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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 28 August 2025

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THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report No. 1: 2025-26—Reducing organic household waste sent to landfill*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 1: 2025-26—Reducing organic household waste sent to landfill [\[1146\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Everton that he will be absent from the House today. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 19 June 2025, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 10 June 2025. I consider the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation, therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba. [\[1147\]](#)

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 19 June 2025, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House on 10 June 2025.

The matter relates to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

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

The Minister argued that this statement was deliberately misleading and outlined the government's eligibility criteria for social housing. He also alleged that a number of Opposition members had repeated the Leader of the Opposition's allegedly misleading statements in social media posts.

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

The Leader of the Opposition provided three different videos of news clips from reputable media outlets as evidence of the basis of his question. He noted that Opposition members do not attend government press conferences and therefore rely on the media reports to determine what was said.

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

I considered the material put forward by both the minister and the Leader of the Opposition and am of the opinion that the Leader of the Opposition has provided an adequate explanation for the basis of his question in the House.

Further, the news clips show the minister stating that the eligibility criteria 'is what it is'. As such, I do not intend to take any further action in relation to the social media posts raised by the minister.

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

I would like to add that issues such as these would be more appropriately dealt with in the House at the time. The minister could have corrected the Leader of the Opposition while answering the question and spoken to the social media eligibility criteria. Further, as this occurred on the first sitting day of the week, there was ample opportunity for the minister to speak to the Housing portfolio during Ministerial Statements or Matters of Public Interest to correct any misunderstandings by the media or the Opposition.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 26 June 2025, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House on 12 June 2025. I consider this matter is clearly technical in nature, therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I have circulated a detailed statement about this matter and seek leave to incorporate it into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 26 June 2025, the member for Aspley wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House on 12 June 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the minister during Questions without Notice.

Specifically, the minister stated:

'It was politically convenient to do so when they privatised Queensland motorways.'

And

'Who sold the assets? Labor sold Queensland Motorways—\$3 billion.'

The member argued that these statements were false and misleading explaining that ownership of Queensland Motorways Limited was transferred to the Queensland Investment Corporation and the Queensland Investment Corporation is the public investment arm of the government.

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

I note that ownership of Queensland Motorways changed hands in 2010. The transfer was structured as a 40-year tolling franchise agreement where the Queensland Investment Corporation paid approximately \$3 billion for the rights to operate the Gateway and Logan motorways.

This matter is clearly technical.

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and member for Buderim [1148].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Emmaus College in the electorate of Logan; Kingaroy State High School in the electorate of Nanango; and Copmanhurst Public School in New South Wales.

TABLED PAPER

MEMBER'S PAPER

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Murrumba (Hon. Miles)—

Public Report of Office Expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission, Japan and India



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.33 am): Under this government, Queensland is open for business. We are committed to putting Queensland front and centre of international trade. At the end of this week, I will lead a team of business leaders on a trade mission to India and Japan to spruik Queensland as one of the world's best places to do business, to holiday, to learn and to live.

Japan is Queensland's third largest goods export destination and a key investment partner for the state, while India is Queensland's fourth largest goods export market. Our goal is to boost import and export trade, develop strategic partnerships and enhance opportunities for investment to grow. We will be meeting with global businesses and industry leaders across the resources and energy sectors, primary industries and international education. We will also be discussing opportunities for housing supply, as well as tourism and sports event attraction.

Australia is an ever-growing market for Indian tourists. In Queensland we want to capitalise on this to show the amazing tourism offerings that we have. That is why I will be meeting with airlines to put direct flights from India to Queensland on the agenda. It is another way we can put Queensland on the global map. I know those in our Queensland Indian community would be excited at the prospect of seeing professional Kabaddi teams play here in Queensland. I would love to see it, and I am hoping we will be able to deliver just that.

I will also be continuing our push to host the Quad Leaders' Summit in Queensland. Queensland has never been better placed to host the Quad Leaders' Summit. Now is the time to get the quad to Queensland with our strategic location, trade links and world-class infrastructure. Our state can use this event to continue the incredible momentum we have building as a global destination, particularly on the runway towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is all part of our plan to deepen our ties with partners like India and Japan after a decade of decline under Labor.

Ahead of the trade mission last week, our government launched a new Queensland-India trade investment strategy. It follows the launch of a new Queensland-Japan strategy last month. It is no secret that our longstanding relationship with these important trading partners and our deep friends was shaken in recent years following decisions by the previous administration. Those decisions were damaging. I want to acknowledge those in our team who since coming to government have sought to re-establish and strengthen our relationship with our key trading partners, particularly Japan. Many from our cabinet have been working hard, even on the ground, with our Japanese counterparts to bolster Queensland's trade relationship. We are focused on aligning Queensland's strengths with the strategic needs of our valuable trade partners. Maximising trade and investment in Queensland will support businesses large and small from the regions to the cities. This trade mission provides an important opportunity to emphasise to our friends in India and Japan that, under this government, Queensland is open for business.

Residential Activation Fund



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.37 am): The Residential Activation Fund roadshow has been a great success. The Crisafulli government's \$2 billion fund to unlock housing by funding essential trunk infrastructure has been welcomed by both local governments and private landowners in every corner of our great state. They are sharing in \$1 billion of investment during a record round 1 from the state government. This means more projects can get shovels in the ground and more Queenslanders have a place to call home.

Since the state budget the Premier and I have travelled the length and breadth of the state, meeting with mayors and councils from across Queensland who have embraced the new government's approach with open arms. I am proud to say that our government is honouring our promise to secure Queensland's housing foundations by partnering with local governments and the private sector, and we are on track to deliver one million new homes by 2044.

The Residential Activation Fund is activating land supply right across Queensland. I am honoured to have been across the state making these great announcements with local MPs. Some could say, Mr Speaker, that—I have been everywhere man, I have been everywhere.

Mr Last: Go on, sing it!

Mr SPEAKER: There is no need, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: I sing—

I've been everywhere, man. I've been everywhere.

I was walking down the track with the pack upon my back

When a fella stopped by and asked me, mate, where you headed at?

I said, I've been travellin', I've seen places far and fair

But when it comes to Queensland's RAF, I've been everywhere!

Mr Speaker, I have been to—

Aurukun, St George, Barcy, and Jundah,

Tambo, Boulia, Brisbane, Thargomindah,

Childers, Innes Park, Burketown, and Toobanna,

Rocky, Ingham, St George and Curra

I've been to Longreach, Roma, Mareeba, and Lilywood,

Burpengary, Woodford, Bellmere is lookin' good,

Maroochydore, Charleville, Injinoo, and Beach Holm

Townsville, Atherton, Logan and Ilfracombe


I've been everywhere, man. I've been everywhere.

Mr Speaker, I will give Hansard the rhythm later—the key I want it announced in!

To date the Crisafulli government has announced over \$600 million worth of RAF funding, unlocking more than 66,500 homes for Queenslanders to be delivered within the next three years, and we are not done yet. Today I can announce to the House the Crisafulli government is unlocking a further 190 new homes in Far North Queensland, investing \$18.1 million to fast-track five key projects which will deliver a place to call home for Far North Queenslanders. Investments are being made in stormwater drainage systems, new and upgraded roads and the installation of power and telecommunication connections, sewerage systems and utilities in partnership with the Cook Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council and Cassowary Coast Regional Council. Our government has reset the relationship with local governments, which is allowing us to work hand in glove to deliver essential infrastructure. This is on top of the \$89 million in RAF funding already announced in Far North Queensland, unlocking 3,000 homes across 16 projects.

Regional and rural Queensland has a friend in the Crisafulli government. We will continue to do what Labor did not, and that is to trust in our local governments to make decisions in the best interests of their communities, partner with local governments to build the infrastructure for the future and deliver a place to call home for Queenslanders.

CS Energy; Hielscher, Sir Leo AC

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.40 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. It is what we promised and it is what we are delivering after 10 years of decline under those opposite. It means investing in our existing generation assets as part of our budgeted \$1.6 billion electricity maintenance guarantee, and that includes most recently an \$80 million planned maintenance of Callide C3. The importance of fixing Labor's maintenance failures is again highlighted by CS Energy's internal root cause analysis report and the Jonah Group incident investigation report in connection with the C3 explosion in April. The reports, released publicly this morning by CS Energy, confirm the issues identified in the Brady report. These issues grew under Labor and they were never fixed by Labor, but we are fixing them.

As CS Energy stated in their media release this morning, the key findings of the report highlight the inadequacy of progress in embedding process safety in the organisation. The report also identified other longstanding unresolved issues including: ineffective clinker management; inherent design flaws in the control system logic which delayed the shutdown of the unit; inadequate risk control, poor planning and governance; and operator shortages and gaps in operator training. Ultimately, these reports confirm that longstanding maintenance practices and cultural issues embedded into CS Energy under the previous Labor government caused not one but two explosions at the Callide Power Station, but we are cleaning up Labor's mess.

CEO Brian Gillespie said this morning that the CS Energy board has now taken decisive action following the incident, initiating a cultural transformation with a focus on safety leadership, clearer governance, and improved risk management. He went on to say—


The findings released today have informed our ongoing work to build a safer, better CS Energy.

I thank the new board and management and the entire team at CS Energy for their endeavours so far to change culture and practice and I look forward to their continual work supporting Queensland's energy system.

Mr Speaker, forgive me for prolonging my ministerial statement this morning. However, I could not let Sir Leo Hielscher's state funeral this afternoon pass without honouring him. He counselled treasurers of all political persuasions, serving 15 of them. I was fortunate enough to benefit from the wisdom of his experience on several occasions. This distinguished giant of the Public Service was the economic architect of contemporary Queensland. His innovative funding solutions for economy-enhancing infrastructure transformed Queensland from a mostly agrarian state into a diverse, vibrant and sustainable powerhouse. He was imbued with an instinctive understanding of risk, sharp foresight and the ability to be gracious and encouraging yet tough and tenacious.

Sir Leo understood politics but never let it get in the way of what mattered: good policy that served the best interests of the Queensland people. With that sense of duty, Sir Leo embodied the very essence of the term 'public servant'. Queensland is great because of Sir Leo Hielscher. Vale, Sir Leo.

Domestic and Family Violence, Appeal of Sentence

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.44 am): The Crisafulli government is focused on addressing domestic violence, which has plagued our communities for way too long. We are acting swiftly to make major changes which will improve how domestic violence cases are handled, particularly empowering police to take strong and immediate action when called out to respond to domestic violence incidents.


Queenslanders were rightfully appalled when Roma-based constable Jamie Humphrey was viciously stabbed on duty while attending one such incident late last year. A woman had been repeatedly punched in the head and left bleeding from her injuries, soaking the pillow she lay down on. As Constable Humphrey pursued the offender, he was stabbed in the chest and he had his lung punctured. His life was only saved by his quick-thinking colleagues. He spent almost two weeks in hospital as a result of the attack, committed by Floyd Norman Daniel.

Last month Daniel pleaded guilty to malicious acts with intent, serious assault, assault occasioning bodily harm and escape from lawful custody. Daniel was sentenced in the Roma District Court to six years imprisonment with parole eligibility set for November next year. Following the hearing I received correspondence from many Queenslanders who held strong concerns about the appropriateness of the sentence, including a lengthy submission from the Queensland Police Union. We all acknowledge that the work of police can be dangerous, especially when they must intervene in domestic violence matters, but we should also expect our officers to come home safely.

Following the sentencing, I sought advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions and have weighed up all factors in this case, including the sentence handed down. I can announce that I will be exercising my power as Attorney-General to appeal this case. I believe that the sentence was manifestly inadequate, particularly given the violent nature of the offending. My thoughts are with the victims, and I thank the police for the difficult job they do each and every day.

As this matter is once again before the courts, I will not be providing any further comment aside from reiterating the Crisafulli government's steadfast commitment to addressing domestic violence and ensuring victims are once again placed at the centre of Queensland's justice system.

Hielscher, Sir Leo AC; Health System, Medical Officers

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): At the outset I associate myself with the comments of the Treasurer and extend my condolences to Sir Leo Hielscher's family. As a former treasurer, I know he was always free with his advice and it was welcome.

Queensland's 15,000 medical officers embody the values of our public health system. They are dedicated, resistant and unwavering in their commitment to delivering quality care in their communities. They include junior and senior doctors, registrars and specialists. They deliver care across emergency departments, surgical and specialist wards and other Queensland Health facilities. They work in all corners of our state. I say to the Deputy Premier: they work everywhere, man, often in challenging conditions to care for Queenslanders when they need it most and are at their most vulnerable.

I am pleased to update the House that the Queensland government has reached in-principle agreement with Together Queensland and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Queensland for a new certified agreement for Queensland Health's 15,000 medical officers. I want to thank the Together Queensland union and ASMOFQ for their collaborative engagement and their shared commitment to supporting our valued medical officer workforce.

The new agreement delivers a guaranteed eight per cent increase to wages and allowances over three years with an additional wage increase through a CPI uplift adjustment if that is triggered. The new agreement also delivers for regional and remote Queenslanders, with targeted initiatives to attract, recruit and retain doctors where they are needed most. Some of these initiatives include: a new career medical officer classification, an increased attraction and retention allowance for rural generalists, and a regional and rural attraction allowance to medical practitioners with rights of private practice. These initiatives are critical.

During Labor's decade of decline, approximately 3,400 doctors, nurses, midwives and other critical frontline workers left rural and remote Queensland. This agreement demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP government is not only healing Labor's health crisis but also delivering on its commitment to grow the health workforce by 46,000 additional health workers by 2032.

Multicultural Queensland Month

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (9.49 am): The Crisafulli LNP government values and listens to multicultural communities across Queensland and I am proud to be the Minister for Multiculturalism, particularly as we come to the end of Multicultural Queensland Month. After coming to office, our multicultural communities were excited to work with a government that listens to them and respects their cultures, religions, families and businesses. In stark contrast, those opposite took our multicultural communities for granted for the last decade. Queenslanders with immigrant backgrounds made valuable contributions to our state in business, agriculture and service delivery, just to name a few.

For Multicultural Queensland Month, our government is delivering meaningful support for cultural and community events, celebrating culture and building social cohesion. Events extended from the Far North, with the Mareeba Multicultural Festival in the electorate of Cook, down to the Luminous event in the electorate of the member for Surfers Paradise, John-Paul Langbroek. I give a special shout-out to Nick Attim and his team, who brought their community together yet again last weekend for the Townsville Indian festival, which was a roaring success.

The Premier and I kicked off Multicultural Queensland Month at the Luminous parade at South Bank, where our passionate community leaders brought people together to celebrate and welcome our newest arrivals into Queensland communities. At the Brisbane Lions Heritage Round, the Crisafulli LNP

government partnered with Multicultural Australia and the Brisbane Lions to deliver a citizenship ceremony for 44 new Queenslanders from 18 countries. At the Ekka, our multicultural stage and interactive displays in the stalls had a dedicated Australian South Sea Islander display highlighting the 25th anniversary of Australian South Sea Islander recognition.

All over Queensland, immigrant families have industriously built our state with shared values of faith, family, freedom. I love this country and I will wave the flag every day, but what I will not do is be silent when ethnic groups are singled out and named adversely in promotional materials for a march.

Mr Martin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton!

Ms SIMPSON: It is unfair to blame migrant communities for the failure of Labor governments—

Mr Martin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, you are warned.

Ms SIMPSON:—to deliver services, housing and infrastructure. After 10 years of decline under Labor there has been 10 months of delivery, with the Crisafulli LNP government committed to fixing Labor's failures, and we will continue to fix their failures. People of diverse cultural backgrounds play critical roles in workforces, particularly in regional Queensland areas. They have every right to fully participate in our economy and society. The Crisafulli government will continue to bring our communities together to harness the power of people, for everyone to work together to make Queensland the best it can be.

Mr SPEAKER: Just to be clear, member for Stretton, I hope you heard that. You are warned.

Destination 2045




Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.52 am): After 10 years of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's tourism industry. Queensland is home of the holiday, which is why our government is investing in brand new marketing campaigns to get more people visiting our incredible tourism offerings. We can do that because we have restored the funding that Labor was going to brutally cut, and there is no funny one-liner in that. Tourism accounts for one in 11 Queensland jobs. It is the lifeblood of countless regional communities and puts food on the table for thousands of Queensland homes. That is why our 20-year tourism plan, Destination 2045, is about delivering for every single corner of our state. We know that when tourism is pumping there are more people eating in cafes, staying in hotels and spending in businesses. It drives our local economies, which means a better lifestyle for Queenslanders.

Last week I launched our new drive campaign, a campaign that promotes the Pacific Coast Way—that celebrated beach- and island-studded stretch between the Gold Coast and Cairns—as the holiday highway of the nation. From the Sunshine Coast's Big Pineapple to the Golden Gumbboot in Tully, from whale watching in Hervey Bay to getting the adrenaline pumping at the Gold Coast's theme parks, Queensland is packed with big things to see and do. Taking a road trip along Australia's holiday highway is the perfect way to explore all this and so much more, as this campaign embraces the icons and experiences that make Queensland unforgettable.

The Crisafulli government is investing in thousands of mum-and-dad small tourism businesses the length and breadth of this great state, unlike those opposite. As the member for Cairns expressly stated in estimates, Queensland had a 'Labor government trying to "destroy" the tourism industry', and, sadly, he is right—a 95 per cent funding cut for the tourism division, from \$160 million in 2024-25 to just \$7.6 million in 2028-29. There was also almost a \$100 million funding cliff for TEQ, Tourism and Events Queensland. It is the Crisafulli government that has the tourism industry's back and we have ensured this industry is funded. I look forward to celebrating them when they are in the House this evening.

Finally, everyone will have seen the news yesterday about Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's engagement, and I think there is no better place in the world to get married than in Queensland! While the New Zealand Prime Minister may have made his pitch—let's face it, it is cold and cloudy and they speak funny over there—I have no doubt in my mind that Queensland is the better offer. With our incredible natural environment and our beautiful weather, Queensland has so many iconic potential wedding locations—and, better yet, they could also do a road trip along Australia's holiday highway for their honeymoon!


Natural Disasters, Recovery

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (9.56 am): The 2024-25 disaster season threw more at Queenslanders than we have ever experienced before. From the tip of the cape to the southern border, Queenslanders' resolve has been tested. Homes and businesses were overcome by flooding and cyclone damage, leaving estimated reconstruction costs in the billions. Farmers' cane crops were decimated, and hundreds of thousands of livestock were lost to floodwaters in the south, but Queenslanders are tough and the Crisafulli government will be there by their side for the long haul.

In record time we delivered almost \$1.2 billion in disaster support, working with the Commonwealth, and we will continue to deliver this support as it continues to become available. This includes just last month an additional \$77 million for North Queensland's recovery efforts, with a focus on national parks, coastlines and catchments. An additional \$191 million is being delivered for Western Queensland, including funding for infrastructure and vital connection roads. At the heart of the Crisafulli government's recovery efforts are Queenslanders—the mums and dads whose small businesses get back on their feet in the wake of a cyclone, or the farmer with a glint in his eyes at the news that his road into town will be paved for the first time in his lifetime, or the council with a spring in its step at the prospect of finally having infrastructure that will withstand future events.

For a decade we saw decline under Labor when it came to roads and infrastructure in communities hit by natural disasters. The like-for-like approach to all infrastructure simply does not cut it. We need to ensure our communities are more resilient, and in 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering an additional \$40 million in the Queensland Betterment Fund. This fund will deliver projects that build more resilient communities and infrastructure that can withstand not just the last disaster but also the next one to come. It is part of our government's \$450 million commitment over five years for the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Program. Queenslanders can rest assured that, whenever and wherever disaster strikes, the Crisafulli government will be there to support them with their recovery. It is a long road to recovery and the Crisafulli government will be there every step of the way.

Small Business, Cybersecurity Training

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.58 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the Crisafulli government has struck a partnership to deliver free cybersecurity training for small and family businesses. In a Queensland first, small business owners and their staff will be able to access free training to become cyber wardens thanks to the partnership between the Crisafulli government and the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia, COSBOA, and backed by the federal government.

Let me give members an example of why this program is so important. I recently met Fiona from a creative design small business. One of Fiona's staff members actioned what they thought was another staff member's email request to change their bank account details ahead of the next pay run. That staff member's email address had been stolen. Their pay disappeared to a criminal organisation and Fiona was left almost \$8,000 out of pocket. While the \$8,000 financial loss is one that no small and family business can afford, the stress and feeling of violation for Fiona and her staff was significant. Thankfully they now have the support they need to identify scams. I thank Fiona for being brave enough to come forward to tell her story so that others may benefit by avoiding a similar experience.

A cyber attack is reported every six minutes in this country, with small and family businesses a growing target. In fact, 43 per cent of cybercrimes target small business. It is time to fight back. The partnership between the Crisafulli government and Cyber Wardens will deliver free cybersecurity training to help small and family businesses and their staff to protect themselves and mitigate the financial risks associated with cybercrime. It will include training materials for key Queensland industries as well as weekly industry-specific cybersecurity webinars and on-demand options.

It is worth remembering how we got here. Labor botched a \$15 million deal for a company to deliver small business cyber training. That company, Cryptoloc, went broke. Small businesses were left without support and Queensland taxpayers were out of pocket by almost \$2 million. We are trying to recover that money. This sorry episode goes to the heart of mismanagement by the former Labor government and a few Labor MPs in particular. For example, why didn't the member for Bundamba, in his former role as the minister for small and family business, do the proper checks that I did? Why did the member for Springwood accept \$2,500 in donations from this company around the same time tenders closed? And why did the member for Murrumba, now opposition leader, also accept donations

and give such a glowing endorsement of the company before the contract was announced? Perhaps the biggest question is to the former Labor treasurer and member for Woodridge: why did former treasurer Cameron Dick approve an additional \$10 million in Labor's last budget a few months before the contract was announced? Today they sit there. They all failed to take responsibility not just on this issue but, as we have discovered, for many others in this House.

With Cyber Wardens, we have ended Labor's decade of decline. We are proactively targeting different industries to come on board. From next month, there will be training tailored to the construction industry, with other industries to follow. Paul Bidwell of Master Builders Queensland recently shared examples of criminals pretending to be trade small businesses sending incorrect bank accounts to clients and having significant payments disappear. This is why it is so important that we stand shoulder to shoulder with small businesses in this fight against cybercrime. After 10 years of decline from those opposite, Queensland's small and family businesses have now had 10 months of delivery from the Crisafulli government.

DVConnect



Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.03 am): This may sound unusual coming from this side of the House and, in fact, I may even shock my colleagues with the compliment I am about to pay, but I want to thank the member for Miller for having the intestinal fortitude to front the media in the wake of the BDO report that I commissioned into DVConnect and its damning findings following years of neglect by the former Labor government. He stood up when the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister for women and the shadow minister for domestic violence did not.

These leaders in the Labor Party, who had the chance to talk about what they saw during their time as ministers, could have come clean on their lack of action and how they let down victims of domestic and family violence. Instead, they decided to send out a member, albeit one who did lead the biggest decline in delivery of transport and main roads this state has seen, who had no idea about what was happening to the 24/7 crisis centre response for DV services in this state. He came out naively. What the member for Miller did not know was that the member for Waterford had, in fact, set him up, and he was speaking to the media without all the information and all the facts.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your ruling of 24 June about the content of ministerial statements and I would submit to you that this is straying from the direction contained in your ruling. The political commentary is not a discussion around government performance; it is around opinions of others.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you know my ruling. Obviously if there is context to be made that is acceptable, but the role of these statements is ministerial statements.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This goes to the heart of government performance and I will be tabling documents that expand upon that. I table the article from the ABC where the member for Miller was quoted as saying, 'This government has had a report for more than four months, which they've sat on.' He said, 'I think the government needs to stop playing petty politics with this.'

Tabled paper: Article from ABC News online, dated 13 August 2025, titled 'Former CEO of domestic violence helpline DVConnect defends service following audit' [\[1149\]](#).

The former Labor government knew there were issues with DVConnect. In fact, they were so concerned with the performance of the crisis line they even engaged a consultancy service to conduct an independent review in 2016, a report they received in March 2017, and a report that was never publicly released. I would like to table the report from 2017, a report that they sat on for eight years, a report the member for Waterford would have known all about having been the minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence when the report was ordered and still in the role when the former government received it.

Tabled paper: Document, dated March 2017, titled 'DVConnect Business Process Review—Final Report, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' [\[1150\]](#).


Why did the member for Waterford not publish this report or be open and transparent with Queenslanders? Why did she refuse to be open and honest? What else does the member for Waterford know that she is not talking about? When we come to office we expect that we may find issues with different services, different delivery—absolutely. Our obligation as ministers and as part of good

governance is to leave it in a better standard than we found it. Having just commissioned a report into DVConnect, the findings that we have uncovered show that the service is as bad as it was when the member for Waterford was charged with the oversight of the 24/7 crisis service. I ask the question of the opposition: what else does the member for Waterford know that she is not sharing? Was she involved in the negotiations with DVConnect's contracts last financial year as a cabinet minister? Did she know that the organisation neglected to inform the former government that DVConnect had lost a multimillion dollar contract to deliver 1800RESPECT services and was misleading?


Talk about playing petty politics. Here we have a former government obsessed with secrecy, ambition, protecting their mates—the member for Cairns, the member for Stafford—and failing victims. What we see from those opposite is DNA lab debacles and failures across the domestic and family violence system, including the mess that this government has had to clean up of DVConnect answering less than 50 per cent of calls. It was not a resourcing issue. The report that I tabled today speaks to the same failures that this government inherited only 10 months ago.

While I commend the work that my department and DVConnect are doing, they have a long way to go. They are only at 73 per cent. I will not stop until their call rate is up to 95 to 98 per cent, as all call centres should be. Those opposite oversaw a system that missed many phone calls. We debate legislation in this House that is about putting victims first, yet they oversaw a decline in a system that failed victims year on year and they hid it, as they continue to. Those opposite have zero interest in helping victims. The member for Waterford will go down in history as this state's worst minister for women.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.09 am): I advise the House that the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be absent for today's sitting due to illness. I advise that the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation will answer questions for the minister in question time.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT


 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.09 am), by leave, without notice: I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 September 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE


Auditor-General, Report

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.09 am): I lay upon the table of the House a report of the Queensland Audit Office titled *Annual report 2024-25*, pursuant to section 72AA of the Auditor-General Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2024-25 [[1151](#)].

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (10.10 am): I lay upon the table of the House, the Crime and Corruption Commission's covering letters and reports titled *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 138(2) Crime and Corruption Act 2001—Controlled Operations Committee—Report on activities: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025*; *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 146ZQ Crime and Corruption Act 2001—Assumed Identities—Annual Report: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025*; *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 314 Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—Assumed Identities—Annual report: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025*; and *Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, section 358*

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—Surveillance Device Warrants—Annual report: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The committee received the reports on 12 August 2025. I am tabling the reports within 14 sitting days of receipt as required.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2024-25 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Controlled Operations Committee—Report on activities from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [1152].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2024-25 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [1153].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2024-25 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities relating to criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [1154].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2024-25 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [1155].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (10.11 am): I give notice that I will move—

That the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2025, Subordinate Legislation No. 31 of 2025, tabled in the House on 20 May 2025, be disallowed.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery for question time today by international visitors and staff of the Griffith University Asia Pacific Integrity School, who are joined by the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, the former member for Sandgate. I also advise members that students from Palm Beach Currumbin State High School in the electorate of Burleigh have arrived in the gallery.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.12 am.

Wilson-Wilde, Dr L



Mr MILES (10.12 am): My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General guarantee the show cause process to remove Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde as director of Forensic Science Queensland was undertaken correctly and appropriately?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Who would have thought I would be asked a question about FSQ? It is as if all of my dreams have come true. Goodness me! The biggest failure in the justice system in Australia was overseen by those opposite when the Leader of the Opposition was sitting around the cabinet table.

Mr Crisafulli: Now I know why he's asking.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Setting up the person beside him? I was going to get there so, Premier, I thank you so much. He is sitting beside not one but two or three failed health ministers and attorneys-general who looked after FSQ. They undertook two commissions of inquiry that told them to do something and said, 'How about you invest in outsourcing?' To give credit where credit is due, over \$26 million was spent on outsourcing, and then what happened? Let me remind this House what happened. Someone over there—and it would have been the now shadow treasurer, that is right—wandered into the CBRC and said, probably in front of the now Leader of the Opposition, who has the wryest smirk on his face that I have ever seen—

Ms Boyd: Come on.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will come on, because we are talking about women who were raped having to wait over 400 days to get a rape kit analysed because of the failures of FSQ and the failures of those opposite. They spent \$19.5 million on building a demountable. That shows the priority of those opposite. What have we done after 10 years of decline?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! All the noise is coming from my right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question specifically asked the Attorney-General about the show cause process to remove Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde and the Attorney-General has not addressed that.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you have 38 seconds to respond to the question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: After 10 years of decline, what has the Crisafulli government done, especially in relation to FSQ? Within the first week we delivered. We appointed Dr Kirsty Wright to commence a report into what was going on. Why did people have to wait over 400 days for a rape kit to be analysed? Why did the people of Queensland have to spend their taxpayers money to build demountables? Seriously! The hide of those opposite to even mention FSQ in this chamber!

Wilson-Wilde, Dr L

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Attorney-General. How much was paid to Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde on her departure from Forensic Science Queensland?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I want to start by thanking the former health minister and attorney-general—the member for Waterford—who presided over the biggest failure of the justice system that Queensland has ever seen. I say for the benefit of new members, including new Labor members: I recall exactly where I was sitting in December 2021, I think—it was an interesting year, wasn't it?—when we asked the questions. I think it was the former attorney-general or the former health minister who used the words 'political scaremongering'. She said that we were politicising the victims of Queensland who were waiting for DNA testing. Seriously, the gall of it is unbelievable. However, I thank the member for Waterford for fronting up and asking about FSQ, because she refused to answer our questions when we were in opposition. We had 10 years of decline and now 10 months of delivery, and I started in the first week. We employed Dr Bruce Budowle, the renowned—

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I beg your pardon?

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am trying to take her interjection but I am not quite sure what she was on about. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is delivering for the victims of Queensland. We are doing what we said we were going to do. I stood in this House and made a ministerial statement in relation to the leadership of—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One person has the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is pretty obvious if that came from the shadow attorney-general. I keep talking about Law 101 and disclosure documents. There is a thing called confidential agreements that are made, and that is exactly what the Crisafulli government has done. That is what we have delivered and we will continue to deliver that.

I want to give a massive shout-out to Mick Fuller, a former New South Wales police commissioner, who has stepped in to try to help sort out the mess. Yesterday we met with Mick Fuller and the heads of jurisdiction about FSQ. I will continue to work hard to deliver for Queenslanders.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mrs KIRKLAND: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is supporting victims of domestic and family violence, and is the Premier aware of any approaches where this support was not provided during a decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for Rockhampton for the question. I also thank her for the work she has done in her community with The Shelter Collective. I have visited there and met some victims of domestic and family violence, and I thank the member for seeing that project through to fruition.

The member asked about domestic violence. I particularly want to hone in and associate myself with the comments of Minister Camm. The fact that we had a report into DVConnect dating back to 2017 and those opposite never did anything about it should send a shiver up the spine of everyone in

this place. The minister spoke about a call response rate of 50 per cent and the work she has done and is doing to get it higher. Behind every one of those calls was a missed opportunity for someone to get the help they need to leave. That is what is behind that number. Those opposite can hang their heads because today they know they failed to call things out, as they did with the member for Cairns.

Yesterday we saw a failure of leadership from the Leader of the Opposition. He spent the week running around talking about privatisation and running a false scare campaign. The only outsourcing that has been done has been of the member for Murrumba's leadership qualities. That is the only outsourcing we have seen. I say to the member for Murrumba that he does not need legal advice; he needs leadership advice. That is what is needed in this place.

What is happening with the member for Cairns and the failure of those opposite to call out his behaviour reminds us all of the big four crises we are dealing with in this state. When the youth crime crisis was escalating, they failed to act. When the health crisis was escalating, they failed to act. When Queenslanders were struggling under a cost-of-living crisis, they failed to act. When Queenslanders needed help to get into a home, they failed to act. We have seen that time and again.

At the election, Queenslanders sent them a message, and they have not listened. They have not listened again. Any time we are lectured by those opposite about women, domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims, LGBTQIA+, mental health, the elderly, sex workers, victims of revenge porn or victims of stalking, I will point to the member for Cairns, who remains on the frontbench. I will point to the member for Murrumba, who does not have the ticker to do something about him.

I said yesterday there was no way that one of them should be in their same position by today, but they are both there. That tells me that the next change will remove both. Someone will come into that front chair and they will do what the member for Murrumba cannot and will not do. He does not have the ticker. He does not have the discipline. He does not have the intestinal fortitude. As a result, he will not make Christmas.

Wilson-Wilde, Dr L

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Attorney-General. I table Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde's response to the show cause notice that was issued.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 July 2025, from FC Lawyers to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity, Hon. Deb Frecklington, regarding the Director of Forensic Science Queensland [1156].

Why did the justice department approve Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde's plan to address contamination at FSQ, only to backflip and stand her down a day later?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am so pleased to get a question—

An opposition member: You shouldn't be.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I do not look pleased?

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I do not have a cheesy grin on my face like you, buddy. I cannot believe—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Attorney-General has just risen to her feet.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Whilst I was sitting, I just had to take that interjection. The Minister for Housing, in all seriousness, just asked me if the shadow attorney-general is the lawyer the opposition leader is getting his advice from. I hope not! I am still waiting to see the tabled paper.

Let me say this: unlike the former government, we are not going to put our heads in the sand and let victims of rape, victims of serious sexual assaults, victims of crime or children live with their perpetrators in this state like those opposite did. Should FSQ be accountable? Yes, it should be. Should we be accountable to the people of Queensland and the victims? Absolutely. Just because we are ministers in this state does not allow us to put our head in the sand. It does not allow us to take Queensland taxpayers' money and say, 'We're going to outsource,' and then not do it, or build a building for people to sit in while the DNA debacle worsens. We are not going to order equipment and let it sit there unopened and unused and not protect victims in this great state.

Are we going to look after public servants and employees of this great state? Yes, we are. Are we going to respect their privacy? Yes, we are. Do we give proper show cause notices? Yes, we do. Do we follow the rules? Yes, we do. The other thing we will do—

An opposition member: Answer the question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I just did answer the question. I will say this: unlike the former Palaszczuk-Miles government, unlike those opposite who never stood up and were never accountable and unlike those opposite who were members of a government which created a culture in the Public Service that was so bad they commissioned their own report into themselves, this government is looking out for victims of crime. The shadow attorney-general might sit there and look shocked at that, but at the heart of what the Crisafulli government is doing is putting Queenslanders first. We will put Queenslanders first. If that means sending the DNA overseas so we can get those rape kits processed faster, you bet that is what we will do. We are keeping our community safer.

Workplace Culture

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the Deputy Premier explain to the House the importance of a positive workplace culture and having good workplace codes of conduct, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any breaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Pumicestone for the question. She is an honourable member who, while handing out how-to-vote cards, was subjected to the worst attacks that I have seen during a campaign by Ali King, the former member for Pumicestone, who now sits as an employee in the Leader of the Opposition's office. He should be ashamed that he even had the fortitude to employ her after what she did to the member for Pumicestone and her attacks on the member for Pumicestone.

Yesterday was a test of leadership for the opposition leader with respect to the member for Cairns, and he failed. The member for Cairns still sits in the shadow cabinet and, as the Premier said, the opposition leader still sits in his seat. Remember when the member for Cairns deliberately missed parliament because, as he said, he was up in Cairns in his constituency? He came into this place and said, 'My vote doesn't matter. It doesn't count anyway.' I say to the opposition leader: even the member for Cairns does not know why he is here, so just sack him. Get rid of him. He does not even know why he is here. He said that his vote does not count. It was a cop-out when the opposition leader said, 'I'm seeking legal advice,' as if it is like WorkCover, where the board of directors has fiduciary duties. No, the Leader of the Opposition is the Leader of the Opposition. He can do what he wants in relation to the member for Cairns. He should sack the member for Cairns.

I will tell the Leader of the Opposition why he does not need legal advice. He should just go to *Safety & respect—Australian Labor Party code of conduct*. Paragraph 1.2 states, 'All people are entitled to respect, equality, dignity ...' He has breached that. Sack him for that. I table that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Safety & Respect, Australian Labor Party Code of Conduct, Queensland Labor' [1157].

The other point I make is: Shannon Fentiman, the shadow minister for women, promised a big headline act on 4BC. She promised she was going to do this big interview on 4BC. She pulled the pin this morning. She dropped out of the 4BC interview. Even shadow minister Fentiman is running miles from the opposition leader.

Yesterday I tabled some really disgusting things that the member for Cairns shared on his Facebook page. I note that overnight he has blocked his Facebook posts. He has probably not deleted any of it. He has just blocked it so media cannot see. Just before he did I got another one, and I am going to table it. How is this? Michael Healy, the member for Cairns, posted, 'Had a little giggle at this,' with a laughing emoji. It says, 'Religion—just weirdos in robes making [expletive] up.' That is what he did. I table that.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 15 August 2019, from the Facebook page of the member for Cairns, Mr Michael Healy MP, depicting religious figures [1158].

That photo is religious vilification. Here is the actual photo.

Mr Crisafulli: How much more?

Mr BLEIJIE: Premier, here is the actual photo. It is of the Pope and other religious leaders—imams and rabbis—for an anti-slavery declaration. It is an anti-slavery declaration and he is using religious vilification. The member for Cairns should resign or should be sacked by the weak Labor opposition leader.

(Time expired)

Chief Health Officer, Appointment

Mr MILES: My question is to the Premier. Media reports today state that Dr Hajkowicz's 'national leadership, experience advising ministers and fronting media conferences' strengthened the panel's view that he was the best candidate for the job. Given the Premier has said that the CHO role is a public-facing role, why did the Premier's opinion outweigh the assessment of the independent merit-based selection panel?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I intend to address the question. I also intend to point out that, again, the Leader of the Opposition is refusing to address the issue in his party—the issue that is undermining his leadership. He can try all he likes. We have just had the most explosive revelation—

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

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is barely into responding to the question as asked and should be given latitude.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier does have two minutes and 36 seconds still on the clock. Premier, you have heard the question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to my fulsome answer this week. I will continue to say that I will respect the individual's privacy, but I do refer to my statement. Equally, I refer to what leadership looks like, and there is a great contrast here today. Today I am going to show what a lack of leadership looks like as I look at the member for Murrumba. The member for Murrumba now has another issue. Yesterday the member for Cairns said that he did not quite read them all and he just forwarded it. Well, here is another one. This is a separate post. Now it is on an anti-slavery declaration.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 118(b) says that an answer must be relevant to the question.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am taking a point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: I understand the Premier has an amount of time, but all of that time should be relevant to the question. That is what the standing order outlines quite clearly, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have heard the question. Round out your response to that question in the two minutes you have remaining.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Part of the question was about the way that I conducted myself and my leadership qualities. I am contrasting those to the member opposite. Yesterday, when we had one of the most disgraceful attacks—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking some clarity on your ruling. Is the Premier being asked to be relevant to the question as asked? I am just not clear because he is continuing to be irrelevant. I am not sure what the ruling was. Could you clarify for us, please, Mr Speaker?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In response to the Manager of Opposition Business, the Premier is being responsive to the question as asked, which referenced leadership qualities. He has answered the question and he is providing further information in relation to the question as asked.

Mr SPEAKER: For the sake of the House, Premier, could you just round out your response to the question before you go on to other subjects?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I refer to my response in two parts. Firstly, I am respecting the individual's privacy but I have answered fulsomely as to that decision. I must ask the Leader of the Opposition, in responding to the way that I have, in responding to my leadership qualities—I make the observation that the Leader of the Opposition is asking me about how I conduct myself as a leader. I have given a fulsome answer. I will tell members one thing: no-one would ever be able to say, 'I accidentally filled the escort with diesel. She died,' and maintain a position on my front bench. No-one would ever be able to say that and maintain a position on my front bench.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was not about anybody else. It was about whether the Premier's opinion outweighed the independent selection panel. I ask you to bring him back to an answer that is relevant to that question. You have instructed him twice now, Mr Speaker, and he continues to be irrelevant.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the Manager of Opposition Business. The Premier has answered the question. He has referenced answers that he has previously provided to this place—

Ms Grace: Sit down.

Dr ROWAN: No. There were also other parts to the question in relation to leadership qualities that he is comparing and contrasting in relation to the failure of the opposition leader to act.

Mr SPEAKER: You do need to be relevant to the question in some part of your response. Premier, you have strayed a fair way away, I would suggest.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to my earlier answer, and I ask the Leader of the Opposition: when is he going to hold his own members to the same standard?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I just called for order, member for Miller.

DVConnect

Mrs YOUNG: My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is prioritising the delivery of an improved 24/7 crisis line for victims of domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any instances where this did not occur during a decade of decline?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I know that she, along with many other members of this House, had advocated on behalf of victim-survivors who were not receiving a quality service standard. Their calls were going unanswered. Calls to services that operate in their communities were also going unanswered. We have worked hard to rectify that and we continue to.

We have been working with DVConnect in trialling a new triage system to answer more calls from victims, and it has shown great promise. Between May and June, focused and increased FTEs during peak periods have also added to them achieving a 93 per cent response rate for Womensline during the trial period. This is an amazing effort when the service is coming from an all-time low of 41.9 per cent—but we know there is more to do.

I want to go to the second part of the question and, in particular, reference what the Deputy Premier has tabled today and what was spoken about in this House last night. Last night we saw the member of Waterford, the member for Bulimba and the member for McConnel come in here and read a statement that the member for Cairns has been counselled—counselled on the Facebook post that he posted that was abhorrent, that he had shared and that he referred to but also recommended that others read and listen to. I want to contrast that with what the Deputy Premier has tabled today, which is absolutely disgraceful and distasteful.

Clearly, the member for Waterford, having not turned up for her radio interview today, does not want to front the media, does not want to front the public and does not want to answer questions about that conduct. I did a press conference out the front this morning. I have no problem in calling out the behaviour of the member for Cairns. I have no problem in calling out the behaviour from 2021 when he was an assistant minister—a leader.

The fact is that we have emerging young leaders on both sides of the House entering our parliament. The member for Sandgate is a former youth parliament member. I ask her to stand up and make the same scripted apology that her senior leadership made, particularly after she sees the document the Deputy Premier tabled. I ask the member for Cooper to stand up and read the scripted apology and endorsement of the member for Cairns like her leaders have. What you are prepared to walk past and endorse is a shameful reflection on your lack of leadership. There are young people in this House. We talk about social media and we talk about standards. The member for Cairns has demonstrated that he has none.

(Time expired)

Minister for Education and the Arts

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Premier. At the special educators conference last week the Minister for Education made lewd comments about the young female Auslan interpreter having to sign the word 'cocked'. Will the minister be held to account for his comments?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member for Mount Ommaney to authenticate the basis of that question.

Ms PUGH: I am happy to do so. The conference was recorded. The minister made reference in his speech to the conference being recorded on camera.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's question is untrue and offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. To assist you, Mr Speaker, I can provide a transcript that clearly articulates the comments made by the Minister for Education. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, describing a speech by the Education Minister [\[1159\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, could you repeat the question while we check this document out? Just repeat your question for me, please. The Premier might want to have a look at this document.

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Premier. At the special educators conference the Minister for Education made lewd comments about making the young female Auslan interpreter sign the word 'cocked'. Will the minister be held to account for his comments?

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question is untrue and offensive and I ask again for that to be withdrawn. It is untrue and offensive and I take personal offence.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I am having a lot of difficulty with this. The document that I have is not convincing me. I am going to rule the question out of order.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have twice now asked for a withdrawal for something that is untrue and offensive and to which I have taken personal offence. The words used were incorrect and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, the member has taken personal offence.

Ms PUGH: I withdraw.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms DOOLEY: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Will the Attorney detail how the Crisafulli LNP government is strengthening easier access to justice for victims of domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any approaches that weakened services for victims during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the honourable member for that very important question. Before I get into the important answer I want to acknowledge the Kingaroy state high students who are in the chamber. I know that your teachers always talk about social media and today I say to you: please, kids, watch what you put on social media because it will come back to bite you. You were not here yesterday. I am going to tell you what happened yesterday.

We heard about how the Labor member for Cairns put up a post that was abhorrent and disgraceful. It was disgusting. He did it knowing that women in this state are suffering from domestic violence. One of the comments was about filling a car full of diesel and lighting it on fire. I know you are in year 10. I do not even want to say it. It was abhorrent and disgusting. I often talk to Kingaroy state high students about leadership. Leadership is about calling it out, standing up and taking action when it is required. The Leader of the Opposition had a chance today. The member for Cairns has now just been found—

Mr Crisafulli: Another one.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—another two social media posts, Premier. He is still a senior shadow minister in the opposition. This is abhorrent. The minister should be cancelled, not just counselled. The only thing cancelled was a radio interview by the worst women's minister in Queensland. She was called by one of the local radio stations to front up about the abhorrent and misogynistic behaviour of

the member for Cairns. We even heard about more religious vilification this morning. She was going to go on the radio. It was promoted that the shadow minister for women was coming on, so tune in. Guess what? She cancelled it, just like the Leader of the Opposition cancelled any counselling of the member for Cairns. Like the Minister for Women said, where are all of the young ones sticking up for DV victims in Queensland? We had the failures of DVConnect. We had the DNA debacle.

Mr Crisafulli: It's untenable.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is untenable; I will take that interjection.

Ms Camm: It is a failure of leadership.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is an absolute failure of leadership. It is about time the member for Waterford and the member for Murrumba stood up.

Minister for Education and the Arts

Ms FARMER: My question is to the Premier. At the special educators conference last week the Minister for Education referred to occupational therapists as being a 'good source of dating' when he was at university. Will the minister be held to account for his comments? I table a transcript and audio is also available.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, describing a speech by the Education Minister [\[1159\]](#).

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The document that is going to be tabled I presume will be the document that was tabled previously. There has already been a ruling in relation to that matter and that question.

Mr SPEAKER: I think this is a different one but I cannot see it. We are trying to work this out on the fly in question time. It is not really ideal. I am going to allow this one. Premier, we have a copy here if you want to read it. I am going to allow this question.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Now we are going to do a compare and contrast. We are going to compare and contrast dating at uni against the endorsement and protection of the following: 'I accidentally filled the escort with diesel. She died'; 'I was actually thrown out of Weight Watchers for making sarcastic comments at the weekly weigh-in. As you can imagine, I accepted the decision with huge Grace, because they threw her out as well'; 'A Christian friend of mine said that sex between'—I am not going to even read the rest of that one.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you have the call.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Here is a separate one, because we heard the defence yesterday: 'Religion, just weirdos in robes making shit up.' We have people in this place of different faiths, and I am very proud that a young Muslim woman—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I think we can do a little better than this.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am very proud to sit in a parliament where—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I just brought the House back to order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have addressed that. I am very proud to sit in a parliament where we can have people of different faith, where a young Muslim woman can be elected into a parliament. I am very proud of that. That is a good thing and it should be celebrated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The member for Murrumba can giggle, he can yell out, he can do all sorts of things, or he can turn around and say something to the member for Cairns, because those questions do not justify the position on the front bench.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about the intentions of the Premier in relation to holding his minister to account—

Dr ROWAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker—

Mr de BRENNI: Hang on a second.

Mr SPEAKER: He has not finished the point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Miles: Sit down.

Mr SPEAKER: I will look after the House. Who is shouting instructions there?

Mr de BRENNI: I seek a relevant answer to the question in accordance with standing orders.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier has answered the question. With respect to the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order, it is not an opportunity to re prosecute the case. If he wants to rise under relevance he can rise under relevance, but it is not an opportunity as well.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have a minute left to round out your response.

Mr CRISAFULLI: As I said in the first three seconds of my answer, we are comparing and contrasting—

Ms Grace: Oh, different standards now.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the injection from the member for McConnel—always overreaching. I refer to my answer in the first few seconds and I am going to make a comment. There is a reason we were at the special educators conference, because we back special education. In this state, for the first time in a generation we have a government that has a vision for six new special schools.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I think the Premier was being relevant to the question. He is talking about education, as far as I can hear in amongst the noise.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I back special schools because it is about dignity.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am going to take the interjection from the member for McConnel. I back special education because it matters. It is about dignity. It is about the ability to help people who are in need. It is about choice. Those opposite ran a grubby campaign about education, and they do not like that we locked in the single biggest funding deal in the history of education, across partisan lines. They do not like that we back special education and they do not like that our record is in stark contrast to theirs.

(Time expired)

DVConnect

Mrs POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism. Can the minister explain how the Crisafulli LNP government is supporting women across Queensland with easier access to domestic and family violence support services, and is the minister aware of examples where Queensland women were failed during a decade of decline?

Ms SIMPSON: I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question and acknowledge her efforts over three decades as a police officer supporting and protecting women in Queensland. The shadow minister for women—the worst ever women's minister when she had her chance—happily picks up her phone to make social media videos and scrolls through her phone during estimates, even when she is the one asking the question, but when desperate Queensland women who are victims of domestic violence called DVConnect there was no-one at the other end of their phone. Thanks to the Labor Party and the former minister for women, the member for Waterford, Queensland women who were crying out for support were left to wait in fear as their calls for help went unanswered.

The member for Cairns also cannot stay off his phone, reposting Facebook videos and saying things such as 'great one liners' and 'I accidentally filled the escort with diesel. She died.' That is utterly disgusting to every woman and decent man in the state. The fact that the member for Cairns is back here today, with his own side backing him and supporting him, and that he avoided the sack just shows how out of touch Labor is with Queensland women and their best interests.

Here is a case in point. The former Labor government completed their own review of DVConnect and they received that report, as we heard from Minister Camm, in 2017 but they never released it. Who was the minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence when the former Labor government received this report? Oh, yes, it was the member for Waterford, Labor's current shadow minister for women. Talk about rank hypocrisy! The member for Waterford had seven years to table this report and she did not. Instead, she left DVConnect in such a state that the Crisafulli government had to intervene in December, call our own review and be open and transparent with Queenslanders.

At its worst, DVConnect was picking up the phone 41.9 per cent of the time in October 2024. As a result of the LNP government's review in December this year, the service is starting to turn around, with data showing the Womensline response rate is at 73 per cent following intervention. However, as we acknowledge, it has to be better. We want it to be better, and that is what we are working to increase. I thank the frontline workers of DVConnect for their tireless work in difficult circumstances. Following the release of this review, we will continue to make sure that we address the issues of Labor's legacy of 10 years of failure. Labor had a decade of decline but their misogyny has not been called out. I refer to the member for Cairns also for his antireligious posts.

Thompson, Mr T

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Water. The city of Townsville continues to live in limbo with the suspension of mayor Troy Thompson hanging as a dark cloud over the city. Will the minister advise what actions the government will take if the CCC report is not finalised by the time the mayor's suspension is due to end in November to give the city certainty?

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Ms LEAHY: I thank the member for the question.

Mr Mickelberg: Is that the first question you've got on local government?

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member. I am very pleased to get the question from the member for Hinchinbrook because it is actually the first question I have had on local government. I say to members opposite that it has been 10 months and I have not—

Government members interjected.

Mr Mickelberg: The shadow's too busy with the CCC.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am not going to be able to hear the minister's response. All the noise is coming from my right. I am sure those on my right want to hear the minister speak.

Ms LEAHY: I know that the member for Hinchinbrook is a very strong advocate for his community and cares deeply. I know that particularly Townsville is also very important to the recovery of his community. It suffered through the disasters earlier this year. We promised to deliver for the people of Townsville a fresh start. That was achieved with the mayor's suspension. We did that within 22 days of coming to government, unlike those opposite who took 200 days to do anything. For 200 days they sat there and did nothing, and only when the election was coming close did they decide that they might have to do something in relation to Townsville. I might also add that Mr Thompson is suspended at present and is a private citizen with no authority over the running of the Townsville City Council.

The department has also appointed a statutory adviser to the Townsville City Council. That adviser has given significant advice to the council in relation to governance and support, and I am pleased to report the department has advised me that the number of complaints have significantly reduced in relation to the Townsville City Council since that adviser has been in place.

The Premier has made it clear that Mr Thompson's position was untenable, and we acted swiftly to suspend Mr Thompson after Townsville residents were waiting 200 days under the former government. This enabled the council to get on with the job of delivering for the people of Townsville. I am glad to say the Townsville City Council is getting on with that job.

I am very pleased to advise as well that we are supporting the Townsville City Council. We have made the Works for Queensland Program a permanent program. The Townsville City Council is a significant beneficiary of the Works for Queensland Program.

Mr Thompson's suspension demonstrates how the Crisafulli government is enabling councils to deliver for their communities, and we want them to continue to deliver for their communities because we work in a partnership with councils. That is why we have our Equal Partners in Government agreement. Our approach is a far cry from how the Labor government dealt with councils.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is putting victims first, particularly in relation to domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any approaches where victims were neglected during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Townsville for his question and for his advocacy for putting the rights of victims first. Our government is determined to ensure that victims are no longer treated as an afterthought. In our very first budget after just 10 months in government, after 10 years of decline under Labor, 10 years of a failure to deliver for victims, we are delivering a professional victims' advocacy service, we are delivering a statewide rollout of community response for victims of crime, and we have almost doubled the support through Victim Assist Queensland.

The member asked for alternative approaches where victims have been failed. Just this morning, the minister tabled a report from DVConnect that unveiled that the former minister and the failed shadow minister for women hid this report from Queenslanders for almost eight years, a report that unveiled the failings of DVConnect for victims. But this should come as no surprise because the former minister not only hid that report but also she hid this morning. She was meant to turn up on 4BC radio, meant to front Queenslanders and answer questions, presumably in relation to her support for the member for Cairns, and she hid from that, too.

This should come as no surprise because this is the culture in the Labor Party. The Labor Party protected the member for Stafford. They protected him when there were allegations of domestic and family violence. They now protect the member for Cairns when he has made abhorrent comments, making light of rape, making light of sexual assault, making light of murder, and what do they say? They say he has been counselled. He has been counselled—not cancelled. This is a test of leadership. Just this morning, further posts have been revealed. Just this morning, a pattern of conduct has been uncovered. Does he still sit on their frontbench? Yes, he does. This is a test of leadership for the member for Murrumba, and he has failed this test.

Yesterday, three of Labor's most senior MPs lined up to defend the indefensible. The member for Waterford stood up and said he has been counselled by the Leader of the Opposition. The member for Bulimba stood up and said the Leader of the Opposition has been counselling him, and then the member for McConnel stood up and said the member has been provided counsel. Counsel! Where are the consequences? Where are the consequences for that abhorrent behaviour? There are none. Like I said yesterday, one of those two members should not be here today. Either the member for Cairns should be gone or the member for Murrumba should be gone. It is a test of leadership. One of those two must go!

Victims of Crime

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Premier. The Chief Executive of the Cairns HHS said approval for a private helicopter carrying the member for Cook to land at the Cow Bay Primary Health Centre was not sought nor given. Are private helicopters allowed to land at the helipad at the Gladstone Hospital without approval?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. I refer the honourable member to the fulsome answer given by the member for Cook. He gave a fulsome answer both in person and on his Facebook page. I refer the member to that. I also refer the member to what we are doing in the space of making sure that there is ability to access health services. I focus on the fact that that has been an underinvestment over many years—

Mr Nicholls: \$15 million in Cow Bay.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Indeed, it is. I take the interjection from the health minister. We will continue to do that. The honourable member has furnished this parliament with that, and that is an explanation that he can speak directly to.

I also want to raise something briefly whilst on my feet. I was asked previously about the education minister's comments. What those opposite have not said is they were shopping this around and it got shot down by the organisers. Here is a question that was put to the organisers: 'Did the interpreter take offence to a joke Mr Langbroek made?' The answer: 'I asked the question of all the interpreters. They told me no offence was taken at all.'

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will take the point of order in silence.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about whether private helicopters are allowed to land. I believe that the member for Cook has not addressed that in previous responses, so I ask you to draw the Premier back to a relevant answer to the question under the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the Premier has answered that part of the question and references comments that the member for Cook made earlier. Premier, do you have anything more to add to that?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will touch on a couple of other things about Cow Bay. To those opposite, if they wish me to not answer questions within the first 15 seconds, I can drag them out and then 'do them slowly', in the words of Keating, at the end. To continue, here is another one: 'Was the organiser satisfied by the address the Minister for Education made?' 'The minister's address was very well received as it showed his commitment to special education and also gave a sense of being connected with the audience.'

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you the Premier is abusing the standing orders. If he wishes to make a ministerial statement, he can do that at another time. The standing orders are very clear about answers to questions: they have to be relevant to the question. He has deliberately strayed from that. He can do that in another time if it suits him.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a fair point of order. Unless you have something in response to do with the question asked—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Finally, the government has officially opened the \$14.8 million Cow Bay Primary Health Centre.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mr McDONALD: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Will the minister detail how the Crisafulli LNP government is supporting our hardworking police in responding to the scourge of domestic and family violence, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to do so during a decade of decline?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the honourable member for the question. He is a former police officer, a former officer in charge in a leadership position in Gatton and Laidley, and someone who held senior positions across South-East Queensland and regional Queensland. One of the reasons we are good mates is that we are both committed to and passionate about community safety, particularly the protection of vulnerable women and children in our community from domestic violence. We have spent a lot of time talking about domestic violence. We have spoken about how those opposite failed to listen to the experts—particularly frontline police, who are responding to over 200,000 of these calls every year.

I was honoured this morning to stand with Assistant Commissioner Katherine Innes, who is in charge of the DV command, the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Clarke family and other victim-survivors and advocates who welcome the long-overdue reforms we are making so that our police can better protect victims of domestic and family violence, to make sure they get to more victims sooner.

Under those opposite we saw calls for service escalate over 20 per cent year on year. From 2014 to 2024, calls increased by 218 per cent. It is unacceptable that in police districts like Logan there can be 200 unanswered calls for service. We know that we need to give our police the laws and the resources they need to do their job. It is not just about the laws and the resources; it is about the culture. For a long time—the whole time I have been in this place—those opposite, including the member for Waterford, have spoken about it. You can go back through *Hansard* and see that they talked about how the community needed to lean in and change the culture in relation to domestic violence, particularly in respect of men's violence and the power imbalance men have over women.

This morning I found some quotes from 2021 from the member for Waterford. She said, 'Violence against women is an epidemic that has impacted the lives of too many women in Queensland,' and said how proud she was that they—the now opposition—'have led the way in tackling violence against women'. We know that police cannot arrest their way out of this. It is about culture; it is about leadership. The member for Lockyer, a former OIC, taught his junior police officers. The Queensland police are now doing leadership training with every senior leader on the front line. Sergeants, senior sergeants and inspectors are now doing a week of leadership training to make sure they impart that cultural change.

Mrs Frecklington: Should we send the Leader of the Opposition?


Mr PURDIE: Exactly right. It is about leadership. Our police are on the front line every day. This is not just about the statistics because behind every statistic is a terrified victim. Our police are seeing horrific incidents like I did when I arrested Wayne Edward McClutchy for murdering his wife, putting her in the boot of the car and setting it on fire. That is why I am outraged not only with what the member for Cairns shared and disseminated on Facebook but also by those members opposite running a protection racket and yelling at us for raising it. Every single one of you is running a protection racket to support him. It is outrageous.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Unparliamentary Language

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, there was a paper tabled by the Deputy Premier which contained some unparliamentary language so the document will need to be replaced with a redacted document. Also, Premier, you earlier read from that document and used some unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw that.


Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I withdraw.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 27 August (see p. 2554), on motion of Ms Camm—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (11.13 am): It has been well canvassed in the parliament that domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland. It is an issue that can reach far beyond the walls of the home, leaving deep scars across generations and embedding cycles of disadvantage, trauma and fear. As we have heard many times from the Premier, the standard that you walk past is the standard that you accept. I would like to table a social media post from the education minister which says, 'LOL OMG WTF bend over, we provide KY Jelly to ease the pain'.

When it comes to standards of misogyny, what we see over and over again are the double standards of those who are in the government. The Premier, the Deputy Premier and ministers are all guilty of creating these double standards. The Minister for Education, according to transcripts, made what you can only describe as lewd remarks to a young Auslan interpreter—he said those things. On top of that, he has referred to occupational therapists as people who were 'good for dating' when he was at university. These are the standards he is setting as a member of the government. He said those words just last week. Then we see this social media post that is, quite frankly, a little bit disturbing, I have to say.

If the Premier is fair dinkum about holding certain standards and holding his ministers to account, he should be looking very deeply at his Minister for Education and the standard that he has set. Are they going to walk past that? Are there any consequences? Is anybody outraged about that? They do not seem to be. They seem to be quite accepting of those kinds of comments. Let's face it: the Minister for Education, the member for Surfers Paradise, has form in this space.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are debating the contents of the bill, not matters that occurred in question time that has just passed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Is the point of order relevance?

Mr NICHOLLS: It is about relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice. Member for Algeria, I have been listening very carefully to what you have been saying and I would caution you to come back to the bill, because I feel that you have strayed from relevance in some parts of your address so far. Please bring your comments back to the bill.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. In my early 20s I experienced domestic and family violence at the hands of my then boyfriend, an experience that saw me hospitalised. It was a horrible, terrifying ordeal that stayed with me for many years. As a young Aboriginal woman, that experience was not just a personal horror; it was part of a much bigger statistical picture, a picture that tells us that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women face disproportionately high rates of domestic and family violence compared to our non-Indigenous sisters. The statistics are shocking. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are more than 33 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence than non-Indigenous women. In remote and very remote communities, the risks are even higher. Compounding this, many Indigenous families live with the fear that if they reach out for help they risk having their children removed. That fear silences voices, it prevents women and families from accessing the protection and support they so desperately need, and it perpetrates cycles of violence.

Behind every statistic, of course, is a human story—people who deserve safety, dignity and respect. These stories are not abstract; they are real and they demand that this House listen and act. Reforms that work towards ending domestic and family violence in Queensland are, of course, welcomed. Reforms that back our frontline police, reduce their workload and allow them to better respond to domestic and family violence in Queensland are also welcomed. Ultimately, however, reforms must be backed by evidence and must prioritise the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. Through consultation, the committee process and the estimates process, we heard from the domestic and family violence sector and victim-survivors that elements of this bill have the potential to negatively impact victim-survivor safety including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, who, as I have already indicated, are grossly over-represented in this space.

I have spoken with many stakeholders representing the sector who have raised particular concerns regarding the introduction of police protection directions, otherwise known as PPDs. I share these concerns and I note that the introduction of PPDs through this bill may have the potential to increase the risk and consequences of misidentification of the person most in need of protection, leaving victim-survivors without protection and putting them at risk of further harm. It may have the potential to create unintended consequences due to the removal of court oversight and may misrepresent the data surrounding victims of domestic and family violence.

While these changes aim to give police greater authority to immediately protect victim-survivors, they may have the opposite effect. Of course, I want to acknowledge the incredibly challenging and important work of officers who respond to domestic and family violence call-outs every day and at increasing rates. These situations are often extremely challenging and often confronting for police and for the individuals and families involved. My brother is a police officer and of course I meet regularly with police officers in my own electorate of Algeester and they report that these offences account for a significant and increasing proportion of their workloads and that they are growing in complexity. However, I share the sector's concerns that PPDs may increase the risk for victims and that the possible impact of misidentification of the person most in need of protection could have ramifications for all involved.

Further to this, the interconnected nature of domestic and family violence and systemic disadvantage means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are, as we have already made clear, overrepresented in this space may be disadvantaged further due to potential misidentification as part of this legislation. Too often Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are wrongly labelled as aggressors when in reality they are acting in self-defence or are themselves living under the weight of coercive control. I heard from stakeholders and from victim-survivors that this is not a rare occurrence. Unfortunately, this is often driven by multiple factors: a lack of cultural competence within the system, inadequate understanding of the complex dynamics of family and kinship structures in First Nations communities, and entrenched systemic biases that see defensive violence punished instead of understood.

Women who are misidentified can find themselves criminalised, have their children removed, be denied access to critical services and left even more vulnerable to further and, unfortunately, often more extreme violence. Women's Legal Service raised this during the committee process stating—

... misidentification often happens due to a lack of information and a need to respond in the moment. ... that will be crystallised even more when that response in the moment then becomes a 12-month order.

Misidentified victim-survivors may be subject to criminalisation, housing instability and homelessness, loss of employment, custody issues and access to children. They may face social stigma and isolation. In cases where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are involved, police

may unintentionally misinterpret cultural and family dynamics, particularly as some living arrangements or kinship practices are misunderstood, in such a way that would affect police assessments of who the primary aggressor is. If PPDs incorrectly identify the aggressor, children may be named as protected persons against the wrong parent, further undermining protective relationships and leading to harmful interventions such as unnecessary child removal, further worsening targets under the Closing the Gap agreement.

There are a number of concerns and obviously this is where court oversight is really important. As it currently stands, the process for issuing a permanent protection direction in the form of a domestic violence order requires court oversight. This oversight by the court allows fulsome consideration of the conditions of a protection order and the views of victim-survivors and it provides the opportunity for legal advice and referrals to support services. The process of going to court is important. It is important because court orders have certain information-sharing provisions. This includes information about court orders involving First Nations community members under the Family Responsibilities Commission. Without court oversight, there is a likelihood that victim-survivors lack access to culturally safe support services, meaning fewer opportunities to intervene early and prevent further unintended consequences.

I absolutely support the shadow minister's amendments. We want to make sure there are protections in place for victim-survivors in particular considering the very complex issues that I have just raised.

Before I finish, earlier I tabled a document with regard to the member for Surfers Paradise's social media post. I am aware that that might not be a fulsome and complete version and so I will need to table its full version. What I have now tabled reflects the full pretty grim story that we have seen from the member for Surfers Paradise and the double standards that seem to be absolutely running amok in the LNP and in this government. I support the shadow minister's amendments to ensure the protections are in place.

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


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before you take your seat, member for Algeester, in relation to the document you just tabled, can you provide assurance to the House that it is relevant to the debate before the House?

Ms ENOCH: Because I had opened and tabled it, I wanted to make sure it is a full and proper version. It is relevant. We are talking about domestic and family violence and the treatment of women.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is okay. You do not need to say anything else. I just wanted to seek your assurance on that point. Member for Clayfield, did you have a point of order?

Mr NICHOLLS: My point of order was to relevance. The member was referring to a piece of paper she has tabled regarding the member for Surfers Paradise, which was external to the debate on this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I quickly sought advice from the Clerk on that point because I saw what was happening with the member for Algeester tabling a subsequent document. We will move on.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (11.25 am): I rise today to reflect on a series of reforms designed to support the Queensland Police Service and, most importantly, to better serve victims of domestic and family violence throughout our state. Under the previous government many victims were forced to wait hours, sometimes days, for help to arrive. This is simply unacceptable. The Crisafulli government is determined to change this. We are taking decisive action, starting with this bill, to restore safety to our communities and support victim-survivors at every turn.

The officer in charge of one of the busiest police stations in my electorate of Mulgrave has informed me that his area is among those with the highest rates of domestic violence incidents in Queensland; 90 per cent of his station's workload is related to domestic violence. The former Labor government failed to act on repeated recommendations during their decade of power, resulting in the number of domestic and family violence victims skyrocketing across Queensland. In fact, between 2012 and 2024 the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased from 60,000 to more than 192,000, an increase of 218 per cent, with many victims left waiting hours or days for help. The data reveals it takes on average 4.6 hours for an officer to respond to each incident, exacerbated by the evolving and complex nature of domestic and family violence. However, it is important to remember that this issue is not solely about statistics or data trends. Behind every number is a real person, someone who could be our neighbour, our friend or even a member of our own family.

The definition of 'domestic violence' is any behaviour that is violent, threatening, controlling or intended to make you or your family feel scared or unsafe. Most disturbingly, it is an activity that is all too familiar within the communities where we live. Firstly, we are ensuring frontline police have the tools they need to act swiftly. Police protection directions, or PPDs, will give police the power to provide immediate 12-month protection to victims. These PPDs can include a range of conditions both standard, such as requiring good behaviour and prohibiting domestic violence, and non-standard, such as no contact or ouster orders. Before issuing a PPD, a police officer must seek approval from a supervising officer of appropriate rank, ensuring oversight and careful consideration. PPDs will be provided only after police have properly investigated the allegations and deemed it necessary to protect the aggrieved person. The safety, protection and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults are of the utmost importance in every decision.

Strict safeguards will be in place. For example, PPDs must not be issued where either party is a child or a police officer or where a DVO is already in place. These exclusions ensure fairness and protect the integrity of the process. Importantly, these measures help prevent misidentification and ensure support goes to the most in need. I understand that the opposition has foreshadowed an amendment to the bill as proposed. For accountability, the bill creates two pathways for reviewing a PPD—a police review and a court review. Individuals affected by a PPD may apply for a police review within 28 days or seek a court review at any time during the 12 months the PPD is in force. These processes provide important checks and balances, protecting both the aggrieved and the respondent, and I believe will satisfy or remedy the oversight concerns of the opposition. Should the court set aside a PPD, it will be as though the direction was never issued. This is justice in action—fair, responsive and balanced.


We recognise that court processes can be traumatic for victim-survivors. That is why the bill expands the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief, VREC, across all magistrates courts. This allows adult complainants to provide their main evidence by video statement, reducing the stress of appearing in court and reliving traumatic events. We are also streamlining the process—allowing statements to be taken when the victim is ready, permitting multiple recordings and simplifying the language around 'truthful' and 'consent'. These changes put victims' needs at the centre of the process.

I now want to highlight one of the most innovative aspects of the bill—the GPS electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. We are delivering on our election commitment to pilot GPS-based monitoring, ensuring courts can impose electronic monitoring conditions on high-risk offenders. This means, for example, that where a respondent is subject to an ouster condition—prohibited from approaching a specific residence—the monitoring device can alert authorities if they come too close. The court will only impose such monitoring if it is deemed necessary or desirable for protection. The pilot will begin with 150 devices available to select courts. Victim-survivors will even have the option to carry their own GPS enabled safety device, adding another layer of protection. These measures are not permanent; they are subject to review after two years, ensuring we assess what works before further expansion.

It is our solemn duty to protect victims of domestic violence and we must hold perpetrators of these heinous acts to account, which is why we are embarking on this significant reform. The minister has advised that this is the first tranche of reforms and it is about giving victim-survivors immediate protections against offenders, stopping the retraumatisation of victims and helping our hardworking police get to more offences to protect some of the state's most vulnerable people. This is just the start. The Crisafulli government is committed to the better protection of domestic and family violence victims and holding perpetrators to account. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services continues to tell us that the scourge of domestic violence is placing significant strain on our frontline police resources and impacting officers' ability to address the growing number of calls for help. Quite simply, our victims deserve better and the Crisafulli government is committed to bringing in significant reform to fix this broken system.

As we move forward these reforms, it is essential to acknowledge not only the policy changes but also the profound impact they will have on the lives of Queenslanders facing domestic and family violence. By empowering police with immediate tools and enhanced legal frameworks, we are taking meaningful steps to ensure victims are protected sooner and perpetrators are tracked and held responsible. These initiatives mark a pivotal shift from reactive measures to proactive protection, reinforcing our responsibility as legislators to build a safer environment for Queenslanders. With continued commitment, collaboration and vigilance, we can break the cycle of violence and restore hope to those who have suffered in silence for far too long.

These reforms are just the beginning. We are determined to unravel Labor's neglect over the past decade and rebuild a system that truly puts victims first. By empowering police, holding perpetrators to account, harnessing technology and supporting victim-survivors at every step of the way, we are creating a safer Queensland for everyone. Together we must continue to strive for a community where no-one lives in fear and where every Queenslander knows that help is there when it is needed most. The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is an important part of that journey. I support this bill.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.35 am): Domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland. It is a scourge in our local communities, our state and our nation. There is simply no place for it, and that is the position of the opposition. Our commitment is clear: we will support any reforms that are evidence-based, that protect victim-survivors and that strengthen our justice and support systems. Unfortunately, some aspects of this bill as currently drafted fail that test. The centrepiece of this bill is the introduction of police protection directions, PPDs. The government has promised to listen to the experts and it promised to put victim-survivors first, yet the introduction of PPDs breaks both of those promises. The evidence from the sector is crystal clear. PPDs, as drafted, are unsafe. QCOSS, the peak organisation for the sector, strongly opposes them. In its words—

... PPDs ... are an efficiency measure that does not prioritize the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors.

This is not a minor concern; this is a fundamental flaw. The Women's Legal Service Queensland echoed this, warning that misidentification—which is already a deeply entrenched problem within the system—will only get worse under this framework. It said—

... misidentification often happens due to a lack of information and a need to respond in the moment ... that will be crystallised even more when that response in the moment then becomes a 12-month order.

Queensland has made progress in addressing misidentification, but we still have a long way to go. Data revealed through question on notice 490 this year shows that 31.1 per cent of respondents to domestic and family violence matters are women.

Ms Camm: That's not correct.

Ms PEASE: Let us compare that to the Queensland Police Union benchmark of 7.8 per cent.

Ms Camm interjected.

Ms PEASE: I take that interjection from the minister, because it was actually in the response to question on notice 490. Thank you very much for that, but you provided that information, so thank you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: This is not evidence of equality; it is evidence of systemic failure. Misidentification is not just a bureaucratic error; the consequences are devastating. Misidentified victim-survivors can lose access to housing, employment and custody of their children. They can be criminalised, stigmatised and socially isolated. Most tragically, they can be left without the protections they desperately need and exposed to further violence—violence which in too many cases has proved fatal. QCOSS made this point starkly during the committee process—

... the consequences of misidentification can be severe and potentially fatal.

Further submissions told the committee in June—

Under this bill, victim-survivors must navigate a more complex and less transparent system with fewer safeguards and reduced oversight. Those misidentified as the offender will bear the burden of correcting the error, often without access to legal support, all while continuing to face violence that they may now feel is emboldened by the system.

A further warning was—

It is well established that police misidentify victim-survivors as perpetrators at an unacceptable level in Queensland.

Another core flaw is the removal of court oversight. Currently police protection notices must be brought before a court within 14 days. That judicial check and balance is a vital safeguard. This bill strips that away, allowing police to issue a 12-month direction without any automatic court involvement. Submissions from the legal sector, including the Queensland Law Society, warned of the dangers. They told the committee the consequences of being inappropriately named as a respondent to a police protection direction will be dire. This is not a hypothetical risk. In Tasmania, where a similar system exists, police issued directions have been made at three times the rate of court orders, with a doubling of the applications to revoke. That experience should serve as a flashing red light for Queensland, yet this government is ignoring it.

The voices of those on the front line could not have been clearer. The majority of the submissions to the committee opposed PPDs or raised significant concerns. Legal Aid Queensland, Sisters Inside, DVConnect, the Red Rose Foundation, QCOSS and many others all said the same thing: these reforms risk putting victim-survivors in greater danger. The answer cannot be to pass the burden on to victim-survivors by stripping away safeguards and court oversight.

The opposition has always supported evidence-based reforms to ease the pressure on police. That is why in government we introduced a significant suite of reforms through the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2004. The reforms had wideranging support across the DFV sector. The difference is that those reforms put safety first. This bill does not.

The bill also includes provisions for electronic monitoring pilots and the expanded VREC framework. While there is some support for these measures, submissions again highlighted significant concerns. Victim advocates warned that electronic monitoring may create a false sense of security, particularly in regional areas with patchy coverage. Others raised the danger that victim-survivors may become reliant on technology that cannot guarantee their safety. The committee also heard that victims have expressed that they have concerns about the technology and what this means for their safety planning, particularly around a false sense of security and the dangers that might arise from that. While the VREC framework expansion statewide is welcomed in principle, many stakeholders stressed the need for proper training, accessible information and adequate resources. Without these the reforms risk becoming another hollow promise.

Today in the gallery I welcome students from Wynnum State High School who are active participants in the work that we do locally against domestic and family violence and are regular attendees at my candlelight vigil at Pandanus Beach. I thank them for their participation in that which highlights the importance of making sure that everyone has the right to feel safe and secure in their own homes.

This bill was an opportunity to strengthen Queensland's response to domestic and family violence. Instead, it is a missed opportunity. By prioritising administrative efficiency over safety, the government has put victims at risk. The opposition cannot support reforms that experts across the DFV sector say will increase misidentification, remove essential safeguards and potentially place lives in danger. We urge the government to go back to the drawing board, to listen to the experts and put victim-survivors back at the centre of this system. At the end of the day this is not about political pointscoreing, it is about protecting lives. On that test, this bill fails. Let us not forget that the vast majority of domestic and family violence is perpetrated against women.



Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Redlands, we also welcome to the gallery students from Emmaus College in the electorate of Logan, a college that I have had a long association with as the member for Scenic Rim and Beaudesert. I would like to welcome them to Parliament House.



Mrs YOUNG (Redlands—LNP) (11.45 am): Today I rise to speak not only as the local member for Redlands but also as a mother, a wife, daughter and friend who is deeply committed to ensuring our community is safe, supported and resilient. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli government delivering reforms that put victims and their families first for the first time in a long time. The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a significant step forward for Queensland and for Redlands. It introduces practical, targeted reforms designed to protect survivors, support families and give our frontline police officers the tools they need to protect the most vulnerable.

The bill establishes a framework for police protection directions, allowing officers to provide immediate protection to victims without having to wait for court proceedings. That means someone in Redlands facing danger can be protected instantly and police can act swiftly without unnecessary delays. We are also introducing an electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk DFV perpetrators. GPS devices will operate 24/7, with alerts monitored to keep victims safe. Victims and named persons will also have access to safety devices, providing both reassurance and real protection.

I want to acknowledge the feedback I have received directly from survivors in Redlands. One victim told me that court-imposed monitoring is the right step forward because it will make it easier to prosecute breaches rather than relying on impossible evidence like CCTV footage. That feedback is powerful. This bill delivers balance: it provides immediate safeguards, equips police with stronger tools and ensures victims and families have a louder, stronger voice in the system. It is legislation that turns concern into action and uncertainty into protection. For survivors it means safety they can see, feel and rely upon.

Another key reform is the expansion of the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework across all magistrates courts in Queensland. This reduces the need for victims to repeatedly recount traumatic experiences in court, improving their wellbeing and strengthening prosecutions. A survivor from Redlands told me in respect to adult victim-survivors, 'VREC would definitely help simplify and speed up the process of giving a statement.' In her situation, the statement provided was over 20 pages long and took several weeks to collate, including reviewing for accuracy and reliving the domestic violence events that took place over 20 years. She went on to share that despite the support of the police officers involved it was still one of the most difficult processes that she has ever been through. Being able to provide the statement via video would have been helpful and could also help with humanising victim-survivors through the court process.


These reforms will change lives. I have seen it firsthand in Redlands. I have met with organisations like Maybanke who support women and children fleeing violence every single day. I have also met Liz, a dedicated domestic and family violence support worker at the Cleveland Police Station. For many victims Liz is the first person to listen, to believe them and walk with them through safety and recovery.

With police being able to use tools like PPDs and electronic monitoring, and with support workers like Liz standing beside victims, we are ensuring help arrives sooner and stronger protections are in place when they are needed most. Our government has invested \$24 million to place more domestic and family violence support workers, just like Liz, in police stations across Queensland. Beyond DV hope hubs have also been expanded, offering three new recovery centres where victims can rebuild their lives safely.

This is about people. It is about victims and ensuring they are put first. It is about making sure that victims and their loved ones are protected immediately and that perpetrators feel real consequences. The reforms we are delivering now—police protection directions, GPS monitoring, VREC expansion—build on the landmark coercive control laws passed earlier this year. They are a continuation of our commitment to keep victims safe and provide meaningful support.

Survivors have reminded us of something else: while this bill rightly strengthens protections and provides a faster response, our ultimate goal must be prevention. Real safety comes not only from responding quickly to violence but also from reducing its occurrence in the first place. The challenge before us is to build stronger communities, educate our young people, hold perpetrators accountable early and provide every Queenslanders with the opportunity to thrive in a life free from violence. That is work we will do and I will continue to drive forward.

Today, I thank all of the advocates, service providers and community members in Redlands who speak up, stand up and work tirelessly to end domestic violence. I also thank the minister, Amanda Camm, and her team for the work they have done to bring forward this important legislation. Their courage inspires these reforms and their strength ensures they are implemented in a way that truly serves the people who need them most. Together, we will continue to deliver communities where families are safe, survivors are supported and every child and adult can thrive without fear.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.50 am): I rise to speak to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and, in particular, to support the opposition amendments that were introduced in this place during the second reading. They are really important and considered amendments that speak to the reservations that stakeholders and experts voiced through the committee process.

The committee process heard that in 2023-24 the Queensland Police Service responded to 192,287 domestic and family violence occurrences, with some police stating that domestic and family violence made up 90 per cent of their workload. Of course, that volume creates pressures for Queensland police and I absolutely acknowledge that. I also acknowledge that the police are not the only service agency through the system. There is considerable pressure throughout the entire ecosystem. Another point that I want to be really clear on is encouraging Queenslanders to speak out and to seek assistance if they find themselves in domestic and family violence situations. While we are absolutely united on the fact that we would like to see fewer victims of domestic and family violence, we do not want to see people suffering in silence simply so that statistics can look better.

At the heart of one person's workload pressure is a victim-survivor, and that needs to be the primary consideration of all reforms. It is not just the opposition saying this; it is experts right through the sector. It should be alarming to all of us in this place that so many victim-survivors and their advocacy agencies have spoken against elements of this legislative reform. That should be enough to drive a response. It should be enough for this government to incorporate their changes. Good reform

needs to be based in expert and evidence-based advice. It is clear that this legislation misses the mark. If we strip away the politically charged barbs in the contributions of those opposite, I genuinely believe that every member of this place wants a safer community with fewer victim-survivors, not more.

When a bipartisan approach to this topic was prevalent in the state, reforms were driven through content experts and victim-survivor informed approaches, not election commitments, not slogans and not workforce efficiency measures. This government cannot be genuine in saying that they have put victims first only to silence their voices, which is exactly what this legislation does. It silences the voices of victim-survivors. How can it not when so many of them are expressing serious and legitimate concerns with this reform and the government is just dismissing that?

Mr McDonald: Where's the evidence?

Ms BOYD: It is in the committee report, which I recommend the member for Lockyer reads. That is where the evidence is. The evidence has been provided to the committee by experts. The fact that government members are right now interjecting and asking where the evidence is should be proof that a number of government members are simply not informed about what experts and victim-survivors are saying. Legitimate concerns have been raised in this place.

Ms Camm: He's a former police officer.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection and the shaking of the head by the minister responsible for this. She says, 'He's a police officer' and shakes her head in condemnation. I absolutely acknowledge that the member for Lockyer was a serving police officer. However, why should it be the case in this argument or debate or the consideration of this topic that one person's voice is louder than others? Why can we not have a minister in this state who not only has the intestinal fortitude to take on all of the different views and come up with balanced legislation but also is able to contain herself from gaslighting the sector and gaslighting the opposition around the work that she is doing.

Ms CAMM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the member's comments. I ask her to withdraw.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on her feet is simply referring to the committee report and the evidence that has been provided to it.

Ms BOYD: Mr Deputy Speaker, if it assists you, I am happy to withdraw and move on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member, I note your withdrawal. I say to the House that I do not need the assistance of the floor in managing the chamber. I will hear points of order in silence.

Ms BOYD: As I said, for a long time there was a bipartisan approach to domestic and family violence reforms in this state. There was a genuine good-faith commitment from both sides of the House. It was not something that was politicised or weaponised until that approach met the political approval of the LNP, which started doing that for their own purposes. No-one wins through that approach, least of all victim-survivors. This topic is too serious to be treated as a slogan.

It cannot be denied that there are inherent complexities in domestic and family violence situations. The response to this scourge is also inherently complex. Through the submissions to the committee it is clear that stakeholders in their scores identified risks and dangers in the PPDs. Through the approach of this government it is also clear that the voices of sector experts and victim-survivors are being silenced. They are choosing politics over experts.

Ms McMillan: There's a pattern.

Ms BOYD: There is absolutely a pattern; I take that interjection from the shadow minister. Members on this side of the House have spoken at length about the dangers in this legislation. Forty-five submitters to the committee process expressed their concern. That is a staggering amount of opposition to and concern about what this legislation proposes for the state of Queensland. I am bewildered that in this place right now the shadow minister is putting forward sensible and measured amendments that the sector supports and they are being shouted down by those opposite.

I want to remind the House of what those expert voices are saying, because I stand with them and I want their voices to be amplified. I want their voices to be the beacon for reform in this space. One thing I know for sure is that those experts know best, not an LNP politician. This is a dangerous pattern of behaviour that we are seeing time and time again with this LNP government. It needs to be called out. It is certainly something that experts in the sector are seeing. They are seeing it in the domestic and family violence prevention sector, they are seeing it in the health sector and they are seeing it right across the spectrum. I want to make sure that we are holding the government to account


and amplifying those expert voices. We should be listening to them. We should be developing our legislation and the approach for Queensland with them because they are the experts for a reason. We will form the best legislation when it is informed by expert advice, not slogans and not politics.

Reforms in this space should be victim-survivor centred, not based on efficiency. We should be striving to have the best trauma informed approaches on the front line, not the quickest. During the last meeting I had in my office with a victim-survivor of domestic and family violence, I was told about an encounter she had had when she was reporting the crime. They said, 'We'll have to check whether a man can actually rape his wife.' That is the kind of modern-day response that people in my community are receiving right now.

I want to make sure that in this state of Queensland we are doing better. Experts are saying to us that there is danger in streamlining the framework in the way that this bill proposes, that it will continue to get worse, not better. We should be striving to do better. We should be striving to support our victim-survivors in this state. We should be striving each and every day to have safer communities.

That is why I support the opposition amendments in relation to this bill. I urge each and every member of this House in good faith to read through those amendments and compare them with what experts told us throughout the committee process because they are aligned. I urge members of the House to give consideration in good faith to these amendments and to support them. They will save lives.

In my final comments—they are last but by no means ever least—I want to acknowledge the phenomenal humans in my community who are on the front line responding to the scourge of domestic and family violence. I want to acknowledge Holly and her team at CADA and the PRADO team that sits in Petrie Police Station. I want to acknowledge the whole of the sector, particularly those who have been told the minister has not had time to meet with them yet. We see you. We hear you. We are supporting what you say. Victim-survivors should always be paramount to our legislative approach, and it is a shame that they are not. I also acknowledge our police.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (12.01 pm): I rise today to make my contribution on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I want to first start by thanking Minister Camm for introducing this bill for Queenslanders and for victims of domestic and family violence.

Domestic violence is not a private matter; it is a national emergency. This bill is long overdue, and I am sure that as Queenslanders hear what it is about they will wonder why, just like I have, those opposite never took these steps in the last decade. They will wonder why the Labor Party protected perpetrators instead of victims. This bill is so important. It will stop putting domestic violence offenders' rights above the rights of victims. This bill is a step towards addressing what domestic violence victims and police are asking for, and those opposite continue to ignore them.

Victim safety is at the heart of these reforms. GPS trackers are to be placed on high-risk domestic violence offenders. The new police protection directions will be issued by police on the spot and last for 12 months to protect victim-survivors without needing court approval. In the past, for a protective order to be put in place victims would have to go to court, delaying this important step. It makes no sense that those opposite are opposed to this.

We will have 24/7 domestic and family violence crisis response support for victims of domestic violence and coercive control. This includes a new North Queensland-based hub by July 2026. An additional \$75.8 million over five years will contribute to the National Partnership Agreement for family, domestic and sexual violence responses, bringing our total funding available to \$151.6 million. For DV Safe Phones, there is funding of \$1 million to continue to collect, refurbish and distribute used mobile phones to victims of domestic violence.

One of the reasons I decided to run for parliament was the effect the youth crime crisis, which emerged from Labor's softening of the laws a decade ago, was having on our beautiful Far North Queensland region. The housing crisis was another reason. The number of families living in cars and seeking homes in our region is at a height we have never seen before due to Labor's lack of planning for growth in our state and all the red tape that has reduced productivity.

Another reason I decided to run is less spoken about—domestic violence. It is a disaster plaguing our region in Far North Queensland. Silence is the weapon that lets domestic violence thrive. I have people reaching out to my office regularly asking for help. I commend them for their bravery, and I thank the police, emergency services and support services that help victims fleeing from domestic violence.

The harrowing stories from our region are heartbreaking. A Cairns mum of three who was held face down on a table with a shotgun pressed to her throat broke her silence earlier this year. She was a survivor of a 13-year domestic violence relationship. Another mother was held at knifepoint by her ex in front of her kids. He then called her 114 times from prison, threatening to kill her. Another woman in our region, sadly, lost her life in a murder-suicide, and her daughter had to run to the neighbours for help. Sad stories like this are not uncommon in our region.

In Australia, domestic violence is disturbingly common. It is one of the main drivers of homelessness among women, children and men. Far North Queensland has a housing shortage and shelters and refuges are full, so many victims are not leaving unsafe homes. Many are stuck in a perpetual cycle that they find extremely difficult to escape from. Just because domestic violence is hidden does not mean it is not happening. It is one of the most widespread crimes in our nation. One in six women have experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner, while for men it is one in 16. Also, 75 per cent of victims of domestic violence reported the perpetrator as a male, while 25 per cent reported the perpetrator as a female. On average, one woman every nine days and one man every month is killed by a current or former partner. Domestic violence does not discriminate; it impacts every race, gender, age and socioeconomic background, leaving no community untouched. I personally know men and women who have been victims of domestic violence, and it is often the ones you least expect.

It takes a very brave person to access support to break this cycle because leaving an abusive relationship is often the most dangerous and frightening time for survivors. Research consistently shows, and frontline services attest, that women who leave domestic violence relationships often face a new set of fears. Leaving a domestic violence relationship does not end the fear; it is often the beginning of a new one. Women worry about retaliation, losing their children, financial hardship, homelessness and not being believed. The fear of isolation, stigma and starting over can feel overwhelming, making escape as frightening as the abuse itself.

Within the last decade the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased approximately 218 per cent, and the Queensland police responded to over 192,000 DFV occurrences in the last financial year. In Cairns we have some of the worst domestic violence statistics in the entire state. In terms of strangulation offences, Cairns sits at the second worst in the state but is the worst per capita. In terms of contravening DVO charges, Cairns sits at the fourth worst in the state. In terms of flagged DFV offences, Cairns sits at the worst in the state, surpassing Brisbane and Townsville.

This breaks the heart of every Far North Queenslanders. This is the result of 10 years of not putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals. Ten years of weak laws have resulted in some of the highest numbers in Cairns we have ever seen. In 2019 the number of contravene DVO charges was at 1,265, and this grew under Labor to 3,100. The number of flagged DV charges lodged was 674, and under Labor this grew to over 2½ thousand. Queensland police have confirmed 2,848 breaches of domestic violence orders were recorded in the Cairns police division in 2024 alone.

Over the past 10 months these numbers have come down across Cairns in many instances. Flagged DFV offences are down 12.3 per cent and the number of contravene DVO charges lodged is down 6.2 per cent. However, we still have a very long way to go. This bill will help address the domestic and family violence crisis plaguing our city.

Last month, a Cairns man became the first person convicted under the new coercive control laws that came into power in May this year. We must do a lot more. The goal of this bill is simple: to give police the laws they need to fight this domestic violence crime crisis. The police ask and we listen, and we are delivering through this important bill.

Victims' stories and the heartbreaking statistics tell us one thing: the old system is broken. After 10 years of decline under Labor, the LNP in 10 months is delivering for Queensland. Our hardworking Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister Camm, is doing an incredibly important job and I thank her and her team for this bill. I give my full support to the bill.



Mr KATTER (Traeger—KAP) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is obviously a worthy endeavour to address something that makes us feel very uncomfortable and sits heavily on the conscience of all politicians. Talking about domestic violence evokes a lot of emotions. I would argue that it most certainly evokes a gender bias. It creeps in there, perhaps even with myself. We are quick to say that it is the men who are at fault. I want to rest heavily on that in my contribution today.

I think it is really important to acknowledge the terrible acts of domestic violence against women. They do need assistance, and I am well aware of that. All too often in our scurry and scramble to address things, there is overreach that has inadvertent impacts that can make a bad situation worse. It can certainly compound flaws in our legislation—not just legislation but the way the government interacts with the lives of people in their own homes.

We would argue in the KAP that a strong component of domestic violence and many of the social problems we have is the dismantling of Australian families—and many government policies have contributed to this—and the defocus on strengthening those families. I would concede that there is a strong economic dimension to that. I think that real house prices have had an impact, sending mums to work. It has seen the rise in child care and aged care, and there is a correlation there with housing affordability. There is an economic dimension to that. Also, I think legislative intervention has compounded this.

I think it is fair to say that in trying to resolve these issues and to save women from horrible domestic violence there have been some inadvertent impacts on men. We see that PPDs could compound this. PPDs are much easier to slap on people under this legislation. That might do some good in some places—there is no question about that—but the interesting and challenging question is: how much damage will that inadvertently do?

One scenario I pictured—and this is entirely hypothetical—is that, in small communities in my electorate such as Kynuna or McKinlay, if the local copper has a grievance with someone in town—and that happens; it happens in any profession, and it has certainly happened in the past—there might be an element of malice in it. Briefings we have had from the QPS say, ‘That is okay. That will be overridden by the inspector.’ In this case, the inspector might be in Townsville.

My colleague the member for Hinchinbrook alluded to this. It is pretty hard to imagine scenarios where it is fifty-fifty. I put myself in the seat of that inspector. Without really knowing what is going on out there—it might have taken six months to find someone to move to Kynuna—you are going to be pretty motivated to go along with the advice they are giving and the action they have taken. If I reflect on a hypothetical like that, there is a good chance that some bias would creep in which opens it up to malicious intent. I think we would be ignorant to say that that does not happen.

Vexatious claims run hand in hand with what I am talking about when it comes to inadvertent impacts. Some constituents’ issues sit in your head as an MP. We probably all have a catalogue of those. Firmly embedded in my memory are some horrific encounters I have had. There have been multiple—and I mean multiple—encounters with people who have come to see me. If I take them at their word, their stories are absolutely horrific. Some of them have spent a lot of money—more money than they could afford; their life savings—to prove that in the end the claims were vexatious and there was malicious intent by their female partner or wife. It absolutely destroyed their life. One I know was imprisoned. It was all fixed up in the end, but there is no consequence for the person who makes the vexatious claim. The person who has had the vexatious claim made against them just has to pick up the pieces.

That is not to say that existing laws have not done some really important work to save women. The majority of claims are not vexatious but, crikey, the damage that is done by vexatious claims is hard to hear. I do not see anyone trying to fix that area of the law. There are some men out there who are screaming for help. They feel they have been so unjustly handled by the legal system and there seems to be no reprieve for them.

I think there is still a very vulnerable part of our society that no-one likes to talk about. As soon as we talk about that, we are accused of not caring about women or domestic violence against women. That is a really serious consideration that needs to be considered every time we touch any of this. Again, I go along with the member for Hinchinbrook’s claim. I certainly do not have good answers to this, but I think a lot of work needs to be done perhaps in an inquiry to get ahead of this game, rather than having punitive things that I think are perhaps going to compound issues of frustration and anger that exist already.

Changes to weapons licensing laws have far-reaching effects. For a lot of people in the electorate of Traeger, hunting is a popular recreational activity. For some people, that is all they have—recreational hunting and fishing. When you take one of those away, it is a pretty big deal for them. A lot of people think that as soon as you invoke the words ‘firearm’ and ‘domestic violence’ it is a gimme—just rip it away. We are talking about orders that can be just slapped on by the police. Like I said, in remote areas I feel there is going to be a bias against males being the people the orders will be put on. They will have to defend themselves. That would have a very deep impact on a lot of males in the Traeger electorate.


Blue cards are another issue. We already have problems with blue cards. This will be another big red flag. We will be spending the next 20 years trying to justify it. It is going to really hurt in Aboriginal communities, where we are already finding it hard to find people who qualify for jobs. I am really concerned about that.

Police will arbitrarily be deciding on a 12-month order with no court oversight unless there is an appeal after 28 days. That is certainly too much for us to bear on that issue. We will not be supporting that, not to mention the impact of the changes to weapons licensing laws. A lot of rural producers and pest controllers in the electorate could fall foul of that.

In the Aboriginal communities that I represent there are horrible levels of domestic violence. If there is a street brawl between two blokes who might be loosely related, that is classified as domestic violence as soon as it is established that they are a cousin or a brother. That is one area that you need to get your head around. It can change your perspective on how you look at this.

Something I want to offer around domestic violence, because it is the truth—and I can put my hand on my heart—is that in the last five or six years I have had two Aboriginal elder women come to my Mount Isa office to strongly advocate for their sons, saying, ‘They keep getting put in prison and we believe it is the partner that keeps stirring them up. What do we do to help our sons?’ I think it gets very complicated in those situations where there are high levels of domestic violence and things are misinterpreted. As I said, we believe there is a strong bias in the system against the males, and this is going to end up doing more damage than it set out to fix.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before I call the next member, I advise all members that it is disorderly to pass between the chair and the member on their feet. I understand it is inconvenient to go the long way around, but that is the custom in this House and my expectation when I am in the chair.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As a survivor of domestic violence, this bill is reflective of our government’s commitment to put victims before perpetrators and restore safety for all Queenslanders wherever they may live.

It is most concerning to note that within the last decade calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents have increased approximately 218 per cent. More victims are waiting for help and police are unable to keep pace with an ever-growing number of calls for help. It is simply unacceptable to think that any victim of domestic and family violence was left waiting, yet that is precisely what occurred under the former Labor government.

Since forming government the Crisafulli LNP government has gone straight to work addressing the scourge of domestic violence. This bill reflects our ongoing commitment to support victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. It will not surprise anyone in this place to know that I wholeheartedly support this bill. I remember speaking about many of these initiatives, including GPS trackers for offenders, as far back as 2017. It is disappointing that it took a change of government to see such initiatives become reality in this state; nevertheless, it is encouraging to see such practical and decisive action being taken by the Crisafulli LNP government to support victims and tackle domestic and family violence in our communities.

This legislation is just one way the Crisafulli LNP government is giving our frontline police the tools they need to protect vulnerable members of our community. This bill sees the introduction of police protection directions, or PPDs, which will provide a victim-survivor of domestic and family violence with immediate 12-month protection in addition to the standard conditions currently available under a police protection notice. It is important to note that the way police investigate allegations of domestic and family violence will not change under these reforms. This is simply another tool for police to use in the appropriate circumstances following their investigations.

This legislation is another example of the Crisafulli LNP government doing what we said we would do: delivering on our election commitment to pilot the use of GPS electronic monitors on high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. I note that this pilot program will be available where the court is satisfied that the respondent has either been convicted of, or is charged with, a domestic violence offence or an indictable offence involving violence against another person or where there is a history of charges for domestic violence offences made against the respondent.

I further note that the court must also be satisfied that the respondent is not already subject to a monitoring device condition for another purpose such as bail or parole. One hundred and fifty devices will be available as part of the initial stage of this pilot, with victim-survivors able to elect to carry their own GPS-enabled safety device. This initiative does not stand alone, with the GPS technology intended to complement existing safety measures already available in cases of domestic and family violence.

Further, noting the impacts of having to give evidence in court, this bill expands the ability for videorecorded evidence-in-chief, supporting victim-survivors as they engage in the court process.


This bill also strengthens processes surrounding the approved provider list of service providers authorised to provide court ordered intervention and counselling services in relation to domestic and family violence matters.

In what should have been a completely bipartisan process, several members opposite, including the member for Waterford, have now criticised our government's consideration of stakeholder feedback in the drafting of this legislation. Those opposite are clutching at straws. Stakeholders in this space have been consulted. Victims have been consulted. Unlike those opposite, this government listens to victims in this state. The most vulnerable in our society, children, were also failed by the member for Waterford. We know that she was the worst child safety minister, the worst minister for health, the worst minister for women and the worst minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence in this parliament.

In closing, I wish to conclude my contribution by reflecting on the remarks of Ms Carolyn Robinson from BeyondDV this morning when she said—

I work with victim survivors every single day, hundreds of them, and I think that these moves, will be very welcome by our victim survivors. So to know now, with the orders being able to be put in place immediately, it means we will be freeing up police so that they can come and support victims as soon as possible. It will make a difference.

We are not done. The Crisafulli LNP government will continue to listen to advocates, to police and to all Queenslanders impacted by the scourge of domestic and family violence, and we will work to unravel a decade of decline under the former Labor government. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.24 pm): With regard to this domestic and family violence bill, every speaker I have heard make a contribution to this debate has come with the best of intentions; that is, defending Queenslanders who are suffering from domestic and family violence. I am encouraged not only by many of the conversations but also by the contributions of many of the MPs—not all—today. In particular, I was in the chair yesterday listening to the member for Keppel and we had a conversation this morning about the good work he is doing in his community.

In 2008 I chose to become a White Ribbon ambassador. I continue doing work in that regard, currently raising funds through the Red Rose Foundation to install a Red Bench at Ferny Grove State High School. I commend the students for acting with me to make that happen and raise valuable funds for that organisation. The member for Greenslopes also has a Red Bench in his community. We have heard many examples throughout this debate about the good work MPs are doing, but that stops when you walk through this door. This should be above politics. Domestic and family violence is an insidious disease which we all know is throughout our communities. It is incumbent on us as legislators, the people who represent our communities and our constituents, to do away with this. That is my objective and my path, and it has been since I have been involved in seeing the back of domestic and family violence.

People are affected by it in so many areas. It was only last Friday night that I went out with an organisation from my electorate of Ferny Grove, the Northwest Community Group, which looks after homeless people in our parks and communities. We went over to Musgrave Park. On the first occasion we were there we spoke to homeless people from all different backgrounds. There were people who were escaping domestic and family violence, people dealing with drug addiction and people from all sorts of backgrounds. It was great to sit down with them and listen to their stories. Later on we went to Roma Street and it shocked me to the core. There was a 12-year-old girl being looked after by Rosies, an organisation that was here this morning courtesy of the member for Lytton. These people should not have to be on the streets escaping domestic and family violence.

Paul, who is with the Northwest Community Group, got a call about a woman back in Musgrave Park escaping domestic and family violence. She had been assaulted by her partner and could barely talk, let alone eat any solid food. Fortunately, Paul took the call to Micah Projects and got her accommodation off the streets and out of Musgrave Park for three nights. He went to KFC and bought her mashed potato and gravy because, as a victim escaping domestic and family violence, that is the only thing she could eat.

I commend the frontline people who deal with this on a regular basis. I have always been a strong advocate of our men and women in blue. Being from a family of police, I understand the roles and the hard tasks they perform.

The committee report delved into possible misidentification and the unintended consequences that may result from PPDs. The committee heard stories from experts with regard to this particular aspect of the bill. It is incumbent on us to listen to experts who have skin in the game and understand what is happening out in the streets. It is incumbent on all of us to listen, take that onboard and consider the recommendations and amendments that the shadow minister tabled.

I want to refer to some of the organisations. The Women's Legal Service raised with the committee—


... misidentification often happens due to a lack of information and a need to respond in the moment. I suppose that will be crystallised even more when that response in the moment then becomes a 12-month order.

QCOSS, which is probably the principal stakeholder in this area, indicated—

... the consequences of misidentification can be severe and potentially fatal.

We do not want people falling through the cracks if they are misidentified. We need to ensure the right person is picked as the perpetrator.

With that short contribution, I encourage everyone in this chamber to look at that report and the expert evidence that has been provided by those who have skin in the game and know what is happening on our streets. It is incumbent on us as legislators to make sure we deliver justice to victims through the right legislation that gets this insidious disease out of our communities.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.30 pm): I want to start by thanking the entire domestic and family violence sector, which works tremendously hard and has a very tough job, as we all appreciate. They do a terrific job and have done so for decades and decades. I also want to give my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to every serving officer and everyone in admin and working operationally with the Queensland Police Service. They have an unenviable role in front of them, and I think we all appreciate that. In a former life before coming into parliament when I was the chief executive officer of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, it was our team—and particularly me—which was responsible for rolling out all of the phase 3 detective training. We would get victims in to talk to the detectives about the impacts of crime on them, particularly serious crime, and they would give advice to police about how those in the service ought to be interacting with people.

I share that because there have been certain comments made in this debate. I reflect on the comments of the Attorney-General last night where she implied—or rather she stated, as have many others—that many on our side do not care or that we have a disregard for victims of crime. Nothing could be further from the truth, and there are many examples right across the chamber. I would hazard a guess that all of us came here with a passion and an interest to make Queensland a safer place. To imply or state otherwise is a mistruth, and it is very irresponsible for members in this House to be doing that.

We all know that domestic and family violence is an absolute scourge on society. It devastates families, victims and police and it destroys lives and communities. The prevalence and the severity of DV is felt for a very long time and undermines the principles of safety and justice here in Queensland. In this parliament our responsibility is clear: every law we pass in this space must keep victim-survivors safe, hold perpetrators to account and make our community safer. We must never compromise safety in the name of expediency or efficiency.

I have heard people in this House during this debate make remarks that nothing was done under our government and that no advancements were made over the last 10 years. I again want to draw the House's attention to the dangerous nature of those comments. They are simply not true. My understanding—and I accept that I am in my second term of parliament, but I have been an observer of parliament and certainly an observer of the conversations around violence and victims in the domestic and family violence space—has been that for many decades both major parties have shown a bipartisan approach to progressive and sustainable reform in the area of domestic and family violence. Politics ought to be set aside to put the interests of victims first. It has concerned me greatly to hear that principle and understanding start to erode during this debate this week.

Queensland has a history of careful, evidence-based and progressive reform in this area. Successive governments—both Labor and the LNP—have worked with the domestic and family violence sector, the courts, police and, most importantly, victim-survivors. The *Not now, not ever* report was commissioned under the former LNP government, and I have no problem saying that. It was a landmark report and they did a great job with it, and I think that ought to be recognised. We also did tremendous work with our Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Both of these reports delivered over

400 recommendations, and billions of dollars have been put into this over decades. To imply that nothing has been done is a mistruth and undermines the relationship that we have with each other in this House and it undermines the sector. I want that on the record because a lot of work has been done.

Across all of those reports, not one of them ever recommended the implementation of a PPD, as this bill does. It is not because it was not looked at. It was looked at and it was certainly considered, but it was ruled out as something that was not able to get consensus by the sector and did not have a strong evidence base. It was not that our party looked at it and did not do anything with it; it was that the sector did not want that particular reform. That is the background here. Our reform journey has always been about evidence, partnership and progress, and I believe this bill turns its back on that important history.

This bill allows police to take out a 12-month order on the spot. Unlike DVOs, they do not require court oversight and they will not last for five years. This bill is entirely about efficiency; it is not about safety. In fact, the first objective in the explanatory notes states—

... establish a framework for police protection directions (PPDs) to improve efficiencies for police responding to DFV and reduce the operational impacts—

There is no mention of safety in the explanatory notes whatsoever, and that is highly concerning to me. The risks are obvious. All of the stakeholders have outlined the concerns—not just us. The stakeholders—those working on the front line—have raised concerns, and it is not just the sector. Many police across the state have spoken to me raising their concerns about what this bill will do. They have said that it is a departure from what has been a long, sustained and understood journey in the domestic and family violence space.

The risk of misidentification is extremely high. The commission of inquiry identified misidentification as a key failing. We know that when police make snap decisions in high-stress environments they often mistake victims for aggressors. The data on that is damning. At the time of the inquiry, around 22 to 23 per cent of DFV respondents recorded by police were women, when the accepted evidence from researchers is that the figure should be closer to six to seven per cent. That gap is not a margin of error; it is hundreds and hundreds of women. We know the consequence. The death review board found that almost half of women murdered in domestic violence incidents had been misidentified at least once. I repeat: half—that is an extremely high figure that should concern us all.

To remove judicial oversight in this context is reckless and dangerous. We need independent oversight because it protects victims and it promotes confidence in the system and sector. Importantly, it promotes and protects police. When we visited police in Tasmania, where they have a similar system, the police in that region were saying that they required some kind of oversight and that if it was not the court overseeing it there should be a multidisciplinary panel. Someone should be overseeing the decisions they make. They wanted that. This bill does nothing at all to achieve that. The most alarming thing about this bill is that never before have we seen a government so willing to ignore the sector and move ahead with their own ideological ideas. Not even in the Newman era did we see the disregard for the sector that we are seeing here.


I want to be clear about how we got here. The bill is not the product of careful analysis or expert evidence; it is the product of a political campaign. The Queensland Police Union, or rather its president, Shane Prior, ran a sophisticated campaign—I will give him that—under the slogan ‘Make DV a crime every time’. This is a slogan that, again, has no truth to it. Domestic violence is already a crime in Queensland. Any type of activity—an assault, a sexual assault, a rape, a slap, a spit—is already a crime. They have been crimes for a very long time, with DV as an aggravating factor. Coercive control is now a crime in Queensland, thanks to our government.

So, to run a campaign like that was absolutely, I feel, manipulative, and this government has bought into that hook, line and sinker. This was never about victim safety; this was about internal union politics, and unfortunately both QPS officers and now the DV sector has been absolutely sold up the river on this and they will face the consequences of that, which brings me great despair.

In the short time I have left—I have a lot more to say, but I will not get there—I want to finish on this: I want to put on record the concerns I have about the statements made by the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence in the House earlier this week when she stood up and made a comment, ‘To protect a woman, you have to be able to define a woman.’ That comment—

A government member: Hear, hear!

Ms BUSH: Was that a 'hear, hear!'? That comment is recognised as highly transphobic. We know that 50 per cent of trans people experience domestic and family violence. For anybody to be making that comment is offensive, and certainly for a minister to be making a comment that is hateful, that is dangerous. I think it is an absolutely inappropriate comment for anyone to make, let alone a minister, let alone the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. When 50 per cent of trans people are DV victims, it is a highly irresponsible comment to make.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.40 pm): I, too, rise to speak in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As we all know, domestic and family violence is a scourge in our society and no-one is immune. For 28 years I wore the Queensland Police Service uniform, serving in Townsville proudly. Too many times I stood at the door of a home where violence had shattered trust, safety and family. I have returned from night shifts not being able to sleep after attending domestic violence incidents, having seen the fear in the eyes of the children and the pain in the faces of the women and experiencing the frustration of our police.

I can still to this day clearly remember one night shift, at 2 am, patrolling the streets of Cranbrook, and coming across a lady with her seven-year-old son, walking in the middle of the road, pulling a suitcase behind her. They were fleeing a violent domestic situation at their house and the only protection she felt she had was to flee at 2 am with her son and a case of clothes. Sadly, this story is all too common.

Calls for service for domestic violence top the list of Queensland Police Service responses throughout the state and in Townsville. The numbers tell the story. Within the last decade, calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased by more than 218 per cent, a 20 per cent increase every year over the past decade—nearly 200,000 last year—one call for service for domestic and family violence every three minutes.

I, too, wish to pay my deepest respect and thanks to our hardworking men and women of our Queensland Police Service. Our officers working within the Townsville police division, tirelessly working 24/7, provide support to our victim-survivors—our women and our children. What you will not hear is a 'but'. I have listened to those opposite also praise the work of our men and women in blue, but too often it was followed by a 'but'. There is no 'but'. We support our police by providing them the powers and resources they need to do their job and to keep our community safe.

This bill shows the Crisafulli government's commitment to putting victims first, to holding perpetrators to account and to restoring safety where Queenslanders live. Victim safety is at the very heart of these reforms. For the first time, police will be able to issue police protection directions, providing victim-survivors with immediate 12-month protection. These directions mean a police officer attending a scene will be able to render real protections that start straightaway.

We have also built-in safeguards. Higher ranked officers will need to authorise the most restrictive orders, ensuring accountability and oversight. Importantly, there are exclusions where a PPD will not be appropriate, for example, where weapons are involved or where children need the oversight of the court process. These protections are strong, balanced and, above all, designed to keep victims safe.

This bill also introduces a GPS electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk perpetrators. We are also expanding videorecorded evidence-in-chief provisions. Anyone who has ever sat with a victim preparing for court knows how traumatising it can be to relive abuse in the witness box. Allowing recorded evidence makes the process more humane whilst still delivering justice.

Finally, by strengthening the approved provider list, we are ensuring that the intervention programs run across Queensland meet proper standards. We cannot break the cycle of violence if perpetrators are sent to programs that just tick a box and fail to change behaviour.

My colleagues, these reforms are not about headlines, they are about lives. I think of the countless women who told me, 'I just want to be safe and I want my children to be safe,' and for too long that simple ask went unanswered. This bill begins to unravel the decade of neglect left by Labor and delivers the tools that victims' families and our frontline police have been crying out for. As the member for Mundingburra and as someone who has stood on too many front lawns in the middle of the night and during the day trying to reassure victims, I know just how much these changes matter.

I wish to quote from the media conference this morning held by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. A number of community members with particular experience in this area attended the conference, and I note Labor speakers on this


legislation criticised the government for not taking into account the view of stakeholders. These following independent quotes from this morning's media conference contradict Labor's accusation. Lloyd Clarke, Hannah Clarke's father, said—

We welcome these new laws coming in. We really think the trackers and the police protection directions will actually put the onus back onto the perpetrator and keep the victims safer ... If these laws would have been in then, hopefully, her and the kids would have been saved.

Sue Clarke, Hannah Clarke's mother, said—

I think the fact that the police can take out the protection order, I think, makes a huge difference ... There's repercussions on the woman for taking out protection orders. So when it's out of their hands, I think it works much safer.

The message from this parliament must be clear: domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland. Perpetrators will be held accountable, victims will be protected and communities will be safer. If you support victim-survivors—our women and children—and our hardworking police, you will also support this bill, no 'buts'. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.48 pm): I rise to address the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In the last 18 months, 152 women and 33 children have been killed in Australia as a result of violence. When preparing to speak to this bill, I had to leave a note to check this figure in case it needed to be updated which, unsurprisingly, it did—and for all we know it could be out of date already. This is a sickening reality. In 2023, according to ABS data, 37 per cent of all homicides in Queensland were domestic and family violence related. There were over 8,400 victims of sexual assault and 40 per cent of these occurred in the context of domestic and family violence. The conditions that lead to these devastating statistics are pervasive in our society, and it is the work of government to implement effective policy to prevent domestic and family violence. Effective policy demands that we identify the problem, then engage with experts and stakeholders to implement solutions and continually review the effectiveness of those solutions. That is not simply what is being done here.

I will focus my comments on the police protection directions in this bill because it is clear these are not effective public policy. Instead, they read like a kowtow to the Queensland Police Union, and the recommendations of the committee do not go far enough. The bill grants police significant powers to issue 12-month protection directions without judicial oversight. Currently, police can only issue a temporary protection notice which is in force until the related application for an order is heard by the court. With these new powers, police will be able to independently issue 12-month directions which attract the same penalty for a breach of the order as court imposed orders. Officers will have the same powers as a court to determine the types of conditions on the order. This includes standard conditions; non-contact ouster conditions, meaning you must leave the house that you share with the aggrieved; conditions permitting a return to shared premises for a brief period; and 24-hour cool-down conditions. The inclusion of some of these on an order will be subject to approval by a senior sergeant. Police will be required to consider the principles of the act, the criminal and DV history of both parties, whether an application for a protection order would be more appropriate and the views of the aggrieved. They must also try to speak with the respondent to afford them natural justice.

There are some purported safeguards. The bill provides that police will not be able to issue a 12-month protection direction in certain circumstances where there are additional complexities. One of these is where it is unclear to the police which party is most in need of protection. This is particularly fraught. Plainly, the government is giving some recognition to the problem identified by the commission of inquiry into QPS responses to domestic and family violence; that is, the problem that officers frequently misidentify the perpetrator of domestic and family violence, especially where the aggrieved is a First Nations woman or someone who does not fit the stereotype of an 'ideal victim'. This apparent safeguard is no real fix, especially in circumstances where the evidence is that officers are misidentifying victims. The imposition of police protection directions on vulnerable victim-survivors will do untold damage. The committee's recommendation for a review of the safeguard as part of the statutory review process after two years of implementation will be too little too late. I am prepared to say that now.

I have concerns about other purported safeguards under the bill, in particular that police will also be required to explain the direction and the consequences of noncompliance—though I do not hold much hope that this will be done in a culturally appropriate way or with due regard to the respondent's specific circumstances, again, given the findings of the commission of inquiry that was held into police responses to domestic and family violence. The commission's findings when it comes to police explaining orders and court processes immediately undermine my faith in that safeguard.

Finally, a respondent will be able to apply to a Magistrates Court for a review of the order within 28 days. The court will be required to consider whether the protection order is necessary or desirable at the time the review is heard. If a direction is set aside it will not form part of a person's history, but if the directions were breached before the court review that breach can still be prosecuted. As many submitters have pointed out, this new system will ultimately be more onerous and resource intensive for both police and courts.

Experts and stakeholders in the area of domestic and family violence prevention have expressed serious concerns and, in most cases, outright opposed these changes. Many of the submitters flagged the fundamental issue at the heart of these reforms; that is, the express intention of the reforms is to save police time and resources, not to support the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. I will give a very brief overview of some of the submissions because their expertise simply should not be so consistently ignored.

The Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence says the availability of these directions may decrease the safety of women and children. The Queensland Mental Health Commission is concerned the new directions will provide increased opportunity for systems abuse, where perpetrators use legal and administrative systems to perpetuate abuse. A slew of community legal centres are opposed to the introduction of police directions including the North Queensland Women's Legal Service, Caxton Legal Centre and the LGBTI Legal Service.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission raises important concerns about the reduced opportunities for children's voices and views to be heard in the process. Anglicare and Respect Inc in particular raised important concerns about officers misidentifying the perpetrator. DVConnect urges a trial period for the changes with a comprehensive evaluation. They noted the opportunities for intervention and access to programs and services available when respondents are required to attend court. Under these changes, those valuable intervention opportunities are lost. Many submitters also flagged that the use of these orders—as opposed to court orders—means victim-survivors will actually have less protection, with only 12 months instead of the five years a court can make orders for.

Given the critical findings of the commission of inquiry, it simply does not make sense to hand police even more power, yet nowhere in the budget do we see a commitment to the establishment of an independent police integrity unit, as the inquiry recommended. I think what has happened here is that the LNP have failed at the first hurdle of effective policymaking. They have—either deliberately or recklessly—failed to understand the problem. Instead, they are using this crisis of violence to consolidate their own power, rather than empowering the impacted individuals and their families.

Significant research conducted in 2022 in relation to incidents of homicide by male perpetrators in a domestic and family violence setting found there were three main scenarios. The first is where a perpetrator holds significant power over the victim, whether as a result of the victim being on an insecure visa, being isolated or dependent on the perpetrator for financial support or otherwise disadvantaged in broader society. Instances of homicide in this scenario typically happen when the victim tries to take back some control, for example, by leaving. The second is where the perpetrator has a complex history of trauma co-occurring with mental and physical health problems and disadvantage. Third, in 11 per cent of homicide cases involving male perpetrators, significant life stressors result in the onset or exacerbation of mental and physical health problems, triggering increased conflict in the relationship. This is hugely helpful research when identifying the problem and devising effective public policy. It tells us that the government is failing at a structural level to address people's needs. In turn, this is entrenching social disadvantage and reinforcing power structures that enable abusive dynamics to fester.


We can, and should, intervene with what works. There is plenty of research available to demonstrate what is needed right now: evidence-based intimate partner violence intervention programs; integrating these programs with alcohol and other drug programs and mental health services; and investing in education for frontline staff. There is opportunity for intervention through significant investment in social services; in safe, secure, affordable public housing; in health care, including mental health care and access to drug and alcohol support and rehabilitation; in disability support services; in the public education system; and in social security so that no-one is at risk of financial abuse. We need to close the gap. We need to go deeper than that to effect the kind of structural change that is needed to close the gap. We can reimagine a community grounded in genuine equity and respect for diversity, in justice for First Nations communities, in truth-telling and healing and by vehemently opposing war and state sanctioned violence.

Debate, on motion of Mr Berkman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Brisbane, Transport Services


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise today on behalf of the thousands of frustrated and forgotten residents of Brisbane, those who have been left stranded, misled and thoroughly let down by the disastrous rollout of the new bus network under the watch of the Queensland LNP Minister for Transport and the Brisbane City Council. These changes are not an improvement. They are confusing, they are poorly planned and they have made life harder for everyday commuters, not easier. Entire routes have been scrapped. Critical connections have disappeared. Suburbs have been left isolated with fewer transport options than before. This is not progress; this is regression, plain and simple. Let's be clear: roughly 75 per cent of Brisbane's bus services have been altered through cuts, rerouting, splitting or confusing rebranding. This is the single largest overhaul in over two decades and it has been handled with absolute incompetence.

We have heard the glossy spin from the Brisbane LNP Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrinner. He called the new \$1.5 billion Brisbane Metro project the most significant investment in a generation, but if this is what investment looks like, then the return is nothing short of chaos, because my office has been flooded with complaints. A father from St Joseph's College tells me his two sons now have to take two buses instead of one after the 206 route was scrapped. Students relying on the 115 route, once a vital connection from Rocklea, now find it terminates at Griffith University, adding a 20-minute delay to the commute into the city. A mother in Taringa now cycles with her 11-year-old child to Buranda train station because the 121 bus no longer takes them to Fortitude Valley. The elderly and people living with disability are now walking further, sometimes up steep hills or across unsafe roads just to find a bus stop. That is not accessibility; it is abandonment. These are not isolated incidents. These are daily realities for students, workers, families and retirees. Let's not forget that buses make up more than two-thirds of Brisbane's entire public transport usage. When you mess with the bus network, you mess with the economic engine of this city.

If the changes themselves were not bad enough, let's talk about the execution. On launch day the website crashed.

(Time expired)

Local Government

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.03 pm): Queensland councils are facing the brunt of Labor's decade of decline. We saw councils treated like second-class citizens and it left councils with a very fractured relationship with the state government. I am proud to announce that in nearly 10 months the Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queensland councils deserve. That is why we have signed the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, we have made Works for Queensland a permanent program and we have delivered councils' first red-tape reduction taskforce.

Unlike Labor's decade of decline, the Crisafulli government listens to our councils. We are now delivering a depreciation taskforce review to support councils in tackling the growing depreciation challenges, something Labor never did in 10 years in office. Leading the efforts is a 35-year local government and local finance expert Neil Castles, who will deliver a report by the end of the year. As the taskforce engages with local governments, I encourage councils to reach out and contribute to the taskforce with their suggestions. Like Queensland's 77 councils, I look forward to the report and the ways we can support councils going forward.

Continuing on our 10 months of delivery, I was proud to sign the rural and remote compact with the LGAQ in Blackall earlier this month, and I want to thank Mayor Martin, the compact guardians and the LGAQ. I would also like to mention the inspiring Youth Council at Blackall-Tambo council and I thank them for their efforts and for joining me. I say to the member for Gregory that I look forward to the Youth Council coming to state parliament later in the year. They will be absolutely thrilled to be here at state parliament to meet with their local representatives. I really look forward to meeting with the Youth Council again. They are young people who will be our future councillors in the Blackall-Tambo area. I want to commend them for what they have done. Their inspiration and the things they have given to their local council are particularly important for the livability of their area.

The compact represents 45 of Queensland's 77 councils and provides a direct and effective voice for our rural and remote communities so the decisions made in Brisbane can actually reflect the needs of rural and regional Queenslanders. Councils have suffered at the hands of Labor in their decade of decline, but I will continue to work in partnership with mayors, CEOs and councillors. We will deliver that fresh start for Queensland councils—all of this in just 10 months of delivery.

Logan Electorate



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (2.06 pm): I rise to update the House on the new Everleigh state high school. As honourable members know, the member for Jordan and I campaigned in this place for this school. We did that because the education minister had said no to buying the site and we knew that was an opportunity that was going to be lost. I table for the information of the House an article titled 'Support for Greenbank high school soars as MPs lodge petition'.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 20 June 2025, titled 'Support for Greenbank high school soars as MPs lodge petition' [[1160](#)].

Whenever a minister of this government at first says no, I urge members to apply community pressure to them. That is why I want to thank the Greenbank community and the Everleigh community for standing up to this minister who was not delivering the services we need—

Mr Stevens: Ten years you were here.

Mr POWER: There are three high schools I built that the member opposite can thank me for.

We see a government that is determined to have more housing but is not as determined to put the services in place that young families need. The land for the school was due to be bought and this government was going to reject the sale until they were caught out by community pressure. That is why we need to keep up the fight against this government which is not keeping pace with providing the services that growing areas need. I will continue to advocate for that. Next we need to get a timeline for the construction of the Everleigh high school and make sure this government sticks to our timeline for the construction of the Logan Reserve and Chambers Flat school.

On a really sad note, honourable members would all be aware that in my electorate there was a terrible death when a young father was taking his son to the 7-Eleven on Green Road. That is somewhere I have done street stalls and, indeed, I had my own son at about that age on that road before the 7-Eleven was built. This is one of the things about growth: we recognise there is more and more traffic on Green Road. Braiden took his son, Hendrix-Hemi, to get ice cream at the 7-Eleven and unfortunately both their lives were lost in a terrible accident that is continuing to be investigated.

I want to recognise the extended family, whom I met at their home, and especially Peter Geary, whom I have known for quite a long time. Their pain at losing a stepson and a step-grandson in that way must be immeasurable. When I walked from their home through the cutting and across to the 7-Eleven to place flowers I was reminded that I was walking in their footsteps. I want that family to know that in their time of grief this whole House joins in recognising such a terrible accident that affected a family out of the blue while doing something so simple as getting a treat for a four-year-old.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, member for Logan. I, too, pass on my sympathies to the friends, family and yourself.

Hankinson, Mr I; Collard, Mr S, OAM; McArdle, Mr M



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.09 pm): I, too, would like to take a moment to make special mention of three remarkable individuals who have recently passed: Ivan Hankinson, Stan Collard OAM and Mark McArdle. Though their lives followed different paths, they shared one defining quality: a steadfast commitment to their communities. Each played a vital role in shaping the Sunshine Coast, especially the Sunshine Coast hinterland, and Queensland as a whole and as we know it today. Their legacies will continue to inspire us all.

Ivan Hankinson's name is synonymous with the Maleny show, and his legacy will live on both in spirit and now physically, with the Ivan Hankinson Hill standing proudly over the showgrounds. Ivan's more than 50 years of service, including nearly 30 years as president of the show society, speaks volumes of his devotion. He was an honorary life member but, more than that, he was the heart of the Maleny show—working tirelessly, leading by example and always looking toward the future. Ivan's


commitment shaped generations of community connection and inspired generations to continue to follow a career and a future in agriculture. His contributions to Maleny will never be forgotten. To his wife, Kaye, who is a dear friend, and the broader family, I extend my heartfelt sympathies.

Also born in Maleny, Stan Collard embodied a life of service. As a senator for Queensland from 1975 to 1987, Stan worked on behalf of our great state with quiet determination and unwavering commitment. His dedication extended beyond politics into education and culture, championing causes like Life Education Australia and contributing to the Library Board of Queensland. Stan led with humility and strength, always placing his community first. His OAM recognition was well deserved, but his true reward was the legacy of opportunity and enrichment he leaves behind. Sadly, he was preceded by his wife, Gloria, in 2022, so to Ian, Sue and Annette and the broader family I offer our community's heartfelt sympathies.

We will have more to say, no doubt, about our good friend Mark McArdle but, as we know, the former state member for Caloundra recently passed as well, with his funeral last Friday. To me he was a mentor and a friend and to all who knew him a tireless advocate for our region. Mark served with honesty, integrity and an unshakable dedication to his community. He was a true champion for the Sunshine Coast, never shying away from a hard fight for what mattered most. Despite a long battle with cancer, he remained deeply engaged and was immensely proud to see Caloundra turn blue again at the last election. I also acknowledge his role in the formation of the LNP. To Judy and the family, I offer our sympathies. Vale, Mark, Ivan and Stan—three true gentlemen. You will each be dearly missed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, member for Glass House, and once again I offer our sympathies to your community and to their families and friends.


Cooper Electorate, Transport Plan

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.12 pm): We are desperate in the western suburbs for a comprehensive transport plan—one that prioritises sustainable, active and public transport options. It is an issue that I have spoken about in here before. Before the election I managed to secure about \$300,000 in funding through the department of transport. That funding was provided to Brisbane City Council to undertake a comprehensive transport study for our main arterial roads—Waterworks and Musgrave roads. We have heard nothing since, despite the fact that the Brisbane City Council recently altered these roads to pretty much declare them a permanent clearway, giving residents and businesses less than two weeks to prepare for that. Why the urgency? We know the reason for this clearway change is that the state government is now looking to open up additional development through the Upper Kedron area and support that through connecting roads from Upper Kedron via a sealed road onto the Mount Nebo Road. We know that council recently purchased land adjacent to Upper Kedron to do just that. Council needs to come clean with our residents on its plans.

In light of that, the need for sustainable transport planning for our community is now urgent. I have followed up and followed up with council. I have also reached out to the transport minister, trying to ask how that \$300,000 was allocated and spent. Was a transport study undertaken, because it certainly does not cost \$300,000 to bang up a couple of clearway signs? That funding could have gone towards an actual plan for our suburbs. The Civic Cabinet Chair of Brisbane City Council's Public Transport Committee, Councillor Andrew Wines, is on the public record stating that it was never received, despite the fact that funding was recorded and made available through QTRIP documents. Our residents and businesses want this clarified and, importantly, we want action on the promised comprehensive transport planning that we were promised for the growing western suburbs. Residents and businesses on Waterworks Road would also love a meeting with council representatives—something that Councillor Wines promised in a radio interview and has since failed to deliver on. These are residents who now are having tradies pull out of work on their homes, leaving jobs incomplete, and older folk whose support workers cannot pull up and park safely anymore on a clearway and who now cannot have meals delivered.

This is urgent. It was urgent in June when we first asked for the meeting and it is urgent now. The LNP promotes itself as the party for small businesses. Dozens of businesses have been completely shafted by Adrian Schrinner—businesses that now cannot receive deliveries, that no longer have parking options for their customers, that were told they would be visited by council officers and that options and solutions would be worked through. They are still waiting now. We are simply asking for some engagement from Brisbane City Council following its decision to open up the clearway, which has had a tremendous and devastating impact on the residents and businesses located on that road.

Witham, Mr L; BaconFest


 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.15 pm): It is my honour to stand in this House today and remember my friend and true community champion Lawrence Noel Witham, fondly known as Lawrie. Lawrie passed away last month at the age of 87. He lived a rich life in the Coalbrook area near Esk with his wife, Ruby, his children Jacquie, Bernie and Caroline, and Rachel and Evan. He was a proud grandfather and great-grandad.

Lawrie's career began humbly at the Queensland Police Depot in Brisbane in June 1955, with his first posting at Roma Street. From there he headed across regional Queensland, steadily rising through the ranks to assistant commissioner until his retirement in 1994. What is more, friends and colleagues often remember him riding through rural Queensland with the 'pack horse police'—a real horseman and a bushman at heart. Many may not know, but Lawrie also spent time working for then premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen on his security detail—a chapter in his life that speaks to the trust and respect he earned throughout his career. Retirement from the force did not mean Lawrie stepped back from serving his community. Lawrie went on to serve two terms as an Esk shire councillor in the Somerset region.

On 8 August I joined a large crowd at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Toogoolawah to celebrate Lawrie's life with full honours—mounted police, pipe band, motorcycle escort. It felt truly fitting for a man who gave so much. To Lawrie and the entire Witham family, I thank you for sharing Lawrie with us all. He was not a flashy man, but he was honest, dependable and principled. That is what made him stand out and that is what endeared him to so many.

Last weekend we had the sizzling success that was BaconFest in Kingaroy, and a huge round of applause goes to Chief Baconeer Fitzy and his incredible army of volunteers. You all pulled off another crackling celebration. It was a fantastic weekend—fabulous food and market stalls; the Aussie Barbeque Alliance cook-off; the privilege of hearing from a swarm of local musicians; my favourite, the celebrity chef demonstrations—and thanks to Alastair McLeod and Simon Prest for letting me jump in on the fun, and that was so much fun; and farm-to-paddock tours showcasing the very best of South Burnett produce. BaconFest knew how to bring the flavour and the fun together, and a big shout-out goes to SunPork—it is a major sponsor—as well as Westlink. Westlink has had a horrific tragedy on our roads in the last several days. My thoughts and prayers go to all of the staff and the families of Westlink and the family of the deceased.

Drugs, Pill Testing


 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.18 pm): I want to start by thanking Queensland Health for using its social media channels to highlight the danger posed to people by nitazenes. These are a group of synthetic opioids that are 500 times more potent than fentanyl. As Queensland Health said in its post, even tiny amounts can cause serious harm and pose a very high risk of overdose. They said that the real danger is that you cannot see them, smell them or taste them; you may not have any idea they are there until it is too late. In short, if you take these drugs because they have been mixed in with other drugs by criminals for God knows what reason you are highly likely to die. You cannot see them, taste them or smell them but, until recently, there was a way to detect them. You could go to a government funded pill-testing clinic or visit a mobile unit at a festival and tests would reveal nitazenes. In fact, in the very week that the CheQPoint clinic in Bowen Hills shut down, they detected nitazenes in drugs brought in by community members. This detection saved those people's lives.

When we started the needle exchange program back in the nineties we heard all of the same tired arguments against their establishment that we are now hearing against the pill-testing clinics. They do not encourage or increase drug use. In fact, they do the opposite. They provide health professionals with an opportunity to engage with drug users and each engagement provides an opportunity to steer the user to a healthier decision. There is a mountain of clinical evidence to back this up. Amongst the saddest meetings I have ever had in my electorate were meeting parents whose kids went off to a weekend festival—doing something lots of young people like to do—and did not come home. These were regular young people making regular young people mistakes who tragically paid for those mistakes with their lives. We did have things in place to prevent that, and we should have things in place to prevent this from happening in future.

Like many young people, my daughter will soon be heading off to schoolies. Of course my wife and I are nervous, but we want her and her friends to have fun and we accept they are going to take some risks. When my other daughter went to schoolies I was impressed at how many things were in

place to keep young people safe while giving them some space to have fun. What an absolute disgrace that there will not be a mobile pill-testing clinic at schoolies week. There will certainly be some young people using drugs, so I am calling on the health minister and the Premier to provide a mobile pill-testing clinic at schoolies. The Premier said he would keep people safe where they are. Why not keep young people safe at schoolies.

Smith, Mr R

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (2.22 pm): This week the Sunshine Coast community lost a much loved local, Robert Smith—or 'Smithy', as he was affectionately known—who was a loved husband, son, father, brother and friend to many. The tragic boat capsizing on Wednesday morning at the entrance of Mooloolaba Harbour has deeply saddened our community and myself. Even if you did not know Smithy, you knew his fishing charter company, Smithy's Fishing Charters, the longest continuously running fishing charter company on the Sunshine Coast.


The Mooloolah River entrance is a complex and dynamic marine environment which has proven challenging for even the most experienced operators. It leads into Mooloolaba Harbour, a gazetted harbour, which hosts a significant commercial fishing fleet, recreational and charter operators, the Sunshine Coast Water Police, Fisheries, Maritime Safety Queensland, the Coast Guard and also the pilot boats which accompany the ships in and out of Moreton Bay.

There will rightly be many questions surrounding this tragedy and there must be answers. The relevant authorities will be supported to conduct a full investigation into the incident. That must take place firstly so the full facts are known and answers are provided to Smithy's family as to what occurred. Right now it would be pre-emptive for me or anyone else to make such a judgement, but I say to my local community, which is understandably concerned, that there will be answers to exactly what has occurred.

With regard to the history of this location, it is a matter of public record that there has been a western channel trial underway as part of assessing the options for the Mooloolaba Harbour entrance. Traditionally dredging did not occur outside of the direct channel entrance, but this trial has included it at the request of the local community. I understand that a new hydrological survey occurred on Monday and the virtual way markers in the western channel were updated on Tuesday.

Today, though, our focus remains on Robert 'Smithy' Smith, who leaves behind a legacy of countless fishing memories for locals and visitors alike through his charters, where he shared his passion for fishing and the ocean. To Robert's family, friends and all who knew him I offer my deepest condolences and support. Gone too soon and missed by so many. Vale, Robert Smith.

State Schools, Teachers

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.25 pm): A few weeks ago I had the honour of marching with a number of my colleagues alongside thousands of state school teachers. The feeling on the day was that there was a groundswell of community support for our hardworking teachers. It was inspiring to be part of a movement like that where you felt that there was a strong sense of support from all corners of the community. Teachers were talking about it when they were catching public transport into the rally that day. They were all so buoyed by the support they received from all sectors of the community. That sentiment I felt here in Brisbane was seen right around the state where there were events: in Cairns, Townsville, the Gold Coast, Mackay and countless more locations.

At estimates hearings the minister said that about 13 per cent of parents sent their children to school on the day of the strike. When one considers the significant logistical challenge that would have posed for many Queensland households, that is a significant display of support from Queensland parents who heeded the call from the QTU to keep their children home. Parents went out of their way to make alternative arrangements so they could show their support for our Queensland teachers. I want to take a moment to thank the parents for their show of support in keeping their children home that day if they could.

Queensland parents get it. They understand that our Queensland state school teachers have five key asks and they back them. They want the LNP government to deliver what they promised to our teachers. Our teachers have a total of five interest areas that they are seeking to resolve in their negotiations, and I want to name them in the House today as it appears the minister struggled to do so

in estimates: remuneration that recognises the professional qualification of members; attracting and retaining teachers and school leaders; implementing the comprehensive review of school resourcing; supporting teachers and school leaders as professionals; and fair and safe workplaces.

Our hardworking teachers need safe working conditions because occupational violence is at an all-time high. They are facing violence in their workplace on an unprecedented scale. Members of the union tell me that they want the nation-leading wages they were promised before the election, not the standard offer they have been given post election. You cannot promise the deluxe version and then offer them up a standard model post-election. It is no wonder that teachers are unhappy. Our teachers wear many hats: they are educators, event planners, interior designers and creative directors. They are confidants for children who need them; they may be the only trusted adult. We need to back our teachers.

Whittaker, Mr D



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (2.28 pm): I rise today to share the story of David ‘Jock’ Whittaker, a man whose life of faith, humour and service touched many people in Mackay and beyond. Jock was born on 27 April 1948 in Scotland, the second child in his family. In 1961 the family took that long trip to Australia. While other children on board suffered from sunburn, Jock was safe below deck happily learning chess from the ship’s lift operator—an early sign of his thoughtful and courageous nature. The family settled in Victoria. Jock struggled at school, his strong Scottish accent making lessons difficult, and so in year 8 he left to work in a furniture-making company.

Sadly, at just 16 Jock lost his father. With great determination he moved to Mildura to pick fruit and help support the family. While away his mother wrote asking whether or not he was going to church. Ever the obedient son, the following Sunday Jock went to Mildura Baptist Church. That simple act began the lifelong Christian journey that defined his ministry. Later in Geelong Jock became involved in Norlane Baptist Church teaching Sunday school and leading youth.

In 1975 he married Lyn and in 1977 he entered Bible College. Together Jock and Lyn were blessed with three children, Nathan, Simone and Joel. It was during this time that Jimmy, Jock’s faithful puppet, suddenly made an appearance. For decades he was a character who entertained and taught Bible truths to children and adults alike. Ballina Baptist was Jock’s first church and he served there for 13 years. He was then called to the Mackay Baptist Church. His ministry is remembered for its warmth and inclusiveness. Jock made sure that everyone felt welcome, no matter where they came from. Jimmy, the puppet, was never far away from the pulpit and even travelled on mission trips to Vanuatu, where he shared messages of hope and faith to young and old.

Jock often described a church as a bit like an airport: a place where people landed for a time, found care and encouragement and then moved on to the next stage of their journey. Jock’s hope was that they would leave stronger and closer to God than when they first arrived. Perhaps Jock’s favourite verse came from Matthew 12:20—

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory.

Jock believed deeply in binding up the broken-hearted. Many who arrived at his airport bruised and weary left renewed and strengthened. We miss Jock.

Bundaberg, Second Fire Station



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.30 pm): The estimates process revealed that there will be no second Bundaberg fire station in the forward timetable as revealed by the acting commissioner. Yesterday during the debate on the report, the minister herself revealed how little she knows about the history of that project. Yesterday the minister said—

When it comes to the fire station builds Labor claimed they were committed to building the second Bundaberg fire station. However, Labor forgot to look up their final 2023-24 budget, which does not commit a single cent to this station.

For the benefit of the minister, in the previous financial year \$2 million was allocated to secure the preferred location. The land was purchased but due to the contractual arrangement with the business that was then on that site that business was able to finish their lease before construction started, which would have meant money in this financial year. That is why there was an \$11.5 million commitment in the election commitments last year. Clearly, the minister is not across her brief. Perhaps she could get a briefing. I am happy to brief her, if she would like.

Yesterday the member for Townsville said the statement of reservation was filled with 'newspaper clippings, cobbled together and proudly attached, of the few baseless newspaper articles it could accomplish'. For the benefit of the member for Townsville, I will read from one of those newspaper articles. It states—

Local firefighters have expressed their safety concerns following the lack of funding for a second fire station in the State Budget ...

It quotes a senior firefighter who said—

We've already got the land there, it's a perfect location. We just need the government to allocate some money to build and staff it.

The article goes on—

'People don't realise just how stretched we are,' said one veteran Bundaberg firefighter.


And further—

'We're not just disappointed by this budget. We're alarmed.'

According to the member for Townsville, that article is baseless. I would be interested to know what the minister thinks of the member for Townsville's comments.

We know that we need a second fire station because the data clearly shows it. Last year, there were 1,377 call-outs in the Bundaberg region. If there was a second fire station, 612 of those jobs would have been attended by the crew from the second Bundaberg fire station. In fact, whistleblowers from the Queensland Fire Department have shown that to date the Bundaberg station itself has had over 1,050 call-outs, which is more than Maryborough, Gladstone, Torquay, Gympie, Kingaroy, Noosa or Warwick. In fact, they predict that by the end of this calendar year they would have attended over 1,600 jobs. The acting commissioner said that by the end of the forward timetable, which would be 2029, on the trends they predict they will attend over 2,000 fire incident jobs. We need our second fire station. Minister, do your job.

Pumicestone Electorate, Events ; Hadley, Mr K; Goold, Dr S, OAM

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.33 pm): The past couple of months have been an absolute whirlwind packed with events, milestones and moments of community spirit. From the fabulous Caboolture Show, the Abbey Medieval Festival, Yarun EcoFlix and Sandstone Point Hotel's 10th anniversary to gatherings right across the Pumicestone electorate, as the Deputy Premier said this morning, I've been everywhere, man! However, alongside the celebrations, it has also been a time of sadness and remembrance.

We farewelled Keith Hadley, a fellow Sandstone Point Lion with whom I was fortunate to spend time over the past two years. At his memorial I learned that Keith grew up down the road from my dad in Narangba and that he had even taught my Uncle Richard at St Paul's School. It really is a small world. I want to place on record my condolences to Jenny Hadley, Keith's family and all who have lost a father, grandfather, stepdad, uncle and friend.

We also lost Bribie local Dr Sally Goold OAM. She was a proud Indigenous woman, visionary leader and trailblazer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and nursing. Thanks to Barry France and Sally's family, her memorial service at the Bribie Island Surf Club was a moment of reflection and pride, honouring her transformative contributions not just in nursing but also in the fight for equity, justice and culturally safe care for First Nations peoples. On behalf of the Crisafulli government I extend our heartfelt condolences to Dr Goold's family, her loved ones and the many communities she uplifted throughout her remarkable life.

On Monday, 18 August, I joined local services for Vietnam Veterans Day commemorations. Those ceremonies are deeply moving. They are a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by those who served. I thank the Beachmere and Bribie Island RSL sub-branches for their commitment to ensuring those commemorations remain dignified and enduring.


On a lighter note, I recently visited Pumicestone State School, where students are working on projects about issues facing our community. Their enthusiasm and fresh ideas were inspiring and gave me a valuable glimpse into the future of Pumicestone.

Next week at the Bribie Island RSL Club, I am honoured to be hosting and emceeing a Gathering for Freedom event with Destiny Rescue, an organisation doing extraordinary work rescuing children from human trafficking. This cause is close to my heart as I fundraised for Destiny Rescue during my high school years and I promised myself I would continue to support their mission. I am especially pleased that the interim CEO, Chris Gribble, will be joining us to share powerful rescue and restoration stories that I know will leave a lasting impact on our community.

Finally, on a personal note, I am proud to share that I have recently graduated with a dual degree in environmental science and business. I am eager to put these skills into practice for the benefit of our region. Bribie Island and the Pumicestone electorate are incredibly special places and I want to ensure we protect what makes our home so unique. Our beaches, bushland and wildlife must be safeguarded so that future generations can enjoy them just as we do today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Pumicestone, congratulations on your dual degree. Well done.

Mansfield Electorate, Cost-of-Living Relief


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.36 pm): The people of the Mansfield electorate are working hard yet finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. Families can no longer rely on their fortnightly pay to cover basic expenses. The cost of living continues to rise and the government's response has been nothing short of inadequate. The pressure is mounting, and more people than ever are slipping into housing stress and even homelessness. Despite these struggles, the government has failed to deliver the relief that families so desperately need.

For example, on the issue of energy costs, the Premier promised to lower energy bills for Queenslanders, but that promise has not been kept. In fact, the opposite is happening. For families in the south-east, electricity bills will rise by \$77 at least and even more for those in regional areas. Despite the government's claims, most householders will receive no rebate at all. This is a government that says one thing but delivers another, leaving Queenslanders to bear the brunt of rising energy prices. Then there is the strain on household budgets. The costs of groceries, rents and mortgages are all going up. For too many working families, pay cheques do not stretch far enough to cover the basics. People who have worked hard all their lives are wondering how they will make it through to the next pay fortnight.

The concessions offered by the Crisafulli government have declined from those delivered in 2024. Labor understood that householders needed targeted support mechanisms such as rebates and discounts that help Queenslanders on low incomes stay afloat during financial hardship. That is why Labor delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers, energy bill rebates, vehicle registration discounts, 50-cent fares and more health care close to home. Essential services are stretched thin, working families are being left behind, health care is under pressure and communities like mine are seeing cuts to services that matter the most such as bus services and the Mount Gravatt nurse-led clinic. Extended hours were something that made those services so valuable, yet the hours have been slashed despite the overwhelming demand. The people who rely on those services are the same people being ignored by this government.

In my electorate, we need a government that understands the everyday struggles of working Queenslanders. We need a government that is not just about promises but also about delivering real and tangible relief. Whether it is through reducing energy costs, easing financial pressure on households or protecting vital health services, the people of my electorate deserve a government that puts their needs first. The people of Mansfield are working hard. Unemployment is low and they are doing their best. They deserve a government that steps up and delivers the relief that they need.

Scenic Rim Electorate

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.39 pm): Next week is Beaudesert Show week, and it will be a great gathering for the whole community around the Mount Lindesay Highway corridor. People will be able to find me from about 3.30 pm next Friday serving chips and burgers from the Rotary van at the Beaudesert Show. It is a great way of connecting with people there, and I take my hat off to the Rotary Club of Beaudesert and all the other community groups that get involved in the show.

We do not just have the Beaudesert Show. The Scenic Rim electorate is very wide and we have a lot of shows that people contribute so much to. We have the Boonah Show, the Kalbar Show, the Canungra Show and the Tamborine Mountain Show. On the periphery we also have the Rosewood


Show in the electorate of Ipswich West, for which my grandfather was secretary for 19 years many years ago. We also have the Laidley Show over the hill from Grandchester in the area you represent, Mr Deputy Speaker McDonald.

Shows contribute so much to our communities, and that is why it is great that our government has been able to provide the first permanent uplift in show society funding in almost two decades. We are supporting volunteers and community initiatives through our show movement. I wish everyone a great Beaudesert Show week and thank everyone who contributes to that movement.

Another great community movement in Beaudesert has been for a Beaudesert PCYC. It has been championed by a group called the Youth and Community Centre for six years or so now. At the moment a land management plan is out for review which has been put out by the Scenic Rim Regional Council and proposes a site for a police citizens youth club in Beaudesert alongside a proposed sports facility. I urge everyone in the community to get behind this plan put out by council, which includes a site for a PCYC. There has been some funding allocated by the state towards that PCYC. I also acknowledge the funding that was allocated a couple of years ago. Some of that has been spent. We are now looking for further sources of funding—federal or state. The first thing we need to do, though, is nail down a site for that facility. The council has come on board and has put forward a site. I urge the community to get behind it and support those who have brought this idea so far already.

In relation to services for my electorate, I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his recent determination, through Translink, that the Demand Responsive Transport service for Tamborine Mountain will be made permanent. It was started on a trial basis a couple of years ago after lots of urging by me and the community over many years. I am pleased to be able to announce to the community that the service will be made permanent, and Translink will be working with the community to try to enhance that service. It is still quite limited for a community of around 7,000 or 8,000 people, but to have it made permanent is a terrific step. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for doing that and backing in that funding. It is part of the LNP government's 50-cent fare program as well, and it is a great initiative.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance


 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.42 pm): The estimates process laid bare the direction of the Crisafulli government. It is meant to be a completely transparent process. It is meant to shine a light on the workings of government. Thankfully, Queenslanders have an effective opposition and we were able to expose the early failings of this government, despite the obstacles of endless and absurd points of order, ministers refusing to answer questions and time wasted on government Dorothy Dixers. What I heard during the estimates process was government members banging out lines that were written for them by the Premier's office and an unwillingness to answer questions, even basic questions.

The estimates hearing exposed the extraordinary workload being dumped on the office of the Small Business Commissioner. When I asked whether any additional funding had been provided to support the so-called refocusing of this office, the director-general was blunt when he said, 'There is not an allocation.' In other words, the minister has increased the responsibilities of the commissioner without a single extra dollar of support. The government expects the commissioner to do more—deliver red-tape reduction, handle dispute resolution and improve statewide engagement—while starving the office of resources. It has been set up to fail, and small businesses will be the ones that suffer.

Repeatedly throughout the hearing the minister ducked and weaved around the cutting of energy relief for small businesses and the shutting down of renewable projects and health projects. He claimed that they were outside of his public responsibility. In other words, he was saying, 'Don't ask me. Don't expect answers. Don't expect accountability,' even though he is the Minister for Small Business and should be looking out for all small businesses in Queensland.

Queensland's small and family businesses deserve better. They deserve a minister who will fight for them, not one who hides behind procedures, points of order and a pack of decks. The opposition will continue to hold this government to account for its broken promises on energy relief, its failures on timely payments, its cronyism on advisory appointments and its damaging cuts to regional projects, which have the potential to hurt small businesses and the economies of our regional centres. Behind every one of this government's bad decisions is a cafe owner in Cairns, a mechanic in Mackay, a supplier in Townsville or a family operator in Ipswich. These are the people who will pay the price—small business owners.

Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.45 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to provide a bit of an update on a few things that are happening on the northern Gold Coast, the fastest growing electorate in the state of Queensland, with a population of well over 110,000 and around 55½ thousand voters as we speak. On 30 June 2025 the bus stop for the Halcyon Greens service No. 732 was finally delivered. It could have been delivered last term, it could have been delivered when the rest of the bus stops were delivered, but they just went straight past Halcyon Greens. There are 1,000 people living there. The nearest bus stop either way was more than 900 metres away. It was absolutely ridiculous not to have a bus stop there, but we have fixed that.


How is this: the first post office on the eastern side of the M1 between the Albert and Logan river systems and the Coomera River was opened on 4 July. It is absolutely amazing. We fought hard for it. Les Hargreaves, one of the locals, was championing that one, and we finally delivered it on 4 July.

We have had the last coffee with Crando and Leafey, as Senior Sergeant Michael Leafe is leaving us. He has been the officer in charge at Pimpama station since the beginning, which was a few years ago. We fought hard to have that station built. He was the very first senior sergeant there. He has been promoted to inspector and he is taking up his new role as Inspector, Protective Services Group, based in Brisbane. We thank Michael Leafe for his wisdom and the way he managed the area. We wish him all the best in his new role.

The average age of the Coomera electorate is growing organically, with the GemLife over-50s village growing at a very fast rate in Pimpama. There are hundreds of new residents moving in, and they are not the young people and their children whom we have been used to in the past. Everyone knows that we have more than 20,000 kids going to school and 60 childcare centres in the northern Gold Coast. All of those were great and kept the average age down, but GemLife is now there. I had the pleasure of opening some magnificent new facilities at GemLife and they are nothing short of absolutely spectacular.

Finally, we are getting close now to opening the Pimpama train station, which was promised in 2017 by those opposite. We are opening it in 2025. Of course, we are not very far away from the opening of the Coomera Connector stage 1 north, which is 10 months ahead of expectations.

Caboolture Hospital

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.48 pm): I am sure all members would agree with me that it is extremely concerning to see reports that local victims of sexual assault have recently been turned away from the Caboolture Hospital and told to make their own way to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital for a sexual assault forensic medical examination, also known as a rape kit. That is an hour's drive away for someone who is already traumatised. It is another hour of not being able to shower and not being able to take the next vital step in reporting a horrendous crime.

This is a basic failure of care. Victims deserve immediate treatment and support in their local community at the Caboolture Hospital. Failure to provide this service at the Caboolture Hospital is not good enough and the LNP state government needs to take action to fix this now. Victim-survivors of sexual assault deserve local trauma informed care. It is that simple. Rape kits and the specialist staff who administer them must be available at the Caboolture Hospital.

In 2023 the previous state Labor government issued a ministerial directive stipulating that public hospitals like the Caboolture Hospital must ensure that victims of sexual assault who present at emergency departments, like the one at Caboolture Hospital, must be seen by appropriately trained staff within 10 minutes and supported with rape kits. However, notwithstanding this ministerial directive, it has now been revealed that this is not happening at the Caboolture Hospital—not happening under the LNP state government.

What have we seen from stakeholders about this particular issue? The local sexual assault counselling service Laurel Place said they were aware that these services were now not being provided at the Caboolture Hospital. They say that delays in testing place an additional emotional burden on victims at a highly stressful time, requiring them not to shower and to remain in a hospital environment. In addition, the mother of an alleged rape victim said that hospitals 'are expecting someone who has been traumatised by a sexual assault to travel to another hospital to essentially seek what is crucial in not only a criminal sense but also a healing one too. No wonder victims do not come forward.' The

Executive Officer of the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, Angela Lynch, said it seemed there was an uneven hospital response across the state. Victim-survivors should not be discriminated against because of where they live and they deserve an appropriate service response.

I am calling on the LNP state government to, like what we did in 2023, issue a ministerial directive and get this fixed right now at the Caboolture Hospital in the interests of sexual assault victims.

Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (2.51 pm): The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant oath reads—

We, the people of Australia, respect and give thanks

to all who have served in our defence force and their families.

We acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the sacrifice

demanding of all who commit to defend our nation.

We undertake to preserve the memory and deeds of all who have served

and promise to welcome, embrace and support

all military veterans as respected and valued members of our community.

For what they have done, this we will do.

Those words are not just an oath; they are a solemn promise from the Australian people to every veteran who has worn our nation's uniform. As the Assistant Minister for Veterans, I stand in this House to reaffirm that promise on behalf of the Crisafulli government.

Veterans and their families have given more than most of us could ever imagine. Their service has taken them from training fields here at home to distant battlefields, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions across the world. They carry the weight of sacrifice so that we may live in safety, freedom and prosperity. With that service comes a responsibility on all of us—as a parliament, as a government and as a community—to ensure they are not ever forgotten and are never left behind.

That is why the Crisafulli government has introduced the Queensland Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy 2025—the first of its kind in our state and a nation-leading initiative. For the first time in Australia, this is a government strategy that not only supports veterans themselves but also formally recognises and cares for their families. By including families, Queensland is setting a new national benchmark in how we deliver care, wellbeing and opportunity for the entirely veteran community. Each plays a vital role in supporting our veterans and their families through advocacy, health, housing, education, employment, commemoration or simply by providing a community of understanding.

When we say the Australian defence oath, we make a pledge that must be lived in our words, our deeds and our policy. Our government is proud to stand with veterans and their families and proud to be delivering the Queensland Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy 2025 to ensure that pledge is honoured in full.

Housing



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (2.54 pm): When we look at some of the biggest issues we now face, we can trace the contributors to things including current societal norms. For example, in our parents' era, intergenerational living was essential and provided care for grandchildren and grandparents, a bunk bed for relatives who had fallen on hard times and sustainable living, with electricity, food, fuel and water shared. Isolation and loneliness were unknown, whether as a teenager or an elder, and the reliance on government services including the ambulance was much less as family members provided those. There was always someone in the house to help, whether to care physically or emotionally, clean out a gutter or share a cuppa.


That is not so much the case now, with expectations set by marketing campaigns and vested interests promoting greater consumption, independence, privacy and retiring to dream locations, often states away from grown children and grandchildren. Our reliance on government has increased as a result, including to remain alone in our own family-size homes in our twilight years. Data from the RBA and ABS show the average household size of 2.8 in the 1980s is now 2.5, which, if regained, could see an extra 1.2 million houses available to the market. That is food for thought.

With a growing number of Queenslanders sleeping in cars, our societal norm of having our own space is creating a rejection of offered shared accommodation. How do we address the ramifications of our norms in a sustainable and caring way? Intergenerational learning and living is one way. This connects the two ends of the age spectrum through human centred design and the sharing of spaces, education, skills, volunteerism and existing services and buildings in a village style atmosphere, with the community designing the missing parts.

This is what we have been doing with QUT, Deakin University, the Australian Catholic University and Mark Trotter Architects, with beautiful Pomona the site. Currently, outcomes from a workshop are being compiled to take to our community. That resulted from input from seniors living and education organisations, community development teams, local government planners, urban designers and a host more. Between that and the Ted Noffs project at the former House with No Steps site and transitional accommodation sites identified, we accept it is up to us to resolve the impacts of our societal norms.

When I come knocking on the government's door for assistance, whether financial or policy, I ask them to look at what can be and not what cannot be done due to policy settings geared to increased consumption, not decreased consumption, as part of creating our sustainable, caring and loving future.

Redland Hospital, MRI Machine

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.57 pm): It is my great pleasure to rise to thank the 2,311 Redlanders who have joined my campaign for us to get an MRI machine at Redland Hospital. Right now, when a patient at Redland Hospital needs this type of imaging they face a difficult scenario. A nurse gets taken off a ward and they are bundled into a patient transport ambulance, or into a taxi oftentimes, and they are shipped over to Logan Hospital, QEII or PA—wherever there is availability. They have the imaging done. They are bundled into that transport and sent back to Redland Hospital. The consequence is inconvenience and discomfort oftentimes for that patient as well as a reduced level of care for those people who remain on the ward because that nurse is no longer available to be helping out. Oftentimes more than one nurse is engaged in public transport at a time which has quite a significant impact on the care that is available for locals. It is really important that we get this investment, and I am so thankful to everybody who has joined the campaign so far.

It is really good to see that Redland Hospital is growing, and in many ways it is overdue. For decades the Redlands has been expanding, and our little country hospital just has not expanded sufficiently to keep up. The Amity Ward is now open, recruiting is underway for the new ICU that will shortly be up and running, and we have a budget commitment to a new mental and allied health building with 20 additional dedicated mental health beds. We need those services so much in the Redlands, but our next step—an MRI—will deliver better access to health care where we live.

For those Redlanders who have not yet joined the campaign, please get on board and help me to make the most compelling possible case for this investment. You can join by adding your name to the petition and becoming a part of it so that we can get ever better health care for those of us who work in, live in and love the Redlands.

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.00 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee Report No. 9, 58th Parliament, *Consideration of Auditor-General reports to parliament*, tabled on 19 June 2025.

In so doing, I thank the committee members and the committee secretariat for their efforts in providing this report to the House. This report considered Auditor-General reports to parliament Nos 11 and 12.

For report No. 11, the QAO summarised the audit results of 236 Queensland state government entities, including the 21 core government departments. The QAO found that state entities' 2023-24 financial statements are reliable and comply with relevant laws and standards.

Report No. 12 examined how the Queensland government is managing its debt and investments. It also reports on recent transactions, risks and their management strategies. The QAO found that, in 2023-24, net debt increased because the government borrowed more for capital projects. The increase in net debt was partly offset by increases in the value by the government's investments.


In report No. 11, *State entities 2024*, it is worth noting that there was a focus on information and control. Information systems are the hardware, software, networks and data that entities use to manage information. The QAO expanded its audit to consider not just the applications state entities use but also their underlying infrastructure such as their databases, operating systems and network access.

Almost two-thirds of new deficiencies and significant deficiencies identified as part of the QAO's audits this year related to information systems controls. That is very worrying. In terms of the weaknesses identified in information systems controls, the QAO advised that they continued to find recurring issues, not just in how access is controlled but also in how risks are managed where information systems or data processing is managed by vendors external to government.

In this regard, the Auditor-General provides some guidance. For example, they found that, while key controls at state entities are generally effective, internal controls can further be improved. Particular deficiencies were found in controls over payroll, accounts payable and expenditure, governance and procurement, and contract management. We encourage relevant entities in that regard to continue to work to improve those controls.

Report No. 12, *Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024*, made four overarching observations of debt and investment during the investment period: borrowings for major projects are expected to increase—there is no surprise there; green bonds are supporting environmental projects—which is an interesting observation; the value of government investments has grown—which is encouraging; and the government is investing in quantum computing.

The committee notes the increases in both borrowings and the value of the long-term asset portfolio. The committee will watch the investment in quantum research and innovation with interest. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.04 pm): I rise to speak to the report by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, or the GEF Committee as we know it. The work of the Auditor-General is obviously very important to the operation of government here in Queensland. I will echo some of the comments from the member for Coomera. I think it shows that Queensland does have a healthy set of books. I think one could say that this government has inherited a pretty robust situation.

It shows that expenditure has grown but it shows that revenue is relatively consistent. There has been an increase in the value of our investments, but that is mirrored by, as we have heard, an increase in net debt and that is because of borrowings for our capital projects. It is no surprise that net debt will increase as we build more infrastructure here in Queensland, and that is very clear in report No. 12. It is something that I think this government needs to keep in mind. If we are to get the infrastructure that we need for our booming population, we have to fund it, and funding it through borrowings is, I believe, one of the most secure ways to do that. I represent part of South-East Queensland, which in Australia is clearly booming. There are enormous population pressures from interstate in our region, in Moreton Bay, and there are very clear pressures on our infrastructure. We really do need that infrastructure.


Members know that I was first in council in 2000. I spent 12 years in council and we wrestled with infrastructure back then and the question of how we pay for it. Always in council you are wrestling with the issue of how do we pay for the infrastructure that we need? We know now that the pressures of building infrastructure are more acute than ever. We have all seen around the world how the price of shipping has doubled, almost tripled, over a number of years. The price of steel has doubled. The price of concrete has gone through the roof. It is not only that but the pressures of getting the infrastructure built. There are real delays in getting experienced companies and personnel to do that. The cost of labour is probably only a small component of that.

This report reminds us that, yes, there are pressures on net debt but the pressures for infrastructure are so much larger. They are everyday pressures for our people. It is a case of we just have to do it. We just have to build it if it is really important. In Queensland we have always built this infrastructure, funded through public debt. In the 19th century, when Queensland built the incredible network of railways that we have now, we probably had the highest debt in the world. We went railway crazy. We had an enormous level of debt, but over 150 years later that investment is bearing fruit every day.

One of the other parts of the report—and I note and echo what the member for Coomera has said—is about control systems. I think one of the most valuable contributions the Queensland Audit Office has made over recent years is to draw our attention to potential deficiencies in control systems. We need to get payroll secure. We need to get procurement secure. We especially need to get IT secure. The chair knows exactly for how many years we have dealt with this topic in reports. It is not only government departments but councils as well.

For any government entity in Queensland, cybersecurity is important now more than ever. We need to keep our assets and our funds secure in a world where cyber theft is constantly threatening us. Cybersecurity is one of those areas that I hope the Audit Office will keep investigating and will continue to raise the issue of how much we need to improve in that area. There are deficiencies, but we always encourage our government entities to make sure that the work they do is secure.

I am also pleased to see that we are issuing green bonds for investments to mitigate climate change. I know that we have to keep an eye on the impact of climate change on our infrastructure and services in the future.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise today to speak about the role of the Queensland Audit Office in ensuring that the Queensland government are held accountable for the finances they control under this and every sitting government. The QAO must prepare an annual report to summarise the audit results of government entities and identify deficiencies and opportunities for improvement in the audit results.


The report that the QAO compiles at the end of its audit must contain: financial statements that are reliable; the state's expenditure for that period; new deficiencies in any information systems; and state entities controls, their strengths and weaknesses. It is vital that the Queensland government has policies and procedures in place to ensure that moneys spent are accounted for at every level of government spending.

Queenslanders deserve to know that their hard-earned money is not being wasted, that it is being put to use to directly benefit their communities. Queenslanders voted all of us here. They have the right to know that every single one of us is being held accountable for the finances they give to our government to use wisely. The role of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee is exactly that: to govern the finances.

Under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, this committee is responsible for considering the Auditor-General's reports to parliament. This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of two Auditor-General reports. In relation to *Report 11: 2024-25—State entities 2024*, the committee notes that the financial statements of state entities were found to be reliable and complied with relevant reporting requirements. We encourage the relevant entities to continue to improve controls over information systems as well as internal controls over governance, payroll, accounts payable and expenditure, and procurement and contract management to manage security and financial management risks.

With regard to *Report 12: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024*, the committee notes the increases in both borrowings and the value of the long-term asset portfolio. The committee will watch the investment in quantum research and innovation with interest. The committee's recommendation is that the House notes the contents of the report.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Auditor-General and Queensland Audit Office for providing its assurance and insights. I also thank the Parliamentary Service staff for their professional hard work. I commend this report to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.13 pm): I rise today to address the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's report on the Auditor-General's findings in *Report 11: 2024-25—State entities 2024* and *Report 12: 2024-25—Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024*. I thank the Auditor-General, Rachel Vagg, and her team at the Queensland Audit Office for the crucial insights, independent advice and assessment they always provide. I also thank parliamentary staff and the secretariat for their support of the committee and my fellow committee members for their time in noting these reports.

I will start by noting a couple of things which have been mentioned in this report. Report 12 exposes the LNP government's fiscal deception and the risks they pose to Queensland by inflating figures that threaten our state's credit rating. The Queensland Audit Office reported that our long-term asset portfolio steadily increased from 2019-20 to 2023-24 due to positive returns and strategic deposits. We saw strong investment returns and increased fair value in 2023-24, and rating agencies such as S&P Global, Moody's and Fitch all maintained Queensland's AA+ rating. This report highlights the LNP's lies about Labor being poor economic managers, because everything we have seen in this report—

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member may have used unparliamentary language.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): I am sorry, but I did not pick that up. I believe it was more of a global comment. That was my interpretation. Are you happy to withdraw, member for Sandgate?

Ms ASIF: I am happy to withdraw to assist the House.

It does highlight their untruths that Labor are poor economic managers. The truth is that Labor left a positive economic outlook with some solid revenue streams, enabling government support for Queenslanders and investment in essential services and the infrastructure to build Queensland's future. However, we do know that when the LNP government came in they released a wildly inflated MYFER update last year, with \$23 billion in allowances. In February 2025, S&P Global then had to revise the Queensland government's outlook from stable to negative as a direct consequence of this government's actions. What we do know is that the government produced an inflated budget update to score political points rather than assist Queenslanders when they were really feeling the pinch in their pocketbooks.

The report highlights increased revenues from Labor's progressive coal royalties of nearly \$14 billion. Labor used these coal royalties to fund essential services needed by the people of Queensland, including infrastructure and cost-of-living relief to fund Labor's 50-cent fares, \$1,000 power bill rebates and car rego discounts along with health infrastructure, including nurse-led clinics. Despite continuing to pocket those coal royalties, this government fails to deliver investment in Queensland. Families find it harder to pay the bills, many living pay cheque to pay cheque. They are petrified of receiving their next bill because they just do not know how they are going to cover it. We have not seen a single cent from this government to support the hundreds of thousands of households that are feeling the pinch when it comes to paying their increased electricity bills. The Premier promised there would be no increase to electricity bills, but here we are—yet another broken promise.

Report 11 addresses state entities and specifically mentions the Housing Investment Fund. In October 2022 the former Labor government invested \$2 billion and committed to building 5,600 social and affordable homes to help alleviate housing pressures faced by the state's most vulnerable. Last week I met with Beau and Jenny from Nourish Street and Paul from Northwest Community Group. These organisations provide crucial support and outreach to feed people who are facing homelessness. They also provide essentials and serve over 2,000 meals to people experiencing homelessness, daily witnessing the reality of this government's failure to deliver housing. I would encourage the government to learn more about these organisations and spend some time looking into the support they are providing.

The Auditor-General has done her job in showing Queensland's strengths. I would say it is now time for the government to do theirs. Stop playing political games and start governing. Do something to deliver a better, brighter future for all—a future where people can afford to keep a roof over their heads and afford to dream beyond paying their next bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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




Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.19 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Primary Industries and Resources Committee report on the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill by 17 October 2025; the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill by 17 October 2025; and the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee report on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill and the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 17 October 2025.

The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's *Report 1: 2025-26—Reducing organic household waste sent to landfill* be referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

**DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 2600, on motion of Ms Camm—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (3.20 pm): The Crisafulli government is again stepping up to put victims first and restoring safety for all Queenslanders. This bill reflects our continued commitment to support victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. I want to speak to how important this bill is to my portfolio. In Queensland, 79.2 per cent of all applications for a domestic violence protection order are made to protect aggrieved women. Within the last decade, the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents has increased by approximately 218 per cent. That is unacceptable and it demonstrates a decade of decline under Labor where victims of domestic and family violence were left waiting hours or days for help.


In putting victims first, we are putting women first. The issuing of police protection directions provides immediate 12-month protection for Queensland women who need it. This means protection for Aboriginal women, protection for Torres Strait Islander women, protection for culturally and linguistically diverse women and protection for all Queensland women and girls. This bill is too important to ignore or to besmirch as we have heard from members opposite.

This bill embeds protections by outlining the appropriate circumstances where a domestic violence order should be made by the court. I appreciate the consideration that was given to how this bill intersects with the work of the Family Responsibilities Commission. The FRC is working to facilitate early intervention and address behaviour before it escalates and requires serious remedial action in our most rural and remote discrete communities. This bill will allow Family Responsibilities Commissioners to assist in the local management of the protection of victims of domestic and family violence. They will be working together with local police, local leaders and local elders to ensure they are in a better position to provide wraparound and appropriate support.

This bill will also deliver the Crisafulli government's election commitment to pilot the use of GPS electronic monitors on high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. The pilot will be limited to select courts which will be prescribed by regulation. This pilot involves 150 devices in the first stage. Victim-survivors will be able to elect to carry their own GPS enabled safety devices. This is empowerment for women. It allows them to be seen if they want that; it allows them to have that level of protection if they want it—and they do want it. It brings back their dignity because they are able to make decisions about their own safety and take back some control. This technology is intended to complement existing safety planning undertaken by specialist domestic and family violence services.

The bill also expands the VREC, videorecorded evidence-in-chief, framework. We know that giving evidence in court can retraumatise victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. The VREC framework will enable all Magistrates Courts to allow adult complainants in domestic violence criminal proceedings to give their evidence-in-chief by way of a videorecorded statement. Use of a VREC statement in a DFVP Act proceeding reduces the risk of retraumatising a victim-survivor when they are giving evidence in a court proceedings. This framework is about giving dignity to victims. It also acknowledges the need to empower victims during some of the most challenging times in their lives and it protects their wellbeing. This bill simplifies and streamlines the framework with that objective in place; it keeps victims of domestic and family violence safer and provides them with greater support. The bill's outcome is supporting women.

Every Queensland woman and girl deserves to feel safe and be safe. I support this bill that delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to put victims first, hold perpetrators to account and restore safety where you live for all Queenslanders.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill before the House. This is my first speech about this type of issue for quite some time. I want to start with the reflection that, with a matter as complex and wicked as domestic and family violence, the words that we use in this chamber are a reflection on all of us. Domestic and family violence is not a black-and-white matter; it is a complex matter and there is no one silver bullet. The idea that any of us here in this House do not have the thoughts, wishes and feelings of victims at the centre of why we are here—the idea that you are either for victims or against victims—is reductive and largely childish.

We have all given our maiden speeches and no-one came in here with a specific goal or focus of deriding victims of crime, or any other group for that matter. Everyone is in here with the intent of making Queensland a better and safer place; we all just have different approaches on how we do that. I am not going to try and sloganeer and invent my way through this speech. I do not presume to be an expert on domestic and family violence.

I spent 20-odd years in the Police Service. My last posting was as a Queensland police senior project officer for domestic and family violence, travelling the state, delivering training programs and being the trainer for police around the state. When I arrive at my position on this, I look at the experts and I look at their submissions. When we would put together a training course for all of our domestic and family violence coordinators and DVLOs across the state, I would not stand at a platform and preach to all of our DV coordinators. I would actually get the experts in and we would talk about it and have forums because no-one is the centre of truth on this matter.

When I look at this bill before the House, I look at the submissions of the organisations. Notwithstanding my professional experience or that of anyone else in this House, notwithstanding the personal lived experiences of anyone in this House, I look to the DFV sector. No two circumstances of domestic and family violence are the same, so I look to the organisations that see it and work it and breathe it, day in and day out. When we say evidence based, when we say that it is informed by victims, we look to the peak victim organisations so I looked at the submissions of: the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, the North Queensland Women's Legal Service, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, PeakCare, Anglicare, Soroptimists, Respect, NAPCAN, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Salvation Army, SPEAQ, the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, SSI, the Red Rose Foundation, DVConnect, the Centre for Women & Co., Women's Legal Service Queensland, the Queenslanders with Disability Network, Legal Aid Queensland, QCOSS, DFV Community Advocacy Group and the Victims' Commissioner.

I will go on, but that only got me halfway through the list of submissions. These are the victims groups that have issues with this bill—not all of it. There are some very worthy amendments contained within this bill, but let's talk to what the victims advocacy groups are concerned about. How much of a voice did they have in this process? Sure, they made a submission, but they were ignored. That is the voice that victims had in this process. As good as statistics are, we can cherrypick anything we want. I could have picked just one or two and said, 'They do not support it.' Instead, of the submissions, we had 45 advocacy groups who represent a larger and broader number of victim support agencies, who specialise in the DFV sector.

I am not here to demonise the Queensland police. I know exactly what it takes to respond to domestic and family violence. I have done it, as much as any of my former police officer colleagues here have. What I do know is that we have an issue. There was previously an issue. There was, in fact, an independent commission of inquiry into the Queensland Police Service's response to domestic and family violence. Over 78 recommendations came out of the inquiry into the Queensland Police Service responses. I remember that the shadow minister for police of the day had not even bothered to read it. I hope he has now. I sat there with fellow former police officers as they gave their evidence in tears as to the culture that we need to improve—and when I say 'we', holistically as a state we need to improve in our police response to domestic and family violence. This is not the world according to me; this is the world according to a commission of inquiry into the Queensland Police Service response.

That commission of inquiry made 78 recommendations to improve the Queensland police response to DV. Not one of those recommendations contained anything like a PPD. In fact, they recommended greater oversight. In fact, some of the amendments moved by our shadow minister are at the core of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. I urge those in government to consider implementing those amendments because they go to the core of improving the Queensland Police Service response, not the PPDs.

That is, as I said, not the world according to me. This is now a commission of inquiry. We heard from police officers—not just me or anyone on this side but a range of police officers—past and present, and we heard from a range of stakeholders. The big issue that most have with the PPDs is misidentification and the potential for dire consequences of misidentification. It was submitted in evidence to the committee that three per cent of current orders that are made by police are ruled out by courts. Three per cent is not a huge percentage, but what that means is that 700 people were potentially misidentified, and those are only the ones that are contested.

In misidentification, what happens is that in the heat of the moment, the victim—the real victim; the person most in need of protection—is extremely distressed, extremely agitated and not playing the perfect victim, the easy victim. You have a manipulative, controlling, narcissistic perpetrator who is cool, calm and collected. Police walk in to what is a heightened scenario. We know the statistics around police injuries when responding to domestic and family violence, so when a perpetrator greets them calmly at the door and there is a female surrounded by broken crockery and that kind of thing and she is agitated, she is moving around and she is not listening to instructions, you know exactly who the police will find is most in need of protection, and it is the perpetrator. There are then dire circumstances for that actual victim after police leave—dire circumstances because that person now does not have the referrals and does not have the support—but that is alright because, according to the submission and the statistics provided to the committee, maybe 700 of them a year will find themselves in that situation. I urge—

Mr Purdie: Lucky there are safeguards.

Mrs McMAHON: Safeguards, exactly. There are insufficient safeguards. Everyone in the sector has said there are insufficient safeguards in this system. Twelve months without any oversight! What is the likelihood of that victim of coercive control being able to rock up to a courthouse and contest that? They cannot make phone calls, they do not have money and they cannot leave the house, but all of a sudden there is a safeguard because they can go and contest it. When the perpetrator controls their incoming phone calls so they cannot even get referrals to services, those are—

Mr Purdie: And who helps them? The police. The police have asked for this.

Mrs McMAHON: Yes, because it is all about efficiency; it is not about the victim. The sooner those in government realise that this is not about victims—it is about efficiency, KPIs and numbers—the sooner we get to the truth of this.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (3.35 pm): Of all the bills I have had the pleasure of speaking to in this House, this one is special to me—the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The reason it is special to me is that I spent many years as a police officer and I was very pleased to be a trainer in a number of different areas, including dealing with domestic violence and including the ability for our operational police to deal with changes to regulation, changes to legislation and operationalising those things.

I am actually quite emotional thinking about the opportunity that has been provided by this government. It is exciting and emotional for me because it shows what you can do as a government when you work together. For the last decade, there has not been cooperation between the Attorney-General's area and the police minister's area when it comes to domestic violence. They have been at loggerheads and have been stopping change. The Commissioner of Police is on record for seeking these changes for over four years. However, this government listened.

In developing this legislation, I was pleased to work with a number of my colleagues and experts from the departments of the Attorney-General, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for Police. One of the vital parts of that collaboration was victims groups—people who were counselling and supporting those who are victims of domestic violence. That was one of the critical groups, along with civil rights informers. Both of those groups of people were the only loud voices that the former government listened to and their views outweighed the views of others. I am so pleased to be part of a government that is working together with the vital voices for the victims—those agencies that support and work to protect victims—but it is also about the police and the Attorney-General's department working together and coming up with some reforms that have been asked for for years. We are delivering those reforms.

I commend our Premier and the ministers involved—the Attorney-General, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and the Minister for Police—and their teams for coming together. It is amazing what you can do as a government when you work together, not against each other. I must say that in the last 10 months we have done this as part of introducing the Making Queensland Safer Laws, vital to police getting to even more victims, helping more people sooner, as well as ensuring the best support. This is not 'one size fits all'; this is about a sensible reform with the necessary protections in place to ensure police continue to do the right thing.


I truly welcome stronger protections for victims and victim-survivors because police will now have the power to issue a 12-month protection direction without the need to go to court. That is a vital change. These are trained police who, in the circumstance of having to protect somebody's life, can take a life.

These are police who are dealing with some of the most complex matters—stalking, murder, attempted murder, grievous bodily harm and fatal crashes yet some think they should not have additional powers. We are making sure that these additional powers are in line with what they are already doing without the need for hours of paperwork. We are trusting the police.

I was so pleased to be in the company of Sue and Lloyd Clarke, Hannah's mum and dad this morning, when they so bravely stood in front of the media again and supported these changes, particularly in respect of seeing GPS monitors to track high-risk DV offenders. Maybe, just maybe, if this had been in place when Hannah and her children lost their lives, their lives may have been saved. I thank Sue and Lloyd for the wonderful advocacy that they continue to bring and the legacy that they are leaving for Hannah and her kids.

To see the video evidence changes—the ability to use video evidence in court and stop victims from being retraumatised by having to go to court in certain circumstances—is also wonderful. In my former role as an officer in charge of police I reviewed hundreds of hours of video of police engaging with the community and the evidence that is captured right at the start at the scene is amazing. A picture paints a thousand words; it is like looking at a training video each time you review them. Sometimes you are reviewing them because somebody has a different perception about what happened and when you look at that video and you show that person, they understand there is not actually a complaint of over zealous police behaviour or other allegations because they can see it. To be able to have a picture of the video evidence gathered at the time will be a vital tool for police to take to court.

Every Queenslanders deserves to remain safe, particularly in their homes. For those opposite to come in here and say that they support our police and that they do a great job—in the words of the member for Mundingburra whom I want to associate myself with—is tokenism. Be fair dinkum. I would argue the cooperation being shown by the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence is something that this state has probably not seen for a decade—and I would argue probably decades. I congratulate them, and I thank them on behalf of all the victims who have gone before and those who will be protected by these remarkable changes. These are sensible changes that will assist police to get to more victims. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering these changes. We are continuing to do what we said we would do. To all of our great police out there: we have got your back and we will continue to give you the resources and the laws that you need because we trust you. We trust those who provide support for victims and we trust the courts because we work together to get great outcomes for Queensland. I want to finish where I began: it is amazing what you can achieve when you work together. Thank you.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (3.43 pm): I know that many men and women in blue on the front line have been calling for these changes for a long time. Over the last few years when getting around the great electorate of Callide and talking with community members I have heard something needed to change because we were just not getting to where we needed to be to address domestic and family violence in communities. Under Labor, domestic and family violence related calls for service had risen by approximately 218 per cent over the last 10 years, with many victims waiting hours or days for help. This is, quite frankly, appalling and has added significant strain to the Queensland Police Service due to the increasing demand for services.

Domestic and family violence has no place in our society. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety where you live in Queensland for all Queenslanders. This bill prioritises safety and puts victims rights ahead of perpetrators and it is a part of major domestic and family violence reform to provide victims with greater protection sooner. It will enable police to respond faster to domestic and family violence incidents. These changes have been welcomed by many including Lloyd Clarke, Hannah Clarke's father, who said, 'We welcome these new laws coming in. We really think the trackers and the police protection direction will actually put the onus back onto the perpetrator and keep the victims safer.'

This bill provides police officers with additional tools to protect vulnerable people. It enables police to issue a 12-month police protection direction when responding to domestic and family violence. It does not require further court consideration; it has immediate impact and offers protection for victims. This will remove the current need for uniform police to prepare for and attend court proceedings, reducing red tape and fast-tracking protections of victims.

Standard conditions for a police protection direction include that they must be of good behaviour and must not commit domestic violence or organise and encourage others to commit domestic violence. A police protection direction can be issued following an investigation and will require approval from a supervising officer before being implemented. The bill also establishes pathways for the direction to be


reviewed once it is issued either by a police review within 28 days after the notice is issued or by a court review at any time within the 12 months that the direction is in place. That is an important and necessary measure to ensure an accused offender has their fundamental right to judicial proceedings, and we certainly support and uphold those rights.

Our police officers do a fantastic job serving and protecting Queenslanders. I thank each and every one of our Queensland police officers stationed throughout this great state. I thank you for your commitment and dedication to upholding our laws and protecting our communities. Thank you to our regional police officers whose role is often wider reaching than traditional police duties. You provide an invaluable service within our local communities and our regional towns are safer and a better place to live because of your service. I note that the men and women in blue in my part of the world on the Darling Downs are certainly feeling for those involved in the events that happened in Victoria this week, given what they went through with the tragedy at Wieambilla. I place on record: my heart goes out to the family of those officers and the wider police community in respect of that incident.

Through this bill amendment, we see the establishment of legislation to allow courts to pilot monitoring device conditions on high-risk domestic violence offenders with an initial 150 devices. This will require the court to place conditions on the offender that prohibit them from approaching or attempting to approach the aggrieved or named person. The monitoring device conditions are intended to relate directly to these conditions and to deter respondents from the proximity of the aggrieved person or particular locations. This will aid victim protection and alert police to respond when electronic monitors are activated. It is intended that monitoring devices will operate 24/7 and that all alerts will be monitored and responded to. There is a sunset clause of two years after the commencement to ensure a thorough review is conducted of the pilot study before provisions are expanded.

Providing evidence in court can be traumatic for victims of domestic and family violence, so this bill looks to alleviate some of this by allowing evidence to be provided by way of a videorecorded statement taken by a police officer. This bill removes the requirement to take the statement as soon as practicable after the event to which the statement applies, allowing a flexible approach to cater for each individual situation. This video can be taken in a neutral location such as the victim's home to further alleviate some of the stress, discomfort and anxiety that may be experienced, and it will to minimise the oral evidence to be provided in a courtroom. There was evidence from community members and organisations indicating they welcome this change.

This bill reflects the Crisafulli government's continued commitment to restoring safety where you live by putting the rights of the victims ahead of perpetrators. These reforms are just the beginning as we begin to unravel the mess created from a decade of neglect under the former Labor government. It is just how we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the very core of this legislation is an undisputed truth: every Queenslander deserves to feel safe in their own home and in their own community. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is committed to putting victims first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where you live for all Queenslanders.

Within the last decade, the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased by approximately 218 per cent. That statistic alone is staggering. It is really shocking to think of the number of incidents that are taking place across Queensland. We all must do more to work together to eliminate domestic and family violence, because it has significant impacts on individuals as well as those functioning family units. There are obviously the impacts that it has on our first responders—our police officers and others—who are called to these incidents.

Whether it is elected representatives here in the Queensland parliament, those who are leading community organisations or other professionals who are involved, we all need to work collaboratively to address this. It is a complex issue and a complex problem. Not one solution alone will eliminate this, but it is very important that we set high standards, that we educate our young people with respect to respectful relationships and also that they have a greater understanding of the impacts that domestic violence has.

Those statistics highlight not only the scale of the problem but also the urgent need for a system that responds swiftly, effectively and, above all, with compassion for victim-survivors. The legislation before the Queensland parliament reflects the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's clear commitment to making victim safety paramount whilst ensuring perpetrators are accountable for their actions. The bill introduces a range of reforms which I wish to briefly address. I will turn first to police protection directions, PPDs.

Currently, frontline officers can issue police protection notices that provide interim protection until a matter is considered by the court. However, the reality is that victims often need immediate and lasting protection. The reforms before us will allow police to issue a PPD, providing protection for up to 12 months. This represents a significant strengthening of our frontline response. A PPD may include standard conditions such as a requirement for good behaviour and non-standard conditions such as no-contact, ouster, return and cool-down conditions.

Importantly, PPDs cannot be used casually or without oversight. A police officer must seek approval from a supervising officer, with higher thresholds of approval required for conditions that impose more significant restrictions. These safeguards strike the right balance between urgency and accountability. They ensure that the issuing of a PPD is not arbitrary but is based on clear criteria including the criminal history of the respondent, the wishes of the aggrieved and the paramount principle of the safety and wellbeing of victims including that children must always come first.

There are also clear exclusions. For example, PPDs cannot be used if the aggrieved or the respondent is a child, if the matter involves a police officer, if a domestic violence order is already in place or if weapons have been used or threatened. These exclusions are important because they recognise that some matters require the full consideration and authority of the courts. This legislation also provides for review pathways, including police and court reviews. This ensures that decisions can be revisited, particularly if new information becomes available. Where necessary, the courts will be able to make or vary protection orders, ensuring victims are not left unprotected.

The second major reform enabled through this legislation is the introduction of a GPS electronic monitoring pilot for high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. This was another clear election commitment, and today the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering on that promise. We know that physical distance is not always enough to keep victims safe. That is why courts will be empowered in defined high-risk cases to impose a monitoring device condition on offenders. This will allow authorities to track perpetrators and to enforce ouster or no-contact conditions in a practical and enforceable way. The pilot will initially involve 150 devices across selected courts, supported by regulation. It will be carefully evaluated, with a sunset clause in place to ensure a full review and evaluation before a broader rollout. I note that victim-survivors will also be able to carry their own GPS enabled safety devices, enhancing their sense of security and confidence.


This legislation also makes important changes to the rules around evidence. We know that giving evidence in court can retraumatise victims of domestic and family violence. Accordingly, this legislation will expand the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework to allow all magistrates courts to accept recorded statements from adult complainants. This means a victim-survivor will not necessarily be required to retell their trauma multiple times in a courtroom setting. This legislation will also streamline processes, remove unnecessary restrictions and allow statements to be taken in a more victim-centric way, including in multiple languages. That is very important when it comes to supporting victims of domestic and family violence events. These are certainly practical steps that will reduce trauma while strengthening the quality of evidence available to the court.

This legislation also strengthens the approved provider list for intervention and counselling services. It provides the chief executive with greater flexibility to ensure that only properly accredited service providers are approved. This is not only about accountability for taxpayers' money; it is also about ensuring that perpetrators who are directed to attend programs receive meaningful interventions that address their behaviour. Taken together, these reforms represent the beginning of a new chapter for Queensland. They are certainly not a silver bullet, and no state government should ever pretend that legislation alone can eradicate the scourge of domestic and family violence. The Crisafulli LNP state government has made it clear that victim safety comes first and that perpetrators will be held to account and the system will be rebuilt so that it works for those who need it most.

Finally, in the electorate of Moggill there are a number of organisations that have made an important contribution to tackling and eliminating domestic and family violence. I want to recognise a number of local Rotary clubs and Country Women's Association branches that have supported victims of domestic and family violence and provided practical assistance over many years. Those local organisation branches are in the electorate of Moggill. They have made an important contribution locally but also more broadly to what we are all trying to do, which is eliminate domestic and family violence here in Queensland.

As I said, it is a very complex issue. It requires multifaceted solutions. Legislation is important and is part of the solution; however, the cultural change on which we all need to work together collaboratively will take many years of implementation. Certainly, as I said earlier, when we look at the

statistics and what is happening not only here in Queensland but across Australia as well, they are very sobering statistics. I think together we can do that. This will require the sustained work of many people—individuals and organisations and the broader community working together. I encourage them to do so. With those words, I commend the legislation to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution on behalf of the electors of Southern Downs on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the member who spoke before me, the member for Moggill, and the other speakers on this side of the House, who I think have made very good contributions. I will not be making any tawdry value judgements about the respective perspectives of the different sides of the House. I share the view expressed by many on both sides of the House that there is genuine goodwill in this matter and that we all genuinely wish to see something done about family and domestic violence. This particular bill is, in my view, a very good step in the right direction. It is something for which we have been calling for some time and something which I believe the electors of Southern Downs would support.

We have heard a lot about the police protection directions and there is contention, I understand from listening to the debate, about whether or not those are appropriate. I note that there is currently no framework in Queensland empowering police officers to administratively issue immediate long-term protection directions without filing an application for a proceeding before a court. This bill will enable officers to issue a 12-month police protection direction when responding to domestic and family violence that does not require further consideration. As I understand it, the crux of the division in this House is whether or not the advantages to police efficiencies are sufficiently valuable to warrant what the opposition is saying are the downsides associated with PPDs.

As the member for Southern Downs, like all members, I attend events all over the place in my electorate. I was recently very pleased to attend a Legacy fundraising dinner which has been run on a regular basis in Warwick to raise money for both the Australian Defence Force Legacy and Police Legacy, and both of those organisations share a similar operating model and purpose. I want to particularly acknowledge Senior Constable Cam Mosley, who organised it and who has organised previous ones. It was a wonderful night. It was a chance for me to get together with a concentration of police officers—there were probably about 200 people there; it was very good—and I was talking with many of them about this bill and they could not wait to see this particular innovation of PPDs. Their reason was that on the front line they are spending an inordinate amount of time dealing with domestic and family violence, but not the face-to-face stuff in attending to the crime or detecting offences and prosecuting offenders; they spend most of their time doing paperwork associated with preparing for the court process associated with PPDs.

In my part of the world we are short of police. As a result of the decline in police numbers over the years, we have stations with insufficient manning and stations that have been closed. That continues even though we are now starting to turn around recruitment and retention of police—and I am sure those things will get better—but the lowest hanging fruit as I see it in enabling police to be more efficient to respond to crimes and be out serving the community is to expedite the work around domestic and family violence.

I understand when members of the opposition say that experts and advocacy groups for victims have said that they disagree with PPDs. I quite expect that they might because their job is to represent the narrow interests of the particular sector or group that they seek to represent, and that is fair enough. However, in the Queensland parliament we have a responsibility to look at the bigger picture. Instead of striving for some sort of unobtainable perfection—some sort of vacuous obsession with getting it absolutely right—we seek to achieve for the people of Queensland the maximum possible advantage.

I would ask those who are concerned about the safety of impacts of PPDs on the people we are trying to help to remember if we invert this equation there are domestic violence victims and survivors out there who are worried that the police will not reach them in time if their ex-partner comes around armed or in a threatening way. I have had many very scared women come to me in that very situation. That has been the most frequent reason for contact with constituents over this particular matter. I do not claim to be able to stand in their shoes, but I have certainly sat opposite them in my office and met them on the streets and had the very clear impression that they value the service of the police but that if the police are detained on a treadmill of paperwork they are not available, and that really does make sense.

We need to remember here that we do not operate in a vacuum and we have an obligation to maximise the effectiveness of the limited police resources we have not just for those who are having police attend for the purpose of a domestic and family violence call-out but also for those who might

have to make that call and need urgent assistance from police for protection. I do not think that that particular facet of things has been adequately canvassed in the House and it is very important to me, quite apart from the domestic and family violence angle, that having police on the beat is obviously manifestly a good thing. We need to have officers able, as they were in times past, to patrol and be a conspicuous presence on the streets to come across crimes, as they do, and be spread out so that they can respond quickly to a radio call about a crime or a complaint that has occurred in their area.


I know that the people of Southern Downs would very much value an improvement in the availability of police to conduct that old-fashioned style of mobile patrols policing and fast response policing. The very best way to have that happen is to unburden them of the adminstrivia associated with PPNs. PPDs are not going to be the be-all and end-all. In certain cases, such as where there are children at risk or where there is an existing DVO or where there is perhaps a police officer involved as a respondent, the use of PPNs remains available.

I heard members question—perhaps with the very best of intention—how police would be burdened with the role of judge and jury in this case with PPDs, but I think that that sells police short, because we entrust the constables of this state with enormous coercive powers and we do so in the knowledge that they are a necessary thing in order to keep us safe. We counterbalance them with an array of restraining safeguards to make sure that those powers are only exercised as required under the law and in the interests of the community. I cannot see how this cannot be another instance where we entrust the police to use their judgement, because, after all, they are experts in their own right. They have to deal with this every day. I think that the police—and I am sure that the former police officers in this House would agree with me—develop a pretty good sense of who is who and what is going on.

Nothing is perfect, but I ask members of the House to think long and to think well upon this bill and to think carefully about the consequence of sticking with our current system, which ties up our police—hogties them—and keeps them off the streets. In the communities that I represent, such as Goondiwindi, Warwick and others where there has been a terrible scourge of crime building over the last decade, having more police on the beat would be very desirable not just because they are going to be liberated from the grind of this administration but also because they are going to have more professional satisfaction in their jobs.

Mrs Poole: Hear, hear!

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra—a former commissioned officer until very recently before coming into this place. Police perhaps would not be separating from the service quite so rapidly if they had that professional satisfaction—that is, if they could be out serving the community and not be burdened with the extremely onerous requirements of the PPN system. We can only recruit so many, but we can always try and stem the separation of police, and that would be a great morale booster. After speaking to the police whom I encounter in my own electorate, they see that as a great positive. I certainly will be supporting this bill and the amendments proposed by the government. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise to contribute to debate of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. For a number of years in the first month of May our community comes together for an important event in Greater Springfield. As the state member for Jordan and with the support of so many, we gather to acknowledge and remember the many lives lost to domestic and family violence, to raise awareness of the services and supports available to victim-survivors and to say as a community that we will do everything we can to end domestic and family violence. On the night, we come together—domestic and family violence service providers, our police, community groups, sporting clubs, faith leaders, health organisations, multicultural groups and individuals.

We all recognise that there is so much more that we need to do to end DV in our community, and I am heartened that each year more and more people turn up—upstanders in our community—so we were saddened when literally weeks after our annual Domestic and Family Violence Night of Remembrance this year we lost a beautiful young woman in our community as a result of domestic and family violence.

Muzhda Habibi was only 23, was a mother of two young children and had only been in Australia for a very short period of time. Her death was a massive loss to our community and we know many people, particularly those in our broader Afghan community, continue to grieve her death. It goes without saying that domestic and family violence has no place in Queensland and the Labor opposition welcomes reforms that would work towards ending this scourge. I also want to acknowledge the

massive challenge our frontline police face when responding to domestic and family violence and also acknowledge their hard work and dedication to addressing these often complex and emotionally charged issues.

I have spoken with our local police on a number of occasions, and I recognise that domestic and family violence cases account for a significant portion of their workload—as we learned in the committee report, a 218 per cent increase based on the data presented. We all agree that more can be done, and more must be done, to address this. That is why the Miles Labor government introduced a significant suite of reforms last year through the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 that had wideranging support from across the sector.

The Labor opposition will always support evidence-based measures to help reduce pressure on police. However, this cannot come at the expense of the safety of domestic and family violence victim-survivors. While the bill boasts of timely reforms and police efficiencies, it falls considerably short of addressing fundamental concerns and risks raised by voices from the front line of the domestic and family violence prevention sector. It is of utmost importance that any reforms are evidence-based and must prioritise the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors.

The Crisafulli LNP government promised this to Queensland. They promised to listen to the experts and they promised to put victim-survivors first. However, this bill as it currently stands is in direct contrast to those promises. Throughout the consultation and the committee process, the domestic and family violence prevention sector and victim-survivors shared their concerns that elements of this bill may negatively impact victim-survivor safety by placing the emphasis squarely on efficiency. It was made clear that PPDs in this manner are not supported by the domestic and family violence sector, with the peak organisation for DFV, QCOS, stating that they strongly opposed these PPD reforms because they are ‘an efficiency measure that does not prioritise the safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors’. In particular, we heard concerns that PPDs increase the risk and the severe consequences of unintentional misidentification of the person most in need of protection. Women’s Legal Service raised this during the committee process, stating—

... misidentification often happens due to a lack of information and a need to respond in the moment ... that will be crystallised even more when that response in the moment then becomes a 12-month order.

This bill fails to address these concerns, leaving misidentified victim-survivors at risk of being left without the protections they need and subject to other severe consequences such as potential loss of employment, housing instability, homelessness, social stigma and isolation, just to name a few. These concerns were discussed extensively by the sector and expert legal professionals during the committee’s examination. The Queensland Law Society in the committee’s public hearing stated—

The consequences of being improperly named as the respondent to a police protection direction will be dire. Victims who are misidentified will not have the benefit of a protection order and may face consequences relating to their housing situation, employment and contact with their children.

Most concerningly, one of the most severe consequences of misidentification is leaving victim-survivors exposed to further violence that could be life-threatening. This echoes the findings from the domestic violence review which show that nearly half of women murdered in domestic and family violence related homicides were misidentified as the person using violence. It is particularly concerning that these consequences will be felt most acutely amongst some of our most vulnerable communities and cohorts, including First Nations Queenslanders, those who are culturally and linguistically diverse and people with a disability or mental health disorder. To simplify the system by sidestepping the courts without provision of measures for misidentification issues is reckless and may only further isolate and limit protections for misidentified female respondents.


Furthermore, the bill fails to appropriately address the loss of information sharing and support service accessibility that is a part of the current process in issuing a police protection direction. The current process of issuing a DVO provides court oversight but, importantly, allows the opportunity for victim-survivors to get connected to support services that they may otherwise not contact. This was raised by the Women’s Legal Service, who stated in their submission—

... we also know that attending court is a way that many victim-survivors get support. Many victim-survivors are connected with support services at court that they may not otherwise contact, and receive free legal advice to help them better understand their rights and options.

The Queensland Labor opposition would like to see the legislation enhanced with safeguards for victim-survivors’ safety, including consideration of a measure to make it law that a police review, involving a domestic and family violence specialist, must occur if a female is named as the respondent on the order. This safeguard will ensure that, if misidentification is identified, the 12-month order can be revoked to ensure safety for victim-survivors and provide protection from further violence and harm.

A further measure would require the aggrieved to consent to a PPD and the conditions it imposes on the person using violence. This was explored during the examination of the bill by the committee and was supported by stakeholders. A further measure would require police to provide information regarding support services, including counselling, housing support, legal and sexual assault services, to victim-survivors. This should also include an enhancement to ensure the continued involvement, where appropriate, of the Family Responsibilities Commission. This will address any potential missed opportunity for victim-survivors to receive referrals that normally would have been offered through the court process and ensure continued sharing of information between important entities such as the Family Responsibilities Commission.

The Labor opposition believes that with these enhancements allowing for adequate safeguards a form of PPDs could work that would protect victims but also support our hardworking police to do their job. However, PPDs as they are currently drafted fail to promote the safety of victim-survivors. It is clear that the Crisafulli government had no intention of putting victims first or listening to the experts like they promised. This cannot be denied. Even the director-general in charge of domestic and family violence acknowledged this during estimates when she was asked if the DFV sector does not support the new PPD laws. She responded, 'I understand that is true, yes.' The safety of victim-survivors must be the priority of this reform and that is why the Labor opposition cannot support the introduction of PPDs as currently drafted.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (4.15 pm): I rise in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, an important and overdue step to put victims first, hold perpetrators to account and restore safety for Queenslanders in their own homes. The scale of the challenge is clear. In the last decade the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents has risen by 218 per cent. For too long under the former government victims were left waiting hours, sometimes days or longer, for protection. This bill shows that the Crisafulli government is taking a different approach, one where the safety of victims and children is front and centre.

For me, this is not just a debate on policy; it is deeply personal to my part of the Gold Coast. In April 2021 my community was shattered by the loss of Arundel mum Kelly Wilkinson in the most horrific of ways. We hear about domestic violence incidents far too often, but when it happens in your suburb, on a street that you drive past every day, to a mum whom you have seen walking her kids to school, it really hits differently. The vigil that we held soon after Kelly's murder is one of the most powerful things I have ever been part of in my time as a local member of parliament. I had the tragic honour of reading out the statement on behalf of Kelly's family and I vowed then that I would do everything I could to make sure that her tragedy led to change. This new approach will do just that.

Earlier this month I was proud to again back the Kelly Wilkinson Foundation's 'Kelly's Long Lunch'. I acknowledge Minister Camm, who was there to support this event that raises funds to help secondary victims of domestic violence homicide. Since launching a year ago, the foundation has already helped 18 children who have gone through the unimaginable, just like Kelly's did. I want to thank Kelly's sister Danielle, her partner Rhys, their entire family and everyone who is helping to create change in Kelly's name. The reality for Kelly's family in the aftermath of her death was overwhelming. Danielle and Rhys suddenly found themselves raising eight children in the one household—Kelly's three alongside their five. They are nothing short of an inspiration in the way that they tackle the challenges of life together. Danielle's advocacy has also been recently recognised, with her being invited by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to join the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. This appointment is a testament to her tireless work ensuring that the experiences of secondary victims are front and centre. Having Danielle there in the room will be so important to shape meaningful change in our justice system.

What we are debating today is all about ensuring other families do not have to endure what Kelly's has. New police protection directions will allow frontline police to provide immediate 12-month protection to victim-survivors when they need it most. They give officers the authority to swiftly impose conditions that keep victims safe, whether that means no-contact rules, an order to leave or cool-down periods. Importantly, strict safeguards are built in: higher ranking approval is required for stronger conditions, children are excluded to ensure court oversight and cases involving weapons or repeat offending are escalated directly to the courts. These are practical reforms that balance the urgency these situations require and their sensitive nature.

The bill also delivers on our election commitment to pilot GPS monitoring of high-risk perpetrators. Up to 150 devices will be rolled out in the initial pilot to ensure those with a proven history of violence can be tracked and restricted from going anywhere near their victims. This is about more

than just punishment; it is about prevention. Our changes give the courts the ability to set clear boundaries backed by technology so that victims can live with greater confidence that they are being protected. Victim-survivors will also have the option of carrying their own GPS enabled safety devices to add an extra layer of assurance.

We know that the court process itself can retraumatise victims. That is why this bill expands the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework. Victim-survivors will be able to record their statement once and use it in proceedings, reducing the need to retell painful experiences over and over again. Our changes will make this process more flexible, more victim-centric and easier for police to implement.

This bill delivers the start of a better and more compassionate response to addressing domestic and family violence in Queensland. I commend the ministers who have worked on this and I commend the bill to the House.



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (4.20 pm): I want to make it absolutely clear that combatting domestic and family violence is one of the most important responsibilities we have as legislators. Domestic and family violence is a scourge on our society. It devastates lives, tears families apart and leaves lasting scars on victims, children and the entire community. We all share a collective duty to ensure that victims are protected, that perpetrators are held accountable and that frontline police and support services are properly resourced to intervene early and effectively. A law is only as good as its enforcement and in this area Queensland must continue to strengthen training, staffing and processes within the Queensland Police Service to ensure victims are believed, supported and protected when they are most vulnerable.

However, while I support the intent of this bill, I must raise serious concerns and reservations with a number of its provisions. I draw the House's attention to the statement of reservation from my KAP colleague and committee member, the member for Hinchinbrook. I agree with the member's statement of reservation. The bill makes the police the sole arbiters in domestic and family violence incidents. This raises serious and significant concerns about checks and balances as well as concerns over whether both victims and accused will always receive procedural fairness. No system is perfect and concentrating decision-making powers entirely with the QPS, without adequate oversight or external review, is filled with risk.

Secondly, the potential impact on blue card and yellow card holders is deeply troubling. We must be very careful not to design laws that unfairly strip people of their ability to work, volunteer or contribute to their community when allegations—not proven convictions—are in play. That has consequences not only for the individual but also for families, workplaces and local communities, which could lead to an increase in domestic violence incidents.

Thirdly, there will be a major impact on legitimate firearms licence holders and, once again, we have seen zero consultation with the shooting industry. This will affect law-abiding Queensland primary producers, sporting shooters and pest controllers who could lose their livelihoods and their rights without a fair process. The government should not be using domestic violence reforms as a back door to undermine legitimate industries and responsible firearms owners.

I am also deeply concerned about the review process outlined in the bill. It is inadequate, problematic and inconsistent. The temporal inconsistencies in judicial review provisions are confusing at best and unjust at worst. If the parliament cannot provide clarity here, how can ordinary Queenslanders expect justice to be delivered? These are not minor issues. They cut at the heart of natural justice and fairness as well as the integrity of our legal system.

I note that the committee received numerous submissions from highly respected organisations that work in this space every single day, including frontline services, advocacy groups and community organisations. Many of them warn that these proposed changes to police filed protection orders could, in fact, decrease safety and increase the risk for victims, which is the exact opposite of what this parliament should be doing. While I acknowledge and commend the intent of the bill to strengthen protections against domestic and family violence, I cannot ignore those serious flaws. It is not enough to pass laws that look strong on paper; they must work in practice and they must protect both victims and the fundamental rights of Queenslanders.

If this government is serious about protecting victims of domestic and family violence then it should focus on properly resourcing the police and frontline services, ensuring victims have access to housing and support, and providing clear and consistent legal pathways. It must also ensure that legislation is balanced, workable and fair. For those reasons, I put on record my reservation and my strong support for the concerns raised by the member for Hinchinbrook through the committee process. We must do better for victims, for families and for the integrity of justice in this state.



Hon. AJ PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (4.25 pm): I rise to speak on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill aims to assist operational police officers when responding to domestic and family violence, provide victim-survivors with immediate protections against respondents and make other technical amendments to the legislation. The bill also proposes to expand the videorecorded evidence-in-chief or the VREC framework.

The key objectives of the bill are to: establish a framework for police protection directions, or PPDs as we have heard in parliament, to improve efficiencies for police responding to domestic and family violence incidents and empower police officers to administratively issue immediate long-term directions without filing an application for a proceeding before a court; to support an electronic monitoring two-year pilot program for high-risk perpetrators, with devices to operate 24/7 and alerts to be monitored and responded to, and safety devices will also be available to aggrieved persons and named persons; to simplify, streamline and expand the VREC framework to all magistrates courts in Queensland to support victim-survivors of DFV when giving evidence; and to strengthen the maintenance of the approved provider list used by courts when making an intervention order that requires a respondent to attend an approved intervention program or counselling facilitated by an approved provider.

I want to thank and acknowledge my colleague the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for the wonderful job she is doing in tackling some of the most emotionally demanding challenges. In the past 10 months, the minister has done more to support and protect some of the most vulnerable in our state than happened during the past 10 years. She is approaching the role with pragmatism, empathy and a determination to enact change in a system that Labor failed for 10 years.

Domestic and family violence is a blight. It is a black mark against what would otherwise be good, healthy and emotionally enriching families and communities. No community is immune. In a 2021 survey of my own electorate involving 621 respondents, 570 respondents or 92 per cent listed domestic violence as one of the top issues worrying residents. In the 2020 survey, the year before, it was 91.3 per cent.

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety wherever you live in Queensland. This is for all Queenslanders. Within the past decade, the number of calls for service to domestic and family violence incidents increased by approximately 218 per cent. Under Labor, victims of domestic and family violence were left waiting hours or days for help. In contrast, this bill reflects the Crisafulli government's continued commitment to support victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring the frontline police who respond to domestic and family violence have the tools they need to protect vulnerable people. Victim safety is at the heart of these reforms, with GPS trackers to be placed on high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. In addition, we are giving police the tools they need to offer immediate protection to vulnerable people. Currently, police officers can issue police protection notices that provide some protection until an application for a domestic violence order can be heard by a court. A PPD will provide a victim of domestic and family violence with immediate 12-month protection.

How police investigate allegations will not change under these reforms. In deciding whether to issue a PPD, the police officer will have to take into consideration numerous issues including the criminal history of both parties, the views and wishes of the aggrieved, the likelihood of harm to the aggrieved, whether additional court powers are necessary and whether or not the respondent is present at the same location as the police officer. This bill also outlines circumstances in which a police officer must not issue a PPD. These safeguards have been designed to prioritise victim-survivor safety and reduce the risk of misidentification. The changes will help improve the productivity of operational police officers when reporting or responding to DFV.

The committee investigating this bill was advised by Queensland police that police officers across Queensland respond to DFV related situations every three minutes. He also advised that an equivalent capacity of 2,481 full-time officers is dedicated to addressing DFV. According to QPS's modelling, and based on current trends, 5,747 full-time officers will be required by 2032 to maintain the current standard of service delivery.


During last year's election we committed to pilot the use of GPS electronic monitors on high-risk domestic and family violence perpetrators. We are delivering on our election commitment. As such, 150 devices will be available as part of the initial stage of the pilot to selected courts. Furthermore,

victim-survivors will be able to elect to carry their own GPS enabled safety device. This is intended to complement existing safety planning undertaken by specialist services. Following the trial, which will expire after two years, the Crisafulli government will undertake a thorough review to determine whether to expand it further or make it permanent.

Giving evidence in a court can retraumatise victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. The bill seeks to expand the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework to allow complainants to provide their evidence through a videorecorded statement. As my colleague Minister Camm said in her explanatory speech—

This legislation will ensure real consequences for actions.

These reforms are just the start, as the Crisafulli government begins to unravel the mess left by a decade of neglect under the former Labor government. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (4.31 pm): I have to, sadly, inform the House that the most dangerous place for a woman in Mackay is not in the safe night precinct, in a pub or in a club; a woman is in most danger when she is in a house or residence with a partner or previous partner. We should all feel safest at home, but this is not the case for many women. Domestic and family violence is one of the most pressing challenges facing Queensland today. In Mackay, as in so many regional communities, the impacts of violence ripple far beyond the home. They touch our schools, our hospitals, our workplaces and the very fabric of our community.

Over the last decade, calls for police assistance in domestic and family violence matters have skyrocketed by more than 200 per cent across Queensland. With my previous experience as a police officer in Mackay, I know that these numbers are not just statistics; they are families in crisis, children in fear and neighbours who feel unsafe in their own streets. I hope that not many here in this place have ever seen the turmoil that sometimes occurs within a house where a domestic violence situation has occurred. Five of my colleagues on this side of the House have, and they know that once the dust settles a police officer has to find a way to protect the victim-survivor.

This bill is about putting victim-survivors first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where people live, including in Mackay. At the heart of these reforms under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 are police protection directions. These new powers mean that, instead of waiting for a court date, police will be able to issue an immediate 12-month protection order to victims. They will have the ability to impose strong and enforceable conditions straightaway such as no-contact orders, cool-down orders or removing perpetrators from the home. This is about real protection when it is needed most. Finally, police have the tools they need to act decisively in domestic and family violence matters. I am shocked by the negativity towards this bill from those opposite.

Importantly, these powers are backed by safeguards. For example, PPDs cannot be issued when children are involved, when weapons are present or when there is an ongoing court matter. These measures ensure the highest risk cases continue to be dealt with through the courts while still prioritising victim safety and reducing the chance of misidentification.

Misidentification concerns have been raised by those opposite. These concerns appear to be based on in-house research carried out in 2016. I know that DFV training has been enhanced since then and is now compulsory within the QPS. I know because I have attended the training and there is a huge focus on identifying the person most in need of protection during that training. Training is being run again this year, with further training to commence in January 2026.

Risk management within the QPS is now done where supervisors review DFV incidents in the cold light of day through the revision of body worn footage recorded at the incident. Furthermore, every party in a reported domestic violence incident is offered referrals to support agencies at the scene.

This bill also delivers on our commitment to pilot GPS monitoring for high-risk domestic violence perpetrators. For the Mackay community this is a game changer. Courts will only impose these conditions when they are necessary to keep victims safe, and the trial will ensure the technology is effective before it is expanded statewide.

We also know the trauma of facing perpetrators in court can be overwhelming. That is why this bill expands the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief, allowing victims to give their statement once on video and have it used throughout the proceedings. For victim-survivors in Mackay this means less retraumatisation and a justice process that recognises their dignity.

The bill also strengthens the approved provider list for counselling and intervention programs, ensuring only the highest quality services are available to support both victims and offenders. In Mackay, where community organisations and service providers are already stretched, this will help ensure the court ordered programs actually deliver the outcomes needed to break the cycle of violence.

For too long regional communities like Mackay have felt forgotten when it comes to resourcing and reforming domestic violence responses. This bill shows that under the Crisafulli government Mackay matters. It shows that we will not tolerate victims waiting days for protection. It shows that we will use technology to keep people safe. It shows that we are listening to police, to frontline services and, most importantly, to survivors.

This is not just about changing legislation; this is about changing lives. It is about making sure that victims in Mackay and across Queensland who fear for their safety tonight do not have to wait until tomorrow for protection. I thank the police minister, the Attorney-General and the minister for domestic and family violence for their incredible foresight when putting this bill together. I commend this bill to the House.



Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is a critical step forward in strengthening Queensland's response to domestic and family violence. Each year we see communities come together for multiple events held throughout the month of May to recognise Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and to raise awareness and to send a clear message that DFV in families and homes will not be tolerated. This year's theme is 'Breaking the silence, building safer communities', and that is exactly what this bill before us today does.

I am certain that across every electorate elected members stood before their communities in solidarity with the mantra to build safer communities, yet here in this chamber those opposite continue to bring argument against progressing real action that would answer the cries coming loud and clear from our communities to do something and to do more. I remind those in the chamber and the gallery that this bill has been prosecuted through committee hearings with community and industry stakeholders. The committee's recommendation states—

The complexity of domestic and family violence means that there is not a universal solution or 'silver bullet' that will solve the problem in its entirety. This report recommends that the Queensland Parliament pass the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 as it proposes more protection to victim survivors and their families, reduces the risk of exposing victims to further trauma, and enhances the capacity of our police to meet the needs of our community.

I have risen today to not only support this bill but also bring clarity and confront and dispel concerns raised by critics and those opposite, particularly around the argument of misidentification within the police protection directions portion of the bill. Let me be clear: this bill does not ignore that risk; it confronts it head-on.

Throughout the bill it references provisions that are not token gestures but robust, multilayered protections designed to ensure fairness, accuracy and accountability. What this bill does is introduce a faster, more responsive tool while still preserving the right to review, appeal and correct. At any time within the first 12 months there can be a review of the PPD. Moreover, the bill mandates in section 192A a formal review of the PPD provisions after two years, ensuring that any unintended consequences are identified and addressed.

Over the past decade—that is, under the watch of those sitting opposite—domestic and family violence incidents in Queensland have surged dramatically by 218 per cent. In the 2023-24 financial year alone Queensland police responded to over 113,924 DFV related calls. That is more than 300 calls per day—each one a potential cry for help. The current system is slow, court heavy and often leaves victims exposed during critical windows of danger. This bill introduces the police protection directions—a mechanism for police to issue immediate, long-term protective measures without waiting for court proceedings. It is fast, it is practical and it saves lives.

In my electorate of Rockhampton, our community has seen too many lives lost to the destruction of domestic and family violence. They call out from the grave. Karen Gilliland was stabbed 26 times in front of her two daughters after years of abuse. Her mum, Cheryl, is forever without a daughter, and the lives of her children are unimaginably impacted. Chris Caitling died after he was stabbed in the chest by his wife while sitting in a lounge chair at his home in Rockhampton. Sue Duffy was punched in the face by her daughter's abusive partner. He left the 71-year-old lying on the floor and returned minutes later to stab her with a hunting knife. Sue's loving husband is without the love of his life and her daughter, Deborah—who was the intended victim that day—is, in honouring her mum, committed

to a future where love overpowers darkness, where support is freely given and where smiles like Sue's continue to shine brightly, illuminating the paths of those who follow. This is from the ABC Capricornia news.

There are more; however, due to active court cases, I cannot continue to expand on the evidence of the atrocities that have tormented our communities. It is not just the immediate family, but work colleagues, neighbours, members of sporting clubs and extracurricular connections and schools that are affected. It is that devastation that we address here today in this bill.

It is not just about PPDs. It also includes a two-year GPS monitoring pilot for high-risk perpetrators, enabling tracking of high-risk perpetrators and direct safety tools, further enhancing real-time safety. It includes safety devices for victim-survivors, giving them a greater level of peace of mind to a life otherwise lived in a constant state of anxiety.

The bill also introduces a statewide expansion of videorecorded evidence-in-chief, VREC, to reduce the trauma in court. VREC prioritises dignity and psychological safety for our survivors. These reforms will work together to create a modern, trauma informed, victim-centric framework.

To oppose this bill on the grounds of misidentification is to ignore the very safeguards that it contains and to delay protection for those who need it the most. Let us not allow fear to override fact. Let us not allow hesitation to cost more lives.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the committee and those from our communities who bravely made submissions, along with the stakeholders and experts who live in this space, including the amazing team from CQ Healthy Families in Rockhampton. Thank you for all the work you have done and all you will continue to do.

This bill delivers on our commitment to the people of Queensland to put the victims first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where you live. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr DILLON (Gregory—LNP) (4.44 pm): No-one wishes that they had to rise to either contribute to or develop legislation around domestic and family violence, not because we do not believe there is a need—that much is obvious. In a perfect world, this legislation is not required. However, in a world where a Labor government has declined for the last 10 years to step up and protect victims and their families, it has fallen to a responsible government to swiftly—within 10 months—consult, write, introduce, consult again and now finalise critical personal and safety focused legislation.

Let me be very clear: this legislation is required to not only begin to seriously address the scourge of domestic and family violence; it also forms part of a suite of reforms the Crisafulli government has been asked by victims and the people of Queensland to implement to arrest the vicious, downward crime spiral we are collectively experiencing. Dedicated ministers such as the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence are taking incredibly seriously their commitment to the people of Queensland with respect to protecting them.

This is something that Labor governments over the last 10 years have clearly neglected. Despite pretending to be the friend of victims, they are actually beholden to the radical left—the bleeding heart brigade that sympathises more with perpetrators than criminals. This led to hand-holding at rallies and hand-wringing in this place, at their refusal to truly listen to the desperate cries of victims across the board or the expert advice from all manner of official agencies. The rank hypocrisy of members opposite who have used public appearances to curry favour and present a false appearance of sympathy yet refuse to come into this place or any other to enact real and meaningful reform to protect those whom they pretend to comfort or future victims. It is both breathtaking and shocking.

The Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister Camm, has boldly led this legislature into a place where no previous minister has. The minister has listened to stakeholders, victims and investigative agencies. Her professional and measured approach has resulted in legislation that carefully ensures protection for individuals exposed to this disgusting thuggery, whilst maintaining both transparency and accountability for investigating officers and existing legal processes.


This legislation has been developed by the minister to ensure protection for victims can be enacted quicker. Its primary purpose is to ensure that victims can be reached faster, reassured and protected. It is that simple. All the hocus-pocus that those opposite and civil libertarians are concocting is utter rubbish. Be under no illusion, this has been forced on government by two main forces—

disgusting, disrespectful perpetrators and the Queensland Labor Party. Consistent with Labor's watering down of youth laws has been their refusal to address the matter of domestic and family violence in any meaningful manner and in a way that improves outcomes.

In a vast electorate like Gregory, victims are faced with several issues outside of the direct thuggery of the DFV perpetration. The time required for investigative officers to travel to remote cattle stations or mining claims as well as for victims to subsequently attend support mechanisms is huge. This provides a massive hurdle and is often insurmountable for victims. Vulnerable people in these remote settings will now have the added protection of police protection directions to ensure timely intervention, without the need for personally time-consuming and expensive alternatives, as is the case under Labor's current weak provisions. There are safeguards carefully developed and included in this legislation, but the Crisafulli government's message to perpetrators of domestic and family violence is simple and pointed—don't.

The community at large has spoken clearly through victims and survivors of domestic and family violence but also through the broader community sentiment of disgust, outrage and insistence that the status quo change. We, the Crisafulli government, have considered the most appropriate legislative outcomes and here they are, but this is much more than words and much more than new options. This is about a government that listens and it is about the people speaking. It is about a government that cares, that truly wants not only to protect victims but also to provide a framework and deterrents that challenge current and potential perpetrators to mend their ways.

Irrespective of the behaviour of perpetrators, especially those who falsely seek to amend their actions, we are unashamedly focused on providing the protection that victims need as fast as we can. I believe that that fundamentally underscores this entire legislative approach. I commend Minister Camm, the government members of the committee—the members for Keppel, Pumicestone and Scenic Rim—the cabinet and the Premier for ensuring this legislation has been prioritised. In the interests of vulnerable people right throughout our beautiful state, I strongly urge this chamber to fully and without reservation support this life-changing and protecting legislation.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (4.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to thank the members of the committee and the committee staff for their consideration of the bill. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the bill, especially the victim-survivors who shared their stories. I quote—

Domestic violence can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or wealth, where they live or their cultural background. Those who are affected by this insidious form of violence show enormous courage in telling their stories in their own words.


These are words from the *Not now, not ever* report, commissioned back in 2014 by the then LNP government. I want to remind the House that it was the LNP that started so many of these domestic and family violence reforms. We are now 10 years on and we are still addressing domestic and family violence in legislation. It does beg the question: what has happened in the last 10 years of Labor governments when, within 10 months of coming to government, the LNP government are back here in parliament with much needed reforms to address issues in the domestic and family violence area?

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims first, and protecting domestic violence victims goes to the very heart of what we believe. Our government also supports our police, especially those police at the front line responding to domestic and family violence. Our police need the tools to protect vulnerable people. These legislative amendments give the police those additional tools to do their job.

Police currently have access to issue police protection notices, PPNs, which provide the aggrieved persons with protection until the application for a domestic violence order can be heard by a court. Currently there is no framework in Queensland empowering police officers to administratively issue immediate long-term protection directions without filing an application for a proceeding before a court.

This legislation before the House today will enable police officers to issue 12-month police protection directions, PPDs, when responding to domestic and family violence that does not require further court consideration. There are circumstances where police need to have this additional tool and where it is appropriate for the matter not to proceed to court. This government's legislation will empower victims and hold the perpetrators to account and make Queensland safer. Over Labor's decade of decline, victims suffered the most. These bills put a stop to Labor's neglect. This bill reflects our continued commitment to support victim-survivors.

During the election campaign, the LNP committed to a pilot of electronic monitoring devices for high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. This bill enables a framework for the courts to impose a monitoring device condition on a respondent in certain circumstances when dealing with a domestic violence order. The Crisafulli government's reforms through GPS trackers on high-risk offenders and empowering police with the tools they need to offer immediate protection for vulnerable Queenslanders will help make our state safer. It is just the start. I want to thank the Minister for Families, the Minister for Police, the Minister for Victim Support and the Attorney-General for the work they have done in this area. It is truly commendable.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise in strong support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill puts victims first, holding perpetrators to account, and continues our quest to restore safety in every Queensland community. A lot has been said about youth crime in Townsville in this place and in the community. Youth crime is front and centre when people in Townsville think about what impacts our community safety and police workload, with community members often asking, 'Where are the parents?' or, 'Why aren't these kids at home?' when a young offender is apprehended.

Domestic and family violence, DFV, operates in the shadows. It is not often spoken about or even acknowledged. Domestic and family violence does not discriminate based on age, cultural background, religion, socio-economic status or sexuality. The impacts are far-reaching and are often life altering for the victims, victim-survivors and their families, as well as first responders.

Domestic and family violence touches many households and communities across Queensland, and within the last decade the number of calls for service to DFV incidents has increased by over 200 per cent across the state. Townsville is not immune to domestic and family violence—in fact, far from it. In my community in Townsville, it is alarming that we must acknowledge that domestic or family violence is the highest call for service for our police. In fact, almost half of all Police Service calls across the Townsville district were domestic or family violence related last financial year. This means that an enormous amount of resources are allocated to responding to domestic and family violence, and this bill seeks to provide an enhanced framework to enable our police to respond more effectively and efficiently to DFV calls and provide more victims with the support and intervention they need.

According to the head of the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit in Townsville, Detective Senior Sergeant Adam Golding, there is a clear link between domestic and family violence and youth crime, with many young offenders sharing one thing in common: homes marked by violence, drug abuse and instability. Detective Senior Sergeant Golding said in an interview earlier this year, 'You find there is that link between youth crime and domestic violence in the house,' and 'The kids ... often come from broken homes, or homes where they've experienced violence, drug use, alcohol issues and those sorts of issues.'


It must be acknowledged that the impacts of domestic and family violence are not limited to children and have a profound impact on victims of all ages, with victims experiencing physical harm, chronic health issues and emotional trauma. The effects are often long-lasting, influencing health, existing and future relationships, education and housing for victims, with potential intergenerational consequences.

If we are serious about stopping the cycle, we must address domestic and family violence now. The trauma experienced by victims and victim-survivors of DFV is significant, and we know that giving evidence in court can retraumatise victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. The bill expands the videorecorded evidence-in-chief framework to enable all magistrates courts to allow adult complainants in domestic violence criminal proceedings to give their evidence by way of a videorecorded statement, avoiding the need to relive their trauma in a courtroom setting.

In addition, this bill delivers on an election commitment by piloting GPS tracking for high-risk DFV offenders. Courts will be able to order tracking devices to ensure offenders cannot approach or harass their victims. One hundred and fifty devices will be available as part of the initial stage of the pilot. The GPS pilot program will also provide victim-survivors with a choice to carry their own GPS safety device, giving them greater confidence and peace of mind. The piloting of this technology is intended to complement existing safety planning undertaken by specialist domestic and family violence services.


Given the magnitude of DFV offending in the Townsville district, and after speaking to my colleagues the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa, I would like to appeal to the minister that should there be an opportunity for Townsville to host the pilot program for the GPS tracking we would welcome it. We would welcome any resources we can provide our police in our community so we can better respond and support domestic and family violence victims and victim-survivors and make our community safer.

The Crisafulli government is committed to putting victims first, holding perpetrators to account and restoring safety where you live for all Queenslanders. That is why I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (4.59 pm): I rise to speak on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Our homes should always be the place where we feel safe. It is where we should be able to relax, spend time with family and escape the pressures of the world outside, but for far too many Queenslanders their home has become the very opposite of safe. For them, sadly, home is the place they fear. Domestic and family violence is a problem that has been growing for over a decade. It destroys families, shatters lives and leaves deep scars that can last a lifetime. This bill is about taking real steps to protect victims and hold offenders to account. It is about putting safety back into homes across our state.

The first big reform in this bill is the creation of police protection directions. At the moment, police protection notices only give short-term cover until a court hears an application for a domestic violence order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): It being five o'clock, under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call on the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **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) (5.00 pm), in reply: I acknowledge and thank all honourable members for their contribution to the debate of this bill. We have heard a lot in this House over the last day and a half about the evidence of experts. Today outside the House we heard from victims and advocates, and I consider them experts in lived experience.

Hannah Clarke and her children were brutally murdered in an horrific domestic and family violence incident. Her parents, Sue and Lloyd, who have been visitors to this House for many years, have shown incredible courage to become advocates for victims of domestic and family violence. They stood with me and the Minister for Police this morning. Lloyd said—

We welcome these new laws coming in. We really think the trackers and the police protection directions will actually put the onus back on to the perpetrator and keep the victim safer. Hannah had a good experience with the Police, and if these laws would have been in then, hopefully her and her kids would have been saved.

Sue said—

The fact that the police can take out the protection order I think makes a huge difference. Hannah had it taken out of her hands and the police put the protection order out for her, and she felt safer. She felt, had she done it, her life would have been threatened much sooner. There's repercussions on the woman for taking out protection orders. When it's out of their hands, I think it works much safer, and we're thrilled to be here on such a landmark day.

Carolyn Robinson from BeyondDV works with victim-survivors of domestic and family violence every single day. She has a daughter who went through horrific acts of violence and knows how insidious it is in our communities. Today she joined us and said—

I work with victim-survivors every single day—hundreds of them. I think that these moves will be very welcome by victim-survivors. To know now, with the orders being able to be put in place immediately, it means we will be freeing up police so that they can come and support victims as soon as possible. It will make a difference, in my opinion. Knowing that the GPS trackers will be available for perpetrators ... also gives myself and others a great sense of comfort. I don't see any negatives with what we are doing with these measures.

Jess is a victim-survivor of domestic and family abuse. Her former partner has recently been jailed. She said—

After eight to 10 years of plain torture in my home, it's a very emotional day and all of this stuff is really exciting—really, really exciting. I see no negatives here. I see all positives. The trackers themselves will impact me greatly. When the perpetrator in my instance will be released on parole at some stage, he will hopefully be given one of these trackers, and I won't be having to look over my shoulder. The police protection orders take that vulnerability away from us. It takes it off our shoulders as victims ... you feel like you can't do that yourself, and they will blame you and put you in a much unsafer environment. Thank you. Thank you for the change and for hearing us. I feel very heard today as a victim-survivor.

We had our suspicions, but the last day and a half has confirmed it: the Labor Party does not trust the Queensland police. I have never seen a group of people denigrate the Queensland Police Service more than I have in the last day and a half. At the start of every single speech the Labor Party paid lip-service to the Queensland Police Service. They began their speeches by thanking them for their hard work before proceeding to use the rest of their speech to say how terrible they are at performing their job policing domestic and family violence: they misidentify victims as offenders; they are not experts in the field of policing domestic and family violence.

Police are on the front line every single day. They are called to 500 domestic violence incidents every single day. Recognising their work, their efforts and their expertise does not take anything away from important frontline specialised domestic violence services which quite often deal with DV from nine

to five, five days a week—not 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In fact, working together is the expectation of victims. It is the expectation of me as the minister. It is the expectation of this government and of all Queenslanders. The real risk right now is that police are not able to get to the next victim. I have heard that time and time again from the front line. To be very clear, the Labor Party stood up in this House quoting figures from a question on notice that said—

Will the Minister advise the number of respondents who identified as female in domestic and family violence matters, as a percentage of respondents (reported separately by year from 2022 to 2025)?

This is a broad question and I want to clarify the response, as those opposite have been quoting the figure that 30 per cent of respondents in DFV matters are women. What they did not say is that this includes more than just intimate partner domestic and family violence. It includes elder and carer abuse, family abuse between a mother and a daughter or a daughter and a son. The notes in the question also state—

Figures are not a unique respondent count. A respondent involved in multicultural domestic violence incidents will be counted multiple times.

If the opposition had asked a question about circumstances where the respondent and the aggrieved are in an intimate partner relationship, they would have known that only 11.36 per cent of the time is a female recorded as a respondent because both men and women at different times are named as respondents. It is not always 100 per cent men as respondents. On every one of those occasions there was a gender centred review of the case to ensure that officers had correctly identified the person most in need of protection. The latest figures show that 97 per cent of police protection notices have been upheld by the courts. This is the statistic those opposite should have been quoting—not slandering the hardworking men and women of our Queensland Police Service.

The member for Mundingburra, a former police officer herself, spoke from the heart in her speech today about the trauma of domestic and family violence she saw firsthand and the emotional toll it took on her as an officer. In her speech, unlike those opposite, she showed that she understands the policing role. She understands the impacts.

The safety of victim-survivors of domestic and family violence is central to our commitment as a government. That is why we are implementing comprehensive reforms in this bill. It provides for a range of new measures that will ensure victim-survivor safety and that we hold persons using violence to account. The bill is just one part of our reforms to ensure safety where Queenslanders live. To support the measures we are delivering more support for victim-survivors of family violence.

As I have already outlined in this House, the performance of DVConnect—which failed under those opposite—increased from 47 per cent in October 2024 under the former Labor government to 73 per cent in the April to June quarter. If those opposite do not think that a fully functioning 24/7 crisis line has an impact on policing pressures in this state, then they have been kidding themselves. They must have had their heads in the sand. This supports police in their work and the demand for services on the front line. This matters because victim-survivors rely on this important crisis service—as do specialised services and as does the Police Service. I have heard nothing but complaints over the last four years under the former Labor government.

Our new North Queensland DV crisis line will double the statewide capacity. We will continue to deliver innovation where we see the opportunity—like the rollout of the electronic monitoring devices. This pilot is enabled through key reforms in the bill and is supported through a partnership between my portfolio and the portfolios of the police minister, the Minister for Corrective Services and the Attorney-General—because on this side of the House we are prepared to collaborate, cooperate and work together in the interests of victims.

This government is also committed to meeting the needs of diverse groups of people experiencing domestic and family violence. That is why I have previously announced the funding of \$500,000 over two years to the Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence organisation to deliver a range of activities that will support workforce development including research, data collection and professional learning across communities, particularly in regional, rural and remote Queensland. These initiatives and many others come together in a 10-year DFV reform strategy that is currently under development. I look forward to engaging with the sector more broadly.

I will now address some of the issues raised in the debate with regard to PPDs. The bill establishes PPDs as an additional tool for addressing domestic and family violence. The PPN framework will still exist and will still be utilised where it is fit for purpose. This reform is about providing

immediate protection to victims for 12 months without them needing to go through a court process. This is something that has been welcomed by many victim-survivors, which those opposite have neglected to recognise.

While consent is not required for a PPD to be issued, a police officer must consider the views or wishes expressed by the aggrieved about whether an application for a protection order should be made—that is, whether the matter should proceed to court. This is consistent with the existing tools for addressing domestic and family violence. It is not currently a requirement for police to gain an aggrieved person's consent before they issue a police protection notice or for an application for a domestic violence order to be made on behalf of a victim-survivor. Rather, any views or wishes expressed by the aggrieved must be considered in all decisions under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. Requiring consent to issue a PPD runs the risk of victim-survivors being coerced into removing their consent to the PPD and losing vital protections. I find that absolutely ludicrous, frankly—I really do—particularly coming from those opposite who initially introduced coercive control. It makes no sense at all to me why they now want to move an amendment around consent.

There are two options for review following the issue of a PPD, as I outlined for the House during debate. A person will have the option to seek a review of a PPD through either a court review or a police review. Where a court review is sought, the court will treat the PPD as an application for a protection order and consider the matter afresh. The court then will be able to make any order available to them under part 3 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. It will also be able to order whether the PPD should end or be set aside.

The bill establishes several exclusions and safeguards to mitigate the risk of misidentification. I heard that from many opposite, and I also heard it referenced by specialised services in the committee process, but without data, evidence or numbers that they had quantified. I have consulted deeply and extensively across the state and I have read those submissions, and there is still not the adequate data. There is no data; it has not been presented. The police hold the data. The police have come a long way with their training and the way in which they deal with misidentification. We have to acknowledge that and thank the police for their efforts, because they do not want to get it wrong. They do not want perpetrators of domestic violence continuing their victimising.

Recent reforms to responses to DFV have prioritised the reduction of cross-orders and cross-applications. The principles of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act now provide that only one domestic violence order should apply between parties. The exclusion of cross-orders in the new PPD framework is consistent with this as well.

I note that the opposition proposes an amendment to the police review provisions in the bill to provide that a PPD must be reviewed in relation to any PPD that names a female as the respondent and a male as the aggrieved. This is a process that is not provided for in the bill but is something that happens currently and will continue to apply for PPDs. PPDs issued to female respondents will be subject to the Queensland Police Service's gender centred review process. This process includes review of these matters by domestic and family violence specialist officers to ensure that police actions accurately determine the person most in need of protection. There will also be review options available to a person who has issued a PPD, including either a police review or a court review.

I acknowledge the important work that ANROWS undertakes and the important findings of its report that those opposite were referring to. The ANROWS report refers to data from the 2016-17 Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board annual report that in 12 of the 27 cases considered by the board the adult female victims had been identified by police as a respondent in domestic and family violence related occurrences. That equated to the 44.4 per cent that those opposite were quoting. I note that the findings from this report are almost a decade old and do not reflect the work that has been undertaken in more recent years by the Queensland Police Service after the McMurdo taskforce, the commission of inquiry and the additional training that police have now installed as part of their processes. Queensland has come a long way in how we recognise and respond to domestic and family violence since that time, and I think it is important we note that for transparency.

I acknowledge the unique impacts that domestic and family violence has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and families, as well as the significant barriers they experience in seeking support and justice. I am confident in the safeguards included in the bill to exclude the use of PPDs in circumstances where police cannot identify the person most in need of protection, where there is child protection involvement or where family law matters are before the court. I have also placed on the record that I will be working closely with First Nations women in the establishment of a peak body.

With regard to the Family Responsibilities Commission, I foreshadow that I will be moving an amendment to the Family Responsibilities Commission Act. These amendments were developed in consultation with the commission and will support early intervention in a culturally safe environment.

I will talk about some of the concerns that opposition members raised about VREC. The members raised concerns with removing the requirement that a VREC statement must be taken by a trained police officer. This reform does not weaken the protection for victim-survivors; it makes it more accessible, more practical and better resourced across the state, particularly for those who come from CALD communities. Importantly, the Queensland Police Service is rolling out a comprehensive training package for frontline officers. Members also raised concerns that amendments to simplify a complainant's declaration of the truthfulness of their VREC statement will weaken its evidentiary value. The bill does no such thing. I understand that these amendments to VREC are not novel. They adopt a similar approach to that taken in both New South Wales and Victoria.

I would like to highlight that the amendments in the bill seek to avoid unnecessary repetition for victim-survivors, ensuring the framework is more accessible and more efficient. The bill maintains that a complainant is able to withdraw their consent to the making of the recording at any time while the recorded statement is being taken. A complainant can also withdraw their complaint to police at any time, and the complainant's wishes must be considered when the prosecution is determining whether to use a VREC statement in court. The amendments remove unnecessary barriers for victim-survivors and simplify and streamline the VREC framework so it can be accessed and assist victim-survivors of domestic and family violence throughout Queensland.

In concluding, I want to acknowledge and thank victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. As part of the victims working group that I have established to identify system gaps, I am committed to hearing their voices and implementing change. I am also committed to the statutory review in two years time and an evaluation that is contained in this bill. I want to thank the dedicated frontline workers in this sector—the Queensland Police Service, the specialised services and all of those volunteer community organisations. Many of those organisations have been mentioned in the House today, including those in my electorate—Whitsunday Counselling and Support, the Mackay Women's Centre and many other not-for-profits including Broken Ballerina. I also want to thank the dedicated public servants who helped facilitate workshops with the sector and in the establishment and drafting of this bill. I again thank members of this House for their contributions to this debate.

I want to finish my reply with acknowledging my mother, a victim-survivor. She was pleased, some 20 years ago, when her police officer, Daniel, took out an order for her. For over 20 years she lived in fear and terror, along with me and my three siblings, until the day my father took a knife to her throat, and it was the intervention by my little brother and the Queensland police who arrived in time that gave her the freedom and the courage to have a different life. I will always back the Queensland Police Service for their hard work in protecting victim-survivors. The Crisafulli government will always stand up for victims. I commend this bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, J. Kelly, King, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Ms CAMM (5.26 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Ms CAMM: I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, line 7, after 'This Act'—

insert—

, other than part 4B,

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

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Amanda Camm's amendments [\[1161\]](#).

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Amanda Camm's amendments [\[1162\]](#).

Ms SCANLON: We will not be supporting this amendment because we do not support the rushed nature of the amendments in relation to the Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024. The government has provided no reasonable explanation of why these amendments are so urgent. They should have gone through a committee process. These amendments in relation to Forensic Science Queensland remove the reference to 'independent' in respect of the role of director. It removes the previous—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the shadow attorney-general is trying to talk to amendment 13. Amendment 1 goes to the long title of the bill, I understand. Is that correct? Can I have some clarification? She is going to the substantive nature of amendment No. 13. I am happy to talk to amendment No. 13, but the run sheet normally does not—

Mr SPEAKER: Amendment No. 1 goes to the commencement.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Correct: I was speaking to the fact that the commencement of Forensic Science Queensland has been changed by this amendment and I am speaking to why the Labor opposition has concerns about the commencement date which this amendment relates to.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay.

Ms SCANLON: This removes the previous way the director can be removed and replaces—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the shadow attorney-general is not talking about the date of the commencement. She is talking about the detail of the future amendment No. 13.

Mr SPEAKER: Obviously you need to talk to the commencement and why you are objecting to that. If you need to put some context to it, do so, but focus on—

Ms SCANLON: Certainly, Speaker, thank you. The reason we have concerns around the commencement of this provision is it removes the previous ways the director can be removed and replaces it with the provision that the minister may recommend the removal of the director for any reason—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand opposition is tough, but you have to talk to the substance of the amendment. The point of order is the shadow minister needs to talk to the clause and the substance of that clause, not to the detail of other clauses and subsequent clauses.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, talk to the commencement.

Ms SCANLON: The concern of the opposition is the commencement of a range of changes that have been amended by those opposite about the way in which a director can be removed—how is that appropriate? The fact that the Attorney-General has sole discretion basically allows her to now fire individuals without any reasonable cause.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to talk to the substance of the clause when we get to that amendment. Mr Speaker, you have pulled her up three times already.

Mr SPEAKER: Attorney-General, I will make the rules. Member for Gaven, you are becoming repetitive. You are talking to the commencement; you have mentioned the same part three times. Unless you have anything new to add, we will move on.

Ms SCANLON: Mr Speaker, there are a range of amendments that come into effect based on these changes. I am talking through why we have concerns around the commencement of each of those amendments. I have spoken about two of them. I still have concerns around the commencement date of other amendments. The other concern we have is that the amendments allow a discretion for the minister in respect of the director. Previously those matters were independent; now the minister can provide directions to the director. It removes the criteria for appointment as a director. I note—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order as to relevance to the clause under debate. The clause under debate is the date of commencement on assent. That is the subject matter of the clause that is currently being considered. Other matters that the member is raising arise under subsequent clauses that are up for debate. The point of debating clause by clause is that each clause is taken in respect to the contents of that clause—not the subsequent matters that are affected because of a commencement date. Otherwise, we would discuss all the clauses every time in respect of the commencement date, which would negate the reason for debating items seriatim, which is what this is about.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, if you have anything more to add, you must be speaking to the commencement date. As the point of order highlighted, there are opportunities to talk to these other clauses as we go forward.

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

AYES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 31:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Kelly, King, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—



Ms CAMM (5.39 pm): I move amendments Nos 2 and 3 circulated in my name—

2 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 36A (Court must be given respondent's criminal history and domestic violence history))

Page 10, after line 19—

insert—

(1A) Section 36A, heading, after 'violence history'—

insert—

and other information

3 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 36A (Court must be given respondent's criminal history and domestic violence history))

Page 11, after line 6—

insert—

(3) Section 36A—

insert—

(4) If a police protection direction is in effect in relation to the aggrieved and respondent (regardless of who is the aggrieved and who is the respondent in relation to the direction), the police commissioner must also give the following information with the copy filed or given under subsection (2) or information given under subsection (3)—

(a) a copy of the direction; and

- (b) the signed written notice stating the grounds for issuing the direction prepared, by the police officer who issued the direction, under section 100O(2).

The amendments seek to amend section 36A of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to require the Police Commissioner, when providing a respondent's domestic and family violence criminal history to the courts to inform a protection order application, to also provide any PPD in place between the parties and the grounds for the PPD.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Ms CAMM (5.40 pm): I move amendments Nos 4 to 6 circulated in my name—

4 Clause 15 (Insertion of new pt 3, div 5, sdiv 3 and sdiv 4, hdg)

Page 16, lines 18 to 20—

omit, insert—

considers—

- (a) is likely to be in the entity's possession; and
- (b) may help the court in deciding whether it is necessary or desirable to impose the monitoring device condition on the respondent.

5 Clause 15 (Insertion of new pt 3, div 5, sdiv 3 and sdiv 4, hdg)

Page 16, after line 22—

insert—

- (3) However, the entity is required only to provide information in the entity's possession or to which the entity has access.

6 Clause 15 (Insertion of new pt 3, div 5, sdiv 3 and sdiv 4, hdg)

Page 19, lines 10 to 15—

omit, insert—

- (1) Evidence of the imposition of a monitoring device condition or the use of a monitoring device, and other evidence directly or indirectly derived from the imposition or use, is not admissible in any proceeding other than—
 - (a) a proceeding for a domestic violence offence; or
 - (b) a proceeding for a criminal offence that is not a domestic violence offence in which the court considers it is in the interests of justice to admit the evidence.
- (2) Evidence of the use of a safety device, and other evidence directly or indirectly derived from the use, is not admissible in any proceeding other than a proceeding for a domestic violence offence.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—



Ms McMILLAN (5.41 pm): I move amendments 1 and 2 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 24, after line 14—

insert—

- (3A) Further, a police officer must not issue a police protection direction if the aggrieved has not consented to the issue of the direction.

2 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 39, after line 21—

insert—

- (3A) Also, the police officer must give the aggrieved and the respondent information about—
 - (a) assistance or support services that are available to persons who fear or experience domestic violence or who commit domestic violence; and

Examples of assistance or support services—

 - counselling
 - disability services
 - health services

- housing and homelessness services
 - legal services
 - sexual assault services
- (b) how to access the assistance or support services; and
- (c) if the aggrieved or the respondent is a community member under the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*—that the aggrieved or the respondent may seek help or other services from the Family Responsibilities Commission under that Act.

Amendments Nos 1 and 2 address our concerns regarding police protection directions. I table the explanatory notes and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Ms Corrine McMillan's amendments [1163].

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Ms Corrine McMillan's amendments [1164].

Our amendments seek to enhance the legislation to ensure the safety of victim-survivors first and foremost. Amendment No. 1 addresses the concerns that police can issue a PPD without the consent of the aggrieved or the victim-survivor. Given that PPDs are a permanent protection direction that can include conditions further than what is standard on a PPN, it is important that victim-survivors are provided agency to make decisions that will have a significant impact on their lives. Currently, the bill provides for police to only consider the views of victim-survivors, and this does not go far enough. We heard from the sector that they had significant concerns regarding the lack of consent for PPDs in the bill and would support seeing that included.

Amendment No. 2 relates to the missed opportunity and unintended consequences of removing court oversight from the issuing of a permanent direction. We heard extensively from stakeholders and victim-survivors that going to court provides a key opportunity to access support services including counselling, sexual assault services and legal advice. As PPDs do not require court involvement, this is a significant missed opportunity for victim-survivors' access to support, to heal, to recover and to rebuild their lives after violence. It is also a missed opportunity for persons using violence who can be prescribed behaviour change programs by the courts. These important referrals disrupt cycles of violence to actively prevent DV before it happens. That is why we move amendments to require police to provide information about support services and how to access these support services.

Mr PURDIE: I think I have the answers to the member's question. I might be able to put opposition members' minds at ease so they can support the passage of the bill. Firstly, in relation to opposition amendment No. 2 and the referrals, the member did make some good points, which is why the operational procedures manual already mandates this. It is a must; it is a requirement for police attending domestic and family violence matters to make those referrals. In fact, in the financial year 2024-25 they made 155,000 referrals to not only support services for DV but legal services as well. In relation to their amendment No. 2, it is obsolete; it is not required.

In relation to amendment No. 1, I think this goes to the heart of the debate over the last two days. What we do know now as an undeniable truth is that we back our police and they have absolute distrust and disdain for our police. That is what this debate has been about. That is obviously why they have sat on their hands for 10 years and watched calls for service go up 20 per cent a year. The legislation already states that the aggrieved's thoughts on the issue of PPDs need to be taken into account. As we have heard, all of those who made contributions have talked about the experts, but they do not regard the police as being experts. The ones who are attending 200,000 of these incidents a year are not considered to be experts. If they do not want to take the police advice, they should take the advice of Sue Clarke, Hannah Clarke's mother. She said today—

I think the fact that the police can take out the protection order, I think that's a huge difference. There's repercussions on a woman for taking out protection orders, so when it's out of their hands I think it works much safer.

The opposition's amendment No. 1 wants to bring the aggrieved back into this. It brings the aggrieved back into the line of fire. We know the police taking out the application on behalf of the aggrieved distances the aggrieved from it. This comes into coercive control. This comes into everything we have been talking about. I do not know who the experts are that those opposite have been listening to. It used to be the case that private applications were common. More people are now coming to police for a police application because they are advised to because it takes the aggrieved out of that process. The police officer becomes the applicant. This amendment No. 1 which is about not issuing a PPD without the consent of the aggrieved pulls them back into that situation, but the police, the sector and other people know we need to take them out of it.

This is a nonsense amendment. It goes to show that the opposition have no trust or respect for our police. The disdain and the disregard for our police has been palpable over the last two days. It is disgusting.

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

AYES, 32:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, J. Kelly, King, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Ms McMillan) negated.



Ms CAMM: I move amendments Nos 7 and 8 circulated in my name—

7 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 40, after line 8—

insert—

(aa) the direction ends under section 100ZD(3A)(a); or

8 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 40, line 29, 'respondent and aggrieved—

omit, insert—

same respondent and same aggrieved

Amendments agreed to.



Ms McMILLAN: I move amendments Nos 3 and 4 circulated in my name—

3 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 42, after line 15—

insert—

(1A) This section also applies in relation to a police protection direction issued by a police officer that names a female as the respondent and a male as the aggrieved.

4 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 45, after line 20—

insert—

(4) Also, for a review of a police protection direction mentioned in section 100T(1A), the reviewing officer must obtain advice from at least 1 specialist DFV service provider about whether the direction is appropriate in the circumstances.

Misidentification of a person most in need of protection remains the primary concern of the Queensland Labor opposition. We have consulted heavily with the sector who on the whole do not support the introduction of PPDs as currently drafted. We agree with their concerns that PPDs introduce increased risk to the possibility of misidentification and the severe consequences of this becoming solidified by a 12-month protection direction.

To provide a much needed safeguard against misidentification, we will move amendment 3 requiring all PPDs naming a female as the respondent to undergo a police review. We will also amend clause 19 to ensure there is oversight to the police review process as called for by stakeholders and experts right across Queensland, right across the country and as evidenced in international research.

Amendment 4 will require a domestic and family violence specialist to provide advice on the appropriateness for the PPD for the circumstances it was issued. These safeguards against misidentification provide oversight to identify cases of misidentification and ensure the consequences do not become solidified in a permanent PPD. Without these amendments we believe that PPDs pose too great a risk to victim-survivors' safety and cannot support the introduction of the police protection directions.

Ms CAMM: When the member refers to the 'sector', the member is referring I think to the interim peak body of QCOSS. I have reviewed QCOSS's submission and I have also met with other members of the sector. The concern that those opposite continue to raise about misidentification, as I outlined, by all of the submissions that were made, was the lack of data that existed because the police hold the data when it comes to misidentification.

Further, I will expand upon some of what QCOSS's submission outlined. That is, it continues to speak about incident-based policing. The police have come a long way. Once again, this is another attack on our frontline officers—another attack and lack of recognition of the police's commitment to ensuring safeguards apply around misidentification. The Queensland police minister in his contribution, as did many other members, talked about the QPS gender centred review process—the process that occurs within 24 hours. As part of the QPS gender centred review there are domestic and family violence specialist police officers, many of whom have years of experience. Some of them have come from the sector itself. I have met them. They are operating in the vulnerable persons units. I have met Amanda in Cairns. In my home town I have met some incredible police officers doing incredible things with incredible expertise.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete the consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister, without further amendment or debate. We must finish the question that is currently before the House.

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

AYES, 32:

ALP, 30—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, J. Kelly, King, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

NOES, 50:

LNP, 50—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Ms McMillan) negatived.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister to present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Message from Governor



Ms CAMM (6.00 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency recommends the amendments circulated by the minister. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to amend the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*, the *Evidence Act 1977*, the *Explosives Act 1999*, the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*, the *Weapons Act 1990* and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes.

GOVERNOR

Date: 28 August 2025

Tabled paper: Message, dated 28 August 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending an amendment to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [\[1165\]](#).

I note that the minister's amendments Nos 12 and 13 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 9 to 13, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

9 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 48, line 28, after 'day'—

insert—

or as soon as practicable

10 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 52, after line 16—

insert—

(aa) an order that the police protection direction ends on a stated day; or

11 Clause 19 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 1A)

Page 52, after line 28—

insert—

(3A) If the court makes an order that the police protection direction ends on a stated day—

(a) the direction ends on the stated day; and

(b) the part of the respondent's domestic violence history relating to the direction must include the following information—

(i) the court's order;

(ii) the day the direction ends under paragraph (a).

12 After clause 59

Page 75, after line 21—

insert—

Part 4A Amendment of Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008

59A Act amended

This part amends the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*.

59B Insertion of new s 43A

After section 43—

insert—

43A Notice about police protection direction

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a police protection direction is issued; and

(b) either or both of the following apply—

(i) the relevant domestic violence occurred in a welfare reform community area;

(ii) the police commissioner becomes aware that the respondent lives, or at any time after the start day has lived, in a welfare reform community area.

(2) The police commissioner must give the commission a notice that states—

(a) the day on which the police protection direction was issued; and

(b) the conditions (if any) of the police protection direction; and

(c) the name and address of the respondent; and

(d) information that identifies—

(i) the place where the relevant domestic violence occurred; and

(ii) if subsection (1)(b)(ii) applies, the place in a welfare reform community area where the respondent lives or has lived.

(3) The police commissioner must give the notice as soon as practicable, but not more than 10 business days, after the later of the following happens—

(a) the police protection direction is issued;

(b) the police commissioner becomes aware that the respondent lives, or at any time after the start day has lived, in a welfare reform community area.

(4) In this section—

police protection direction means a police protection direction issued under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*.

relevant domestic violence, in relation to a police protection direction, see the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*, schedule.

respondent, in relation to a police protection direction, see the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*, section 21(3).

start day means 17 December 2015.

Note—

17 December 2015 is the day from which courts have been required, under section 43, to notify the commission of protection orders under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012* made against residents of welfare reform community areas.

59C Amendment of schedule (Dictionary)

(1) Schedule—

insert—

PPD notice means a notice given to the commission under section 43A.

(2) Schedule, definition *agency notice*—

insert—

(da) PPD notice;

(3) Schedule, definition *agency notice*, paragraphs (da) and (e)—
renumber as paragraphs (e) and (f).

(4) Schedule, definition *relevant person*, paragraphs (a) and (b). ‘; and’—
omit, insert—

; or

(5) Schedule, definition *relevant person*—

insert—

(da) for a PPD notice—the respondent for the police protection direction the subject of the PPD notice; or

(6) Schedule, definition *relevant person*, paragraphs (da) and (e)—
renumber as paragraphs (e) and (f).

13 After clause 59

Page 75, after line 21—

insert—

Part 4B Amendment of Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024

59D Act amended

This part amends the *Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024*.

59E Amendment of s 3 (Main purpose of Act)

Section 3(1), ‘reliable, independent’—

omit, insert—

reliable

59F Replacement of pt 2, hdg and pt 2, div 1, hdg

Part 2, heading and part 2, division 1, heading—

omit, insert—

Part 2 Office of the Director of Forensic Science Queensland

Division 1 Director of Forensic Science Queensland

59G Amendment of s 7 (Appointment)

Section 7(3), from ‘has—’—

omit, insert—

is appropriately qualified to perform the functions of the director.

59H Amendment of s 10 (Vacancy in office)

Section 10(4) and (5)—

omit, insert—

(4) The Minister may recommend the removal of the director for any reason or none.

(5) The Minister may, for any reason or none, suspend the director for not more than 6 months by signed notice given to the director.

- (6) This section does not limit the Governor in Council's power under the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 25.

59I Amendment of s 13 (Functions of director)

Section 13(1)(b)(i), 'reliable, independent'—

omit, insert—

reliable

59J Insertion of new pt 2, div 1A

Part 2—

insert—

Division 1A Deputy directors of Forensic Science Queensland

14A Appointment

- (1) The Minister may appoint an appropriately qualified person to be a deputy director of Forensic Science Queensland.
- (2) However, a person must not be appointed as a deputy director if the person—
 - (a) has a conviction, other than a spent conviction, for an indictable offence; or
 - (b) is an insolvent under administration.
- (3) A deputy director is appointed under this Act and not under the *Public Sector Act 2022*.

14B Term of appointment

- (1) A deputy director is appointed for the term, of not more than 5 years, stated in the deputy director's instrument of appointment.
- (2) A deputy director may be reappointed.

14C Conditions of appointment

- (1) A deputy director is to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the Minister.
- (2) The deputy director holds office on the terms and conditions decided by the Minister to the extent the terms and conditions are not provided for by this Act.

14D Vacancy in office

- (1) The office of a deputy director becomes vacant if the deputy director—
 - (a) completes a term of office and is not reappointed; or
 - (b) resigns from office by signed notice given to the Minister; or
 - (c) is removed from office by the Minister under subsection (2).
- (2) The Minister may, for any reason or none, terminate the deputy director's appointment.
- (3) Also, the Minister may, for any reason or none, suspend the deputy director for not more than 6 months by signed notice given to the deputy director.
- (4) This section does not limit the Minister's power under the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 25.

14E Deputy director must disclose insolvency

- (1) This section applies to a person who—
 - (a) is appointed as a deputy director; and
 - (b) during the term of the person's appointment, becomes an insolvent under administration.
- (2) The person must, unless the person has a reasonable excuse, immediately give written notice of the insolvency to the Minister.
Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

59K Amendment of s 15 (Criminal history report)

Section 15(1), after 'the director'—

insert—

or a deputy director

59L Amendment of s 16 (Charges and convictions must be disclosed by director)

- (1) Section 16, heading, after 'director'—

insert—

or deputy director

- (2) Section 16(1), after 'the director'—

insert—

or a deputy director

59M Amendment of pt 2, div 3, hdg (Other provisions)

Part 2, division 3, heading, after 'provisions'—

insert—

relating to director and deputy directors

59N Amendment of s 18 (Delegation)

- (1) Section 18, from 'to an'—

omit, insert—

to—

- (a) a deputy director; or
- (b) an appropriately qualified staff member of Forensic Science Queensland.

- (2) Section 18—

insert—

- (2) A deputy director may subdelegate a function or power delegated to the deputy director under subsection (1) to an appropriately qualified staff member of Forensic Science Queensland.

59O Replacement of s 19 (Independence of director)

Section 19—

omit, insert—

19 Minister may give directions

- (1) The Minister may give the director a direction about a matter relevant to the performance or exercise of the director's functions or powers.
- (2) However, a direction may not be about a particular person or matter.
- (3) The director must comply with a direction given by the Minister under this section.

19A Minister may request information

- (1) The Minister may ask the director for information about a stated matter relevant to the performance or exercise of the director's functions or powers.
- (2) The director must comply with the request.

59P Amendment of s 20 (Limitation on performing other work)

Section 20, after 'The director'—

insert—

or a deputy director

59Q Amendment of s 21 (Conflicts of interest)

- (1) Section 21, from 'If' to 'the director'—

omit, insert—

If a person appointed as the director or a deputy director has an interest that conflicts, or may conflict, with the discharge of the person's functions under this Act, the person—

- (2) Section 21(a), 'the director's'—

omit, insert—

the person's

59R Amendment of s 22 (Preservation of rights)

Section 22, after 'the director'—

insert—

or a deputy director

59S Replacement of pt 3, hdg (Office and staff)

Part 3, heading—

omit, insert—

Division 4 Office and staff

59T Amendment of s 23 (Establishment)

- (1) Section 23(2)—

insert—

- (aa) each deputy director; and

- (2) Section 23(2)(aa) and (b)—

renumber as section 23(2)(b) and (c).

59U Amendment of s 34 (Vacancy in office)

- (1) Section 34(2), from 'appointment if'—

omit, insert—

appointment for any reason or none.

(2) Section 34—

insert—

(3) This section does not limit the Minister's power under the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 25.

59V Amendment of s 40 (Confidentiality of information)

(1) Section 40(1)—

insert—

(aa) a deputy director; or

(2) Section 40(1)(aa) to (f)—

renumber as section 40(1)(b) to (g).

59W Insertion of new s 43A

After section 43—

insert—

43A Particular reports about operation of Forensic Science Queensland

(1) This section applies in relation to a report about the operation of Forensic Science Queensland if the report was obtained by the State and tabled in Parliament before the commencement of this section.

(2) The principles of natural justice, including the principle of natural justice relating to bias, do not apply, and are taken never to have applied, in relation to—

(a) the drafting or preparation of the report; or

(b) the disclosure of the report, or a draft of the report, to any person for the purpose of preparing or finalising the report; or

(c) the publication of the report.

(3) It is declared that any person involved in the preparation of the report, including the State, does not incur, and never has incurred, any liability in relation to—

(a) the drafting or preparation of the report; or

(b) the disclosure of the report, or a draft of the report, to any person for the purpose of preparing or finalising the report; or

(c) the publication of the report.

(4) To remove any doubt, it is declared that—

(a) the report, and any person involved in the preparation or publication of the report, including the State, is not subject to any declaratory, injunctive or other order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on the ground that the principles of natural justice, including the principle of natural justice relating to bias, were not complied with in preparing the report; and

(b) no damages or compensation are payable by any person involved in the preparation of the report, including the State, because of or in relation to—

(i) the drafting or preparation of the report; or

(ii) the disclosure of the report, or a draft of the report, to any person for the purpose of preparing or finalising the report; or

(iii) the publication of the report.

59X Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

(1) Schedule 1, definition *misconduct*—

omit.

(2) Schedule 1—

insert—

deputy director means a deputy director appointed under section 14A.

Question put—That clauses 19 to 83 and the schedule, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed.

Clauses 19 to 83 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 14 and 15 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

14 Long title

Long title, after '*Explosives Act 1999*,'—

insert—

the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*,

15 Long title

Long title, before '*the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*'—

insert—


the *Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024*,

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabled Papers Out of Order


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, earlier today the member for Algeester purported to table two documents during her contribution to the second reading debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The documents contain unparliamentary language and expressions that if said in the House could, on objection, be ordered to be withdrawn.

In accordance with previous rulings about tabled documents needing to be appropriate and in accordance with the rules, I have ruled the purported tablings out of order and not tabled. Reference to the purported tablings will not be shown in the *Record of Proceedings*.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 March (see p. 324).

Second Reading

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (6.03 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to thank the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee for its report tabled on 2 May 2025 regarding the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I note the committee's report contained one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for this recommendation.

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 ensures that electronic systems can continue to be used to automatically issue authorities for certain low-risk activities, such as native animal pet keeping and trade, and standard applications for environmental authorities. To achieve this, the bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to clearly establish that electronic systems may be used for automatically issuing particular authorities. Business, industry and community expect government to use electronic systems to undertake operations and the amendments in the bill will enable this to continue for activities regulated by these acts.

The bill also validates authorities that have previously been automatically issued to provide unequivocal certainty that any lawful activity undertaken as part of an authority is valid. By confirming the existing electronic system for automatically approving low-risk environmental activities, we are taking a simple step to ensure that Queenslanders can avoid red and green tape they do not need.

The bill also includes a minor clarifying amendment to ensure compliance and enforcement tools issued prior to the commencement of the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 are enforceable via the issuance of a penalty infringement notice. Once again, this bill will not alter the penalty infringement notices themselves, nor will it place any new burden whatsoever on Queenslanders.

Turning first to the substance of the committee's report on the bill and submissions from stakeholders, in recommending the bill be passed the committee noted sufficient regard was given to the fundamental legislative principles and was satisfied that the bill is compatible with the Human Rights Act 2019. The committee's examination of the bill highlighted some stakeholder concern that the scope of discretion of the new provisions for the approval and use of electronic systems may reduce the rigour of assessment for various authorities under the Nature Conservation Act. I can assure you that this bill provides safeguards for using electronic systems under the Nature Conservation Act by requiring particular matters to be prescribed by regulation.

In recommending a regulation to the Governor in Council, the minister must be satisfied that prescribing the matter would not have a detrimental effect on achieving the object of the Nature Conservation Act. This is important as Queensland is a biodiversity hotspot—50 per cent of the species found in our state are not found anywhere else in the world. However, this also puts our wildlife at high risk. Our nature conservation laws are in place to ensure the protection and conservation of our native wildlife, with the ultimate goal of minimising unlawful activities such as the illegal take and trade of animals from the wild.

The bill establishes further safeguards by ensuring that an electronic system used to automatically deal with prescribed matters must be approved by the chief executive and that the chief executive must take all reasonable steps to ensure the approved electronic system operates in compliance with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act. I also want to make it abundantly clear that this bill does not increase red or green tape for Queenslanders. Whether it is a young girl keeping a blue-tongue lizard as a pet or a local enthusiast having a well-cared-for collection of their non-dangerous protected animal best friends at home, we will not be changing that process.

The report indicates that stakeholders also expressed concern over automatic decision-making and sub-delegation processes going wrong under the Nature Conservation Act's regulatory framework. As mentioned in my introduction speech, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has commenced implementing the oversight requirements of the bill and is drafting amendments to regulations under the Nature Conservation Act. The draft amendment regulation, which was also provided to the committee to assist in its consideration of the bill, proposes a robust framework for automatically processing low-risk animal authorities relating to the pet keeping and trade of non-dangerous, captive-bred native animals. This includes the applicant stating information relevant to their suitability to keep animals, such as previous wildlife convictions and breach of conditions. In short, we are committed to balancing red tape reduction with robust and well-managed environmental regulation where it is needed.

In line with current arrangements for all authorities administered under the Nature Conservation Act, the bill ensures that it will continue to be an offence for a person to provide false or misleading information by expanding this offence to explicitly reference providing that information through an electronic system. Additionally, the proposed amendment regulation will enable the chief executive to immediately cancel an automatically issued authority on false or misleading grounds. This will support the department's ongoing enforcement and compliance program for wildlife monitoring and visitor management in protected areas. The department is committed to reviewing the effectiveness of its online licensing systems to ensure they remain contemporary, fit for purpose and operate in a way that gives full regard to legislative obligations.


The committee also received feedback on aspects of the bill relating to the validation provisions. I acknowledge that some stakeholders questioned the bill validating previous automated approvals and the extent to which this validation applied. As outlined in the explanatory notes for the bill, the validation provisions only cover lawful activities as if they had been decided by the chief executive.

In relation to the Environmental Protection Act, the validation provisions are specific to the granting of authorities issued through a standard application process via the automated system. The explanatory notes for the bill make it clear that it is only the automated aspect of the authority being granted that is being validated. Importantly, the Environmental Protection Act deems a standard authority to have been granted if the chief executive does not decide it. Therefore, the validation provision in the bill is simply clarifying the date that the authority took effect, which will be the day it was issued by the electronic system.

In relation to the Nature Conservation Act, the validation provisions will simply ensure that those authorities that were automatically issued prior to the commencement of the bill are taken to be valid irrespective of whether they were granted through an electronic system and irrespective of the scope of matters considered by the system at the time of issue. The validation only applies to automated decisions to the extent the chief executive could have lawfully made the same decision.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the committee's comments around the proposed amendment to the transitional provisions inserted by the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 relating to the use of enforcement tools. The bill amends the transitional provisions in the Environmental Protection Act to rectify an oversight with reference to the term 'proceedings' by clarifying that an enforcement of a notice or order is not limited to a court proceeding and that a penalty infringement notice—what we often call a PIN—can continue to be an option for enforcement action. Importantly, this addresses concerns raised by some local governments, and indeed by the then opposition and now government when we were first considering this bill, that PINs should be used to deal with minor offences in a quick and cost-effective manner. This offers a balanced approach and avoids unnecessary court proceedings for minor offences, providing cost savings for government and businesses. Keeping the environmental protection framework effective, fair and consistent is critical to protect our community and the environment from harm. The committee noted that the amendments provide operational certainty and administrative clarity that the regulator has the full range of tools to respond to noncompliance and that, in line with human rights, the bill does not limit retrospective criminal laws.

Again, I thank the committee and stakeholders for their consideration and feedback on the bill. This bill honours the Crisafulli government's fundamental commitment to Queenslanders to respect their—taxpayers'—money. These changes will ensure government resources continue to be focused towards on-ground conservation and environmental protection outcomes rather than administrative red tape to deal with low-risk matters. It also upholds the government's priority to provide residents, industry and local government with unequivocal certainty on decisions that assess environmental impacts. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.13 pm): I rise to speak to the second reading debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In doing so, I acknowledge the hard work and passionate environmental advocacy of the shadow minister for the environment, the member for Nudgee. I am sure all members join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

At the outset I note that the Labor opposition will not be opposing or seeking to amend this bill. However, we will be highlighting a range of concerns with the government's approach to the contents of the bill or, more properly, the lack of contents of this bill. Frankly, it would be difficult to oppose or amend this bill given that the bill is entirely empty. The bill is empty of vision and purpose. It is as empty as the hearts of the LNP when it comes to Queensland's precious natural environment and its conservation.

The opposition will not be opposing or amending this bill because, quite frankly, there is hardly anything in it. There is nothing to amend or oppose. The 18 clauses in the bill establish that electronic systems may be used for the automatic issue of authorities for low-risk activity and affirm the validity of authorities previously issued under electronic systems. This is truly riveting stuff, I must say. The bill is symbolic of the lack of vision of the Crisafulli government when it comes to the environment. That lack of vision showcases missed opportunities. This bill shows that the broader environmental policy landscape that surrounds the Crisafulli government is empty.

I begin by reminding members of what is at stake. Queensland is home to one of the most extraordinary natural environments on earth with the ancient Daintree Rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef, our wild river systems and iconic species found nowhere else on the planet. A full third of our native plant species are found nowhere else in the world. I could go on, but the list would be very long. We are truly very lucky to call Queensland home. It is a state with treasures and we have been entrusted with them. With that privilege comes an extraordinary responsibility to not just protect what we have today but also preserve it for future generations. However, this bill offers minor amendments in a standalone piece of legislation that contains no reform aimed at improving environmental outcomes.

What is entirely absent in the 18 clauses of this bill is the slightest hint of any vision for Queensland's environment from the Crisafulli LNP government. The purpose of the Nature Conservation Act, which this bill amends, is the conservation of nature while allowing for the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the management of protected areas. The act seeks to protect Queensland's biodiversity. Ours is the most biodiverse state in Australia, if not the

world. We are fortunate to have the deep connection and wisdom of the traditional owners of Queensland's precious protected species to jointly manage it. Traditional owners bring tens of thousands of years of experience and knowledge in caring for country.

With all of that in mind, this bill leaves this House with bigger questions. How does the bill before the House meaningfully advance the objectives of the Nature Conservation Act? More to the point, what is the Crisafulli government's vision for Queensland's environment? After all, the bill is the first piece of legislation relating to the environment introduced since they came to government. I would argue that to bring forward these minor amendments as a standalone bill is a stark demonstration of the Crisafulli LNP government's complete absence of vision for Queensland's environment.

These amendments do not bring new reforms or improved outcomes but only seek to ensure that the act operates as intended. That is not to say they are not important clarifications, but it does speak volumes that the new Crisafulli LNP government's first environmental bill delivers little. Their first and currently only environmental bill is to clarify an existing authorisation for the electronic issuing of automatic authorisations for low-risk activities. It begs the question: why were amendments not progressed more efficiently?

This government deeply lacks any imagination for Queensland's natural environment and, by extension, Queensland. I have seen more vision for the environment from the grade 6 students at Nashville State School who wrote to me about their environmental project. I thank them for writing to me and for showing passion for our environment. I must say, they have more passion for the environment than this government does. Ultimately, while not seeking to oppose the minor clarification contained in the bill, the opposition questions the time and resources that could have been spent by this parliament on a bill of actual substance. There are real opportunities for reform that have been missed by this bill.

The Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 have the power to deliver genuine, lasting reforms. It is only if that opportunity is taken. Reforms like strengthening protections for our rangers, deepening cooperation with Indigenous communities in managing country, giving our environmental regulators sharper tools to act, shifting focus towards preventing environmental harm and not just responding—

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member herself has pointed out there are a number of clauses in this bill. It is a very technical and specific bill. The member has spent more time talking about things that are not in the bill than what is actually in the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Marr): I will just get some advice. Member for Sandgate, under advice, I ask you to please stay relevant to the bill.

Ms ASIF: I am happy to. I am talking about environmental reforms, which this bill is about, so I will continue.

Mrs Frecklington: Was that a reflection?

Ms ASIF: It was not a reflection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Excuse me, if everybody could just keep quiet. Member for Sandgate, that was not appropriate. If you could please stay relevant to the bill after that comment back to the chair, that would be appreciated, thank you.

Ms ASIF: I am happy to. There is a contrast between the work of the previous Labor government and the Crisafulli LNP government's missing agenda when it comes to Queensland's environment. In a seven-month period of Labor's last term—less time than this government has now been at the helm—the former Miles Labor government: expanded the protected areas of the Great Sandy Marine Park by nine per cent; banned new oil and gas in the flood plains of the Lake Eyre Basin—

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask the member to state which aspect of this bill her current address pertains to.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am just going to take some advice, thank you. Member for Sandgate, I am going to read the aims of the bill to you so you can be clear before you continue—

The ... objective of ... the Bill ... is to clearly establish that electronic systems may be used for automatically issuing particular authorities.

Specifically—

... authorities for low-risk activities under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 ... and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 ... can continue to be issued automatically through the use of an electronic system; and

... there is no doubt regarding the validity of authorities under the NC Act and EP Act that were previously issued automatically by electronic systems.

You have moved away from the objectives of the bill. Can I please ask you to keep that in mind as you continue, thank you.

Ms ASIF: I am happy to. When it comes to this bill before the House and checking the broader backdrop of their environmental policies and the shift that the government has taken, they have scrapped renewable energy projects and signalled an intention to wind back emissions targets. The Minister for the Environment today—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take the first point of order from the member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, my first point of order relates to relevance, and my second point of order relates to the clear disrespect being shown to the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did you have a point of order, member for Bulimba?

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask for your ruling on relevance. The Environmental Protection Act and the Nature Conservation Act are quite broad pieces of legislation. I would submit that the member is actually speaking to those acts.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate, we have made it very clear what the aims of the bill were. Could you explain how what you are speaking about is relevant to the bill, please?

Ms ASIF: I am speaking to the purposes of the bill, but to assist the House I can keep going.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you stick to the purposes of the bill, I will let you continue.

Ms ASIF: On the functions of the amendments and on our position, the department has advised that the substantive amendments contained in the bill to amend the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 will provide clarity about the use of electronic systems to issue authorities where clear criteria are met and to validate any previously issued authorities. I appreciate that the automatic issuing of particular authorities contained in this bill relate to authorities for low-risk activities and are sought following an internal review and for the removal of any doubt regarding the validity of authorities previously issued automatically by an electronic system. I also appreciate that the bill proposes to amend transitional provisions of the Environmental Protection Act to place beyond doubt that the administering authority can issue a penalty infringement notice in response to noncompliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices.

The reason we will not be opposing or seeking to amend the bill before us is that these amendments are straightforward, operational, clarifying and sensible and will make the job of departmental officers easier without sacrificing environmental or community protections, and the opposition will not oppose just for the sake of opposing. That is not what Queenslanders expect us to do.

Given the short nature of this amending bill, I am sure it would not surprise anyone that there were only three submissions to the committee inquiry—a whopping three submissions. The three submissions from stakeholders also stated there was a lot more room and opportunity to do more such as expand both private and protected areas, protect threatened species and prioritise bioregional planning. Again, a lot of parliamentary resources were spent on something that will have very little impact.

Government members interjected.

Ms ASIF: I am not taking interjections.

A government member: You just did!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right.

Ms ASIF: Again, a lot of parliamentary resources were spent on something that will have very little impact. Ten months into their term, no real resources have been dedicated by the Crisafulli LNP government to further the principles of this act—not within these amendments or otherwise. The Queensland Conservation Council said it best in its response to this bill—

The Nature Conservation Act and Environmental Protection Act are cornerstones of environmental law in Queensland and must be maintained and strengthened to achieve better outcomes for Queensland's environment.

Rather than take that opportunity, the Crisafulli government has chosen to tinker at the edges, proposing minor technical changes while ignoring the bigger challenges facing our environment. I acknowledge and thank each of the submitters. Committee examination of legislation is a vital part of the parliamentary process, as it is when stakeholders and members of the community get to have their say and raise any issues. Those three submissions raised the lack of real substance in this bill, variously raising the expansion of both private and protected areas, the protection of threatened species—

Ms FARMER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 251, which says that the member speaking is not to be interrupted except in certain circumstances. I submit to you that the constant interruptions are designed to disrupt the member and do not relate to any of the points in standing order 251.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, the member for Sandgate is not taking your interjections, so please let her continue.

Ms ASIF: With respect to the submission by the Queensland Conservation Council, the peak body for Queensland's environmental movement, I note the department's advice with regard to clause 16 of the bill and the concerns they raised about the discretion afforded the minister to make a regulation which provides a power for the minister to create regulations on which activities can be automatically approved. I accept the safeguards provided by the bill that require particular matters to be prescribed by regulation, not to the detriment of achieving the objective of the Nature Conservation Act, and subject to the disallowance powers of this House.

Further, the department stated that an electronic system used to automatically deal with prescribed matters must be approved by the chief executive, taking all reasonable steps to comply with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act. I thank the department for their clarification and assurances with respect to the proposed amendments to section 177 of the act with respect to deemed decisions for a standard application for mining activity relating to a mining lease in particular circumstances.

The department made it very clear that there is no change in the bill itself around standard environmental authorities and the requirement to issue those subject to the existing eligibility criteria and standard conditions under that framework. Further, a standard environmental authority application for a mining lease will continue to need a decision by the delegate or chief executive.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Ms ASIF: Frankly, as I said, it is difficult to oppose or amend this bill because the bill is so bereft of any substance. Those opposite constantly rose on points of order on relevance because they have come in here and legislated something that is so narrow that little will ever be said about their first environmental reform. It is such a shame and a missed opportunity.

I will explain why my comments were relevant. This bill demonstrates a lack of ambition of the Crisafulli government when it comes to the environment. Whilst the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation has advised that the bill will provide clarity about the use of electronic systems to issue authorities where clear criteria are met and confirm the validity of any previously issued authorities and whilst electronic approvals are a contemporary tool and environmental management system and the bill delivers certainty around them, the real certainty that is delivered is that this government have no agenda for Queensland's environmental future. Their lack of ambition showcases both the missed opportunities of this bill and the broader policy environment.


I will conclude by addressing submissions to the committee. The sector is calling for this government to be bold in their ambition. The Labor opposition stands with the Queensland Conservation Council, which said in their submission on the bill—

Beyond these amendments, we urge the State Government to prioritise:

- Continuing to resource regional planning within the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, to enable effective mapping and modelling of environmental values ...
- Expanding the protected areas estate in both public and private land and appropriately funding maintenance of these protected areas
- Implementing programs that will move towards ensuring no new species extinctions ...

The department advised the committee during its inquiry that there are no actual changes in the bill itself around standard environmental authorities and the requirement to issues those, subject to existing eligibility criteria and standard conditions under that framework. Further, a standard environmental authority application for a mining lease will continue to need to be decided by a delegate or the chief executive. I thank the department for their clarification on this technical matter. It is based on that clarification and the operational and validating nature of these minor amendments that the Labor opposition will not be opposing this bill.

I would like to make it clear: the LNP's vision for protecting Queensland's environment and supporting industry, as revealed by submitters to the committee, is pathetic. It is weak where strength was needed. It is hollow where ambition was needed. Queensland can do better and Queensland must do better, because our environment is worth more than just automatic approvals. Only Labor has the record for delivering for the environment. Only Labor has shown vision to grow the economy, protect the environment and give certainty to all Queenslanders. This bill does little, if anything. It is a big missed opportunity for this state, this government and especially this minister.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.33 pm): I am not sure where to start after that contribution. I rise to make a short contribution on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I think it would be prudent to point out to the member for Sandgate that her colleagues did not oppose this bill. There was no statement of reservation. This bill could perhaps be better referred to as a mopping-up bill.

After 10 years of decline under Labor, we have simply come in as the incoming government—and I congratulate the minister—and introduced this legislation to seek to modernise the department. We heard the member for Sandgate talk about all the environmental approvals. Yes, there are environmental approvals. I point out that just because the environmental approvals process is being automated, going online and will be electronic does not mean every single environmental application will be approved by a computer. There will still be protocols in the background. There will be certain levels of application that will require a human being to check that everything stacks up and sign off on them, but at least there will be the opportunity to lodge the application electronically and more effectively.

This is about streamlining lots of day-to-day transactions like camping permits in national parks or four-wheel drive access into particular reserves. Normally, the processing of those would be far more costly and there would be a lot more paperwork involved. All we are simply doing, after 10 years of Labor doing nothing, is saying that maybe we should embrace the internet—the interweb. Maybe we should be allowing electronic devices and allowing people access to our national parks and other natural environment in a far simpler, more streamlined and more cost-effective way. We will save the department money and man-hours by introducing simple efficiencies into what was a fairly antiquated and slow way of processing applications.

This is not an empty bill. I have had the honour of chairing the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee for nearly 10 months now. We have dealt with a couple of bills which have been simply mopping up issues from the past. We dealt with the health practitioner national law bill. It included some very simple and commonsense changes that were required to comply with the national law. Queensland was the lead agency in that case. That was left until after the election for us to deal with. This is simply another example of something that was left for 10 years and that could have been dealt with two, three or four years ago and could have made things easier for the citizens of Queensland to get an application approved. Like so many other hard decisions—if one could call this a hard decision—Labor put this off.

Maybe the member for Sandgate is not aware, but we have actually implemented a fairly significant plan for ecotourism across the state. One of the reports that I recall we had to review—again a hangover from the previous government—was the report from the Auditor-General on ecotourism and endangered species. One of the substantive issues there was that the strategic plan had not been done. It was supposed to have been done about three or four years ago. It was put off and then there were some more inquiries. The Auditor-General's office highlighted the fact that the department still had not done the work, which is no surprise, because that is what we have become used to after a decade of Labor governments that kept putting things off. I congratulate the minister because we now have a plan for ecotourism in this state and we have some great initiatives. We are getting on with finishing the Wangetti Trail in Cairns. What a debacle that has been. I think the original project scoping was \$40 million.

Mr J KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I note the member has made numerous points of order around relevance, yet I have failed to hear much that has been relevant in this contribution at all. I bring your attention to relevance. That is my point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Southport, I would ask you to stay relevant to the bill we are discussing.

Mr MOLHOEK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his guidance. I also note that there is no statement of reservation. I am pretty sure those members on the other side of the House supported this legislation without a statement of reservation. I do not see one at the back of the report.


I will go directly to the bill. It is simply a bill to introduce the use of an electronic system for automatically issuing authorities for low-risk activities. Such authorities include those for low-risk wildlife activities such as keeping native animals and pets. The bill aims to maintain the ability to automatically grant certain types of environmental authorities under the Environmental Protection Act through an electronic system. The amendments aim to remove uncertainty regarding the use of electronic systems for automatic authorisations and maximise the use of resources to assess high-risk activities.

The statement of compatibility accompanying the bill notes that the amendment 'will also remove any doubt around the validity of authorities under both the NC Act and the EP Act previously dealt with by an automatic system'. There was some ambiguity about systems and processes previously that were undertaken electronically by the previous government. Part of this bill is simply clarifying that and cleaning up some of the shortcomings of the previous government and the way that the department was functioning under their direction. The bill also contains an amendment to the EP Act to clarify beyond reasonable doubt that penalty infringement notices can be issued for noncompliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices.

The committee only made one recommendation. Yes, the member for Sandgate is right: it is not the most exciting piece of legislation I have ever seen introduced into this House, but it is an important piece of legislation. It was something that simply needed to be dealt with. That is what the minister has done. I congratulate him for getting on with it early in the piece. I know how busy the minister has been. There has been a lot of other work that he has undertaken across the state in terms of putting in place a really solid strategy around tourism, ecotourism and looking at our national parks and other lapsed projects and failings of the previous government. He made the time to get this legislation prepared, introduced, reviewed and embedded so that the people of Queensland would not be inconvenienced any longer so that systems would be simpler so that we could save the taxpayers of Queensland some money by being more efficient.

Mr Powell: The Treasurer is happy with that.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member. I am sure the Treasurer is very happy about the fact there are some practical savings and initiatives in the adoption of this legislation. There is so much more I could say. I may just end on that. As the member for Sandgate has pointed out, there is not a lot else to say. We are doing the knitting. We are getting on with the job. This is a very simple piece of legislation. I wholeheartedly commend it to the House. It makes sense. It is going to save the taxpayers of Queensland time and money. That is what an LNP government is about—getting on with the job and delivering for Queenslanders.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.43 pm): I had to race over here tonight. There is so much going on in parliament. I had to run to get here. There is just so much going on in this place tonight, but I will tell members the one place where there is nothing going on, and that is right here in this chamber while we waste parliamentary time and resources on this bill. The previous speaker pointed out that I did not put together a statement of reservation. I try to take every piece of legislation seriously, and this is a serious piece of legislation, but you cannot really oppose nothing, can you? That is very difficult to do.

Having said that, I support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and I would like to thank all three submitters to this bill. The overarching objective of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is to clearly establish that electronic systems may be used for automatically issuing particular authorities. The objectives of the bill are to ensure authorities for low-risk activities under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 can continue to be issued automatically through the use of an electronic system; and to ensure there is no doubt regarding the validity of authorities under the Nature Conservation Act and the Environmental Protection Act that were previously issued automatically by electronic systems.

The committee reported on this bill on 2 May 2025. That is just under four months ago. It is completely understandable why the government has declared that this bill is urgent and must be passed today! If the two provisions in this bill are not passed today, the consequences could be devastating! Not wanting to be accused of scaremongering, I thought I would read from the report and quote from the minister's explanatory statement to back up my concerns and, I am sure, the concerns of all of the people of Greenslopes. The report states—

The authorities for low-risk activities under the NC Act include the provision of certain pet licenses (such as non-venomous snakes) and permits for camping in protected areas.

Imagine if we did not get this through tonight. The venomous snake owners association of Coorparoo would never let me live that down, I can tell you that! In his explanatory speech the minister explained how for some years authorities for low-risk activities have been issued via an automatic process where non-discretionary criteria are met. I want to highlight this point: the process is not being changed for the majority of authorities.

I do not want to diminish these changes but I certainly want to call out the abuse of parliamentary resources used to pass this bill. Just as *Seinfeld* was a show about nothing, this is a bill about nothing. I have heard LNP speaker after LNP speaker rail against omnibus bills in the past, but surely the provisions of this bill could have been bundled up with other matters. I know those opposite hate an omnibus bill, but surely, for the 50th time this week, they could have thrown their principles aside and introduced an omnibus bill. They threw integrity, transparency and accountability, which they love to bang on about, out the window when the Premier and Deputy Premier interfered in the appointment of the CHO and appointed a partisan player to the Redistribution Commission.

There is probably another reason it is hard to get enough material for an omnibus bill, and that is that there is no environmental agenda on that side of the House. I have to admit that it must be tough being the Minister for the Environment on that side of the House. The minister was willing and able to talk about climate change during estimates—and he even said so at the hearing, if I remember correctly, saying, 'I'm prepared to talk about it'—but he was prevented from doing so by the Leader of the House, the committee chair and the LNP committee members. Clearly that crew saw what was coming at the LNP conference with a group of crazies killing off net zero.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to keep your comments to the bill in front of us.

Mr J KELLY: The key question for this parliament should not be whether we pass this bill or not. It should be: why are we wasting parliamentary resources on this bill? We are here now, so let's get this bill passed. I just appeal to the minister: next time try a bit harder and maybe put three provisions in your next bill! I commend the bill to the House.



Ms DOOLEY (Redcliffe—LNP) (7.47 pm): I rise tonight in support of the government's Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, a commonsense and forward-thinking piece of legislation that reflects our government's unwavering commitment to both good governance and environmental responsibility.

This bill has very practical and important implications for everyday Queenslanders who engage with our natural environment, be it through wildlife care, education or community conservation. For too long, constituents have told me about the unnecessary red tape involved in managing even the most basic wildlife related activities. Whether it is applying for a licence to keep a native animal or renewing a low-risk permit, the process has often been slow and overly bureaucratic.

This bill delivers the solution. By formally enabling electronic processing for low-risk wildlife authorities, we are ensuring this process continues to be quick, clear and user-friendly. What was previously a paper-based or opaque system has been managed efficiently online, something that residents in my electorate of Redcliffe, particularly educators and wildlife carers, will welcome.

This bill provides electronic processing of low-risk authorities. The bill formally authorises the use of electronic systems to issue authorities for low-risk wildlife related activities, improving efficiency and accessibility. The bill also provides legal certainty for existing practices. It clarifies and legitimises current practices around the automated and digital issuing of permits under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

The bill reduces red tape for the public. Applicants engaged in low-risk wildlife activities such as keeping certain native species will face less administrative burden. It also improves service delivery, streamlining the authority process and allowing the department of environment and science to focus more resources on high-risk and conservation-critical issues.

This bill also modernises environmental regulation. It is a part of a broader push to bring environmental legislation into the digital era—welcome to 2025—while maintaining core conservation safeguards. Importantly, these changes allow the department of environment and science to focus its attention where it really matters: high-risk, complex and conservation-sensitive cases. By streamlining the back end of low-risk interactions, we create more capacity and flexibility to monitor and protect vulnerable ecosystems and threatened species, including those in coastal environments around the Redcliffe peninsula.

Let me be clear: this bill does not weaken environmental protections; rather, it strengthens them by ensuring our regulatory systems are fit for purpose in the modern era. We are maintaining rigorous oversight where needed, but, for the mum helping her child get a frog-keeping permit for a school science project or for the retiree volunteering in a wildlife rescue service, this will remove unnecessary barriers and delays. In my electorate of Redcliffe, where nature, community and education intersect every day, this bill will be a meaningful improvement. Our schools, hobbyists, wildlife groups and carers will all benefit from faster processing and less red tape without compromising the core mission of conservation.

I give a special shout-out to Colin Scobie and Peter Row from ESRAG, the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group—an extension of Redcliffe Rotary Sunrise—for the wonderful work they do to raise awareness around our local environment. In the past 12 months they have hosted a dugong awareness day and a turtle awareness day in Redcliffe. Earlier this year they held the inaugural turtle symposium at the Komo, discussing issues impacting these beautiful marine animals, particularly in my electorate of Redcliffe around Moreton Bay.

I also acknowledge the wonderful work of the Redcliffe Environmental Forum, REF, which coordinates a turtle stranding team of volunteers that collaborate with the department of environmental sciences and Moreton Bay rangers to work on turtle strandings and rescues. They host a number of bushcare events throughout the calendar year. Thank you to each of our local environmental groups for caring, protecting and educating our community. I also thank our Minister for the Environment, Minister Powell, for committing funding for Zero Litter to the Bay 2025 to ensure that appropriate flood mitigation is implemented and to keep the waters around my beautiful Redcliffe peninsula clean, pristine and free from plastic.

This is what good legislation looks like. It is targeted, practical and responsive to the real-world needs of our communities. I thank the minister for bringing the bill forward and I commend it to the House. I thank the minister again for introducing this bill. I also thank the committee I am on, the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, and the committee secretariat for their work in putting forward the recommendations to DETSI, which presented at our public hearings. The report had one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

Earlier this year Minister Powell came to my electorate. We visited the Clontarf State High School's marine science department and heard from teachers and students around their aquatic practices. The school is very proud of their marine sciences subject, which has been taught at Clontarf State High School for over 30 years. It is a university pathway subject that involves the study of oceanography, marine biology, coral reefs and ocean management, preparing students for the future with an interest in marine biology to pursue careers in this area.

This bill is technical in nature; however, it streamlines and modernises practice to allow the department of environment and science to focus more resources on high-risk and conservation-critical issues. I commend the bill to the House.



Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (7.55 pm): I rise today to address the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In addressing this bill, I would like to first acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, the submitters who provided contributions, and the hard work of the secretariat in supporting the committee in its review of this proposed legislation.

This bill amends two acts that protect Queensland's environment: the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, DETSI, is responsible for administering these acts and overseeing compliance and enforcement of them. DETSI currently uses electronic systems to streamline the process of applying for, and automatically issuing, authorities for low-risk activities under the nature conservation and environmental protection acts. Authorities for low-risk activities include permits for camping in protected areas such as national parks and state forests as well as licences for the keeping, breeding or trading of native animals. The proposed amendments in this bill ensure that authorities for low-risk

activities can continue to be issued automatically through an electronic system and validate any authorities previously issued by this method. The amendments modernise the legislation, reflecting advances in technology, and allow for the continuation of DETSI's current operational practices.

The proposed amendment to the Nature Conservation Act will take effect with subordinate legislation: the Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025. DETSI provided a draft of this proposed regulation to the committee for consideration during its review of the bill.

Regulation under the Nature Conservation Act is important to maintain the long-term viability of protected animal populations. Prior to the regulation of tarantulas in 2020, it was estimated that 10,000 tarantulas a year were being taken from the wild, predominantly from Queensland, and sold as pets around Australia. If this had continued unchecked it could have had a devastating effect on the conservation of tarantulas. It is now illegal in Queensland to collect tarantulas without a harvesting licence. These spiders can only be bought from an authorised seller who has either bred the spider in captivity or collected the spider from the wild under a harvesting licence.

In Queensland there are three licences which allow people to keep native animals: standard, specialised and advanced. The licences are granted for five years and are based on the number of animals kept by the licensee and the intention to breed or trade them. In accordance with the bill, the proposed subordinate legislation provides a framework to support the current practice of automatically issuing these low-risk licences using DETSI's online licensing system. To provide safeguards for the process, an applicant must meet mandatory criteria to allow an authority to keep protected animals to be issued automatically. There are no discretionary factors in the process. If the applicant cannot meet the mandatory criteria, then the authority cannot be automatically issued and the application is instead referred for manual assessment by the department.

During the committee's review into this bill, the Queensland Conservation Council, QCC, in their submission raised concerns about the introduction of broad powers for the minister to create regulations regarding which activities can be automatically approved. They were concerned that the automatic approval of activities could reduce the rigour of assessment for various authorities under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. Referring to the current regulation—the Nature Conservation (Animals) Regulation 2020 relating to renewals of existing licences—the QCC stated that there is currently a requirement for—

... the chief executive to consider whether the existing licence was obtained on the basis of false or misleading information and whether the applicant has failed to comply with a condition of the existing licence. It is unclear how this consideration as part of the decision making function could/would occur in an automated system.


In its public briefing, DETSI addressed this concern by explaining that the proposed new subordinate legislation lays out robust processes for automatic issuing of authorities related to pet keeping and trade of non-dangerous, protected animals. These include the applicant being required to provide information regarding their suitability to keep animals, such as previous wildlife convictions and breach of conditions. Furthermore, as with all authorities currently issued under the act, under the proposed new subordinate legislation it will be an offence for an applicant to provide false or misleading information when using the electronic system. The chief executive will be able to immediately cancel an automatically issued authority on false or misleading grounds.

As mentioned previously, this bill also amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994. This act aims to protect Queensland's environment while allowing for ecologically sustainable development. As well as requiring certain industries and activities with high environmental risk to obtain permits, the act also imposes on all persons three duties with respect to environmental harm. These duties are: a general environmental duty to prevent or minimise environmental harm; a duty to notify of environmental harm; and a duty to restore the environment if an incident occurs that can harm the environment.

The Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, the P&P act, which came into effect last year, amended the Environmental Protection Act to replace environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices with environmental enforcement orders, or EEOs. An EEO is an order that may be issued by DETSI to require a person to cease the commission of an offence or respond to any environmental harm that may have been caused. If there is noncompliance with an EEO, the department may issue a fine called a penalty infringement notice. These infringement notices are a way of dealing with common contraventions of the law where the impact is not serious enough for court action.

This bill amends the Environmental Protection Act to ensure that obligations to comply with environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices issued prior to the P&P act continue to apply and that penalty infringement notices can be issued for noncompliance with these orders as an alternative to court proceedings being brought.

In summary, this bill will modernise the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act to allow for electronic systems to continue to be used by DETSI for automatically issuing selective authorities. The bill also strengthens the Environmental Protection Act by ensuring that previous offence provisions continue to apply and that fines may be issued for noncompliance with these provisions. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.05 pm): I rise to speak to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It is crucial that we preserve our magnificent pristine Queensland flora and fauna. This is indeed our legacy to future generations of Queenslanders. The endearing marsupial the koala is the Queensland fauna emblem, and what is the Queensland floral emblem? It is the *Dendrobium bigibbum*, the Cooktown orchid.

My electorate of Hervey Bay is truly blessed to encompass K'gari Fraser Island: a UNESCO World Heritage site, a Ramsar listed site within the Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve and an integral part of the Great Sandy National Park. The island contains 1,840 square kilometres of national park. Each year about 500,000 visitors absorb and experience the natural and unblemished beauty of the island. Recently, the Hon. Andrew Powell, Minister for the Environment and Tourism, attended the 2025 blessing of the fleet in Hervey Bay. This observance signifies the official start of our whale-watching season. Hervey Bay is widely and demonstrably acknowledged as the whale capital of Australia and a must-see tourist destination. Hervey Bay is an integral part of the southern migration of the humpback whale.

A sound and carefully considered conservation policy is integral to the preservation of Queensland's natural beauty and so, too, is a calm and methodical approach in supporting our hardworking DETSI staff and QPWS rangers. The Queensland Conservation Council said in their 10 April 2025 submission—

The Nature Conservation Act and Environmental Protection Act are cornerstones of environmental law in Queensland and must be maintained and strengthened to achieve better outcomes for Queensland's environment.

I agree with the sentiment in the Queensland Conservation Council's statement. The nature conservation and other legislation amendments will achieve better outcomes for Queensland's environment. The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill contains amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992. It clarifies and contemporises the relevant legislative provisions in relation to automatic electronic systems that deal with authorities. It ensures the continued automatic dealing for particular authorities uses a contemporary framework that complies with relevant regulatory obligations. It provides retrospective validation to all authorities previously granted by the operation of the automated system. The bill also provides some minor clarifying amendments to the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024.

This bill provides amendments to the EPA to clarify beyond reasonable doubt that penalty infringement notices can be issued for noncompliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices. I will first speak to the principal amendments to the Environmental Protection Act and then the Nature Conservation Act.

These amendments to the EPA further build upon the substantial legislative reform in the Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012, introduced by the Hon. Andrew Powell and subsequently passed with amendment on 31 July 2012. Clause 9 of the bill will replace and restructure section 204 as a consequence of some amendments in clauses 5 and 6 to insert new sections 169A and 170. Section 204 is being restructured to ensure that the environmental authorities which are automatically issued under a new section 169A are still subject to the eligibility criteria conditions. This amendment to section 204 will also ensure that the language is consistent with provisions with deemed conditions such as section 206 of the EPA.

The existing section 204 of the EPA was introduced as part of the green-tape reduction legislation, so it is building on earlier legislative reform and is a critical element. It is important to note that the proposed clause 9 amendment to section 204 does not alter the original legislative intention of that section; namely, to ensure that any environmental authority issued following a standard or variation application is subject to a condition that the holder must continue to meet the eligibility requirements. A 'standard application' as defined in section 122 of the EPA is where all of the proposed application activities meet the eligibility criteria and the proponent specifies that they can meet the standard conditions. Where an applicant cannot comply with the eligibility criteria, a site-specific application for an environmental authority must be made.


Clause 12 of the bill also inserts new sections 824 and 825, which are validation and transitional provisions. Section 824 provides that environmental authorities previously issued under section 170 of the EPA remain valid as at the date of issue on the environmental authority. This is to avoid any ambiguity as to whether the authorities which were automatically granted by the electronic system under the previous section 170 prior to the amendment were valid as at the date of issue. This transitional provision ensures that any person who has relied upon that environmental authority at the date of issue has certainty with respect to their right to carry out that activity. This section only applies to the issue of environmental authority that is the subject of that standard approval. Section 825 deals with any time delay between the authorisation of the electronic system and the commencement of these provisions after assent and remains valid.

I now turn to the principal amendments to the Nature Conservation Act. This bill amends the Nature Conservation Act to ensure that low-risk activities can be validly dealt with automatically by electronic systems. There are two electronic systems that currently automatically issue low-risk authorities under the Nature Conservation Act: the Connect system, used to process wildlife authorities, and the Bookeasy system, used to process camping permits for protected areas. Clause 16 of the bill will replace section 143B of the act and insert a new section 143BA and will provide contemporary provisions for the approval and use of an automatic electronic system dealing with authorities.

A new section 143B provides for automatic authorisation for dealing with prescribed types of activities. Specifically, section 143B(1) allows a regulation to prescribe the types of authorities that may automatically be issued, given or granted to a person as well as those that may be amended, cancelled or renewed. The bill will also modernise approval requirements for automatic electronic systems and provide for clear processes and requirements in relation to the electronic system.

Clause 17 amends section 143G to provide for an internal review of an original decision for a relevant authority. The review may only be dealt with by an authorised person for the purposes of internal review proceedings. The existing internal review arrangements in clause 17 are preserved in section 143G(3). Clause 18 provides for a new division 9 to be inserted into part 12 of the act. This division provides for validation and transitional provisions in the Nature Conservation Act. This section validates as lawful all authorities that were issued, given, granted, amended or renewed by an automated system prior to the commencement of this amendment bill.

In closing, this bill gives practical expression to the sentiment earlier endorsed by the Queensland Conservation Council. This bill will assist in achieving better outcomes for Queensland's environment. This is indeed our legacy for future generations of Queenslanders. I commend the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (8.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The purpose is quite simple: make sure Queensland's environmental laws work the way they were intended. It basically tidies up some permits, validates authorities that had been issued back to 2017, makes sure penalty infringement notices can be issued and actually enforced, and ensures that the regulator has a full suite of compliance and enforcement tools available under the Environmental Protection Act, exactly as intended when environmental enforcement orders were introduced last year. They are practical, commonsense measures, but let's be very clear: these are technical in nature. It just goes to show, only after 10 months, what a thin and non-existent legislative agenda this government have, when this is the kind of bill we are dealing with. Early in this government, in their first year, we are dealing with what is an incredibly small, technical, thin bill. I know that some of the new members will be trying to say they are fantastic, great environmental measures, but the fact is that they are existing. They are already there. This is just making sure technically that provisions are enforced and things are tidied up. That is basically what is going on with this bill.

Incredibly, on page 4 of the explanatory notes there is a fascinating little bit—it was brought to my attention by the member for Gaven—which I had missed: 'Stakeholders were not specifically consulted about the amendments in the bill.' Why would you consult stakeholders about new law? They might have a different view, I guess. It is quite interesting that the government did not consult any stakeholders about the bill and are quite open about it. They have a unique way of going about things.

The bill makes sure that the enforcement regime works the way it was always meant to. Examples are: if you are a company found dumping waste in a creek or if you are issued with a clean-up notice and you fail to comply, you do not get a free pass. You should not be able to weasel out of that on a legal technicality, and that is not how environmental protection is supposed to work. The bill makes

it clear by confirming that the full range of tools—clean-up notices, direction notices, environmental protection orders and environmental enforcement orders—can all be enforced as they were meant to be.

To be clear, the bill does not impose any obligations that did not exist before. It simply confirms the original intent of the law, and that is the fact of the matter. It strengthens enforcement and ensures regulators can hold polluters to account. That is why the opposition supports the bill: because environmental laws are only as strong as their enforcement. We support better enforcement. However, let's not think for a single second that that is a substitute for some kind of environmental agenda, because it is not. It is actually confirmation that they do not have an environmental agenda; in fact, they have an anti-environmental agenda. We have already seen that in terms of their record on a whole range of matters, whether it is the Moonlight Wind Farm fiasco, financially closed, massive—

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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Thank you. Member for Miller, I ask you to keep your comments relating to the bill in front of us.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. What we see here from this government is a very technical bill as a cover for the fact that they have an anti-environmental agenda. We know that from their record already. We remember, of course, the environmental agenda of the previous Newman government. Who did they choose as their environment minister under the Crisafulli government? Did they mend their ways? Did they decide they would go in a different direction? No. They have the member for Glass House as the Minister for the Environment again. After a failed first term as minister for environment, they reappoint him and bring him back—the same Newman government environment minister, exactly the same person, just like the education minister—and he is overseeing this bill. It tells you the LNP have learned nothing, after 10 years in the wilderness, when they are appointing the same people to the same portfolios. They have no new ideas, no new people and no new talent. It is really quite extraordinary.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It was not my party that said no to net zero—it is your party that did that. In fact, they are divided. Some parts of the party are for it, some are against it. It is a dog's breakfast. You can interject all you like, environment minister, it is your party that is all over the shop. We have gone backwards in terms of nature conservation in this state and that is a fact already, 10 months into this government.

Those opposite may not want to talk about the environmental failures of the government but this bill is not a substitute. It does not compensate for those travesties that have already happened under this government and they will continue. You have a very technical bill. There is basically nothing new that increases enforcement on the measures under the previous Labor governments but that is all this bill does—let's be very clear about that. What we need is a government that is interested in listening and acting on science, not ideology. That is what we need in this state. We need a government that is interested in evidence and action based on evidence, not base ideology as seems to be the case from those opposite. I support the bill because it does support the measures but when you have got a government that is 10 months in and this is all they have got in their cabinet files to put to the House, it is pretty sad.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I see the member for Cook interjecting over there. He was on a helicopter ride a week or two ago, using public funds to ferry himself to openings. That is the kind of priorities that a government that is out of touch usually indulges in after many terms but it is less than one year. The member for Cook has gone back to his seat so he can interject. That is the kind of indulgence and the lack of focus that is happening in this government and it is not good enough.

Deputy Speaker, I commend the bill. It is a minor bill, it is a technical bill. It is a bill that confirms reforms that were brought in by the previous government but the fact that this government has not got any substantial legislative agenda—that is the fact of the matter—and yet you are filling things in, you are filling our time in and you are pumping your backbench up with speeches that make it sound like this will slay the world and be epochal—that sort of speech—and the sad thing is probably half of them believe it but it is a technical bill so it ought to be voted in. Those are the facts of the matter. I will leave it at that. Thank you.



Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (8.23 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The fundamental purpose of this bill is to ensure our current system has a clear head of power. It establishes a modern and efficient framework for using electronic systems to automatically manage particular low-risk environmental and conservation authorities. We are not making it harder for Queenslanders to get a pet, go into nature or perform other low-risk activities. The intention of this bill is to consolidate our existing online automatic processes for environmental and animal authorities that are low risk in nature. We are removing the ambiguity around permits, animal authorities and the illegal wildlife trade. We are identifying how biodiverse our region is and how we can better plan land use, conservation and investment. We are ensuring our permit systems are fit for purpose.

For my region in Far North Queensland these changes will directly impact everyone from tourism operators to families wanting to enjoy the great outdoors, from pet owners to primary industry producers. Far North Queensland is home to some of the most stunning natural wonders in the world and is one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet. It is also home to dozens of incredible nature reserves. Wooroonooran National Park features the Babinda Boulders, the Daintree rainforest reserve is home to the Mossman Gorge and Barron Gorge National Park is home to our iconic Barron Falls. These are major drawcards to our region for both locals and tourists and many of our nature parks are also home to campgrounds including the Daintree National Park, Babinda Boulders and Goldsborough Valley.

I know firsthand how frustrating the system has been under Labor's watch. I also know how frustrating it is for our parks and wildlife operators. In the 2022-23 financial year alone, there were approximately 546,600 camper nights recorded in protected areas, marking a 20 per cent increase since 2017. This surge underscores the growing popularity of our natural attractions and the pressing need for efficient permit processing systems. Consequential amendments are also proposed to align the online granting of camping permits for protected areas such as national parks with a new legislative framework to ensure a single process for the use of electronic permitting systems under the Nature Conservation Act.

Whilst the bill before the House has a clear scope that is separate to ecotourism regulations, the intent behind the bill sends a clear message that the LNP is focused on keeping processes streamlined and user-friendly. The member for Sandgate said that this bill will do nothing. That shows how out of touch the Labor Party are. When it comes to tourism and small businesses they are completely out of touch because in my region where we have the reef and the rainforest, as you can imagine, most of our tourism operators are dealing with the current legislative drama on a daily basis. FNQ Nature Tours is one of those businesses. They do visits to the Daintree National Park rainforest, Atherton Tablelands, Crater Lakes and Cape Tribulation—all of which requires unnecessary duplication of paperwork.

Billy Tea Safaris provide four-wheel drive tours that explore remote areas, allowing visitors to experience the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the region. I have spoken to the owner, Peppi, who was very distressed last year because the red tape was strangling his business. He has been in business for 40 years doing these tours and last year he had a huge delay in getting his parks permits approved. This delay impacted his business massively because he could not pre-sell any future tours for the following year as he had always done and he could not even promote the region as they were not sure if their permit would be renewed. This also stalled business growth as without the permit they could not move forward and invest in a new bus valued at \$280,000 and more staff because of this paperwork jam. Peppi had no confidence or certainty for the future of his company with this permit problem and Peppi said to me, 'Thank God the LNP got in otherwise this left-wing agenda of closing parks down would have closed this business in the Daintree.' He has now invested that \$280,000 into a new bus and hired more staff. This bill does matter.

Cairns Adventure Tours is another award-winning business in Cairns with guided tours to the Daintree rainforest and Cape Tribulation. They have experienced similar issues. Our reef operators are also feeling the same strain, with some operators requiring eight permits to do a similar activity. The Minister for the Environment and Tourism, Minister Powell, has committed to getting these state permits down to one and we will be focusing on more reforms later in the year.

I look forward to Minister Powell's future work in this space to help tourism operators obtain necessary approvals promptly. We will continue to reduce the red tape, the green tape and the gaffer tape that is strangling small businesses, especially those in ecotourism. The Premier putting tourism, environment, science and innovation under one portfolio and one incredible minister has made all of the difference to those in tourism particularly. It is fantastic for the industry and it has given a lot of hope that the future is much brighter.

This bill also confirms our efforts to crack down on illegal wildlife trade and protect our biodiverse region and primary industries. In Far North Queensland, many amazing species call our region home. Our commercial fishing industry supports close to 900 full-time jobs and brings in around \$263 million per year. However, we also have a black market of seafood, plants and animal species in our region, so they need to be protected. For communities in Cairns, Cape York, the Torres Strait and the gulf, these changes mean a healthier ecosystem, stronger deterrents for those who harm native animals and a fairness for trade. It also means that there is no grey area when it comes to wildlife smuggling or harming native animals. The proposed amendments will clarify that the enforcement of a notice or order is not limited to a court proceeding and that an infringement notice may be issued. It will help avoid unnecessary costs to both business operators and the regulator whilst also ensuring the environment and community are protected from harm. This bill is important for locals who love the outdoors. It is important for small business owners and tourism operators. I fully support this bill.



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (8.30 pm): I rise to address the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, a significant piece of legislation that seeks to modernise and streamline processes under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act. Introduced on 12 March 2025, the bill was referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, which held a public briefing on 2 April 2025 and received three submissions.

While discussing nature conservation, I must take a moment to highlight the invaluable Toohey Forest located in my electorate. This forest is more than just trees and trails; it is a living, breathing ecosystem, home to diverse flora and native species. Spanning approximately 260 hectares, Toohey Forest is one of the few remaining green lungs of Brisbane, providing vital habitat for over 75 bird species including the rarely seen powerful owl. However, like many forests today, Toohey Forest faces threats from pollution and urban expansion. Once our forests and green spaces are lost, they rarely return. Protecting Toohey Forest is not just important; it is urgent. It is about ensuring clean air, preserving wildlife habitats and respecting the land we walk on.

I would also like to commend the Oxley Creek Catchment Association for their tireless efforts in restoring waterways, saving vegetation and educating the community about catchment management. Their work serves as a testament to the power of community-led conservation initiatives. Through programs like CreekWatch and their education initiatives, they have made a lasting impact on the health of our local environment.

One of the key aspects of this bill is its regulation of pet licences. In 2024 over 6,000 licences were granted permitting individuals to keep up to 10 captive-bred native animals as pets. These include species like children's python, pink-tongued skinks, shingleback lizards, bearded dragons, velvet geckos, various turtles, several frog species and native birds such as the king parrot and the rose-crowned fruit dove. Pet shops often rely on the ability to issue these licences promptly to support their business operations. Additionally, specialised hobbyists engage in the sale and trade of these animals. While many of these species are commonly kept in captivity and are not threatened in the wild, it is crucial to implement conditions on licences such as record-keeping requirements to mitigate risks associated with pet keeping and trade activities. These measures help protect wild populations from potential threats.

While the intent behind the bill is to enhance efficiency and clarity, it is imperative that we carefully consider its implementation to ensure environmental protections remain robust and public trust in our regulatory systems is upheld. The primary objective of the bill is to maintain current operational practices under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 by enabling the use of electronic systems for automatically issuing authorities for low-risk activities. Each year numerous authorities are granted under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. These span the spectrum from low-risk activities such as keeping of pet blue-tongue lizards to high-risk undertakings like large-scale resource projects. The level of assessment required for each application is calibrated to the potential environmental or conservational risk associated with the proposed activity. By formalising these practices, the bill aims to provide clarity and certainty regarding the validity of authorities issued through automated systems since 2017.

Furthermore, the bill proposes amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to clarify that penalty infringement notices can be issued for noncompliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices. This provision seeks to strengthen the enforcement mechanism and ensure that environmental obligations are met.

The Queensland Conservation Council, the peak body for environmental groups in Queensland, has expressed reservations about the bill. In their submission they highlighted the pressures facing Queensland's environment including weed infestation, deforestation and development. They urged the state government to prioritise resourcing for regional planning, expanding protected areas estates and implementing programs to prevent new species extinctions.

A central feature of the bill is the provision for automated decision-making in the granting of authorities for low-risk activities. While automation can enhance efficiency, it also necessitates rigorous oversight to prevent errors and ensure accountability. The Queensland Conservation Council has raised concerns about the potential for reduced transparency and the challenges this poses for enforcement and public participation. The definition of 'automated purpose' in the bill is broad, encompassing the automatic issuing, granting, amending, cancelling or renewing of licences, permits or other authorities by the operation of an electronic system. This expansive definition could grant significant discretion to the minister to determine which activities can be automatically approved. Such broad powers warrant careful scrutiny to ensure they do not undermine environmental protections or public confidence in the regulatory system.

It should be noted that section 170 of the Environmental Protection Act will apply only to standard applications for an environmental authority related to a mining lease. These applications must be decided by the administering authority or a delegate as they require public notification and allow third parties to make submissions about the standard conditions. Consequently, the administering authority must approve the application but may decide to approve it either with the standard conditions or with different conditions resulting from a properly made submission.

The bill introduces provisions to retrospectively validate all authorities previously granted by the operation of an automated system. The measure aims to provide certainty to individuals and the community who have relied upon these authorities to lawfully conduct activities in relation to native animals. While the intent is to uphold rights and entitlements, retrospective validation can be contentious as it may circumvent opportunities for review and accountability.


In addition to the provisions relating to automated decision-making, the bill proposes amendments to the Environmental Protection Act to clarify that penalty infringement notices can be issued for noncompliance with in-force environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices. This amendment seeks to enhance enforcement mechanisms and ensures that environmental obligations are met. However, it is essential that these provisions are implemented in a manner that is fair, transparent and consistent with the principles of natural justice.

Given the significance of the proposed changes, it is imperative that robust checks and balances are established to oversee the automated assessment process. The Queensland Conservation Council has highlighted past instances where automatic decision-making processes have gone awry, such as the robodebt scandal. To prevent similar issues, the department should implement comprehensive oversight processes to ensure that the automated assessment system functions as intended and that any errors are promptly identified and rectified.

In conclusion, while the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 aims to modernise and streamline environmental regulatory processes, it is crucial that we approach these changes with caution and diligence. We must ensure that the rights of individuals are protected, that environmental safeguards remain intact and that public trust in our regulatory systems is maintained. The opposition supports the passing of this bill.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

Mr de Brenni: Hear, hear!

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (8.40 pm), in reply: I love the resounding support from the Manager of Opposition Business. First of all, I genuinely want to thank all members of this chamber for their participation in this brief debate this evening on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It is very rare to hear such an outpouring of bipartisanship, particularly on an environmental bill in this chamber, so thank you to all members for that. The Crisafulli government's intention with this bill is crystal clear: we want Queenslanders to enjoy our incredible natural environment and go about their business and their daily lives without government processes making those lives more difficult.

On a day when the opposition is not opposing this bill and not proposing a single amendment, I wish I could have stood here and had an adult policy-driven discussion about how both sides of the House have come together to deliver a commonsense outcome. Queenslanders, after all, have sent us to this place to be adults, they have sent us to this place to have important discussions on important issues and they have sent us to this place to get things done, because that is exactly what this bill does.

I do thank the member for Sandgate for so enthusiastically describing this bill as operational, clarifying, sensible and will make department officers' jobs easier. Bravo! That is exactly what this bill does. I am glad to have the member for Sandgate's ringing endorsement of the Crisafulli government's legislative agenda and of my first bill as environment minister. I can assure her and other Labor members that there will be plenty more to come.

I have listened to the contributions of my friends on this side of the House and I want to thank them for those contributions. I have heard from them about how communities up and down the length and breadth of Queensland love their wildlife, they love their national and conservation parks and their state forests, they love their beaches and they love it when government lets them safely and surely go about their lives. I now want to show respect to my colleagues, to this House and to Queenslanders by speaking to the important elements of the bill.

As we have heard consistently, this is a simple, commonsense bill—targeted, practical and responsive—that confirms our automatic approval system for low-risk environmental activities that removes any uncertainty around our compliance arrangements and allows for smooth, efficient and stress-free processes for Queensland. As the member for Hervey Bay said, this bill supports nature conservation in Australia's most biodiverse state. It is a critical part of our legacy as Queenslanders to future generations. Importantly, this bill ensures that environmental and nature conservation authorities for low-risk activities can continue to be automatically issued through electronic systems. As the member for Southport said, this bill, whilst maybe not interesting, is important because it confirms our existing automatic approvals system, keeping Queenslanders free from red tape.

To deliver this outcome, the bill will make amendments to both the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to establish a head of power for automatically dealing with particular authorities and will make certain that authorities automatically granted before the commencement of this bill are valid. The amendments put beyond doubt that the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's existing approach for automatically dealing with low-risk authorities under these acts is valid. The bill responds to a review that was conducted by the department in relation to electronic systems and automatic granting of authorities for certain activities under the Environmental Protection Act and the Nature Conservation Act. The review identified that it would be beneficial to provide specific enabling provisions in the legislation that clearly allow for particular authorities to be automatically dealt with to avoid any uncertainty about the validity of such actions and associated authorities.

The bill seeks to enshrine the use of electronic systems in the legislation to continue to automatically issue particular low-risk authorities—a practice the department has undertaken for many years. For example, since 2017 approximately 52,000 animal authorities have been automatically issued using an electronic system under the Nature Conservation Act. This system is used by pet stores, hobbyists and individuals alike to apply for native pet keeping and trading licences. At this point I want to acknowledge the member for South Brisbane, because there is certainly one member on the other side of the chamber who understood the importance of this bill and the technicalities of this bill. It is clear that the member for South Brisbane was listening as she participated in the committee's hearings on this bill and I potentially could not have said it better myself, so I look forward to—

Mr Nicholls: I find that hard to believe.

Mr POWELL: No, it was actually a very erudite and accurate contribution and I look forward to her insights on future environmental legislation that we will bring before this House. As I said, this system is used by pet stores, hobbyists and individuals alike to apply for native pet keeping and trading licences. With around 25 to 30 licences issued each day for low-risk animal-keeping and training activities, the system ensures people can receive their licences and be able to obtain particular native animals on the spot where they satisfy the criteria. The department also uses an electronic system to automatically grant approximately 200,000 protected area camping permits a year. By using electronic systems to streamline the application and approvals process, assessment officers can reprioritise their efforts towards more complex, high-risk activities and applications for authorities such as dealing with dangerous animals and undertaking research activities related to native wildlife.

Queensland is a biodiversity hotspot, as I said earlier this evening. Some 50 per cent of the species found in our state are not found anywhere else. However, this also puts our wildlife at high risk. Our nature conservation laws are in place to ensure the protection and conservation of our native wildlife, with the ultimate goal of minimising unlawful activity such as the illegal take and trade of animals from the wild. During her contribution on the debate the member for Barron River supported the fact that a robust and efficient licensing system gives us the tools we need to effectively regulate wildlife trade. Data collected from the online licensing system ensures the department can quickly identify and address potential illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking, which can pose significant threats to wild populations.

This bill deals specifically with the use of electronic systems to automatically issue authorities for low-risk activities without affecting the robust and rigorous approval processes which apply to larger projects and higher risk activities. While particular knowledge of animal care is necessary for these higher risk activities, the keeping and trade of captive-bred native animals is overall a lower risk activity.

I know the member for Pumicestone, had she been given an opportunity to speak this evening, would have probably asked me about how she could obtain her permit to look after one of our native wildlife species and I suspect that, once this legislation passes, she will be first in line to use the new regulated and valid system. For example, the member for Pumicestone may get a licence to be able to keep a pet blue-tongue lizard. The member for Pumicestone would need to satisfy criteria such as that they are a suitable person—I am pretty sure that that is the case—or are not applying for a licence to keep a dangerous animal, and a blue-tongue lizard is hardly dangerous! If all criteria are satisfied, the licence is automatically provided to the applicant through the electronic system and the person—the member for Pumicestone perhaps—is then able to go out and purchase their pet lizard from a pet store.

The changes proposed in the bill will enable the continued use of electronic systems to automatically issue authorities for low-risk activities, reducing red tape for individuals and businesses. In this digital age it is paramount that our legislative frameworks evolve in tandem with technology to better serve our community and protect our environment. Businesses and governments routinely use electronic systems to streamline activities. When the department first set up these systems to automatically grant particular authorities under the two acts, it was done with the intention to streamline the way we approve certain activities and contemporise our administrative processes. All we are doing in this bill is formalising under legislation practices that work for business, community and our government. The changes are not intended to stir controversy. They are housekeeping for clarity and certainty and build on a legislative foundation that makes it easy to get on with low-risk activities.

Importantly, the bill places a specific requirement on the chief executive to ensure the electronic system is operated in a way that is compliant with the act. The bill also ensures that all existing review rights are safeguarded as if all decisions to automatically issue an authority were made by the chief executive themselves. Automated processes are tightly regulated, with both built-in checks and oversight by the department. Applicants are asked a range of questions to determine if they are a suitable person and that they meet the standard criteria required to undertake low-risk activities under the authority. The amendments in the bill apply only to automatic approvals for low-risk activities. The bill does not affect high-risk activities under authorities that will remain subject to the same rigorous discretionary assessments by the chief executive, nor does the bill use artificial intelligence in any way to make decisions or grant authorities.

It is also important to note that while the bill includes amendments with retrospective applications, they do not infringe upon the rights or liberties of individuals. The validation provisions are intended to provide clarity and certainty for those who have lawfully relied on automatically granted authorities to conduct the activities we have spoken about.

The amendments also ensure equitable access to approvals to ensure individuals or businesses that may lack the resources to navigate complex approval processes have access to a one-stop shop for applications and approvals. The amendments proposed in the bill are contemporary, making it easier for people to apply for authorisations in one place from the convenience of their devices. The amendments proposed in this bill have not invited specific external consultation, and we have heard from a number of members that it only elicited three submissions as part of the committee's consideration. That is because they are simply designed to crystallise established practices within the department and are fundamentally of a clarifying nature without any adverse impacts on business or the general community.

The bill supports the department's robust monitoring and compliance framework to ensure decisions are enforceable and open to investigation. The application process for native animal keeping licences includes set questions to check if the licence can be automatically approved. For example, applicants are asked if they have committed a wildlife related offence in the past three years. If someone lies on their application, the department can cancel the licence under the Nature Conservation Act.

I would also like to acknowledge the operational decision to move away from automatically issuing certain animal authorities. While the bill does not specifically relate to these changes, the department's decision to cease automatically granting particular animal authorities was made following the department's review of the automatic framework. Three authority types under the Nature Conservation Act that have recently ceased to be automatically granted include the non-lethal damage mitigation permits, which involves the removal and relocation of wildlife to manage wildlife and human interactions; rehabilitation permits, which allow carers with appropriate skills and qualifications to care for injured, sick and orphaned animals; and dealer licences, which allow a person to process protected animals for commercial use. The department has communicated these changes to affected stakeholders and is working to process all applications as quickly as possible. With regard to the Environmental Protection Act, the bill does not change the decision criteria or affect whether an application would be approved. Instead, it allows the legislation to reflect modern technology in issuing permits.

As the member for Redcliffe said in debate, the bill makes changes to eliminate needless red tape and establishes trust in our systems. It means a quicker yes for responsible people undertaking low-risk activities and greater transparency around what is, and is not, allowed. It means as a government we can give attention where attention is due, focusing on the bigger environmental risks. The bill also gives assurance that our legal framework remains robust and capable of handling the complexities of modern environmental management, while increasing operational transparency and accountability. Through this bill we aim to streamline the approval process. It also means thousands of authority holders under the Environmental Protection Act and Nature Conservation Act will have that assurance that I have previously spoken about.

I do want to quickly talk about the penalty infringement notices. Those proposed amendments related to issuing infringement notices for noncompliance with environmental protection orders, direction notices and clean-up notices offering a balanced approach. It avoids unnecessary court proceedings for minor offences, which provides cost savings for government and businesses. Keeping the environmental protection framework effective, fair and consistent is critical to protect our community and the environment from harm.

In the time remaining I do want to just briefly touch on a number of contributions, particularly from those opposite. Whilst I have said positive things about the member for Sandgate, I do also have a level of empathy for her because I feel like sometimes playing in a team sport it is often difficult to know whether you are being set up by some of your team mates.

Ms Bates: Or whether you joined the right team!

Mr POWELL: Or you joined the right team. There were certainly some contributions from the member for Sandgate that I suspect some of her more longer serving colleagues had suggested that she might be able to get away with a little bit more on a very small and technical bill. It was very clear that that was not the case. It was delightful, however, to see the member for Greenslopes do his best to audition for that elusive spot on the front bench. I suspect he has been reading the *Courier-Mail* and senses there is a spot on the line.

One-liners aside, let us have a serious conversation about the uninformed diatribe some of those opposite have tried to put up in the House today. We are used to question time being an embarrassment, but this is something else. Let us start with the obvious—and I will echo the words of the member for Greenslopes—why this bill and why now? As countless members on this side have realised—as did the member for South Brisbane on his side—when we affirm our automatic approvals process for low-risk authorities we can then focus our time and resources on the complex and delicate compliance matters that we need to get right.

If I refer to the contribution of the member for Miller—

A government member: Don't!

Mr POWELL: You do not want me to go there? The member for Miller talked about a failed minister. Remind me, how did the member for Miller go as the transport minister? Pot, kettle, black. If I can return to the contribution of the member for Sandgate, she suggested that this legislation could have done more to increase our protected area estate. The first issue is rather simple: you do not need legislation to do that, you just need a government with the will to do it. The difference is those opposite had a decade to increase our protected area estate. How did that go, member for Clayfield? One per cent was added.

Mr Nicholls: In 10 years!

Mr POWELL: It was woefully down. It was 8.6 per cent when they had a target of 17 per cent. In 10 years, one per cent was added. I can tell the Manager of Opposition Business that the Premier has set me a far greater target and that is to achieve the same percentage increase in four years that those opposite achieved over 10 years. It is why I am glad the member for Sandgate raised the issue of vision, because unlike the bluster of a washed-up former Labor government desperately trying to pretend it did more than nothing in its decade of decline, the Crisafulli government is actually getting on with our vision for the future of Queensland's protected areas.

The member for Sandgate also talked about the importance of maintaining and managing our national parks. I could not agree more. It is a shame they did not do it for 10 years. Let me share again that we have secured the 40 park ranger jobs that they were going to terminate at the end of the previous financial year.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff from the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation for their work and collaboration in progressing this bill, as well as the efforts of my own ministerial staff. I would also like to recognise the role our communities and organisations have played in shaping this bill through their use of existing electronics systems. It is for these individuals and businesses that we advocated for changes to legislation to formalise these automatic processes. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Mr SPEAKER: Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now 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 clauses 1 to 18 and the schedule, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 18 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Acting Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Kurwongbah Electorate, Transport and Road Infrastructure



Mr KING (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.00 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about transport, which is one of those issues that impacts all of our lives in some way or another, whether we travel by car, ride a bike, catch a train or bus, walk or use e-mobility, which is the new thing. Because of the way that our roads and public transport systems integrate, where we build bikeways, footpaths and commuter car parks shapes our journeys. It is a big responsibility. That is why I am proud of what I have helped to achieve with my Kurwongbah communities in this space.

To mention a few things, there is the Moreton Bay railway, a new park-and-ride at Lawnton station, an upgrade and two-storey carpark at Dakabin station and an accessibility upgrade at Burpengary station, with money for a park-and-ride business case. There is now over \$12 million in funding for Narangba station parking. I thank the director-general of Transport and Main Roads for confirming that dollar amount during our estimates hearing and for advising that that work is expected to begin early next year. I look forward to that sod turning soon. We cannot forget 50-cent fares, a Labor initiative that I know all in this place now love. I thank the LNP for taking up Labor Party policy. Well done and good on them all. I appreciate them taking up our policy.

However, it is not practical for everyone to catch public transport. For Kurwongbah commuters who drive, we have achieved highway interchange upgrades at Boundary Road, Narangba and New Settlement Road, Burpengary. I had a briefing recently about plans for the Uhlmann Road interchange, and I know that locals will be very excited when that work begins. We got rid of the old Petrie roundabout and upgraded the intersection with lights. I can count on one hand the number of complaints my office has received about that. We have made safety improvements at Vores Road and Gleeson Road, with more work to come on Morayfield Road if funding is not lost by the LNP in their new QTRIP.

There are not many state roads in my electorate as most are council roads. I know the City of Moreton Bay has copped a bit of flak lately about local roads in Narangba with surface disrepair involving rain, heavy trucks, connectivity issues and capacity to carry the increased traffic from new developments. I want to give a shout-out to a couple of locals championing these issues. Firstly, I acknowledge Haley Riches from Narangba, who is running a petition to fix the traffic intersections next to Narangba train station. People can search 'Narangba rail crossing' at change.org to add their voice or sign the parliamentary petition that went live today. Secondly, I acknowledge my friend Carl Enchelmaier, who is running in the division 11 council by-election because he believes in planning better for growth, putting in better infrastructure and having better communication between locals and all levels of government. We can always achieve more when we work together. I would love to work with Carl and I wish him well. I also acknowledge Darren Grimwade. He will be missed. He is a former councillor but has now left council. He worked well with everyone. The community will miss him.

Finally, on my website I am running a survey about public transport options and usage in my electorate. Visit shaneking.net.au to have your say and help shape our future priorities.

Smith, Mr R



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.03 pm): I rise to pay tribute to a much beloved member of the Sunshine Coast community who was taken too soon, Captain Robert Smith, or, as we know him on the Sunshine Coast, Smithy. In the Sunshine Coast community, Smithy was known to many for operating Smithys Fishing Charters, which he did for nearly two decades. I knew Smithy but I knew his boat even better, often passing it by in my own tinnie with my family when on the Mooloolah River that he loved so much, over many years.

I have spoken to Jules and his parents—Gill and Michelle—and passed on my deepest condolences for their tragic loss on behalf of the Sunshine Coast community. I say this in association with the remarks made by the Hon. Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, and also all Sunshine Coast MPs including Brent Mickelberg, whom Fiona and I met with today.

I pay particular tribute to his son, Joel. There are not many photos on Smithys Fishing Charters page without Joel in them. They loved the waters of the Sunshine Coast. They loved taking people fishing, and Joel loved it just as much, or even a little bit more, than his dad.

I pay tribute to the Queensland Police, the Queensland Fire Department, the Queensland Ambulance Service and the local lifeguards for their work as the first responders to this terrible tragedy this week. This incident has rocked our tight-knit Sunshine Coast community, and I know the significant impact this will have, particularly on the people who knew him best.


I have spoken to Mayor Natoli as well as the members for Buderim and Maroochydore, all of whom got to know Smithy over the years. I know that Smithy often referred to his favourite movie—or as Jules would say maybe bad movie—*Finding Nemo*, because a fisherman's worst nightmare is coming face to face with Bruce the shark. It was not Bruce the shark in the ocean that Smithy worried about; it was Bruce the shark eating all the bloody fish that he and his customers were trying to catch—that is a story for another day with respect to how many sharks we have taking our fishermen's catch—such was the lighthearted and good-humoured nature of this man, Smithy. Smithy will be remembered as a kind soul, a keen fisherman and a great Queenslander.

Captain Robert Smith—Smithy—loved Point Cartwright. He went out on the Mooloolah River most days of the week with his clients and they had great times. This week he went out and his fate was sealed—he will no longer be going out again. When I spoke to Jules today, she said that Point Cartwright was his office. Point Cartwright is now his resting place and his permanent office. I said to Jules that in the not-too-distant future we will talk to the local council about what we can do—whether we have a captain's seat or a captain's chair—to honour the memory of Smithy as our local captain for Smithys Fishing Charters. I thank all the family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family at this most terrible time.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, whilst I might echo your concerns about sharks eating fish, I might ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Springwood Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (9.07 pm): I have been elected to this place to fight for a fair go for our community. I am fighting because the community that I represent deserves safe and reliable transport infrastructure, yet once again the LNP government is putting politics before people when it comes to completing the M1, the South East Busway and the Veloway.

Last week the RACQ released its latest Fatal and Serious Crash Dashboard on behalf of its 1.7 million members. The RACQ has said that this road is often the most complained about in Queensland. On the stretch between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway, crashes are more than an inconvenience, and the numbers are alarming. Here is the RACQ's staggering data, which I table.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 2019-23, titled 'RACQ—State Electorate Fatal and Serious Crash Dashboard' [[1166](#)].

The LNP inaction comes at a staggering social cost of more than \$60 million annually to our community and billions across the state. That is not abstract data; that is local families torn apart and livelihoods lost. Communities are paying the price every single day.


In parliament, I asked the LNP Minister for Transport about this very section of the M1. His own response confirmed what we already know: this corridor is one of the worst bottlenecks in Queensland—traffic volumes are well above capacity and travel times are blowing out.

A government member interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, this is an important issue. I am not taking the interjections from those opposite. Safety outcomes are heading in the wrong direction because of their inaction. The facts are there in black and white, signed off by the minister himself, yet when he finally fronted the media when he came to our park-and-ride in Rochedale did he mention it? Did he say when work would start on this project? No, he did not. He did not say a single word about the next stage of the upgrade.

There was not one mention of the billion dollars of taxpayers' money sitting in their budget. There was zero recognition of the lives lost. He did not mention one word about the massive cost to our community. That is not respect for taxpayers' money; that is contempt. The truth is that every day the LNP delays, you pay. The RACQ says our communities pay. They in fact pay \$164,383 per day for the LNP's inaction. We cannot afford that, our community cannot afford that and local lives matter.

Women's Health Week

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.09 pm): I rise tonight to shine a light on an issue that affects countless women across our communities yet remains too often overlooked. Next week marks Women's Health Week, and I am proud to be partnering with Qendo to host two important events in the Rockhampton electorate. On Monday evening we will host 'Beyond the symptoms: a clinical approach to endometriosis and pelvic pain'. Then on Tuesday morning we gather for 'From flux to flourish: a journey of perimenopause through to postmenopause'.

These events will feature expert speakers sharing clinical insights and evidence-based strategies. We will connect attendees with local service providers and support those affected by chronic pelvic pain and menopause. We will equip patients, loved ones and healthcare professionals with tools to advocate for even better care, foster a safe, welcoming space for open conversation and share our understanding. Both sessions are designed to inform, connect and empower. These topics of endometriosis, pelvic pain and the journey through menopause are deeply personal to me. I will be sharing my own story at these events, not just as a representative but as someone who has lived through all of these experiences.

I want to thank Jessica and Ash from Qendo for partnering with me for Women's Health Week and thank our guest speakers for standing with me to raise awareness and foster change. Their voices and the voices of all who will be attending are helping to break the stigma that surrounds these conditions. No-one should have to go through this alone, trust me. Let's make Women's Health Week a turning point for awareness, advocacy and action.

Greenslopes Electorate, Reconciliation Walk



Mr JKELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.12 pm): On a chilly Sunday morning, 27 July this year, over 80 people from my community gathered in Glindemann Park for the fourth annual reconciliation walk. This walk is organised each year by the Greenslopes Reconciliation Action Group, GRAG. GRAG exists to facilitate reconciliation that is being offered by First Nations people. It is a movement of local people from all walks of life and backgrounds—people who know that through embracing reconciliation our community and nation will be stronger, more cohesive and more peaceful. We also believe it will improve social outcomes for First Nations people, who continue to suffer significant disadvantage in all areas of life.

I thank Gary King from the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, who led the walk and provided insights and information on local flora, fauna and significant Indigenous sites. In the early years I would auspice the GRAG, but I am pleased to advise that it has started the process of incorporation, supported by Reconciliation Queensland. I would particularly like to thank the founding co-convenors, Karina Maxwell and Alicia Weiderman. I also acknowledge Claudia, Judy, Johanna and Andrew, who are providing a huge amount of volunteer time and enthusiasm and are supported by many others in the community.

Perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of the federal election for me was the complete and utter repudiation of the agenda that Peter Dutton was trying to set in relation to First Nations people. I believe that one of the key reasons for his electoral failure was the complete misreading of the outcome of the Voice referendum. I do not believe for one second that people who voted no in the referendum did so because they are racists. I sincerely believe that the political leadership of our country could not agree on a way forward, they could not explain what they were offering and people were unwilling to support the referendum under those circumstances. I think our reconciliation walk shows that the majority of Australians still want to walk as allies with First Nations people. Wherever I go around this great state I meet people who genuinely want better outcomes for First Nations people and want to walk with them as allies.

I think welcome to country and acknowledgement of country ceremonies are a great example of this. Nobody has mandated these ceremonies. They are not forced on anybody. They are not dictated by law. Instead, a majority of people and organisations participate in them willingly and in good spirit because they sense it is the right thing to do, it is the respectful thing to do, and because they are looking to walk as allies with First Nations people. Congratulations to all the volunteers who made this year's reconciliation walk possible. I look forward to walking with you and First Nations people in future years.

Palm Island, Social Housing; Townsville Electorate



Mr BAILLIE (Townsville—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise to share some great news for the Palm Island community. For the first time in seven years, new social housing has been delivered on Palm Island. Ten modular homes arrived on Palm Island this month, with final site works underway to prepare them for handover to community members. These homes form part of the Crisafulli government's commitment to deliver more than 53,000 new social homes across Queensland, including at least 1,200 in First Nations communities. I would like to acknowledge the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council for working with us to make this project a success. I want to commend Mayor Alf Lacey for his advocacy as he knows what secure housing means for Palm Island families.

Last week I had the honour of visiting year 5 students at Belgian Gardens State School who are aspiring to be year 6 leaders in 2026. It was fantastic to meet the students, who had some great questions and were eager to learn about leadership roles. I would like to thank the students for inviting me to speak with them, along with some former school leaders, and wish all of our future leaders the best of luck as they enter their application process.


Townsville continues to punch above its weight as the events capital of the north. Today we learned that American singer Jelly Roll will perform at Queensland Country Bank Stadium in November, joining Pink, The Killers and Elton John, as major stars continue to visit our city. This is a boost for local businesses and a reward for the community campaign that helped secure the concert.

This week, of course, the 18th Magnetic Island Race Week kicks off—a world-class sailing event that brings competitors from across Australia and overseas, further establishing Townsville as the place to sail ahead of the 2032 games.

Sport is an important part of life in North Queensland. That is why I was proud to be joined by the Minister for Sport and Racing earlier this month to announce that we are delivering \$4 million to upgrade the Townsville Sports Precinct, including upgraded lighting for the red track and air conditioning for the multipurpose centre, which was built only a couple of years ago with zero community consultation and no air conditioning. Who would build a new sports centre in North Queensland with no air conditioning! It is very quiet opposite. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community and sports groups for raising this issue with me and for supporting my campaign, which resulted in a great outcome for our community.

Finally, it is finals season in Townsville. I wish the best of luck to all of our local teams competing in their respective finals series in soccer, netball, AFL, Rugby League, hockey and all of the other sports enjoyed by our community. This weekend we will see the best of our local Rugby Union talent in the TDRU grand finals, and next weekend Townsville will be host to the Wallabies as they take on Argentina. Of course, as the Cowboys face the Broncos on Saturday, I want to finish with an enthusiastic 'Go Cowboys!'

March for Australia Rally

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.18 pm): Right now Queenslanders from multicultural backgrounds are living in fear. These are the people who have chosen to make our beautiful state their home, drawn by its promise of opportunity and a better future. This fear stems from a far-right extremist group's anti-immigration rally where they seek to 'take Australia back'. I cannot express how deeply concerned I am about this rally and the harm it threatens to inflict on our communities.

Every single Queenslanders deserves to feel safe and has the right to feel safe, regardless of the colour of their skin or which country they have come from to call Australia home. I understand how distressing this rally is for members of our community. I have had countless constituents contact me to express their fears about what is going to happen on Sunday. Someone—and I will not name them—shared this with me—

I came to this beautiful country 18 years ago and, like many others, I worked tirelessly to build a life here. I rarely had the chance to see a sunrise or sunset, but with grit and determination—a journey familiar to most migrants—I was able to establish myself and contribute meaningfully to society.

Another said—

I am the father of a four-year-old. She is too young to even understand what immigration means yet, I fear one day such hostility could extend towards children like her simply because of her background.

Someone else said—

The level of negativity and hostility I have received is deeply concerning. A small but harmful section of the community feels entitled to direct their frustrations at immigrants, blaming us for problems far beyond our control.

The Premier has called this a peaceful protest. Premier, I will read you something directly from the offensive flyer being distributed by the organisers of this march. It says—

More Indians in five years, than Greeks and Italians in 100. And that's just from one country.

Can you be the leader of this state and not call out this blatantly racist behaviour?

Mr SPEAKER: You can read from that but you cannot use it as a prop.

Ms ASIF: I table this document.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Nationwide Marches Against Mass Migration' [[1167](#)].

Last week the Labor opposition wrote to the Premier and Minister for Multiculturalism, asking what the Queensland government was going to do to address the concerns of our multicultural communities. We never heard back.

Their refusal to address this issue sends the message that this behaviour is acceptable. It is not. To every single Queenslander, regardless of where you come from, I say this: I thought the days of blatant racism were behind us. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I see you, I hear your concerns and I will call out racist behaviour each and every day I have the privilege of standing in this chamber.

The honourable member for Sandgate then spoke in a language other than English.

Glamorgan Vale State School; Laidley Touch


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.21 pm): Tonight it is a privilege for me to talk about the 150th anniversary of the Glamorgan Vale State School. Education opens the door to opportunities, and schools are the foundation of that journey. In country towns schools are often the beating heart of the community. They provide not only education but also connection, tradition and pride. A strong school means a strong community because when our children thrive, the whole region thrives.

This weekend was the 150th anniversary of the Glamorgan Vale State School. It is one of those thriving schools and I am pleased to be heading down there. If you are not doing anything this weekend get on down to Glamorgan Vale. There are some great things happening there. It is nestled in the beautiful hills of Somerset—a small school with a big heart. I pay tribute to those who established it in 1875. It took wonderful foresight and dedication to establish Queensland's earliest school, knowing they were building something not just for then but long into the future. For generations it has been a place where children have learned, grown and carried their values into the world.

Glamorgan Vale State School is a thriving school with a rich history and I love their motto 'Aim high'. I acknowledge principal Aaron McDonnell and P&C president Andrea Walk for their ongoing dedication to the school and their efforts in organising this weekend's festivities. I look forward to being part of it.

In the time I have remaining, I also say happy 50th birthday to Laidley Touch, one of the strongest touch clubs in the country. I am pleased to say that I have been down there for 14-odd years playing touch—it might be 16, I cannot remember. Back in 1975 Dan Flanagan suggested establishing a touch team during the Rugby off season. In 1975, in their first season, they had a three-on-three match on a half field. The players were: Les Jeeves, John Edyvean, George Osbourne, Dan Flanagan, Warren Potter and Johnny Miles. George Formby from Ipswich officiated. The next week they had six full teams. It started off as a summer competition, but in 1981 they had a women's side and a second season in winter with 34 teams. They have been very successful at state competitions for years. They have had six men from the club in the Australian A team. It is a wonderful community and this weekend is their 50th anniversary. Happy birthday to Laidley Touch. Now there are 25 teams. If you are looking for something to do in the Lockyer, get down to Laidley and have a game of touch.

Middle East


 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.24 pm): Last week the LNP state and local governments teamed up to prevent Brisbane residents from expressing solidarity with Palestine across an iconic Brisbane bridge that has been lit up for countless other communities but not once in recognition of the tens of thousands of Palestinians who have been killed by Israeli occupation forces, a third of them children, and the hundreds of thousands who have been injured. The people of Brisbane showed up on Sunday, with one of the biggest protests this city has ever seen. At best guess, 50,000 people filled the streets of the CBD, extending from the start of Victoria Bridge all the way to Musgrave Park, demanding sanctions against Israel and an end to Australia's two-way arms trade.

In January 2024 the International Court of Justice found that the actions of the Israeli government amounted to plausible genocide. Now, nearly 20 months on, the horror has only worsened. A few weeks ago Israel's Security Cabinet approved plans for military occupation of Gaza City, with a population of around 740,000 people, tens of thousands of whom are sleeping in tents having been displaced from their homes. In the south in Khan Yunis just a few days ago, Israeli forces bombed Nasser Hospital not once but twice, killing 21 Palestinians including rescuers, health professionals and five journalists who had arrived in the wake of the first bombing. Those five journalists are among 240 Palestinian journalists reported to have been killed by Israeli attacks over the last two years. Bombing, killing and the displacement of innocent Palestinian civilians is not good enough for Netanyahu's regime, it seems; they are also intent on killing those journalists who might show the extent of their atrocities.

Meanwhile, more than half a million Palestinians are facing famine, and these numbers are only set to increase. Ninety-eight per cent of the crop land in Palestinian territory has been damaged or is inaccessible, while aid trucks wait on the borders to deliver food, water, baby formula and vital medical supplies. Life-saving supplies are being blocked by Israel. This is a man-made famine—a deliberate consequence of Israel's actions. It is a war crime. It is amongst the reasons the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Just around the corner here in Brisbane in the suburb of Tingalpa, we manufacture mechanisms that release bombs from the F-35 fighter jets—the very same jets used by the Israeli regime. Our LNP government, like the Labor government before them, directly supports this weapons manufacture and in doing so makes us complicit in the horrors being inflicted on the people of Gaza. Yes, we must condemn Hamas's attacks in October 2023, but nothing can justify the ongoing genocide in Israel. Queenslanders and Australians have said enough is enough, not in our name, sanction Israel, end the arms trade and stop the genocide.

Love, Mr BJ

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.27 pm): It is with a heavy heart that I rise to inform the House of the passing of Bevan James Love on 13 August 2025. Bevan was a true giant of the northern Gold Coast community—an approachable, humble gentleman who dedicated himself to tirelessly supporting the rural fire brigade, the Ormeau Pimpama War Memorial Association, Meals on Wheels and the Pimpama State School. Though Bevan was not a fan of politicians or politics, he was always very candid about his opinions and views, and our discussions on various topics could be interesting at times. I really did enjoy his company and his friendship.

Bevan's passion for his community service was evident through a remarkable 52-year tenure with the rural fire brigade, which began in 1970 and concluded with his retirement in 2022. Bevan's commitment to the Pimpama and District Rural Fire Brigade, and later the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade, was deeply rooted in a family tradition. He proudly followed in the footsteps of his father, Roy Love, taking on leadership responsibilities at the Pimpama rural fire brigade and continuing the legacy of the community that his father established. Bevan's operational knowledge of the RFS earned him enormous respect with his fellow volunteers and the broader community.

Throughout his life, Bevan was supported by his family who unwaveringly backed him, empowering him to do countless hours on the firegrounds, brigade meetings and community events. Those who volunteered beside him felt confident in Bevan's leadership skills and his ability to encourage others. Bevan was a passionate advocate for volunteering in all its forms. He constantly promoted the transformative impact of giving back. Bevan firmly believed in the power of service to uplift individuals and the community as a whole, inspiring many to join the rural fire brigade over the years. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all those he touched, his local brigade of Ormeau and my friendship with him. He will be deeply missed.

Dr ROWAN: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In relation to the speech given by the member for Sandgate, I understand it was a serious—

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a matter suddenly rising.

Dr ROWAN: I was making a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: It caught my attention as well and I will be looking into it.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dametto, de Brenni, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, 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