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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 15 October 2025

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WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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



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

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in correspondence to me dated 19 March 2025 and received on 20 March 2025, the Leader of the House alleged that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Woodridge deliberately misled the House on 12 March 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by members during matters of public interest. Specifically, the Leader of the Opposition stated, in relation to the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council—

In her letter the Attorney said that the council and their work would cease effective immediately, with their funding to be diverted elsewhere. We do not know where.

That is statement 1. The Leader of the Opposition further stated—

Why are victims and their representatives no longer afforded the right to work with government on improvements for them?

That is statement 2. In relation to housing policy, the Leader of the Opposition stated—

In the housing sector, whistleblowers have revealed to the opposition that thousands of vulnerable Queensland renters are set to be turfed out onto the street, that the LNP is quietly cutting headleasing arrangements offered through the department of housing—that is mums and bubs, retirees, veterans and the vulnerable ...

That is statement 3. The member for Woodridge stated—

Those people will be thrown out if the headleases are not renewed.

That is statement 4. The member for Woodridge also stated—

There is a complete lack of real commitment from this government to supporting the homeless and dealing with homelessness in this state.

That is statement 5. The member for Woodridge further stated—

If the member for Broadwater truly believed abolishing IMAC and cutting thousands of public housing contracts was a good decision then why did they camouflage it when the cyclone was bearing down?

That is statement 6.

The Leader of the House argued that these six statements were deliberately misleading because the ministers of the relevant portfolios had rebutted the assertions regarding both funding and redistribution of the members of the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council and the renewal of headlease arrangements prior to the members making their statements during matters of public interest.

I sought further information from the members about the allegations made against them in accordance with standing order 269(5).

With respect to statements 1 and 2, the Leader of the Opposition provided a letter from the Attorney-General to a whistleblower which stated that the IMAC would be disbanded and the government had an intention to redistribute funds to programs to directly support victims. The same letter also stated that the government will seek to consult with former IMAC members in the future.

With respect to statement 3, the Leader of the Opposition stated that he was relying on information from a whistleblower to support his assertion that headleases were no longer being renewed by the government. The Leader of the Opposition did not provide the information from the whistleblower. No evidence from the whistleblower was put forward for me to assess.

The member for Woodridge argued that statement 4 was a statement of fact and that when headleases are not renewed tenants will be evicted. He further argued that statement 5 was essentially the opposition criticising the government's policy on homelessness.

With respect to statement 6, the member for Woodridge also advised that he was relying on information provided by a whistleblower but did not offer the whistleblower information.

Standing order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee 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 consider statements 1 and 2 to be a dispute on the characterisation of a policy or opinion. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House have drawn different conclusions from the same material. I am of the belief that a reasonable person could come to either conclusion. Both statements are technical in nature.

I consider statement 4 to be a statement of fact with no false or misleading elements. If a lease is not renewed, a tenant will be evicted. This statement is trivial in nature.

I consider statement 5 to be an opinion on policy. It is not unusual or surprising that an opposition would be critical of the government's policy on homelessness. I consider this to be trivial in nature.

With respect to statements 3 and 6, the members state that they are relying on information provided by a whistleblower. However, where this information is not provided to me, I have no way of prima facie assessing whether a whistleblower did in fact provide this information to the opposition. I wish to stress that it is not my role to determine the reliability of any whistleblower material but rather whether it existed as stated; therefore, I am left with no other option and I will be referring these two statements to the Ethics Committee.

I would like to reiterate that I have not made a conclusion in relation to this matter; rather, the Ethics Committee is best placed to determine questions of fact and has the power to compel material as required.

I remind all members that standing order 271 now applies and these matters should not be referred to in the House.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 10 July 2025 the member for Morayfield wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House on 30 May 2025.

I note that on 17 September 2025 the minister made a clarifying statement in the House, and this is recorded at page 2794 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

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 [1575].

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 10 July 2025, the member for Morayfield wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House on 30 May 2025.

The matter relates to an answer by the Minister to a Question on Notice.

Specifically, the Minister stated:

'With respect to upgrades along Morayfield Road between the Bruce Highway and Gaffield Street, I note that prior planning had been undertaken as early as 2006, which included the area referred to by the Member and consisted of engagement with the community.'

Despite this planning work being done nearly two decades ago, appropriate funding was not provided until the 2024 Financial Year. The funding allocation allows for planning to continue into late 2025.'

The member argued that this statement was deliberately misleading and provided six examples of work that the former government did on the stretch of road in question during their time in government.

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

The Minister argued that he was referring to the specific project that was identified in the question, and that that project had only received planning funding from the former government in 2024.

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 evidence put forward by both the member and the Minister. I note that in the answer by the Minister he refers to 'Morayfield Road between the Bruce Highway and Gaffield Street' which is a larger stretch of road than what was identified in the original question. The member put forward evidence of works that had been done on this larger stretch.

I note that on 17 September 2025 the Minister made a clarifying statement in the House and that this is recorded on page 2794 of the Record of Proceedings.

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

I take this opportunity to remind all members that when writing to me to raise a matter of privilege, a member must request that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee to comply with Standing Order 269(2).

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 1 August 2025 the Leader of the House wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition misled the House on 24 June 2025. There were two statements for me to consider with this matter. The first was with respect to the alleged purchasing of a television by the Premier. Both the Leader of the House and Deputy Leader of the Opposition relied on media statements to support their claims. The matter is trivial. There are avenues available in the standing orders that could have been employed to correct the record if there was any kind of misrepresentation. I encourage members to use such avenues outlined in my detailed statement.

The second was with respect to cost-of-living relief. It is clearly trivial. It is a political dispute on the purported benefits of differing cost-of-living policies. Finally, I note that this matter did not actually involve the Leader of the House. On 27 August 2025 I made a ruling about not considering matters raised by third parties. I have only considered this matter because the matter was received on 1 August 2025. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Woodridge [\[1576\]](#).

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 1 August 2025, the Leader of the House wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition misled the House on 24 June 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition during his Address-in-reply contribution.

Specifically, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stated:

'Not to be outdone, the Premier quickly snaffled a new \$5,000 TV for his office.

...

What sort of selfishness is it to buy another \$5,000 TV for your own office when you are denying cost-of-living relief to hardworking Queenslanders?'

The Leader of the House argued that the statement regarding the TV was deliberately misleading because while a quote was received for the TV, it was never purchased, and a cheaper TV was sourced instead. He provided evidence in the form of a Channel 10 news story to support this position.

With respect to the cost-of-living relief statement, the Leader of the House provided the government's cost-of-living policies and budget expenditure.

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

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that he relied on reporting in the public realm at the time he made his statements about the TV, including an article in the Courier Mail.

With respect to the statement on cost-of-living relief, he provided the Opposition's policies and previous expenditure on the issue.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, 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.

Both the Leader of the House and Deputy Leader of the Opposition have relied on media reporting to support their positions. This matter is clearly trivial.

Claims such as this where a member feels they have been misrepresented on a very specific point can be dealt with swiftly in the House in two ways.

First, a member may rise immediately on a point of order under Standing Order 234 saying the statement is false and they take personal offence. The alleged false statement will then be withdrawn.

Second, a member may make a personal explanation stating that they have been misrepresented and briefly outlining the matter. In this matter it may have been as simple as the Premier stating that a quote was sought for a TV and never purchased.

With respect to the statement regarding cost-of-living relief it is clearly trivial. It is a political dispute on who has the more appropriate cost-of-living relief policies. Of course there will be disagreement.

I **will not** be referring either statement for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by work experience students from St John's Anglican College in the electorate of Algeester.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by students and teachers from Lee Street State Special School in the electorate of Morayfield, Mudgeeraba Creek State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba, and also students from a school in Capalaba.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by members of the Redcliffe Youth Advisory Council.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Many Peaks Hospital Building

Mr Head, from 119 petitioners, requesting the House to restore and maintain the old Many Peaks Hospital building in the Upper Boyne Valley and to take other actions [\[1571\]](#).

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

Deongwar State Forest, Native Timber Licences

1,002 petitioners, requesting the House to not issue any native timber licences within Deongwar State Forest [\[1572\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER/S

The following ministerial papers were/ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington)—

[1573](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington), to an ePetition (4285-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 622 petitioners, requesting the House to add male circumcision for children to the Queensland Criminal Code Act 1899, section 323A

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg)—

[1574](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to an ePetition (4233-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 417 petitioners, requesting the House to return the Mount Nebo Road to main road status

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Bushfire and Disaster Preparedness; Gladstone, Deaths



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.10 pm): Queensland is no stranger to natural disasters. We face more than any other state. As summer approaches, Queenslanders are once again witnessing the vital work of our firefighters. Hot and dry weather over the last few weeks created the perfect conditions for bushfires to ignite and spread quickly. The Queensland Fire Department has responded to about 2,700 vegetation fires since the start of September. There are still around 50 active vegetation fires burning right now across the state. We are closely watching several fires in places like Doughboy west of Bundaberg, which continue to burn over large areas.

Ahead of this fire season, we embarked on the largest program of pre-planned burns in our state's history. Almost 1,000 hazard reduction burns were completed across the state. By getting in early and doing preventive burns, we give ourselves the best chance to mitigate the risk of bushfires. There will always be a risk, which is why we have to keep playing our part.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to extend my condolences to the family and loved ones of those who tragically lost their lives in a house fire in Gladstone this morning. We do not yet know the full circumstances, but it is indeed a huge tragedy. On behalf of the House, we express our sympathies to the family, the neighbours and the first responders on what is truly a deeply, deeply moving tragedy. I know how committed our Fire and Emergency Services volunteers are and how quickly they worked on that property.

While Queenslanders are continuing to battle bushfires across the state, a hot and potentially wet summer is again approaching. The Bureau of Meteorology anticipates we are at risk of severe storms, cyclones and significant rain systems right through until April. Of course, last year's wet season brought devastating floods. A tropical cyclone in South-East Queensland, record rains in North Queensland and flooding over an area the size of Victoria in the west reminded us of the need to prepare. That is why last week we launched the Get Ready Queensland campaign. I take disasters very seriously and I know Queenslanders do the same. Whether it is flood or fire, it is critical to do the preparations around your home and have a plan in place ahead of a disaster. We said we would be with Queenslanders for the long haul as they recover, and our government is proud to deliver this support. I encourage all Queenslanders to be prepared and, most importantly, to look after one another.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.12 pm): We promised when we were elected for the fresh start Queensland had voted for that we would sort out the Olympic and Paralympic chaos and crisis we saw unfold under the Labor Party. We promised we would set up a 100-day review. We promised we would set up GIICA. We did it just as we promised. We promised the 100-day review; they delivered the 100-day review. This government delivered the 2032 Delivery Plan. That 2032 Delivery Plan is a plan for all of Queensland, not just South-East Queensland—with rowing in Rocky, whitewater in Redlands, tennis in Brisbane, sailing in the Whitsundays—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: This is like an auction; I cannot take all the interjections. There is also archery in Maryborough—I cannot forget that one—whitewater in Redlands, as I said, sailing in Townsville, sailing in the Whitsundays, equestrian in Toowoomba, things at the Gold Coast, things at the Sunshine Coast and things in Longreach. We have the Games On! program, which is \$250 million for grassroots community support which is being delivered by the honourable Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This government is delivering right across the state.

We have had some great milestones in terms of the Delivery Plan, and Queenslanders now just want to get on with the job and they want to see it delivered. Gone are the days of the chaos and crisis. Gone are the days of the billions of dollars of temporary stadiums at, guess where, QSAC. That was

the Labor plan and that still is the Labor plan. Each member on the opposition front bench has a different plan, but guess what. We are out of time. They have to get behind the 2032 Delivery Plan, just like the UK Labour government has got behind our plan, just like the French minister for sport held up our Delivery Plan, just like the Albanese Labor government is getting behind our Delivery Plan and just like the Labor member for Brisbane is getting behind our Delivery Plan—but not the Labor Party in Queensland.

I have more good news. We are going to have a 17,000 seat arena called the Gabba Entertainment Precinct. We are out to market now for the private sector. I table the information memorandum for the private sector to help us deliver not only the Woolloongabba PDA with 16,000 new homes but also the beautiful arena. Members might look at this beautiful 17,000-seat arena I am showing them, and I table a copy of that prop.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Gabba Entertainment Precinct: Information Memorandum' [\[1577\]](#).

Today I can say that the ground has been broken at Victoria Park. The bore drilling started and I was there to witness the drill go down.

Mrs Frecklington: Drill, baby, drill.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable Attorney-General: drill, baby, drill. Do you know what that means? That means work has started. That means the chaos and crisis of those opposite and the indecision from those opposite is over. We are getting on with the job and we are delivering the 2032 games. Not only that, we are delivering for beyond 2032—legacy, road, rail, infrastructure, right across the state no matter where you live because this is a Crisafulli government for all of Queensland.

CopperString

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.16 pm): When we informed the people of Queensland in April that CopperString had risen in cost from \$1.8 billion to \$13.9 billion, we committed to saving the project. We backed in the project in the budget with a record \$2.4 billion investment, and the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap confirms that it will be delivered all the way from Townsville to Mount Isa. Townsville, Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek and Cloncurry—CopperString will go all the way.

I recently drove the 1,000-kilometre stretch to meet with locals, to hear their hopes and concerns and to see firsthand the potential that CopperString offers. Delivery of this transformational infrastructure project is being overseen by QIC, ensuring the project delivers value for money and supports the regions with economic development. QIC's review of the project affirmed our government's decision to commence work on the Eastern Link first to connect Hughenden and the substantial renewables resources there to the National Electricity Market sooner.

The Eastern Link will be completed, as previously planned, by 2032, subject to federal approvals. QIC estimates the Eastern Link alone could drive over \$10 billion in investment in renewables projects. On-the-ground work is already underway at Hughenden with further work in the pipeline, and Powerlink's work camp is readying to welcome staff as development expands. QIC identified the proposed 500 kV specification, arbitrarily expanded by Labor, was not necessary until at least 2050 and that a rescope to 330 kV specification, together with spur lines and connection savings, could deliver cost reductions of \$2.1 billion.

I confirm that work on the Western Link has commenced, backed by our \$200 million North West Energy Fund to support bespoke power solution exploration. It will support the development of up to 55 proposed mines in the North West Minerals Province, home to more than \$500 billion worth of resources.

The community will be locally supported by an expanded \$50 million community benefits fund for priority water and sewerage infrastructure in Hughenden as well as road maintenance and other council-led initiatives. Mayor Kate Peddle described it as 'a win for Flinders, a win for the corridor, and a win for Queensland'. She said that our plan 'supports the people who will build this state-shaping project, and more importantly, positions our community to grow alongside it'. CopperString founder Joseph O'Brien said our government's vision for the project was the 'most well-articulated commitment for CopperString and extending the national transmission grid from Townsville to Mount Isa ever presented'. He said that our plan presented 'a pragmatic policy that creates a stable platform'.

Saving CopperString is part of our commitment, delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. We are doing it the Queensland way, improving the assets that we have while we build what we need for the future.

Victims of Crime



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.19 pm): Under a Crisafulli government, victims of crime will always be at the centre of our system. Yesterday the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal that I launched on the basis that the original sentence was manifestly inadequate. This matter involved Mr Sanders, an Army veteran, who was innocently at a shopping centre when he was viciously stabbed. I was pleased to see the outcome of this matter, with the sentence being increased and convictions being recorded on the offender's history. I thank Mr Sanders for his continued bravery and advocacy throughout the matter.

This week I have instructed the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to launch an appeal against a sentence handed down in the Cairns District Court in relation to William Clyde Evans. Evans was convicted of eight child related sexual offences, which included an offence committed whilst on bail. The original sentencing court did not record a conviction and I believe that the sentence did not meet community expectations. My thoughts are with the victim and her family, and as this matter is once again before the courts I will not be providing any further comment.

The Crisafulli government has come to government to make Queensland safer, with a mandate to protect our community and support victims. Our plan is delivering positive early results, with victim-of-crime numbers coming down. There are promising early signs, but we are not taking our foot off the pedal. While we are seeing crime down and victim numbers down, there is always much more to be done to make Queensland safer. We remain committed to delivering the fresh start that we promised, particularly in relation to victims.

The Crisafulli government committed \$458.5 million in our latest budget for services that will ensure victims of crime receive the support they need. This investment includes: \$50 million to deliver the new Victims Advocate Service; \$393 million to enhance support under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009; and \$12.9 million for the expansion of the victims of crime community response. We are committed to supporting victims of crime, and this is demonstrated through a new nation-leading victims advocate service to deliver better outcomes for victims by providing them with targeted support throughout the entire justice process.

Education System



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.22 pm): The Crisafulli government is getting on with one of the most important tasks of government—that is, building the foundations of opportunity for students across the state. Whilst Labor left broken classrooms and mounting repair bills, we are delivering new schools, new classrooms and renewed hope for our communities. We inherited a dire situation and a \$441 million repair bill, exposing Labor's generational neglect of classrooms. That is not just a line item; it is a daily obstacle standing between students and learning. It is one thing to promise; it is another thing to act, and under Labor the repair burden was kicked down the road. Classrooms aged, teachers were weighed down and students bore the consequences, leaving one in three state school assets in poor or very poor condition.

Our mission is clear: every young Queensland and teacher deserves access to a modern, safe and inspiring learning environment. Under the Crisafulli government we are delivering major infrastructure investments across Queensland state schools, and we are doing so at the scale, speed and priority that the previous Labor government never did. I am pleased to say that after less than a year we are already delivering for Queensland and cleaning up Labor's gross mismanagement of school assets. In Ipswich alone we are delivering more than \$35 million for vital upgrades at Claremont Special School, Bremer State High School and Haigslea State School. New classrooms, specialist technology spaces, breakout areas and accessible playgrounds form part of that package.

Across the state we have committed \$104 million to deliver modern learning spaces, staffrooms and amenities in Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. We have allocated over a billion dollars to deliver 15 new schools and campuses in our fast-growing communities including new primary schools in Caloundra South and Ripley Valley, a new high school in Gracemere, a new Queensland academy for health sciences in Rockhampton, and two youth justice schools and three crime prevention schools being established by the department of youth justice. This also includes the Crisafulli government delivering Queensland's largest special school investment in history in Central Logan, Beenleigh, Moreton Bay South, Ipswich West, Springfield-Redbank and Coomera-Pimpama. We are also securing land and building new schools that Labor did not—land in Greenbank for a future secondary school, a primary school in Holmview and a new special school and a secondary school in Logan Reserve. We

have extended our commitment to all Queensland students, approving over \$12 million in grants to non-state schools for classrooms, footpaths, access roads and site improvements to ensure all students benefit.

Ms Grace: Twenty-nine new schools.

Mr LANGBROEK: Together, these initiatives represent a sustained, systematic investment in upgrading and expanding our school infrastructure. I am so glad to hear the former minister for education acknowledging this contribution by the Crisafulli government.

We are delivering on our promise for a fresh start for Queensland's education system. Our building and investment program is not just about bricks and mortar; we are also about dignity, opportunity and getting the basics right. Our first \$21.9 billion education budget shows that our government is making sure that, wherever you live, your child has a school environment of which they can be proud—safe in structure, rich in facilities and fit for modern learning. Under the Crisafulli government we are delivering that infrastructure—at scale, with urgency and purpose. Delivering change will take time, but we are heading in the right direction.

First Nations, Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.26 pm): Safe and healthy housing is central to closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. During my recent visits to the Torres Strait, Yarrabah and Palm Island, I have seen firsthand the progress we are making and the challenges that remain. Seven new modular homes built by tradies and apprentices in our QBuild Cairns factory have been barged to Horn Island. Built to withstand the harsh tropical conditions, they will soon be ready for tenants to move into. Another 10 homes have been delivered to Palm Island—the first homes in this community since 2018. Across Cape York, 36 homes have been completed since last November. In Yarrabah, seven modular homes with three or four bedrooms are expected to be welcoming residents by the end of the month. A 34-lot residential land subdivision in Napranum will soon support the delivery of 38 new social homes and we are also delivering the first stages of a 22-lot residential land subdivision in Woorabinda.

We have work underway on more than 321 new homes, 55 extensions and 281 new land lots as part of our growing housing pipeline for First Nations communities. These homes are being delivered as part of the Crisafulli government's record \$5.6 billion social and community housing investment over four years alone, including \$242.2 million specifically for these remote and discrete communities. We are also delivering on our commitment to expand opportunities for home ownership in Queensland's Indigenous communities with the launch of the Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme. This rent-to-buy scheme, delivered in partnership with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, will create an accessible, realistic pathway to home ownership for the very first time.

While these investments are delivering results, we must also face the reality that the cost of delivering and maintaining housing in Queensland's remote and discrete communities is growing faster than ever. After years of poor planning and underinvestment by the former government, along with the increasing size and age of our housing portfolio and rising costs across all trades and materials, there is a real amount of pressure on the system. Over their decade of decline, Labor let too much maintenance work bank up for too long, turning what should be minor repairs into urgent and expensive jobs. Our budget invests \$325 million in social housing maintenance this year alone—more than Labor's last budget—but the money is not going as far as it used to.

These communities deserve a housing system that delivers for them. That means moving away from the former Labor government's stop-start, reactive model that is failing councils and residents and shifting to a proactive, cyclical maintenance model—one that plans work ahead, clusters local jobs and ensures homes stay safe, healthy and livable. First Nations councils are our delivery partners in this work to go beyond just maintaining homes; they are providing local jobs, skills and income in communities where opportunities are limited. That is why our government is committed to working in a genuine partnership with these councils to improve how maintenance is planned, funded and delivered. We are fixing the system we inherited because every Queenslanders, no matter where they live, deserves a safe and healthy place to call home.

Victims of Crime, Data Reporting; Gladstone, Deaths

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.30 pm): Today I rise to address an important issue regarding the recent crime statistics that were reported to the public last week surrounding the rate of victims of crime. As members are aware, the government

announced promising decreases in victim numbers across Queensland—a trend welcomed as a sign that our government policies and investment in public safety and our hardworking front line are beginning to take effect. In the last few hours I have been made aware by the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service that there was a human error in the manual compilation and analysis of the rate of the victims between the period January and September 2025. It was reported that there had been a 10.8 per cent decrease in the victim rate per capita in Queensland. The actual reduction in victim numbers per capita is 6.5 per cent. Ahead of the media event on—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call, nobody else. There is way too much chatter in this chamber and the cross-chamber chatter can cease.

Mr PURDIE: Ahead of the media event on 7 October, my office raised concerns with the verification of data when it was provided but was reassured by police on multiple occasions that it was accurate. The methods and processes applied to the analysis of this data will be examined and improved ahead of next month's reporting. We have asked for the updated figures to be added to the forward-facing public website as soon as possible. Transparency and accuracy are fundamental to maintaining public trust.

The 6.5 per cent reduction in victim numbers is a credit to our hardworking men and women on the front line who have been tireless in their pursuit of driving down crime. The Crisafulli government continues to be a fierce advocate for honesty, transparency and reliability of regular reporting on crime, especially victim numbers. We know that data is not just numbers on a page; it represents real Queenslanders. This data error should not overshadow the determination of our government and our police to have fewer victims of crime in Queensland. The 6.5 per cent reduction is still showing we are moving in the right direction, but there is still much more work to be done. We remain steadfast in our determination to reduce crime, protect communities and support our police with the laws and resources they need to do their job. I have received a personal apology from the Commissioner of Police for the error and I would like to add my own apologies to Queenslanders. We will always be open and transparent if we realise an error has been made, and we will own it and I will communicate it with Queenslanders, who deserve nothing less.

I want to add some comments to the Premier's earlier comments in relation to the unfolding event outside of Gladstone today where a mother and two children have lost their lives in an early morning house fire. My heart goes out to their families, friends and all of the community, along with our first responders.

Biosecurity

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.33 pm): Almost a year ago Queenslanders voted for a change. They wanted a fresh start. Since coming to government, we have been focused on delivering that change in the interests of all Queenslanders. Labor's legacy of a decade of decline left major challenges, especially when it comes to biosecurity. Those opposite let Queensland become vulnerable and left major gaps in our response capability. Biosecurity is the linchpin of our primary industries. It underpins everything producers do. Biosecurity threats are real and ever present. We must be vigilant.

Strong biosecurity measures and capability are critical to reaching our ambitious goal of \$30 billion in primary industries production by 2030. That is why at the last election we committed to bolstering Queensland's biosecurity front line by employing 100 additional frontline biosecurity staff in regional areas over this term of government. The first phase of our recruitment plan for permanent biosecurity officers to service Queensland's regions, to be completed this financial year, will engage 50 additional officers. I am pleased to advise that we are well on our way to achieving that. In our first year of government, we have already recruited 22 new officers—that is, almost half of those to be recruited this financial year are already in place. Active recruitment is also currently underway for another 18 regional positions. Applications have closed, interviews have been ongoing and I look forward to their finalisation and welcoming their appointments.

The 22 positions we already have in place are strategically located in regional locations, with seven officers in North Queensland, four in Central Queensland and 11 in Southern Queensland. Among them are four veterinarians as well as several biosecurity and policy officers, bringing a diverse range of expertise to their roles. They will bolster our rural and regional biosecurity presence, provide valuable engagement with industries and local government, enhance surveillance activities and increase biosecurity capability and knowledge sharing across Queensland.

A key function will be to further develop region-based biosecurity profiles by engaging with stakeholders such as industry, local councils and communities. The three biosecurity regional directors are already actively engaging across the north, central and south regions to complete an assessment of biosecurity risks at a regional level. These risk profiles will inform the strategic engagement of additional personnel over the next two financial years, but we will not stop there. Recruitment of another 25 officers will commence in the financial year 2026-27 and the remaining 25 officers in 2027-28.

By bolstering our regional presence, enhancing collaborations, surveillance, capability building and knowledge sharing, we are protecting Queensland's primary industries, preserving our unique environment and ensuring the resilience of our communities. Queenslanders can be confident that we are absolutely serious about dealing with biosecurity matters. The Crisafulli government is delivering the change that is needed to safeguard our primary industries and the communities which rely on them. We are delivering the extra biosecurity staff we promised. We are doing what we said we would do.

Women's Career Grants Program

 **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) (2.36 pm): I want to tell members about Evie. She is a proud, loving mother of six beautiful children. The eldest are in their teens and the youngest, little Gus, is just three. Evie is a professional makeup artist and is ready to return to the workforce after 16 years of caring for her children, but it is a daunting and expensive task. Trends in the beauty industry change rapidly, so Evie needs to retrain, buy some tools of the trade and find care for Gus, and there are thousands of other women across Queensland in the same position as Evie. That is why on Sunday, together with the Premier, I was proud to announce the Crisafulli government's Women's Career Grants program—a first for our state. Eligible Queensland women who have been unemployed for at least six months can access up to \$5,000 in assistance to reduce the cost of returning to work.

These grants will provide support where it is needed most—in work wear, child care, training, recertification, transport to and from job interviews, tools and technology, or relocation expenses for a new job. Already we have had more than 1,700 expressions of interest since Sunday ahead of the 3 November opening of applications. Helen McCabe from Future Women, our partner in the delivery of this crucial program, said that 'this is about awakening a dormant workforce'. This program supports the talented, intelligent and resilient Queensland women who took a career break to do other kinds of work, whether it be caring for children, the elderly, the injured or the sick or caring for themselves following the trauma of domestic violence, a relationship breakdown, illness or injury, and there is no pay cheque for that kind of job. When women are ready to return to the workforce the cost of finding a job should not hold them back or the lack of confidence from time away from their career stop them from achieving that.

Labor claimed to champion Queensland women, but actions spoke louder than words during the decade of decline under the former Labor government. Their record on women's issues is marked by the closure of maternity wards on their watch and the rampant workplace bullying and harassment of women at the hands of their CFMEU mates. As Queensland's first Minister for Women's Economic Security, I am proud to say that the Crisafulli government is delivering on its commitment to Queenslanders to improve women's economic security and deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The level of noise in the chamber is again getting too high. If you want to have conversations, you can take them outside.

Small and Family Business

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (2.39 pm): The Crisafulli government understands that small and family businesses are the backbone of Queensland communities. We are proud to support them by delivering critical crime prevention measures as part of our small and family business first approach. I was pleased to join a number of members across regional Queensland recently to announce the outcome of round 1 of the Crisafulli government's Secure Communities Partnership Program. This three-year \$40 million program forms part of the Crisafulli government's Small and Family Business First Action Statement that is backed by over \$100 million in new investment to improve the operating

environment of small and family businesses and their staff across Queensland. This is another example of how the Crisafulli government is putting small and family businesses first and ending 10 years of Labor's soft-on-crime approach.

The member for Rockhampton and I met at Artizan Gluten Free Bakery, where we spoke with Simone, the owner, and other local small and family businesses about the impacts of crime and antisocial behaviour and the steps we are taking to improve safety in small business precincts. The Rockhampton Regional Council, in partnership with the Crisafulli government, will deliver CCTV and LED security lighting at two high-traffic car parks on Quay Street to improve safety for businesses and their staff. I thank the member for Rockhampton for her strong advocacy for local small and family businesses.

It was great to join the members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville to announce CCTV and energy-efficient lighting upgrades along the Flinders Street business precinct and mobile CCTV monitoring trailers for high-traffic commercial areas such as Aitkenvale, Kirwan and Upper Ross. An hour north, I met with Karen from Jk's Deli and Amber from I Love Boutique in Ingham, where the Crisafulli government, in partnership with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, will deliver \$400,000 in CCTV and lighting upgrades to support local small and family businesses. These are just two of more than 60 small and family businesses in the Ingham area that will benefit from upgraded security and lighting. I thank the Premier, Mayor Ramon Jayo and our wonderful candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayne Chiesa, for their announcement this morning; it is welcome.

Continuing north, the member for Mulgrave and I met with Denise, the owner of Caffin8 Cafe, where the feedback for our Secure Communities Partnership Program was just as positive. Businesses and their staff just want to get on with the job of running their businesses and serving their customers in a safe environment while, of course, being profitable. I also joined the member for Cook in Mossman, where we spoke with Sharon, the owner of Beechwoods cafe. Again, safety for owners, staff and customers was a priority.

Seven Far North Queensland councils will deliver \$2.7 million in projects that will directly benefit small business and their staff and include new and upgraded CCTV and lighting systems for communities in Cooktown, Mossman, Port Douglas, Hope Vale, Seisia, Bamaga and Horn Island in the Torres Strait. Projects will also be delivered in Edmonton, Gordonvale, Cairns and Yarrabah. All up, \$9.6 million in funding has been provided for 42 projects across the state—35 in regional Queensland—and will include CCTV, lighting, lockable fencing and improved perimeter security.

Round 2 will be released before the end of the year and allow eligible small businesses to apply directly for funding to implement crime prevention measures. We understand the impact crime has on small and family businesses, their staff and customers. We understand that small and family businesses are indeed the lifeblood of our communities—whether you are in Brisbane or Bamaga; or from Quay Street in Rockhampton to Boundary Street in West End. The interjections received today prove—yet again—that those opposite simply do not understand small and family business.

NOTICE OF MOTION

White, Ms C

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.44 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. expresses its sympathy to the White family for the tragic preventable death of Christine White on 27 August 2025, believed by the family to be the result of new ramping KPIs imposed by the Crisafulli LNP government.
2. requests the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services meets face-to-face with the family of Christine White this week.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Questions Without Notice, Procedures

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before we start question time, there are a few things I want to address. The first relates to members seeking the call. I have noticed members rising to their feet before the time has expired. You do not rise to your feet until the time has expired; that is when you seek the call. It has caught my attention that some are seeking the call before the time has expired. I will not be taking those

calls. You will wait until the time has expired. I also caution ministers: when the time has expired, your time has expired. Do not continue to try to talk when the time has expired. All of those things will help me greatly. I could probably make a longer list, but let's just work on those.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 3.45 pm.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

 **Mr MILES** (2.46 pm): My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister has blamed her director-general and departmental public servants for the catastrophic failures of Unify. Does the minister take ministerial responsibility for her department's failures?

Ms CAMM: The Premier and all ministers have made it very clear that we take ministerial responsibility and accountability seriously. I also take my charter letter and my role as the Minister for Child Safety, as one of the five portfolios that I hold, very seriously. That is a contrast with those opposite. I reflect on the system that our government has inherited. It goes beyond a broken child safety system. Yesterday I gave an update to the House not only with regard to Unify but also, more broadly, in respect of the child safety system. Each and every day that I have held this portfolio—I take seriously the role of child safety minister—I have been consistently shocked and appalled at what I uncover across my department. There are the failings that cause me to question how seriously those opposite took their ministerial responsibility. In fact, over the decade of clear decline under the Labor government, the portfolio of child safety was held by five ministers.

In light of the Unify system issues, I have sought briefings from my department about the history of Unify. I have sought briefings with regard to the key decision timeframes of Unify that commenced in May 2017, when the program board was established under former minister Fentiman. In 2017, former minister Farmer was minister when the Unify project commenced in more detail. Then there is a series of stop-goes, assurances, reviews, correspondence, peak bodies—

Ms Fentiman: We didn't turn it on.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection from those opposite—they did not turn it on. I will get to the bottom of why they did not turn it on. What I am also going to get to the bottom of is the design, the functionality, the ongoing stop-go and those who made the decisions about when to stop-go and when not to. I have not even gone beyond 2019; after that period we have three further ministers. The pages and pages of briefings that I now have—

(Time expired)

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister's published diaries reveal that in the three months after Unify went live the minister had four site visits with frontline staff. Given there were known issues when the Crisafulli government went live with Unify, why did the minister not speak with frontline staff about the performance of the IT system?

Ms CAMM: I take very seriously the opportunity to meet with our frontline child safety officers. I have visited many of our child safety centres. I sit and I listen to them. I hear their frank and fearless experience.

Mr Crisafulli: You've never put a lock on your door!

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjection from the Premier. I do not lock them out; I do not throw staplers at them. The culture across the department has become very evident to me. What I heard from frontline child safety officers, particularly when I first took on the role as minister and travelled around, was about the former Labor government not funding frontline service positions. I heard from child safety officers that their average case loads would blow out to 36 at some times. I heard from child safety officers that they were promised by those five ministers that the Unify system—designed, created, funded by those opposite—would help them with their day-to-day frontline services.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, that is the last time I will caution you.

Ms CAMM: What has been uncovered by not just the department but by the Together union is that the design, the functionality, the investment made by those opposite clearly failed our frontline service. Those opposite want to talk about supporting frontline workers. Designing a system and then delivering a system that potentially has significant flaws that could deliver systemic failures in the child safety system demonstrates that those five ministers, who all touched this system in their ministerial oversight, were clearly hiding—not just from frontline staff—their incompetence when it comes to understanding child safety officers at the front line and the impacts on their work.

I will take every opportunity to listen to our front line. That is why I have funded in this year's budget support services for our front line. It is why we have made a commitment to the front line of an increase in child safety officers of 20 per cent. I will get to the bottom of the flawed functionality of the system designed by those opposite and we will fix it and in doing so support the front line.

(Time expired)

North Queensland, Crisafulli LNP Government

Ms MARR: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for all Queenslanders, including those in North Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any instances where this has not occurred?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for the question—a question I will answer in two minutes and 59 seconds. I thank the member very much for her advocacy in her local area. She knows better than anyone the failures of a government that did not take their job seriously, a government that laughed at the youth crime crisis, a government that denied there was a health crisis, a government that created the housing crisis, a government that refused to acknowledge the cost-of-living crisis and put in place long-term solutions. I want to thank the member for her advocacy.

The member talks about how important North Queensland is to this state and this government. There is a great opportunity at the moment with a by-election in the Hinchinbrook electorate. I today acknowledge that we have preselected a community champion, someone who is born and bred in Ingham, someone who is known in the local area, someone whose family still farms there. They farm cattle. They farm cane. They have a small and family business in town. They still own the butcher shop—the butcher shop my parents still go to today. People know Wayde and they know his voice because he has been the commentator for the Cowboys for nearly 20 years.

A government member: He loves the Cowboys!

Mr CRISAFULLI: He loves the Cowboys! Wayde said today, 'I know a good team when I see one and I want to join it.' The other thing about Wayde is that he picks one team and he sticks with it. He does not jump to another team. He stays true to the North Queensland Cowboys. That is the challenge that awaits the people of Hinchinbrook. They can choose someone whose values align with them. In Wayde Chiesa they have someone who is a strong fighter for that region. He is someone who has worked as an accountant, he has worked in the mining industry, he has been a football commentator, he has run a small and family business, he has worked at the highest level of government in regional development and he would be a mighty opportunity to fight for that area if he was given the chance.

Today I was there, as the minister for customer services said, announcing the \$400,000 grant for those CCTV cameras. As I reflected and looked across the road at where one of them was going, it was indeed the place where I had my first job working beside him at a local deli nearly 30 years ago. He is someone I know, he is someone I trust, he is someone who gives the opportunity for the people of Hinchinbrook to have a seat at the table to drive change in youth crime, in health, in housing and in cost of living. They will have someone who will fight hard for them.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister yesterday said—

I cannot say with confidence that the issues that have been uncovered in relation to Unify would have been raised if I had not started asking questions.

Why did the minister wait five months to start asking questions about Unify?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have order in the House before we go to the minister.

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. I also acknowledge it is the first question I have received from the shadow minister in 10 months in this very important portfolio.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take the interjections because I will get to estimates in a minute. Why it is very important that I am asked questions about the child safety system is that we care for a significant number of children in this state—our state's most vulnerable. Never before have we cared for more children thanks to the failures of five ministers opposite and the former Labor government. The number of children we now have in our care, particularly in residential care, is bigger than any other state jurisdiction in the nation.

In regard to questions around Unify, those opposite may recall you receive incoming government briefings, which I did. I received subsequent briefings on Unify over the course of the last 10 months, including the director-general's decision to go live. On the back of that decision and on the back of the timeframe, the information briefed to me and briefed to my director-general was of the detail that this system was ready to go—it was tested, it was tried.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: Those opposite can keep saying, 'Oh,' as if they know. Maybe they did, because they did design the system. On the record during estimates I made comments relevant and accurate on the briefings that my department had provided. It is why we have taken the very serious action of standing down the chief information officer. I have made it very clear to my department that if anybody in a senior executive role has misled me or my director-general there will be the strongest of action taken. It is why we have commissioned an audit by Deloitte. What I have observed in the department of child safety is the toxic culture that Coaldrake spoke involving those opposite, and we will end it.

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Crisafulli government is leading the delivery of generational infrastructure for the 2032 games and beyond, and is he aware of any alternative approaches to leadership?

Mr BLEIJIE: What a wonderful question from the member for Barron River. I thank her for her advocacy for the people of Far North Queensland. I can answer the member's question in about 10 seconds, but I may get distracted with some other issues of leadership. I say to the honourable member that, yes, the 2032 Delivery Plan delivers for the people of Far North Queensland. We have already closed expressions of interest for the early design of Barlow Park, a 5,000-seat stadium that we are building in Far North Queensland. We are delivering for North Queensland with all of the sailing assets and the \$250 million Games On! program that we are rolling out for grassroots community sports.

The member also asks about leadership and alternative visions on this sort of thing. We only have to look at the basket case that was the opposition leader's policy when he rolled Anastacia Palaszczuk and said that Queenslanders deserve a \$2 billion temporary stadium facility at QSAC.

Mr Crisafulli: Genius!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection: 'Genius!' It was offensive. It was not genius, Premier. It was an embarrassment to the world and to Queensland. This is what we are getting to learn about the opposition leader. Yesterday I was asked about the relevance of Mr Steven Miles, the opposition leader. As I said, even the backbenchers are questioning his relevance.

Ms Boyd: Oh, God! Quick, save us!

Mr BLEIJIE: If I was the honourable member for Pine Rivers, I would not be interjecting. I may get to her in a moment. In delivering for the people of North Queensland, the LNP have preselected a hardworking Ingham local, Mr Wayne Chiesa. He is going to be a hardworking candidate. Do you know what? He is LNP through and through. His values are LNP. He is driven by community. He is not hiding behind another political party as is the Labor Party—sorry, the Katter party candidate.

The Katter party candidate, Mr Molachino, was a member of the Labor Party. I have news for everyone here: this is what is going to happen. I have heard this. If Mr Molachino is elected as the Katter party candidate, he will come in here on the very first sitting day and jump ship to the Labor Party. It is a ruse for the opposition leader. It is a dodgy, dirty deal. Last night on the news the opposition leader said that he would back a Katter candidate above the LNP. Really? The Katter party that stood up with Neo-Nazis? The Katter party that said they would repeal the abortion laws? Labor Party members are going to support that type of candidate above and beyond an LNP candidate.

The reality is: people need to vote LNP to get an LNP candidate, because if you vote for the Katter party candidate in Hinchinbrook then you get the Labor Party. You get Steven Miles and God knows we do not need any more of Steven Miles.

(Time expired)

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Mr MILES: 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. Yesterday, the minister criticised public servants for not sending a union survey to her office about the failures of her Unify IT system. On what date did the minister and her director-general become aware that the months-long survey was underway and were they aware of any interim findings?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the question. What I said yesterday is correct; that is, the Together union had conducted a survey with its union members across my department—the Together feedback Unify survey of June 2025, which I have a copy of. I believe it was conducted not long after Unify went live in April. It was brought to my attention that this document and survey had been handed to a departmental official and not passed on; nor, can I clarify for the House, had the union approached me, nor had they provided it to me, nor had they sought a meeting with me. I am pleased to report to the House that I will be meeting with the Together union this Friday to receive a full briefing on the findings of the feedback. I welcome that.

I welcome the union's engagement with the frontline staff, particularly when I read the Together feedback that is in there. It is, frankly, damning. It talks about the functionality. It asked how much Unify has 'helped you with your job to date', for which there was a score of 1.46 out of 10. Some of the biggest challenges noted were that the program is not intuitive and it does not follow any steps.

What is in this report is damning when it comes to how it has impacted the front line and it is damning of the functionality. It is damning of the potential design. That is why I have commissioned an audit by Deloitte. From this week I will be receiving weekly briefings on the functionality and the findings from Deloitte because I think it is important we have an independent perspective, particularly around the design and functionality of a program delivered by those opposite.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question to the minister was quite clear. We are seeking the date on which she became aware that the survey was underway and whether there were any interim findings. On what date did she become aware?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, that was part of the question. You have 30 seconds.

Ms CAMM: I was notified of the survey last Friday via phone. While I was on leave I took a call from my director-general on Friday.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Ms CAMM: I take the interjection about leave. Given what I have inherited in the child safety portfolio, I think those opposite had been on leave for a decade. It is disgraceful. I became aware of the survey last Friday, when my director-general was also made aware of the survey and the findings.

(Time expired)

Community Representatives, Integrity

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney explain the importance of integrity in government and keeping faith with the voters of Queensland, and is the Attorney aware of any examples where this approach has not been followed?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What a great question from the member for Townsville. He is a man who has the highest standards of integrity. He came into this place because, after a decade of decline under the former Labor government, crime was going through the roof. He is a small business owner and he understands that if you stand in this place on behalf of your constituents—in his case, the people of Townsville—to do something about the crime rates in North Queensland then you have to have integrity and you have to have the morals of a good party like the Liberal National Party. That is exactly who he is: a small business owner and a man with integrity.

That leads me to our announcement of the LNP candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayde Chiesa. How exciting! He is a local businessman, a man with integrity and someone who knows what he stands for, which is driving down crime in his home town and doing things for regional Queensland. He is someone with integrity. He sticks to his morals. He is authentic, and you have to be authentic to the party that you are standing for.

What have we seen announced? We have the Katter party candidate who was a member of the Labor Party. Miraculously, just to be preselected, he has become a member of the Katter party. We know the member for Murrumba, the Leader of the Opposition, is behind him saying, 'Just put the Katter hat on. I know you're a Labor man, but stick the hat on and walk down the street. Don't you worry about it, mate, the minute you get into the House we will have you on our side.' What have they promised him? There are so many useless shadow ministers opposite that they will probably have him go straight to the front bench. A vote for the Katter party in Hinchinbrook is a vote for the Labor Party. We know that. We have seen it in the past. We know that that is exactly what is going to happen.

We talk about people with integrity and authenticity and who stand up for the people in their community whom they understand. Our candidate is a Cowboys fan, which is fantastic. He is a game caller for the Cowboys. I say to the good people of Hinchinbrook, 'If you want an authentic candidate get behind the LNP's man because he will be an LNP man and not the Katter candidate who is actually a member of the Labor Party.'

(Time expired)

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Media reports state that Director-General Belinda Drew said—

The child safety department knowingly launched a broken IT system compromising data for more than 16,000 children, just so it could save money.

Why did the Crisafulli LNP government put dollars before the lives of the state's most vulnerable children?

Ms CAMM: I note the member has quoted my director-general from the media response that she provided some weeks ago. The director-general made the decision, which I endorsed, based on the information provided to her at the time. In the House both yesterday and today I have alluded to the fact that we have taken action. The director-general has stood down the chief information officer.

An audit is underway so that we can get to the bottom of the briefings that we received. I am on the record during estimates around Unify and the advice that my department provided in terms of the workarounds and what was ready to go. We will get to the bottom of what we were briefed on and what was factual, and if there are any inaccuracies we will take action.

Those opposite would very much know about the funding for Unify from 2017 through to 2025.

Ms McMillan: But it's 2025.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection from the shadow minister. It is 2025. What the Crisafulli government inherited from those opposite in terms of the child safety system—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I hear those opposite groan about our most vulnerable—our children. The member for Toohey talked about the children. I want to highlight the record of those opposite. If we talk about 2024, there is nothing more damning than what we inherited with the Unify system and the findings of the child safety census which outlined the number of children in out-of-home care who suffered, under those opposite, sexual abuse, 11 per cent; physical abuse, 46 per cent; emotional abuse, 83 per cent; neglect, 88 per cent. Under those opposite, the percentage of children in residential care who had attempted suicide was 22 per cent. Some 44 per cent self-harmed. There were 61 per cent who were not attending education and had been suspended.

I will stand on my record as the Minister for Child Safety for the last 10 months as opposed to the 10 years of those opposite.

(Time expired)

Rural and Regional Queensland

Mrs POOLE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for rural and regional Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr LAST: I thank the member for Mundingburra for her advocacy. She stood up with me in Townsville last week when we made the monumental announcement to save the Mount Isa copper smelter and the Townsville refinery. The member for Mundingburra, along with the members for Townsville and Thuringowa, are fierce advocates for that community. The workers at the copper refinery were happy to hear that announcement and to know that their jobs are secure and we are backing them and giving them a future. We will continue to do that.

Let us look at the work we have done the length and breadth of this state over the last 12 months as we come up to our 12-month anniversary. I have stood on the load out jetty at Weipa. I have been out to the Ballera gas fields on the South Australian border. I went to Mareeba the other day. It is the first time in Queensland's history that a minister has turned up at the natural resources and mines office in Mareeba. That is what we do on this side of the House.

Mr O'Connor: We turn up and show up.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. We turn up and show up. We are conducting regional forums. I have conducted one in Emerald. I have conducted one in Roma. Those communities have been in the wilderness for years and years. They appreciate that they finally have a conduit into this chamber. They finally have a voice. They know that someone is going to stand up in this place and represent them, take on board their issues, respond to their feedback and deliver for their communities. That is what we do on this side of the House. We are the party for rural and regional Queensland.

Last night we had a function here with the NRM groups. We have rolled out \$117 million across the state. They are excited about that. Those projects rolling out right across Queensland will make a huge difference. They wanted to acknowledge the work and commitment of this government in helping them. In terms of Country Roads Connect, we are finally sealing some of those bush roads. Doesn't that make a big difference!

I endorse the comments of the Premier in terms of our candidate in Hinchinbrook, Wayne Chiesa. I know him well. I have known him for many years. He is a man of impeccable character—a true North Queenslander who will represent that seat. We now know why those opposite have not named their candidate because he has jumped ship and gone to the Katters. I am backing Wayne Chiesa because I know his track record. He is a worker. He is trustworthy. He will do a fantastic job.

(Time expired)

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Ms BUSH: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The minister has said that the Unify IT system is putting lives at risk. Has the minister been briefed about any children who have suffered serious implications and any possible deaths as a result of the LNP's Unify implementation failure?

Ms CAMM: I thank the member for the Labor designed, developed and failed Unify system. I receive briefings almost daily sadly on children in our child safety system. I receive briefings on critical incidents. I also receive briefings on some of the incredible work and positive outcomes we can deliver with families through our child safety officers and the important work they do in supporting families.

I was up-front with Queenslanders. As the minister, I am not afraid of being up-front with Queenslanders about the broken child safety system. It is why our government has called a commission of inquiry into the child safety system. We want to be transparent, up-front and clear with Queenslanders about the failed child safety system that we inherited from those opposite after 10 years in office.

Many times I do not get to speak publicly about the details of those briefings because I cannot speak about specific cases, but we have taken action on the number of intakes and assessments we have received. We have stood up an additional nine staff to clear a backlog that was created by this failed system, and I will get to the bottom of why that is the case. I have been clear and up-front with Queenslanders about this issue. I have been clear and up-front with Queenslanders about—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. We asked the minister whether she had been briefed about any children who had suffered serious implications because of the Unify failure—specifically because of that.

Mr SPEAKER: I have heard that. The minister has stated that there are some legal aspects to some of this, so we do not need to hear specifics.

Ms CAMM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would be happy to reinform those opposite of the requirements of the Child Protection Act that do not permit me to speak of individual cases. What I will share with the member and those opposite is that I took action, and I was up-front with Queenslanders on the over 700 children missing and self-placing, which for 10 years those opposite would not speak about.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order, which continues to be on relevance. We asked about whether or not she had been briefed in relation to any children implicated because of the—

Mr Bleijie: She already told you: she can't tell you because of privacy provisions under the Child Protection Act.

Mr de BRENNI: We are not asking for specifics. We are asking whether or not the minister has been briefed.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 26 seconds left to round out your answer.

Ms CAMM: I was up-front with Queenslanders when we announced the census in relation to those children missing and self-placing.

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

Government members: Come on!

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

Mr de BRENNI: I am not clear on whether or not the instruction to the minister is to be relevant and whether or not you are ruling she is being relevant to the question as asked.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a number of points of order. One is that we are now being frivolous in relation to the points of order. There is also a reflection on the chair. The minister is being responsive and has outlined a number of matters with respect to privacy and legislative obligations and has adhered to your direction.

Mr SPEAKER: There are some issues that do go to privacy. I have to rely on the minister to answer that without breaching any privacy under the act.

Ms CAMM: Where I am going, for the benefit of the opposition, is this: I was up-front with Queenslanders about the children who were missing and self-placing under those opposite for a decade—almost 700. We identified and found every single child. Where there is a system failure, I will be up-front, and if Unify, designed by those opposite, say there is a system failure, I will be.

(Time expired)

Multicultural Communities

Mr VORSTER: 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 detail how the Crisafulli LNP government is supporting our vibrant, multicultural communities across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any instances where these communities have been unfairly targeted?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, you interjected while that question was being asked. You are warned.

Ms SIMPSON: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. I particularly acknowledge his hard work and his excellent support as the assistant minister for multiculturalism as we work together to support these vibrant communities throughout Queensland. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government believes in working with our multicultural communities to deliver better outcomes for all Queenslanders. We recognise and value inherently our multicultural communities, particularly the work we do together to overcome social and economic barriers so that they can fully participate in our Queensland way of life. We are working hard to foster social cohesion. We give a shout-out to them to acknowledge they are building the businesses of Queensland, particularly small businesses. They are staffing our hospitals and our aged-care, financial and higher education institutions right across our community, contributing strongly. That is why, as Queenslanders, we must ensure we have unity and

respect for social cohesion in these beautiful communities, as we are Queenslanders together. I give a shout-out to those communities, particularly today as representatives of our Filipino community join us; they are the embodiment of all that is great about our multicultural communities in Queensland.

Sadly, we need to call out the behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition. Queenslanders were appalled to see him post a video trying to incite violent protests on the streets of Queensland by linking to examples of violent protests in Nepal, the Philippines and Indonesia, where people died and many were injured. These incidents are of great concern also to our communities here in Australia who have loved ones living overseas there.

I want the Leader of the Opposition to look up to the public gallery and to the people on the streets and say to our diverse multicultural communities, who contribute so much, that we value them and we stand for social cohesion and unity and not use those events overseas, where there has been violence and where people have been killed, to try to incite that level of protest here on the streets of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition posting that 41-second video on 22 September was not only a new low for the Labor Party but also an insult to all migrants who came to Queensland seeking peace, safety and a better way of life.

We are so fortunate to have our Filipino community. We are so fortunate to also have many other multicultural communities who embody the best of Queensland. That is why the Leader of the Opposition should be condemned. He is reckless, he is divisive, and that video was a disgrace.

(Time expired)

Drugs, Checking

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Last night we learned of another overdose death from drugs contaminated with synthetic opioids. I table the second public health alert regarding nitazenes circulating in South-East Queensland that has been issued since the LNP banned drug checking.

Tabled paper: Document, dated October 2025, titled, 'Public Health Alert: Queensland Early Warning System' [[1578](#)].

How many more overdose deaths will it take for the LNP to bring back drug-checking services to detect these substances before they kill more Queenslanders?

Mr NICHOLLS: Well, what a surprise—a question about taking drugs from the member for Maiwar, who stands there and condones people who sell drugs! There is no safe way to take drugs. We have been clear about it. We went to the election in October 2024 saying that we do not support pill checking. We could not have been clearer about it. Nothing could have been clearer. What we have seen in the recent tragic deaths is exactly why there is no safe way to take drugs. There is no safe way to take drugs, and there is no way that the Crisafulli LNP government will be supporting or condoning people taking drugs.

The simple fact of the matter is that these matters are reported through the coronial process. None of these people, as tragic as their cases are and as distressing as their cases are—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr Bailey interjected.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: As distressing as those deaths are—and, of course, we are extraordinarily sympathetic to the families of those involved—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is to be no quarrelling across the chamber. Minister, you have the call.

Mr NICHOLLS: There is no doubt that condoning drugs or saying that there is a safe way to take drugs leads to more of these types of terrible circumstances.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you are not helping.

Mr NICHOLLS: As you know, the Queensland government is not alone in its position. This is the position that has been taken by Labor in Western Australia. It is the position that has been taken by Labor in South Australia. It is the position that has been taken by the LNP in the Northern Territory. It is the position that has been taken by the Liberal Party government in Tasmania. This is the position that responsible governments take: there is no safe way to take drugs.

When we are alerted to the presence of these particularly dangerous drugs, like nitazenes, we issue public health alerts so that people who present after having taken the drugs can be identified by relevant health authorities and provided with naloxone in order to treat it. That is what responsible governments do. There is no safe way to take drugs.

Workplace Safety

Mr CRANDON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier advise the House about the importance of fostering safe workplaces, and is he aware of any instances where this has not been the case?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Coomera for the question. He is a member who represents a very diverse multicultural community. I have been in his electorate. I played sports with the Indian community a few years back. I thank him for his advocacy for the multicultural community in his electorate. I thank the Filipino community who have joined us in the public gallery today. They are big supporters of safety where you live and safety where you work.

It would be a mistake not to raise the opposition leader's unhinged Facebook video that he produced on his own social media platforms in which he incited violence against the people of Queensland. He used three examples. He used Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines. He said, in using the examples—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am talking about the members of those multicultural communities who have been killed in slaughterous, riotous attacks and you have the hide and the indecency to raise it when we have a public gallery full of Filipino people here. You are a disgrace!

Mr SPEAKER: For two people who hold very senior positions in their party, that behaviour was very poor. Direct your comments through the chair, please, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: Never did I think I would see a deputy leader of the opposition use excuses for his leader's video which incited hatred and violence on the people of Queensland.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the Deputy Premier and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Even the opposition leader knew 24 hours later that it was wrong and he deleted the video. Then he stood up at a press conference and defended the video, despite the fact that he had just deleted it. He used Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines. There were 72 people who lost their lives in Nepal because of the riots. After referencing the riots in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines, the opposition leader said at the end of his video, 'When will Queenslanders stop being silent?' Let's think about that. This is a leader of a political party, a former premier, asking Queenslanders to rise up against the government, burn down buildings, riot in the streets, not knowing at the time how inappropriate his comments were!

I cannot believe those members opposite who are yelling abuse at me are defending the actions of their Leader of the Opposition. No-one should defend that video. It was a disgrace. It should never have been posted in the first place. It shows that the Leader of the Opposition is not up to the job. Reckless, desperate and dangerous—that is what the opposition leader is. He should apologise to all of the multicultural communities across Queensland. He was trying to incite riots and violence against these multicultural communities. What a disgrace!

(Time expired)

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned.

Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. I refer to the minister's assurance earlier that the director-general became aware of the Together union survey last week. I table a post from the Together union website from June, stating that they had briefed the director-general in May. Has the minister misled the House?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I think there was an imputation in that question. Could you re-ask the question without the imputation, please.

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. I refer to the minister's assurance earlier that the director-general became aware of the Together union survey last week. I table a post from the Together union website from June, stating that they had briefed the director-general in May.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 4 June 2025, titled 'Update from the May 2025 DG Meeting' [[1579](#)].

Does the minister still stand by the comments she made earlier today?

Ms CAMM: Mr Speaker, can I see the post? I have not seen it. The union in fact brought an email pertaining to this promotion on their website to my attention the other day. I will provide some detail here. With regard to the update of the May director-general meeting that is outlined here, I know that the Together union does meet with my director-general and other representatives of my department informally all of the time. I believe that is as a matter of course.

I also note in here that a discussion was outlined around the child protection litigation model; the Beenleigh Magistrates Court's concerns, which I had been briefed on previously; and also the permanency of case support workers and paralegals, which are vital positions, which the Crisafulli government funded—96 positions were going to be cut by those opposite around Christmas last year. I am very pleased to see that the union did update the workforce accurately that it was the Crisafulli government that saved the 96 jobs. I note that it also highlights that the implementation of Unify and the feedback from members had been resounding—that Unify was not meeting their needs—and that the survey had shown the details. I note what has been tabled.

On 23 May, in an informal meeting, the Together union and delegates met with my director-general—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms CAMM: I am going to answer the question, Mr Speaker, if those opposite would allow me to.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It appears that the minister has clearly been caught out misleading the House. We asked her whether or not she stands by the comments she made just minutes ago. My point of order is on relevance: does she stand by the comments she made on this matter just minutes ago?

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

Mr SPEAKER: I will take the point of order.

Dr ROWAN: My point of order is that this is a clear abuse of the process in the parliament by the Manager of Opposition Business. If he wants to rise on a point of order, the standing orders allow him to reference the relevant standing order but not to make commentary and a statement with respect to that. I ask you to provide him some direction.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Manager of Opposition Business, you were quite within your rights to rise on a point of order but then you made an allegation in the point of order which is an abuse of the standing orders, so—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I apologise and I withdraw. My point of order—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am going to warn you for that.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I apologise and I withdraw. I rise to a point of order. My point of order is on relevance. The question was whether or not the minister stands by the comments she made in relation to this matter just minutes ago.

Mr SPEAKER: That is it. Minister, you have 48 seconds left—

Ms CAMM: On 23 May, during a regular—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on—to respond to the question that was asked. You now have 42 seconds.

Ms CAMM: Firstly, my director-general met informally with the Together union on 23 May. An item that was discussed there was that the Together union were undertaking a survey, as they do from time to time around myriad issues including Unify. They distributed follow-up emails to the Together union members on 4 June which noted one component of a Unify survey.

On 10 October, as a result of proactive inquiries by the director-general, a copy of the survey was provided by departmental staff to the director-general. The director-general met with the Together union on 14 October. To date, the director-general still has not been formally provided with a copy of the survey or received it from the Together union.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli government supporting victims of crime including crimes such as racial violence, and is the minister aware of any instances where this behaviour may have been encouraged?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Theodore for the question. He is a proud advocate for his multicultural communities. I know that he represents a very large Indian community in the electorate of Theodore. He does a fantastic job advocating for multicultural communities right across the Gold Coast.

Every Queenslanders, regardless of their background, their faith or their culture, deserves to feel safe and supported in their homes, in their communities and across Queensland. Our government is committed to reducing victims of crime, to strengthening the rights of victims and to restoring community safety right across Queensland. That is why our government has committed to the professional victims advocacy service, a one-stop shop for victims of crime. That is why we have our new youth justice victims register that does not wait for victims to opt in. Victims are now automatically registered and provided with updates. That is why we have also expanded our community response for Queensland communities where crime happens in those communities. That is why we have zero tolerance for racial violence, for violence in our communities and for hate or intimidation.

That is in stark contrast to the appalling behaviour of those opposite—the appalling behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition, who produced a video, and put it on Facebook, inciting insurrection in Queensland, inciting violence against our multicultural communities. The video that the Leader of the Opposition published, produced and then disseminated throughout Queensland essentially incited violence. It referenced footage from Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines, where there was extreme violence against those multicultural communities. He connected that footage to himself and said, ‘When will Queenslanders stop being silent?’ That is what he said. Then he took it down. He knew what he was doing and he took it down.

Today we have amazing representatives from the Filipino community here in the gallery—Filipino representatives who are part of the fabric of our community, who have done fabulous work in our community and in our businesses, who strengthen democracy in our community. The Leader of the Opposition sits there silent, knowing what he did. I am calling on him to apologise—to stand up and apologise to multicultural communities right across Queensland—for inciting violence by his disgraceful post.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, Information Technology

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.45 pm): I made some statements yesterday with regard to when I was first notified of the Together union survey. I just want to clarify that I received a phone call that there was a survey last Friday, and I received a copy of the survey on Monday.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.46 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism be allowed to immediately move a motion without notice, with the following time limits to apply to the debate of the motion—

- 3 minutes for each member; and
- total time before question put—60 minutes.

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

AYES, 51:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 33:

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

Pair: Stoker, Butcher.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Multicultural Communities



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) (3.51 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. pays respect to those who lost their lives in recent violent protests in Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines and extends its condolences and deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones;
2. acknowledges the toll these incidents have taken on members of Queensland's multicultural community;
3. condemns the Leader of the Opposition's calls for action in Queensland following violent and deadly overseas protests;
4. calls on the Leader of the Opposition to apologise to Queenslanders including members of our multicultural communities.

Leadership is about bringing people together and promoting social cohesion, particularly in our multicultural Queensland and Australia. To quote a Filipino community leader in the gallery today, 'Leaders should demonstrate compassion, care and understanding, not division.' I believe these words are the epitome of what we should all strive to achieve—social cohesion and unity—whilst embracing the diversity of our communities as Queenslanders coming together from diverse backgrounds.

How would the Leader of the Opposition describe the video he posted on 22 September and only deleted a few hours later? In that video the Leader of the Opposition took clips from violent overseas news broadcasts from Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines and then called for Queenslanders to take action, linking those violent and deadly overseas protests to protests here in Australia. Any reasonable person could see that was inciting violence here in Australia. I consider that the Leader of the Opposition's 22 September video was inciting and threatening violence on the streets of Queensland. That is appalling from anybody, let alone a democratically elected opposition leader who should be upholding the principles of democracy and social cohesion, including the right to have peaceful protests without violence. This video is one of a long line of bizarre social media posts and a desperate attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to promote himself—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was just going to rise on a matter of privilege because we had not been provided with a copy of the motion. But I apologise; we have now received it.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have the call. You have one minute and 13 seconds left.

Ms SIMPSON: This video is bizarre, reckless and unhinged. It is about the Leader of the Opposition promoting himself—not promoting the principles we should all strive to promote, including social cohesion and safety, to make our state an even better place for everyone to live. I particularly wish to again acknowledge the wonderful members of our vibrant Queensland Filipino community, which exhibits the best of what our multicultural communities have to offer. From community service to business, these are the skills that make Queensland great.

The Leader of the Opposition should apologise. He should not have posted this in the first place. The fact there has been silence from his colleagues probably speaks to the fact that they are uncomfortable—or worse, comfortable—with this terrible video. We should never condone violence on our streets. Everyone who contributes to our state as a resident of this state or as a citizen of our country has a right to be safe and to feel safe. This video is disrespectful, it is shameful, and it aligns with the distasteful comments of Senator Lidia Thorpe, who said she will burn down Parliament House.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.56 pm): First of all, I say to the members of the Filipino community in the gallery thank you for coming to parliament. It was great to meet with some of you beforehand. I am looking forward to hopefully having a coffee with you after. You are welcome to meet in my office at any time. I am happy to repeat here what I have said elsewhere: if I have offended anyone, I apologise.

For members who might be unaware, the post that has the LNP so concerned was designed to highlight corruption in the LNP government and their jobs-for-mates scandal. It was never intended to incite violence. I never have, and I never will, condone violence. I am a proud supporter of Queensland's Filipino community—in fact, all of our multicultural communities—as is every member of our Labor team.

That cannot be said for those opposite. They come in here dripping in faux outrage. Where was your outrage when there were racists marching in every one of our cities? Where was your outrage then? When those protests turned violent and provoked Nazi symbolism, where was your outrage then? There is another one of those protests this weekend. Instead of coming in here and moving a motion condemning it, they come in here with their faux outrage and this motion, which is nothing more than a political attack.

When you have federal LNP MPs blaming immigration and migrant communities for everything from rising house costs to crime, they have no outrage. When you have federal LNP members saying that the Australian migration program is designed to bring in more Labor voters, where is their outrage? It is their party members saying those things. I say to the LNP that I will not stop calling out their corruption or their jobs-for-mates scandal. I will not stop defending Queensland migrant communities because they are what makes Queensland great. To our Filipino community I say that my door is always open. Maraming salamat po.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.59 pm): I want to acknowledge the Filipino community in the gallery today. We have an incredible Filipino community in the Mackay region as well who do incredible things across our community.

We cannot stand by and not call out poor leadership and behaviour when it is unacceptable and does not meet community standards. That is what we saw from the Leader of the Opposition in his social media post on 22 September. It was live for hours and it was not deleted until the next day. The fact that it was deleted demonstrates the Leader of the Opposition's lack of leadership and the pressure that I hope was put on him to pull down that post.

What we saw in those international riots was abhorrent. The fact that a former premier of this state used a social media platform and his position to incite violence and call on people to rise up, walk the streets and cause civil unrest is disgraceful. He speaks of his federal colleagues. The federal Labor colleagues have condemned their own colleague Lidia Thorpe. I want to acknowledge Tanya Plibersek for calling out Senator Thorpe for shouting that absolutely irresponsible comment of 'Burn down Parliament House'. Amanda Rishworth said that the comments were clearly inappropriate.

Will the member for Jordan, the member for Inala, the member for Cooper and the member for Waterford call out and condemn the Leader of the Opposition for inciting violence in his social media post, or will they stand by him? That is what the women of the Labor Party do. They are happy to call out, grandstand and virtue-signal to the state, but when it comes to their male colleagues over there they are silent. The women of the Labor Party are weak. The shadow minister for multiculturalism

should not hold her portfolio. She should be ashamed to go into multicultural communities knowing that she endorses and stands by the Leader of the Opposition. At least the federal Labor members have some gumption and conviction—unlike the female members over there, who will stand by the Leader of the Opposition and his failure.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.02 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'community' be omitted and the following inserted—

3. acknowledges the significant and ongoing economic and social contribution of our Filipino community and all communities in Queensland and thanks them for their strong support of multiculturalism in our state;
4. notes the recent protests in Queensland including one planned for this weekend aimed at undermining multiculturalism and inciting violence and fear and calls on Premier Crisafulli to publicly condemn these protests as misguided and dangerous;
5. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to ensure there are clear measures in place to ensure the safety and security of our multicultural communities;
6. reaffirms our strong commitment to multiculturalism and an inclusive, harmonious and united Queensland where people of all cultures, languages and faiths feel a strong sense of belonging and can achieve their goals;
7. notes the point of the post was to expose the toxic LNP 'jobs for mates' culture.'

The reason the LNP are so furious about this video is that it exposed the LNP's toxic jobs-for-mates culture. That is what it did: it exposed the toxic jobs-for-mates culture in the LNP—jobs for LNP donors, jobs for former LNP MPs, jobs for LNP candidates and jobs for LNP members.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. The reason the Deputy Premier was so furious about this video and so furious today at the press conference was that a tough, uncompromising ABC journalist was seeking to expose that culture. What did that journalist get from the Deputy Premier at that press conference? She got fury from him. He could not contain his anger at the questioning of that young journalist. He bickered and he barked at an investigative journalist.

The Deputy Premier refused to say if the government knew about the findings of a corruption probe before appointing Ms Jane McNamara to not one but two government boards. It is this secret sort of behaviour that infects the LNP's jobs-for-mates appointments. That is why the LNP are so furious about this video—because the Leader of the Opposition sought to expose, Labor sought to expose and I seek to expose the toxic jobs-for-mates culture that infects the LNP. I will tell you this: the Leader of the Opposition will not be silent, I will not be silent and this side of the House will not be silent on this toxic jobs-for-mates culture that infected the appointment of Jane McNamara to not one but two boards. The Deputy Premier, the Premier and other members of the LNP cannot properly defend that appointment because it goes to the heart of their corrupt behaviour.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.05 pm): There you have it. Not only did the Leader of the Opposition fail to apologise properly—he said 'if I have offended anyone'—but the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has changed the motion and is refusing to apologise to our multicultural communities for the offensive and vile post that incited violence in our Queensland communities. The opposition have form here. They did the same thing with the member for Cairns. They all stood up beside the member for Cairns when he reposted a vile post that called on sexual violence against women. The Leader of the Opposition's post was dangerous, decisive and remarkably disrespectful. It showed an appalling lack of judgement and an abysmal lack of leadership.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! There is too much noise coming from my left. The member for Currumbin has the call and I will hear her.

Mrs GERBER: It showed an appalling lack of leadership. Let us talk about what this post actually did. This post named the countries of Indonesia, Nepal and Philippines and linked footage of the recent anti-government riots—riots in Nepal that cost the lives of 72 people; riots in Indonesia that caused three deaths, with parliament set on fire and homes of political party members and state buildings ransacked and set on fire; and riots in the Philippines that saw 72 arrests and 39 police officers injured—to his Facebook post and called on Queenslanders to rise up and stop being silent. That is absolutely disgraceful. He then stood up in this House and said 'if I offended anyone'. He was forced to take the post down. He knows what he did. He knows that it was an abysmal lack of leadership, that it was abhorrent and that he should not have done it, but he still fails to unreservedly apologise to our multicultural communities for it. Even after that, he proceeded to try to justify the post.

We then heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stand up and refer to a journalist who called out this behaviour on the part of Queenslanders as junior. This is a two-time award-winning journalist and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition dismissed her as junior. There is a misogynistic comment. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should not only apologise for condoning the abhorrent post by the Leader of the Opposition; he should apologise to that award-winning journalist for his misogynistic comment.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.08 pm): I welcome the opportunity to speak on the amendment. How interesting that the LNP finally have something to say about multicultural communities, at one of the most critical moments for multiculturalism in our state and in our nation. I have attended some recent multicultural events where the Premier of Queensland has made an appearance. Do you know what? He says all the right things: 'Look at me, the son of Italian migrants and now the Premier of Queensland.' He points to me: 'Look at the shadow minister for multiculturalism, the daughter of Greek migrants. Isn't it great that the children of migrants can aspire and become something?' He is right: it is great. The Premier says that migrants should not be blamed and vilified for the issues confronting our state, for the lack of housing, for our infrastructure woes. Again, he is right, but here is the rub. Saying all of these things to a predominantly multicultural audience is easy. He will get his applause and his back slap there.

However, I have not heard the Premier say these things in the media, in the broader public arena or on his social media and I have to ask myself: why not? The Premier had the perfect opportunity when the disgraceful anti-immigration protest happened on 31 August—ironically, on the last day of Multicultural Queensland Month. He had the opportunity to condemn the rallies and the organisers, to publicly step on that sticky paper and say, 'In Queensland we do not believe in what these rallies stand for and they should not proceed,' but he did not. His deputy said people had a right to protest, despite inciting hatred and fear and being led by Neo-Nazis. For those of us who have chosen to speak publicly and who have responded to the racists on our social media channels, I can tell honourable members that those conversations are harder, they are more hateful and they are more hurtful. As the child of migrants, I can say they are particularly heartbreaking.

If we do not speak out, if we do not condemn this hateful rhetoric publicly, what are we saying to our multicultural communities here in Queensland? I have to say there are some raised eyebrows amongst that multicultural audience because when the Premier says all the right things, they think, 'Yes, but what about Jacinta Price in his party saying that our Indian communities are being prioritised for how they vote? Yes, but what about Andrew Hastie in his party saying we're starting to feel like strangers in our own home?' What does the Premier say about them? What does the Premier say about his own party members who want to water down hate crime laws, who want to repeal the offence to offend, insult or humiliate on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin to allow—get this—public debate? What is the Premier saying to them, to his own multicultural minister, who frankly refuses to take responsibility for issues specifically affecting our culturally and linguistically diverse communities in our state? I suspect he is saying nothing.

This weekend there is another March for Australia protest. I condemn this protest; will the Premier?

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise today to speak in full support of this important motion moved by the minister. I do so on behalf of the diverse, respectful and resilient people of communities across Pumicestone and in defence of every multicultural Queenslanders, including myself, who calls this state home.

On 22 September the Leader of the Opposition posted a harmful video to social media that remained online for hours, only to be quietly deleted later on. That video named three countries—Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines—and showed confronting footage of antigovernment riots. From my perspective and from the perspective of many others across this state it appeared Mr Miles was trying to encourage some sort of protest against the Queensland government—

Ms Bourne interjected.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Just a moment, please. Members on my left—member for Ipswich West and member for Nicklin, cease your quarrelling.

Miss DOOLAN: Let me be clear: I absolutely believe that peaceful protest has a place in our democracy, but violent protest, no matter where it happens or for what cause, should never be endorsed or encouraged, explicitly or implicitly. When a public figure uses the imagery of riots that have claimed lives and destroyed communities there is a line. That line has now been crossed. It is not leadership; it is provocation and Queenslanders deserve far better.

In Nepal 72 lives were lost, over 1,300 people were injured and infrastructure—government buildings—was completely destroyed. In Indonesia the situation was chaotic and destructive. The parliament was set on fire, homes and offices of political figures were attacked and three people died. In the Philippines violence led to 72 arrests and 39 injured police officers.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Ms Bourne interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin and member for Ipswich West, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Miss DOOLAN: These were not mere protests; these were deadly, traumatic events and the Leader of the Opposition, someone who calls himself a leader, chose to exploit these tragedies for his own political gain. That is not just bad judgement; it is offensive and it is reckless.

Let me be clear: the Leader of the Opposition's actions were not a simple mistake; they were calculated. The video was edited and intentionally posted to stir emotion, to ignite outrage and to manipulate. That is dangerous behaviour. He may have deleted the video, but let me remind the Leader of the Opposition that he can delete a post but he cannot delete his record. What is worse is that this video directly disrespects the multicultural communities who were impacted by these riots. It invokes their pain, their trauma and their national tragedies in the most flippant, politicised way possible. Today we have members of the Filipino community in the gallery. To each of them I want to say, 'Thank you for being here. I know this moment is difficult, but your presence matters. You are not invisible. You are not collateral damage in a political campaign. You are part of the fabric of the state and we stand with you.'

The Leader of the Opposition owes these communities an actual, real apology—not just a deleted video, not a quiet back step, but a real, public apology for what he said and the damage he caused and yet his state Labor colleagues have said nothing—absolutely nothing. Let's not forget what responsible leadership could look like. For example, when Senator Lidia Thorpe made similar dangerous remarks, her own federal Labor colleagues condemned them without hesitation. Where is that courage from members of the opposition?

This side of the House will not be silent. We will not allow misinformation and division to go unchallenged. I know that in my community, from Caboolture all the way to Bribie Island, people just want respect, they want unity and they want leaders who reflect their values. They do not want fear, they do not want hate and they certainly do not want politicians who will exploit international tragedies just to score cheap political points.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise in support of the amendment to the motion moved by the opposition. This is the height of hypocrisy. Never have I seen a government come in here and refuse to condemn the racism we saw outside at the rallies on 31 August. For them to come into this chamber and pretend to be appalled at something is just horrific. I stood in this chamber alongside my Labor team calling out those racist rallies. No-one from the government came out to call those out—not one. When the Premier and the deputy leader were asked about those, what did they say? They said that people had the right to protest, that these were peaceful protests. I say that Neo-Nazis do not peacefully protest; they look to instil hatred and division in our communities. What they do is look to divide. To every single person from our diverse communities I say: the Labor opposition stands with you. We will always call out racism and we will always call out those who look to divide. We know that you come to Australia and call Australia home. The contributions that you make to our communities are large and they do not go unnoticed.

For the government to come in here and pretend that they suddenly care about multicultural communities is honestly appalling. To use this as an example—where is the government now calling out the rallies? If they care about multiculturalism, if they care about protecting those from multicultural backgrounds in our communities they should call out the rally that occurred, and there is another one happening on 19 October. I urge the government to call it out. I urge the Premier to call it out. They will not, because they did not call out the last one.

I have people knocking on my door saying they are scared to go outside. They did not open their business on the days these rallies occurred. They lost income. That is unacceptable for people who contribute to our society, who contribute to our economy and who send their kids to our schools. They say they kept their kids home from school on the Monday after these rallies because they were scared of what their kids might go through, and that is appalling. For the leaders opposite to not call it out is even more appalling.

The minister goes to events but has not once said to the communities, 'I stand with you. I do not accept these rallies that are happening. We are here to protect you because we are for all Queenslanders.' What did we see this government do? We saw them water down laws that protect our communities from racial vilification. They have paused those laws that protect our communities from racial vilification. If they care about them I urge the Attorney-General to come into this chamber and to put those laws into action because that is what the community is calling for. That is what our multicultural communities want. They want real leaders who care about them and real leaders who will govern for all Queenslanders, not just some, and who will do what is right. I urge the Premier to call it out and also put One Nation last, because that is what Labor will do.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise today to address this House regarding the demonstration of poor leadership by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Steven Miles. The actions of the Leader of the Opposition are dangerous, desperate and reckless. As Leader of the Opposition one would expect him to set a standard of conduct and behaviour worthy of his position, to lead by example for his parliamentary colleagues and for the people of Queensland. Sadly, what we have witnessed in recent days demonstrates that his leadership leaves a great deal to be desired.

As members of parliament, we are all leaders in our communities. Leadership carries responsibility. It means setting the tone, acting with respect and being a positive example for those we represent. True leadership requires compassion, understanding and respect. It requires inclusiveness, embracing Queenslanders from all backgrounds regardless of where they were born or their cultural heritage. The Leader of the Opposition has shown poor judgement and demonstrated a deep disrespect for Queensland's multicultural communities. Our communities welcome diversity and value the contribution of people from all walks of life. His behaviour is not only disappointing but also unacceptable.

Actions like this have consequences. We have seen in other countries how reckless words and behaviour can fuel division, inflame tensions and lead to violence and unrest. This is the last thing Queensland needs or deserves. In my own electorate of Maryborough we have wonderful communities—warm, welcoming and compassionate communities that contribute greatly to our region. They mean no harm to anyone. They deserve to be represented, not degraded or disrespected by a political leader. The Leader of the Opposition owes Queenslanders, and especially our multicultural communities, a sincere apology for his poor judgement. Deleting a video does not undo the harm caused. The damage is done and people will not forget the disrespect that has been shown to them. Leaders must unite communities, not divide them; they must show respect, not contempt; and they must uphold standards, not lower them. The Leader of the Opposition has failed on all three counts.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.21 pm): I am very lucky to represent a fantastic multicultural community, but when it comes to community cohesion and multiculturalism the LNP certainly needs to do better. I often say in this place that multiculturalism is a strength, not a weakness, and the evidence is right there for everyone to see in my community in the census data—higher than average education levels, higher than average household income, lower unemployment. That is why it is so frustrating to see the LNP and its Premier stay silent and not condemn racist rallies—the so-called take back Australia rallies. There has been silence from the Premier and, worse still, we heard the Deputy Premier defend the right of protesters to protest. That is not community cohesion.

These were not marches about housing policy or infrastructure; they were about blaming every problem our country faces on migrants, with the Indian community being singled out for extra hate. There were no chants about tax settings or housing approvals. Instead, there were chants of 'send them home' and 'this is Australia—eff off'. If we are talking about community cohesion, it is that kind of behaviour that members of the LNP need to stand up to, but we all know they cannot. The truth is: they say one thing when they meet multicultural community leaders and attend events but they say something very different at LNP meetings. For example, we have heard of: motions moved at LNP conferences to cap migration; motions apparently in the name of free speech to repeal anti-discrimination laws; Liberal federal backbenchers saying that Australia should pay jobless migrants to leave Australia; Senator Jacinta Price's disgraceful comments about Indian Australians; and the

probably soon-to-be federal leader of the LNP Andrew Hastie most appallingly blaming all of the country's problems on immigration, saying high immigration rates make Australians feel like strangers in their own country.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr MARTIN: That language is pretty important. That is not new language. I am not sure if members here know, but that language comes from Enoch Powell, a famous ultranationalist—some would say fascist—who said that people in the UK in the sixties felt like they were strangers in their own country. It is appalling language from someone who is probably going to be the leader of the LNP. I am proud to be part of a party that will always stand up for our multicultural communities and put One Nation last.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr MARTIN: We will always put One Nation last. We will not do deals with One Nation. I am calling on the LNP at the by-election in Hinchinbrook—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MARTIN:—if they really care about community cohesion, to put One Nation last. Stand up today and rule out a deal with One Nation. They have come in here and said they care about multiculturalism. They said they care about multicultural communities. Put One Nation last!

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.24 pm): Last sitting week I addressed the dangerous rhetoric from the member for Jordan about multiculturalism in Queensland. The member for Jordan sought to drive a stake through the heart of Queensland's multicultural success story by stoking division at a time we needed healing. Her outrageous message to young people was that only the left would give them space and permission to hold together their cultural and Australian identities. Those comments were as devious as they were wrong because they claimed that one's politics made you part or not part of our multicultural story, part or not part of our community and part or not part of our democracy. That is not the Australian story. It has never been the Australian story and I reject that completely, and I do so as a migrant myself, as the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs and International Student Attraction and as a member of the Crisafulli LNP government—a government which has made certain we have a Minister for Multiculturalism, an assistant minister for multicultural affairs and an assistant minister for new citizens.

While the comments of the member for Jordan revealed poor judgement, I now see that they also revealed the cynical, divisive, rotten culture that has been set right from the top by the Leader of the Opposition. When the Leader of the Opposition uses his platform, granted to him by his caucus and this parliament, to spew divisive rhetoric that invokes terrible national tragedy, he stands to be condemned. My message to the Leader of the Opposition is twofold: turn down your incendiary language and apologise to the multicultural community groups you have offended, and while you still have the discretion move on the member for Jordan.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr VORSTER: To the members of the Filipino community in the gallery here today, this is my message: kasama kayo rito sa Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members to my left! Members to my left, I will hear the member for Burleigh.

Mr VORSTER: That is simply to say: you belong right here in Queensland. To all of Queensland my message is that our government believes in the future so gloriously described in our precious national anthem—a place with boundless plains to share and where those with courage will all combine to advance Australia fair. Let me call out the hypocrisy of those opposite by tabling this document in which the Leader of the Opposition called for the halving of migration to Queensland by international migrants, echoed by the deputy leader.

Tabled paper: Article from the ABC, dated 14 May 2025, titled 'Queensland Premier Steven Miles calls for reduction of overseas migration' [[1580](#)].

(Time expired)

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.27 pm): When the minister moved the motion, the minister said that the LNP does not condone violence—unless it is violence committed by a major donor in Cairns, then it is just a misdemeanour. When there is violence against women, then it is just a misdemeanour if they pay \$17,000 to the LNP. Let us look at the record of other members of the LNP who still sit in this House today. There are members opposite who attacked a woman of Lebanese heritage on the

anniversary of September 11, accusing her of being linked with a terrorist organisation by labelling that ethnic woman as 'Jihad Jackie'. That is the record of those opposite—'Jihad Jackie'—accusing a woman of ethnicity as being a terrorist. The then premier of the day—who the now Premier said was a special individual—said that that particular woman needed to toughen up and was too soft. That is their record. If that was not bad enough, in 2018 the former member for Oodgeroo doubled down and again labelled a woman of ethnic heritage as being a terrorist, calling her again 'Jihad Jackie'. That is the record of two members in this place and who this government says should be protected.

What else did those opposite do? What else do we have? The member for Everton decided to draw a comparison between the right-hand man of Saddam Hussein during a war-torn conflict and another member of parliament—a lady of Lebanese ethnic heritage. He said that that was in comparison to the dictator of a war that decimated the Middle East. That is what those opposite are about.

What else have we got? Well, what about the member for Nanango? The member for Nanango, as the leader of the opposition, refused to apologise when young LNP members made racist remarks on social media about First Nations people when they said that First Nations people would not advance because they could not create a civilisation like that of western civilisation. When she was the leader of the opposition, the member for Nanango refused to apologise on behalf of the LNP for the racist remarks. To double down: I was in shock when I heard the first speech from the member for Redcliffe, who absolved that individual of their sins, who said that the individual who made those racist comments in that video was absolved and was 'forgiven.' That is their record when it comes to race. Who can forget the member for Barron River saying that part of the German culture was Nazism and the ideologies of Hitler? That is what they suggested when they said that 'Even my banner is getting in the spirit and celebrating my German heritage.' What a disgrace from those members over there!

(Time expired)

Deputy Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, I have some advice to convey to the House in relation to the amendment. Honourable members, amendments must be legible and intelligible. Amendments to a motion, if accepted, must ensure the motion as amended makes sense. Standing order 94 also provides: 'Every amendment must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.' I consider paragraphs numbered 3 to 6 in the amendment to be legible and within scope; however, proposed paragraph 7 is out of order. It would make no sense if the amendment were accepted. It also appears out of scope by introducing new material.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (4.31 pm): Leadership is about character and judgement. It is about leading by example, bringing people together—not driving them apart. It is about being calm—not the chaos and crisis we have seen in the contributions from those opposite today. We have seen them dragging up any other topic apart from the one that the motion that we have brought to the parliament today is all about; that is, the inappropriate actions of the Leader of the Opposition in his video that is now long deleted. Trying to drag every other element into this debate is not appropriate, as evidenced by the fact that their amendment has been ruled out of order.

Let us have a look at the circumstances amongst those other communities in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines that the Leader of the Opposition was referring to. These were about matters of corruption. They have not resiled from saying this is about supposed corruption on this side of the House in terms of our board appointments. That is a long bow to draw in terms of what has happened in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines.

In Nepal the prime minister, KP Sharma Oli, was forced to resign. There were 75 deaths and 2,113 injuries. Are we seriously suggesting that that should be happening here? In Indonesia, houses associated with or belonging to members of parliament were looted and robbed. Are those opposite seriously suggesting that that is what should happen here? In Indonesia, the Tanjungpura University student council stormed the West Kalimantan house of parliament. Is the Leader of the Opposition seriously suggesting that that should happen here? In Indonesia, there were two deaths, eight missing and thousands arrested with 55 main suspects. In the Philippines, there was the removal of a senate president, the resignation of the House Speaker, 95 injured police, two deaths and 244 arrested.

For those opposite to try to justify the actions of the Leader of the Opposition shows how ineffective they are at mounting an opposition to this government. When we look at the board appointments they had over the years—including convicted rapists who are now in jail—and the

appointments of union officials, we see that they speak with a forked tongue. I was the shadow minister for multicultural affairs for seven years in the 56th and 57th parliaments and I have seen the best of multicultural communities, of which I am one. They are multicultural communities who want their families to have a better future in a place where it is safe and there is dialogue between members of our community that is respectful, not what we have seen from those opposite. They are trying to incite violence about an issue that is completely different from the issues in those other countries. Shame on the Leader of the Opposition but, more than that, shame on all of those members who have acted so indecisively against the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before calling the member for Pine Rivers, in order to provide clarity in relation to the previous ruling, proposed paragraph 7 of the amendment is out of order but the remainder of the amendment is in order.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.34 pm): This is a mediocre, immature government, and that is on display every single day. This is a government that is focused on petty politics and setting their mates up for cushy jobs. Where were the voices of the LNP when Nazi-led rallies were marching in our streets—rallies that erupted in violence across our nation? The only person opposite I have heard talking about Nazis is the member for Barron River, and that was when she stood next to a defaced banner of her own face with a Hitler moustache and said, 'Even my banner is getting in the spirit and celebrating my German heritage.' Shame.

The Premier chose not to publicly condemn the anti-immigration protests that took place on our streets. The member for Maroochydore was silent, gagged—just like she has been on women's reproductive rights. These protests specifically targeted and vilified hardworking immigrants and Queensland multicultural communities. On this side of the House we called out these rallies and we asked for the Premier and the minister to do more. We wrote to them asking for specific safety measures, and those calls were left unanswered. The silence from this government is deafening. They had the opportunity to condemn racially motivated protests, but they did not. The Deputy Premier even defended the protests. He was happy to launch into politically motivated attacks against the Leader of the Opposition. The LNP seek to use multicultural communities as a political battering ram.

The Leader of the Opposition's video called out the LNP's dodgy jobs-for-mates culture, and that is what the LNP are really offended by.

Mr Bleijie: Well, put it back up then. No problem. Put it back up. Repost it, Nikki.

Ms BOYD: I will take the interjection. It exposes the adversarial fixation they have with the Leader of the Opposition. Instead of condemning corrupt behaviour, the LNP have leaned further into it and appointed even more of their mates to cushy jobs. When given the choice to condemn hate speech, the LNP squibbed it.

Let us talk about the LNP doing deals with the One Nation party here in Queensland. The Labor Party will never do deals with One Nation. We will always put them last. We will do that in the Hinchinbrook by-election. We demand that David Crisafulli and the LNP rule it out. One Nation should be last. Racial vilification should always be called out. It is a shame that those opposite, who have had the opportunity to do that over many sitting weeks, instead have come into this place with their adversarial fixation on the Leader of the Opposition and used this as a political issue. Queenslanders are not fooled by this. They see straight through it. I say to the Premier and to the Deputy Premier—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.37 pm): We have been subjected now to the better part of 40 minutes of diatribe from members opposite claiming a holier-than-thou situation, capped off by the biggest hypocrite of them all, the member for Pine Rivers. We remember the campaign—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please. Member for Pine Rivers, do you have a point of order?

Ms BOYD: I certainly do. The member for Clayfield has been here long enough to know that that language is unparliamentary. I find the language personally offensive and I ask that it be unequivocally withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, before you rise to your feet again, I want to seek some advice. The use of that word in that sense has been deemed unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw and also withdraw the personal reflection that the member for Pine Rivers has taken offence to.

Mr NICHOLLS: Absolutely. I withdraw and I withdraw. What we have seen from those opposite is the height of hypocrisy. We all remember the 2024 election campaign. We remember the union movement, the mates of those over there, who attacked a young female candidate for being too young and too female. Where was the member for Pine Rivers shouting out when that was going on? Where was the member for Pine Rivers calling that out? Where was the member for Pine Rivers when her mates in the union movement said to put the LNP last? They always said to put One Nation ahead—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please. Manager of Opposition Business, what is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: My point of order is on relevance under standing order 236. These matters are not relevant to the motion or the amendment.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana! Member for Clayfield, I would ask you to remain relevant to the motion before the House or the amendment that has been moved.

Mr NICHOLLS: In terms of the hypocrisy of those who have moved the amendment to the motion in relation to calling out aspects of people's cultural and heritage backgrounds and the attributes they bring to this place, it is extraordinarily relevant that the union movement, which is affiliated and pays for the membership and the belonging of the people on that side of the House they proudly call—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again. There is nothing in the motion or the amendment about people coming to this place or about the trade union movement or about elections. The minister's contribution is not relevant.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to the broad nature of the debate in relation to multiculturalism. The member for Clayfield was also referencing the member for Pumicestone—and obviously she has a multicultural background—and some of the circumstances that pertained to her election campaign, which is very relevant to the debate given the broad nature of this motion and the amendment as well. I would submit to you that he is making an important contribution to the motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order, member for Moggill. I am going to seek some advice, members.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your help, member for Buderim. I am going to give the member for Clayfield the call, but, member for Clayfield, I think there is a possibility you may have been straying away from relevance to the motion in some respects. I would ask that you please—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, could I finish giving my ruling and then you can make a point of order, if you choose to. Member for Clayfield, if you are able to resume your contribution and be relevant to the motion that would be of great aid to the House. Member for Kawana, what is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: The precedent in a debate of a motion requires that you respond to elements of debate that have arisen. There were at least five members of the opposition who raised preferences in elections. They have opened the door for elections to be relevant. The minister is responding to the debate, the door having been opened by the Labor Party.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I am taking that as a point of order on relevance and I have given guidance to the member for Clayfield. I am giving the member for Clayfield the call, and I am sure he will remain relevant to the motion.

Mr NICHOLLS: Those opposite have made claims about the preferencing of the One Nation Party, saying that they will not preference them because of their racial overtones. That is the statement that they made. Clearly their mates in the union movement disagree, because they say to put the LNP last. If you put the LNP last, that means you have to put One Nation ahead of them. They are the bedfellows they lie down with. That is the hypocrisy of the Labor Party. We heard the member for

Bundaberg speak about actions that pertain to violence. What he did not talk about was Keith Wright or Bill Darcy—people who actually did commit offences against people, not protest and not exercise their rights to march in the street.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is your point of order relevance?

Mr de BRENNI: It is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I appreciate you rising on that point of order. I have been listening very carefully to the member for Clayfield and consider he is being relevant to the debate.

Mr NICHOLLS: Let us not sit in here and be lectured to by those opposite, the party of the White Australia policy. That is the policy of the Labor Party. That is their history.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They can come in here and laugh. What we saw from the member for Murrumba is the same lack of judgement that they have shown—

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: A policy abolished by the coalition parties—exactly right! The Leader of the Opposition should be condemned for his lack of judgement, for his lack of understanding and for his lack of compassion. The Leader of the Opposition ought to be condemned for his post that he was so embarrassed about he had to withdraw—as opposed to the LNP, which welcomes people from other countries. We welcome your diversity, we welcome your culture and we look forward to engaging with you.

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (4.44 pm): The member for Whitsunday called on me to respond, banging on about weak women on this side. There have been many times—as a former teacher—I have wanted to provide a dictionary for those on the other side of the room so that they understand the meaning of some of the words they flap about. I think the honourable member who has just spoken has shown that he clearly does not understand what some words mean. ‘Weak’ is what is on display in front of us every single day—that is, a Premier who refused to condemn the very discriminatory anti-immigration protests that took place across our state on 31 August.

One of the reasons the minister called on me, as the member for Inala, to speak out is that she knows I represent a multicultural electorate, but that is all she knows about Inala. If the LNP knew anything about Inala they would know that you do not put One Nation ahead of anybody else. You put them last. Twice last year I saw in my community the LNP putting One Nation ahead of other candidates, making deals with them—in a community that suffered at the hands of One Nation and at the hands of racist rhetoric. They were scared. They were frightened. Back when I was a teenager and a young person, I remember seeing rotten food thrown at people who were being subjected to victimisation and assault as a result of One Nation. The LNP failed to do anything about it. They failed to stand up against that kind of rhetoric. Here today it is clear that is all they know about my community because they will continue to do deals with One Nation.

There is a reason the people in my electorate and across the state were scared about those anti-immigration protests. They have seen it play out before. They have seen that this kind of rhetoric leads to the kind of violence that those in my community have experienced. I will not stand for it and Labor does not stand for it. We are the ones who have strengthened anti-vilification laws. We have called that out. We have said that our migrant communities need to be protected from the words of others. Those on that side of the room would have you believe otherwise. Again, they need a dictionary to fully understand what some of these things mean. The Minister for Multiculturalism can stand up and yet not take an opportunity to call out these protests. I hope that next time she is in my community, at the many events that she turns up to, she has the courage to stand up and to call it out—not just to take a photo but to turn up and show up. ‘Show up’ means show that you care.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.47 pm): Since coming to government, our government has uncovered the violence and the intimidation that has been allowed to fester in the militant CFMEU for far too long—violence and intimidation—

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

Mr MICKELBERG: Come on, mate! We know you are lacking relevance, but come on.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Buderim, those comments are disorderly. I caution you: do not repeat that. Manager of Opposition Business?

Mr de BRENNI: Relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. The member has only just commenced his comments and, in particular, just that line. I hear your point of order. I have not heard enough to rule it to be not relevant at this point. Member for Buderim, I am sure you will remain relevant.

Mr MICKELBERG: This violence and intimidation opened the door for organised crime in the construction sector, stopped honest tradies and contractors going about their daily work, delayed major projects and resulted in Queenslanders sitting in traffic longer than they would have otherwise. This behaviour and culture was aided, abetted and enabled by the member for Murrumba, the former premier and former deputy premier.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. It is clear that the minister does not intend to address the substance of the motion or the amendment and I would ask you to remind him of his obligations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member, for your point of order on relevance. Member for Buderim, if you could come to the relevant point of your contribution that would be appreciated.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am more than happy to. If you would just let me get through 20 seconds more, we will be there. It is unacceptable—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you some guidance, member for Buderim. I understand you are able to provide some context to your contribution, but please bring it to a relevant point as quickly as you can.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. Violence and intimidation, a culture of those who are the Labor Party's paymasters, the CFMEU, presided over by—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock, please. Manager of Opposition Business, I understand your point of order. I have just given guidance to the member for Buderim. You have interrupted him again in the sense that I have not been able to hear the point that he is trying to make to provide relevance. I ask you to resume your seat, please, and I will hear the member for Buderim and the point that he was beginning to make.

Mr MICKELBERG: Much like his CFMEU paymasters, the member for Murrumba has stooped to incitements of violence and intimidation, calling for Queenslanders to take to the streets just as they have done in Nepal, Indonesia and the Philippines. Dozens of people died in Nepal during violent protests and public buildings were set alight and destroyed. Looting and arson attacks have played out on the streets of Jakarta in Indonesia. In the Philippines, hundreds of people have been arrested and many more were wounded.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, in accordance with the order of the House, the time for debate on this motion has expired.

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

AYES, 33:

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

NOES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Pairs: Purdie, Furner; Stoker, Butcher.

Resolved in the negative.

Amendment (Mr Dick) negatived.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 33:

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

Pairs: Purdie, Furner; Stoker, Butcher.

Resolved in the affirmative.

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 October (see p. 3072), on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (4.58 pm), continuing: I want to bring the House to where we were when I had just been called on relevance. Those opposite, including the member for Burnett, said that this bill has nothing to do with the mining warden's court. In fact, the member was right because, although it is in the greens and although it is fulfilling their promise on the mining warden's court, it actually has nothing to do with the mining warden's court. For instance, in hearings we heard from the department that the so-called mining coroner would not in any way be a part of a mining warden's court but instead would be identical to an ordinary coroner except for the sections directing that certain deaths be directed to this new coroner.

In the hearings it was confirmed that an ordinary coronial inquest could not be started until all legal matters had been finalised. Newspaper reports, such as the one that I tabled, note that generally coronial inquests take place after criminal proceedings are finalised, which can take years. The mining minister misled this House when he made reference to a particular family that tragically have waited for a coronial inquest for a long time. The department has confirmed that this is identical; they will continue to wait under these laws. To say otherwise is sadly misleading a grieving family. Those issues are sub judice so I warn all members to be careful where the minister was not careful.

Minister Last confirmed the intention that any inquest be held at the end. In fact, he is promising frustrating years of delays for families. The member for Mackay criticised the existing process, which will continue under this bill, implicitly criticising the minister. He said that having some of these cases sitting and waiting years for decisions is not good enough. The member is right about that. In some cases, this bill will mean that cases can sit for years as other processes are completed. This will not fix the issue of delays for families. It is another Crisafulli broken promise for the mining community and for families that have lost loved ones. It is quite clear that whatever the Minister for Mines was thinking bears no relationship to what is being delivered in this House. Instead, the bill limits the powers of the so-called mining coroner, which has no special powers but instead acts as an ordinary coroner, from examining most deaths that exist in the industry.

The department emphasises that, instead of having increased power, they have identical powers to other coroners. In fact, they are limited because, even if a mine is connected with the death, where the death was self-inflicted it cannot be defined as a mining related death even where there was a relationship with the mine that helped cause that suicide. We heard that suicide is much more prevalent in the mining industry and miners can face trauma dealing with long shifts, isolation in camps, separation from family and social supports, and being confronted by a serious accident or death on a mine site.

Recently, I spoke to a mine psychiatrist who spoke of a colleague suffering trauma because he came across a work colleague who had been killed. There are amendments in the bill that ensure that deaths from driving to and from work are not defined as mining related deaths. We know that they are mining related deaths. It is a common fact that they are. This bill perversely insists that they are not to be defined as mining related deaths because they were either not on the worksite or excluded by the bill.

We were told by the department that the average coroner has 200 to 300 open investigations at any one time. It would be similar for the Mining and Resources Coroner, who will be asked to do other coronial work when not working on deaths that the act defines as mining related reportable deaths. The department estimates that, on average, there would be two to three deaths—or two to four deaths, as the shadow minister said—that would actually fit the definition of a mining related reportable death. That is the minority of deaths that happen in the industry. For instance, if a miner dies driving or flying to a mining workplace, section 11AAA precludes that from being defined as a mining related death. That is, this bill says that the mining coroner should not look at those deaths. Maybe others can, but it should not be the Mining and Resources Coroner because they are not mining related deaths, according to this bill.

A rail accident that caused the death of a rail worker inside the confines of the mine would be defined as a mining related death. As soon as that same train loaded with the same ore leaves the site—it is connected with the mining industry—this bill perversely says that any death is not to be connected with the purposes of mining and that the Mining and Resources Coroner should not look at that type of death. This is the nonsense that this bill puts forward. This bill should encourage—not discourage—those deaths to be looked at by the Mining and Resources Coroner. The death of a worker or even a member of the public is deemed for the purposes of the Mining and Resources Coroner to be not mining related.

Further, the department told us that, under the practice of the Coroners Act, black lung disease and silicosis would not be defined as mining related. Of course, this is a nonsense. We know that that relates to someone's work in the mining industry. We are told that this is not something that would be defined as something that the Mining and Resources Coroner should look at. This act precludes the majority of mining related deaths from being defined, for the purposes of the act, as mining related.

In conclusion, we see this bill as a broken promise to the mining community of Queensland. There is no mining warden's court, just a renamed coroner with no new powers and a limitation on what the Mining and Resources Coroner should examine. Some 97 per cent of their work will be non-mining related matters—ignoring and excluding suicide, excluding driving to and from work and transporting minerals by road or rail, and not looking into silicosis or black lung deaths. This is not what was promised. It is a broken promise of the Crisafulli government.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill—a forward-thinking and necessary reform that demonstrates our unwavering commitment to the safety, transparency and accountability of our state's vital mining and resources sector, and it is long overdue. This bill represents more than a legislative change; it is a strong and clear message to workers, families and industry stakeholders that we are listening and acting. It is critical reform that will enhance justice, improve safety and honour the lives of those lost in one of our most important industries.

Our committee heard from those opposite a narrative designed to frustrate the progress of the legislation and to highlight their failure to address these issues for over a decade. There is a clear scope in this legislation. Some may choose to stray outside the long title of the bill and even move amendments, but let us be clear: the coroner may choose to conduct inquests for reportable deaths outside scope, such as deaths through self-harm, suicide or when driving to and from mine sites, and they should be considered if they are in the public interest.

There has been a lot of quoting of our committee proceedings by members over the last couple of days. I bring to the attention of the House the comments of the industry safety and health representative from the Mining and Energy Union. They were asked: 'Prior to this bill being introduced, when was the last time active attempts were made to change the process?' How far back? Were there active attempts to change the act to include issues like suicide and other things? The response was—

It probably was not thought about, honestly, until this bill came up and I personally started thinking about it.

I say to those opposite that they cannot posture on this bill. They have to be fair dinkum about the fights they fight. Those opposite wanted to quote the stakeholders at length yesterday, but I am quoting from them now. This was an afterthought of many of the stakeholders who gave evidence.

This bill restores a vital justice service for miners, families and communities. It benefits everyone in the state. Those opposite were going to shut down the coal industry anyway. That is why our commitment to repeal the renewable energy targets will support flexible, market-led energy system planning.

The mining and resources industries are at the heart of our economy, providing thousands of jobs and contributing significantly to the prosperity of our state. With such an opportunity comes a responsibility—a responsibility to protect lives, to uphold rigorous safety standards and to ensure that when tragedy does occur it is investigated thoroughly, independently and with the utmost sensitivity and professionalism. That is why this bill is important.

By establishing a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner, this legislation ensures that matters involving deaths in the mining and resources sector are handled by a coroner with specialised expertise and sector knowledge. It is a significant step forward in ensuring that investigations are not only robust and technically informed but also prompt and respectful to the families and communities affected. A specialised coroner will bring a greater depth of understanding of industry practices, risks and regulatory frameworks, leading to more relevant findings, more practical recommendations and, ultimately, improved safety outcomes.

This bill also reflects the findings and recommendations from previous inquiries and reviews, including those that call for a more consistent, focused approach to coronial investigations in high-risk industries. It shows we have taken these lessons seriously. We must also acknowledge the workers who have lost their lives in the course of duty and the families who have borne that loss. This bill recognises them—not just with words but with actions. It ensures their stories are heard and their deaths are not in vain, and the lessons will lead to a safer workplace for the others.

The establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner will provide greater certainty and trust for industry stakeholders and regulatory bodies. Stronger collaboration between the Coroners Court and safety regulators and the faster delivery of inquest outcomes will contribute more to a responsive and effective safety culture.

The mining and resources sector is not only the economic backbone of Queensland but also the lifeblood of many regional communities. It fuels our exports. It provides jobs for thousands of Queenslanders and drives innovation and infrastructure. As we also know, it is a high-risk industry where the cost of failure is sometimes measured in lives. Tragically, in recent years we have seen a number of fatalities in Queensland mines. While every death is a tragedy, the response of the justice system must be one of rigour, expertise and urgency. Sadly, coronial inquests into mining deaths have far too often exposed delays, inconsistency and a lack of sector-specific expertise.

The inquest into the deaths of six coalminers between 2012 and 2020, for example, laid bare systemic failures and called for significant improvements in how investigations are conducted and how findings are applied. The coroner noted that these delays in holding inquests had prolonged the suffering of families and undermined the preventive role of the coronial process.

These families deserve answers—timely, expert and respectful answers. More importantly, the industry and regulators deserve clear, practical recommendations that can drive real practical change on the ground. That is exactly what this bill delivers.

The new role will ensure a more consistent, expert-led approach to inquests and will strengthen the connection between coronial findings and meaningful safety reforms. It will also support better collaboration with the Office of the Work Health and Safety Protector, Resources Safety & Health Queensland and industry bodies to ensure that no recommendation falls through the cracks.

Let's be clear: this is not just legislative reform. This is about respect for workers, for families and for communities. It is about restoring trust in the coronial system, improving outcomes and working to prevent further loss of life. In short, this bill strengthens our justice system, bolsters workplace safety and improves transparency in one of our most important sectors. It is a smart, responsible and compassionate reform and honours the Queensland government's commitment to the resource sector. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr J KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.10 pm): Once again the Premier apparently does what he says—he walks the talk, he means what he says, blah, de-blah, blah, blah—we have heard it all before. We heard it when he voted for the Path to Treaty and then came in here and shut it down. That is what he meant when he said and did what he did. It was all walks the talk and did all that stuff, and then when he said he was going to keep Queenslanders safe and he came in here and banned pill testing without giving anybody a chance to speak on that.

Now we have yet another example of where they have made a promise to re-establish a mining warden's court and the LNP and the Premier bring this bill in here—this bill. So while we support this, and we want to improve it via the member for Gaven's very sensible amendments, it certainly goes

nowhere near the promises that were made before the election, and I am sure the people of Queensland are getting very used to that. The LNP have turned their backs once again on miners and mining communities.

I was part of the black lung select committee. I did several years of work on the black lung select committee, in fact. I want to talk about the actual name—the real name—of black lung disease. It is officially known as coal workers' pneumoconiosis.

Mr Power: Coal workers.

Mr JKELLY: Coal workers. Another word for 'coal worker' might be 'miner', and a mining coroner might want to have to look at a disease that kills people if it is acquired in a coalmine. That is exactly where you acquire coal workers' pneumoconiosis. Of course, if you are transporting coal in the transport industry, you can also be exposed to it.

We spent a lot of time listening to these communities that have been impacted by this terrible disease. These are people who work hard so that our state can prosper. They know they are in a risky job, but they do it for the benefit of the whole state, and they are prepared, via their unions, to work with employers or anybody who wants to make workplaces safe.

Nobody wants us to ever have to investigate mining related deaths—we do not want them—but Labor stands committed, as it always has, to ensuring that every worker returns home safely. While I was on this committee, I saw firsthand the impact of black lung disease. If detected early, coal workers' pneumoconiosis can be controlled and people can live a long and healthy life. If detected later, the impacts can be severely life-limiting.

When we conducted this inquiry, we found four decades of complex denial, mass delusion and a complete departure from any need to control or respond to a disease that was considered officially eradicated. The reality is it had not been eradicated. Thanks to this inquiry, particularly the work of Dr Anthony Lynham, a wide range of policies and procedures have been implemented to prevent, detect and respond to this disease. However, it is still likely that circumstances will arise where people will develop dust related diseases. As we saw over the four decades the existence and impacts of this disease were denied, the circumstances arising as a result can be quite complex. The things that can lead to it in one situation can be very different to another situation, and that is why it is imperative that in each case we investigate, via a coroner, the circumstances that lead to the individual developing this disease and sadly, in these cases, dying of this disease.

To exempt deaths related to dust lung disease is very distressing. It almost feels like we are back to the decades of denial that preceded the black lung inquiry. The only way we will fully understand what caused a dust related death and prevent others from occurring is to include them in this bill. That is why I fully support the amendments.

I have worked over the years with many nurses whose partners are FIFO miners and I have many FIFO workers who live in my community. I have seen the impacts that FIFO can have on families. When we hear the evidence from Ms Klaire Coles from the Coronial Assistance Legal Service that suicides amongst FIFO and resource sector workers occur at disproportionately higher rates and often in complex environments shaped by isolation, stigma and work related pressure, it should make us all sit up and take notice.

When I led the government's inquiry into how to make the lives of people with mental health and addiction issues better, we spent a lot of time considering suicide and we certainly looked at sector and occupation-specific suicide risk. I do want to acknowledge the great work of Mates in Construction. I know the CFMEU cop a lot of flak in this place, but I think anybody who understands the work of Mates in Construction would know that is an organisation that anybody who is involved in setting it up would be proud of. It is an organisation that has dedicated itself to understanding and preventing workplace suicide. It is a complex issue, and solutions to preventing workplace related suicides demand a multifaceted approach. Where we find a focal point of suicides in a specific setting or related to a specific occupational group with some similarities, there are opportunities to examine the deaths and consider ways to prevent them in the future. The best way to do that is to consider each individual death and see if there are things we can learn to prevent them in the future. That is why it is essential that these suicides should be captured by this legislation, and that is why I support the member for Gaven's amendments.

Labor remains committed, as always, to keeping all workers safe. Labor is prepared to amend and improve this flawed legislation. We should all be putting the lives of miners first and supporting these amendments.



Mr DALTON (Mackay—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise proudly to support the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that delivers on the clear election commitment of the Crisafulli government to restore a vital justice service for Queensland mining communities. I am especially proud to say that this Mining and Resources Coroner will be based in the electorate of Mackay, covering people who work in the mines in the Burdekin, Mirani, Whitsunday and Gregory—all who work and live in that mining community. It is no accident that Mackay and the surrounding areas are the beating heart of the resources sector. Home to thousands of workers, contractors and families whose livelihoods depend on industry, from Moranbah to Dysart, from the Bowen Basin to the Port of Mackay, our region quite literally keeps Queensland running.

The resources industry has been the backbone of Queensland's prosperity for more than a century. It does not just power our economy; it puts food on the table for local families, funds our schools and hospitals, and supports small businesses across regional Queensland. Every Queenslanders benefits from the work that happens in our mines, quarries and resources projects. We must not forget that behind every tonne of coal, every load of gravel and every gas pipeline there are men and women who put their boots on and take on real challenges every day.

Since 1882, mining and quarry deaths have been recorded. These statistics are tragic and sobering, and we must never forget the families and friends left behind. Statistics are important, but they are never the full story.

Recently I had contact with family members of loved ones who died as part of mining incidents in the coalfields west of Mackay, and the common thread is that they want answers. If a wrong can be put right after an investigation, they want to see change. That is why this bill matters, because when tragedy strikes, when a life is lost, those families deserve answers, they deserve accountability and they deserve a system that never stops striving for improvement.

This bill restores that focus. It establishes a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner—a specialised position with the expertise, authority and mandate to investigate mining related deaths and to make recommendations to prevent them from happening again. This coroner will conduct mandatory inquests for all mining related reportable deaths—removing the previous discretion that too often left families without closure—including accidental deaths resulting from mining related injuries in mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas operations.

Importantly, this specialist coroner will be based in Mackay, close to the people and industries most affected. For far too long, families in Central and North Queensland have had to wait for hearings to be held hundreds of kilometres away. By locating this position in Mackay, we are ensuring investigations are timely, accessible and connected to the communities they serve. The bill also strikes the right balance by including family liaison staff, so contact between the investigation and families will be maintained.

Not every death in the resources sector is the same. The legislation makes it clear that a mining related reportable death does not include a death by intentional self-harm. This is not about minimising the importance of mental health; it is about recognising the complexity of suicide and ensuring the coroner remains focused on operational safety and accountability. I want to be clear about how suicides are dealt with under Queensland's coronial framework. Under the Coroners Act 2003 there are two key processes: an investigation which determines who has died, how they died and the medical cause of death; and an inquest, which is a court hearing focused on determining what happened and how similar deaths might be prevented in the future. Not all deaths lead to an inquest, but all reportable deaths, including suicides, must be investigated.

Any loss of life by suicide is both tragic and devastating for the friends and family who survive. Under existing law, there is already mandatory reporting and investigation of suicides. This bill does not remove that requirement. Under section 8 of the Coroners Act, suicides are classified as reportable deaths because they are considered unnatural deaths. Section 11 of the act requires that all reportable deaths be investigated, regardless of whether the death occurred on a mine site or not.

A proposed new section, as inserted by this bill, simply clarifies that a mining related reportable death does not include an intentionally self-inflicted injury. This recognises that the causes of suicide can be complex and not always related to mining operations or workplace obligations. Importantly, this does not prevent the Mining and Resources Coroner from exercising discretion to hold an inquest under section 28 of the act if it is in the public interest to do so. For example, if a suicide occurred on a mine site and there was evidence that workplace pressures, fatigue or systemic safety failures may have contributed, the coroner has the full power to investigate and hold an inquest. While suicide is excluded from the mandatory inquest provisions, it remains fully within the scope of a coronial investigation,

ensuring every case receives the scrutiny and respect it deserves. This is a careful, compassionate framework—one that respects the dignity of families while maintaining a strong focus on safety and accountability.

When the Mining and Resources Coroner hands down findings, they will not be left on a shelf. All of the findings and recommendations will be made public and shared with the Attorney-General, relevant ministers and the CEO of Resources Safety & Health Queensland. That will mean there will be real accountability, real transparency and real change. This bill will ensure the lessons learned from one tragedy are used to prevent the next. It will also ensure mining operators, no matter how big or small, are held to the same standard when it comes to worker safety.

There will also be practical benefits. When the Mining and Resources Coroner is not conducting mining related work, they will assist with general coronial cases. That will result in faster investigations, reduced roadblocks and a more efficient coronial system overall—something that will benefit every Queenslanders. The bill also includes sensible amendments requested by the State Coroner to improve efficiency, including allowing more than one deputy state coroner to be appointed.

This reform delivers on an election promise of the Crisafulli government. We said we would restore the dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner, and we are delivering it, based in Mackay.

Mr McDonald: We are doing what we said we'd do.

Mr DALTON: I will take that interjection. It means there will be more local jobs and greater regional investment, and it is a clear signal that the Crisafulli government values the contribution that Central and North Queensland make to this state. It reinforces what we all know: Mackay is not just the heart of the resources industry; it is the heart of Queensland's economic engine.

This bill is about people. It is about the workers underground, the truck drivers, the fitters, the electricians, the engineers and the families waiting at home. When tragedy happens families deserve answers, and this legislation will ensure they will get it. By basing the Mining and Resources Coroner in Mackay, we are not just delivering justice; we are strengthening the link between our legal system and the communities it serves. We are saying loud and clear: safety matters, accountability matters and regional Queensland matters. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.25 pm): There is a lot to unpack after the member for Mackay's speech and the speeches of other government members before him. It is clear they do not understand the legislation. What is the point of having a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner if they do not mandatorily investigate every single death on a mine site? That is the point of it. I am not going to chastise those on that side of the House who were on the committee and still do not understand, but I am going to talk them through the matters. Clause 5 will insert new section 11AAA, which states—

Deaths to be investigated—mining related reportable deaths

- (1) A mining related reportable death must be investigated by—
 - (a) the Mining and Resources Coroner;
- (3) A person's death is a mining related reportable death if—

There is a whole section here, but let's go to (c), where it says—

- (c) the person receives the mining related injury—
 - (i) at a coal mine; or
 - (ii) at a mine; or
 - (iii) at or in a petroleum and gas site—

but (d) says—

- (d) the person's injury is not intentionally self-inflicted.

They just have to turn the page—they will get a little breeze of revelation when they turn the page. It says that the Mining and Resources Coroner does not mandatorily investigate suicides on a mine site. That is the big difference. What is the point of establishing a Mining and Resources Coroner to investigate why deaths happen systemically within the mining industry if they are not going to investigate what the cause of death was on a mine site?

The member for Mackay said that not every death is the same and that this was about operational safety. If workers are taking their lives on a worksite, I imagine that would be a matter of operational safety.

Ms Grace: And systemic problems.

Mr SMITH: And systemic problems—I take that interjection. How could it be that across construction and mining industries in Australia over 190 deaths by suicide are reported each year? Are the LNP seriously suggesting that deaths by suicide on mining sites are not related to the lifestyle and societal impacts of mining when they are flying in and flying out? That is the big difference, and it is in the explanatory notes as well. It states—

The injury they sustain—

that is, the workers—

needs to have caused or contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died. For example, if a person receives a crush injury on a mine and subsequently dies in a hospital, the death will be considered a mining related reportable death and will be investigated and the subject of an inquest by the Mining and Resources Coroner.

It will not be any coroner; it will be the Mining and Resources Coroner. How is it any different from the fatigue that develops on a mine site that then causes a road crash when travelling from that mine site? How is that any different? How is it any different when a self-inflicted injury occurs on a mine site because of the fatigue, because of the stress, because of the anxiety or because of the isolation away from your family?

Ms Grace: Bullying and harassment.

Mr SMITH: Bullying and harassment that forces a person to tragically take their own life—how is that not related to a mine site? How is that not a mining related reportable death that must be investigated? That is where those on the other side fail to understand what they are doing by putting this bill forward. They are actually taking away powers of the very coroner—the Mining and Resources Coroner—who is there to investigate the industry. They are saying that not all deaths are the same, as the member for Mackay said, which means not all deaths are equal in the eyes of the Mining and Resources Coroner and in the eyes of the LNP.

Debate, on motion of Mr Smith, adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: Before we debate this motion, I remind everybody who is on the warning list: the members for McConnell, Mansfield, Logan, Springwood, Nicklin and Ipswich West.

MOTION

White, Ms C



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

That this House:

1. expresses its sympathy to the White family for the tragic preventable death of Christine White on 27 August 2025, believed by the family to be the result of new ramping KPIs imposed by the Crisafulli LNP government.
2. requests the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services meets face-to-face with the family of Christine White this week.

Yesterday Christine White's family joined us in the gallery and bravely put questions to the minister about the care their mother received before she tragically passed away. It was a preventable death the family believed to be the result of new ramping KPIs imposed by this minister and this LNP government. Yesterday Brooke, Christine White's daughter, said that 'the minister did not know some of the details' around her mum's death, that 'he did not answer the questions asked of him', that 'the minister deflected', that 'he did not even know how she died or where she died', that 'the minister made comments but is not prepared to actually listen'. They are not my words: they are hers.

That is how this health minister made the family of Christine White feel yesterday. He could not even bring himself to commit to a meeting face to face while they were here in parliament yesterday asking for one. He could not face the grieving family, who just do not want anyone else dying because of the pressures put on our frontline health heroes. Like I said yesterday, our health staff are doing the best they can with what they are given. It is hard to fathom how this health minister can put a 2.5-hour KPI on our ambos and emergency department workers and then not expect them to try to reach it. Can he personally guarantee that no pressure is being put on health workers by hospital and health services to make their stats look better? It is gutless that the minister cannot muster the sympathy to face the White family—

Mr SPEAKER: That is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw that.

Mr MILES: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I withdraw. He should listen to their concerns. He says it is because there are ongoing investigations. I know, as a former health minister, that those investigations do not impede your ability to meet with people experiencing a loss. In fact, I did so often. The minister would abdicate his responsibility and take no accountability, just as he did with the Townsville investigation and with Caboolture, when yesterday we discovered that he knew about it well before he left on holidays. A major failing is now impacting more than 10,000 patients—he knew about it and he still packed his bags.

The ABC reported today that the minister and his office knew of the issue and the patient having passed away on 17 September. The Premier previously said the government had only been briefed on 29 September. Are we really to believe that the minister did not mention it? Amidst major pressures on our hospital system, like ramping hitting the highest ever recorded figure under his watch, this minister did not think to put it in his handover notes.

Queenslanders deserve truth and transparency. This is not a standalone health bungle. It is a symptom of a system sick to its core under a minister who is more obsessed with statistics than with patients—patients like Christine White. The White family cannot get their mum back but they can get answers, and this minister should front up and answer their questions.

The Premier today said he would meet with them after the investigation has run its course. I can advise the Premier and the minister that the White family have been advised by the Health Ombudsman that it is issuing them a decision of assessment and will not be proceeding with a further investigation, so the minister's last shred of credible objection for why he should not meet with the White family is gone. The question remains: will you meet with the family of Christine White this week? The answer should be yes.



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

- '1. expresses its sympathy to the White family for the tragic loss of Christine White on 27 August 2025;
2. notes the concerns of the White family;
3. requests the director-general to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding 27 August 2025;
4. notes that during Labor's decade of decline ramping tripled and the elective surgery waitlist almost doubled.'

Of course, as I expressed yesterday, my sympathies are with the family of Christine White who not only lost their mother but are now having their understandable grief exploited by, sadly, a desperate opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: As I said yesterday, the circumstances around Mrs White's experience are complex, and out of respect for the family I have not disclosed further details of which I am aware. The Leader of the Opposition has no such respect. He is happy to use the White family's situation for his own political ends.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Mr NICHOLLS: He stood in this House yesterday and advised he was tabling—and I use the exact words—'the hospital's report, released under RTI'. That was untrue. What the Leader of the Opposition actually tabled was a selectively redacted copy of the RTI documents, edited either by him or by his office, to remove information that is critical to understanding the context of Mrs White's presentation to the Ipswich emergency department. We just heard the member talk about his experience as a former health minister. He should know that the full facts are important.

'Desperate' is one word to describe those actions of the Leader of the Opposition. There are plenty of others. It is important and it is in the public interest that I assure the people of Ipswich that they can depend on their hospital for quality health care. Had the Leader of the Opposition tabled the true version of the document, it would have shown that Mrs White did receive care and medication while at Ipswich Hospital, including pain relief, from both paramedics and hospital staff. It would also show,

as the media has now reported, that Mrs White left the hospital of her own accord, against the advice of medical staff, after removing the cannula in her arm that had been inserted for treatment. Our health workers are world-class, but they cannot stop voluntary patients from leaving hospital if they choose to, even when it is against the health advice and clearly not in the best interests of the patient.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is a tragic case, but it is not a case of the hardworking staff at Ipswich Hospital abandoning a patient, as the opposition has recklessly claimed. That is why the House requests the director-general of Queensland Health to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding the 27 August 2025 presentation by Mrs White. This step is necessary to dispel the inaccurate and irresponsible claims made by the Leader of the Opposition—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are sailing very close.

Mr NICHOLLS:—because they strike at the professionalism and integrity of every hardworking clinician and paramedic who turns up every day to care for Queenslanders in busy emergency departments across the state.

I recognise that the White family has suffered a terrible loss and they are seeking answers. I have written to the White family twice. The West Moreton Hospital and Health Service and the Queensland Ambulance Service also had extensive engagements. Since Mrs White's presentation I am advised the family has written or called on over 50 occasions, all of which have been actioned or responded to. West Moreton HHS has also established a structured process to collect information and disclose that information to the White family. I have directed the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service to continue engaging with the family.

I have not yet received advice from the Office of the Health Ombudsman in relation to the complaints that have been made regarding Mrs White's treatment and I await that information. It is no secret that Queensland's hospitals are under pressure, but that is after a decade of decline under those opposite.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the motion and oppose the amendment. This is a simple and straightforward motion of empathy for a bereaved family and a request by the House for the health minister to do what any decent health minister would do; that is, meet with the family and hear directly from them about what happened with their mother, Christine White. In the last 24 hours Queenslanders have been deeply moved by the story of Christine White, a vibrant and very active 75-year-old woman and mother who went to the hospital seeking help for unbearable abdominal pain and who did not receive the care that she needed. This should not have happened. Christine waited for hours in agony. She was in such severe pain that she saw no alternative other than to discharge herself from the ED. She went home, still in agony, desperate for pain relief. She died alone at home in excruciating pain and was later found by her children, who had not been able to contact her. They had to break into their mother's home, only to find her passed away.

When the minister was questioned in this House yesterday, while Christine White's family was present in the public gallery watching and listening, the health minister did not seem to know even that. Twice he referred to Christine White having died in hospital. I refer to his comments on page 2987 of *Hansard*—

The loss of a loved one in a hospital setting is always a cause of those emotions.

He also said on page 2991 of *Hansard*—

The passing of anyone in our hospitals in any circumstances is far too serious ...

I table those.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 14 October 2025, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, pages 2987 and 2991, of a reply by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Tim Nicholls, during Questions Without Notice regarding Ms Christine White [\[1581\]](#).

Christine's daughter Brooke Watson said the minister 'didn't even know how Mum died' and that when he got the most basic facts wrong when he spoke in this House it made her feel like her mother 'doesn't matter'. They are devastating words. The minister responsible for the health system that failed her did not even get the basic facts right and he has not sought to correct the record in this House—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the member. They are incorrect. I will be writing to you. I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, the member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. Imagine the pain of hearing your own mother's passing told inaccurately, live from the public gallery of this chamber.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I find the member's words offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: Speaker, to the point of order, I did not refer to the minister there at all. I was speaking about the family being in the gallery.

Mr SPEAKER: The fact that you tabled those documents makes it very clear that you were referring to the minister, so I will ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. That is what Christine White's family had to endure yesterday. Even worse, the health minister has not met with them or initiated a meeting with them and is still, I believe, refusing to meet with them.

When tragedy strikes, when a family is broken by the health system's failure, as the health minister the decent thing to do is to meet with them. You face them; you listen to them. The member for Waterford did that many times. She did that well, and that helped those people in that circumstance because that is what leadership and accountability is. Minister Nicholls has chosen not to do that. He does find time for other things. I will not go through what they are, but people know. People can see the other things he has chosen to do instead of doing that. I think they are poor choices; I will say that as a minimum. The health minister has failed a basic test of humanity. Health is first and foremost about people. Brooke and her siblings are not asking for the world. They are struggling and they are in grief. They just want to make sure no other family has to go through what they have had to go through and of course they want some answers.

To suddenly lose their mother, who waited in agony for care that did not happen, is a tragedy. Brooke said her mum was failed by 'heartless hospital KPIs'. Those are her words. Those words have weight because when health care becomes about numbers, figures and data and not about people, tragedies will happen. The member for Clayfield and minister has a choice. He should tell his colleagues to vote for the motion, that he got it wrong, and that he will meet with the family. That is the decent thing to do. Good leadership includes empathy. It does include humility. It does include doing things that are difficult at times. It is about showing up when things are uncomfortable to help others, and Minister Nicholls failed to do that yesterday. I call on the health minister to correct the record, apologise to the family of Christine White for his inaccurate comments and meet with them as soon as possible.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.46 pm): I support the amendment moved by the Minister for Health. Before speaking to that amendment, may I place on record my condolences to the family of Christine White on the loss of their beloved family member. Of course there are no words of mine, either here or elsewhere, that will take away the pain and sorrow they are all feeling and will no doubt continue to feel for a long time into the future. As the member for Scenic Rim, my family and the community I represent express our condolences to you at this difficult time.

As a neighbouring MP to Ipswich and representing a region that depends on Ipswich Hospital as one of its major healthcare providers, especially to Boonah Hospital, Laidley Hospital and Esk Hospital, I support the amendment. In doing so, I also need to point to the decade of decline under the former Labor government that has brought us to where we are today. For an entire decade under Labor, hospital services at Ipswich continually went downhill—from an ambulance ramping rate of 20.3 per cent in 2015, when former LNP health minister Lawrence Springborg had overseen huge improvements in that short period of government from 2012 to 2015, to a massive peak of 63.5 per cent ramping in 2024 after a decade of decline. That is not to mention all of the other declines in health services that occurred across the state of Queensland during that decade.

In 2024, 63.5 per cent ramping was the peak we inherited from the Labor Party. It means that nearly two in three people presenting at the Ipswich ED were not seen within recommended timeframes. It had more than tripled since 2015. It no doubt has a devastating impact on patients, but we also need to remember that when the system does not work for people as it should it—and that is the situation we were left with by those opposite—it impacts the staff and everyone connected to the Ipswich Hospital in terms of their morale and their ability to go on supporting the communities they serve. That extends to the smaller hospitals that are part of that network and everyone in the network, including primary healthcare providers as well. It shakes their confidence.

In supporting the amendment, I want to thank everyone who works at the Ipswich Hospital and other hospitals that I am connected with as an MP. Ipswich really was the epicentre of Labor's ramping legacy and it is a legacy that we will not forget for a long time because it has caused so much pain and grief for so many people in the region. That is why we are doing the work we are doing to improve services at Ipswich and across the state.

While this motion has come about in the context of the death of Christine White, I am also very aware of the loss of other loved ones in the communities that the Ipswich Hospital services, in particular the death of Wayne Irving from Boonah. Wayne was a hardworking family man, with a family he loved and who loved him. He ran a tank-cleaning business and once or twice he did clean my water tank. In 2023 he was ramped for hours and, unfortunately, despite a number of requests for escalation by paramedics at that time, Wayne passed away. I know that Wayne's family are still grieving him deeply, and I can assure them that we have not forgotten his death or the other negative patient healthcare occurrences as a result of Labor's ramping crisis.

After the decade of decline, the community has tasked us with the job of improving services. That is why this government in less than a year is taking action to reduce the impacts of Labor's decade of decline. Just weeks ago the minister and I were at Ipswich Hospital to announce the commencement of building an expanded transit care centre to improve the flow of patients through the discharge process and to ease pressure on the emergency department. It is a \$9.6 million commitment for that project which is expected to be completed by June 2026. It is all about prioritising the flow of patients and ensuring that we can better serve people in the emergency department.

I will not be lectured to by anyone in the Labor Party, anyone opposite, about Ipswich Hospital and the services there after what they did to the place. The LNP government is getting on with the job of fixing those services, including at Ipswich and other parts of Queensland, and we will continue to do that.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and reject the amendment. The motion points out the Crisafulli LNP government for what it really is: a government that is bereft of accountability and a health minister who is bereft of substance. This is a government that promised healing but what it is delivering is failing—failings that are personal, failings that are tragic, failings that are fatal. While families like those of the late Christine White are seeking answers, they have been met with deflection by this government, not compassion.

When the White family sat in this gallery yesterday—deeply grieving the preventable loss of their mother—this health minister was given opportunity after opportunity to show some real compassion. He was given repeated opportunities to simply agree to meet with the family, repeated opportunities to waive the cruel cost of their right to information application. What did he do? He stood in this chamber and refused their plea for a meeting. That is the measure of this minister—no substance. He knew that this moment of reckoning was coming. When he knew he would be questioned in this House about the preventable death of Christine White, what did he do? He cobbled together an announcement on Monday about new MRI scanners, an announcement already criticised—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I am sure I do not need to raise it again, but I take personal offence at the member's comments and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. This announcement had already been criticised because Queensland hospitals will wait years to receive them.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, the member has carried on without properly withdrawing. He has carried on with exactly the same line that he was using. It was not a full withdrawal. I take offence and ask that he withdraw.

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. I table a *Courier-Mail* article that details the criticism of the wait that Queensland hospitals and their patients will endure for these MRIs.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 15 October 2025, titled 'Two-year wait for Redland Hospital MRI' [[1582](#)].

The minister was so desperate for deflection, so lacking in substance, that he made a terrible choice for this press conference. Under his watch, Redland Hospital ramping is through the roof. It is not just patients who are ramped at Redlands; the Crisafulli government has in fact ramped the Redland Hospital workforce. The same nurses this health minister blamed for ambulance ramping are ramped up and down Wellington Street and all the streets that surround—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, again, I take personal offence at the untrue allegation and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. I think it is a bad choice to have selected that hospital for that big announcement. I am advised that the LNP members for Oodgeroo, Redlands and Capalaba had to stand there whilst ambulance ramping at that hospital on their watch is through the roof. The car parking fix that the LNP promised those nurses at the Redland Hospital has simply evaporated—another broken promise, another betrayal, another cover-up. What Queenslanders are seeing is a pattern. Preventable deaths are being ignored, promises are broken, families are left behind. Where are those local Redlands LNP members now? What have we heard about this from the members for Oodgeroo, Capalaba or Redlands after this health minister used them as cover for a very uncomfortable story?

Mr NICHOLLS: Again, Mr Speaker, it is untrue and it is offensive. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr de BRENNI: I withdraw. I say through you, Mr Speaker, to those LNP backbenchers: this is your minister. The White family were charged \$65 for a right-to-information application. The minister is paid twice what backbenchers are. You would have thought the minister could have pulled \$65 out of his pocket just after question time and walked to the gallery and handed it to them. I think today that those Redlands members must be embarrassed. They promised to fix ambulance ramping at their hospital and they failed. They promised to heal health, and they delivered failure. They promised car parking fixes, and they have evaporated. Let us be clear. This is not bad luck; it is bad leadership. It is not coincidence; it is a consequence. It is not an isolated tragedy; it is a symptom of a system led by a minister without substance.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.57 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Minister for Health. I echo the comments of the Minister for Health and I wish to also express my sympathy to the family of Christine White for their loss. It is unfortunate that those opposite have chosen to exploit a grieving family in this way. They have no shame.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms BATES: Absolutely disgraceful.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I just called for order.

Ms BATES: As noted by the Minister for Health yesterday, the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service sought to engage with the White family in a sensitive and proper manner. The circumstances of Ms White's admission to the Ipswich Hospital were complex, and the way the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite have sought to exploit this family is shameful. Noting the concerns—which I really do—of the White family, we have moved this amendment to request the director-general to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding 27 August 2025. It is truly astonishing that any Labor member of this place, particularly the member for Murrumba, can keep a straight face whilst criticising this side of the House, given the decade of decline overseen by those opposite that left the Queensland Health system in a state of chaos and crisis.

It was Queensland Labor that saw ramping triple in this state, and those opposite oversaw the highest ambulance ramping in the nation. It was Queensland Labor that saw the elective surgery waitlist almost double in this state and it was Queensland Labor that left maternity services in communities like Chinchilla, Cooktown and Biloela on bypass. Birthing services were on bypass under the former Labor government for over 3,000 days. The list is never-ending: a litany of failures by Queensland Labor, despite plenty of promises, media releases and sound bites about record funding. Make no mistake: the Queensland health system saw a decade of decline under those opposite. We saw Labor ministers more interested in trying to fix the image of Queensland Health than in actually fixing the problems causing the Queensland health crisis.

Who could forget the worst health minister in the country, the member for Waterford, whose greatest hits record includes a \$12 billion budget black hole, including \$1.8 billion missing to support the existing EBAs for those hardworking frontline nurses and doctors who have been my colleagues for years. There was broken promise after broken promise. It must hurt to be the only health minister to be sacked by all of Queensland at the last election. The member for Waterford, though, seems to have bounced back, already eyeing up the member for Murrumba's job. It does not even look like he will

make it to Christmas. In fairness to the member for Waterford, she was not the only Labor MP to fail Queenslanders in the health portfolio; it was a team effort. Who can forget, for example, that 64,171 Queenslanders were left on the elective surgery waitlist under those opposite? A decade of Labor left the Queensland health system in a dire state.

In stark contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government has gone straight to work healing Labor's health crisis. In June we introduced new laws to put local clinicians on hospital and health boards, putting local knowledge in charge of local solutions for their local communities. We are tackling Labor's ballooning waiting list, with our latest budget including \$1.75 billion over the next four years for elective surgery. We have also announced a record \$33.1 billion health budget, which included a billion dollar boost for the Queensland Ambulance Service and more than \$2.6 billion to support maintenance works across our hospital and health services. We have already outlined our Hospital Rescue Plan to deliver over 2,600 new beds across Queensland as well as invest in a larger health workforce. In fact, under the Crisafulli LNP government, Queensland Health workforce numbers have grown by 4.76 per cent, or more than 5,200 additional staff. We are improving workplace conditions with an in-principle agreement with five of our health EBAs including for paramedics, nurses and midwives, medical officers, Queensland Health staff and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

Let's not forget that those opposite inherited a ramping rate of 20.3 per cent in 2015 which they allowed to surge to 63.5 per cent. I know what ramping looks like at Ipswich Hospital. I know what Wayne Irving's family look like.

(Time expired)



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (6.02 pm): Recently the Crisafulli government brought in new hospital KPIs for ramped ambulances with a limit of two hours and 30 minutes. At the time, the AMAQ warned that clinicians should not feel pressured to meet the KPIs at the expense of patient needs. Queensland now has the worst ambulance ramping on record under the Crisafulli government and in Ipswich a majority of patients arriving at Ipswich Hospital by ambulance are waiting longer than the recommended time. One of these people was Bundamba local Christine White.

Christine was a fit and active local mother of five who died after being ramped in an ambulance at Ipswich Hospital under the LNP's new ambulance KPIs. After being ramped for two hours and 15 minutes in an ambulance, just 15 minutes less than the LNP's KPI limit of two hours and 30 minutes, Christine was placed into a wheelchair and left in the emergency department waiting room in excruciating pain, waiting for the care she needed. She continued to wait before fighting that severe pain to go home in a taxi. Then at home alone, hurt and scared, in the middle of the night Christine tragically passed away. She was found traumatically by her daughter Brooke and son, David, around 2 am after they broke into her home for a welfare check because their frantic calls went unanswered.

There are serious questions that need to be answered about the role of the LNP's new KPIs in this tragedy. Christine's grieving family have been searching for those answers, but the Crisafulli government refuses to provide them. Their searches for these answers even brought them to this parliament yesterday. Despite the simple, clear and direct questions put to the health minister, the White family's wait for answers goes on.

Was Christine moved to the waiting room so the hospital could meet the minister's new ramping KPIs? Why didn't the minister commit yesterday to repealing the LNP's brutal new KPIs? Why will the minister not refund the \$65 right-to-information fee that a grieving family has been forced to pay in their search for answers? Why are comments from Christine White's family about her death being hidden from both the minister's and the Premier's Facebook accounts as recently as within the last 48 hours? Why has the minister not personally met with Christine White's family after her death was first raised with the minister in August? The health minister could not even get the basic facts around Christine's death right. That moved—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that untrue allegation and I ask that it be withdraw.

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

Mr McCALLUM: I withdraw. Brooke, Christine's daughter, was moved to say about the health minister—

He doesn't even know how she died.

He said she died in hospital. She didn't, she actually died at home, slumped by a toilet, alone.

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, Mr Speaker, I find those remarks offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. They are untrue.

Mr McCALLUM: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in response to the member's point of order. I am directly quoting the daughter of Christine White.

Mr SPEAKER: It is still a reflection on the member. He has taken personal offence, so I ask you to withdraw.

Mr McCALLUM: I withdraw. This should never have happened. Brooke, Rosemary and the family deserve answers. They deserve the respect of the health minister to take the time to sit down and meet with them personally. They are fighting to give their mother a voice. They want to know that what happened to their mum will never happen to any other Queenslanders. They are fighting to improve a hospital system that, under the LNP, has the worst ramping in Queensland's history and we are seeing the tragic consequences of this. If the health minister will not, tonight in this chamber, as part of this motion correct the record in relation to what he said yesterday about the incorrect circumstances of Christine's death and meet with the family, then that is to his shame.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (6.08 pm): I would like to place on record my sympathies to the family of Ms Christine White. Not only did those family members lose their mother and loved one, but I am sure that grieving such a loss takes a very long time to work through. I pass on my condolences to the family.

In the time that I have been here, there have been a lot of victims of the health system and failures within and it is important to note that you cannot fix a problem if you never acknowledge it in the first place. Today I think was a great example where we saw ministers of the Crown here in Queensland willing to stand up and own up and front up to failures and mistakes that we have uncovered that have happened in departments that they are now, as ministers of the Crown, responsible for. We saw that with Minister Camm's many contributions outlining the work that she is now undertaking to fix the many failures in her department that have left Queensland with a big mess in the child safety system. We saw Minister Purdie stand up and front up as soon as he had uncovered a failure with regard to data that unfortunately ended up being misleading, but he fronted up and said that it was not good enough and corrected the record at the earliest opportunity. Minister Nicholls has spent a lot of time in this House talking about failures of the health system and fronting up and being on the front foot with Queenslanders by being open, transparent and accountable.

We as the LNP believe in individual responsibility, so we believe in the ministerial responsibilities that my colleagues in the cabinet have been given and they are doing what they can to fix the many failures that we have inherited and that continue to run through those departments. We have seen the Coaldrake report that outlined many cultural failures within those departments and I have seen firsthand now as part of a government that those cultural issues are going to take a very long time to fix, but I know the ministers of the Crown are doing everything they can to get all Queensland departments back on track. They are making sure they are up-front and honest with ministers and share the failures that are happening for the betterment of Queenslanders. In contrast, we saw a decade of decline, a culture of cover-ups and, frankly, a decade of chaos and crisis that saw many health metrics get worse in this state. Many of my colleagues have touched on some of these, but—

A government member: Tell us about them.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection: the Biloela maternity ward on bypass for a couple of years under those opposite. With regard to ministers coming to communities, I called on the then minister for health, the now shadow treasurer, to come and front up to that community and meet with mothers who had given birth on the side of the road in my electorate and to meet with the staff who were on the front line.

Ms Fentiman: I met with many of those mothers. That's the difference.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. The member did not meet with the mothers who were on the front line of her birthing failures in Callide even though I called for it on a number of occasions. At the Ipswich Hospital, which this tragedy is related to, those opposite inherited a ramping rate of 20.3 per cent in 2015 and they allowed it to surge to 63½ per cent in 2024. When something is being used as a political weapon, the very best thing for it is to ensure that all of the facts are out there. That is why I support this amended motion, but that is out of our hands as the amendment suggests. I support the Minister for Health and the hard work that he is putting in to fix the Queensland Health crisis that we inherited from those opposite.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.13 pm): I rise to also associate myself with the remarks of condolence that have already been expressed by members of this House. We know that Queenslanders deserve a health system that works, where ambulances turn up when people call, where scans are read on time, where people get a follow-up when they are supposed to and where every patient is treated with care and dignity, but that is not what is happening under this LNP government, and they are the words that have been used already by the opposition leader. However, in my contribution I want to specifically address part 4 of the amendment—that is, the management of the health system—and contrast that with the LNP's performance. What we do know is that our health system is faltering under the LNP. What happened to Christine White is a symbol of what happens to ordinary Queenslanders under the LNP's health system failures.

Another of the health system failures under the LNP is this: the hospital expansion program across Queensland has been delayed or abandoned, and the most prominent of those of course is the Redcliffe Hospital. There has been a lot of community pressure put on the LNP and the local LNP member about this issue and they have come up with an announcement—that is, they have said that they are going to put out a tender for a construction partner. Well done! Good work, but what about this: what exactly is a construction partner? Is that like an equity partner or an investment partner? When we hear those words, we hear the code and we recognise that code and we know what that code is for—privatisation. It is code to sell off and it is code for putting health services not in the hands of Queenslanders but in the hands of multinational companies. We know that the LNP cannot help itself. We are back to the old LNP that cut, sacked and sold. When government gets too hard for the LNP, what does it do?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand there is the allowance for a broad range of issues in relation to these motions, but I ask whether this is entirely relevant to the motion as put forward as well as the amendment as moved by the member for Clayfield.

Mr WHITING: Can I address that point of order?

Mr SPEAKER: If you can convince me whether it fits into the motion that you are speaking to.

Mr WHITING: Mr Speaker, what I am doing is specifically addressing point 4 of the amendment where the LNP has made comment on the management of the health system. I am addressing that by contrasting that with the management of the health system under the LNP. Further, I have been addressing those issues of management that have been raised by previous speakers on this side.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be listening very closely.

Mr WHITING: Thank you. On the issue of delivering a better health system, I want the LNP to tell us why it has called for a construction partner. Why has it not called for a builder? Why has it not called for a builder to design and construct this hospital expansion? This is the other question I have: when is it going to build it? That is a question people want an answer to: when is this hospital being built? The other big question that people are asking is how much it is going to cost.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, there is nothing in this motion about building hospitals. I would ask you to come back to the motion please.

Mr WHITING: Thank you. Just clarifying—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, I have made my ruling. Continue.

Mr WHITING: Christine White stands as a symbol of the failure of the LNP to properly manage its healthcare system on behalf of Queenslanders. Its failure to deliver the Redcliffe Hospital expansion also stands as a symbol of its failure because we know—

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is aware that that matter is before the Ethics Committee and is aware that those matters should not be discussed.

Mr SPEAKER: Just hold on one second; I will take a bit of advice. Member for Bancroft, I would caution you not to stray into anything that might be before the Ethics Committee. The member for Mermaid Beach is on the Ethics Committee, so I am taking a little bit of guidance from that. Exercise a little caution there, thank you.

Mr POWER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order about influencing the Ethics Committee. Nothing that has been put forward is in any way influencing the Ethics Committee.

Mr SPEAKER: I just asked him to exercise caution. That is what I did.

Mr WHITING: I am very well aware of that particular issue in front of the Ethics Committee and I have been at pains over the last week to avoid mentioning that particular issue about the Redcliffe Hospital expansion.

In conclusion, what we are seeing across Queensland is the management of our system faltering. At our hospitals—at Ipswich and particularly at Redcliffe—people are waiting longer in an ambulance. They are waiting longer to see a specialist at local hospitals like Redcliffe and they are waiting longer for their planned surgery at Redcliffe Hospital and other hospitals. That is the record of the LNP in Queensland. As I said, Christine White stands as a symbol of everything that is going wrong with the LNP's management of our hospital system.

Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order



Mr SPEAKER: Before I go to the next speaker, standing order 94 provides—

Every amendment must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend.

I consider the last seven words of the amendment to introduce new material outside the scope of the motion.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (6.20 pm): It goes without saying that our sympathies are with the family of Christine White. They not only lost their mother but are now having their grief exploited within this chamber.

Every week in Queensland, almost 300 people pass through one of our health and hospital services. There are some 100,000-odd employees across the state who work hard—tirelessly and sacrificially—to provide the best possible care they can to Queenslanders. In fact, sadly, just a few weeks ago my nephew passed in the Townsville Hospital. His death has had a massive impact on our family. He was injured at Mount Ravenswood while doing some cattle work. It brings into sharp focus the incredible sacrifice that people in the agricultural sector offer in terms of bringing food to our homes and providing for us across this nation. The funeral in Townsville was a real tribute to him and the family. There were more than 500 people who gathered at Calvary Chapel to say goodbye to Johnno. He was a young man of 42 years of age who, even after being airlifted some six hours after the injury to Townsville Hospital by a chopper that Queensland Health dispatched from Mackay, sadly, a day or two later passed from a seizure. The reality is that people do pass in our hospitals. There are tragic circumstances that are outside the health minister's control and outside the control of hospital workers. I have absolute confidence that the vast majority of people who work within Queensland Health are doing all they can to support Queenslanders.

A few years ago, the member for Gregory invited me to travel with him to Boulia. That was quite an experience. We spent some time at Barcaldine and in Emerald, where my eldest son has served as the district medical officer for a number of years. Then we travelled to Boulia to meet with an Indigenous family, who sadly lost one of their sisters to cancer. They shared the story of how they were unable to get the adequate care and support they needed in Mount Isa and how their sister released herself from hospital in Mount Isa and hopped on a bus all the way to Toowoomba seeking better care. By the time the driver was approaching Toowoomba, she was in such a bad state that the driver arranged to have an ambulance waiting for her so that she could be properly cared for.

I think it is sad that we roll out these stories and people cast aspersions and reflect on the character of our minister. I was so proud of the minister just a few weeks ago when a similar matter was raised in the House. I thought Minister Nicholls handled himself with incredible dignity. I have to say, I would not want to be a health minister for all the tea in China. I have seen it as we have attacked other health ministers over the years, as we have raised issues that sometimes are outside of their control, but I have every confidence, from the time I have spent with Minister Nicholls, that he is doing his absolute best to carry out the responsibilities of his portfolio. In fact, just a few weeks ago I had the pleasure of spending a day with him on the coast as he visited the Gold Coast hospital. The staff were absolutely ecstatic with the time he spent and the patience he exercised in speaking with them and in valuing them—from the lady on the front counter right through to the head of neurology. I commend Minister Nicholls on the great work he is doing. I remind the House that this should be a place of respect and dignity, not taking cheap shots at people over human tragedy.

(Time expired)



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (6.25 pm): Being the health minister is one of the hardest jobs in government. It is tough. Every day you are faced with decisions that impact people's lives. I know that; I have done it. I understand what the minister faces. What matters most in that job, more

than any KPI or any headline, is listening—really listening. It is not a perfect system. Things, of course, do go wrong. When they do—especially when they go wrong after you have introduced a new policy—the least you can do is sit down and hear from the people who have been directly affected. When I was health minister I tried each and every day to do that.

I note that the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Mudgeeraba raised the tragic case of Wayne Irving. I spent many hours speaking directly with the family of Wayne Irving. I listened, even when it was hard—even when the stories were incredibly confronting—because that is how you learn. That is how you can use your position to change things for the better, to fix things and to help solve the problems. It is also how you show respect and it is also how you demonstrate to the community that you are a leader and you are prepared to do the hard things. That engenders confidence for the community in our health system which is also really important. That is why I want to extend my deepest sympathies to the family of Christine White and to her incredible children. I think they have shown enormous courage in speaking out about their experiences and what happened to their mum.

Let's be clear: this tragedy happened in the same month that the health minister's new performance KPIs were introduced in our hospitals. When you change the rules, there is always pressure on staff and potential risks to patient care. When someone has died, the decent thing to do is spend time with that family. When Brooke reached out to me after seeing some of the advocacy I had been doing around women's health, I called her, I met with her and her sisters—Rosemary, Amy and Christill—and I listened to their story. They told me about the day that Brooke found their mum alone in her home, in the bathroom, after searching for pain relief. It is so important to sit down with families who have had that experience, because it is those details that stay with you every day in your role as minister and it is what drives you to do better, to make the system better. It is what motivates you each and every day. Those details matter. After yesterday, it is clear that the health minister is not across all of the facts of this matter. I think it is really important that he takes the time. We have been in here for almost an hour. He could have had a meeting with the family in that time.

Queenslanders deserve to know that in their moment of need—when they walk into a hospital or when they are on an ambulance ramp—they will be looked after. For the minister to say that he will not meet with the family because there is an investigation underway is a cop-out, quite frankly. No-one is asking the minister to interfere. This family, who are grieving, are simply asking to be heard, because they do not want another Queenslanders to die at home, alone and in pain.

If the minister cannot even meet with them, if he cannot even listen to their experience, how can we hope to make the system better? How can we hope to relieve some of the pressure that this very busy health system is under? Stories are so powerful because they do stay with you and help drive and motivate you. I think every Queenslanders should have faith that when they need help, when they are at their most vulnerable, the health system will be there. Listening does not just show empathy; it saves lives. It is a lesson that this minister clearly needs to learn fast before another Queensland family pays the ultimate price.

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (6.30 pm): Can I begin, as all members have in the debate on this motion, by extending my deepest condolences to the White family for the devastating loss of their mother, Christine. I thank them for coming to this place to turn their trauma into a search for answers, but, more importantly, to do what they can to improve the system and to make things better so others do not have to experience what they have. It was around the middle of last year when one of my own constituents, David from Biggera Waters, and his partner, Robert, had a six-hour wait for an ambulance and then spent a further two hours ramped at the hospital, waiting for care. These stories matter. I commend the White family for bringing it to the attention of this place.

I am very proud to be the member of parliament who represents the Gold Coast University Hospital. In my own community—one of the fastest growing regions in the nation—we have waited more than a decade for a hospital to be built between GCUH in Southport and the Logan Hospital. The former Labor government completely botched the Coomera Hospital project from day one. They designed it for just 400 beds. They designed it without basic services like pathology and pharmacy. It did not even have an outpatient department. It was infrastructure planning by press release with no follow-through.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Bonney is speaking about building hospitals. Given your earlier ruling, I would urge you to bring the member back to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you have the motion in front of you.

Mr O'CONNOR: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will speak to point 4 of the amendment around Labor's decade of decline that the Crisafulli government is now turning around, including by delivering 600 beds—200 more beds than Labor—in Coomera with day surgery, maternity services, operating theatres and intensive care. That is important. This motion is about ramping. The Gold Coast University Hospital has the busiest emergency department in the nation. Work on the Coomera Hospital is now well underway to make sure that our local health workers do not have to wait another decade for their state government to get its act together.

Right across Queensland we are putting our money where Labor's excuses were. We have delivered a record health budget and our Hospital Rescue Plan. The amendment talks about transparency. Queenslanders deserve that in their health system. They deserve a government that is up-front with them. The point of the amendment calling for the release of fulsome information with the consent of the family will help to address this as well.

I do want to address a piece of misinformation from the Labor Party that we have heard from the member for Gaven, as always, about services on the Gold Coast. We have seen a scare campaign about the Parkwood low-acuity accommodation facility. Just to be very clear, that is not a hospital; it is a hotel. The Crisafulli government, as the member for Southport was mentioning, has been very proud to open 70 new beds at GCUH at H block. The facility that the member for Gaven referred to at the Mantra Southport Sharks was established under a temporary contract. That was always going to end on 31 October this year. We very clearly want people in hospitals, not hotels. That is pretty basic.

An opposition member: So build them already!

Mr O'CONNOR: We have: 70 beds have been delivered. I will take that interjection. We have delivered 70 beds in H block at the Gold Coast University Hospital which we were proud to have the health minister officially open. Labor's delays to H block meant that it was nearly two years behind schedule. We stepped in and rescued their failing project. We invested \$146 million.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the points of order that have been raised in relation to relevance. I am no health expert, but I presume a low-acuity facility would not have ambulances attending it and would not therefore be relevant to the issue of ramping.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is on relevance. Stick to the motion, thank you.

Mr O'CONNOR: This will shock the House, but I accept the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business: a hotel is not a hospital and I thank the Labor Party for finally acknowledging that. The LNP is not going to take lectures from the party who presided over the Jayant Patel scandal. We are not going to take lectures from the party that presided over the fake Tahitian prince scandal. We are not going to take lectures on health care from the party who presided over the nurse payroll debacle. They have a long and pathetic history of mismanagement of Queensland Health and every single time it takes the Liberal National Party to be elected to clean up the mess that Labor leaves.

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

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

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

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Pairs: Purdie, Furner; Stoker, Butcher.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Please ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 49:

LNP, 49—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 35:

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

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Pairs: Purdie, Furner; Stoker, Butcher.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion as agreed—

That this House:

1. expresses its sympathy to the White family for the tragic loss of Christine White on 27 August 2025;
2. notes the concerns of the White family;
3. requests the director-general to seek the permission of the White family for the government to release a full account of the events surrounding 27 August 2025;
4. notes that during Labor's decade of decline ramping tripled.

Sitting suspended from 6.43 pm to 7.45 pm.

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

EDUCATION (GENERAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.45 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, under the provisions of standing order 137:
 - (a) the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill, with the minister called to reply to the bill by 12.20 pm on Thursday, 16 October 2025 and all remaining stages of the bill to be completed by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 16 October 2025;
 - (b) the Education (General Provisions) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill, with the minister called to reply to the bill by 8.20 pm on Thursday, 16 October 2025 and all remaining stages of the bill to be completed by 9.00 pm on Thursday, 16 October 2025.
2. If all stages have not been completed by the time specified in 1., Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses and schedules en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

I will briefly address this procedural motion. We know that there is important legislation that needs to be passed by the government this week. Tomorrow we will also move a condolence motion in relation to a former member and there are important reports that need to be debated as well. The Manager of Opposition Business will not be surprised in relation to this motion that we are putting forward. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CORONERS (MINING AND RESOURCES CORONER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3119, on motion of Mrs Frecklington—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.47 pm), continuing: In the public hearing, the member for Mackay asked questions of Ms Coles from the Caxton Legal Centre. The member for Mackay asked—

How would you react to the mining coroner looking at suicides within the mining camp and also to and from work—say, a single-vehicle crash?

Ms Coles said—

We think suicides within the mining camp should be included within the jurisdiction, because, effectively, people are being required to stay in that place in order to perform their work in the mining sector.

The member for Mackay asked—

What is the advantage of having it included in the legislation under the mining coroner?

Ms Coles responded—

Because you are creating a specialist jurisdiction with a person who will have specialist knowledge, who can develop their understanding over time and who can make consistent recommendations which might improve practices, that is the benefit—to harness that specialist jurisdiction.

That is the difference between a reportable death being the responsibility of a coroner and having a mining related death looked at by a mining and resources coroner. It will be the Mining and Resources Coroner who will have to investigate, tragically, deaths onsite because of suicide or road deaths. They will be able to put forward recommendations that better reform the industry and how the sector looks after its workers. That is the difference. It is about creating an expert in the sector, working in the field, to ensure there are better reforms into the future. The member for Mackay asked—

Expanding on travelling to and from, what advantage would there be to a mining coroner investigating that unnatural death—be it through a crash, through fatigue or through mental health issues—as opposed to the general State Coroner?

Ms Warden, representing the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, said—

When you look quite deeply, the coroner—

that is, the mining coroner—

is already addressing significant matters in the resources industry so he is already going to have the predisposition and the experience to look at those matters, as opposed to a separate coroner. If he is already dealing with other matters for coalmining, for P and G—and obviously we would like to see the Mineral Resources Act—he is going to have that experience and knowledge around the industry and he is going to have a deeper understanding of what is required to undertake that investigation, as opposed to a separate coroner.

It is very clear that the LNP have not listened to the legal experts and industry professionals and representatives when it comes to this piece of legislation. Ms Dickson, of the same association, said—

I might follow up on improvements that have happened in operating mines because of an additional focus on fatigue type issues—that is, improvements to night shift and shift timings to try and help workers manage their fatigue and help them get home safely ...

That shows the importance of setting up a dedicated coroner in a specific industry to ensure that all deaths that happen onsite within that sector are investigated by someone in that specific role. It means they can build up a dataset of incidents that have occurred and the reasons those incidents have occurred and then put forward consequential reforms that flow from one to the other. It is not just a hotchpotch of findings without greater recommendations. That is why this is so important.

That is why those opposite should be supporting the amendments that have been foreshadowed by the shadow attorney-general. In the committee hearing the member for Mirani asked the Queensland Law Society—

For clarity, can you give the reasons road accidents involving workers travelling to and from site should be included in the bill?

Mr Tate answered—

Certainly ... It has already been documented that driving in and out from site and coalmine workers' fatigue can lead to fatalities and has an impact on society.

A representative from the MEU stated—

... psychosocial issues or injuries are really prevalent. The rate of workers compensation around psychosocial injuries is well above physical injuries as a trend.

So it is okay to have workers compensation assigned to psychosocial injuries that happen on the mine site but it is not okay to have the dedicated industry coroner mandatorily investigate deaths on mine sites. How does that make any sense to those opposite?

In a debate generally one side tries to convince the other side. I plead with the member for Mackay and the member for Mirani, who I know are decent people and who I know are doing what they believe is best for their constituents, to vote in favour of the opposition's amendments. You will not be voting against the government. Do the right thing by your people, member for Mirani and member for Mackay—support our amendments, support your constituents, follow your conscience.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Bundaberg, please remember standing order 244(7) and use members' full titles or their electoral districts.

 **Mr GKELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (7.53 pm): I am proud to rise tonight to speak on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill. Mirani is built on mining. The goldmine at Mount Morgan once made it one of the richest towns in the world, let alone Queensland. Today, coal and other resources play a huge role in our local economy.

Thousands of people from my electorate head out to the mines each week—do their shifts, put food on the table and provide for their families. They put money back into our towns and build a better life for their kids. We often forget when we talk about employment numbers that these are not just statistics. They are real people—each with their own families, friends, hobbies and own little pocket of the world.

Mining can be dangerous work. Even with the best safety systems in place, sometimes things go wrong. When tragedy strikes, it does not just affect one site or one company; it sends shock waves through a community—a family loses a loved one, kids lose a parent and a mate can be gone forever. When that happens, families deserve answers. They deserve to know what went wrong, how it happened and what will be done to stop it happening again.

Mining is one of the biggest employers in Mirani. This bill means a lot to our communities. It ensures that when something tragic happens there is a proper investigation and that the loved ones left behind get answers. We all want our workers to be safe. We want them to go home at the end of their shift. By investigating every death properly we can help prevent future tragedies. We owe that to every man and woman who steps out onto a mine site.

This bill strengthens our commitment to safety and accountability in the mining industry. We already have very capable coroners in Queensland, but mining deaths often involve highly technical evidence and industry specific detail. A dedicated coroner for the mining and resources sector will make sure that person has the right experience and understanding of how the industry works. That means investigations that are faster, more thorough and more accurate. It means findings that make sense to both the families and the industry.

This bill will also ensure accountability. Findings from inquests will be made public so the community and the families can see where things went wrong and companies can be held responsible when they should be. The LNP has listened to the families who have lost loved ones in the industry. They have asked for better support, more transparency and fairer access to justice. This bill delivers that.

One death on a mine site is one too many. By having a dedicated mining coroner—with mandatory inquests when tragedy strikes—we will get investigations done faster and more effectively. That coroner will have real-world experience in mining safety and operations. They will look not just at compliance but at culture, systems and pressures that can lead to mistakes. The recommendations that come from those inquests will be grounded in genuine understanding and they will help prevent future losses.

This matters deeply to families and to the people who still go to work in mines every day. A coronial process can be complex and intimidating, especially with all the technical evidence involved. A coroner who understands the industry can speak to families with more empathy and explain clearly what happened, why it happened and what will change because of it. That reassurance matters. It brings closure and builds confidence that our system truly cares for them. It shows workers that their safety is being taken seriously at the highest level. This bill is a step forward for worker safety and accountability.

Any loss of life by suicide is tragic—devastating for the family, friends and colleagues left behind. Those opposite might say that this bill should go further and that we should make it mandatory to hold an inquest into every suicide involving a mine worker. While I do understand their intent, doing that would put an unnecessary burden on the coroner. It would mean investigating every suicide, even when there is no connection to the person's work. Under current law, every suicide is already investigated because it is considered a reportable death under the Coroners Act. This bill does not change that. What it does is ensure the Mining and Resources Coroner focuses on cases that are actually linked to mining operations.

The coroner can still hold an inquest into a mine worker's suicide if they believe it is connected to their work, and that is the right balance. The same principle applies to road deaths involving mine workers travelling to or from a site. Making these inquests mandatory might sound good in theory, but

many of these deaths have nothing to do with fatigue or the job itself. If the coroner believes there is a genuine connection to work, they already have the power to investigate, but if we made every case mandatory we would end up with countless unnecessary inquests. Anyone who has driven from Sarina to Moranbah, or Mount Morgan to Moranbah, knows the real risks on those roads—wandering livestock, bad weather, poor visibility and drivers not driving to the conditions. That is why we need to let the coroner decide when it is appropriate. Making it mandatory would create more problems than it solves.

Finally, members opposite have tried to twist questions during my inquiry. They claim that because I have asked questions I do not support the bill. That is completely wrong. The whole point of an inquiry is to listen, to test the evidence and to weight it up properly. I went in with an open mind, as every member should. For electorates like Mirani, this means safer mine sites, quicker answers and stronger trust in our system.

This bill stands for accountability, for workers' safety and for justice for our mining communities. It ensures that no life lost is forgotten and that every lesson is learned. I am proud to support the bill, and I am proud to stand as a member of the government that is bringing it forward. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.01 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. The stated aim of this bill is to provide more timely answers and greater certainty to families of those who have tragically lost their lives in mining related incidents, to ensure their deaths are properly investigated, lessons are learned and future tragedies are prevented. Importantly, it is also designed to ensure that companies in the mining and resources sector are held accountable when things go wrong.

The bill amends the Coroners Act 2003 to establish a dedicated position of Mining and Resources Coroner and require the Mining and Resources Coroner to undertake mandatory coronial investigations and inquests into all accidental mining related deaths including those occurring in mines, coalmines and quarries as well as at sites where petroleum and gas operations are carried out. These are significant changes—changes that recognise the unique nature of Queensland's mining and resources sector and the critical importance of transparency, accountability and justice when a worker loses their life at work.

The Queensland Labor opposition believes—and has always believed—that every worker has the right to be safe at work and to come home safe from work. This is a right, not a privilege. No industry, no matter how important to our economy, is exempt from that fundamental principle. For decades, Labor has championed the safety, health and wellbeing of workers across all industries through strong legislative reform. We have strengthened the rights of health and safety representatives, extended industrial manslaughter laws and taken firm action to prevent workplace harassment. Labor introduced Australia's first paid reproductive health leave for public sector workers and we implemented respect at work laws to ensure safer, fairer workplaces. In stark contrast, the LNP's history is one of weakening worker protections and prioritising profit over people. Through consistent advocacy, often in partnership with Queensland unions, Labor has built a framework that puts the safety and dignity of workers first. That legacy must be maintained and strengthened.

Queensland's mining and resources workforces are among the most skilled and dedicated in the world. These men and women work in challenging environments and make a tremendous contribution to our state's prosperity. The Labor opposition is committed to ensuring their workplaces are safe, their voices are heard and their families are protected. That is why the opposition will not stand in the way of the majority of amendments proposed under this bill. However, we must be honest about the bill's shortcomings, and there are several. These concerns are shared not only by the opposition but also by key industrial stakeholders, legal experts and representatives of the workforce itself.

One of the most significant concerns relates to clause 5(d), the decision of the Crisafulli government to explicitly remove 'intentionally self-inflicted injuries' from the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner's responsibilities. This omission is deeply troubling, particularly given the nature of traditional fly-in fly-out, drive-in drive-out work arrangements. When mining workers spend extended periods away from family and community, living in company provided accommodation in remote locations, these circumstances can lead to isolation, loneliness and mental health challenges that are well documented in the sector. Research consistently shows that workers in the mining, construction and energy industries experience suicide rates up to 80 per cent higher than the general Australian population. That statistic alone should give this parliament pause. The Mining and Energy Union made this point powerfully in its submission to the committee with regard to excluding suicide when it stated—

This is a failing of obligations to protect the health and safety of workers under Queensland's resources safety and health legislation. If not properly investigated, irrespective of the location in which the death occurred, this type of fatality can endanger and cause serious detriment to the lives of other workers.

The Coronial Assistance Legal Service also stressed that suicides in mining are a significant industrial and social issue that must be addressed proactively. It stated—

Mining is recognised as a locational, institutional and occupational setting with an elevated suicide risk ...

and that the full extent of the Mining and Resources Coroner's 'expertise should be utilised'.

If we are to establish a specialised Mining and Resources Coroner, it would be an extraordinary oversight not to include suicides within the coroner's remit. Such investigations would identify underlying causes and improve the sector's approach to mental health and support services, saving lives in the process.

Further, the bill does not provide scope for investigating fatalities on public roads when those deaths occur while workers are travelling to or from mining sites for work related purposes. This exclusion undermines the stated intent of the bill to provide timely answers to families and prevent future deaths. Fatigue related accidents are well known and a persistent issue in the resources sector. The Queensland Law Society noted in its submission—

Fatigue related injuries and risk management remains a significant issue for the resources sector ... enforcement and review need to be a priority.

The Mining and Energy Union similarly warned—

... where shift work, long hours, early starts and late finishes are common, coal mine workers are especially vulnerable to fatigue. Coupled with ... worsening road conditions ... this has increased the risk of accidents, particularly for tired or distracted drivers.

Even the member for Mirani acknowledged in the committee hearings that fatigue is a major concern for his constituents, noting that the rules around rest periods before driving home vary widely across different mine sites. If the intent of this bill is to ensure comprehensive investigation of all mining related deaths then deaths resulting from fatigue on journeys to and from mine sites must be within scope. After the Mining and Energy Union publicly called for these changes, a statement from Minister Last's office declared—

We're not going to duplicate work already undertaken by agencies like the Queensland Police Service ... The scope of the mining coroner's investigation will be anchored around mining safety because mining safety in our resources sector is not negotiable.

While no-one disputes the importance of mining safety, this statement demonstrates a narrow and incomplete understanding of what safety truly means. Mining safety is not confined to what happens within the fence line of a mine site; it includes the psychological wellbeing of workers, the conditions under which they travel and the long-term health effects of exposure to hazardous environments. By ignoring psychosocial safety and road safety, the government risks undermining the very purpose of this reform.

It has also failed to include deaths caused by illness or disease resulting from mining work such as dust lung diseases. The Queensland Law Society raised this issue directly, stating that from a health and safety perspective injuries and illnesses are treated the same and that if there is a possible causal link between the death and the work activity the death should be treated as 'in scope' and referred to the Mining and Resources Coroner. To exclude deaths arising from occupational disease when those diseases are directly linked to mining activity is inconsistent with both the spirit and the intent of the bill. If a dedicated coroner is to develop expertise in mining safety, that expertise must be extended to all forms of mining related deaths, whether they occur through accident, disease or mental health. The establishment of a Mining and Resources Coroner is an important and necessary reform. It recognises the dangers inherent in the mining industry and provides a mechanism for families to obtain answers when tragedy strikes.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025—a crucial reform for Queensland's mining, quarrying, petroleum and gas sectors and, most importantly, for the families and communities affected by fatalities in these industries. At 9.25 am on the 19th day of September 1921 a violent explosion occurred in the underground workings of Mount Mulligan Mine, west of Cairns, killing 75 men. A coalmine reputed to be one of the safest mines of its time—Mount Mulligan—was the site of Australia's second worst mining disaster. There were no survivors. Two of those men who died in the blast were my grandfather's brother and his son. After the Mount Mulligan disaster, Queensland enacted a separate coalmining act to introduce regulations aimed at enhancing coalminer safety; however, those provisions were unfortunately implemented too late to benefit those who lost their lives at Mount Mulligan in 1921.

Historical patterns indicate that ongoing challenges remain in ensuring the safety of mine workers. To address this, a culture of continuous improvement is necessary. Accordingly, this bill fulfils the Queensland government's election commitment by re-establishing and strengthening the powers of the mining warden's court through the creation of a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner. This specialist coroner will have the authority and responsibility to investigate every mining related fatality in Queensland, ensuring thorough and timely investigations and mandatory inquests into all mining related reportable deaths.

Currently, under the Coroners Act 2003, a coroner must investigate all reportable deaths, including those occurring on mine sites. However, the legislation gives the coroner discretion to decide whether a formal inquest is necessary, which means not every mining related fatality is subject to a public inquiry. This approach can sometimes leave families without full answers and may result in limited public scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding mining deaths.

This bill marks a significant shift in how mining related deaths are handled in Queensland. It introduces a requirement for mandatory inquests into all mining fatalities, removing the coroner's discretion in these cases. By making inquests compulsory, the bill ensures every death connected to mining activities, whether in coalmines, in quarries or at petroleum and gas sites, is thoroughly and transparently examined in a public forum. This process will shed light on the causes and contributing factors of each incident, allowing lessons to be learnt and safety standards improved across the industry.

The mandatory inquest provision increases transparency and accountability by guaranteeing that findings from mining fatality investigations are publicly reported. Families of the deceased can be assured that their loved one's death will be properly investigated and the outcomes made available to the community. This not only delivers certainty and closure for families but also helps to hold mining companies and regulators to account, fostering a culture of safety and continuous improvement throughout Queensland's resources sector.

Key features of the bill establish the Mining and Resources Coroner as a magistrate, appointed by the Governor in Council after consultation with the Chief Magistrate and State Coroner. This new position will have the full powers and functions of a coroner as well as the specific mandate to conduct investigations and inquests for deaths arising from coalmines, other mines, including quarries and mining railways, and certain petroleum and gas sites.

When not engaged in mining related matters, the Mining and Resources Coroner will assist with general coronial work, helping to reduce the pressure on the broader coronial system. To improve support for bereaved families, a dedicated liaison position will be created within the Coroners Court of Queensland, ensuring families are informed and supported throughout the investigation and inquest process.

The bill contains clear definitions to ensure only deaths genuinely related to mining, quarrying or petroleum and gas operations are within scope. A mining related death is defined as a violent or unnatural death resulting from injuries sustained while undertaking relevant activities at a coalmine, mine, quarry or certain petroleum and gas sites. Importantly, deaths from unrelated activities such as farming accidents on mine land or intentional self-harm are excluded from the mandatory inquest provisions, though all reportable deaths remain subject to investigation under the Coroners Act.

The bill also recognises the complex regulatory environment. Allowing the Mining and Resources Coroner to investigate deaths that may fall under several health and safety authorities will ensure no case falls through the cracks. Beyond the establishment of the Mining and Resources Coroner, the bill makes several technical amendments to the Coroners Act to improve efficiency. These include allowing for more than one deputy state coroner, expanding who can conduct preliminary examinations and clarifying administrative processes. These changes will streamline operations and reduce burden on the Coroners Court.

The bill has been drafted with due regard to fundamental legislative principles. It preserves protections against self-incrimination, ensuring any evidence compelled in an inquest cannot be used against a witness in other proceedings except for perjury. Transitional provisions ensure ongoing and unresolved investigations into mining related deaths are transferred to the new coroner where appropriate. The bill also provides flexibility to decide against holding an inquest for older cases if it is not in the public interest, after taking into account the views of the deceased family and the time elapsed since the death.

The bill was developed following targeted consultation with the Chief Magistrate, the State Coroner, legal professionals, industry and unions. Feedback was carefully considered to ensure the bill is robust and fit for purpose. Unlike some other Australian jurisdictions where mining wardens focus on civil disputes, this bill delivers a uniquely Queensland solution, ensuring mining fatalities are investigated to the highest standards of independence and transparency.

Funding has been allocated to support the new position including salary, legal support, expert fees and family liaison services. These investments are essential to ensure the coroner can conduct thorough investigations and deliver timely findings, keeping mining companies accountable and providing closure to families.

Unlike other Australian states and territories which mainly use mining wardens or warden's courts to resolve civil mining disputes, Queensland's bill creates a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner to independently investigate mining related deaths. This approach is unique. Most other jurisdictions, except Tasmania, assign such investigations to general coroners, who may lack mining experience. Queensland's model sets a new standard for independence and transparency in mining fatality investigations.

The Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 is a significant step forward for workplace safety, transparency and justice in Queensland's mining and resources sector. It ensures families affected by mining tragedies receive answers, drives continuous improvement in industry safety practices and upholds the public's trust in our coronial system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (8.20 pm): I rise today to support the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. The establishment of a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner is a positive step forward ensuring all accidental mining related deaths, including those in coalmines and quarries and at specified petroleum and gas sites, are subject to mandatory and specialised coronial investigations and inquests. Under the bill, the new coroner will have full coronial powers and the authority to deliver findings and recommendations to prevent future tragedies. This delivers much needed answers to grieving families and enhances transparency, accountability and proactive safety improvements within the mining industry.

While this legislation is welcome, it is sadly inadequate. Submissions to the committee from stakeholders emphasise that the bill excludes some critical categories of mining related deaths including the following. It excludes suicides and suspected suicides, which often stem from workplace conditions, systemic stresses associated with mining or FIFO lifestyles. Strangely, the explanatory notes suggest suicide will be considered, but it was not present in the bill itself. That was unusual. It fails to include deaths caused by occupational illness such as mine dust lung disease, despite these being directly attributed to long-term mining exposure. It does not cover transport related deaths either, such as workers travelling to or from mine sites, despite these journeys being requirements of the job.

The committee submissions rightly argued that if the government is setting up a dedicated mining coroner with expertise in the mining industry then why exclude these deaths? It just does not seem to make sense. Regarding suicide, the Coronial Assistance Legal Service stated—

Suicides in mining are a contemporary societal and industrial issue that should be proactively addressed by the Act. Mining is recognised as a locational, institutional and occupational setting with an elevated suicide risk.

Excluding suicide from the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner's investigation runs directly counter to the intent of this bill, which aims to provide timely information to affected families and enhance safety across the mining and resources sector. Psychosocial safety must be treated with the same importance as physical safety on mine sites, yet it is clear, and disappointing, that the LNP do not share this view.

Another issue relates to deaths due to occupational illness. The scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner does not include diseases or illnesses arising from mine work such as mine dust lung disease. This exclusion undermines the coroner's role in making recommendations to improve worker safety and it ignores a critical health and safety issue inherent in many mining operations. If the government were truly committed to improving safety conditions for future generations it would not shy away from assigning this vital responsibility to the Mining and Resources Coroner. The Queensland Law Society's submission to the committee also took issue with this, stating—

If there is a possible causal link between the death and the 'in scope' work activity, the death should be treated in the same way as if it resulted from a physical incident causing death and be referred to the MRC.

Another issue relates to transport related deaths. That is extremely relevant to this sector. Mining and resource sector workers face a unique challenge in the travel to and from remote worksites. Shiftwork in the industry often involves long hours, early starts, late finishes and overnight shifts. These demanding schedules can cause significant fatigue, increasing the risk of accidents when workers drive tired or distracted. Despite this, the government has excluded motor vehicle fatalities occurring during travel to and from mine sites from the scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner's investigation. This is reflected in the submission from the Mining and Energy Union which states—

In the mining industry, where shift work, long hours, early starts and late finishes are common, coal mine workers are especially vulnerable to fatigue.

The Labor opposition and other stakeholders, including the QLS and the MEU, have called for the scope to be expanded to include these categories to ensure comprehensive, industry-specific scrutiny. Only then can we address systemic causes of death beyond the current narrow definition in the bill so we can truly drive preventive active and strengthen worker protection.

It was disappointing to see that the LNP's response to these sensible suggestions was that they are 'not going to duplicate work that's already undertaken by agencies like the Queensland Police Service'. They went on to say, 'The scope of the mining coroner's investigation will be anchored around mining safety because mining safety in our resources sector is not negotiable.' Sadly, the statement, in my opinion, highlights the complete disregard of the government to consider the variety of resource sector specific safety concerns that can result in the harm of resource workers. Does the minister not care about psychosocial safety or mining road safety or the illnesses resource sector workers contract after years of onsite work? It is a narrow-minded approach to safety whilst also creating an industry-specific coronial position, highlighting the incompetency of this government.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what this member is saying and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I point out that the amount of cross-chamber chatter and the amount of noise made it hard for me to hear what the member was saying. Member, you have been asked to withdraw.

Mr MARTIN: I withdraw. I note, too, that the government has ignored the concerns of one of its own members, the member for Mirani. I know that a number of members on this side of the House have given a shout-out to the member for Mirani. Even though he is a member of the LNP, I do not mind the member for Mirani that much. Probably the No. 1 reason I like him is that he replaced a One Nation member. I would much rather have an LNP member in this House than a member of One Nation. That is why we will put them last in Hinchinbrook. Maybe the LNP could do the same. The member for Mirani in the committee hearing stated—

Fatigue is a big issue for a lot of my constituents ... I know that the safety standards around fatigue management can vary across different mines—whether they can drive home straight after they finish their stint ...

I have to say that I agree with what the member for Mirani said there. It is disappointing that his own side did not agree with him.

Let me now turn to the record of the LNP on issues directly related to this bill, particularly the contradiction between its professed concern for workers and what the LNP actually does for workers. Unfortunately, the LNP has repeatedly voted against workers' rights and important health and safety legislation in the past, many of which relate directly to the bill that we are currently debating. Time and again, when presented with legislation that would have made Queensland workplaces safer and fairer, including for people in the mining industry, the LNP have voted against it.

Under this bill, it is true that the new coroner will have coronial powers and the authority to deliver findings and recommendations, but the point is that we need to ensure that as many of these tragedies can be avoided in the first place and not limit the coroner's scope. To that effect, every worker has the right to come home safe at the end of their shift. Tragically, too many Queensland families know the heartbreak of losing a loved one to a preventable workplace incident.

The industrial manslaughter laws, which we championed, are designed to hold company directors and senior officers criminally accountable when negligence leads to a worker's death. It sends a clear message: if you cut corners on safety and a worker dies, including in the mining industry, you

cannot hide behind corporate structures and you will be held responsible. Of course, the LNP, we remember, opposed these laws, claiming existing laws were sufficient. By voting against industrial manslaughter laws, the LNP once again sided with dodgy operators over workers' lives and, if they had their way—

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I have not heard anything that stands out to me at the moment, but I caution the member for Stretton to please stay within the long title of the bill. While I have you there, there is a bit of cross-chamber chatter. Can we please give the member, regardless of which side they are on, some respect when they are on their feet.

Mr MARTIN: The actions of the LNP speak volumes about their priorities. Put simply, the LNP is always happy to choose optics and profit over the health and safety of workers. It is all well and good to have new functions and powers to investigate mining deaths, but we should ensure that they never have to be investigated in the first place, including those due to suicide, occupational illness and transport related deaths.

Having said that, the bill represents a step which we all support—that is, creating a specialised coroner position with the power to conduct mandatory inquests, deliver findings and hold mining companies to account. While I commend this development, I again emphasise that the bill is still inadequate and should be strengthened. I urge those opposite to support sensible amendments to include suicide and suspected suicides, occupational disease and deaths arising from work related travel. In doing so, we reinforce the highest standards of worker safety, transparency and justice.

We honour the memory of every mining life lost, whether through accident, illness, stress, suicide or other circumstance and not just a cross-section of miners who fit into a narrow specific definition.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (8.31 pm): I rise to speak to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. This is a bill to amend the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that all mining related reportable deaths on Queensland's mine, quarry, gas and petroleum sites are thoroughly investigated. This bill is relevant to my electorate in Hervey Bay because our residents have mothers, fathers, sons, daughters and relatives who may work or are connected to the mining resources sector as FIFOs. The Crisafulli government is doing what we said we would do: establishing a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner who will conduct investigations and inquests for all accidental mining related reportable deaths.

The jurisdiction of a mining warden has a long history in Queensland and dates back to the Goldfields Act 1874. Inquiries before 2001 into fatal and serious accidents were conducted by a mining warden in the mining warden's court. Labor put the safety of mining workers on the line when it terminated the mining warden's court in 2001. Labor might say they stand up for workers, but their actions towards the hardworking men and women in the mining resources sector show their contempt for legitimate preventable incidents onsite. The Crisafulli government has done more in one year than Labor has done in 20 years to reform this important legislation.

This bill is about restoring a vital layer of accountability that Labor walked away from. The introduction of the Mining and Resources Coroner sends a clear message that workers' safety comes first in Queensland. Establishing the role of a Mining and Resources Coroner is the most effective way to address current concerns about protracted waiting times for coronial matters to be heard. The Coroners Act currently provides that a coroner must investigate a reportable death including a self-inflicted death. If the Coroners Act does not mandate an inquest, an inquest is only conducted if it is in the public interest. In her 12 June 2025 introductory speech the Attorney-General said—

Between 2014 and 2024 there have been 27 accidental mining related deaths investigated by Resources Safety & Health Queensland. During the same period coronial inquests have been held for two deaths as well as for two deaths that occurred prior to 2014.

This bill removes the coroner's discretion and provides that inquests must be conducted for all mining related reportable deaths. The Crisafulli government has listened to the families that have suffered the loss of loved ones in Queensland's mines and quarries. We will establish a dedicated coroner who will investigate and conduct mandatory inquests for all accidental mining reportable deaths. When the Mining and Resources Coroner is not dealing with mine related matters, the role will undertake general coronial work to assist in finalising coronial matters and help reduce the backlog of investigations and inquests. As stated in the explanatory notes—

Clause 5 of the Bill amends the Coroners Act to provide that a person's death will be a mining related reportable death if:

- the death was a reportable death under section 8(3)(b) of the Coroners Act, meaning the death was a violent or otherwise unnatural death; and
- the person died at any time after receiving a mining related injury that caused the death or contributed to the death and without which the person would not have died; and
- the mining related injury was received at a coal mine, mine (or quarry), or at a specified petroleum and gas site; and
- the person's injury is not intentionally self-inflicted.

On that last point, self-inflicted death is not excluded, as falsely claimed, from the coroner's jurisdiction. It remains a reportable death under the Coroners Act. This bill further defines a mining related injury as being within the meaning of legislation such as section 9 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act and so on.

The Mining and Resources Coroner will have all of the powers and functions of a coroner to conduct investigations and inquests for accidental mining related reportable deaths under the Coroners Act 2003, including: the power to order a person to give evidence as a witness; requiring a person to produce a document; inspect anything produced at the inquest, copy and keep it for a reasonable period; and engage experts to provide information relevant to the matter under investigation.

This bill does not change the existing coronial process, where an inquest can only commence once any related prosecutions have been finalised. If charges are not laid, the Mining and Resources Coroner will be able to commence the inquest as soon as possible.

The Mining and Resources Coroner also has a critical role in improving the safety in one of our most critical industries by making written recommendations about anything connected to a reportable death with the aim of preventing further deaths.

Clause 20 of the bill provides for transitional provisions to ensure clarity on how the Mining and Resources Coroner will investigate injuries and deaths that occur before or after the commencement of the bill. The bill provides for mining related reportable deaths that occur after commencement of this bill. Relevantly, these deaths will be subject to an investigation and mandatory inquest by the Mining and Resources Coroner. Mining related reportable deaths that occur before the commencement of the bill will be subject to an investigation and mandatory inquest by the Mining and Resources Coroner.

Clause 20 of the bill provides for the application of the act in relation to a pre-commencement mining death if: before the commencement of the bill the investigating coroner into the death has not made all of the findings into the reportable death; an investigation has not gone to an inquest; a pre-inquest conference has not taken place; and the current coroner has not stopped the investigation into the death under section 12(2) of the Coroners Act.

For mining reportable deaths that occur before the commencement there is an ability for the Mining and Resources Coroner not to hold an inquest if satisfied that it is not in the public interest. The bill provides that, in deciding whether it is not in the public interest to hold the inquest, the Mining and Resources Coroner must: consult with and consider the views of a family member of the deceased; consider the length of time since the death occurred; and consider when the investigation is likely to be completed.

The bill also provides that if a decision has not been made to hold an inquest by the State Coroner or District Court under section 30 of the Coroners Act then the Mining and Resources Coroner is not to hold an inquest into that matter. This is to uphold the finality of decisions made before commencement.

Furthermore, the bill provides for some minor amendments such as the appointment of more than one deputy state coroner and enables preliminary examinations to occur after a death that has been reported to the coroner rather than limiting them to cases reported to police officers.

The Crisafulli government will also establish within the Coroners Court of Queensland a liaison engagement position. This liaison person will provide communication with families throughout the coronial investigation and inquest. The Coroners Court will also work closely with the specialist investigation liaison officers from the Office of Industrial Relations.

In closing, this bill establishes the position of the Mining and Resources Coroner and the formal appointment process. The Governor in Council will appoint a local coroner as the Mining and Resources Coroner in consultation with the State Coroner and the Chief Magistrate. I commend the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (8.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. The Labor opposition has a firm position and a solid record on placing people before politics. Workers have the right to feel and be safe at work, with the mining and resources sector being no exception to this. That is why during our time in government we introduced the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020, which established Resources Safety & Health Queensland to help support safety throughout the resources sector. This is why we will be supporting the mining and resources amendment bill.

However, the Labor opposition does hold concerns surrounding the scope of responsibility not being comprehensive enough to achieve the policy objectives outlined in the bill. These objectives include: establishing a dedicated coroner for the sector; re-establishing the mining warden's court with powers to investigate fatal incidents on Queensland's mining and quarry sites; providing more timely answers for families of workers who die while working in the state's mining and quarry sites; and establishing a position to liaise with family throughout the investigation process.

The lack of comprehensiveness surrounds the government's decision to not include suicide, road fatalities and mining related illness and disease deaths in the Mining and Resources Coroner's purview. The government seems to be less concerned about any of these effects, especially if we are to consider these comments from the office of the minister in response to concerns expressed in the media by the Mining and Energy Union. Those comments include—

We're not going to duplicate work that's already undertaken by agencies like the Queensland Police Service ... The scope of the Mining Coroner's investigation will be anchored around mining safety because mining safety in our resources sector is not negotiable.

The Labor opposition stands with the stakeholders who have expressed the need to expand the Mining and Resources Coroner's scope. We support the need for psychosocial care, road safety and consideration for illnesses contracted on the job, unlike those opposite. I might just add that the demographics of Queensland, the location of our mining sites and the context in which workers work across our vast state makes some of these issues much more important here in Queensland than across the nation.

There are many reasons we are concerned about the failure to include the previously stated items in the coroner's scope. First, allow me to put the concern around suicide in the sector into perspective. The suicide prevention group Mates in Mining have said that suicide rates in the mining, energy and construction sectors are 80 per cent higher than in the nation's general population. If we had similar rates of suicide within any other workforce—including a workforce I am very familiar with, and that is education—then our union and our employer would be incredibly concerned. It is simply not okay that a sector of workers experiences 80 per cent higher suicide rates than in the nation's general population.

According to a submission on this bill from the Mining and Energy Union, there are 190 deaths by suicide reported onsite, on adjacent accommodation, in camp accommodation and at home each year. With the rates of suicide in the sector this high, the Crisafulli government must seek to include suicide within the coroner's scope of investigative responsibilities. It is illogical to not include suicide in the scope, given the unique psychosocial experiences of fly-in fly-out mining sector workers. I mentioned the demographic and the vast array of workers who are situated around the state. The Coronial Assistance Legal Service said it best when they stated—

Suicides in mining are a contemporary societal and industrial issue that should be proactively addressed by the Act. Mining is recognised as a locational, institutional and occupational setting with an elevated suicide risk.

A couple of years ago I had the opportunity of travelling more than four kilometres underground in a coalmine. I have to say that if I was put in a position where I was working in that context I believe that my own mental health would be quite challenged. The failure to include self-inflicted fatalities within the coroner's purview directly contrasts with the bill's policy objectives, which seeks to provide timely information to affected families and improve safety for the sector's workers.

In relation to road fatalities, mining and resource sector workers also face the unique issue of travelling to and from remotely located mine sites. This is several hundred kilometres in some instances. This shiftwork has long hours, early starts, late finishes and overnight work, and this type of work—which is often done in the dark—can lead to heightened fatigue, which means these workers are at a higher risk of driving accidents. Despite this very real risk factor in this line of work, road fatalities have been left out of the coroner's scope of investigative responsibilities. In their submission for this bill, the Mining and Energy Union said—

In the mining industry, where shift work, long hours, early starts and late finishes are common, coal mine workers are especially vulnerable to fatigue.

Any worker is vulnerable to fatigue but especially those who work underground and often in the dark. In fact, the member for Mirani also expressed his concern for his own constituents around this issue. Like the member for Mirani, I have members in my—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, would you address the chair and not other members in the House.

Ms McMILLAN: It was actually complimentary, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know, but rules are rules.

Ms McMILLAN: Thank you. Like the member for Mirani, many members in my community are fly-in fly-out workers. The member for Mirani said—

Fatigue is a big issue for a lot of my constituents in Mirani.

That is the same for me in my electorate. The member for Mirani continued—

I know that the safety standards around fatigue management can vary across different mines—whether they can drive home straight after they finish their stint or they need to rest before getting on the road, to mitigate the risk of a crash as a result of fatigue.

The member for Mirani doubled down on this, stating—

Your submission touches on very similar issues to those contained in the MEU submission around referrals for road deaths involving travelling to and from site. This is an important issue for my constituents, especially given the quality of some of the roads to our mines in that country.

I concur with the member for Mirani. I do have fly-in fly-out workers who live in my electorate. The government are not even listening to their own members about their concerns around this issue. These are real concerns. The scope of the Mining and Resources Coroner's investigation responsibility should comprehensively reflect the challenges and safety concerns that are particular and unique to the sector.

In relation to illness and disease, the scope also does not extend to the diseases and illnesses that can occur as a result of working on a mining site. With associated risks including illnesses like mine dust lung disease, the current scope for the coroner's position overlooks a serious health and safety component of the mining and resources sector. Again, this is as a result of working kilometres underground in darkness, in moist conditions and often in heat. If the government wish to be taken seriously on their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of mining and resources now and into the future, they must include illness and disease related deaths in the coroner's scope. The Labor opposition believes it is critical for any reforms made to support the health and safety of the sector's workers to be inclusive of the complex and diverse challenges, as I said, that are unique to this workforce.

In conclusion, the Labor opposition supports the bill. The changes bring about a much needed position that will go towards improving the safety and wellbeing of mining and resource sector workers, but we will continue to hold the government to account. We will continue to advocate for the rights of workers to ensure that the scope of the coroner's investigative responsibilities is broadened to include the very important issues of suicide, of road fatalities and of mining related illnesses and disease deaths.



Mrs KIRKLAND (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.49 pm): I rise to speak to the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. Mining for resources is a practice that began thousands of years ago and one that has continued to provide essential products that grow and support our economies and the livability within those economies. Throughout time better ways of achieving best results have evolved, including better ways to protect lives within workforces that commit themselves to this risk bound profession along with year-on-year improvements that strive to achieve continued reforms for clearer accountabilities, assessments and recommendations that bring benefit for all within the mining and the resources sector.

As the member for Rockhampton, I represent a community where approximately one-third of our workforce are employed either directly or indirectly within the mining sector and every day families release loved ones to work within an industry that delivers prosperity to our state and our country that brings economic security and sustainability. It is only right that we as a state should continue to assess and bring reforms where necessary that prioritise the safety of these workers.

This bill amends the Coroners Act to establish a dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner. Unfortunately, in regional Queensland we are sometimes touched by tragic losses where our loved one does not return home from the mine site. I would like to pause here and acknowledge the families in

Central Queensland who have lost loved ones—four families in 2024 alone. These can be due to accidents caused by varying factors—coal falls, machinery incidents, collisions and even vehicle accidents to and from site—each one deserving of an inquiry, and that is what this bill delivers.

The dedicated Mining and Resources Coroner that this bill establishes will conduct coronial investigations and mandatory inquests for all mining reportable deaths. Within this bill the Mining and Resources Coroner may now also choose to conduct inquests for reportable deaths outside of their scope if it is considered within the public interest, such as deaths whilst commuting and deaths through self-harm. Investigating suicide has not been excluded from this bill. This applies to all mining related injuries on mines, coalmines, quarries and certain petroleum and gas sites.

In Rockhampton we also have at least 11 quarry sites and I am sure that the business owners and the workers at these sites will be pleased to know that they have a government willing to continue bringing improvements that will ensure any loss of life is not in vain and that proper and timely inquiries are made into deaths to assess practical measures that will help prevent future deaths from occurring. That is why the Mining and Resources Coroner will also be able to make public findings and recommendations to assist in the prevention of similar incidents occurring.

The aim of this bill is to provide more timely answers and certainty to families that mining related deaths will be investigated and an inquiry conducted to determine the cause of the death, prevent similar deaths and keep mining companies accountable. The Crisafulli government will continue to put people over politics. In that vein because of this bill, a position will be established within the Coroners Court of Queensland to provide family and liaison engagement throughout the coronial investigation and the inquest process, acknowledging the needs of families who have suffered great loss.

Within the bill are further enhancements that improve transparency and accountability with respect to the findings of a coroner related to mining and reportable deaths. The coroner will be able to hold pre-inquest conferences, even whilst court proceedings are underway. The coroner will be able to conduct preliminary examinations once the death has been reported to the coroner without being limited to circumstances where a police officer reports a death to the coroner.

The Jobs Queensland report has estimated that there will be 72,958 workers employed in the mining sector by 2027-28. That does not include those workers within the indirect supporting industries and the communities surrounding those employees. I am pleased to be a part of a government that recognises which side its bread is buttered on and that time and effort has been put into this bill to ensure the continued improvement of working standards for employees and employer accountability for an industry sector that keeps this state moving. I commend this bill to the House.



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (8.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Coroners (Mining and Resources Coroner) Amendment Bill 2025. As many members on this side of the House have highlighted, the Labor opposition believes that every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe and to be safe at work. It is a right, not a privilege, and the mining and resources sector is no exception to this. However, we do believe that this bill is a missed opportunity because of the narrowed scope that the government has put in place. Whether inadvertently or deliberately, there is a narrowed scope.

I know that those opposite have sought to counter that proposition put forward by the Labor opposition, but it is actually a proposition that they have perpetrated themselves. Not only have they done so by not listening to stakeholders who have called out on this—content experts in respect of the mining sector and tragedies that occur in the mining sector—but the very statement from the mining minister, the member for Burdekin, when responding to those stakeholder comments said the scope of the mining coroner's investigation will be anchored by mining safety because mining safety in our resources sector is not negotiable. We agree with that proposition, but that is our point: it is a narrowed scope. The minister's very words have highlighted the narrow scope. The minister also said, 'We're not going to duplicate work that is being done,' and in his speech yesterday he said, 'We are duplicating the work that is being done.' He contradicts himself in respect of his initial proposition.

It is not the Labor opposition that is perpetuating this concept around the narrowed scope; it is the government. The black letter of their bill proves that they have a narrowed scope, the stakeholders have said that there is a narrowed scope and the mines minister has said that there is a narrowed scope. Those opposite have said that the Labor opposition are wrong when we say that this narrowed scope means that very critical safety issues in the mining sector like mining psychosocial safety, mining road safety or illness in resource sector workers should be within the scope of the mining coroner—when we say they should be and they say we are wrong—but it is actually their very proposition. It is the proposition of their mines minister and it is the black letter of their amending bill.

It is critical that when you establish bodies for the particular purpose of enhancing safety in a particular sector you do not tie the hands of those bodies and you allow those bodies, like what is being proposed in this bill with the Mining and Resources Coroner, to have the scope to touch on, to explore and to make recommendations in respect of a critical industry like the mining and resources sector, which is an industry which is impacted by significant tragedies and tragedies which are in many respects over-represented in number and scale compared to other sectors in the Queensland economy.

The Labor opposition has made our position very clear. Of course we want safe workplaces. Of course we will support every initiative to increase safety in every sector in every workplace across Queensland—and the mining and resources sector is no different—but this is a lost opportunity to make a real impact in the mining and resources sector and the missed opportunity has been perpetuated by the black letter of the government's amending bill and the words of its mining minister.

Debate, on motion of Mr Ryan, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Fire Services



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (9.00 pm): Tonight I rise to call out the LNP government over its mismanagement of Queensland's fire service and I rise to call out its failure to meet the most basic standards of transparency and accountability in the minister's portfolio—and I am glad the minister is here to hear this. Do not go anywhere, Minister. Queenslanders expect their government to prioritise safety. That is a basic expectation of Queensland citizens—that is, that the government prioritises safety—especially as we enter another dangerous bushfire season. The Premier told the House about that this morning. We now see nearly a third of the state under fire bans, yet I am advised that right across Queensland 30 per cent of station officer positions are vacant. One-third of the positions for our women and men in charge of our fire stations are vacant. These are the frontline leaders that we rely on—that Queenslanders rely on—to protect our homes and our communities.

Instead of addressing these critical shortages, the minister has been focused on interfering in other departmental matters including, as we saw earlier this year, the recognition of First Nations peoples on new fire stations. This raises an alarming question in the community that I represent: had the Mount Cotton Road fire station—which was funded and delivered and opened by a Labor government—been opened under this government, would the acknowledgement of Quandamooka people have been stripped from that facility, too? I bet it would have been.

Our community deserves better. Mount Cotton, Sheldon, Daisy Hill and Shailer Park sit within some of Queensland's highest risk bushfire zones. That is why Labor delivered the Mount Cotton Road fire station, complete with a dedicated off-road bushfire-fighting appliance purpose built to respond swiftly to grass and scrub fires. When I asked the minister on 26 August about the whereabouts of the promised off-road appliance, she told the parliament that the information was unreasonable to source, yet at the same time she was writing to me to confirm exactly where it was. I table that correspondence.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 September 2025, from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, Hon. Ann Leahy, to the member for Springwood, Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, regarding Mount Cotton Road Fire and Rescue Station [\[1583\]](#).

That appears to be a direct contradiction. It appears that the minister was wilfully withholding information from Queenslanders and has misled this parliament, in my assessment of the matter. It seems the minister needs a better memory if she is to practise in this sort of deceit. The pattern continues. The refusal to provide an aerial appliance for the growing industrial precincts in Logan and Redlands has put both the public and firefighters at risk. The truth is clear. This is a government focused on pandering to its dangerous right wing rather than taking care of the safety of ordinary Queenslanders.

Gympie Music Muster



Hon. AJ PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.03 pm): At the end of August, country music boomed through the hills of Amamoor State Forest in the Mary Valley for the 43rd Gympie Music Muster. More than 60,000 people attended the festival and pre-muster period, showcasing 140 acts. Performances included a mix of country, roots, blues, folk and rock music as well as workshops, dancing and bush poets.

Each night about 10,000 people packed the famous Optus Hill stage, showing why the iconic event bucks the nationwide trend of struggling music festivals. My colleagues, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for the Environment and Tourism, can vouch for how good the muster is, as they were able to join me to enjoy Australia's original, friendliest and best camping music experience. The muster started as a fundraiser and with the help of Apex, each year it continues to raise funds.

In 1982, Berard Webb and his brothers Fabian and Marius first hosted the 4KQ Webb Brothers Country Music Muster on a bush stage at the family property near Widgee. Its success in 1982 meant that after only three years it moved to the Amamoor State Forest to cater for thousands of visitors and locals. This year it made history. The muster smashed all fundraising records, raising more than \$141,000 for River's Gift which is dedicated to funding medical research and raising awareness for sudden infant death syndrome. More than 40 community groups were supported with payments of more than \$286,000. A snapshot of fundraising efforts showed that more than 370,000 cans and bottles made up the biggest ever Containers for Change has ever had. Some \$17,000 was raised through the annual Maton guitar auction, \$10,000 was raised by the Star Wall and the Military Brotherhood Motorcycle Club Cooloola-Sunshine Coast Sub Branch sold \$20,000 worth of doughnuts and donated half the proceeds.

The muster has put Gympie on the national entertainment stage. It showcases the best of country music and regional culture, brings tens of thousands of visitors to the Gympie region and puts millions into the local economy—all while supporting grassroots charities and community groups. That is why this year the Crisafulli government announced it is backing the event with a \$400,000 investment over the next four years to keep this iconic event going for many more years to come. Events such as these rely on the support of volunteers. More than 1,500 volunteers across 40 community groups made sure things ran smoothly. Congratulations to muster chairman Ross Groundwater and CEO Greg Cavanagh for this year's outstanding success and to everyone in the community who loves to make sure that we are still renowned for hosting some of the best events across the country.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Sandgate, unless there are interjections to be taken, I would hope we could proceed with some silence tonight.

Anti-Immigration Rallies

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.06 pm): 'My children ask me why people are so mean to us because of how we look.' 'I think I'm going to keep my kids home from school on Monday.' 'I have been living in Australia for seven years. We are planning on celebrating my little one's birthday. Would it be safe to proceed given these rallies, or are we better off cancelling?' These are just some of the concerns parents in my community have raised with me in light of the anti-immigration rallies. These anti-immigration marches are causing real harm to people in our communities and when people who hold power stay silent, there is always a price to pay. That price is being paid by people in our communities. 'Shoot her where she stands'; 'deport this B'; 'You should fear the worst'; 'She should be flogged like she would back home'; 'Go back to India or Pakistan and take the rest of the Pakis and the Jeets with you'. These are not just comments that are directed at me. Every day, people in our communities—people who made an active decision to make Australia their home because it represents a beacon of hope that they will be able to build a brighter future for their kids—also face this.

The LNP has made a choice not to call out these hateful rallies. Instead, they choose to stay silent but their silence speaks volumes. Here are the facts: seven days before the last anti-immigration rally the LNP passed a motion to 'overhaul hate-speech provisions and to enact a clear statutory right to freedom of speech, giving Australians an explicit right to shield for robust debate on culture, religious and national issues.' I table that motion.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, regarding motions moved at LNP Convention [\[1584\]](#).

Here is the truth: they do not care to protect people from hate speech—not until it suits them—because if they did the LNP would have chosen to not pause those important racial vilification laws indefinitely—those laws which would give stronger protections against vilification based on race, religion and skin colour, laws with real consequences for those who incite hatred and deny protections against vilifications for Queenslanders.

People feel emboldened to make bomb threats against our children, against people in their places of worship. Just last week my office was defaced with words like 'black B' and 'eff off back to Pakistan'. The message the government is sending through their silence is that this sort of behaviour is acceptable, that some Queenslanders are less deserving of protection, that racist abuse is somehow less urgent to address, that people from diverse backgrounds should simply accept being targets—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, I do not think even quoting unparliamentary language gives you the right to do it. There have been several instances. I would ask you to just take some care from here on, please. You should withdraw those comments at the beginning of your speech and in the last few sentences.

Ms ASIF: I withdraw. Enough is enough. They are not asking for special treatment, Premier; they are asking for equal protections under the law which has been indefinitely blocked by you. Every day these laws remain paused is another day the message is clear. Those in the government may try to silence me, but they are not going to stop me from calling out racism every day.

Far North Queensland, Live Music

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (9.11 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that is close to my heart and vital to the cultural, social and economic life of our region—the future of live music in Far North Queensland. Music has been a huge part of my life. I have been watching my dad perform on stage since I was a toddler, and by the time I was 14 years old I had got my first pay cheque after being a sax player and a vocalist in his band. Playing and singing at venues with my father and my husband over the last 30 years has been one of the highlights of my life. I know with absolute conviction that live music keeps the heart of a community beating. Nothing connects people faster than a shared song. There is nothing better than being in an audience or being on a stage when hundreds or thousands of people are singing along with all of their hearts.

Live music turns strangers into a crowd and a crowd into a community. You do not just hear live music, you feel it. Sadly, live music in Far North Queensland is dying. The current regulations are constraining musicians and harming our local venues. Under current regulations, live acts are forced to stay within unrealistic 75-decibel caps that are often exceeded by passing traffic. Even a lawnmower is louder than 75 decibels. Any attempt to exceed those levels requires expensive acoustic reports and infrastructure upgrades that many small venues simply cannot afford. Even those that do comply are still vulnerable to penalties due to vague terms like 'unreasonable noise' which can be applied inconsistently and based solely on subjective complaints. The results are venues giving up, gigs being cancelled and musicians losing work and fighting over a handful of venues that can meet the sound regulation requirements.

I have held round tables and spoken directly with venues and musicians across the Far North and the message is clear: the current regulations are hurting the live music industry and the hospitality industry. Local music creates jobs, drives tourism and brings people together and live music keeps people in a venue longer. On the weekend I attended Savannah in the Round, a fantastic regional live music tourism event that proved just how important live music is to our region. Over 32,000 people attended. Sixty artists performed. This matters. Ten years ago live music was part of the weekly line-up, not only in the Cairns city centre, the Esplanade, Mondo's, the Pullman and Johnno's Blues Bar but across the northern beaches. Live music was everywhere and tourists and locals loved it. You could walk from venue to venue listening to live music.

A few months ago I started a petition on my website. There are over 500 signatories. I have met with the Attorney-General. I have met with Minister O'Connor and OLGR. I appreciate their time. I have also met with the Night-Life Economy Commissioner, John Collins, who is a venue owner and was the bass player of Powderfinger. He and I have both agreed to not stop fighting until we fix this issue for our fellow musicians. I know with every part of who I am that live music is not just entertainment; it is connection, culture and community. The day the music dies is not a lyric; it is a warning.

Bancroft Youth Advisory Committee

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (9.13 pm): Tonight I rise to deliver the first report on the work of the Bancroft Youth Advisory Committee, the YAC.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Bancroft, just a moment. I have already asked once that we keep the chatter down. If you would like to keep talking, go outside.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not want to argue with you. I have given you a warning.

Mr WHITING: I established the YAC in June to give young people in my area a voice, to give them a say and make sure that say is heard here in parliament. I tasked them with delivering me three briefing papers on three issues of their choosing, and for each one I will deliver a speech in parliament. Tonight the first one will be on transport. I want to acknowledge and thank all of the members of the Bancroft YAC who came to parliament yesterday and who are watching this tonight.

Isa, who went to North Lakes State College, is our convenor, this year's youth member for Bancroft and now works in my office. Pemay taught acting at the YMCA in North Lakes and is passionate about liberating kids through creative mediums. Elisabeth, or Lizzie, goes to Grace Lutheran College. She recently sailed on the *Young Endeavour*. Lily is also a Grace Lutheran College student and is currently working at Westfield North Lakes. She actually had a job interview via phone when she was visiting here yesterday. Emily works as a librarian at Moreton Bay and is very interested in delivering free tutoring to young people. We also have Ky, a very passionate student from Kairos Community College who is not afraid to speak her mind. Her deep interest is the mental wellbeing of young people from all over Queensland. They all have different stories and experiences. They bring such freshness and vigour to our office in Bancroft. I thank Henry and Huxley in my office for making this possible. In part of their first report on local transport, they state—

Transport is an issue that impacts every young person in our electorate.

It determines whether a young person can get to work, study or see friends.

The importance of connectivity and public transport lies in its ability to provide opportunity for young people who either don't have a car or can't drive.

It takes 40 minutes to get from North Lakes to Deception Bay, two neighbouring communities 10 minutes by car but 40 minutes by public transport.

It takes the same amount of time to go to central station from North Lakes as it does to go to Deception Bay from North Lakes.

People don't just go to the city then back to their suburb.

They go intra-suburb.

It's where friends, education and employment opportunities are located.

If we don't address this serious issue young people will be disadvantaged even more so in the future.

That is only part of the report that they have delivered to me. It is a very pertinent issue. I agree with them. They express how frustrating it is to rely on public transport to get around within a community. I agree. For example, we need a bus service from Deception Bay to North Lakes running through the job centre of Narangba. North Lakes is where the employment opportunities are for young people. They have absolutely nailed a very important issue. I am very happy to commend the work of the Bancroft YAC to the House.

Many Peaks Hospital Building; Queensland University of Technology, Sciences Faculty



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (9.16 pm): Boyne Valley is a fantastic community in the great electorate of Callide. Today, on behalf of many constituents, I sponsored a petition of 119 conforming signatures with regard to the former Many Peaks hospital. Tonight I table an additional 338 nonconforming signatures. They are a bit of an eager community and did not get the Clerk's approval for the wording before a lot of people signed that petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding state of Many Peaks Hospital building [[1585](#)].

A total of 457 people are asking for the former Many Peaks hospital building to be released to the community to be restored and maintained for either a private or a community purpose. For almost 20 years that building has been let go to rack and ruin. Local builder Bruce Costin likes a challenge and he loves restoring old Queenslanders. He would love to take up the challenge of repurposing that building to ensure that it can be used by the community into the future. It is on a great bit of land in a great community. If we could find a pathway to release it then that would be a fantastic thing for the Many Peaks community. I fully support that community in their endeavours.

On another matter, tonight I put on notice my former university, QUT. I will be writing to them asking for an explanation because I have been informed that they are cutting staff across the sciences faculty by 16 per cent. That is my former faculty. It is where I studied. Within that, apparently 18 per cent of cuts will be to staff from within the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. I have spoken about this before and will be writing to them. In my time there the university made a very political decision, which I dare say may have not helped their financial situation, to divest their investment funds of anything related to fossil fuels. They have hampered their own opportunities financially and now, years later, they are likely going to have to make staffing cuts to very important divisions.

I note that this is a time when we need more people in STEM for the mining industry and other industries across Queensland. This is very disappointing to hear. Nonetheless, I put them on notice. I table their statement on responsible investment which shows that they have what they call responsible investment. I would raise the question whether their so-called responsible investment leads to their poor financial situation.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'QUT—Statement on responsible investment' [[1586](#)].

Doran, Ms M

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.19 pm): I rise to honour and remember a remarkable woman and my dear friend Margaret Doran, who gave so much of herself to others, to her community and to the Labor movement she loved. Born on 15 April 1935, Margaret lived 90 years before passing on 24 June this year. In those years she left an indelible mark, not through fanfare or self-promotion but through quiet constancy, deep integrity and genuine care for people.

Margaret was a life member of the Australian Labor Party and served as treasurer of the Ipswich state organising committee for close to 20 years—a role she carried out with her trademark diligence, precision and absolute trustworthiness. She believed in Labor values not as slogans but as a way of life—fairness, compassion, opportunity for all.

She was also a teacher librarian. Through that calling she touched the lives of countless young people in Ipswich. She believed that knowledge could light the way forward and that every child deserved the chance to discover the joy of learning. Margaret was a proud member of the Queensland Teachers' Union and she remained close to her fellow teacher librarians, meeting with them every week even in later years—a circle of friendship, laughter and shared stories that she treasured. Her love of learning never stopped. Margaret attended U3A, where she studied philosophy and even tackled the challenge of cryptic crosswords. That curiosity of mind, that desire to understand and reflect, was such a defining part of her.

Faith was another foundation in her life. A devout Catholic, Margaret lived her values daily through kindness, humility and quiet service. She was always present—truly present—with whomever she was with. No matter what she might have been going through herself, she gave you her full attention and her warm, steady presence.

Family was everything to Margaret—her beloved sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Ian; her nephew, Tom; her nieces, Katherine and Clare; and her great-niece and great-nephew, Millie and William. She spoke of them with enormous love and pride. For so many Ipswich people she was also a dear friend—loyal, thoughtful, funny and wise. We miss her terribly.

Margaret's life reminds us that the most powerful legacies are not built on titles or recognition but on relationship, integrity and service. Today we say: thank you, Margaret, for your friendship, your faith, your intellect and your unwavering belief in people, community and the Labor Party. Margaret, may you rest in peace and may we carry forward the compassion and commitment that you showed all of us.

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.22 pm): Tonight I rise to acknowledge a very special young woman who will forever hold a place in the hearts of the Pumicestone community. Today would have been Charlize Zmuda's 18th birthday. Charlize's family, friends and even my dad have gathered tonight at Pigface at Woorm, where she worked, to honour her life and celebrate the incredible young woman she was.

Charlize's legacy continues to inspire action, kindness and community. On 15 November at 1 pm, the Char's Travelling Turtles Fundraiser will be held at the Bribie Island Bulldogs AFL field. This beautiful event will support the creation of small wooden turtles for people to take with them on their travels—something Charlize always dreamed of doing herself. Through this initiative, her adventurous spirit will continue to travel the world, touching lives far and wide. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Claire Waugh from Island Beauty Hut for her leadership in ensuring this event will be a success and to all of the generous sponsors, especially the Iamkind Movement, which is selling Charlize's T-shirts to help fundraise for the day. Charlize's story is a powerful reminder of how one young person's light can continue to shine brightly even after tragedy.

I also want to take a moment to pay my respects to a true island legend, Sue from Sue's Bar and Grill and Sue's Burger Bar, who sadly passed away. During the height of COVID, when many businesses were struggling, Sue and a handful of other small business owners on Bribie banded

together to support one another, not just in business but also personally. There was never competition from Sue, only kindness, generosity and a genuine desire to see others thrive. She was the kind of person who built people up and gave without expecting anything in return. It was moving to attend her funeral and hear her family's stories, which painted a picture of a woman who embodied community spirit. Sue was a hospitality hero, a friend and a champion for local businesses. She will be dearly missed.

There are also some wonderful upcoming community events that I want to highlight. This Saturday at 1.30 pm, the Cancer Council Bribie Branch will be hosting the Bribie Big Band Concert at Banksia Beach State School. I am proud to sponsor this event which raises vital funds for cancer research and support services. It is always a fantastic afternoon of music and community, and I encourage locals to come along and support the cause. I especially want to acknowledge Debbie Thorpe, president of the Bribie Cancer Council branch, for her tireless dedication and leadership.

In November at the Bribie RSL, the Pumicestone Business Chamber and I will host a 'Say No to Domestic Violence' event. We will be welcoming Minister Camm and a panel of speakers including Lucy Lord from the Red Rose Foundation. Domestic and family violence is an issue that affects every corner of our community, and it is vital that we continue to have these conversations and drive real change.

On 2 November, from 10 am to 12.30 pm, BIEPA will host their Giant Turtle Event at Woorim Beach. This event celebrates our deep love for our marine life and highlights the importance of protecting our environment.

Finally, this Friday I look forward to officially opening the Bribie Island Nature Festival proudly supported by the Queensland government. This festival brings people from across the state to experience our unique natural environment.

Renewable Energy

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.25 pm): When it comes to life-saving pill-testing facilities that are facilitated and funded by and for the community, the LNP is perfectly willing to intervene and to shut them down. But when it comes to the transition away from fossil fuels to safeguard our future, it seems this government's approach is to throw its hands in the air and simply say it is not for them to interfere. We need a plan to get off coal and to create new jobs, but the LNP has given us a so-called Energy Roadmap that does nothing more than describe the existing disastrous system. They are the government. They are supposed to create policy, yet all they have done is describe the mess we are in.

They have neglected to include a few things anyway, like what happens if we keep burning coal indefinitely, like the 185,000 Queensland properties at very high risk of disaster, or little things like heat related deaths in Townsville quadrupling, or Brisbane flooding 314 days out of the year. That is directly from the federal climate risk assessment report which, by the way, the federal Labor government tried to bury.

Queensland's coal-fired power stations were due to close by 2035. Now, under the LNP's plan, they will continue pumping millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere every year indefinitely, making net zero emissions by 2050 effectively impossible. That is not pragmatism; that is straight-up climate vandalism.

This is not just cost to the climate we are talking about. It is \$1.6 billion of Queensland taxpayer dollars to maintain these aging power stations which are themselves increasingly susceptible to the impacts of an unstable climate. Ironically, Rio Tinto has flagged that its Gladstone coal-fired power station will close early in 2029 to be replaced with renewable energy generation and storage. Even their corporate mates can see the writing on the wall, and they have the gall to tell coal communities that they are planning for the future. What absolute bunkum! This is not about jobs. The Electrical Trades Union called BS on that. They have said the LNP is 'leaving workers in limbo, shutting their eyes to reality and pretending it will go away'.

Supplying Queensland's energy needs is not some kind of intractable mystery. Diversified renewables, high-powered transmission and storage deliver cheap, clean and reliable energy. We are past the curiosity phase. It is time to act.

The fact is that far-right nutters run the LNP. Our environment minister is on the record expressing his scepticism about climate science. The Deputy Premier loves nothing more than imitating Trump—he is really behind the road map. The LNP have not just slammed the brakes on Queensland's clean energy transition; they have reefed up the handbrake, given us a U-turn and are speeding back to the dark ages.

(Time expired)

Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I make the point that the member for Callide has been repeatedly and vocally interjecting when he is not in his seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): That is not a point of order. Take your seat. I call the member for Mundingburra.

Veteran Support

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.29 pm): There is no comparison to the sacrifice of our men and women who bravely serve on the front line to defend our country. They go willingly without complaint, not knowing if they will return. It is only fair that both state and federal governments support them. That is why the axing of \$1.5 million from the Salvation Army's Sallyman program by the federal Labor government is extremely disappointing. It is short-sighted, it shows a complete lack of understanding of the vital support it provides, and it lets down the very people who have given so much in service to our nation.

The Salvation Army's Sallymen and Sallyma'ams have been supporting our Australian troops for over 125 years. Their presence reminds our service men and women that they are never alone and that the community stands beside them in appreciation of that service, sacrifice and commitment. It is more than a listening ear, a cold cordial, a cuppa and a biscuit or a word of encouragement; it is an invitation to talk, to start a conversation. This simple but effective program has single-handedly saved countless lives and supported countless others through the support it offers.

That is support you cannot put a price on because it is priceless. I have seen firsthand what this program means to our current service men and women, our veterans, their families and our community. I have watched the Salvation Army's Major Nigel Roden and his Sallyman ute in action. All of the patches that are secured to the inside roof of his vehicle are a reminder of his travels, his connections and the conversations he has had with those young and old—sometimes a casual chat, sometimes a deeper discussion.

This service is invaluable and the federal Labor government has let down all who need this program. This is an historic time in our state, when the Crisafulli government is investing more than ever in our veterans. We have the state's first ever Minister for Veterans in our Premier. We are launching the state's first ever Veterans and Veterans' Families Strategy. We are committed to our veterans, and as the Assistant Minister for Veterans I will not let this go. I will be campaigning and fighting to find a solution to continue this vital service for our veterans.

I want to make it absolutely clear: I will be speaking directly with the Premier to ensure we find a way for the Sallyman and Sallyma'am program to continue. This program is far too important to lose. It provides comfort, care and connection to our defence personnel, our veterans and our community, and I will do everything in my power to see it remain.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Callide, I remind you that you cannot interject from another seat in the House. You must be in your own seat. That was prolonged and uncalled for. I remind you of that rule for the future.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young