we have secured important upgrades in recent years, more must be done. On the first day of the campaign I was proud to stand with my colleague the member for Nanango and the Mayor of the Somerset Regional Council, Jason Wendt, at the Brisbane Valley Highway when we made the announcement of a \$20 million commitment for the Brisbane Valley Highway. I thank the Treasurer for the announcement in the budget today. We also fought successfully, with the support of Senator Paul Scarr, to secure another \$20 million of federal funding. That \$40 million will have a great impact on what the locals call the Brisbane Valley goat track. That will be a game changer. I will continue to advocate fiercely for more investment on that road and the Warrego Highway.

Delivering growth while preserving our rural character is a delicate balance but it is possible with the right planning, the right partnerships and the right leadership. Since 2017 I have prioritised building strong productive relationships with our two local governments—the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the Somerset Regional Council. I recognise the relationships that I have with Mayor Tanya Milligan, Mayor Jason Wendt and the Lockyer Valley and Somerset councillors, who do a great job representing our region. Those relationships are not symbolic; they are instrumental in securing funding, aligning priorities and delivering real solutions for our community. I recognise our federal member, Scott Buchholz, who assists in coordinating the outstanding partnership that we have between local, state and federal governments.

We must remember that community expectations are evolving and people want transparency, accountability and efficiency. They are tired of wasting time and money and they are tired of political pointscoring. What they want and deserve is effective and principled representation. Now in my third term as the member for Lockyer, I have reflected on what creates real impact in public service. Longevity alone is not enough. Success is not guaranteed by time in office or blind loyalty. Instead,

success stems from trust earned through consistent action, honesty and a commitment to shared goals. Where trust and loyalty meet is where you find lasting progress. That is where meaningful change happens. That is the culture I will continue to build in my electorate and that is the vision that I hope this parliament shares.

In my life and career I have looked up to people who have led with integrity, purpose and a strong work ethic. Whether on the land, in uniform, in government or in my family, time and again I have seen the same truth that when you give people a clear goal and the resources to pursue it and then get out of the way they will rise to the occasion and surprise you every time. Queenslanders are resilient, they are enterprising and they are full of potential. They want hope over fear. As leaders, our job is to empower them, not control them; to support, not dictate; to enable, not obstruct. That is how we will continue to build a stronger Queensland.


Before I conclude, I have to give thanks to my team of volunteers. To my campaign team, your tireless dedication helped secure our seat last October. I again thank Adrian and our team of Brad Jeffs, Brett Qualischefski and Andrew O'Brien, the true captain of all of our election booths, particularly the pre-poll booths. There was not a day when Andrew was not present. I thank Ray Hawley, Gary and Edwina Stark, Linton and Mitch Brimblecomb and Sean Choat and his family in the Glamorgan Vale area. I particularly acknowledge our Fernvale crew who worked on pre-poll: Colin and Linda Moore, Roland and Karen Sjollem, Max and Margaret and also Ken and Caroline Schmidt—I can see her pretty face. I thank them for the great work that they did there.

To my parliamentary neighbours Deb Frecklington, Jon Krause, Treasurer David Janetzki, Speaker Pat Weir and Trevor Watts, the member for Toowoomba North: thank you for your friendship, guidance and assistance in the journey to deliver our shared goals. It is great to work together to achieve outcomes for our communities.

I often refer to my team in the electorate office as the real members for Lockyer. Sharyn, Brooke and Grace, thank you for your professionalism, your compassion and your commitment to the people of Lockyer. Recently we were at another electorate office, sharing some ideas. I heard Sharon being asked, 'What is it that you do?' She simply replied, 'We help people.' I did not tell her to say that but it is what we do. Whether it be an issue in local government, state government or federal government, we take people's details and we help them.

Finally, I thank my family. I thank my mum, Geoff and Grant who did a great job on the campaign. They helped out in a lot of different ways. In particular, I thank my wife, Deb; our children, Sam, Millie and Tom; and their extended families for their continued support. I thank you for your love, support and patience. Public service is a team effort and I could not do it without you.

Finally, to the people of Lockyer, thank you for once again placing your trust in me. I am here to serve you. I am proud to represent you. I will continue to work hard every single day to ensure that our community is heard, respected and supported.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.45 pm): It is a great honour to be re-elected as the member for Hill in the 58th Parliament. I am very thankful to my constituents for putting their faith in me and for their support. I look forward to taking on this full term. I congratulate the member for Condamine for his election as Speaker of the House and all the other returning and new members of parliament. Obviously, your electorates have put their faith in you and that is something to be very proud of. As new members will find out, it is not an easy role and has numerous challenges.

I thank and acknowledge my family, because this job means we spend a lot of time away from our families. We miss sports days, school events and other special events that are very important. I acknowledge my wife, Heather, who has stood by me through eight election campaigns. I acknowledge my grown-up children—Anna, Joel, Daniel and Naomi—who know me as their dad but mostly as a member of parliament.

I acknowledge the valuable volunteers and booth workers who supported us throughout the election campaign. Elections are tenacious, hard yakka but those volunteers support us by doing the groundwork, putting up corflutes, signs and marquees, and manning pre-polling centres. That is so valuable and appreciated. The KAP is not a major party. We are a minor party. We did not have the funding, the resources, the advertising and all the other things that the major parties had going into that election campaign. What we did have were our volunteers who, for almost two weeks, were handing out how-to-vote cards, helping with corflutes and so on. That was enough to keep us going. It is very important to acknowledge how important those volunteers are to us.

I thank my electorate and parliamentary staff: Brad, Liz, Caelum, Lucy and Katje. I acknowledge the role that they play. They do the heavy lifting in my office during parliamentary sitting weeks. They are dedicated, hardworking Far North Queenslanders who believe in what they do. They assist those in need on any issue, no matter how big or small.

I was elected in 2004 and back then there were 19,000 people on the electoral roll. Now I have over 42,000 constituents. In 2004 most issues came to my attention via letter or fax. We had no Facebook or social media. There was no Messenger and no acquittal system. The workload for electorate officers has increased compared to what it was and my staff worked hard back then, even before the new changes came in, so I really acknowledge the electoral staff for the hard work they do.

I acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues the member for Traeger and the member for Hinchinbrook. I take great pride in serving beside these two great members of parliament. We are united in standing up for the people of North Queensland. We always look at issues with a commonsense approach and consider what is in the best interests of rural and regional Queensland. We do not follow what is fashionable or the idealistic fad of the time. We look at commonsense solutions to the everyday issues that our constituents face and we try to assist wherever possible.

We face some big issues in my electorate. I cannot bring up crocs because we have a bill before the House, but I do want to mention the flooding that blocks the Bruce Highway every year. When I was the member for Dalrymple, my electorate included Moranbah, Charters Towers and the Atherton Tablelands. Many times I had to travel to the coast and also the back way along the Gregory Developmental Road to get to the Tablelands. It was a guarantee that, if I was trying to get to the coast, I would be blocked off at the Gairloch floodplains and at the Seymour River crossing, which the member for Hinchinbrook has been raising in this House since he was elected. If I went the back way, I would be blocked off at Hann Creek and the Clarke River.

Logically, 90 per cent of the flooding and access problems on the Bruce Highway and around these two creeks would be solved if they were fixed—90 per cent. We would not have to go through supermarkets being shut down or shelves being empty and the problems associated with that. If we fixed that, 90 per cent of the problems would be resolved.

I want to mention the railways. We were gutted when previous governments cut, closed and privatised our railways. Those cuts, closures and sackings have destroyed rural communities. The closing down of track gangs, railway stations and rail cattle trucking yards saw schools close, followed by the corner store and the pub—the communities would become ghost towns. Queensland Rail was the biggest employer of Aboriginals, Torres Strait Islanders and South Sea Islanders and their jobs were ripped out from underneath them. The former Bligh government sold the coal component of Queensland Rail, and we no longer have \$4 billion in transport haulage revenue every year going back to our hospitals, schools and roads.

There is a bit of damage on the track from Cairns through to Forsayth—a number of bridges from Kuranda to Mareeba are not being fixed and a number of bridges between Einasleigh and Forsayth have been burnt. This rail line goes through the electorates of Cairns, Barron River, Cook, Hill and Traeger. That rail line has not been operating or functioning to its fullest capacity for two years. It is a journey that takes you through rainforest and the savannah country, showing international tourists the real Australia—the Chillagoe caves, the Undara Lava Tubes and the Cobbold Gorge.


It is regarded as one of the top 21 train journeys in the world. It is the lifeblood of these small communities, generating economic benefits for the Far North, but that track has not been fixed for two years. All they need to do is fix a couple of bridges between Mareeba and Kuranda, fix a couple of bridges between Einasleigh and Forsayth and straighten out the bridge at the Copperfield River and the problem would be solved. What do we see? Some \$6 billion is being spent on the Cross River Rail, yet we cannot even fix a valuable tourist train that is vital for North and Western Queensland. We are calling for that rail line to be fixed. It is very simple, so get in there and do it.

The member for Traeger was talking before about nation-building projects. I want to acknowledge Martin Tenni, a former National Party minister who had a vision of a fast-track highway between Cairns and Mareeba because he could see the problems that the Kuranda Range would continue to have. The federal government has put \$250 million in to help fund a new Barron River bridge, not a new inland highway which was envisioned by some of our great leaders of the past. They can build that Barron River bridge, but it will take until 2032 to be completed. The alternative is an inland highway which bypasses the Barron River. We do not have to waste \$500 million on a new Barron River bridge that will take until 2032 to build.

It would take 30 minutes to drive a fast-tracked inland highway and it would be a route for B-doubles and road trains, which cannot access the Kuranda Range Road. If the new bridge is constructed by 2032, we will still have the 48 closures each year on the Kuranda Range. Get a bit of backbone and start investing in nation-building projects that will work, will be less costly and will do something for this country.

In the 1950s the Tinaroo Dam was constructed and the engineers at the time recognised that with the increase in agriculture on the Tablelands extra water would be needed to be sustainable. They designed what they called the North Johnstone Transfer to transfer water from the North Johnstone during flood into the Tinaroo Dam. We have had some good years of rain, but there have been times when we have had no rain for five years. We have had years of the Tinaroo Dam being at a point where recreational users have been kicked out. This is a simple, low-cost project that would help resolve the water issues on the Tablelands. This is a project that needs to be invested in. It is simple and needs to be done. We will be crying out and looking for water if it is not. I want to bring to the attention of the House how important this is. It is not Shane Knuth who is pushing this; many great leaders and engineers on the Tablelands going back 50 years have raised this.

We are very appreciative that the Kurrimine Beach boat ramp funding has been put through. We have fought for that for six or seven years. That ramp will be of great benefit to that area. Once that has been completed, all the people who use that boat ramp will not have to worry about crocs stalking or taking them. They will be able to go to the boat ramp without having to put their legs in the water. I just wanted to bring those matters to the attention of the House in this address-in-reply.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.57 pm): I congratulate Mr Speaker on his new role. I think he is doing a fantastic job. It is an apprenticeship for the first few months, and I think he is coming along rather well. Once we get those opposites sorted out so they know when to interject to make a difference, we might see some positive things happening.

I also congratulate my darling wife. I have been in this House now for 16 years. This is my sixth term. To be perfectly honest, it is our sixth term. She stands side by side with me. I was talking to the Clerk a little while ago about Pauline and the work that she does in the office. She is a volunteer there and puts in a big effort not just in the office but also around the electorate. Of course, she takes care of business at home as well.

My longest serving staff member has been with me for 27 years. She came with me from my previous role into this role. I want to thank Trish for everything that she has done to keep things going in the right direction as far as the office is concerned. I also have Judy, who has been there now for eight years. She will probably hit me because it might even be nine years by now. Time just seems to get away from us. I also have Jodie, who has been with us more than four years. She has been a fantastic support to Trish, in particular, in the office. I want to welcome two new staff members whom we met leading up to the election—Lisa and Jacqui—who are both committed to the people of the northern Gold Coast and committed to the people of the Coomera electorate and who work tirelessly every day to assist them with the issues they have.

I want to thank my campaign team. Many of them have been with us for several elections. They have done a fantastic job. The Young LNP and their enthusiasm and involvement in the campaign did not go unnoticed certainly when we consider that the average age of the Coomera electorate is very appropriate for them. The average age in the electorate of Coomera is just under 32. In fact, around 40 per cent of the electorate is under 25 years of age. It is a very young electorate in that regard. I do not reflect that average age. I would just like to make that point.

Finally, I want to talk about the people on the northern Gold Coast. The member for Hill talked about first having 18,000 electors and now having over 40,000. In 2009 we had 28,000 electors; we now have 55,000 electors. We have a lot of expats from other countries in the electorate who are not yet able to vote. I look forward to them coming on to the electoral roll. With them and all of the young people, that takes us to around 110,000 people in the state seat of Coomera. The state seat of Coomera is the largest by population and the largest by voter numbers by far. In fact, the voter numbers are in the order of 36 per cent over quota—the quota being around 40,000, which is what the member for Hill was talking about.

I thank them and I thank them for believing in the Crisafulli government and a fresh start for Queensland, and that started with the Right Priorities for Queensland's Future. That is where it all started going back a few years now. We developed a plan to tell the people of Queensland what we planned to do, where we wanted to go and how we wanted to help them. After getting a lot of feedback about what they wanted, we developed the Right Priorities for Queensland's Future. That was after Labor's 10 years of crisis and chaos and 10 years of being stuck in the slow lane.

There is no better example of some of the projects that were being slowly but surely built by the Labor government than the 2017 election commitment that Labor put forward when they said, 'We're going to build a train station at Pimpama.' It was in October 2017 when they said, 'We're going to build a train station at Pimpama.' That train station is still under construction. We will be lucky if that train station is completed by the end of 2025—eight years to build a train station! The worst part of it is that it started out as a \$40 million project; now it is a \$150 million project. It has gone from \$40 million to \$150 million eight years down the track. They were stuck in the slow lane right from the start.

When they made that announcement in 2017, they did not tell anybody and they did not give any details about when they were planning on doing it. When they made the announcement it was like, 'We're going to be doing this in the next five minutes.' No, they were not. It is a bit like the hospital. In 2020 they finally came to the table after a lot of hard work and after a lot of fighting from the people of Coomera and said, 'We're going to build a hospital.' No, they were not. They put \$3 million into some planning. We had already committed \$4 million to the same planning, but they said they were going to build a hospital. The problem was that in 2020 they were looking at a block of land that had some major issues. I will tell members how bad those issues were: right now on that block we only have some towers coming up out of the ground. They are the lift towers. That is all that is under construction. The construction workers are still working on the preparation of the site. It has taken this long—4½ years—just to get the preparation done. And guess what? It is not finished. They are still preparing the land.

Fortunately, we have a rescue plan for our health crisis, and I will talk about that in a little while. That was one example—eight years. Another example was in 2019. The federal government committed \$55 million. Then eventually the then minister was brought kicking and screaming to the table to tip in another \$55 million for a \$110 million project at exit 49. That was May-June 2019. Does anyone care to guess when it was opened? It was opened in early 2025. From 2019 to 2025, it took six years to duplicate exit 49.

**Mr McDonald:** A great local member fighting for it.

**Mr CRANDON:** I take that interjection—absolutely. He is a top bloke! Ask anybody in the electorate of Coomera. In fact, there are so many people coming to Coomera that I get the impression they are leaving other members' electorates in droves. It was a \$110 million project. What did that end up costing us? It cost \$140 million—another \$30 million because of the delays. It was \$110 million—up to \$140 million. That was nowhere near as bad as \$40 million up to \$150 million for the Pimpama train station but it took six years to build it.

This is the biggie—everybody references it: the Coomera Connector. It was to cost \$1.5 billion for six lanes. No. It is \$3.1 billion for four lanes in some sections—it is no longer six lanes—and it is still not finished. In fact, when we came to power we discovered that the project construction was 10 months behind. We have done a little bit of work on that. Fortunately, we have been able to work out a way of bringing that timeline forward so that the north section of the first stage of the Coomera Connector will be finished by the end of 2025 as originally promised. Remember it was 10 months behind schedule when we came into government and we have turned that around.

Enough was enough, as we have heard. The Crisafulli government was elected and we said, 'These are our promises. We are going to provide a commitment to the electorate that is very difficult in the delivery but quite simple and straightforward in the explanation of it.' The first election commitment was making our community safer, and that really did resonate with people because each of our electorates would have stories about what has happened with youth crime et cetera. Our first priority to make our community safer was increasing the number of police on the beat through retention and attraction. I note that we already have a significant number of additional police—well above what was delivered by Labor in their last term of government. We are already well ahead of that.

Other priorities to achieve that election commitment include: restoring consequences for actions, the heart of the Youth Justice Act—we have already been working on that; and ensuring judges can impose sentences that reflect community expectations. Once again, we are working on that. We are not at the end of that, but we have already delivered significantly in that regard. Another priority to achieve that is diverting young lives from crime by reforming early intervention programs. We heard about one of those today—the Men of Business Academy, a commitment to a school in Southport. I congratulate the member for Southport for being involved in that. They are a terrific group of people—Men of Business. They are doing a fantastic job already. I can see them going from strength to strength. Another priority to achieve that is fixing the broken child safety and residential care systems to prevent vulnerable kids from heading down the same path. That is on the agenda as well and is being worked on.



Another election commitment was easier access to health services. I talked about that briefly before. Our priorities to deliver easier access to health services include driving down ambulance ramping and healthcare waitlists that have hit 45 per cent around Queensland. We are going to turn those around.

Another priority to achieve that is empowering local decision-makers in the health sector. There is nothing more important than allowing local decision-makers to make the decisions that have an impact on their area. After all, they know their patch, just like members here know their patch. They know what their patch is about. They know what the issues are in their patch. It is so important to let those decision-makers do that.

Another priority to achieve that is providing more healthcare professionals through retention and attraction. We have already heard about our Hospital Rescue Plan. Let's talk about that for a minute. I mentioned the Coomera Hospital earlier. It was \$1.3 billion; it is now almost \$2.3 billion. That is almost a billion dollar blowout and we were not going to have many of the services. I am not going to go through what we were not going to have then, but I can tell you now that, through the Hospital Rescue Plan, instead of the Coomera Hospital having 405 beds it will be in excess of 600 beds. That is the first thing we are doing. We are going to deliver a hospital that will have an adequate, appropriate car park. We are going to have a Coomera Hospital that will have a road system around it that is actually going to work in the fastest growing region in Queensland. The second busiest road on the Gold Coast is Foxwell Road, so we have to properly develop that and the health minister is committed to doing that.

Another election commitment was securing our housing foundations. We have heard a lot about that as well. Our priorities to deliver securing our housing foundations include improving housing affordability with more land supply. It beggars belief that we have not been able to get more land supply out. We are committed to doing that and we are using innovative ways to do it.

Another priority to achieve that is helping Queenslanders realise their dream of owning their own home. We have a raft of measures, the latest of which is to co-own properties with people up to a million dollars to allow them to get into their own property and improve on 62 per cent of home ownership in Queensland. By the way, there is 62 per cent home ownership in Queensland; it is 58 per cent in the Coomera electorate—58 per cent versus 62 per cent. We are already behind the eight ball on the northern Gold Coast in that regard.

Another priority to achieve that is working closely with local governments—this is part of the plan—to plan and deliver regional plans and more housing for Queenslanders. That is at the crux of it. There are so many regional and city plans that are just languishing because those opposite were stuck in the slow lane.

I want to close on a local level. Many of the projects I am going to talk about in the next few minutes those opposite said no to. They did not say no once, but several times. They kept on going back. We kept on saying, 'You cannot keep saying no to these things. We have to do something about providing these projects to the people of Queensland.' What do we have? First of all, let me talk about my schools.

Pimpama State School has grown from about 250 kids to 800 kids and it has never had a genuine canteen. An education area was converted into a canteen. We have committed to building a canteen appropriate for Pimpama State School. That is the first project.

The second project is a signalised crossing at Foxwell Road. It is a TMR project, but it is for one of my schools. The Coomera State Special School is going to have a signalised crossing to make it possible for the young people who go to that special school to safely cross the road, and that is going to be delivered.

Cedar Creek State School's car park is another project with transport and main roads. It is a despicable car park situation that drives everyone mad. We have made a commitment to work with the City of Gold Coast to develop that car park, and it will be handed across to the City of Gold Coast for them to look after going forward from there.

For Ormeau Woods State High School there is \$500,000 for a shade for their oval. They have nearly completed the project. They are doing a wonderful job. It looks absolutely fantastic. I cannot wait to see the finished product. It really is something that would attract young people to sit around the oval and watch sports and so forth.

Pimpama State Secondary College will receive \$500,000 for a junior school playground and water bubblers. Once again those opposite did not see the need, so there is \$500,000 to take care of those needs at that school.

Norfolk Village State School received a \$450,000 commitment for the next stage of the open space nature playground.

For Coomera Rivers State School there is another \$450,000 commitment for tiered seating at the existing playground. That is partially completed.

Pimpama State Primary College will receive funding for a senior school playground. We are talking about a whole bunch of playgrounds. What do playgrounds do? Kids play in them. They get to work with each other. They get to interact with one another. They get to know how to live in society. That is all fundamental to the upbringing of our children, yet those opposite were not prepared to invest in them.

With regard to Ormeau State School, the LNP government will deliver \$450,000 for a roof shelter on the multipurpose court. We are the melanoma capital of the world. They need this shelter in that area.


Woongoolba State School will receive \$475,000 for playground equipment and to replace furniture at the school. The school is 150 years old. Thankfully, the furniture is not 150 years old. It is about 30 to 35 years old, so it is well past its use-by date.

There are just a couple of other ones. In relation to the dedicated east-west connector, there is a commitment to do the work. I see that is in the budget. I will talk about that in my budget speech. There is funding for accelerated planning and sequencing of these interchanges on the northern Gold Coast north and south of Foxwell Road.

There is \$5 million for the Pimpama PCYC to add to the \$5 million we originally got a few years ago in 2022, I think it was, to take us to \$10 million so we can progress that.

Finally, there is \$68,000 for the Ormeau Football Club. They asked for \$68,000 on a \$2 million project and the previous state Labor government said no. We have \$68,000 to go towards a new kitchen and seating facilities. They said no to so many things.

I want to finish by thanking the Premier for his leadership. Thank you, Premier. Together we will deliver a fresh start for Queensland.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (6.17 pm): Before I start talking about the wonderful, beautiful electorate of Stafford, I reflect that it was wonderful to see the member for Macalister here this afternoon on her return, even if only temporarily. She said something to the effect that she only speaks when she has something to say. I think she lived up to that this afternoon.

I am proud of what the Labor government has delivered for the people of Stafford in my time, both in terms of delivering election commitments and also delivering on things I advocated for since I was elected, including: 93 beds for the wonderful Prince Charles Hospital—which was underway—including the emergency department and paediatric emergency department; the mental health unit, which has been opened; and the 1,500-space publicly owned car park that has been opened. It is not only fantastic for staff, patients, family and visitors; taking 1,500 cars off local streets is also good for locals.

We delivered new classrooms and updated school infrastructure for Wavell Heights State School and Wavell State High School. There was a huge investment in Craigslea State High School and upgrades to Stafford State School—including a hall—and Stafford Heights State School and new hall at Wilston State School, which is to be opened in a matter of weeks.

I delivered on an election commitment to Grange Thistle to provide better water access to the brook and delivered on the lights at Wilston Grange Gorillas. There is a great new facility at Somerset State School, a canteen and shower change facilities, which is not just good for the school; it is actually accessible by the Somerset Hills Seals Swimming Club as well as Grange Thistle Football Club. Talk about a win-win. That comes with lights for the bottom field as well to provide better use of green space in an inner city area.

Under the Labor government's STIP program we had great success locally, including the Turner Road precinct. For those who do not know that area, three schools, Mount Alvernia, St Anthony's and Padua are effectively co-located across four campuses. We worked with all of those groups as well as OSH to get everybody on the same page and deliver the funding they require to make that precinct safer, particularly as they expand into the old quarry site. We also delivered on the STIP funding for oval A at Wavell Heights. I have met with the principal there several times and the project is coming along really well. It will be far safer for students and far better for local residents in terms of traffic flow. It is exactly what the program was designed to do.


The Northern Transitway through Kedron and Chermside is open. It is increasing public transport and taking cars off our local roads. It is a good record. Those are just some of the local infrastructure programs, but it is also about the values that underpin that and the values we continue to serve.

With the House's indulgence, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our three new MPs—the members for Ipswich West, Sandgate and South Brisbane. I have worked with the member for Sandgate locally on the north side. It is a pretty amazing feat for the member for South Brisbane to win that seat in this electoral cycle. As for the member for Ipswich West, we have worked together closely for more than a decade often in very difficult and demanding circumstances. Her calmness and direction under pressure is amazing. It is so good to see her make her contribution in her own right. It is great to call her a friend.

In my limited time left, I want to thank the members of the Stafford branch, the Chermside-Kedron branch and the surrounding branches I worked with in Windsor and Everton Park. I thank the following people: Bill; Ian; Tania; Christine; Pete, especially for his tremendous hours on pre-poll; Mike, who I thank for that as well; Stephen; Tracey; Liam; Michelle; Janet and Bryce; Anthony and Pam; Darcy, who flew all the way back from Sydney for it; Jessie and Col; Sally; Luke, for his local volunteering and his central support; Zac Beers, who has been a tremendous support over many years and, as I said in my first address, is wise beyond his years; and everyone else who helped. I know it is always a risk when you list people that you will forget some, so forgive me. I give a special shout-out to Darren Mitchell, who was my campaign manager. He worked his guts out and gave everything to the campaign. I can never repay him and I genuinely thank him for that.

To my family: my parents are not just stalwarts of the party in their own right and continue to volunteer, but they helped shape my values and world view and for that I thank them. To my siblings who helped out: I am sorry to the kids for embarrassing them with signs all around the place and for appearing at their school. To my wife: she was not as active in this campaign, to be fair, but I think she had a pretty good excuse because we had a 10-week-old at the time. She is absolutely beautiful and I know every dad says that, but she is just objectively stunning. She is healthy and she is already so inquisitive about the world. She is very intelligent and I adore her.

To my community and the Stafford people; to the individuals, school leaders and staff, including teachers, groundsman and all sorts of people who have reached out; to the small businesses that have shown their support; to the community sporting clubs that have reached out and continue to work with us; to the church communities; to the religious leaders and board members; to the seniors groups that have reached out and continue to work with me—I promise that I will work hard every day for the people of Stafford who elected me, the branch members who elected me and the community groups that I serve.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (6.24 pm): It is with great pride and sincere gratitude that I rise in this House today to deliver my address-in-reply as the re-elected member for Ninderry. I begin by acknowledging Her Excellency the Governor for her thoughtful address and dedicated service to our state. I also extend my congratulations to all returning members and warmly welcome those newly elected to this House. The people of Queensland have entrusted us with an enormous responsibility, and I am determined to honour that trust each and every day.

To the people of Ninderry, thank you. It is a profound honour to continue serving you. From Cooloom to Bli Bli, Eumundi to Peregian Springs, our community represents the very best of the Sunshine Coast—diverse, passionate and resilient. We are farmers, small business owners, educators, nurses, volunteers and frontline workers. We are families nurturing future generations, retirees who have earned a peaceful retirement and young people ambitiously chasing their dreams. Your stories, aspirations and challenges guide every decision I make in this chamber.

Queensland is a state full of boundless potential—rich with natural beauty, industrious people and abundant resources—yet, after nearly a decade under Labor, that potential was compromised. The Palaszczuk-Miles government had become complacent, arrogant and detached. Queenslanders were increasingly let down by a government more concerned with optics than real outcomes. Under Labor's watch, crime spiralled out of control leaving communities feeling unsafe. Youth crime surged dramatically, yet the government's response was inadequate, characterised by weak laws and hollow rhetoric that failed to protect victims or deter criminals. Ambulance ramping reached unprecedented levels, tragically turning medical emergencies into waiting games. People were literally losing their lives waiting for care.

The housing crisis deepened significantly due to Labor's negligence. Excessive red tape hindered housing supply, while bureaucratic hurdles stifled innovation. Ministers ignored the desperate pleas of families priced out of the housing market, unable to afford rent or home ownership. Cost-of-living pressures escalated, small businesses struggled and regional communities like ours were consistently overlooked in favour of Labor's inner-city priorities. Queenslanders had reached their breaking point. They demanded genuine change. With the election of the Crisafulli LNP government, they finally have a government that listens, acts and delivers.

We campaigned on the Right Plan for Queensland's Future, and we are now actively delivering that plan. This includes restoring safety in our communities, reinstating accessible health care, ensuring responsible management of your money, creating affordable housing and redesigning a government that genuinely serves you. Throughout my previous terms, I have advocated for infrastructure, investment and respect for our community. While Labor ignored our region, we persisted, advocated and persevered. Now, with a government committed to serving Queenslanders—not itself—we are witnessing meaningful progress.

In Ninderry, the positive impacts of our policies are already being realised. I am particularly proud to have secured millions in infrastructure funding during my previous terms, including tens of millions for local schools. This funding has facilitated the construction of new classrooms, improved facilities and provided essential resources that empower teachers and enhance student outcomes. Education is more than a policy commitment; it is our promise to future generations.

On health care, we are prioritising patient care over bureaucratic inefficiency. We are eliminating unnecessary red tape that previously burdened our hospitals under Labor, empowering healthcare professionals to focus solely on patient care. We are significantly investing in regional health services and proactively addressing ambulance ramping. Regarding housing, we are taking swift and decisive action. We are unlocking land, expediting approval processes and actively collaborating with industry partners and councils to rapidly deliver homes. Every Queenslander deserves affordable, secure housing.

Ninderry is home to some of Queensland's most dedicated community organisations. Coolum Meals on Wheels serves approximately 20,000 meals annually to our elderly. Coolum and North Shore Coast Care diligently protects our environmental treasures. Coolum HeARTs provides therapeutic programs supporting residents with disabilities. The award-winning Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch has invested over \$600,000 in projects addressing domestic violence and crime prevention. These groups seek no recognition; their motivation is compassion. They deserve and receive this government's unwavering support.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr PURDIE:** I want to acknowledge all of my colleagues who have made the effort to come in and listen to the remainder of my address-in-reply speech. I am feeling the love. As I was saying, Ninderry is home to some of Queensland's most dedicated community organisations. Coolum Meals on Wheels serves approximately 20,000 meals annually to our elderly. Coolum and North Shore Coast Care diligently protects our environmental treasures. Coolum HeARTs provides therapeutic programs supporting residents with disabilities. The award-winning Bli Bli Neighbourhood Watch has invested over \$600,000 in projects addressing domestic violence and crime prevention. These groups seek no recognition; their motivation is compassion. They deserve and receive this government's unwavering support.

This is precisely why I have championed securing grant funding for local clubs and community groups. Such funding enhances more than physical infrastructure; it reinforces the social fabric of our community. Just in the last six months the following groups have received a much needed boost: Coolum Beach Meals on Wheels received \$34,500 to upgrade their commercial cooking facilities; Coolum State School P&C received \$33,500 to purchase wheelchairs and equipment; Eumundi Magpies Futsal Club was granted almost \$28,000 to purchase goals, equipment and a storage container; Coolum Croquet Club received \$10,800 to install sunshades and shelters; and Coolum Peregrine Swimming Club received almost \$9,000 to purchase gym equipment.

Since becoming the first member for the newly created electorate of Ninderry in 2017, I have been fighting alongside my community for long overdue infrastructure upgrades, and while there is still much more to do, I am proud of what we have achieved. We are finally making steps toward busting congestion in Coolum with \$10 million in already completed road upgrades and \$3 million to develop a business case for the long overdue duplication of the Sunshine Motorway—a project ignored for a generation under previous Labor governments—with the next stage being an interchange at Mt Coolum

with two new south-facing ramps connecting to council's planned extension of South Coolum Road. This critical project is the next step in our plan to bust congestion, taking pressure off dangerous local road networks and finally move traffic away from the School Road intersection at Coolum straight onto the motorway.

In Eumundi, we are delivering a new \$6 million bridge over Seib Road to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists to access the town centre and Eumundi State School. This is a joint project with the Sunshine Coast Council and federal government. I am proud to have helped deliver this critical infrastructure project that residents have passionately campaigned on for over two decades. Achieving this outcome required persistence, advocacy and even creativity such as riding my daughter's scooter equipped with a GoPro camera to visually demonstrate the urgent need.

Our vision for Ninderry is based on what my communities have shared with me and our understanding of the growth we expect in the region. I have been fighting for infrastructure investment to make our roads safer, school and sporting communities happy and healthy, and businesses free from red tape to grow and prosper. Our growth must be balanced with the protection of our pristine natural environment, one we must all work hard to protect, and I will continue to work with my communities to strike that balance.

In my previous address-in-reply speech in this House, I set out what compelled me to want to continue to contribute to Ninderry and the wider community. I said—

Since 2017, I have been serving the people of Ninderry. Prior to then, I served in the Queensland Police Service for 25 years, and am passionate about law and order, which is why I made the transition from catching law-breakers, to joining law-makers. Not to fulfil a lifelong dream to be a politician, but as a further step to serve my community.

Importantly, from government I am now in a privileged position to help drive the positive change that Queenslanders demanded in last year's election. The policies and prescriptions of the previous decade had failed. Queenslanders no longer felt safe. A generation of criminal untouchables emerged who believed, quite rightly, that their rights outweighed those of their victims. Our laws designed to protect communities had been watered down. Victims were ignored or disparaged as they sought justice and sought the protection of the state.

Our efforts to bring the plight of victims to the attention of parliament were treated with contempt. They were called 'a media beat-up' as the former government sought to draw attention away from its own failures and shortcomings. This was the environment that confronted this government when we assumed office late last year. It is for this reason that I am as determined as ever that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated. Government will no longer be blind to the plight of those under siege from criminals, and justice will again be a priority.

As Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I appreciate the enormity of my role in restoring the balance in our society's fight against crime. This government is committed to change and I support that commitment absolutely. We have made clear that we will give police the laws and resources they need to do their job to keep the community safe and to prioritise victims' rights over those of offenders. These are the objectives that we have been pursuing since the election last year. This commenced with the introduction of our Making Queensland Safer laws at the first available sitting of the House. These reforms sought to undo the mistakes of the past and restore the balance between victims and offenders. Under this government, victims will no longer be forced to take second place to offenders. Under this government, victims will receive the priority they rightly deserve.

This government will always be prepared to consider legislative change to combat crime. As circumstances change, we will be willing to embrace innovative responses to ensure that community safety remains our priority. At the same time we will support our police through the provision of equipment and resources to ensure they are able to do the job that Queenslanders expect of them and the job that they signed up to do. Only this government was prepared to stand up and give our dedicated police the support they need. I will continue to advocate for our police. Only properly resourced and supported police are able to serve the community and I will continue to do everything possible in that endeavour.

The period 2024-25 has been a time that tested Queenslanders in so many ways. Three natural disasters covering Queensland from the Far North to the border and throughout Western Queensland imposed burdens and challenges on so many. That we have emerged from them says much for the inner strength of so many of our fellow citizens. As Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I saw local communities come to the assistance of those in greatest need. Our police, SES volunteers and Marine Rescue Queensland all played a vital role in supporting their friends, neighbours and strangers. As minister, I could not have been prouder of the efforts that were made.


Before I conclude, there are a number of people I would like to thank: firstly, my local LNP members, particularly Karin Mogg, Jenny Somylay and Tony Philbrick and the late Lance Barrett, and my campaign chairman Frank Carroll, who is also the former member for Mansfield, who has not only been my campaign chairman but a mentor and good friend. All are stalwarts of our party and custodians of our values and have been supporters of mine since the start—since preselection in 2017. I thank them for their support.

More recently, I would like to acknowledge Sarah for managing my campaign and for her diligent work in doing that. I would like to thank the long list of volunteers who join me at local events, mobile offices and during the campaign, including friends, family and former police colleagues who came out in force.

I would like to thank my electorate office staff: firstly, Kylie and Kate who, as a lot of people know, have been with me since the start 2017. Kylie did try to leave in 2020, but I insisted that she did not and she stayed for another term. She has now left and is pursuing other career opportunities and recently already received a promotion in that endeavour. I want to acknowledge her for all the support she has given me and wish her well. To Kate and Cherie, who have also been long-suffering members of my staff in my electorate, I would not be here without them and I want to thank them for their support.

I thank our leadership team, the Premier and Deputy Premier, the former opposition leader and former deputy opposition leader, for their dedication, vision and leadership. In opposition we were intent on making sure that opposition was not a dispiriting experience but one that generated new ideas and was built on renewed enthusiasm. Both the Premier and Deputy Premier were catalysts in that process. Both clearly articulated a vision and a better way forward and are now leading the way down that path. I would also convey my thanks to the LNP state director, Ben Riley, and his professional team who led our successful election campaign. Their efforts are to be commended.

As others have often said in this place, we, as members of parliament, are volunteers but our families are conscripts. I would not be here today without the unwavering support of my wife, Andy, and my two girls, Emelia and Chloe. I want to thank Andy for the sacrifices she makes by allowing me to fulfil the demands of this role and for also being an amazing mum to Emelia and Chloe. Of all the people who have helped get me here, and of all the people who will sustain me on the journey, Andy, Emelia and Chloe, are by far the most important. Thank you.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (7.40 pm): I congratulate the member for Ninderry on that contribution. It was heartfelt, thank you very much, and I thank my colleagues for hanging around and waiting until after he was finished for me.

I begin by thanking Her Excellency for her contribution and, indeed, for her efforts over recent years for Queensland. She has been a familiar face in the face of disasters. The coverage that she has made of our big state has been amazing, the way she has been there when Queenslanders have needed her, her focus on health and the way that she has opened up Government House—I want to thank her for her contribution to the state.

To the Speaker of parliament on his election: his is a great story, a story of someone who has farmed the land in tough times and someone who has had his share of triumphs and tragedies. To the member for Condamine, I offer my deep congratulations as I do to you, Deputy Speaker, on your elevation, and I wish you well in the estimates process.

To my colleagues: firstly, thank you for your faith in me over the last few years and, indeed, the support you gave me after the election. The roles we have are challenging for every one of us. I want to thank you very much for the way that you conducted yourself over the last term and, in many cases, beyond that. To the new members of parliament: it is so great to have you in this place. You join a team that is focused and yearning to serve. I want to welcome you into this place. To the Deputy Leader: a politician of great conviction, someone who balances a great love of his electorate, of his portfolio—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will not take the interjection—and of his role in this party as Deputy Leader; Jarrod, we would not have been successful without your contribution and I want to thank you very much in the House.

I turn to my electorate, about which I want to make the bulk of my contribution tonight because, in the end, we all only serve because of the support we receive locally. I want to thank my local residents for the way that they have supported me over the past few terms. I never take for granted the strength of my result locally and the work that goes into that. I humbly want to thank them. I want to talk briefly about my electorate of Broadwater. In two words, it is vibrant and it is aspirational. That is what I love

so much about those people who have supported me and, indeed, the things we seek to achieve for this state. It is an electorate built on small business, community clubs, sport and schools and aspirational people who just want a government to give them the support to get on with their lives. That is what we intend to do.

I will start at Paradise Point, which is the beating heart of the electorate. It is small business central. There are people there who are just carving out a living. People like Lawrence and Charmaine from the Mill Bakery and people like Barry from Paradise Point Butchery and Seafood. There are strips of businesses there and they want a government that will get out of their way and do everything they can to lower costs for them, and that is what we will do. At the Paradise Point Bowls Club, Kat and Vanessa have become great friends of my family. The work that they do in the community is unbelievable. I have spoken in this place many times before about what they have done. In the next couple of weeks we will be having an event there to raise money for a family who lost everything in a house fire in Hollywell. The mother of that family is a paramedic. She was at work that night helping her community when her husband and their daughters had an horrendous house fire that completely destroyed their property. The local community has mobilised to try and seek alternative accommodation for them, to rally to get behind them to replace their goods, and there will be a major fundraiser in the next few weeks which I intend to support. I want to thank them very much.

In my contribution last year I spoke about my strong desire to have my electorate office relocated to Paradise Point—it was on the outskirts of Hope Island—and I am most grateful to the Clerk for that having occurred. It is excellently located. There is great visibility, there is great parking, there is great access from public transport. There is a life-sized cut-out of Jarrod Bleijie.

**Mr Bleijie:** So you do not want anyone to come!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No. That last bit is actually true—sadly. I turn to Coombabah and Biggera Waters. I share both suburbs with the member for Bonney, who does an amazing job locally. There is a great mix of housing offerings. It is a mixture of everything from social housing to people buying their first home. There are people of all ages. It truly is a wonderful mixture of housing.

It also has the two state schools I have in the electorate. I will reflect on the staff and students there in a moment, but I will start with Biggera Waters whose principal, Kylie Bell, is an alumni of the school. I think that is pretty special place—to have gone to a primary school and to go back and be the principal of that school is an amazing achievement. The school, undoubtedly, that I have seen the greatest value in the power of a state system that is focused on the children they look after is Coombabah primary. Last week I had to say goodbye to its principal, Murray Gleadhill. Murray has had some health issues and has decided to leave education after many decades of service to the people of Queensland and over a decade's service at that school. He has created a school that is compassionate, that values its students and its staff and that is incredibly proud. He has earned his retirement. I do hope he is not lost to education. I do hope in some capacity he can continue to make a contribution. He is an amazing school leader and the way that he has treated those kids is, quite frankly, amazing. He deserves every plaudit that comes his way.

I turn to Hollywell, which is a very small suburb with a great marina precinct. One business there that played host to an incredible event the other night is Klein's Coffee Bar & Grill. As members in this place know, the floods that devastated Western Queensland were of a scale that rocked everyone across the state. That beautiful little community decided to rally and, with the link of one person whom had a connection to the Adavale community, they put on an event which the community rallied behind and raised tens of thousands of dollars for people whom they do not know. That shows you the kind of people who live in that part of the world. Both my local branch members, as well as the local Labor branch members, took tables at that event.

**Mr O'Connor:** They took more tables!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, the member for Bonney is right; there were more tables from the local LNP branch, but those from the other side were no less generous. The highlight of my night was getting a photo with Pat Purcell. It was great. It was a great event.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will not take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Runaway Bay, which is one of the larger employers with the shopping centre that is there as well as the housing, is home to the regional sports hub—cricket, football, soccer, netball, pickleball and tennis. It is a really strong precinct. Then there is Hope Island, which is the recreational and lifestyle hub—golf clubs, rec clubs, restaurants—and Helensvale, an employment hub that houses the farmers' market. In fact, it started as a suburb based on the sugar industry many years ago and it truly is a great place.

I turn now to the election, firstly to my family. I have to mention the support that I have received from my family, primarily from my wife, Tegan, but the girls as well. Members in this House know that we do all we can to keep the girls out of the limelight. They are incredibly engaged, articulate and intelligent young women. They are both nearly adults now and we are incredibly proud of them and I want to thank them for their support.

There were my friends and family from North Queensland who came to help. I had mates from school—and, to be truthful, I still do not know how they vote—who came to help me as an individual and a friend.

**Mrs Frecklington:** I'm pretty sure they voted for you.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I do hope they did, although not as much as the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa! I do hope they did. They have just been my mates. Just today I received a text message from one of them who had found an old photo and sent me a text message on budget day. I am not sure she was aware it was budget day although it occupied all of our minds. I do value those friendships. They are long, they are enduring and they mean everything to me.

I turn to my LNP family, to my SEC chair, Gary; my branch chair, Gary—a different person—and Brett. We do have a large and active branch; there are around 300 members. They make a wonderful contribution and I am most grateful for what they do, particularly in this role where I spend a lot of time on the road. They do a marvellous job of keeping a great presence. To the secretariat, to Ben Riley, I say thanks for your stewardship. To Lawrence Springborg, to whom I owe so much and to whom everyone on this side of the House owes a great deal—indeed, all of the parliament owe a great deal to Lawrence. He has been a great servant of the people of Queensland in whatever capacity and no matter which way people vote.

I turn to my staff in the electorate, particularly to Gen who has been there from the beginning. She does an amazing job. I am regularly approached by people who talk to me about issues that have been solved. In many cases it has not been because of me; it has been because of her, Lisa, Brandon and Bailey and the work they do. I do want to thank them very much for the great show they run. Thanks go to my ministerial staff led by Richard and all of the team. They worked some incredibly long hours in the last term and I think it is important we do acknowledge them today.

Finally, I want to talk about a few of the issues. I will not blur into talking about the budget because this is an address-in-reply and it is important that we respect the processes of the parliament.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Unlike Cameron Dick.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Shame! Firstly, I turn to crime. I have spoken a lot about crime in this place. I have an amazing police station called the Runaway Bay Police Station. It is a 24-officer station and it has had 24 officers for far too long. I will not take a backward step in my crusade to, firstly, have it expanded. I do believe it should be a 26-officer station. I am also trying to get Hope Island domiciled in there, which I will talk about at another time.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Come on Purdie!


**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is great to have the Minister for Police here. I will make this observation. That station was down to nine officers a couple of years ago. I went there the other day. We had a cup of tea and cake—this was just last week, actually. They are now approaching 20 positions and there are a few long-term leave of absences there; there are four long-term leave of absences. To all of the staff who have worked under incredibly trying conditions I say thank you very much. We are seeing positive signs. I want to thank the minister for the work he has done in visiting stations across the state, albeit he is yet to get to that one. He has done well.

I want to speak about health. There has been some commentary from one particular member, whom I will not name, talking about the decision at the Coomera Hospital to take it from 400 to 600 beds and that this is somehow a bad outcome. I am going to remind that member about that in a few years time. It makes absolutely no sense to build a hospital that is already at capacity on day one. The idea behind putting in 600 beds is something for which we fought from opposition. I want to thank the health minister for the review, and I absolutely cannot wait to see it delivered to the capacity it needs to be at with the opportunity for future expansion.

I turn to infrastructure. I continue to fight for the Jabiru bridge—to see that delivered, and I will make my contribution in my budget reply—the need for boat ramps in the area and to bring them up to standard and to continue to dredge. I want to see a proper plan to deal with the discarded boats and the houseboats in the Broadwater. We maintain a desire to do that. I want to see facilities for our local schools, particularly the demountables, dealt with. Like all members, we want our local community to be looked after.



Finally, I turn to the state. I say thank you very much for the way you have supported me and the team in general. We do believe in the future of Queensland. We are very optimistic about this place. I have never been more optimistic about Queensland and I am looking forward to making my contribution to the budget debate.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (7.56 pm): May I begin, Mr Deputy Speaker, by reaffirming my allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III, King of Australia, and also Her Excellency the Governor, who is His Majesty's worthwhile representative in the State of Queensland. May I congratulate Mr Speaker on his election and you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the high office in this place. Congratulations.

I also acknowledge the late Queen Elizabeth II, who incidentally was our monarch when our last address-in-reply took place. It is important that we acknowledge legacy of service to community. I cannot think of any better legacy than the Elizabeth line, as the transport minister spoke about this morning. It is shameful that the Labor Party are politicising a woman whose life service spanned the Commonwealth and the country over 70 years. They try to make political argy-bargy out of such an important woman in many Australian lives. I want to thank the transport minister for that and I look forward to all of the projects we will be opening over the next few years named in His Majesty's honour.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. No worries. I will give you Will and Kate, but I am not going to give you Harry or Meghan. They are not welcome in Queensland.

It has been a long time since we have delivered addresses-in-reply from the government benches and I have to say it is good to be back. I want to thank Queenslanders for the faith they placed in the Liberal National Party in October last year. It was a hard-fought campaign. We had been in opposition for over 10 years but what we offered Queenslanders was hope and opportunity, not fear and scaremongering that the Labor Party served up in the October election. That is all the Labor Party know and we see it day in, day out now: the fear, the scaremongering, the mistruths they spread, and the whingeing and whining from opposition. Queenslanders see it on full display and that is why they voted out the Labor Party in the October election.

I want to thank the honourable Premier for his leadership. He became opposition leader in 2020 after an election loss and he sustained the team for four years in opposition; he led the team and the drive for the four priority issues in the state. On that note, what is particularly pleasing for me as Deputy Premier of this great state of Queensland is not only to acknowledge our leader, the Premier, but also to acknowledge the work we all did collectively on behalf of former leaders of this great party: the member for Clayfield, the member for Nanango and the member for Surfers Paradise.

My God, I am surrounded by former leaders! Thank you all for your contributions to the state. Your mentorship over the many years has sustained the team and still does because corporate knowledge and peer support is important in this place. Their knowledge of not only politics but also the Queensland people and the issues that impact them is testament to the ministerial portfolios and their leadership now in their respective portfolios. So I want to thank not only the Premier but also the former leaders. We did this on behalf of our former leaders, to get on this side of the House to give good government to the people of Queensland after 10 years of bad Labor government.

I thank the people of Queensland for giving the LNP the opportunity for the fresh start that we promised by tackling the issues of crime, cost of living, housing and health, like we said we were going to do for four years before the election, during the election and after the election. There will be a time to reflect on the great budget the Treasurer delivered today; it is not that time but there is a time. The budget delivered today and our commitment to the people of Queensland is exactly what we said we were going to do at the election. It is not what we said we were not going to do. The Labor Party tried, with their mistruths and misinformation, to con the people of Queensland. They should hang their heads in shame for the campaign they ran. It was dirty, it was nasty, it was grubby, it was deceitful. It was gutter politics at its worst. There are no better politicians in this place to do gutter politics than the Labor Party. The issue that arose mid campaign against women in the state that the Labor Party seized on for their political advantage and weaponised was one of the most disgraceful campaigns that I have seen in over 16 years serving in this place.

One has to understand something about the Labor Party: they will do anything, say anything and tell any mistruth to stay in power because they are addicted to it. That is the Labor Party way. They do not care for the people of the state. They do not care about cost of living, crime or health. They only care about government benches, power and their own jobs. It is politics over people every day of the

week as far as the Labor Party is concerned. They were surprised that this opposition at the time was getting cut through when we were tackling the issues that mattered to Queenslanders. We were talking about the issues that mattered to Queenslanders and not the gutter politics that the Labor Party went into every single day. The campaign on those issues was relentless. It impacted our families. The Premier spoke about it. I have two young daughters. The Labor Party has never apologised or acknowledged the deceit, but that is the Labor Party way.

They stand up here and say they are the party of the working people. They are not. They are the party of corporate greed and Greens. If they truly cared about the issues that mattered then they would have focused on those issues during the election campaign and it would have been a great philosophical debate: here is what the LNP is putting forward and here is what the Labor Party is putting forward. They did not do that because they could not win that argument because they did not have the policies and they did not have belief in solving the issues. All they wanted to do was get in the gutter and drag people down. I will acknowledge that the weaponisation of particular issues in the election campaign did cost the LNP seats in Queensland. But not enough Queenslanders fell for the trickery of the Labor Party and their gutter politics; they still voted for an LNP government. We can show that we will deliver what we said we were going to deliver.

I want to thank Sally, my wife. I want to thank my three children. Taylor has just moved out of home with her fiancé. They have just moved into a little terrace house in the electorate of Caloundra. She has a couple of extra voters there.

**Mr Stevens:** First home buyers?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** First home buyers, but unfortunately they signed the contracts before we abolished the tax. They saved up and they are living the Australian dream with their terrace house in Caloundra South in the electorate of Caloundra. My second daughter, Madison, who loves getting on the campaign trail on election day, is, as I have spoken about in this place, a fly-in fly-out goldmine truck driver in Cracow in the electorate of Condamine. She lives there half the time—week on, week off. She travels there as a fly-in fly-out worker doing tremendous things as a 19-year-old miner. I thank the resource industry for giving not only her a chance but also women in mining. I often ask my daughter what it is like. She is driving trucks. It is still a male-dominated industry, but there are many women coming through the industry now. She says, 'Dad, they could not be nicer to me and the team and particularly the women who work in the mine site.' It is fantastic she is doing that. My boy, Jasper, is 15 years old. He is the biggest campaigner out of all of them. He is in year 10 at Meridon State College doing wonderful things. I still ask my three children if any of them aspire to serve in public office as a member of parliament. They all say no. If any of my three children will, it will be Jasper who, incidentally, is, as we speak, in the electorate of Gregory riding around on a motorbike with his oma and opa, who are on a caravanning holiday. He has gone up there to be with them and ride the motorbike. He shot a kangaroo yesterday.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They are a pest, aren't they? Let me rephrase. He took aim and missed and it jumped away. He is a boy from the bush and he is enjoying his time in Isisford on the mighty Thomson River in the electorate of Gregory.

I thank my campaign team and the LNP members on the Sunshine Coast and in the electorate of Kawana whom I could not have done this campaign without. This campaign was a tough campaign because I was on the road so much during the campaign supporting our wonderful candidates and MPs across the state such that I did not get back to the electorate as much as I wanted to during the election campaign. I thank the Kawana LNP team for their efforts. I want to thank my campaign director Nathan Ruhle, who is my chief of staff now as Deputy Premier. Members may not know that Nathan Ruhle was my first campaign director for my very first election campaign when I ran for school captain in 1999. We had a campaign team of Nathan, Jarrod and Amy. We won. We smashed it out of the park. I won the captaincy, I won the school council presidency and the campaign was so good, believe it or not, I nearly won sport captain, and I did not even run for it. I was not on the ballot paper, but they wrote me on the ballot paper.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, I am not making it up.

**Mr O'Connor:** What was the slogan?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member. The slogan—not for my school captain speech in 1999 but for my captaincy campaign in 1996 in primary school—was ‘be smart, be safe, be sure, vote Bleijie’. Unfortunately, Nathan beat me in that campaign. He was the captain and I was the vice-captain. Anyway, he is back in the team.

I thank my electorate officers who do an outstanding job every day, as do all of our electorate officers: Lalia, who has been with me for over 12 years; Michaela; Aydan, who has been serving in my electorate office for the past few years; and Jo. It is Jo’s birthday today. Happy birthday, Jo Cleary. I sent her some flowers this morning. I thank all of the staff who worked with us for four years to get us to an election-winning position in October 2024.

I thank my ministerial staff. We have a great fun team. We are the department of grunt and we are getting things done. Interestingly, I note that recently the Labor Party were doing a lot of whingeing about how much I am approving as a minister and am getting things done.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Because you’re doing your job.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection; I am doing my job. The other day, I observed to the media that if only Cameron had used his ministerial powers when he was the planning minister then maybe things would have been built under the Labor Party but they were not. Again, he is just whingeing. As they did when in government, they are just whingeing.

I thank all the new honourable members of parliament. It is so good to see new members elected and in particular, for me on the Sunshine Coast, the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra. It is great to have a sea of blue with LNP members on the Sunshine Coast. It shows that we are delivering on the Sunshine Coast as a united LNP team. I could not be prouder of the both of you and the campaigns that you ran. I acknowledge all of our new members. Two days before the election I was in Maryborough with Mr Barounis for the pre-poll. I had been on the road from Far North Queensland and the seat of Cook and I was heading south. I had got to Maryborough. At the pre-poll I said, ‘How are you going?’ He said, ‘I think I got this.’ I said, ‘Good. Keep reassuring yourself,’ and I walked away.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Incidentally, I had a bet for about \$10,000 with the former member for Maryborough who said he was going to win the seat. I saw him in the dining room tonight. I should have called in the bet and collected the \$10,000. The member for Maryborough ran a positive campaign for the people of Maryborough who did not give in to the scare campaign run by the former member and the Labor Party. Well done, member. You deserved that win.

I acknowledge all the members who fought a good fight in hard Labor seats and now serve in the LNP government. They have delivered more in the past seven months than the Labor Party did when their ministers held those electorates because the Labor Party took their seats for granted and they took regional and rural Queensland for granted.

When we concentrate on the four issues that we took to the election, nothing has changed. Every day we focus on the four big issues that matter to the people of Queensland. I want to thank the people of Kawana for placing their trust in me by re-electing me in 2024 as the member for Kawana. Obviously I could not do it without the support of the wonderful Kawana community. We are a great community. When you look at all of the schools—Buddina, Meridan, Kawana, Talara, Currimundi and Pacific Lutheran College—you can see that we are a great community. Investment is going to come into the Kawana community over the next few years with the Caloundra Road congestion-busting project, the Wave heavy passenger rail and the metro system to the airport.

I declare my pecuniary interest and conflict of interest on the Wave stage 2, as I have done on many occasions, pursuant to the standing orders. It is no secret that the former government wrote to me and my wife saying that our house was impacted by the rail and that they were going to compulsorily acquire our property or some of it. I again make that declaration pursuant to the standing orders.

I acknowledge the schools and the sporting groups in the electorate. I look at endED, which was started on the Sunshine Coast by Mark and Gay Forbes to support those affected by eating disorders. They have done amazing work. During the election campaign we gave them a commitment of support. The Currimundi United Football Club will get a new clubhouse. Currimundi sporting facilities for people with disability will get an upgraded toilet block.

**Mr Langbroek:** Air-conditioning the halls.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will take that interjection in a minute. We have given a \$5 million commitment to Gateway Care to support the great work that they do to help the most vulnerable in our community with cheaper groceries. We will complete a study on the Meridan Way Connector Road to bust congestion. I have worked with the member for Caloundra on the Caloundra Road congestion-busting project.

I take the interjection from 63 seconds ago. We have committed \$1 million to give each school in my electorate \$166,000 to air-condition or add AV to their halls. I say to the honourable education minister, I need a bit more because some of the schools have small halls and they can air-condition them for \$166,000 but some of them have big halls and we need a little bit more. I have written to the honourable education minister about that. Just as the Premier is relying on the police minister to deliver in his electorate, I am relying on the education minister to deliver a little bit more in my electorate for those school halls.

Again, I thank the people of Queensland for placing their faith in the Liberal National Party to form government. I think it will be a fantastic 3½ years of delivering for the people of Queensland and delivering for the people of Kawana.

I finish with the opposition. They are the most disgraceful opposition that I have seen in a political generation. They elected the very gutter politicians who ran their election campaign to be the leader of the opposition and the deputy leader of the opposition. We saw that in full flight today when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition brought absolute and disgraceful gutter politics into this place. If you were to tell him to say it outside, he would not have the courage to do it because he knows he would lose a defamation action. He comes in here and attacks public servants, attacks members of the parliament, attacks members of the public and the small business community all for his political advantage—that is all. All he is worried about is his job and not the people of the great state of Queensland. All he is worried about is maintaining his own job. We know there will be another Christmas coup at some point. The member for Murrumba and the member for Woodridge will not be serving the Labor Party at the next election. The knives are out among all the other members.

I thank all members and congratulate our new members. Let us get this done over the next three years.



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.16 pm): I welcome the many government members who are here to bear witness to my address-in-reply speech. It is lovely of them. I begin my address-in-reply speech by acknowledging that we meet on the unceded—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Pause for a moment, member for Maiwar. Members on my right, I cannot hear the member for Maiwar. Please leave the chamber quietly.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I begin my address-in-reply speech by acknowledging that we meet here, as we always do, on the unceded sovereign country of the Yagara and Turrbal people and I pay my respects to their elders past and present. I make clear that this acknowledgement is not intended as the shallow rote statement that it seems to have become for so many people in so many contexts. Instead, it is intended as an expression of my solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people everywhere and a recommitment to doing all I can to work alongside First Nations leaders and communities to address whatever wrongs we still can following 237 years of colonisation and its impacts. It is a statement of solidarity with people everywhere who are enduring the ongoing impacts of colonisation, like the Palestinian people who are still facing war, violence and genocide at the hands of the colonising Israeli state and now the prospect of direct intervention and dispossession at the hands of our supposed ally, the USA, and the despotic oligarchs who now occupy the halls of power there.

We should not have to be reminded, but I take the opportunity to remind members of the direct role that this parliament has played in supporting and funding the manufacture of weapons that have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians in Gaza and in other foreign conflicts. Through our federal government's support of the US strikes on Iran, no matter how meek and muted their response might have been in recent days, we seem to be complicit in pushing ever closer to a global conflict of a scale that I suspect none of us in this place have ever borne witness to.

I remind members of this parliament and the other institutions of government in Queensland that, since their inception, we have engaged in a program of systemic racism, violence and genocide against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the systemic racism and violence continues. We see it in the seven-year gap in life expectancy. We see it in the world-leading overrepresentation of First Nations people incarcerated in Queensland. We see this parliament itself continue to entrench racist policies and pass racist legislation, as it has done with youth justice legislation in recent years under

both Labor and the LNP and as it has continued to do most flagrantly in the early months of this parliament, the 58th Parliament. Frankly, there is no other way to dress up this government's legislation to abolish the Path to Treaty and to legislate, with Labor's support, to ensure that more black children are locked up in Queensland.

I have taken issue in this place before about the way we soberly and very quietly bow our heads at the start of each sitting day for the Lord's Prayer and then sit down and more members than not begin a conversation during the acknowledgement of country. In this term of government, for reasons I cannot understand, the acknowledgement of country has been watered down almost beyond recognition. How is it that this House could conflate an acknowledgement of traditional owners with an acknowledgement of past members of parliament and, quite literally, just about every person who lives in Queensland? It boggles the mind. It is the acknowledgement you give when you want to be offensive. Since this change of government, the acknowledgement has been watered down, I believe, to the point of being insipid, offensive and feigned.

Like thousands of people across Queensland, I was dismayed that the LNP government cancelled the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry and cancelled the Path to Treaty process. We were one small but really significant step closer to healing the centuries of trauma and facing up to the dispossession and violence that we have seen here in Queensland since colonisation. The Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry was going to open a pathway to share and acknowledge the true history of this state. Instead, we have taken a step backwards—one that has caused immeasurable harm along the way. I again urge the government, whether it is a waste of breath or not, to listen to First Nations people, to reverse this decision and to start moving towards genuine truth-telling, healing and First Nations justice.

I am genuinely humbled and grateful to have been returned as the member for Maiwar. It truly is incredible. I use the word 'incredible' deliberately. It still does not seem real at times that I have been elected to this place to continue to represent the people of Maiwar in Auchenflower, Bardon, Fig Tree Pocket, Indooroopilly, St Lucia, Taringa and my home suburb of Toowong. I am so grateful for their endorsement at the election and to be here to continue to represent them.

I am incredibly proud also to represent the 10 per cent of Queenslanders who voted green. It is a quite absurd feature of our electoral system that more than 307,000 voters—10 per cent of the state—can vote in support of a party yet only one of 93 members is elected. Nonetheless, it is the system we have. With that, I genuinely congratulate every member who has been elected to this place. It is a privilege we all share, and I hope we all discharge our duties to the best of our abilities and with the best of intentions, whatever that looks like for each of us.

Congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause, for your election to that role and, through you, to the Speaker. It is something of a poisoned chalice to have the task of keeping this rabble under control. I wish you the best of luck with that.

This is obviously the best, if not the only, opportunity to offer thanks to all of those people in our lives who support us and allow us to carry on with the work that we do in this place. I suspect just about every member in their address-in-reply has acknowledged the sacrifices that our families make to support us. They are simply inevitable. They are a by-product of being in public life.

I need to start first of all by thanking and expressing my love for my wife, Daile, whom many of you will know. You may have encountered her over the years as a leading abortion advocate in the state of Queensland. She is an absolute boss, a true rockstar in her space and an incredibly supportive wife. Last year she made her way overseas as a Churchill Fellow to research abortion advocacy models for government policy change to increase access. I should have brought a copy of that. I could have tabled it. I reckon the government could take a few hot tips from it to see that we actually continue to improve reproductive rights in Queensland. That research took her to Belgium, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the USA and Canada. It was a really amazing experience for her.

The timing was great for her purposes but it saw her overseas for all but two weeks between August and November, which clearly created a few issues for me in an election year and for the family, which leads me to my next thanks—my parents. They have been an incredible support. I might be the only 44-year-old prepared to stand up in this place and celebrate how excited he was to live with his parents for a few months in the year 2024. It really was a lovely time to have with them and with the kids. I mention that especially because my mum has been dealing with some really rough health issues lately. She has had multiple cancer diagnoses and recurrences over the last couple of years, so it has been really tough. Nonetheless, they are supporting us every step of the way. They are the most hands-on, beautiful grandparents you could ever hope to have in your kids' lives. Thank you to them.

Recognising that I was going to be making my address-in-reply speech tonight, I was out the front with the QTU rally tonight and tipped my hat to Mum for her many years of teaching and representing all of her colleagues through the QTU. I know she was there in spirit.

I cannot believe that my kids were tiny when I started here. I now have two teenagers and a six-year-old, who was not here with us when I was first elected. I am so incredibly proud of all them. They are growing up to be outstanding young people, and I will be so proud to see all they achieve in their lives. Juniper will turn six in a couple of days and, boy, don't we know about it!

I sincerely thank all of the electorate office staff. I will not try to name them all because we have had quite a lot of turnover. There is so much talent in the office and they get poached to work on campaigns or in other offices. Particular thanks go to Emerald, who was my chief of staff throughout the last term, and to the entire team. Everyone has done incredible work. To keep the office ticking over and to keep me out, engaged and visible to the community while so much was being done to juggle family life in the background was an extraordinary feat, and I am so grateful for them and their work.

The same is true for all the campaign staff and volunteers. Again, I will not challenge myself to do a roll call of the staff or the volunteers because there were so many of them. I will name Sean Womersley, who headed up the campaign in Maiwar. The team is an absolute powerhouse. Thank you, Sean. Thank you for being there to pick up the pieces while I, as a solo parent and with my parents living with me, slowly lost the plot throughout the month of September. Everyone else, do not take it personally—you are in my heart and I love you. Thank you for your support. I promise not to hold it against you that I am back here for another four years in the most welcoming, collegiate and supportive workplace that any of us could possibly hope to be part of.

There are countless people behind the scenes as well—the party executive and office bearers at the state level and in the branches—who do amazing work. It is largely unseen, but all of us here and certainly everyone in the party appreciate what you do and how much time and emotional investment it takes.

I will take a moment to pay tribute to the former member for South Brisbane, Amy MacMahon. This is no reflection whatsoever on the current sitting member for South Brisbane, but Amy is a genuine loss to this parliament. It is difficult to imagine a person who was more hardworking, more committed to her community and her causes and more genuine. I dearly miss her presence in here, but I feel very lucky that I have been able to continue to work with Amy in recent months. It is hard to encapsulate what a full-on year last year was, especially given the car crash before we even arrived back at parliament. To come off the back of that accident and head straight into a campaign was no mean feat. It is kind of fitting that recently we heard judicial commentary of the car crash identifying what great compassion Amy had in that circumstance. That is the same compassion she brought to her work, to her engagement with the community and to the parliament. She still has it too.

Obviously the outcome at the last state election was not one that we wanted to see. I would argue that we did see a glimmer of hope for Queensland politics last year and I will specify why. It is because we saw Labor finally adopting a bunch of Greens' policies. Fair, it was in an attempt to stem the bleeding in Brisbane after they had clearly done the maths and decided that they could not stop the LNP across the state, but let's reflect on a couple.

I started my time here being roundly ridiculed—literally laughed at—for talking about free public transport, yet now it is practically free. Everyone is clambering over each other to claim a policy that was rolled out by the Greens in 2017. It is interesting that the policy was \$1 fares in 2017 and free in 2020. They had to split the difference and make it 50 cents because they could not be seen to directly take that particular Greens policy. We were mocked as unrealistic dreamers. Imagine how foolhardy you would be to suggest that schools could actually provide free lunches for their students across the state. What an absurd idea that you would feed children! Not only was it part of Labor's election platform; it has now effectively become a part of the personal brand of the Leader of the Opposition.

I am not the only one to reflect that this is a broken institution, but every now and then we are reminded that it is just the institution. Queenslanders themselves certainly are not the broken ones. Queenslanders simply want a better life for their neighbours every bit as much as they want it for themselves. They want a fair state, they want a protected environment and they want hope for the future. When we recognise that, quite incredible things can happen for us—for example, in the last term legislating the right to die with dignity or changes to consent laws that, again, were initially pushed forcefully by the Greens, turned away by Labor but ultimately won by the people who were standing up and fighting for those changes until the powers that be finally listened.

I still have hope that the major parties will be forced to listen to renters too. The last government ultimately failed to do anything to meaningfully support renters. Despite our ongoing pressure, despite calls from the housing sector and despite calls from the millions of renters in Queensland, rents have skyrocketed and governments continue to do nothing to about it—Labor in the last term or the LNP now. We have to wonder how many people could have been protected from homelessness if we had banned unlimited rent increases. How many people could have been able to keep living in their own communities? How many kids would have continued at their schools and continued to learn with their friends? Instead, renters continue to live their lives in constant fear of being outright evicted or just priced out of the communities they have grown up in because of this stubborn and enormous power imbalance between renters and landlords.

I keep my hope as well by remembering that this state has suffered through political ignorance and brutality and made it out the other side previously. That is how I approach this new government too because we know just how ignorant and brutal the LNP can be. We saw it in their last iteration. Despite all of the claims that they have left behind the old ways of Campbell Newman, we know that deep down what the LNP stands for has not changed. Indeed, the mask started slipping as soon as they had themselves cosily settled on the government benches.

The LNP fundamentally does not believe in a well-funded Public Service. They would sell off our entire public health system and leave it to the private health insurers if they could. They claim to be supporting state schools by waving around an agreement to meet minimum funding requirements. They are going to meet them in 10 years time!

The LNP fundamentally believes that it is just the natural order of things that banking bosses can take home multimillion dollar bonuses while families continue to sleep in tents and cars. The only issue they see in this is an aesthetic one, and their LNP council colleagues have had those values on full display as they continue to kick people out of public parks who have nowhere else to sleep, and I have heard their members in here cheering that on when I have addressed it previously.


This is a party that fundamentally believes inequality is an individual's fault—that if a kid born into intergenerational disadvantage, poverty or disability, whatever that might look like, just worked hard and pulled themselves up by their bootstraps they too could be a billionaire. It is the ultimate neoliberal lie and it is a stubborn and insidious one indeed. It is a lie that is firmly held in place by the real puppeteer of Queensland politics: the big business interests, the billionaires and the lobby groups—be they the real estate lobby or for the resources sector—that work hand in hand with the major parties to deeply embed their power so that they hold that power over ordinary people and continue to rip them off for their own profits.

Were it not for the fact that I know they are just going after the political donations and the cushy job prospects after politics, I would think it embarrassing how wholly these politicians continue to swallow and parrot the industry lines—the gas lobby in particular. Following Labor's example, we have now seen them open up 16,000 square kilometres more of Queensland to gas exploration, as if these gas companies are just desperate to charitably help out our electricity needs like there is really anything in it for Queenslanders from an industry that pays bugger all tax and where we get essentially no royalties—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Member for Maiwar, withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I withdraw. My apologies, Mr Deputy Speaker. We know that the LNP loves a culture war because obsessing over individual difference, fear and hysteria creates a convenient distraction from the growing power of a wealthy few individuals who are corrupting the system and making life worse for us all. Labor was disappointing in its time too because, frankly, you cannot speak truth to power when you are living in its pocket. I have said it before and I will say it again: until corporate donations stop, until the revolving door and cash for access stops, Queensland politics is in trouble. I do not intend to be distracted by the major parties and their culture wars. I will continue to be a thorn in their side wherever I can by refusing to ignore the climate science. Someone has to do it.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (8.36 pm): Deputy Speaker Krause, I begin by congratulating you on your elevation to that high role and I congratulate as well Mr Speaker, who is doing a magnificent job in that part of his service.

I will start my speech by thanking my community for putting their faith in me for the third time. It is the greatest honour of my life to serve the part of the Gold Coast that I have loved for my entire life and that I have called home for over a decade now. I am thankful every day for the opportunity I have been given and, after seven very long years working for our area from opposition, I am very excited to have the chance to fix the issues and fight for the ideas of everyone I represent.

At the outset I acknowledge the extraordinary Queenslander my seat is named after, one of the most incredible women our state has ever produced—Lores Bonney. In 1937, Lores became the first person to fly from Australia to South Africa after previously being the first woman to circumnavigate Australia by air and the first woman to fly from Australia to England. Having a seat named after her in this House is a fitting tribute, and I am proud to serve in her name. People do ask me frequently if there is a connection between Lores Bonney and our part of the Gold Coast. There is not quite one. She did spend her later years on the Gold Coast, but unfortunately it was on the southern Gold Coast; it was not in the best part of the Gold Coast which I represent.

**Mr Vorster** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I am not taking that interjection from the member for Burleigh or the one that the member for Currumbin should have made if she was not on her phone.

As a local MP, I am working hard to make our area even better. We are working with the council to deliver a new home for the Labrador Men's Shed. For too long they have been stuck in a facility that is far too small and does not have enough car parking. It has stopped them from growing and helping more men in our community. We have found the perfect site for them to move to, right near the Labrador Community Garden next to the touch footy club, and work will not be far off starting.

As part of our 2032 Delivery Plan, we are investing in grassroots sport like at the Labrador football club, where we will deliver \$300,000 to build a covered viewing area. It will make game days even better at what is a great local club. Our plan will also leave a legacy for our area, with Labrador chosen to host the hockey. We were not included in Labor's plans for the games, so our changes mean that we will be part of the action and locals can see the biggest sporting event in the world just up the road from where they live. It will mean a major upgrade to what is already a fantastic hockey centre, so our Labrador Tigerstix juniors all the way through to our BHL teams will have the best hockey pitches in the world to train on and play on before and after the games. I will also be doing all I can to make sure this means we can get upgrades to Musgrave Avenue and better connectivity for people walking through to the light rail, Smith Collective and the broader health and knowledge precinct.

The beautiful Broadwater is our marine backyard and our most important natural asset. We made a commitment to better protect this precious environment by backing our nation's first dedicated marine wildlife hospital at Sea World with a \$10 million contribution in the electorate of Surfers Paradise.

**Mr Langbroek:** Hear, hear!

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I will take that 'hear, hear' from the member. The Sea World Foundation do an incredible job rescuing and rehabilitating hundreds of these marine animals. Last year alone they helped over 400, including 150 sea turtles. The marine wildlife hospital is long overdue state support to help their vets and marine scientists save more injured birds, turtles, dolphins, sharks, seals, whales and more. It will be an outstanding nature-based tourism and education attraction for our part of the Gold Coast as well. Most of the wildlife cared for by the Sea World teams are birds. That is important, because our area is also lucky to be home to around 40 eastern curlews that migrate from the Arctic to roost sites off Labrador every year from August to April. Local conservationist Bob Westerman tells me there are around 50 bird species around Curlew Island, and I remain committed to doing all I can to protect these special little sandbanks. That is absolutely something we can do alongside better managing our waterways for boaties. I echo the Premier's comments about tackling the derelict boats we see far too often in our Broadwater.

The Crisafulli government also recently released our Hospital Rescue Plan, the biggest investment ever made into our health system. There is one project that will make a big difference to my community, and that is the new Coomera Hospital. It has been unacceptable to not have a hospital between Southport and Logan for so long. The thousands of health and allied health workers I represent are stretched, overworked and under-resourced. It is about time they received the investment in infrastructure they so very much deserve. We are going to deliver at least 600 new beds for our region. That is 200 more than Labor's 400, which were by no means guaranteed to be delivered any time soon. They were also going to build this hospital without basic services like pathology, pharmacy or even an



outpatient department. They had no real plan to connect it to the train station next door. In contrast, we will deliver a hospital that will include a day surgery, maternity services, operating theatres and an intensive care unit with a multistorey car park. Importantly, it will be properly integrated with local public transport. All of this will massively ease pressure on the Gold Coast University Hospital.

I also want to acknowledge Brett and Belinda Beasley for their ongoing courage and unparalleled resilience to drive change in the name of their son Jack. They live in Parkwood, the same suburb as me, and I am proud to call them friends. Since Jack's Law was introduced in 2023 there have been well over 1,000 weapons taken off our streets because of their advocacy. Earlier this year, on what would have been Jack's 23rd birthday, we introduced legislation to make Jack's Law permanent, honouring him forever, which was passed in our last sitting week. That delivers on the commitment we made to my community during the campaign at the Arundel Tavern.

I would not be here without the people who believed in me and who sacrificed so much to allow me to serve in this way. Firstly, to my magnificent partner, Mel: together we will continue to get through all of the challenges this role brings, as we have so far. My family as well—my mum, Suz; my dad, Rod; and my sister, Em—never hesitate to help when I need it. Mum is my unofficial media monitor. She will let me know when I get a run or a mention somewhere before I have any idea that I have. Dad spent hours meticulously restoring my Mitsubishi Triton ahead of the campaign. It is my old ute that I keep at the office for community use and used as a mobile billboard at election time. It is very special to me. Before I had that ute it was driven by sparkies at our family's electrical business, RT Edwards. Then it went to Tom's Clearance Centre—that was a small business that my grandpa decided to set up when he was in his mid-seventies in a failed attempt to retire—before I picked it up. It has been a mighty machine ever since. After the job that my dad did, I think it is going to keep going strong, helping local community groups with odd jobs. I reckon it probably has at least one more campaign in it, although the clutch did die last week. Mum and Dad both took leave to spend time on the pre-poll for the entire two weeks. As all members will attest, there is no greater electoral weapon than your parents on pre-poll. It is powerful.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Or children.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** Or children; I will take that interjection. I am not at that point yet, member for Buderim.

Nerida Smith is the heart and soul of the Bonney LNP. She is the ultimate servant of our party who gives so much to our cause and does so much for me. I value her advice, and alongside her I love fighting for what we believe in. Thank you to the other members of our SEC executive: Martin, Jordan and Mark. They all lead very busy professional lives, but I greatly appreciate the time they give to me and the Liberal National Party. Thank you to Michael Stock and his daughter Piper for their help on the campaign. To all of our volunteers: I greatly appreciate your efforts. It means a great deal to me to have so many local people put their hand up to support me to continue serving in this way.

To my electorate office team over this last term—Deb, Twisha, Jono, Elissa, Amity and Allison, whom we recently welcomed—I could not do this without you. There are a lot of locals who are better off because of you, so please be proud of the difference that you make each and every single day. Deb has been with me since I was first elected. She does an exceptional job serving people. Twisha has just passed the three-year mark working with me. I am proud of how she has risen to every challenge we have faced over that time. I thank two of my long-serving staff who have taken on new opportunities throughout the term: Joe, who is now our local councillor overlapping with most of my electorate; and Katie. I could not be prouder of you both. I appreciate all that you have done for me over many years and I am thankful for our ongoing friendship.

Thank you as well to the other candidates who put their hands up to serve our beautiful part of the Gold Coast. I want to acknowledge their supporters who gave up so much of their own time to make their case. To the Javanmard family: it is always a pleasure to be on a booth with you. Thank you for the way that you take part in our democracy in so many elections. The One Nation candidate, Scott, is a passionate Labrador local who ran a respectful campaign, so I want to acknowledge him and his wife, Renee. To Labor's candidate, Kyle Kelly-Collins: good on you for putting your hand up and giving it a red hot crack.

More broadly, the LNP took a comprehensive plan for our state's environment to the 2024 election. It was certainly far more substantial than anything we saw from the Labor Party. I remember that during the campaign every time we made an announcement I would sit back and wait for them to

match it or expand on it, but they never did. We can be very proud of what we put forward, which includes the largest single increase to the Parks and Wildlife Service in our state's history with the commitment to hire 150 rangers.

There is record funding for natural resource management organisations, including: \$118 million which has been delivered and is translating into practical programs on the ground across our state; a commitment of Zero Litter to the Bay by 2030, with \$35 million to improve stormwater infrastructure to stop rubbish entering our precious waterways; the biggest investment into wildlife hospitals, particularly in South-East Queensland, where it is so important to get the balance right between urban development and our natural environment; as well as a number of nature-based tourism projects across Queensland. I commend the Minister for the Environment and Tourism for his work on this and for his visionary 20-year tourism plan. As a Gold Coast MP, I know just how essential that will be in shaping our state's global presence and allowing us to make the most of the tourism opportunities ahead of the 2032 games and for many years afterwards.

After four years in the environment portfolio, I was honoured to be asked to serve in a new role by our now Premier David Crisafulli. The member for Broadwater is a true leader. During our hard days in opposition he showed his resilience, his determination and his unfaltering drive to achieve what he sets his mind to. He has been a great friend and a mentor to me over the last decade, and I am very proud to be his neighbouring MP. I am humbled by the trust he has placed in me in this new role.

Housing is one of the biggest challenges our state is facing. Over the last decade, the social housing portfolio under Labor grew by just six per cent, while our population grew at almost three times that rate. The community housing sector, despite its potential, grew just three per cent, weighed down by red tape and a government that was ideologically opposed to empowering them.

We have committed to delivering one million new homes, including 53,500 new social and community homes, by 2044. These numbers have bipartisan support, but we are determined to achieve them faster by committing to deliver on our targets two years earlier than the Labor Party. That means ramping up delivery with more funding, a new delivery model of an always-on procurement process, stronger partnerships with the community housing sector and, above all, a focus on outcomes. Our first budget shows that. I will touch more on that later in the week, but it did include \$5.6 billion to deliver more social and community homes.

The Crisafulli government is the first government in Queensland's history to lock in ongoing, permanent, perpetual funding for social and community housing delivery. That is half a billion dollars annually locked in every year beyond the forwards. It is an extraordinary thing and something we are very proud to be delivering.

For community housing, we have streamlined over 2,000 outdated agreements to just over 100 through our new master agreement model which will unlock the sector's potential to deliver more homes faster. We also know supportive housing must be part of the 53,500 new homes, and we are delivering. It is the only long-term solution for the complex and chronic homelessness we are seeing in far too many communities across Queensland. We are giving the homelessness services sector the certainty they deserve, with a 20 per cent uplift in funding locked in until June 2029. I want to thank the members of our new Homelessness Ministerial Advisory Council. Their goodwill and expert advice has helped us build a new body for coordinating our response better. It is a body that is focused on action, not just talking about the problem. We are also making home ownership a reality for First Nations communities for the first time, with a rent-to-buy scheme starting on Palm Island very soon. This will be a powerful step towards housing security and self-determination.

Public works is another key part of my portfolio and it is another area where we have hit the ground running. We have launched a full overhaul of our procurement policies to make sure Queenslanders get better value for money. We have indefinitely paused the flawed Best Practice Industry Conditions—BPICs—which meant it cost more and took longer to get anything built in Queensland. Militant union activity and outdated policies cost us an average of 2½ days of productivity per week on construction sites in our state. That slowed down the delivery of housing and infrastructure that Queenslanders need to see. We are turning that around. Through our Building Reg Reno we are cutting red tape that slowed down builders, tradies and subbies. More than 50,000 licensees—97 per cent—will no longer have to do unnecessary financial reporting. Our changes support our broader QBCC reforms and they complement the Queensland Productivity Commission's higher level reform work.

There is new leadership at the QBCC as well, which was sorely needed. This is one of the issues that I hear most about from members across the chamber, and I look forward to seeing what our team—led by Commissioner Angelo Lambrinos and our new board chair Greg Chemello—can achieve together. Queenslanders deserve a better building regulator, and that is exactly what we are delivering.

There is also QFleet, where over 11,000 vehicles are managed by a small and mighty team of public servants. They do all the purchasing, leasing, servicing and sales, and they do it in a way that reduces carbon emissions while still making sure that our frontline public servants have the right vehicle for the job. QBuild is another team which makes a big difference, especially during natural disasters. I want to thank them for all they do and for the way they have welcomed me on my visits across Queensland.

As youth minister, it is a real honour to represent the around one in five Queenslanders who are under the age of 25. It is also a role the Labor Party scrapped three years ago, but we have been proud to bring it back. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament. We had a record 471 applications from young people across our state wanting to take part. Over the next few months, the youth members will be meeting, advocating and working on the bills they will debate when they return to this very chamber.

Youth homelessness is a major concern and we are responding. I have seen firsthand the power of youth foyers in our community on the Gold Coast, and we are delivering at least eight more across the state. They are a smart investment in safe, secure housing and tangible outcomes for young people who are earning and learning. We currently have three operating in Logan, Townsville and the Gold Coast, and work is underway on the next ones in Cairns, Moreton Bay and Hervey Bay. These are not just buildings. Youth foyers break the cycle of disadvantage. They deliver a return on investment of six to one. Within two years, more than 80 per cent of their residents will exit to be self-sufficient with their housing needs.

For young Queenslanders dreaming of their first home, we are also delivering the nation-leading Boost to Buy shared equity scheme. This will help Queenslanders without access to the bank of mum and dad get into a home with as little as a two per cent deposit. We are going to back them in by funding 30 per cent equity in new homes and 25 per cent in existing homes. That is in addition to our abolition of stamp duty for all first home buyers on all new builds and our continuation of the boosted \$30,000 first home buyer grants.


The final part of my portfolio is night-life. As part of our commitment to a vibrant and safe night-life across Queensland, we have supported our Night-Life Economy Commissioner to set up a night-life expert advisory panel, who are doing great work. They are helping us put together our state's first night-life economy strategy, which is due by the end of the year. It is all about making sure that government is doing everything possible to allow this sector to thrive.

Finally, I want to congratulate all members on their election or re-election to this House. I particularly want to congratulate our new LNP members. I said that I would mention the member for Barron River if she was in the chamber. I want to congratulate the member for Barron River. I spent a lot of time in Cairns over the last year and I had the great privilege of campaigning alongside her and I am very proud to see the result that she achieved.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I am not taking that interjection from the transport minister. I am very proud to see the result she achieved and I was very proud to support her in that work. I thank all members for their efforts over that campaign. It was a magnificent result.

The member for Surfers Paradise, my good friend, has come into the chamber so I mention him because he does love being mentioned. I want to acknowledge him for all his guidance and mentorship. I mostly listen to him on what he advises me on. He has been a great friend over many years and I look forward to serving with him and the rest of the Gold Coast members.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.56 pm): I rise in this address-in-reply debate. I want to acknowledge the Governor's opening of parliament and her speech. It is the first I have received on the government benches, and it was a privilege to be able to listen to a clearly enunciated plan to deliver a fresh start for Queensland. It has been my pleasure to get to know the Governor a bit since coming over to the government benches. Obviously, in opposition you have less to do with the Governor, but as a minister through the process of government you have more to do with the Governor. It has been a privilege to get to know the Governor. In fact I have a

six-year-old daughter who now is 'best mates' with the Governor after going to the swearing in of the cabinet. I was at the ballet in December, which I do not do regularly, and the member for Surfers Paradise was there with the Governor. We were a few rows back, I think.

**Mr O'Connor:** You went to the ballet?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I was at the ballet. I was not wearing a dress, but I was at the ballet. John-Paul was there with the Governor, and my six-year-old daughter kept waving to the Governor and saying, 'Hello, Governor. How are you?' I was shooshing her and saying, 'You can't do that here.' I want to acknowledge the good grace and the manner in which the Governor goes about her business. It has been an absolute privilege to get to know her.

I want to thank the people of Buderim for entrusting me to be their representative in this parliament for a third term. My wife and I chose to settle in Buderim when we moved back to the Sunshine Coast because of the sense of community and the way of life that exists in Buderim. Despite the fact that Buderim, as I understand it, is the largest suburb in Queensland, it has a sense of community that makes it feel like a small town. People still say g'day in the main street and we still have an amazing array of volunteer organisations. This was writ large on the weekend when we celebrated the 150th birthday of the Buderim Mountain State School, and I want to acknowledge the Minister for Education for his attendance at that celebration of our community. We had the P&C, the Lions and the Buderim Foundation all coming together for an event which drew out all aspects of our community. It was a celebration of what we cherish in Buderim.

I also want to highlight the Buderim War Memorial Community Association, which is the embodiment of the community spirit that I value in Buderim. It is a living memorial that was set up after World War II. Rather than build a cenotaph, our community decided to create a community organisation that fosters a sense of community, that drives volunteering, and it has become a stalwart of our community in the years since.

This being the first opportunity since one of our past presidents Neil 'Lofty' Eiby OAM passed away, I want to place on the record my thoughts with Pat and his family. Neil was a tremendous stalwart for our community in his capacity as the BWMCA past president, but he was also a man of incredible substance and character, having served in the Army between 1958 and 1984. Neil served as a rifleman in 3RAR. He served in 1RAR in Malaya as well, and he was also a section commander in Malaya. He served in Vietnam with 3RAR. For any of those who may have served in the military, they would know of the Battle of Balmoral, and that is where Neil served in a ferocious battle where Australian soldiers acquitted themselves with honour. It talks to Neil's experience and character. After that, he served as the regimental sergeant major of RMC, of 6RAR, and when he left the Army he served in Legacy and as a school marshal at the St Laurence's College where both he and Pat continued to care for war veterans, war widows and support their community. Neil will be sorely missed by not only the Buderim community but also the veteran community. I want to place on the record my thanks for his smile, his good grace and the manner in which he supported our community over many years. Vale, Neil 'Lofty' Eiby OAM.

In relation to the address-in-reply, I want to congratulate the Speaker, my good friend, the member for Condamine. He was able to school me when I first came into this place, alongside the now member for Hinkler, the then member for Bundaberg, on committee and guided us as we made merry hell, with the member for Bancroft as the chair of the committee. He was the guiding voice for us, the reason and our educator when we first came into this parliament. As I said when he was elevated to the Speakership, he will do a tremendous job—just don't warn me too much. I want to also congratulate the Deputy Speaker and Panel of Temporary Speakers as well for the manner in which they go about managing the business of the House.

I want to congratulate the Premier—in fact, all members of the government, but in particular the Premier—because I have seen over all of the terms that I have been in this parliament the toll that being a leader of a political party takes on those who choose to serve in that way. I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition as well in the same vein. The now Premier is my friend. He has been my mentor since I came into this parliament as well, and he is showing Queenslanders the character and capacity that he has in his new role as the Premier. It is my absolute honour and privilege to be able to serve with him, alongside the other members of the cabinet as part of the Crisafulli government.

At the election, Queenslanders voted for a change and for a fresh start. We have spoken at length about the many crises affecting Queenslanders, but I think ultimately why Queenslanders voted out the former government was because they failed to chart a vision, other than fear, for a better Queensland. When I look at my community, we talk about the housing crisis. In 2017 when I was

elected, no-one lived in Palmview, a part of the Buderim electorate. Now over 5,000 voters—so about 10,000 people—live in that part of my electorate. Many of those residents are first home buyers. When I doorknock in Palmview, admittedly prior to the election—I have not doorknocked there since, but I will—I am frequently reminded of the pressure that those who have made the leap to buy their first home and take on debt are feeling as they make that leap. This government wants to support those people. We are mindful that that section of society has been disproportionately affected by the rising house prices, and we want to ensure that we do whatever we can do to, one, bring more stock onto the market and, two, ensure everyone has the opportunity to get into the market.

The youth crime crisis has been spoken about at length. Arguably, it was the most significant issue before the last state election. It is still a problem. I will not step away from the fact that it is still a problem. We have taken meaningful steps to address this issue, but we will need to take more meaningful steps to further tackle this issue. I want to acknowledge the recent, completely unacceptable incident where a five-month-old baby was injured when a fire extinguisher was discharged into the car she was a passenger in. It is utterly reprehensible. As a father of four young kids, I want to place on the record that I stand beside our community in their disgust in relation to this incident. I do, however, want to thank our police for apprehending those responsible for the incident. I want to acknowledge the calls of my community for a greater police presence in Sippy Downs and Palmview where this incident occurred. It is something that I will continue to fight for over this term of government.

Regrettably, the former Labor state government left us in a situation where we had a chronically understaffed Queensland Police Service and little scope to increase the manning of stations like Sippy Downs, but nonetheless, since we came to office in October, we have added 240 additional police officers across this state. It is only a small increase, but it is a turn for the better and I look forward to that trend continuing as we support our police officers with better equipment and with the laws that they need—and I know you understand this, Mr Deputy Speaker—so that they can do their job. It is my hope that as we both empower and equip our police, more stay in the job to keep our community safe. As we have more police in our Police Service, that will provide us with the scope to invest in additional resources in places like Sippy Downs and Palmview, which had missed out for far too long under the former Labor government.

When I think of the health crisis, I think of the victims of that health crisis—people like Graham. I brought Graham to the parliament. Graham had all his teeth removed and he was suicidal because he saw no way to remove himself from the pain he was feeling. We brought him to this parliament and he got a phone call within 10 minutes of question time. That helped Graham, but what about the other 270-odd people on the Sunshine Coast who are in the exact same situation as Graham? I think of Stephanie and Darrell Massie, both of whom suffered for far too long as a consequence of the ambulance ramping, but also of the chronic elective surgery waitlist delays. Darrell in particular spoke about the impact that it had had on his life, and that flowed through onto the life of Stephanie, his wife, being his carer. It impacted her health. Wendy is a Sippy Downs resident. She was a category 1 rheumatology patient who could not get in to see a specialist and was suffering in pain constantly. We were able to help them—Graham, Stephanie, Darrell and Wendy—by advocating their individual circumstances, but every time I did I thought about all of the others who were in the same boat who had not come to their member of parliament.

What we need to do as a government, and what we are doing as a government, is fix the system to ensure there are fewer Grahams, fewer Stephanies, fewer Darrells and fewer Wendys. It will not be done overnight, but my commitment to my community is to work with the Minister for Health and the entire government to deliver that change.

When we talk about those people whom we seek to help as members of parliament, it is often our electorate office staff who are the face of that interaction in the first instance. I want to place on record my thanks to my current electorate staff—Danielle, Lisa, Olivia, Gina and Mia—but also Sophie who served as my electorate officer in the last term until she took a role in my ministerial office. They frequently, particularly when we are in ministerial roles, bear the load of ensuring that our electorates are serviced to the fullest extent. I want to place on the record my thanks for their efforts.

With regard to my ministerial staff, it has been an absolute pleasure since being entrusted by the Premier to be the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to be surrounded by professional, capable, competent and diligent ministerial staff, led by Tony Meredith, my chief of staff. They are consummate professionals. They are all smarter than me and they all make me look better than I am, and I appreciate their work and diligence in what is a complex portfolio.

I particularly want to give a shout-out to Sophie, who is currently at home on maternity leave waiting to give birth, I think on Friday. We look forward to Soph coming back when she has finished having a bit of time raising the next little addition to her family. It was great to be able to catch up with Sophie last week.

I want to thank my campaign volunteers. I am not going to go through a list of all of them, but I want to call out a couple in particular. The first among those is Eric. Eric was my branch chair and my campaign manager. Eric is in his mid-80s and frankly should be enjoying retirement but is committed to the values that the LNP represents.

Both for myself and Ted O'Brien, Eric has been the stalwart of all of our campaigns. For the last four years he has been my branch chair. He was instrumental in ensuring we manned the booths, that we got the signage out there. I want to place on record my thanks to Eric. Now that he has stepped down as branch chair I want to say: enjoy retirement. Eric, it has been my absolute pleasure to work with you and I look forward to staying in touch as you enjoy retirement without working for the LNP.

I place on record my thanks for John, for Ted, for Olivia, for my father, Graeme, for Mitchell, for Angie and for my Army mates Lee and Craig—all of whom contributed disproportionately throughout the election period. I also want to place on record my thanks to my wife, Anna, who frankly spent more time on pre-poll than I did, as I was travelling the state trying to get new members of parliament elected to this side of politics. Managing four young kids and standing on pre-poll is easier said than done, but she did it and I am immensely grateful for her contribution.

I want to acknowledge the newly elected members of parliament. I do not want to single out every one, but I am going to single out two because I spent an awful lot of time trying to get them elected: the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton. It has been an absolute pleasure to see how all of the new members of parliament—on both sides, I might add—have conducted themselves since coming into this place. Admittedly, one took a little bit longer than election night but I could not have been happier after I saw the effort that those two members put in. The same is true of all new members in this place. The effort that was put in and the trust their communities placed in them to bring a fresh start is reflective of, one, their capacity and, two, their work ethic. I know they are delivering for their communities and it was a pleasure to be part of that process.

The Premier spoke this morning about restoring faith in government. The Governor spoke about how we serve the people of Queensland. I take that privilege with a considerable amount of weight. We will deliver what we said we would deliver. Ours will be a government of accountability. It will be focused on the issues that matter to Queensland. We made it very clear what we stand for. I do not agree with everything the Labor Party stand for. I do not agree with everything the member for Maiwar stands for. In fact, I suspect I agree with very little of what the member for Maiwar stands for. However, I respect their ability to come into this place and state what they stand for. We made it very clear what we stood for and I think Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, Adult Crime, Adult Time and addressing those key crises. That is what Queensland wanted—clear direction and a competent and methodical government, and that is what we will deliver.

I want to thank the Premier for entrusting me with the Transport and Main Roads portfolio. I was not expecting it. I had not prepared for it. I probably wish I had paid a bit more attention to estimates last term in this portfolio but it was a great privilege—

**Mr Minnikin:** It was a lot of fun.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am sure it was a lot of fun. I had a bit of fun in mine but, now I wish I had paid more attention to yours, as well. My job is to ensure we get people home sooner at the end of a long work day. We need to build roads to support our growing population; we need public transport that is affordable, reliable, safe and frequent. I am incredibly proud to have made permanent the LNP's 50-cent fares—a tremendous LNP initiative. The Premier has championed that from the start and it is an absolute privilege to be able to make 50-cent fares permanent under the LNP and despite what the Leader of the Opposition might have suggested, given they spent more on advertising than they did on making it permanent. We have restored 80-20 funding for the Bruce Highway, a \$9 billion package. It is a fair record since the election, to be frank. I thought I would have to push for the whole term to get 80-20 funding restored, let alone \$9 billion out of the feds, but it is recognition of the fact that we want to work constructively to deliver for Queenslanders. We will work constructively with the federal government, despite the fact they are on the other side of politics.

We re-established the Bruce Highway Advisory Council. It was my absolute privilege last week to visit Bauple in the member for Gympie's electorate where we are starting work on 16 construction sites up and down the Bruce Highway. All of those projects will start construction this year and will


continue to roll out the considerable amount of work that is required on the Bruce Highway, as we will on the 2032 games delivery plan. In my electorate we have committed to the Mooloolah River Interchange, and I will not talk about it in too much detail now because I will talk about it in the budget reply. That is a game changer for the Sunshine Coast community. The Mooloolah River Interchange has been spoken about long before I came into this place. I think we have committed to it at just about every election that I have stood at. I remember standing at a press conference with the now health minister when he was the then leader of the opposition committing to it.

**An honourable member:** On the roundabout.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** On the roundabout, indeed, yes. It is tremendous that we are now in a position to make it happen. We are making it happen. I have kept this until the end because it is the worst bit. All of us who come to this place know that it is their families who pay the price. I swore I was not going to cry. My wife, Anna: she is a rock. We have four young kids, two of whom have been born since I came to this place. My oldest is 10 and my youngest is four. That takes considerable weight. I want to thank Anna, I want to thank my kids. Last week I was at the Sunshine Coast show with my young fella Alex and we rocked into the TMR tent. Anyway the lady at the TMR said—

**A government member:** Show bags.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Wave show bags, Cross River Rail show bags. Anyway the lady at the tent said to my young fella Alex, 'What is it like having dad as a minister?' and he said, 'Oh, I see him on Fridays and he sometimes visits on Mondays', and it hurt. That is the truth. They pay the price. They pay the price but hopefully it is worth it, because we will deliver a better Queensland for them and for every Queenslanders.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (9.16 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to deliver my second speech in reply, having delivered my maiden speech at 5.40 pm on 31 May 2012. It was with some reflection I returned to this House after the 2024 election result and sat quietly in my old seat that is now occupied by the member for Thuringowa. I contemplated the decade that had elapsed since my untimely removal as the first LNP member to ever hold the seat of Cook since 2015. It is a title I am grateful and humbled to have restored in 2024. I was the member for Cook in the 2012-15 Newman LNP government and was the assistant minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. Whilst my tenure was cut short by the Newman excesses and ultimate loss of government, I was privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve my beloved electorate of Cook.

My maiden speech will record that I first came to Cape York in 1985 and was so taken with it and all it had to offer that I returned in 1988 to Cooktown where I opened the first law practice in 50 years. I developed an interest in the cattle industry and embarked on a love for the region, its communities and its peoples which has endured in one form or another for five decades.

I am pleased to see my long-term friend Pat Weir in the Speaker's chair and the Deputy Speaker position ably occupied by the member for Scenic Rim—yourself—with whom I served all those years ago. I am honoured to have been appointed a Temporary Speaker among colleagues who all endeavour to retain the respect and responsibility ascribed to this chamber.

The Premier was the minister for local government when I was last in this House all those years ago. He was a young man in a hurry. He was one of the many casualties in the 2015 defeat where young, energetic members who represented our future such as Robert Cavallucci, Lisa France, Saxon Rice and others were lost to politics forever. In 2017, David Crisafulli returned to politics and ultimately led the LNP opposition to victory in 2024. The rest is history.

The Premier has personally developed considerably in the ensuing decade and is now measured and responsive. He displays all the qualities of a statesman so rarely seen in our modern political environment. Above all, he says and then he does with unwavering determination.

I am forever indebted to my friend Max Dickensen, my campaign manager, who selflessly came out of retirement to lead me once again to victory in October 2024, which saw me elected as the member for Cook for the second time. He is the only man in the history of the seat to run not one but two elections on behalf of the LNP. On election night when the numbers started to come in and it did not look so good, we all became a little bit apprehensive about the result. When I saw Max walk to the bar and buy a beer I knew we were over the line.

I cannot express enough my gratitude to the team of volunteers who manned every booth in the electorate whilst Labor struggled to turn up at all. I am also grateful to those ministers who travelled from their electorate in the hurly-burly of the election campaign to support me in the north: Andrew

Powell, who fronted a shed full of farmers; Ann Leahy; David Janetzki; and Tony Perrett, who joined me in the Douglas shire on several occasions to reassure a community devastated by Cyclone Jasper and left stranded by Labor and the missing local member that our government would listen and help.

I also acknowledge Councillor Kevin Davies, who put his hand up for the seat and sadly passed away three months after the election, which was a great loss to our community.

I am pleased to have been included in the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee under the firm but fair guidance of the very capable Jim McDonald. We have been asked to review vital legislation as we move towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is exciting to be back amongst so many of the colleagues who formed the 54th Parliament and who are now reinvigorated after a decade of thankless opposition. It is equally exciting to be part of a new cohort, bringing renewal and talent to the team. I complained bitterly to the Clerk about being subject to compulsory induction to which he replied in his laconic manner, 'They have invented telephones since you were last here.'


I also enjoy sitting on this side of the House with five of us here in the trenches and on the front line trying to represent the government side of the House as best we can. I am happy to join Bree James, the member for Barron River, with her drive and her sense of humour which is in a class of its own, and Terry James, the member for Mulgrave, who has a lifetime of public service. We are part of the northern force and hope in time the member for Cairns might see his way to working with us to bring about a brighter future for our unique and incredible part of the world.

Finally, I am ever grateful to the voters of Cook who were not accepting of the Labor member after seven years of neglect and saw in me someone who would truly represent them, speak up and turn up every time. From the date of my preselection in May 2024, at the leader's request I embedded myself in the community of Mossman to provide support, leadership and hope in the face of the imminent failure of the sugarmill and, ultimately, the 134-year-old sugar industry, a task I am still involved in today as our government works with the community towards a more certain future. Bree and I saw the dismal state of the Barron River bridge and embarked on a relentless campaign to see it replaced. Minister Mickelberg still ducks for cover every time he sees us coming, but the bridge is in the budget and will be built.

The first task I undertook when elected was to meet my commitment to the Mareeba people to return the electorate office to Mareeba as the former member had selfishly closed it. The next task was to find the right mix of staff to ensure we have a compatible, competent team to ensure that all the people in Cook feel they are being listened to wherever they might come from. This task has taken some time with some early hiccups. However, we now have one of the best functioning and most well run electorate offices in the state. I do encourage caution, however, when employing campaign or party members as they do not always make the best electorate officers.

I acknowledge and appreciate all of my team: Lachy, who once worked for Lachlan Millar and is now my EO—all six foot three of him—is loyal, professional and 100 per cent reliable; Emily, who comes to me from the media sector and has insight beyond her young years; Anwen, who worked for me in the last term and is the front line of my operation with her no-nonsense approach to constituents and, at times, myself; Helen, a farmer with an artistic flair, sense of community and a quick humour; Nikki, is indomitable with her good nature and community elections; Tash, the ideas girl who brings energy and local connection; and, finally, Talei, my northernmost team member upon whom I rely to be the eyes and ears of the cape and Torres. I admire their unswerving loyalty and dedication and infinite patience as they drag me kicking and screaming into the modern technological and digital world—no mean feat.

I can only stand in awe at the people my two daughters, Melanie and Sophie, have become as they have given me their unswerving love and loyalty over many years whilst they have navigated the trials and tribulations of their own lives. I have, effective this Friday, relinquished my practising certificate after 50 years in the law as a mark of my commitment to the people of Cook and my teammates in this government. While ever I am fit and able, I will continue to serve both to the best of my ability. It is good to be back.

 **Hon. PT WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (9.24 pm): I rise today to deliver my address-in-reply speech for this the 58th Parliament. This is the fourth time I have delivered an address-in-reply speech, but this one is significantly different to any that I have delivered before in a number of ways, not least of all the fact that this time I am delivering it from this side of the chamber, the government benches. On that note, let me begin by congratulating the Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli. This has been a long and challenging road for the now Premier. He has seen both the highs and the lows the political world can



bring: from being elected into government to suffering a devastating electoral defeat, being re-elected, serving four years as opposition leader before leading the LNP to government. This is not an accidental premier. This success is well deserved.

I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie on his ascension to the high office of Deputy Premier. I recall some years ago I attended a preselection forum for the seat of Kawana where a very youthful looking Jarrod Bleijie presented himself for preselection with some flair and not lacking in confidence.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr WEIR:** I am not going to say who I voted for. It was apparent to the room that this was a candidate with some ability, and I think many would agree that has been realised.

I also extend my congratulations to all members who hold the high office of minister in the 58th Parliament. They will be very busy as there is much to do. This is particularly so in the case of my electoral neighbour David Janetzki, who now finds himself the Treasurer and energy minister of this state. I wish him every success in this challenging and demanding role. He is another I have known since his early days of involvement with the party and I am pleased to see his talent and ability being recognised.

I would like to congratulate all members who were successfully re-elected to the 58th Parliament. As members are fully aware, the time of leaving the role of elected MP is not always of the member's choosing. With that in mind, I would like to mention some of my former colleagues who did make the choice to leave at a time of their choosing. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mark Robinson, the former member for Oodgeroo; Michael Hart, the former member for Burleigh; and my old mate Lachy Millar, the former member for Gregory. I wish all these retiring members all the best for whatever the future holds for them.

I would like to welcome all newly elected members to the Queensland parliament. There is quite a number of new faces and names to get to know, but I think I am across them all now. I would like to thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier for placing their confidence in me to be the Speaker of the 58th Parliament. As I stated on my election to this role, this is a position that was never on my radar, so to be considered, let alone nominated and appointed to the role, is indeed an honour and I thank all members for their support in that nomination. I would like to thank you, member for Scenic Rim, for taking on the role of Deputy Speaker and the work that you are doing to support both myself and the Panel of Temporary Speakers.

There is only one reason I or any other member of this chamber can take on any role in this parliament and that is because the voters of our respective electorates have voted to put their faith in us to be their representative for the upcoming term of parliament. I would like to thank the voters of the electorate of Condamine for re-electing me for a fourth term to be their representative in this parliament. It is, indeed, an honour and one I do not take lightly. This result is only possible because of the work of dedicated party members and supporters, some of whom have been part of this journey for the past 10 years working towards this result. It is always a risk when you start to name names but there are some who must be mentioned.

Let me begin with the south-west region chair Peter Wilson for his support of not only my campaign, but also all other campaigns in the south-west region. The executive of the Condamine SEC, chair Cynthia Hardy, secretary Jo Saal and Treasurer Sonja Wilson, I thank you all for your ongoing support and friendship, not only during the election campaign but also throughout the term. Special thanks must go to Kylie Fuelling for the countless hours that she has contributed to all the campaigns she has been involved in over the years, including all of mine. It would be impossible to tally the phone calls, hours and travel she has personally contributed and did so once again this election. Kylie is one of the true believers of this party who rides every emotion that the political world brings—the successes, the failures, the wins, the losses, the heartbreak and the disappointments—just as much as any elected official. These are the people who drive our party forward. Speaking of which, I must also make special acknowledgement of the loyalty and many years of support of Ian and Margaret Graham. There are no greater servants of our party than these two stalwarts. I cannot thank them enough for their friendship and loyalty.

I am fortunate that I come from a large immediate and extended family. This is especially so when it comes to election time. Once again I was able to call on all my brothers and sisters, my children and also cousins and friends. I cannot thank them enough. If there is one piece of advice I would share with the new members of this House it would be to not lose contact with your family and the friendships

that you have made over the years. In this role you will meet many people who are keen to be your friend and you will receive invitations to events, but when times get tough unfortunately many of these new-found friends will not be there. Never forget where you came from or those who have supported you through the tough times over the years, especially your family. Make time for your family. Speaking of which, I would like to thank my children, Amy and Sam, for their support and understanding while I am in this role which takes me away from home on a regular basis. As I stated, I am fortunate to come from a close family. We are not only related but also very close friends. I thank Ann-Maree and Darrol, Kate and Tim, John and Megan, Rob and Janell and Gerrard. All my brothers are very keen fishermen and all own a boat, which is even better.

All of us are only as good as our staff. When I travel around the Condamine electorate, be it to schools, local shows or other events, I am regularly told by the public how helpful and courteous my staff have been in helping with constituents' issues. It is our staff who are the front line. They take the phone calls and greet sometimes very upset constituents, respond to the emails and make sure I get to where I should be on time and at the right address—which does not always happen when it is left to me. Many thanks to Kylie, Colleen, Ally and Nadine for all that you do, not only for myself but for all the members of the public that you help every day. Also thank you to Sandy Cowan who recently retired from the office after a number of years. All the best to yourself and Bill and don't spoil the grandkids too much.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports me here in my role as Speaker: Clerk Neil Laurie, Deputy Clerk Michael Ries and all the staff in the parliament. You are a wonderful help not only to myself but also to the parliament. Thank you to Coral and Jackie in the Speaker's office for making me look organised. I look forward to being able to deliver for the residents in Condamine during this term. We are in government at last. Let us deliver for the regions of this state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Honourable members, the address-in-reply will be presented to Her Excellency the Governor at a time and date to be advised.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.33 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.33 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

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