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CHIEF HANSARD REPORTER

ISSN 1322-0330



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 28 October 2025

Subject	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	3275
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 20 October 2025, from the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 20 October 2025.	3276
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 24 October 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 24 October 2025.	3276
PRIVILEGE	3276
Comments by Member for Springwood, Apology.....	3276
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	3276
Parliament House, Artwork.....	3276
Visitors to Public Gallery.....	3276
REPORT	3277
Auditor-General.....	3277
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Auditor-General Report 4: 2025-26—Supporting industry development.	3277
PETITIONS	3277
TABLED PAPERS	3277
MINISTERIAL PAPER	3279
Revocation of Protected Areas	3279
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Revocation of state areas: Proposal under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and an explanation of the proposal, relating to Barnard Island Group National Park.	3279
NOTICE OF MOTION	3279
Revocation of Protected Areas	3279
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	3279
Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements.....	3279
Bureau of Meteorology, Website.....	3280
Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements.....	3281
Economy.....	3282

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 28 October 2025

Bureau of Meteorology, Website	3282
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 28 October 2025, to Senator the Honourable Murray Watt, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, regarding changes to the Bureau of Meteorology website	3282
Justice System, Crisafulli LNP Government	3282
Youth Justice, Crisafulli LNP Government	3283
Chelepy, Deputy Commissioner S; Police Resources	3284
Health Services, Crisafulli LNP Government	3284
South-East Queensland Weather Event, Schools; Education and the Arts, Crisafulli LNP Government ..	3285
Bruce Highway	3286
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3286
Bureau of Meteorology, Website	3287
Health, Data Reporting	3287
Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements	3288
Gladstone and Rockhampton Hospitals, Nurses	3288
Infrastructure	3289
Hospitals, Ramping	3290
Social and Affordable Housing	3291
Hospital Infrastructure	3291
Recycling	3292
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services	3293
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	3293
Government Accountability	3293
Housing Affordability	3294
Public Moneys	3295
Caboolture Hospital, Medical Imaging	3295
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of media articles relating to the Caboolture Hospital	3296
Schoolteachers	3296
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Government: Report titled 'Red Tape Reduction Plan 2025-28'	3297
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extracts, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer MP	3297
Cooktown Hospital, Birthing Services	3297
Victims of Crime	3297
COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL	3298
Second Reading	3298
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3315
Children, Hormone Therapy; Supreme Court Ruling	3315
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	3316
Chelepy, Deputy Commissioner S; Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3316
Queensland Labor Party	3317
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3318
Labor Party Opposition, Performance	3319
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3321
Hinchinbrook Electorate, Representation	3321
Housing Affordability; Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3322
Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements	3323
Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance	3324
Redcliffe Hospital	3325
Parliamentary Procedures	3326
ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3327
Introduction	3327
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025	3327
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes	3327
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.	3327
First Reading	3333
Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee	3333
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3333
Crocodile Management Plan	3333
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.	3333
Resolved in the affirmative.	3333
MOTION	3333
Order of Business	3333
Division: Question put—That the member for Pine Rivers be heard.	3338
Resolved in the negative.	3338
Division: Question put—That the question be now put	3338
Resolved in the affirmative.	3338
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to	3338
Resolved in the affirmative.	3339
COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL	3339
Second Reading	3339
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	3353
Children, Hormone Therapy; Supreme Court Ruling	3353
COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL	3354
Second Reading	3354

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 28 October 2025

ADJOURNMENT	3377
Gladstone, Deaths.....	3377
Whyte, Chief Inspector R.....	3377
TNQ Tourism Industry Excellency Awards.....	3378
Glass House Electorate, Events.....	3378
Logan City, Hooning	3379
Queensland Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards	3380
Crisafulli LNP Government, Cost of Living.....	3380
Men's Mental Health.....	3381
Maiwar Electorate, Severe Weather	3382
Pizzey Park, Pickleball	3382
ATTENDANCE	3383

TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 20 October 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Coroners Act 2003 for particular purposes

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Acting Governor

20 October 2025

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 24 October 2025

A bill for an Act to provide for the administration and operation of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, to repeal the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945, and to amend this Act and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, the Education and Care Services Act 2013, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Regulation 2022, the Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, the

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Regulation 2025, the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

24 October 2025

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 October 2025, from the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 20 October 2025.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 October 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 24 October 2025.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Springwood, Apology

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (9.31 am): Mr Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery has alleged that during an adjournment speech in the House lasting sitting week in which I canvassed issues related to fire appliances I misled the House. As is the procedure outlined in your ruling, Mr Speaker, I unreservedly apologise if my statements inadvertently misled the House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliament House, Artwork

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in 1977 the then Speaker, the Hon. James Houghton, invited Queensland's councils and shires to contribute paintings by artists from their regions for display in the newly constructed Parliamentary Annexe. A total of 129 artworks were received. That artwork now comprises a distinct collection within the parliament's artworks. Age has made it a unique collection, capturing glimpses of Queensland at a relatively short window of time in its history. The paintings include landscapes, town and city buildings or scenes and, in rarer instances, people and animals.

Today, I am pleased to introduce a rotating display of this artwork in the Legislative Assembly chamber. To showcase the breadth and diversity of that collection, two different items from the collection will now be displayed in the chamber on a rotating basis each sitting week. Many works from the collection representing regional Queensland have been hung in ministerial and members' offices and dining rooms. This rotation brings them, for the first time, into the chamber.

Our first featured artworks are two oil-on-board works. The first is Bundaberg City Council's contribution by artist Charles Hazzard, depicting a view to Bundaberg's city buildings from Anzac Park. Charles Hazzard was one of the founding members of the Bundaberg Art Society. The second is Mackay City Council's contribution by artist Del Newport, a painting of the Civic Centre Administration Building. The artist was a teacher and exhibition artist. As each work is featured in the chamber, it will also be available to view in our online Heritage Collection via our website.

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by Ms Sandra Brewer MLA, shadow treasurer, shadow minister for women's interests and member for Cottesloe in Western Australia.

Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by a group of Family Responsibilities commissioners from the Far North as part of the commission's From Country to Chamber Program.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Wynnum State High School in the electorate of Lytton, and Woombye homeschool group and Nambour State College in the electorate of Nicklin.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 4: 2025-26—Supporting industry development*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 4: 2025-26—Supporting industry development.

PETITIONS

The following honourable member has lodged an e-petition which is now closed and presented—

Housing Contracts, Sunset Clauses

Mr Crandon, from 1,758 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a review of the legislation governing sunset clauses in off-the-plan contracts for houses, townhouses and units in Queensland and implement reforms that prevent developers from exploiting these provisions to the detriment of purchasers.

The following lodged e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk is now closed and presented—

Water Fluoridation

1,817 petitioners, requesting the House to create a statewide philosophy of water fluoridation for everyone.

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

17 October 2025—

- [1608](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025
- [1609](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
- [1610](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 41, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1611](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 42, 58th Parliament—Annual Reports of Former Portfolio Committees and Business Committee 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [1612](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1613](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie), to a paper petition (4299-25), presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and to an ePetition (4277-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 149 and 672 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to increase the number of police officers and administration staff for the South Kolan Police station
- [1614](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4223-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 5,022 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the government declare a state of emergency for people experiencing homelessness, and deploy all appropriate measures to provide shelter and support
- [1615](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 19, 58th Parliament—Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025
- [1616](#) Response from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki), to an ePetition (4240-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,583 petitioners, requesting the House to review land valuations and the land tax thresholds that are resulting in increased taxation and increased rental costs
- [1617](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to a paper petition (4297-25), presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (4259-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,463 and 3,265 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to enact legislation to remove salt water crocodiles from the Barron and Mitchell Rivers and any other fresh water rivers and streams
- [1618](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4280-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 791 petitioners, requesting the House to require all members to declare if they have or have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and against this year's flu strains
- [1619](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 10, 58th Parliament—Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025

- [1620](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg), to a Petition (4298-25), presented by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 235 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently ensure the repair of the Savannahlander rail line to full operation

20 October 2025—

- [1621](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to a paper petition (4300-25), presented by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Lee, and an ePetition (4276-25), sponsored by the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Lee, from 3,889 and 2,893 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of an MRI machine for the Hervey Bay Hospital
- [1622](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008 and the Fire Services Regulation 2011
- [1623](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity (Hon. Frecklington) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Regulation 2008, the Agents Financial Administration Regulation 2014, the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, the Body Corporate and Community Management Regulation 2008, the Body Corporate and Community Management (Specified Two-lot Schemes Module) Regulation 2011, the Building Units and Group Titles Regulation 2008, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, the Collections Regulation 2008, the Coroners Regulation 2015, the Crime and Corruption Regulation 2015, the Criminal Code (Animal Valuers) Regulation 2014, the Debt Collectors (Field Agents and Collection Agents) Regulation 2014, the Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, the Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011, the Funeral Benefit Business Regulation 2010, the Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, the Justices Regulation 2014, the Keno Regulation 2007, the Liquor Regulation 2002, the Lotteries Regulation 2007, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Regulation 2014, the Partnership Regulation 2015, the Property Occupations Regulation 2014, the Public Guardian Regulation 2014, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, the Security Providers (Crowd Controller Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Firm Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Officer-Licensed Premises-Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Tattoo Industry Regulation 2013, the Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, the Tourism Services Regulation 2003, the Trust Accounts Regulation 1999, the Wagering Regulation 1999 and the Wine Industry Regulation 2009
- [1624](#) Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1625](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Annual operational report 2024-25, October 2025
- [1626](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Local Government Regulation 2012 and the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012

21 October 2025—

- [1627](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Brands Regulation 2012 and Food Production (Safety) Regulation 2014

24 October 2025—

- [1628](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 5, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 29 November 2024 and 24 June 2025
- [1629](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010
- [1630](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Mickelberg) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Infrastructure (Waterways Management) Regulation 2012
- [1631](#) Transmax—Annual Report 2024-25

27 October 2025—

- [1632](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2025
- [1633](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2025, explanatory notes
- [1634](#) Public Trustee Act 1978: Public Trustee (Fees and Charges Notice) (No. 1) 2025, human rights certificate
- [1635](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1636](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Hon. Janetzki) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006, the Gas Supply Regulation 2007 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014
- [1637](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Annual operational report 2024-25, October 2025: Erratum
- [1638](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Annual operational report 2024-25, October 2025: Revised Report
- [1639](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Emergency Services (Hon. Purdie) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Disaster Management Regulation 2014 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Wuthathi) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 132
- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Wuthathi) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 132, explanatory notes
- Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Wuthathi) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 132, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025, No. 133
- Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025, No. 133, explanatory notes
- Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2025, No. 133, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie)—

Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Planning and Infrastructure and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Bleijie) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013, the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014, the South Bank Corporation By-law 2014, the South Bank Corporation (Modified Building Units and Group Titles) Regulation 2014 and the South Bank Corporation Regulation 2014

Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander)—

Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. Mander) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.36 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Revocation of state areas: Proposal under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and an explanation of the proposal, relating to Barnard Island Group National Park.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.36 am): I give notice that I will move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* the dedication of part of one national park;

as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, **viz**

Description of areas to be revoked

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Barnard Island Group National Park | An area of about 0.615 hectares, described as lot 3 on plan USL36765, as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
|------------------------------------|--|
2. That the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation for submission to the Governor in Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): On 26 October 2024 Queenslanders voted for change. After a decade of decline under Labor, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. It has now been 12 months since our government was elected

and we have worked hard every day since to deliver what we promised. More police, better resources and stronger laws are all part of our plan to make Queensland safer.

We put in place Adult Crime, Adult Time to ensure young offenders face consequences for actions. We have expanded it to cover 33 offences and there will be more. Our new early intervention and rehabilitation programs will help turn the tide and turn kids away from a life of crime. We have made Jack's Law permanent and passed major domestic and family violence reforms to protect more victims sooner. This week the parliament will debate Daniel's Law, which will deliver the state's first ever public sex offender register. Crime was on the rise for a decade in this state. Finally, we are seeing the tide begin to turn. There is more to be done and we will not stop until Queenslanders feel safe again.

To heal Labor's health crisis, we are delivering the biggest investment in health infrastructure in Queensland's history. We have already delivered the biggest drop to the elective surgery waitlist in a decade. More than 142,000 surgeries have been delivered under our government, resulting in the first drop to the waitlist since its peak under Labor.

Nine new CT scanners and six MRI machines across the state will provide greater access to health care. Our Hospital Rescue Plan will deliver more beds and grow the health workforce. A decade of underinvestment by Labor left our health services on life support and it will take time to restore Queenslanders' confidence in the system, but we are determined to give our health workers more support and resources to give Queenslanders the services they need.

We are also delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders. Our landmark \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is accelerating the delivery of critical infrastructure, unlocking new homes sooner. Funds have already been released to unlock more than 98,000 homes. There are more to come. More than 5,600 social and affordable homes are in construction or under contract across the state. We also launched our nation-leading first home buyers scheme by axing a tax, providing grant support and launching the Boost to Buy program, just as we promised.

We know that the cost of living remains a significant challenge for many Queenslanders. That is why we made 50-cent fares permanent—something Labor never did. We axed not one but two taxes, including the patient tax. We are also helping more kids play sport and get back to school with the Play On! and Back to School Boost programs. There is much optimism and pride in Queensland at the moment. After a decade of decline under Labor, Queenslanders deserve a government that listens, a government that keeps its promises, a government that delivers for Queenslanders. I want to thank the hardworking public servants who are helping us turn the tide on the service delivery failures of those opposite.

Bureau of Meteorology, Website



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): On Sunday afternoon, serious storms passed from the west through to the state's south-east. More than 100,000 homes were without power and we saw some incredible images of the storm. Crews are working hard to clean debris and restore power. Queenslanders always show their resilience in these events, but preparation is the key. That preparation depends on the information available to us, and the changes to the federally-run Bureau of Meteorology website are not good enough. The changes to the website do not make sense. The website is flawed. Easy access to individual radars has been removed, the colour scheme we have become accustomed to has changed and platitudes from Canberra will not cut it with Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I have just called for order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Speaker, I just do not get it. We have people without power—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, order!

Mr CRISAFULLI:—we have people who are desperately worried about the failure of the website—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, I called for order; you immediately interjected. You are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I just do not understand why those opposite would put protecting their Labor mates in Canberra over protecting people with good information. Why would they do that?

Mr Power: Is this a ministerial statement?

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is why they are at sixes and sevens. I am taking the interjections and I just cannot believe them. I cannot believe what I am hearing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Once again, order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I just never thought I would see a Labor Party stoop to that low. On this side of the House we stick up for Queenslanders. On that side of the House they stick up for their mates. Queenslanders deserve better and we will continue to fight for our fair share from Canberra.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.42 am): Well said! One year ago, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start in this state. One year ago, they rejected the Labor Party's 10 years of decline and decay. One year ago, Queenslanders voted for change. The Premier and I—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Labor Party always put Queensland down. They hate Queensland, they hate Queenslanders—

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE:—and they are just so negative—whingeing and whining.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, it would assist if you could direct all of your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I am taking their interjections.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I refer to your ruling earlier this year where you instructed members and ministers in particular about the content of ministerial statements in that their language should be temperate. I would ask you to remind the Deputy Premier of his obligations in respect of your ruling.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Premier, you are well aware of that.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be listening carefully.

Mr BLEIJIE: One year ago, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and the Premier and I could not be more proud of our team across all of Queensland who are delivering in their electorates—and we are not only delivering in LNP electorates; we are delivering more in Labor Party electorates than the Labor Party delivered for 10 years. Let us take housing as an example. With regard to the Residential Activation Fund, a billion dollars has rolled out the door. As I was networking last week on the dance floor with all of the mayors across Queensland at the Local Government Association of Queensland conference, they could not have been happier with the Crisafulli government unlocking over 90,000 new homes in Queensland. In one year I have approved 17 ministerial infrastructure designations which has unlocked 806 social and affordable homes—and that is just in the MID space; that is not even the number that the Minister for Housing is dealing with and all of the affordable and social homes he is approving.

We have the games back on track. People are now proud of the games across all of Queensland because they see it as Queensland 2032 and our investment particularly in regional Queensland. We passed landmark legislation for regional and rural Queensland after listening to them on wind farms and solar farms. We made sure that everyone is involved in the process, not just the councils but the local communities—something they were denied by the Labor government. Even billionaires have to abide by our new planning framework because it is an equal playing field now with all members of the community and all residents. The thing I am most proud of this government in my portfolio is that we rolled up—shut—the red carpet to the CFMEU. No more will the CFMEU have an open door policy in government in this state. We are getting back on track. We are making sure that workers are well paid

and safe and that productivity returns to the worksite. This is what changing culture in Queensland is about. This is the fresh start Queenslanders voted for, and we will continue to do it in the years ahead.

Economy

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.45 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for one year ago. Our first budget funded services that would have ceased and jobs that would have ended and saved infrastructure and projects that would have never been built under Labor. We provided targeted and timely, responsible and recurrent cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders and we laid the foundations for budget repair. Employment for the year grew by 55,900 jobs to September. Unemployment in Queensland is below the national average, but there is more work to do after a decade of Labor's fiscal vandalism.

We have abolished two taxes. We axed Labor's patient tax to stop Queenslanders paying more when visiting the doctor. We abolished stamp duty for first home buyers who buy or build a new home. After languishing at the bottom of the home ownership ladder under Labor, more Queenslanders are realising their dream of owning their own home. We have extended the \$30,000 first home owner grant for a further 12 months and lifted restrictions on first home buyers and enabled them to rent out a room.

Another hallmark of Labor's decade of decline was Queensland's poor productivity, particularly in the construction sector, and that is why we re-established the Queensland Productivity Commission, which on Friday delivered its report on the construction sector following a six-month inquiry. The government will carefully consider the report and its recommendations and prepare a whole-of-government response over the next three months, as required by the act.

Our Energy Roadmap is improving the assets we have while we build what we need for the future. We are investing in our state owned energy generators through our \$1.6 billion energy maintenance guarantee, including the C3 unit at Callide which is currently undergoing scheduled maintenance, due for completion on 10 November. CS Energy has advised that the C4 unit at Callide Power Station tripped and came offline at approximately 6.30 on Sunday evening following a storm and lightning strike to Powerlink's Calvale switchyard, which connects Callide to the power grid. Callide units B1 and B2 are online. Assessment of the full impact of the storm is ongoing, but CS Energy advises the C4 unit is currently forecast to return to service on Friday. Engineers are also reviewing the turbine and boiler historical data to ensure there are no issues in returning the unit to service as forecast. CS Energy has also advised that there has been some storm damage to the C3 and C4 cooling towers.

I again want to thank Energex and Ergon workers for their ongoing work in reconnecting power after Sunday's storms and the strong winds that we saw yesterday. I can advise that as of this morning there are approximately 5,000 homes and businesses without power due to Sunday's storms, the winds of which reached the strength of a category 1 cyclone, with 265,000 lightning strikes and more than 370 powerlines downed. Work is continuing around the clock to restore power to remaining areas, with Brookfield, Fig Tree Pocket, Indooroopilly, Kenmore, Bardon and Pullenvale especially hard-hit.

Bureau of Meteorology, Website

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.49 am): I also confirm that this morning I have written to federal minister Murray Watt to express my significant concern about the changes made to the BoM website and its impact on Queenslanders. I table that letter for the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 October 2025, to Senator the Honourable Murray Watt, Federal Minister for the Environment and Water, regarding changes to the Bureau of Meteorology website.

This website contained critical flaws. Caboolture, a growing area of the south-east corner, has disappeared as a locator on the BoM map, while the strength and associated colour coding of storms that Queenslanders relied on through thick and thin has significantly changed for the worse. I urge the federal government to further consider the ongoing impact of the changes made to the website and options to improve accessibility of information at this critical time as Queensland enters summer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: There is way too much chatter in this chamber this morning. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

Justice System, Crisafulli LNP Government



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (9.50 am): Over the past 12 months, the Crisafulli government has delivered a fresh start for Queensland, after a decade of Labor decline that left our communities unsafe and our justice system in crisis. We inherited weak youth crime laws, a broken forensic lab and a justice system neglected by a Labor government that prioritised the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. In just one year we have made huge progress. The Crisafulli government's Making Queensland Safer Laws have restored consequences for the actions of young criminals. Our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws have now expanded to 33 serious offences. Unlike Labor, we make no apologies for ensuring serious crimes bring serious consequences and it is working, with victim numbers down 6.5 per cent. We know there is more work to do, but it is a clear sign that Queenslanders are safer under the Crisafulli government.

While we tackle youth crime, we are also rebuilding a justice system Labor left in a state of rack and ruin. Through our \$2.1 billion justice budget we have delivered more prosecutors, a District Court judge for Townsville, stronger support for victims, improved integrity in government and the long overdue upgrades for court security and infrastructure which Labor ignored for many years. We are prioritising the protection of Queensland's children through strong advocacy at a national level, leading a key review into the system responses to child sexual abuse which failed under those opposite and launching a landmark commission of inquiry into child safety. That is on top of a landmark commission of inquiry into the CFMEU. We have also cleaned up Labor's decade of decline in sentencing ending a disgraceful practice where sexual offenders could rely on good-character evidence to soften their punishment. As I stated during the debate, no victim should ever have to hear that their rapist was a 'good bloke'.

As the Minister for Integrity, I am proud to be part of a government which has restored the corruption reporting powers of the CCC in our first six months and released the Trad and Carne reports for all Queenslanders to see. Who could forget the raging bin fire that was FSQ under the former Labor government? We are not sitting back and hoping for a miracle at Forensic Science Queensland; instead, we are fixing Labor's DNA debacle—one of the greatest failures of a justice system anywhere. Those opposite are still denying the debacle. They are still denying that victims are waiting for justice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: They are still denying that there is an issue. This was all under the former Labor government. Their heads are still in the sand. Well, our heads are not. It is why we have invested \$50 million to fix up Labor's DNA debacle. They are all laughing because they do not care about victims. We are the only ones on this side of the chamber who care about victims in Queensland.

Under director Mick Fuller AO more scientists are back on the frontline at FSQ and thousands of samples are being processed as part of our \$50 million DNA blitz.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The cross-chamber chatter will cease.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We are working to clear Labor's backlogs and bring an end to the chaos and dysfunction that has plagued the lab for many years under the former Palaszczuk and Miles governments. After a decade of decline, Queenslanders finally have a government that is restoring law and order and integrity, delivering the fresh start they were promised and making this state safer for everyone.

Youth Justice, Crisafulli LNP Government



Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.54 am): After a decade of decline under Labor, we have seen 12 months of delivery under the Crisafulli government. In our first year, we are doing what we said we would do. Adult Crime, Adult Time is now law and youth offenders are finally starting to face real and serious consequences for their actions. Already, serious repeat youth offenders have fallen 17 per cent in the first six months of the Crisafulli government—that means fewer victims of crime.

For those Queenslanders who find themselves living with the trauma of crime, we are also delivering a record \$458 million in support for victims of crime, almost doubling the support available to victims through Victim Assist Queensland. We have delivered our community response program for victims of crime statewide. This puts frontline workers on the ground in communities following traumatic crime events to support victims and communities when they need it most right across the state. We have reformed the youth justice victims register, meaning the onus is no longer on the victim to reach

out and put themselves on a register in order to receive information. Victims of youth crime are now automatically able to receive updates and information when they require it.

We are delivering a nation-leading victim advocate service—a one-stop shop for victims of crime—because all too often under the previous Labor government victims of crime fell through the cracks. They did not feel supported through the justice process. We are building a stronger system: one that listens to victims, supports them and makes sure their rights are respected through every part of the justice process. That is why yesterday I also met with the new interim Victims' Commissioner, Mr Bob Gee. We talked about the Crisafulli government's priority to put victims first.

The role of the Victims' Commissioner requires someone with knowledge of the justice system and the impact that system can have on victims. Mr Gee is a well-respected public servant who has served in various capacities for almost four decades, including across the justice system as deputy commissioner of the Queensland Police Service and more recently as my director-general for the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. Given Mr Gee's experience, he understands the complexities of the system that victims face. Quite frankly, he had a front-row seat to the failings of the former Labor government and what victims faced under the former Labor government when they let victims fall through the cracks.

The Crisafulli government will continue to deliver on our priority to strengthen victims' rights and to deliver a system that leads to fewer victims of crime—a system that puts victims first and treats them with respect and decency and compassion. We are delivering the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for, including for victims of crime.

Chelepy, Deputy Commissioner S; Police Resources



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (9.58 am): I rise to inform the House of the retirement of one of the state's most experienced police officers. Deputy Commissioner Shane Chelepy has served this state with distinction for almost 40 years. He is respected, trusted and steadfast. Known for his impeccable flat-top and knock-about nature, he is more comfortable being called 'Chopper' than 'sir'.

Shane Chelepy is a country boy who rose through the ranks, although he almost missed his calling to be a cop. Starting his work life in construction, it was his desire to serve that pushed him towards policing. He served across South-East Queensland before becoming a commissioned officer in charge of the state Water Police. Roles in counterterrorism at the strategic policy branch and at South Brisbane as the district officer followed. In 2020, Shane took over the unenviable role of operations commander during COVID. A sobering experience, Shane would later describe it as both challenging and rewarding. He likened it to his role as the state disaster coordinator.

The deputy commissioner has seen this state through floods, cyclones, fires, tornadoes and storms. He is as reliable as the weather is unpredictable—a steady hand in the midst of disaster, supporting Queenslanders through their most vulnerable times. He has learned to expect the unexpected, which is why earlier this year he did not flinch when he was tapped on the shoulder and elevated to the top job. With a moment's notice, he took on the role of commissioner with gusto. I know that his decision to hang up his blue uniform was not an easy one. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank him for his dedication to serving and protecting.

While the deputy commissioner is retiring, others are joining the ranks. The Queensland Police Service has grown more in the past 12 months than it has in the past five years. We now have an extra 453 police on the beat. Why? It is because the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland. We are delivering on our commitments, which is why last week I was proud to attend at Burleigh Heads with the Premier and the local member to announce not only that the new police beat would be opened by Christmas but also more police. This was an election commitment we made to the people of Burleigh, who have been subjected to Labor's crime crisis. They called for it, the local member listened and this government delivered. We are also delivering funds for a new SES facility at Deception Bay. Just last week I was onsite to see the finishing touches being put on in time for the looming severe weather season. Delivering for Queensland is not just a slogan; it is about action and accountability.

Health Services, Crisafulli LNP Government



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): After a decade of decline, a year ago Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering that fresh start for Queensland. We are delivering and we are healing Labor's health crisis. We started off early in the piece by abolishing a patient tax—gone! We started off early in

the piece by delivering real-time data through our Open Hospitals program, re-establishing monthly release of information—something those opposite cancelled.

Queensland's elective surgery waitlist skyrocketed during Labor's decade of decline—almost doubling, from 35,000 in February 2015 to more than 66,000 in 2024. These are not just numbers on a page; they are Queenslanders who are suffering from a reduced quality of life simply because they are waiting for essential surgery. That is why the Crisafulli government committed to stabilise the elective surgery waitlist within 12 months. I am pleased to update the House that not only have we delivered on our commitment; we have delivered it two months early.

The latest data confirms that under the Crisafulli government there has, in fact, been a five per cent drop in the waitlist and over 143,000 patients have been treated. This includes Queenslanders like Russell, whom the Premier and I visited in July, who could get back to work after waiting on the elective surgery waitlist for far too long for a hip replacement. That was under our \$100 million Surgery Connect Surge. It also includes Patricia, whom I met with earlier this month at Logan Hospital, who had been waiting for seven years for hip surgery and described receiving her life-changing surgery as like winning the lotto. These are just two stories among the record 143,000 surgeries the Crisafulli government has delivered since coming to office—10 per cent more surgeries than for the same period last year.

Our \$100 million Surgery Connect Surge was intended to deliver 10,000 additional surgeries, but through careful planning and partnership with the private sector we actually delivered over 12,300 more surgeries. We are not stopping there. The Crisafulli government's record \$33.1 billion health budget is building on this success through a further investment of \$1.75 billion over four years. This will deliver an additional 30,000 elective surgeries this financial year alone. We have already gone out to tender, and I can confirm that contracts have been offered to our partners for 2025-26. They have all been accepted and they are getting on with the job. This is just one way the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland: by fast-tracking access to more elective surgeries and restoring health services to Queenslanders closer to home.

South-East Queensland Weather Event, Schools; Education and the Arts, Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (10.04 am): I start by acknowledging the current situation in our schools due to the storm on Sunday night. Yesterday 15 schools were closed—10 state schools and five non-state schools. The only two that are still closed today are Brookfield State School and Upper Brookfield State School in the electorate of Moggill. I specifically want to thank staff and teachers from Corinda State High School. Yesterday I was there to announce our Red Tape Reduction Plan as well as the historic enterprise bargaining offer that we put on the table. Corinda State High School hosted senior students from Centenary State High School and Indooroopilly State High School who are doing their final exams. I thank the staff at Corinda State High School; the Treasurer's staff via Energex; Housing and Public Works staff through QBuild; and departmental staff for the hard work they have done to get those schools back into action as well as all of our staff for helping our senior students at a potentially traumatic time.

The landmark of one year of the Crisafulli government gives us an opportunity to reflect and focus on the future. Twelve months ago, as the Minister for Education and the Arts, I was asked to stabilise our state schools in terms of issues such as bullying, red tape, falling staff morale and NAPLAN standards and to negotiate a national funding agreement as well as to strengthen the arts sector, which has so much potential and value to add to our great state. I am grateful that I have had the opportunity and privilege to do this. We appreciate the trust and faith the people of Queensland have placed in us and we aim to continue to deliver.

A strong education system is the backbone of our society, our future and every sector of our economy. It is imperative that we take care of our educators. I want to highlight this specifically as we are in the final stages of enterprise bargaining negotiations. Let me stress to all in the House today that the Crisafulli government values fair and reasonable treatment of our public sector. To this end, I can attest to the fact that our EB offer is the best in any state. Under the enterprise agreement offer that we have made today, beginning teachers will be the best paid teachers of any state in the country and teachers currently teaching will be paid a minimum of \$100,000 by the end of this agreement in 2028. Along with many other incentives and conditions, we have ensured wages remain competitive, with an eight per cent guaranteed increase over three years, with a potential for a maximum increase of 10.5 per cent which accounts and allows for a consumer price index uplift adjustment. This

demonstrates a government that is mindful of inflation and cost of living. They are practical and thoughtful solutions to real issues in response to listening to Queenslanders.

This week we also launched the Red Tape Reduction Plan. This is in response to educators expressing their frustration with the overdone administrative and bureaucratic burden that crept up over the last 10 years. We promised during the election to reduce this burden by 25 per cent. We now have a comprehensive and actionable plan to do this. As part of this, we are utilising technologies to improve IT systems and even accessing artificial intelligence to keep our education standards at world-class standard. Most importantly, teachers will be free to teach literacy and numeracy—the things that we know are so important.

When it comes to the arts, I want to stress and highlight that the Crisafulli government regards the regions highly. We have invested an historically record-breaking \$39.2 million into the core funding of arts organisations across the state. We have also announced a new Regional Community Arts Program. I look forward to the future. There is much more ground to cover and we remain resolved to continue delivering for Queensland.

Bruce Highway



Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering a safer, more reliable Bruce Highway backed by a \$9 billion investment secured on an 80-20 funding deal that puts Queenslanders first. We are getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce. Sixteen priority safety projects are already underway or complete and we are not slowing down anytime soon. We are delivering a safer, reliable and more efficient highway for Queensland's future.

One of the first tasks the Premier assigned me was to ensure we held the federal Labor government to account on the 80-20 funding split we should have been getting for our state's key roads. The former government had abandoned such an arrangement in favour of a significantly worse 50-50 deal that meant less funds for Queensland roads to be fixed, maintained and improved. In the past year, we have not only been able to restore the 80-20 split on the spine of Queensland's road network, the Bruce Highway; we have also been able to secure a \$9 billion joint investment to uplift that highway right up and down that key route. Four priority projects have already been completed with another 10 under construction and the last two of the 16 will commence construction in coming weeks.

In North Queensland, we have seen pavement upgrades at Alligator Creek and Hencamp Creek and a third location at Toomulla is also about to be completed. Early works are also underway between Dean Road and Tully High School, with main construction to follow shortly. Those projects are not just important for the people of the Burdekin and Hinchinbrook, where they are located; it is a win for everyone in Northern Queensland who relies on the Bruce Highway for the delivery of goods to supermarkets or the movement of produce to markets further south.

Residents in Maryborough and Gympie are very excited about important safety upgrades underway at Bauple, north of Gympie. Heading a little further north, they will also benefit from an upgrade to the Barton Road intersection between Gin Gin and Benaraby. A new all-vehicle rest area at Curra and an upgrade to an existing rest area at Granite Creek are also on the cards. However, this is just the start as we get into a rolling program of works to continue well into the coming years. Design work and pre-construction activities are already underway for the next lot of projects coming through the program.

As minister, I have made a point of driving as much of the Bruce Highway as I could over the past year. I had been driving up and down the highway long before I was a minister or a member of parliament. In fact, I have lived in Rockhampton, Cairns, Mackay and Townsville and I know that the Bruce Highway does not stop at Noosa, which is why every dollar of our \$9 billion investment will be spent north of Gympie. I want regional Queenslanders—those who, day in and day out, rely on the Bruce to get them to work, to get their kids to school and to get their goods and produce to market—to know that they can rely on the Crisafulli government to back them and to get on with the job. They can rely on the Crisafulli government to bring the Bruce back to a standard that they expect and frankly deserve but that has been missing after a decade of decline under Labor. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of fixing the Bruce and delivering for every Queenslanders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.12 am.

Bureau of Meteorology, Website



Mr MILES (10.12 am): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. I have been briefed by the federal environment minister and he has organised a meeting for me with the Bureau of Meteorology later today about website changes that have left Queenslanders confused and angry. Given the Disaster Management Committee convened ahead of the storm season, did the minister receive a briefing on the major website change before this week?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. I have been in contact with the State Disaster Coordinator, Chris Stream, who under those arrangements reports directly to the Premier. I know that the Premier has been in direct contact with the CEO of the BoM over the weekend and we have raised those concerns. In fact, I spoke to Chris Stream again this morning about the ongoing disaster response. I take this opportunity—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hold on, Minister. We are not far into this and I cannot hear the minister.

Mr PURDIE: As I was saying, the State Disaster Coordinator and I have been in regular contact, as has the Premier, which is the reporting chain in disaster response, as those opposite should know. As I said, the Premier spoke directly to the CEO of the BoM. I was talking to Chris Stream, who has replaced Shane Chelepy in that role and there is probably no-one more able to do that. I was talking with Streamie this morning about the work that is being done. We know of the response to the high winds and storms on Sunday that rolled straight into fires yesterday. Today, Chris Stream told me that early indications are that they are expecting more severe weather this weekend. He wanted me to send the message and encourage people to get onto the Get Ready website and prepare for that.

Over the past three days, our SES have responded. I have the details and I am happy to provide them in answer to any further questions. There are still a couple of hundred jobs outstanding but our SES personnel have responded to hundreds of jobs. As at about 8.30 last night, they were attending 15 fires.

The issues with the BoM have been made loud and clear. The Premier and I spoke about that with Chris Stream and the Premier has taken it up with the CEO of the BoM, although I was not present at that meeting. I am happy to continue to talk about the great work of the SES. I was in Deception Bay, as I reported in my ministerial statement, where in the next few weeks we will be opening a state-of-the-art SES centre and there will also be a north-side hub for the Moreton district.

We will continue to support our SES workers and our police by making sure they have all the resources they need to do their jobs. I take this opportunity to give them all a shout-out. Potentially we will have more severe weather on the weekend. Unfortunately, Queensland has the most experience of this. We see volatile weather, as in the past three days, where we go from storms with heavy rain and wind to fires. I thank our first responders for the work that they are doing right across the state to respond to that.

Health, Data Reporting

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. The AMA and the QNMU are raising problems with the real-time data website, with reports stating that 'nurses are facing increased aggression from ED patients fed up with unrealistic wait times listed on the government's website.' Has the LNP's real-time data website put our frontline health heroes at risk?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because he highlights something that he and the Labor government were unable to do for over 3,000 days, which was to provide real-time data to Queenslanders so that we can direct resources. For over a decade, they were unable to do that.

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take the interjection; they went backwards. They started reducing the amount of data that was available. The member for Waterford reduced the amount of data that was available. Instead of providing monthly data, she reduced it to quarterly data. Not only have we reinstated quarterly data and not only do we stand up and answer questions in relation to that data; we are actually using that data to direct resources so that we can fix a decade of decline under Labor.

We made a commitment to restore real-time data. We made a commitment to have an open data hospitals website available. We have delivered that. That website provides more information than comparable websites in both New South Wales and South Australia. It enables patients to make an assessment of where they want to go amongst our top 26 hospitals. It has a feedback mechanism to ensure that people who make suggestions can supply that feedback so that it can be improved because it can always be made better and it enables us to direct resources to cure Labor's ramping crisis.

We are investing over \$80 million in new transit lounges, which those opposite failed to fund for a decade and they oversaw ramping rates that went from 15 per cent to, in some instances, 65 per cent. For a decade they presided over the health crisis that we have now spent a year fixing. As I said in my ministerial statement, we have already invested \$100 million in our Surgery Connect Surge. We are reducing the elective surgery waitlist, improving the quality of life for Queenslanders. We are also investing in expanded facilities including our Hospital Rescue Plan. Eleven hospitals are getting nine new CT machines and six new MRI machines and \$80 million is going to transit lounges.

We have actually done what those opposite were unable to do and that is secure a deal with our nurses. We continue to talk to the QNMU and the AMAQ in relation to issues they raise regarding the real-time data on the hospitals' websites. I thank them for their contribution.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Can the Premier outline how the LNP government is delivering a fresh start for Queensland and how this differs from the previous decade of decline?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Callide for an excellent question. In this chamber I do not get a lot of questions from those opposite. When I get a great question from a hardworking member like the member for Callide, I enjoy the opportunity to respond.

I want to point out what we have done in our first 12 months. We have had a big focus on service delivery for the big four crises that drove us to put forward to the people of Queensland a proposition as to how we would do better. We also spoke about investment in infrastructure. I acknowledge how the member for Callide has been a fierce advocate for his part of world in making sure they get their fair share. The honourable Treasurer's energy plan is, I believe, a generational opportunity to remove the ideology that we have seen and make it about economic opportunities. It benefits people like the ones represented by the honourable member.

The other thing we have done over the last 12 months is remove the scare campaign that those opposite ran. A scare campaign like that will never be effective again. It reminds me of a conversation I had when I was with the honourable member for Redcliffe at the markets in her community the other day. A gentleman by the name of Pat came forward and said, 'I did not vote for you, but I think you're doing a pretty good job.' I thank Pat for that conversation. I asked him why he did not vote for us. The answer was that he fell for the scare campaign from those opposite. What we have done in a calm and methodical way—dare I say it—is show that the things the Labor Party said would come true have not come true and that the promises we made have been delivered and will continue to be delivered.

We have also had a quest to return productivity to this state. In a little while, those opposite will have the opportunity to be put to the test on whether or not they are willing to walk the walk on productivity and whether or not they are willing to bring their masters in the CFMEU to heel. I will not steal the thunder of the honourable Deputy Premier, but there will be an opportunity for those opposite to show that they got it wrong in the past when it comes to the CFMEU and that the protection racket for the CFMEU was wrong for Queenslanders, wrong for the economy and wrong for workers because of the way they were bullied, badgered and treated. There will be an opportunity for those opposite.

There is another test for those opposite. That test is whether or not the person who sits opposite me will make it to Christmas. We read the reports on Saturday. We know what is coming. It may not be this week but there is a date and it is 8 December. On 8 December will be the last caucus meeting of the year. In the same way they rolled the last one, they are about to roll this one.

(Time expired)

Gladstone and Rockhampton Hospitals, Nurses

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health. When nurses at Gladstone and Rockhampton hospitals spoke about dangerous and unethical practices in the ED, the minister and director-general categorically denied it was happening. RTI documents now reveal nurses' complaints

made at the time were true. Does the minister stand by his statement that the experiences of nurses at Gladstone and Rockhampton hospitals were categorically untrue?

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Gladstone is obviously now a friend of the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland. This is a complete change of heart in terms of the attitude they had a year ago, when they lambasted the NPAQ and passed legislation in every effort possible to denigrate the work of an alternative organisation. The 'member for Butcher'—

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I nearly said the 'butcher from Gladstone', which I would have, of course, had to withdraw. The member for Gladstone stood up with the Labor Party and attempted to silence the NPAQ.

Unlike those opposite, we respond to everything that comes forward. All of those matters that were raised in relation—

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: They do not like the answer. They always ask the questions but they do not like the answers. What is it that they do not like about the answer? Is it because we highlight the hypocrisy or the failure? It has to be one or the other.

When those matters were raised, what did we do? The director-general went to Gladstone. He sat down with the doctors, nurses and clinicians in the emergency department and spoke to them about the issues. Here is the point: all of the matters that were raised had been accurately recorded in the hospital's RiskMan system. The system was actually picking up the complaints, and all the RTI shows is that the complaints had been recorded. That's it—shock, horror!

The RiskMan system was working as it is intended to do. People who had problems with the system recorded them in the system and the RTI reveals that the system recorded the complaints that people made. We have responded to those. The director-general and the chief executive attended. Steps have been taken to ensure the problem that occurred between the Ambulance Service and nurses on the front line in relation to handover was resolved. As has been said by the chief executive, including in reports in the media on the weekend, those matters had been resolved, recorded in RiskMan and answered on the way through. I would think the member for Gladstone would be more concerned about the state of the hospitals as he left them than about what we are doing to fix it.

(Time expired)

Infrastructure

Mrs YOUNG: 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 how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering generational infrastructure for Queensland, and is he aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Redlands is a great local member delivering for the people of the Redlands. In our last budget, this government invested \$116 billion in infrastructure—the largest investment in infrastructure in Queensland's history. In the Redlands we have sorted out the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The people of Redlands, Capalaba and Oodgeroo will have whitewater rafting in the Redlands and a facility for emergency services going forward because of their three great local members.

How are we going to deliver this infrastructure? It will be through productivity on worksites and rolling up the red carpet that the CFMEU had and closing the door on the CFMEU, which had access to the former Labor government. I was shocked and appalled about this. The *Courier-Mail* have the wonderful 'Whingeing and wine-ing' series, which I have not had the opportunity to go on yet. I saw the member for McConnel was on 'Whingeing and Wine-ing' recently. I have to say to the wonderful reporters on the *Courier-Mail* 'Whingeing and Wine-ing' series that the member for McConnel could do it week in and week out for the next three years as there is so much fodder. You would not need anyone else. I cannot get a spot. I cannot book a spot because it is full with the member for McConnel. She said, 'Certain people in the CFMEU is not the union.' She was industrial relations minister. Not wanting to change the culture and just excuse it as she always has, she said—

If their behaviour as an adult is not meeting the standard, that is their responsibility, not mine.

No, I am sorry. The member for McConnel was the industrial relations minister and had a responsibility to the workers—the public servants in the department and to workers on worksites—and she failed both. She then said—

I have no problems with the new stadium and I don't know where is the best place to build a new stadium ... They are just drilling to see where they are going to put the wretched thing.

Yet last night there were Labor MPs sipping champagne at the Olympic and Paralympic venue, talking about our delivery plan.

We need productivity on worksites. That is why we are going to do this. Today I will introduce legislation that closes the door on the CFMEU dodgy deals with the Labor Party. I am introducing legislation that will stop an amendment that was taking place in March next year which meant the CFMEU had direct access to personal information of construction companies in Queensland, that they moved—the member for McConnel's industrial relations move—and it starts in March. We are stopping it. We are closing the door to the CFMEU dodgy deals. We have gone through every piece of legislation that the member for McConnel and the Leader of the Opposition moved to help and support the CFMEU in Queensland. We say no. We say no to the CFMEU. We say yes to Queenslanders. The Labor Party still owe their destiny to the CFMEU. We do not!

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Ramping

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Premier's committed ramping reduction plan, with year-on-year KPIs, was due to be completed midyear. It is now late October. Can the minister confirm if the plan is complete with KPIs and when will it be released?

Mr NICHOLLS: I have much pleasure in outlining what we have been able to do to address the health crisis that we were left by those opposite, including our health plan. Our health plan is in place. In fact, I can report to the House that the health plan was one of the first items of business considered by the cabinet. It was considered, if memory serves me, in the first cabinet meeting of this year and, if memory serves me, it was the first item on the first cabinet meeting of this year. That is, as I understand it, a complete departure from the way the health department operated under those opposite when it was often late, over budget and undeliverable. That is what we found when we came to government. We found ambulance ramping had gone through the roof and had reached record highs; we found elective surgery in the month of December 2024 over 66,000; and we found a corporately managed budget, a central budget, that had been overdrawn by \$12 billion. That is what we found when we came in. When we dug a bit deeper, we found a deficit for 2024-25 of \$800 million which we have since rectified—

Mr de BRENNI: I rise to a point of order on relevance, Mr Speaker. The question was specifically around the Premier's commitment to release a ramping reduction plan, due midyear. I would ask you to draw the minister back to a relevant answer to that particular plan.

Mr SPEAKER: As I hear it, the minister is talking about ramping and talking about the plan. Minister?

Mr NICHOLLS: I have just gone through it. We have a health plan. The health plan is addressing it. What are we doing? I have already outlined it to the House. We are spending more than \$80 million on new transit lounges which are being built right now, including at Logan where we are doubling the size of the transit lounge there, including—

Mr BAILEY: When will it be released?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller.

Mr NICHOLLS: We hear the member for Miller—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: We hear the member for Miller, with his constant bleating, whingeing and whining over there. The member for Miller is the only member over there who quit the Queensland cabinet before he could be sacked. Well-placed sources said, 'If Bailey is not removed from cabinet, there will be a revolt.' Well, well, Mr Speaker—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was precisely about the ramping reduction plan and its midyear release.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to stick to the ramping issue.

Mr NICHOLLS: I was responding to interjections. When we talk about ramping and talk about numbers, what will be interesting is where the member for Miller's numbers go when it gets to

December. When it is turkey season and the knives are out and the killing season is on, where are the member for Miller's numbers going to go? Are they going to go to the member for Gaven or are they going to go with the member for Waterford? That is the number that most people find most interesting. That is what we will be looking for.

(Time expired)

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller! That is the last time I will caution you.

Social and Affordable Housing

Miss DOOLAN: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more social and affordable housing across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that saw the construction of social and affordable housing decline in this state?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question and I thank the member for her advocacy to turn around the housing crisis and, in particular, for her advocacy for more young Queenslanders to achieve the dream of home ownership. In our state, for too long, the author of the building and construction industry policy was the CFMEU. The former government even went so far as to appoint one of the most senior members of the CFMEU to the board of the building regulator, the QBCC. Those sweetheart deals with that militant union were leading to massive declines in productivity. They meant that we had the least productive job sites in the nation. In fact, the Productivity Commission has found that 77,000 fewer homes have been delivered since 2018 than otherwise would have been. Imagine if we had 77,000 more homes across our state right now; the crisis would not be as bad as it is.

BPIC had massive flow-on impacts which is why we hit pause on them almost immediately upon coming to government. It is why the deputy is fast-tracking legislation to pull back the influence of the CFMEU on construction sites across Queensland. It is about making our state the building capital of the nation and it is part of our Reg Reno reform to change the building industry for the better in Queensland. That is part of our comprehensive housing plan which has seen 2,990 additional social and affordable homes contracted to be delivered since we came to office. It goes all the way through the system, right up to home ownership.

On this side of the House, we love seeing new home owners. It is a big priority of ours. We committed to going from last to first in home ownership. There is one home owner who I want to congratulate in particular. It is a home owner who—

Mr Stevens: Not a renter anymore.

Mr O'CONNOR: I will take that interjection. It is a home owner who was famously a renter, who would say to everyone who would listen that they were a renter; that they were struggling. But this home owner, who has achieved home ownership now, could not do that under the Palaszczuk government, they could not do it under the Miles government, but thanks to the calm, considered, methodical way that the Treasurer is running our state's economy, thanks to having a government prioritising home ownership—something that this young renter could not achieve in the Palaszczuk and Miles' reign—has finally been achieved thanks to the Crisafulli government. I want to sincerely congratulate the member for Gaven who is one of Queensland's newest home owners who has achieved home ownership under the Crisafulli government. She is no longer a renter but a home owner—

A government member interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I take that interjection. We abolished the first home owner tax. She is one of many new home owners coming across our state, thanks to the Crisafulli LNP government.

(Time expired)

Hospital Infrastructure

Ms ASIF: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Redcliffe Hospital construction site has sat empty for almost 12 months. Will the minister release the updated delivery timeframes for our major hospital builds today?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for the question. This has been a day where I have been able to outline how well the Crisafulli LNP government has been delivering for Queensland and healing Labor's health crisis. I want to thank the member for the question. I want to thank the Deputy Premier

for handing me one copy of the Hospital Rescue Plan. I already have my own. Thank you very much. That accompanies my copy of 'Labor's Hospital Failures' as well, which I keep with me.

Mr SPEAKER: We do not need any props.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Sandgate asked the question. The member for Sandgate joined me when we opened the new Sandgate and Districts Ambulance Station. I invited the member along for the inspection. I think it is important for local members to have the opportunity to do that. I notice that I did not feature prominently in the member's social media about the opening of the station. That was somewhat churlish, but I am big enough to get past it. That we have already opened a new ambulance station in the member's electorate is yet another example of the Crisafulli government delivering for our ambulance services.

When it comes to Redcliffe, we are delivering where Labor failed. When we came to office, the costs for Redcliffe, as discovered by the Sangster review, had blown out by more than \$1 billion—from \$1.06 billion to \$2.12 billion. It had already been delayed by over two years. Stage 2 was due to be called on 5 August 2023, but under those opposite it was delayed until 13 September 2024, and before the election the delay was out to 21 February 2025.

We also had a number of issues, including a scar tree that was designed to be right in the middle of the lift well and services. The hospital could not be built, and the delay cost \$54,000 a day from September 2024 onwards. Over a thousand comments were made by clinicians on the design of that particular hospital, but they were ignored.

Mr Bleijie: Did the tree just pop up overnight?

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly. As a result, there was to be no mortuary, no education facilities and no paediatric outpatients. What have we done? We have taken the positive step to redesign it. We will be going to tender in the very near future for an additional three levels of car parking, not two levels as the member for Bancroft continues to say. There will be a lot more good news coming with respect to Redcliffe as we deliver what those opposite failed to for over a decade.

(Time expired)

Recycling

Ms JAMES: My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism. How is the Crisafulli LNP government backing community-led recycling efforts, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed community expectations during a decade of decline?

Mr POWELL: I thank the member for Barron River for her question. She may be the Assistant Minister for Tourism, but I know that she is equally passionate about the environment, particularly in Far North Queensland. When we came to government, the consequences of Labor's decade of decline were very clear. We have heard from other ministers today that the decline was across housing, crime, the cost of living and health. It was also incredibly evident in my portfolio, particularly in the realms of waste and recycling. Under those opposite, more waste was going to landfill than ever before, despite the fact that a waste levy was put in place with the single intent of driving down landfill rates. Nobody on that side, despite their numerous environment ministers, was investing in the infrastructure that Queensland councils needed to ensure they could lift their recovery and recycling rates. As we have heard recently, our container refund scheme was 20 per cent below its legislated recovery rate and had a broken governance structure.

Those opposite might be happy with a record of chronic mediocrity, of failure and of decline, but the Crisafulli government are not. We have been determined from day one to do better, which is why we have released a landmark new draft Waste Strategy. It is why we are working with councils, not against them, through our \$130 million Resource Recovery Boost Fund. We are making sure that councils have what they need to build the infrastructure they need. It is also why we launched an inquiry into Queensland's broken container refund scheme.

Last week the member for Southport handed down an explosive report that detailed the extent of Labor's Coex crisis: allegations of standover tactics, allegations of cronyism and even allegations of corrupt conduct, which have now been referred to the CCC. I am conscious that the report lies on the table, but there has been an alarming new development. We heard that requests are being made for cabinet documents to be released. In minutes tabled by the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee recently, there is a letter from my director-general to the chair of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee that states—

I have been advised by the Acting Cabinet Secretary that following the consultation provided for in The Queensland Cabinet Handbook, the documents to which public interest immunity applies, are not authorised to be released to the Committee.

What is the Leader of the Opposition trying to hide? There is a precedent. When the member for Clayfield was the leader of the opposition, he released cabinet documents. When the member for Nanango was the leader of the opposition, she released cabinet directives. The soon-to-be-former leader of the opposition has run scared. I have some news for the members of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: sit tight because change is coming. Change is coming because we suspect—in fact, it has already been shared through the media—that the member for Waterford will put the Leader of the Opposition out for kerbside collection on 8 December. When that occurs, the members of the HEIC will be able to write to the new leader of the opposition, the member for Waterford, and get the documents released.

(Time expired)

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Minister for Health. If it is found the minister acted unlawfully by banning gender-affirming care, will the minister stand down?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question and I rule it out of order.

Ms GRACE: Do you want me to rephrase, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: I have ruled it out of order. I am sorry.

Government Accountability

Mrs STOKER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the Deputy Premier outline the importance of maintaining proper standards when it comes to wage allocations and accountability, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any instances where this was not met during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the honourable member for Oodgeroo for the question. It is a wonderful question. I congratulate her on the great work she is doing following the former member for Oodgeroo and on the great work she and her friends and LNP colleagues in that region are doing collectively. In answering the question, there are a few issues I want to tackle.

I will start where the environment minister left off. He talked about this report and the announcement today that the opposition leader refused to give details in a transparent way. I sat here pondering why the environment minister was talking about that. I thought, 'Why would the opposition leader refuse to release documents when he has the power, as opposition leader, to release former Labor cabinet documents?' He is the only one who has the power, so why would he do that? Then I remembered reading the report that was released. He was the minister responsible for the design of Coex! Conflicts of interest do not get any more conflicting than that. He is the very person who can release the documents and bare all and tell the story about the deliberations, but he will not. He is protecting his leadership.

We know the Christmas coup is upon us. Again, he is so conflicted because he completed the last Christmas coup. In fact, he was on Twiggy's yacht, believe it or not, the day the Christmas coup was announced. I wonder what holiday or yacht the member for Woodridge is planning for the honourable opposition leader. We heard the environment minister talk about the kerbside collection. I wonder what gift the member for Gaven is preparing for the opposition leader. I suspect it might be a suitcase because I reckon the opposition leader is about to be told to pack his case. When he has the suitcase from the member for Gaven and stands on the side of the road ready for kerbside collection in Murrumba, I do not even think the garbo will collect it. It is so used that I do not even think it is worthy of recycling. They have done it before. When he was the premier, he oversaw the health crisis, the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the youth crime crisis. They put him back in here as the Leader of the Opposition with the same dud he has as his deputy. 'Deputy Dud Dick' sits over there.

Mr SPEAKER: Some of that I am going to deem unparliamentary.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Excuse me! Minister, I ask you to withdraw before you continue.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. Let me refer to a *Courier-Mail* article. I will quote the Labor people who are leaking against the opposition leader. This section of the article is titled “Sloppy” Labor’ and states—

Steven Miles’s colleagues aren’t certain he will lead Labor to the 2028 state election.

They’re not sure he wants to.

Unlike Crisafulli—who as opposition leader woke up early out of desperation to become Premier—Miles lacks discipline and a work ethic.

He’s not lazy, but MPs are starting to acknowledge that returning to power in 2028 demands more than a strong social media presence.

The Labor MPs have given up on him, as have Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Housing Affordability

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Premier. It is now more expensive to buy a home in Brisbane than in Melbourne, with median prices skyrocketing to almost a million dollars. Is it this government’s policy that house prices should continue to rise?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is this government’s policy to deliver supply, to deliver opportunity, to enable people to once again dream of the aspiration of owning a home in this great state. It is this government’s plan to deliver infrastructure to protect the lifestyle of those who are here but to welcome new people to this great state wherever they come from provided they have a dream to be part of this state. This state is on the cusp of something very special. We want to make sure that we can deliver for those people.

Likewise it is this government’s policy to make sure that those who are least fortunate in society have a roof over their head. I want to be part of a state where someone who is doing it tough can have a roof over their head. I want to be part of a state where the community housing sector can feel empowered, valued and respected and have a pipeline of work.

Ms Grace: You just cancelled social and affordable housing!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am sorry but I am going to take the interjection from the opposition, particularly the member for McConnel. I acknowledge that the honourable member who asked the question has not interjected in the same way, but I must take that interjection.

The community housing sector in this state was treated with disdain by the former government, not because they did not have the capacity but because they did have a philosophical aversion to it. I looked and I saw governments of each political persuasion in Victoria and New South Wales enable the community housing sector. They gave them an opportunity to go and be part of the solution to the housing crisis and those opposite refused. One of the first things they did was attack it. Those opposite refused to acknowledge the housing crisis and, on the back of it, people who had their rental renewal coming up were living in fear. They were living in fear.

Everything we do is about supply. It is about aspiration being rewarded. It is about people doing it tough having a safety net. Every change we make is about putting more houses on the ground. At whatever stage of life people are in they have a friend in Queensland. If it is someone doing it tough, they need to know that we want to put a roof over their head. If it is someone who is renting, whether or not they choose to rent and invest their money elsewhere or they are saving for a slice of the great Australian dream, we are on your side.

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I appreciate the breadth of the context but the question specifically—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hold on. The chatter will cease so I can hear the member for Maiwar.

Mr BERKMAN: My point of order is on relevance. The question was specifically: is the government’s policy that house prices should continue to rise?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier.

Mr CRISAFULLI: The government’s policy is around delivering supply to make sure that the market is able to deliver for people at whatever stage of life they are in. Unlike the member for Maiwar, I do believe in aspiration. I want people to own their own home if they choose. I want them to dream of opportunities in this state.

Public Moneys

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney-General please outline the importance of integrity and transparency when it comes to taxpayers' money, and is the Attorney aware of any instances where this was not upheld during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to thank the honourable member for Scenic Rim, a person who has the highest integrity. He comes into this House as your deputy and does a stellar job, Mr Speaker. We do know that after a decade of decline and a conga line of integrity scandals by those opposite—I just looked in my tray and I remembered the *Let the sunshine in* report, a review into the culture of those opposite. Of course they learnt absolutely nothing from that.

In relation to the Coex report that has been tabled before this House—and I will be very careful with what I say about that—it is now up to the Crisafulli government to improve that scheme and to hold it at the highest level of integrity, but we must get to the bottom of what actually went on with those opposite. We know that minister after minister had carriage of that scheme. We had the member for Algester, the member for Gaven and there were others.

Mr O'Connor: Nudgee.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry, was it the member for Nudgee and not the member for Algester—

Mr O'Connor: Nudgee was there too.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—or both of them?

Mr O'Connor: Both of them. They all had a go.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Nudgee, Algester and Gaven.

Mr O'Connor: A lot of chaos.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was a lot of chaos. We know about the sham. We know about the disaster from those opposite.

Mr Healy: We know you don't have a policy on anything and all you can do is blame us.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Come in spinner!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Cairns. Seriously, we are talking about integrity. We are talking about blokes in this House and the way they treat women. Oh my goodness! Let's get to the Leader of the Opposition. Is he going to take the member for Cairns' vote in the big leadership coup? Is he the one who is calling him lazy? Was the member for Cairns the one who was saying the Leader of the Opposition should stand down at the last caucus meeting? Is he the one who is backing the member for Waterford, or is he the one who is backing the member for Gaven?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If the Leader of the Opposition had intestinal fortitude, he would release the cabinet documents.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is something that the honourable member for Clayfield did when he was the leader of the opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: If you address your comments through the chair you would realise when I get on my feet. Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Leader of the Opposition could be open and transparent—something he never was in government—and he could release the cabinet documents. It is not that hard. The member for Clayfield did it. I have done it. I now call for the Leader of the Opposition to release the cabinet documents as requested.

(Time expired)

Caboolture Hospital, Medical Imaging

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister has stated that the minister told acting health minister Dale Last about the Caboolture Hospital medical imaging crisis before going on leave, but Minister Last and the Premier both say they were alerted by an ABC media inquiry. Will the minister confirm that the minister told acting minister Last about the imaging crisis at Caboolture before he went on leave?

Mr NICHOLLS: Firstly, let me say I refute the premise of the question. What I want to make abundantly clear is this: due to—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause for one moment. Member for Logan, I have cautioned you a number of times this morning. You are now warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: Let's be abundantly clear what happened at Caboolture. I think it is really important. What happened is that in April 2023 under those opposite a process change occurred at the Caboolture Hospital in relation to the reporting of images that had been requested for patients who presented at that hospital. That process change was initiated under the watch of those opposite and it was initiated without a proper and planned quality assurance framework. I am sure it was done with the best of intentions, but it resulted in the problem we now see. That occurred in April 2023.

Subsequently, on 17 September a clinical incident involving a patient was reported through as a SAC1 incident. That report was given to me, as I said, at about 9.51 on that Wednesday evening in this House when I was still working, as the member for Miller so kindly points out time and time again, although the member for Miller obviously was not. The reporting of it is interesting, because the member for Miller seems to take some delight in reporting on me working at 10 o'clock at night—so much so that he went to the PA Hospital, again without permission, and loitered around corridors at night taking a video saying, 'The minister is working at 10 o'clock at night.' He created more difficulties and more havoc for our hardworking staff who are trying to deal with things. Not only are they trying to deal with patients who are turning up; they have to deal with the member for Miller wandering aimlessly through the corridors of the PA Hospital.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was whether he would confirm that he told the acting minister about the crisis before going on leave. I table relevant media articles to that extent.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles relating to the Caboolture Hospital.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the minister spoke to that at the beginning.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. If the documents are able to be tabled at this point, the minister should be afforded an opportunity to have a look at them.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes. Minister, you have 25 seconds. There was part of that question that related to a conversation with—

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have a summary here from a website which says, in short, 'this was said', so that is not my quote. We have a statement from the acting minister, so that is clearly as far as it goes. We have an ABC Radio report which makes no mention of it. What we have is a typed piece of paper making certain statements. What we do know—

(Time expired)

Schoolteachers

Mr HUTTON: My question is to the Minister for Education and the Arts. Can the minister please update the House on the Crisafulli LNP government's actions to better support our teachers, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. I have already acknowledged that he is a former high school teacher, former state school student and chair of our education committee, and I thank him for his question and his hard work in his community.

I became the minister following on from the former shadow minister, the member for Moggill. From the work he had done listening to teachers around Queensland, we know that issues affecting our teachers relating to behaviour, red tape, bullying and morale are significant. We had major workers compensation issues because of occupational violence after those opposite let the occupational violence strategy lapse. Of course, we have brought all of that together over the first year of this government, but yesterday we made a significant announcement in terms of the conciliation we have been going through with our enterprise bargaining. I think this is quite significant because conciliation

occurs before the Industrial Relations Commission. The commissioner asks both sides to bring their best offers.

Over a number of meetings the Queensland Teachers' Union made their representations, and of course from our side it was the department. We had those two sides bring together the suggestions they would make, whether it is about the pay rate or other things we might add to the agreement. That is what conciliation is all about. This is not the government making an ambit claim that we are going to try to get one over the teachers; it is conciliated after a number of meetings. That is why the offer we made, which we are putting to teachers and asking QTU members to vote on by Friday, includes higher wages, better conditions and a reduced workload because of improving the red tape plan. It is a significant plan that builds on the issues we have already announced. I table a copy of that for those opposite to see.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Red Tape Reduction Plan 2025-28'.

We have also added 140 workplace health and safety officers and we negotiated a federal funding plan for the next decade when those opposite had not increased the state contribution for a number of years. If our teachers accept this, every teacher teaching in Queensland at the moment will earn \$100,000 at the end of this agreement. We have made sure that these teachers will be well remunerated and that our beginning teachers will be the best paid teachers of any state in Australia at the end of this agreement. What do we see from those opposite? Yesterday the shadow minister was at the pool. I table a copy of that. She was at the pool while we were out there working. I do see that—

Tabled paper: Extracts, undated, from the Facebook page of the member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer MP.

(Time expired)

Cooktown Hospital, Birthing Services

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise when women in Far North Queensland will be able to have a baby at the Cooktown Hospital?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Cairns for that wonderful question. Member for Cairns, they are going to get it a lot sooner than they were ever going to get it under the Labor Party—the people who failed to deliver it for a decade, who sat on their hands waiting for it. I would be surprised if the member for Cairns has even been to the Cooktown Hospital to have a look at the service up there. Here is a question: has the member for Cairns been to the Cooktown Hospital? Let me advise the member for Cairns, that well-known comedian over there—

A government member: The one-liner.

Mr NICHOLLS:—the king of the one-liners, that we will be returning birthing services in Cooktown exactly as we said in our election commitment: before 2028. That was our election commitment. For the first time now we have a fully staffed nursing staff, not relying on agency nurses and anaesthetist nurses—fully staffed and fully employed by Queensland Health, part of the more than 4,500 additional employees Queensland Health has employed. Not only that, but we are returning birthing services to Biloela—something those opposite failed to deliver for over 1,000 days, if memory serves me correctly. We have spent nearly three-quarters of a million dollars refurbishing the birthing suite at the Biloela Hospital and employing nurses to deliver critical service capability—stage 3 nurses—so we will be able to deliver there.

After a decade when Labor ignored the problem and failed to deliver nursing services, we have actually gone out and started the process. We are engaging the nurses. We are currently in the field actively advertising for obstetricians and gynaecologists who need to be engaged to work at Cooktown, and you need more than just one. The chief executive out there has visited there a number of times to make sure we are delivering those services. We have engaged the midwifery practice manager for Biloela so we are working up the clinical service care capability there to be able to deliver those services. We have done more for Cooktown in 10 months than those opposite were able to offer in 10 years. That is a result of the good work that the member for Cook has been able to do. He visited with me and remains on the case to deliver for the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr BAILLIE: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for victims of crime, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches that failed victims during a decade of decline?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond.

Mrs GERBER: I want to thank the member for Townsville. He is a fierce advocate for his community. He is a bright spark and he has got more sixes and sevens than Labor has policies.

After a decade of neglect under the former Labor government, in just 12 months we are delivering for Queenslanders, including those in the member for Townsville's electorate. We are delivering Adult Crime, Adult Time. It is now law and I know the member for Townsville fought hard for that. We are delivering for victims of crime with our Victims Advocate Service. We are backing Adult Crime, Adult Time with our rehabilitation and early intervention investment—some of the largest this state has ever seen. Staying on Track is a groundbreaking program that will provide every single youth who goes into detention with 12 months of support to stop Labor's revolving door on youth crime.

What have we seen from the Labor Party when it comes to youth crime in North Queensland? We are seeing them turn their back on representation. In the by-election in Hinchinbrook they are yet to have a candidate. They have an expression of interest out but they are yet to have a candidate in the field. Is that because their Labor candidate is actually running for the Katters? A card-carrying member of the Labor Party is the Katter candidate. He has spoken passionately about his Labor values. He is the Katter-Labor candidate.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs GERBER: Actually, it speaks more about the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition, because if they cannot have a candidate that means they have no-one to back the Leader of the Opposition. We have a candidate; we have the fantastic Wayne Chiesa. He is a fantastic LNP member and representative for Hinchinbrook.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you continually interjected there. You are warned.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL

Resumed from 27 August (see p. 2490).

Second Reading

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.12 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 progresses important legislative amendments to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. The amendments in the bill introduce a new framework, the first of its kind in Queensland. It will be known as Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe, the 13-year-old boy with unforgettable blue eyes who was abducted and murdered by a twice convicted paedophile on the Sunshine Coast in December 2003. Daniel was on his way to buy Christmas presents for his family when he was snatched. It took eight years and an undercover police investigation to bring him home. His family never gave up. Their courage, determination and dedication drove change.

This bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's election commitment and fulfils a promise to Bruce and Denise Morcombe to establish Queensland's first ever public child sex offender register. Daniel's Law will establish the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register in Queensland to make information more accessible to the community and allow parents, guardians and those exercising parental responsibility to access information to make informed decisions about who has, or will have, contact with their child. The bill is part of our plan to restore safety where you live by putting the rights of children and parents before the rights of sexual predators.

The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 27 August 2025 and referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. On 17 October 2025, the committee tabled its report on its examination of the bill. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support of the bill. It is acknowledged that a significant amount of work goes into examining legislation, and I sincerely thank the committee for their diligent and timely work.

I would also like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to the organisations, stakeholders and government representatives that provided submissions and appeared before the committee to provide valuable input on the bill. In particular, I thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their appearance and insights at the committee. I thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for more than two decades of advocacy through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Their important work has built strong foundations to keep children safe from harm and abuse through advocacy and education.

Daniel's Law will ensure a lasting legacy, centred on transparency and accountability, that promotes safety and awareness. Daniel's Law is about keeping children safe. Be assured, those who commit heinous and horrible crimes will no longer be allowed to hide. The community will be armed with information to take proactive, preventive action. The Queensland government is committed to ensuring that those who commit offences against children cannot hide behind the current lack of publicly accessible information.

The objectives of the bill are clear. Firstly, the bill will increase general community awareness and vigilance by making particular information about certain reportable offenders more accessible to the public. The public register will give parents, guardians and other persons who care for a child access to information that may allow them to act at an individual level to keep children safe. Furthermore, the bill has been designed to guard against misuse of offender information by introducing offences targeted at conduct intended to, or likely to, incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe, or suspect, is an identified offender, as well as against the unauthorised sharing of information accessed or obtained through the public register.

The bill builds on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms. The public register will supplement the existing disclosure powers by allowing members of the public to proactively seek information about current reportable offenders. While recognising that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable, and that everything must be done to safeguard children against these risks, the Crisafulli government also acknowledges that the public release of information about certain offenders must be undertaken in a measured way.

The bill is modelled on the limited public notification scheme operating in Western Australia and follows the passage of similar laws in South Australia. The bill has been crafted to ensure that it is fit for purpose in Queensland, taking into consideration multiple factors, including our diverse demographic. The commitment expressed through this bill ensures Queensland is brought in line with Western Australia and South Australia, in increasing public access to information to help keep Queensland children safe.

I turn now to the three tiers of the public register. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website. Under tier 1, the Police Commissioner may publish particular personal details, including photographs, of reportable offenders who have failed to comply with any of their reporting obligations or who have failed to comply with a requirement of a supervision order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 and whose whereabouts are unknown to the police. The bill's objective of increasing community awareness and vigilance is achieved through tier 1 of the public register. All members of the community will be able to access the website where the information under tier 1 will be published. Reportable offenders who breach their strict reporting obligations pose a significant risk to the community.

In addition to a photograph of the reportable offender, information published will also include a reportable offender's name and year of birth and a unique Queensland Police Service identifier. The Police Commissioner may decide to publish additional personal details about an offender, such as descriptions of visible distinctive tattoos, if considered necessary. This approach ensures that only the information considered necessary to keep the community informed is published. This information is not intended to employ the assistance of the public in locating these offenders, as police will remain diligent in their search and investigations; however, Policelink contact details will appear on this page. In the event members of the public wish to report information to police, they may reference the unique police identifier listed against the particular reportable offender.

All people who access the public register will have access to protective safety information to enhance public awareness and be required to acknowledge the limitations inherent in the public register before information is able to be accessed. The bill requires that a reportable offender's personal details must be removed from publication as soon as practicable once located by police. The introduction of tier 1 may also serve as an incentive for offenders to comply with their reporting obligations to avoid or promptly end their details being published.

Tier 2 is a locality search function. Under tier 2, Queensland residents will be able to request images of particular reportable offenders residing in their locality. Upon application, photographs will be available for inspection by the person in a secure way designed to be accessible only by the person who made the request. Tier 2 is limited to reportable offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending against children and includes:

- a reportable offender who commits a further reportable offence against a child, listed in schedule 1 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 after receiving notice of their reporting obligations—in simple terms, that is a reportable offender who is a repeat offender;
- a reportable offender whose reporting obligations are imposed for the remainder of the offender's life; and
- a reportable offender who is subject to a supervision order made under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003.

The bill also ensures that where police identify or receive information that a reportable offender demonstrates a serious risk to the life or sexual safety of a child or children generally the Police Commissioner is empowered to include their photograph in a tier 2 request made by a person within their locality. The bill defines 'locality' as the general locality where the person resides, which will usually be the applicant's suburb or town. The definition accounts for Queensland's vast geography and diverse population contexts, acknowledging there may be circumstances requiring a different approach that encapsulates adjoining suburbs or towns to the person's residential address.

A person must provide valid government issued ID such as a Queensland driver licence to confirm their identity and residential address. This means that a person cannot, for example, request images of offenders residing in any area to which the person may be intending to relocate. Photographs of reportable offenders will be provided in a controlled manner for the purposes of enhancing public awareness and safety. This targeted approach has been purposefully taken, striking an appropriate balance of community safety and the protection of children.

The bill provides the Police Commissioner with discretionary powers to determine whether to publish, provide or remove information about reportable offenders who are subject to tier 1 and 2 of the public register. To guide decision-making, the Police Commissioner may have regard to various matters including:

- the effect that publication, removal or provision of the identifying information might have on a victim of an offence committed by the offender;
- whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information would be likely to prejudice a criminal proceeding in relation to the offender or an investigation by a law enforcement agency in relation to a contravention or possible contravention of a law by the offender;
- whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information is in the public interest and consistent with the purposes of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004; and
- any other matter the Police Commissioner considers relevant.

Providing the Police Commissioner with discretionary powers regarding the publication, provision and removal of information ensures that a flexible approach can be taken with respect to individual cases, acknowledging that a range of persons may be impacted.

Tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme. Under tier 3, parents, guardians and people with ongoing parental responsibility for a child will be able to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. The bill defines 'unsupervised contact' and includes physical contact and contact that occurs by electronic communication with a child without the presence of another adult.

The bill stipulates that an application under tier 3 must be made in a way approved by the Police Commissioner and must be accompanied by any documents or information as required by the Police Commissioner. If an application is approved, the Police Commissioner will have discretion to confirm whether the person is a current reportable offender or subject to a supervision order through a 'yes' or 'no' response. No further information about the offender or their offending will be disclosed.

It is important to note that the public register will sit alongside necessary tools available to parents, guardians and other people with ongoing parental responsibility to keep children safe from

sexual harm. Even when a 'no' response is provided under a tier 3 application, applicants will still receive information that promotes the use of proactive protective behaviours to keep children safe.

I will now address the stringent safeguards and offence provisions contained within the bill. The bill excludes certain offenders from the public register. As mentioned, the bill aims to strike an appropriate balance of community safety and the protection of children. The public register will not enable the disclosure, publication or provision of information about child reportable offenders, other certain reportable offenders who committed offences as a child, offenders who are participants in a witness protection program, or offenders where a court has prohibited the identification or disclosure of their personal information.

I cannot stress highly enough that vigilantism will not be tolerated. The bill is focused on empowering Queenslanders to better protect children, with trust placed in the community to do the right thing and not engage in vigilante behaviour. Careful consideration has been given to this issue, with the bill containing three new offences prohibiting misuse of information accessed or obtained from the public register. Each of these offences carries a significant penalty.

It will be an offence, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment, for a person who, by a public act, engages in conduct by which the person intends to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender or incites other persons to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender. If such conduct is not done intentionally but the result of the conduct is likely to intimidate or harass, the maximum penalty will be three years imprisonment.

It will also be an offence for a person to, without the approval of the Police Commissioner, display, distribute or publish any identifying information obtained from the public register. This offence will be punishable by a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Additionally, all persons who access the public register will receive warnings about the misuse of information including the penalties for the offence provisions. The penalties attached to the offence provisions and associated messaging will act as a strong deterrent against vigilante behaviour.

The bill includes broad safeguards to those involved in administering the public register. A person involved in the administration of the public register will not be liable, civilly, criminally or under an administrative process, because of an act done or omission made honestly by the person. Furthermore, protection from liability is extended to the state. To ensure the effective operation of the public register, the bill provides that, unless the Supreme Court decides a relevant decision is affected by jurisdictional error, all relevant decisions to release information are final, may not be subject to judicial review or any other form of review, and may not be subject to a declaratory, injunctive or other order of a court.

The amendments in the bill will impose limitations on human rights, most prominently on those persons classified as reportable offenders. However, those limitations must be considered in the context of the objective of establishing the public register to allow public access to information about child sex offenders in order to protect Queensland children and put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. The public register is necessary to prevent children from being subjected to the devastating harm that results from sexual offending and the state has a positive obligation under a number of rights, including the right to life, to protect an individual from real and immediate risks to their life.

The bill maintains the paramount purpose of the public register and the importance of protecting children from the devastating and lifelong harm which results from sexual abuse. Therefore, to ensure the effective operation of the public register, the bill makes clear that the Human Rights Act 2019 has no application on the substantive provisions designed to facilitate the public register. The required statement regarding exceptional circumstances for the human rights override refers to the child safety crisis gripping Queensland communities, as shown by many horrific abuse cases and allegations over recent times. This is a serious issue for Queensland and there is an urgent need for government to do more to protect children. In that regard, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland by actioning its firm commitment to establish a public child sex offender register to safeguard families to take protective actions in the best interests of children.

The bill proposes a five-year statutory review of the public register, to be carried out by an independent and appropriately qualified person. A report about the outcomes of the review will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The review will coincide with the expiration of the override declaration. The review will assist to inform the government of what is working and what needs improvement. This is key to ensuring that we are continuing to deliver for Queensland to reinstate safety in our community. The public register will be a significant tool for parents, guardians and the community to ensure that Queensland children are protected and kept safe.

I once again acknowledge the tireless efforts of Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who have relentlessly advocated for the legislative reform we see being delivered today. While the public register cannot completely negate the risk of sexual offending against children, it provides an invaluable opportunity to raise public awareness and impart valuable information about safeguarding children. These reforms empower parents, guardians and people with parental responsibilities with an additional tool to make informed decisions to help keep their children safe. These reforms will also mean that the community can be more vigilant when moving around their local communities and to keep children safe from harm. The bill reflects careful considerations and strikes an appropriate balance of community safety and the protection of children. I have full confidence that, alongside the public register, the Queensland police will remain relentless in targeting those who do harm to the most vulnerable members of the community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.32 am): Today I rise on behalf of the Queensland Labor opposition to speak on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, known by all as Daniel's Law. Knowing of the tragedy that inspired this legislation and the decades of advocacy that preceded it, I want to acknowledge Labor's support for the intent of this bill, but we are also mindful of the issues that have been raised and the importance of getting this reform right.

First and foremost, we commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their continued and tireless dedication in keeping children safe through the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. The passage of Daniel's Law is a deeply meaningful and significant moment for the Morcombe family. Bruce and Denise embody bravery in the face of unimaginable grief. To have lost their child in such a horrific way and then to dedicate their whole lives to do whatever they can to keep children safe is such a testament to both of them. The work of the foundation has made a real difference and they have every right to be proud of it.

We note that this Friday is Day for Daniel—the largest child safety education and awareness day in Australia. Denise advised us during the public briefing that over two million people participate in Day for Daniel alone. This is an extraordinary achievement and without doubt has and will certainly continue to make children across the country safer. Importantly, the work of the foundation goes much further than the Day for Daniel alone through advocacy, education and awareness. To mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation this year, it released a 30-minute documentary *Don't Waste It*—a powerful tribute and educational resource designed to speak directly to teens aged 13 to 15 to help them to understand personal safety in real-world situations. It highlights the foundation's journey from the early years through to today where it is a national leader in the child protection space. I encourage anyone in this parliament who has not already watched it to do so.

In short, the Queensland Labor opposition notes with deep respect that the Morcombe family's advocacy has delivered so much and this bill today is a fitting recognition of that sustained endeavour for them. Let me make this very clear: the Queensland Labor opposition will always support laws that protect children in Queensland. We recognise that the intent of Daniel's Law is entirely consistent with that commitment. Children must be protected. If this parliament does nothing else, it must do just that—keep kids safe.

This bill aims to establish a child sex offender register in Queensland—a three-tier disclosure system—to give families and communities greater access to the information about those reportable offenders. The bill is broadly based on the Western Australian model which was established in 2012. Under the bill, tier 1 will feature a publicly available website displaying facial images and personal details of reportable offenders who have breached obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to the police. Tier 2 provides for a local area search system. Queensland residents can apply to view images of certain reportable offenders residing in their general locality when the commissioner considers that they pose a serious risk to the lives or sexual safety of children. Tier 3 is a parent or guardian disclosure scheme which is an application-based system enabling parents or people with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender.

We support the bill's aims, we support the recognition that families should have access to relevant information to help keep children safe and we support the honouring of Daniel's legacy here in Queensland, but we must also address the issues with this bill. While we support the intent, the opposition has significant concerns and calls on the Queensland Police Service and the government to ensure that the scheme is properly resourced, closely monitored and fit for purpose. The opposition calls on the Crisafulli government to properly resource the QPS for the ongoing operation of Daniel's Law, not just its establishment. In addition, we condemn the now Premier and the LNP for removing

1,700 child sex offenders from the register in 2014 when the LNP was last in government. That is its record, and it knows it.

Let me take members through the issues in some detail. During the committee process numerous stakeholders voiced concerns about the bill and what it would achieve and, importantly, what it would not achieve. One key concern is the potential for a false sense of security for parents and guardians. While a public register may provide additional information, it must be clearly communicated because, as an example, the bill will not capture all reportable child sex offenders and it will not capture all offenders in the community subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003.

As noted in the public hearing, the QPS advised that, for tier 2, of the 3,240 reportable offenders on the child protection offender registry only 749 reportable offenders, including those subject to DP(SO)A, would be under tier 2 of the register—that is, less than 25 per cent of reportable offenders under tier 2. This means that the register is only one tool and not a blanket solution. Parents and guardians in Queensland need to be made aware of this gap so they do not rely solely on the register and inadvertently reduce their vigilance.

The Crime and Corruption Commission raised issues about the lack of empirical evidence supporting the protective impact of such registers and expressed concern about whether the QPS has adequate resources to manage a public register. The Queensland Law Society likewise flagged that they were not aware of empirical studies showing that making child sex offender details public better protects children in the community. The submission from Voice for Victims supported the bill but raised concerns about secondary trauma for victim-survivors, the potential public identification of victims and the possibility of false reassurance. They suggested mitigation strategies bolstering victim support services, opt-in notification protocols and community education campaigns.

In short, while the intent is laudable, the opposition is concerned that without proper safeguards, resourcing and communication there is a risk that the scheme could have unintended negative consequences. One of our most pressing concerns is resourcing. The Queensland Labor opposition places a spotlight on how the QPS will administer this new scheme. During the committee process, when the opposition asked how many sworn or unsworn staff will be needed to operationalise the register, the deputy commissioner responded—

We will initially have four or five staff to get it underway, but that is until we establish what is needed in terms of full-time equivalents going forward ...

That response certainly rings alarm bells, especially since no ongoing funding has been provided to the QPS by the LNP government for the operation of this register. The limited funding delivered in this year's budget only provides for the building and the establishment of the register itself. No additional permanent FTEs have been allocated in the budget and no additional funding has been allocated into the forward estimates. We cannot expect existing QPS staff to absorb this workload on top of their current duties. Our information indicates that the effective implementation of a register of this type could require upwards of 100 full-time-equivalent ongoing staff and cost up to \$17.5 million per year, depending on the mix of sworn and unsworn staff. Without this commitment, the system risks under-resourcing, backlogs and ineffective operation.

Moreover, while the deputy commissioner indicated that automation will play a role in reducing staff demands, this raises further questions. How will this automation interact with the commission's delegation powers? Will artificial intelligence or algorithmic decision-making be used? What safeguards will be in place to ensure errors are not introduced? How will privacy risks be managed? In addition, we note that resourcing was apparently used to justify the omission of a victim notification scheme. The deputy commissioner told the committee that the reason a victim notification scheme had not been pursued was 'the practicalities of actually contacting every victim' and that 'it is impractical to try to notify or contact previous victims before you release information'. We say that every victim matters. While we acknowledge the practical challenges, the opposition believes that with adequate funding and planning many of these barriers can certainly be minimised. The committee was told that victims would get a fact sheet at the time an offender was initially charged, but that may have been years earlier and the fact sheet may not be front of mind. That is not good enough. Victims should not be blindsided as an unintended consequence of this scheme.

Another significant concern is the build and the implementation of the IT system to support the register. The system is being built from the ground up, which means there is no existing legacy system ready to be adapted. At the time of the committee briefing the QPS had not yet awarded a tender and had not even seen a proof of concept for the system being built. That leads to many questions. Are the laws being rushed through without adequate time to test the system? When will the system be built and

fully operational? Will it be properly stress tested for security, privacy and load handling? Will parliament have to make further amendments based on technology issues that arise? Given that the legislation recognises the potential for unintended consequences—for example, misidentification, data breaches or the misuse of information—this delay and uncertainty are worrying. A system designed for legislation that the police themselves recognise may entail unintended consequences should not be rushed. It must be done in a methodical and considered way. We urge the government to commit to adequate timing, testing and transparency around tendering and system auditing.

The opposition strongly believes that ongoing monitoring is crucial. Due to the potential for unintended outcomes such as a false sense of security, vigilantism or misapplication of the register, this scheme needs robust oversight. The bill legislates a statutory review to be completed as soon as practical following five years of operation. Multiple stakeholders expressed concern that a five-year wait before a review happens is too long. The opposition implores the government to consider additional earlier and ongoing reviews—not just a five-year check-in. If issues arise earlier, they must be identified, addressed and rectified quickly. Experience from other jurisdictions such as the relatively recent scheme in South Australia should inform the monitoring so we avoid pitfalls. The scheme needs to be monitored to ensure it is working appropriately and the community is not experiencing negative consequences such as vigilantism or misuse.

As the committee heard, the scheme needs constant oversight. Education and awareness are definitely key. The opposition emphasises that the register is just one tool, not a silver-bullet solution. Numerous stakeholders during the committee process highlighted this point, and we encourage the government to take it seriously. Any community education campaign cannot be about LNP self-promotion, with three-word slogans and blue, glossy materials; it needs to be about substance. It needs to be about how the system works—about what it does and does not do. It needs to highlight, as stakeholders raised, that most offenders are not strangers; they are people close to the victim, people who may not be on the radar of authorities.

The public register will be one tool in the toolkit, but it must be part of a holistic approach to keeping children in Queensland safe. We urge the government to fund genuinely effective community education—reaching schools, parents, carers, community groups and sporting clubs and explaining the register to them. It must also explain the risks, the need for vigilance and the limitations and remind everyone to be alert, aware and informed. It is important that this parliament understands the context.

The Queensland Labor opposition acknowledges the work done over many years, including by previous Labor governments, to build strong protection laws for children. We introduced the strongest and toughest legislative framework in the nation for the monitoring of child sex offenders, doubling the monitoring period of child sex offenders subject to police monitoring. For example, the monitoring of first-time offenders went from five years to 10 years and repeat offenders from 10 years to 20 years or life. We permanently integrated Task Force Orion into the QPS Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. We significantly increased resources for the child protection offender register in 2015 and committed to further doubling them by 2030. We introduced new laws to expand police powers to enter the residence of a reportable offender to undertake digital device inspections. Labor introduced the requirement for reportable offenders to disclose the use of anonymising software, vault and black hole applications and their media access control addresses. Labor introduced a new offence, with penalties of up to five years imprisonment, for failing to comply with the requirement to produce a digital device for device inspection and required reportable offenders who had been convicted of failing to comply with their reporting obligation to report those details to police within seven days.

In contrast, the record of the LNP when they were last in government was to remove convicted child sex offenders from police monitoring overnight. In 2014 the LNP government, a government with the current Premier sitting at the cabinet table, changed the laws and removed the police oversight of 1,700 child sex offenders. That is the record of those opposite. The Queensland Labor opposition condemns that decision and this House must not forget it. While we support the intent of Daniel's Law we also recognise that the realities of implementation and resource allocation are far more important than slogans and headlines.

In summary, the Queensland Labor opposition's position is this: we commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe on their ongoing, tireless dedication and we recognise the passage of Daniel's Law is a deeply meaningful and significant moment for the Morcombe family. We call on the Crisafulli government to properly resource QPS for the ongoing operation of Daniel's Law, not just its establishment. We will always support laws that protect Queensland children and we recognise the intent of Daniel's Law is aligned with that. We call on the LNP government to closely monitor the implementation of the laws to ensure that any unintended consequences are addressed quickly.

Let me highlight specific commitments we expect from government: budgetary commitment—not just a one-off establishment cost but funding built into the forward estimates to ensure ongoing staffing, training, systems maintenance, auditing, victim support and education campaigns; a transparent implementation plan, including tendering for IT systems, proof of concept, stress testing, user acceptance testing, privacy security audits, time lines for rollout and contingency plans in place; a community education campaign—substantive, well-funded, collaborative with the Morcombe foundation and other child safety stakeholders here in Queensland, explaining limitations of the register, the meaning of the tiers and reinforcing parent/carer vigilance; victim support provisions, including consideration of notification schemes and trauma informed supports addressing risk of secondary victimisation, ensuring that victims are informed and supported rather than blindsided.

We call on the government to monitor, evaluate and review—preferably an interim review period within approximately 18 to 24 months, then an ongoing evaluation framework leading to the statutory five-year review—to ensure any unintended consequences or technological operational issues are identified and rectified at the time. We expect communication about limitations: clear messaging that not all reportable offenders are captured, that the offender may be unknown to the register and that families cannot rely solely on the register as their only protective mechanism in Queensland.

Legislators in this House have a serious responsibility. The creation of Daniel's Law marks a major milestone for child safety in Queensland. It honours the memory of a young boy, it recognises the advocacy of a courageous family and gives parents a new tool to help protect their children. But a law is only as good as its implementation. The best intentions without resources, without monitoring, without transparency and without education can lead to gaps in the system, unintended harms or a false sense of security. We must not let that happen as part of this bill. The Queensland Labor opposition will be watching closely. We will participate constructively, we will hold government to account and we will support this bill because fundamentally protecting children is not negotiable. I commend the bill to the House with the caveats and requirements I have outlined and I trust the government will heed them. Thank you.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (11.53 am): I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This is a significant bill for many reasons. First and foremost, this bill represents the tireless advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morecombe and other child advocates. I first met Bruce and Denise many years ago. They have been calling for this legislation for many years. This legislation comes from a profoundly devastating tragedy within their lives. They fought for this bill—as a legacy for their beautiful son Daniel and for all Queensland children.

This bill is a first for Queensland and I am very proud to speak in support of it. Up until now, Queensland's worst offenders have been able to live in the shadows. Not anymore. Once passed, Daniel's Law will offer a framework for a public child sex offender register. The LNP has been calling for this since 2019. In 2019, I stood in this House from opposition and told Queenslanders that a future LNP government will introduce a public child sex offender register that will let parents know if there is a sexual predator in their suburb. I am immensely proud of the work that I have done with the police minister. We are now delivering on that promise.

This legislation establishes three tiers. This legislation is aimed at providing families with an additional tool to keep their children safe. Under tier 1, any Queensland resident will be able to get online and see the details of offenders who are missing and have failed to comply with reporting obligations. This will catch offenders who have gone missing anywhere in the state. The public have a right to know who these offenders are in the interests of enhancing awareness and vigilance in our communities.

Under tier 2, any Queensland resident will be able to apply to see photographs of certain reportable offenders living in their area. These are offenders who pose the greatest risk to children by virtue of their offending history. Of course, this does not supplant the need for parents and carers to remain vigilant. We know the sad truth is that the majority of sexual offending against children is perpetrated by people who are already known to the child. This is not a reason to not pursue a public register. We all have a role to play in keeping Queensland children safe. Tier 2 will arm parents, guardians and anybody who is concerned about child safety in their community with information they did not have access to before. When accessing tier 2, important education materials about safeguarding children will also be provided. To use the adage, this is recognition that it takes a village to protect a child.

Tier 3 allows a parent or guardian to find out whether a person who has unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. This is an entirely appropriate and sensible mechanism. The application process will allow a parent or guardian to find out whether somebody in their child's life has a past they should know about and to take protective action if necessary, even before their child is exposed to the person.

Daniel's Law puts Queensland children first. I acknowledge that some submitters to the committee took issue with the bill's approach, and I will come back to this in a moment, however, what cannot be refuted is that the Crisafulli government is willing to take whatever steps it can to keep our children safe. This bill represents the delivery of another election commitment by the Crisafulli government and personally, for me as Attorney-General, the delivery of an important charter letter commitment that I share with Minister Purdie. I take this opportunity to thank Minister Purdie for his efforts in delivering this important bill for Queensland. I would also like to thank the Justice, Integrity, and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill and its single recommendation: that the bill be passed.

Before I close, I would like to address a number of issues that were of particular interest to stakeholders. Some stakeholders expressed concerns that the publication of names of sex offenders could lead to the identification of their victims, particularly in relation to tier 2. The bill grants the Police Commissioner a broad discretion to release or not release information about reportable offenders. In deciding whether or not to release information, the commissioner may have regard to a range of matters, including the effect the publication or provision of identifying information about an offender may have on a victim of an offence. Ultimately, the approach taken by the bill ensures there is no delay in releasing information that could keep our children safe. This government is about putting our children's rights over the rights of offenders.

Under the bill, offenders will not be notified of a decision to publish their details or be provided with an opportunity to request a review of this decision prior to the publication or provision of their details under the public register. Further, decisions to publish or provide information under the public register are final and conclusive and not subject to judicial review, except in cases of jurisdictional error. Some submitters have taken umbrage with these provisions and consider they are unjustified. We will not put the rights of offenders over the rights of victims. The committee examined this issue closely and considers that these provisions are necessary for the public register to operate effectively.

Similarly, this rationale underpins the need to override the Human Rights Act. I acknowledge this is an exceptional step to take. However, what it comes back to is that protecting the lives and safety of children must be paramount. As I mentioned, the Police Commissioner is not required to disclose any information to the public register. The Police Commissioner has a discretion and can act flexibly as the circumstances may require.

In addition, the bill requires people who receive information through the public register to treat it as confidential and to ensure they do not share it with others. Persons who misuse information to intimidate or harass another person whom they believe or suspect is an identified offender may be guilty of an offence and subject to a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment.

The government is serious about ensuring that the public register is not used for any other purpose than protecting our children. As such, the offences are not intended to target the legitimate sharing of information—for example, between parents or carers where that information is shared in private with the intent to protect a child. It was pleasing to read that most submitters support these offences and some suggested they should go further. On this point, I note that, depending on the nature of the conduct, other existing criminal offences may be applicable—for example, the offence of unlawful stalking.

Finally, I note that the bill requires a statutory review of the public register to occur as soon as practicable after five years of operation, with a report on the outcomes of the review to be tabled in this chamber. The review must be carried out by an independent and appropriately qualified person. Once again it shows that this government is serious about protecting children and we are serious about making sure we get this right.

In conclusion, the first responsibility of any government is to protect the community, and there is none more important in our community than our children. I look forward to tomorrow when I will be walking with staff from the Department of Justice, specifically the Queensland Worker Screening Services, to promote conversations about child safety, protection and harm prevention. I acknowledge that this is a walk for Daniel and I acknowledge Day for Daniel, being held this Friday. To all of the

Department of Justice people who are going to walk for Daniel alongside me tomorrow, I say: I am so immensely proud of you and the department for doing that tomorrow morning.

I am also immensely proud of this government's record when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable. Today marks another chapter in our unwavering commitment to this. It is something I have been passionate about since the first day I stood in this chamber, over 12 years ago. Nothing can bring Daniel back, but through this legislation it is intended that information about reportable offenders is available so that other children may not suffer the same fate. There is always more a government can do, but we will never sit on our hands. We will continue to advocate, alongside people such as Bruce and Denise Morcombe, on behalf of the children of this state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. At the outset I acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe, whose tireless advocacy has changed the landscape of child safety in Queensland and across Australia. Their strength, compassion and determination, born from unimaginable tragedy, have inspired generations to do better to protect our children and to ensure Daniel's legacy continues to make our communities safer. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation is now marking its 20th year of service. Through education, awareness and advocacy, Bruce and Denise have made an extraordinary difference. Day for Daniel, which will be held again this Friday, is now the largest child safety education day in the country, with more than two million Australians participating. The foundation's recent documentary *Don't Waste It* is yet another example of their forward-thinking approach, speaking directly to young people about personal safety and real-world risks.

The bill before the House is a deeply meaningful and significant milestone for the Morcombe family and for Queensland. It seeks to strengthen protections for children through a three-tier public register of child sex offenders. Its intent is simple: to make children safer. For that reason, the Queensland Labor opposition will support this bill. Labor has a proud record of taking tough, evidence-based action to protect children and hold offenders to account. It was a Labor government that introduced the strongest legislative framework in the nation for monitoring child sex offenders, doubling the reporting periods and extending oversight for repeat offenders to 20 years or life. Labor permanently integrated Task Force Orion into the Queensland Police Service and almost doubled the resources for the Child Protection Offender Registry since 2015, with a commitment to double that again by 2030. Labor also expanded police powers to inspect digital devices, introduced new offences for failing to comply with reporting obligations and cracked down on the use of software used by offenders to conceal their activities online. Those are the kinds of strong, practical measures that keep Queenslanders safe.

The bill is modelled on the Western Australian and South Australian schemes. It will create a three-tier system for the public release of limited information. Tier 1 will identify missing noncompliant offenders whose whereabouts are unknown—a vital alert mechanism. Tier 2 will allow residents to conduct local area searches to see if serious reportable offenders live nearby. Tier 3 will allow parents and guardians to check whether a person with unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. These are measured reforms and the opposition recognises the intent; however, they must be implemented carefully and properly resourced. If this parliament does nothing else, it must ensure that the laws we pass actually work and that they keep children safe.

The opposition notes the range of views raised during the committee process. Many stakeholders expressed support but also significant concerns about potential unintended consequences. One of the key risks identified was the creation of a false sense of security for parents who use the register. As the Queensland Police Service advised the committee, only around 749 of the 3,240 reportable offenders would fall under category 2, which is less than 25 per cent. That means that the vast majority of known offenders will not appear on the public register. It is essential that parents and guardians understand this limitation. The government must ensure clear, factual communication so that families do not mistakenly believe that 'no result' means 'no risk'.

Another serious concern is resourcing. The Queensland Labor opposition has consistently called on the government to properly fund the Queensland Police Service for both the establishment and the ongoing operation of Daniel's Law. The deputy commissioner advised the committee that only four or five staff will be assigned initially to get it underway. That is somewhat alarming. Stakeholders estimate that up to 100 full-time-equivalent staff could be required to administer this register effectively, costing as much as \$17.5 million annually. The budget contains no ongoing funding, no new permanent positions and no forward estimates allocation. Expecting existing police to absorb this additional workload is unrealistic and unfair. Without proper resourcing, the system risks failure before it even begins.

Equally concerning is the lack of progress on the IT system that will underpin the register. At the time of the committee hearing, no tender had been awarded and no proof of concept had been developed. Are these laws being rushed for political reasons? When will the system be operational and will it be tested thoroughly before launch? These are questions the government must answer.

The opposition is also deeply concerned about the absence of a victim notification scheme. Police told the committee that notifying previous victims before information is made public was impractical. Every victim matters. With proper resources, practical systems could and should be developed to offer victims support and avoid blindsiding them. This must be addressed before implementation.

Legislation alone cannot keep children safe. Education and awareness remain the most powerful tools we have. The opposition urges the government to roll out a strong, evidence-based community education campaign—not glossy political advertising, but genuine engagement that explains what this register does and what it does not do.

Stakeholders were clear that most offenders are not strangers. They are often known to victims and their families. The register is one tool—an important one—but it must be part of a broader, holistic approach to child safety. The work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation shows exactly how this can be done—empowering children through the Recognise React Report curriculum, and building awareness through Day for Daniel. That kind of education saves lives.

The opposition welcomes the statutory review after five years, but believes that is too long to wait for the first evaluation. We call on the government to commit to earlier and ongoing reviews to ensure the scheme is working as intended and to address any unforeseen issues quickly. The experience in South Australia shows the value of continuous monitoring and adjustment.

This bill represents a significant step in the ongoing effort to protect Queensland's children. The Labor opposition supports Daniel's Law, but we do so with our eyes open. We will hold the government accountable to ensure that it is implemented properly, resourced adequately and reviewed rigorously. We again commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their extraordinary courage and their enduring contribution to child safety. Their advocacy has brought us to this point. Now it is up to this parliament, and this government, to ensure that Daniel's Law delivers on its promise. The safety of Queensland's children must always come before politics. That is why the Labor opposition supports this bill and why we will continue to fight to make sure it truly keeps kids safe.



Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (12.13 pm): It is with great pride and deep personal conviction that I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for the work they did on the bill.

Out of all the bills I will ever debate in this House, I can say without hesitation that this will stand among those I am most proud to support. This bill, Daniel's Law, is of course named in memory of Daniel Morcombe—a young Sunshine Coast boy whose abduction and murder nearly 22 years ago shook our entire state to its core. Daniel's legacy, through the tireless work of his parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, has become one of education, advocacy and reform. Their efforts have saved countless children from harm. Today's bill further honours that legacy.

When Daniel was abducted, I was serving as a police officer on the Sunshine Coast. I remember vividly the shock and anguish that rippled through our community and the outpouring of support for Bruce and Denise that followed. That moment marked a turning point for the Sunshine Coast, and for Queensland. It reminded us that protecting children is not just a job for police and governments; it is the responsibility of every single one of us.

Throughout my policing career the most challenging but most rewarding were the years I spent as a detective in the child abuse unit, investigating and charging those who prey on children. I saw firsthand the devastation these offenders cause. In 2017, I had the privilege of appearing with Bruce and Denise on a national video project—Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson—that helped parents and children talk about recognising abuse, reacting and reporting. That work of the Morcombes continues with a new version being released soon. All of these are tools to protect children, and this bill is just another tool to add to the important mix.

This bill delivers on a promise we made before the election to establish a public child sex offender register in Queensland. It is a commitment to give parents and carers the information they need to protect their children, while ensuring safeguards against misuse of that information. The register will operate through three distinct tiers under the act.

Tier 1 will provide a publicly accessible list of missing or noncompliant reportable offenders—those who have breached their reporting obligations or cannot be located. Anyone will be able to see this information without applying. Tier 2 allows members of the public to conduct a locality search for reportable serious offenders living in a particular area—providing a protection tool for families in their own neighbourhoods. Tier 3, the most targeted level, enables parents and guardians to make an application to the Queensland Police Service if they have a reasonable belief that someone who has contact with their child may be a convicted child sex offender. Police can then disclose relevant information to help those parents protect their children.

I know from my time in the child abuse unit that predators seek out vulnerable families to gain access to children. Parents have a right to know if a new partner, a new boarder or someone who offers to help look after their children is a reportable sex offender. These are measured, responsible tiers—balancing the public's right to know with the need to prevent vigilantism.

The bill also creates new offences for the misuse or unauthorised sharing of register information and for inciting harassment or intimidation of offenders. Importantly, it provides broad protections from liability for those who administer the register and establishes a statutory review to ensure the scheme continues to protect children effectively.

As the committee report notes, the register is modelled closely on the successful Western Australian system, which has operated since 2012. Our committee travelled to Perth to study that system and meet with key agencies, including Western Australia Police Force, Legal Aid and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, to learn from their experience. We thank them for their time and excellent advice to our committee.

As noted in the committee report, in 2018 a statutory review of the operation and effectiveness of the Western Australian scheme was conducted by the Western Australia Police Force. The review made 12 findings and 10 recommendations. The primary finding was that the scheme met the purpose for which it was developed—to make information publicly available to the community. Interviews conducted as part of the review revealed a public perception that the scheme continued to be beneficial and remained an important tool in the protection of children and vulnerable people.

The Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee examined this bill in detail. We received 38 written submissions, held public briefings and hearings, and sought advice from experts across law enforcement, legal and community sectors. While some stakeholders, including the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Human Rights Commission, raised concerns about privacy and human rights implications, even the Law Society acknowledged that elements of the bill, particularly the tier 3 parent disclosure mechanism, had merit in protecting children. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

I want to remind the House that this is not the first time the idea of a public child sex offender register has come before us. In 2019, when the LNP was in opposition, we brought forward a motion calling for exactly this—a Queensland child sex offender register. It was debated in this very chamber on 27 March 2019. I remember that day clearly. I spoke passionately in favour of the motion because as a police officer, as a father and as a Queenslanders I knew then what we all know now, that sunlight is the best disinfectant and knowledge is power for parents. What happened during that debate? Labor members, including several sitting opposite today, spoke against and voted against the motion. The member for Bulimba, the child safety minister at the time, said, 'We are opposed to this motion because it will not work.' I ask those on the opposition benches today—they voted against this once—what they will do this time. Will they again deny parents the right to know or will they finally stand with Bruce and Denise Morcombe and with Queensland families and support this bill?

This law will not replace education, good parenting, vigilant communities or strong policing, but it will provide further protections. It gives parents tools to make informed decisions. It gives police new tools to act on noncompliance. It gives offenders and potential offenders a clear message: you are being held accountable. There are robust protections in place to prevent misuse. There are offences for harassment or unauthorised disclosure. There are safeguards for children of offenders and a statutory review to ensure the law remains effective and fair. The bill also provides an opportunity for education. The register will include community safety resources, advice for parents and links to the education materials reinforcing that prevention begins with awareness.

I note Labor members' contributions in relation to concerns around resourcing. With the extra 450 police we have managed to boost our numbers by in just 12 months, I do not hold those concerns. I have utmost confidence in our Queensland Police Service to be able to deliver this effectively.

Ms Bush: How many have left?

Mr HUNT: I will take that interjection: 'How many have left?' A lot less than under Labor. Attrition rates are going down. Police are being supported and we will continue to support them and increase the numbers.

Mrs Poole: We've got their back.

Mr HUNT: We've got their back—I take that interjection. As a former police officer, as the local member representing Daniel's home community and as chair of the committee that examined this bill, I could not be prouder to stand here today and support this bill. I pay tribute once again to Bruce and Denise Morcombe. You have turned unimaginable tragedy into unending hope. Through this law—Daniel's Law—your son's name will forever stand for the protection of children and families. To the police who will administer this register: thank you for your professionalism. To the Queenslanders who have called for it for years: thank you for never giving up. To this parliament: let's do what we should have done long ago; let's pass Daniel's Law, because our children deserve nothing less.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.23 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill. With the House's indulgence, before I start on that I would like to say 'happy birthday' to my little boy, who turns 12 years old. I think everyone knows or has heard of Ronan in our time here. Happy birthday to him. He is my 12-year-old boy, and I acknowledge that we stand today to talk about Daniel's Law—the boy who will be forever 13.

I rise to support this bill. In doing so, I acknowledge the amazing work of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. I think we are all very familiar with the 'no child left behind' policy. There has been so much that their 20 years of dedication to this particular issue has changed for us here in Queensland, and we are forever grateful for the passion they continue to deliver, despite the pain that obviously sits alongside of that.

In sitting on the committee investigating and inquiring into this bill, I did look to manage any conflict of interest. As a former police officer, my involvement in the Morcombe investigation was very tangential in relation to attending the crime scene up at the Sunshine Coast. However, I would like to take this opportunity to mention the work of Detective Senior Constable John Carey. I think I mentioned him in this House not long after I attended his funeral. The work that he did in this particular case will probably never be fully acknowledged due to the nature of the work, but I did see Bruce and Denise at his funeral. For the work of Detective Senior Constable John Carey and everyone who was involved in that painstakingly detailed investigation, I pass on my thanks.

Certainly in relation to my own experience in issues like this, I generally try to steer clear of hypothetical questions such as, 'In my particular case, would a bill like this have made a difference?' I choose not to delve too far into those things. The consideration of these bills is not about me. I think we need to acknowledge that this bill and the laws that will go with it will provide a tool for society, for community, but it would be foolish to think it is the protection that we need for all of our children. Every case appears to be different, and certainly any tool that we can provide to our families and our children is commendable.

I note the three tiers that are in this bill. Tier 1 is relatively straightforward. These would be people who would appear on our 'most wanted' lists in these particular cases because they are dangerous offenders whose whereabouts are not known and who would be wanted in relation to noncompliance. No details are required. This is a publicly available site. We had a look at the details on the Western Australian site, and I think at the time there would have been about 12 or 13 people listed under tier 1 under the Western Australian model. However, it was acknowledged that the majority of those, whilst unknown about their whereabouts in Western Australia, are assumed to be interstate or overseas.

Tier 2 is the locality search. I am guessing that is what most Queenslanders are looking to in this bill: who are the reportable offenders living in my area that I need to keep my children safe from? The information provided will be an image and generally restricted to the locality. I note the minister's comments about locality and what that means to a decentralised state like Queensland. While the postcode of 4207 in my patch might cover about 12 different suburbs, much like Western Australia, in our smaller communities it will be very much up to a considered approach to what 'locality' means. It might be limited to the shire council area or local government area, which might cover a couple of locations. However, it is noted that, much like Western Australia, we have discrete Indigenous communities, and I note the discretion that the Commissioner of Police will have to provide in relation to those areas.

Tier 3 is where a parent or carer can make a request for information. It should be noted that people applying for information under tier 2 and tier 3 must provide their ID. Information is not just provided willy-nilly; it needs to be considered. ID is provided. Particularly with tier 3, the response will

be a yes or no—as in ‘Is this person on the register? Yes or no?’—and then further information in relation to that.

I do note that this bill is largely modelled on the Western Australian approach; however, I will point out to the House that one of the bigger differences between this Queensland approach and the Western Australian approach is how it deals with juvenile offenders. In the Western Australian model, if a child offends and becomes a reportable offender they do not go on the register; however, once they turn 18 they do go on the register. If something they did at the age of 13 or 14 has labelled them a reportable offender, they do not go on the register until they turn 18. It should be noted that here, in Queensland, if a child offends and becomes a reportable offender they will not go on the register after they turn 18. I just wanted to make sure everyone was clear on that particular difference because some submitters had some issues with what happens with juvenile offenders.

I also would like to make sure Queenslanders are aware of the risk of having a false sense of security. As has been indicated a number of times already, this is but one tool. As already identified by the shadow minister, of the thousands of people in Queensland who would be considered eligible, less than 25 per cent will actually be on the register—that is, less than 25 per cent of convicted sex offenders will be on the register. To go back again, I note that not all children report sexual offences. There is and always will be a large number of child sex offenders who are never reported or, because of the nature of child evidence, even if they are reported are not convicted—no jail, no sentence—and, therefore, do not go on the register. We acknowledge that 25 per cent of the people who are actually convicted and charged will be on the register.

We need to educate the people of Queensland that it is not just the people on the register whom they need to be concerned about. Yes, the evidence does point to the fact that the majority of offenders in this space are actually known to the offender. They probably already live in the home or nearby or play a role in that child's life. One might hope that tier 3 will assist families to make decisions about whom they choose to have in their house and around their children, but it is also a beacon to remind us to listen to our children and to be active and watch for changes in our children. They may not or may never feel comfortable coming forward for whatever reason because that is the nature of how child sex offenders work.

Let's remember that this is a tool; it is not going to give parents all the cover and protection they may want, and educating them on this is really important. Yes, I do consider it important to have some level of review or administrative oversight. We are talking about less than 700 here—and not everyone will want to raise that flag, but the decision of the Police Commissioner will be final. There are lots of reasons why a decision might be made, but as many submitters indicated it is against fundamental legal principles for someone to have a right of review. I hope this is considered in the five-year evaluation.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill bears the name of a young Queenslanders whom all of us in this state are familiar with—Daniel Morcombe. Daniel was a 13-year-old living on the Sunshine Coast, and he was on his way to buy Christmas presents for his family when he was abducted and murdered by a twice-convicted paedophile. Daniel's killer was allowed to hide his crimes from the community around him, even to the extent that his wife was not aware of his past violent offending against children.

I particularly acknowledge the tireless and courageous advocacy of Daniel's parents—Bruce and Denise—who have been advocating for a public sex offender register for more than a decade to keep kids in our communities safe. The Morcombe family used their experience of unimaginable heartbreak to create the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which provides child safety education to children across the country, and the annual Day for Daniel sees thousands of Australians dressed in red to raise awareness for child safety.

I had the opportunity to investigate this bill and hear from a number of stakeholders and submitters as a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. The committee made a single recommendation: that the bill be passed. This bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to put the rights of victims over offenders and establishes a public register for sexual predators who target the most vulnerable and innocent in our communities. We cannot allow those who endanger our children to roam around our communities incognito and potentially be in a position to offend again.

We currently have a non-public child protection register, which is administered by the Queensland Police Service, under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition

Order) Act 2004. It contains a range of personal details about child sex offenders and particular offenders who pose a risk to the lives of children, referred to as reportable offenders. Reportable offenders are required to keep police updated on their whereabouts and personal details for a set period of time. Failure to comply with these reporting conditions that are set under the same act is an offence. The new public child sex offender register will build on the existing register, while allowing the broader community to become aware of reportable offenders they may encounter and safeguard their child using that information.

This releasing of information relating to reportable offenders will take place in three tiers. The first will be through a public website displaying facial images and personal information of reportable offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to the police. The second tier will be a locality search, which will allow the Police Commissioner to provide the photograph of particular reportable offenders to an applicant who lives in the general vicinity of the offender. Tier 2 will be limited to offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending against children. This will include those who offend again after becoming reportable offenders, those who have reporting obligations imposed for the remainder of their life and those whom the commissioner deems to be a serious risk offender. The third tier of the register will be the parent or guardian disclosure scheme where, by application, parents can obtain information about whether a person specified in the application is a reportable offender.

There are also amendments which will implement strict safeguards to ensure vigilantism does not occur as a result of a disclosure through the register. Any information accessed or received through the public register must be treated as confidential and cannot be shared with others. The new offences that target vigilantism-style conduct are intended to curb intimidation or harassment but, for example, do not include communication between the parents of a child made in a private capacity for the purpose of safeguarding their child.

In line with existing restrictions, the public register will not enable the publication or disclosure of information about offenders. This includes offenders who are under 18 years old or were under 18 at the time they committed a child sexual offence and have not reoffended or engaged in particular conduct as an adult. Other offenders who are participants in a witness protection program or for whom a court has prohibited disclosure will also be excluded from that register. I echo the sentiments of Bruce Morcombe, who believes that this public register will also act as a deterrent for future would-be offenders because they know that their crimes will not remain secret in Queensland any longer.

This legislation is modelled on the Western Australian system, which has been tried and tested over more than a decade. Along with other members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I travelled to Perth to see Western Australia's system in operation and to hear of their experiences in administering a register such as this. Western Australia's register has prevented countless potential incidents by increasing public awareness of reportable offenders and by assisting parents to make fully informed decisions about who their children interact with. Like Western Australia, South Australia has now passed laws establishing a public child sex offender register. Both of those jurisdictions operate a three-tier disclosure system, as will Queensland, with some variations that are specific to each state.

The public register of child sex offenders has been created with critical safeguards to ensure it operates only as intended in this legislation. This bill represents a crucial step forward in protecting Queensland's children and restoring trust in our justice system. The public child sex offender register will empower families to make more informed decisions about who their children interact with, allowing parents and carers to take protective steps to keep their loved ones safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise to support the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. Before I turn to the detail of this bill, I want to take a moment to acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe. Their strength over the past two decades has been extraordinary. From the worst imaginable loss they have created a legacy that has kept countless children safe and taught families across Australia how to protect their own. Through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation they built something that continues to change lives. The resources, the education programs, the school visits—they all make a real and practical difference. This week, as we approach Day for Daniel, the largest child safety awareness event in the country, it is clear how far their work has reached. More than two million Australians take part in Day for Daniel each year—two million people wearing red, talking about safety and teaching children how to recognise danger. That is an extraordinary achievement. As the foundation marks its 20th year with the release of the *Don't Waste*

If documentary aimed at young teens, it is clear that the Morcombes' work will keep making an impact for many years to come.

The Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting Daniel's Law. We do so because the safety of children is, and always must be, the highest priority of any parliament and any government. Every child deserves to grow up safe from harm. That is our collective responsibility in this place. I believe that every member in this place feels that duty and that there is a shared goal across this chamber to do just that. Daniel's Law seeks to strengthen that protection by giving parents and communities greater access to information. It provides another means to help families stay alert and to prevent harm before it happens. However, support for this bill also comes with responsibility. We must make sure that what we pass here today works in practice, not just in principle. That means ensuring the law is properly resourced, carefully implemented and regularly reviewed.

During the parliamentary committee process a number of important issues were raised, and we simply cannot ignore them. One key concern was the potential for a false sense of security among parents who access the new register. I note that the Attorney-General just said that parents will now know if an offender is living in their neighbourhood, but this is exactly one of the concerns that was raised—that is, the potential for a false sense of security among parents who access the new register.

The Queensland Police Service advised that, of more than 3,200 reportable offenders currently on the child protection offender register, only around 749 will appear on tier 2 of the public register. That is less than a quarter. That could well be a false sense of security for parents. While this register is an important step, it will not catch the majority of offenders. Parents must understand that reality—that this tool will not tell the whole story. That is why transparency and communication are so critical. If we do not explain clearly what the register includes and what it does not, we risk families assuming their children are safe simply because a name does not appear online.

Time and again, experts have made it clear: the best way to protect children is through education and awareness. Any public information campaign that accompanies this law must be practical, factual and focused on safety, not politics or PR. It should explain how the system operates, what information will be available and what its limitations are. It must also reinforce an uncomfortable but vital truth: most sex offenders are not strangers; they are people known to the victim and their family. If we want to make real change, we must talk honestly about that. The Morcombes' work is a shining example of how to do it right. They have shown how education combined with community involvement can save lives. That is the model this government should follow.

Labor has always taken the protection of children seriously. It was a Labor government that introduced the toughest monitoring laws in the country for child sex offences. We doubled the monitoring period for first-time offenders from five to 10 years and for repeat offenders from 10 to 20 years or for life. We established Taskforce Orion as a permanent part of the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, ensuring officers have the specialist capability to track predators both here and overseas.

Since 2015, Labor has almost doubled the resources available to the child protection offender register, with a commitment to double them again by 2030. We strengthened police powers, allowing officers to inspect digital devices, requiring offenders to disclose hidden or anonymising software and creating new offences with penalties up to five years imprisonment for failing to comply. Labor's record is consistent, tough and effective. It is somewhat of a contrast to what happened under the former LNP government and a cabinet in which the now Premier sat when they changed the law and removed around 1,700 convicted child sex offenders from the register overnight. That decision weakened safeguards and eroded community confidence.

If this law is to work, it has to be backed by real resources. During the hearings the deputy commissioner confirmed that just four or five officers would initially manage the register. That is only a few people to oversee a statewide system covering thousands of offenders. There is no ongoing funding in the forward estimates, no permanent staff and no commitment to the resources needed to maintain it. This kind of scheme is estimated to take up to 100 full-time staff. Without that investment, we are setting the Queensland Police Service up to fail and risking the effectiveness of a law that is meant to protect our kids.

We also heard about plans to use automation to fill some of the gaps. It might sound efficient, but that too raises significant questions. How will this artificial intelligence play a role and who will take responsibility if mistakes occur? Those questions remain unanswered. In a system dealing with child safety and criminal histories, mistakes can have a lasting and significant impact and often cannot be fixed later.

Another area of concern is how the government plans to communicate with victims. It is unreasonable that victims should see the names of their perpetrators online without any prior alert. Police told the committee that victims receive a fact sheet at the time the offender is charged. That is not meaningful engagement as some of that time may have passed years and years ago. Victims deserve better. There are also concerns around whether the technology supporting this scheme is ready. If it is not, that also raises serious implications. The system must be built properly. It must be tested thoroughly and resourced adequately before it goes live; otherwise, we risk confusion, data breaches and a loss of public trust.

Finally, Daniel's Law must be reviewed and monitored closely once it is in operation. The current plan is for a review after five years. That is too long. We should be assessing it far earlier to make sure it is achieving its purpose and to address any unintended consequences quickly. Daniel's Law represents more than just another piece of legislation; it represents the persistence of two parents who refused to let tragedy define them and have instead made Queensland a safer place for every child. Their work reminds us that child protection must never be about politics; it must be about people.

The Queensland Labor opposition supports this bill because it shares that goal: keeping children safe. We know that for this to work properly it must be properly funded, implemented carefully and reviewed regularly because Daniel's Law must work and it must endure. That is what Queensland families deserve and that is what our children deserve, and that is what it takes to keep them safe.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (12.50 pm): I rise today to speak on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. It is very appropriately named Daniel's Law.

Imagine this: a child, innocent and trusting, is lured away from safety by a predator who has spent months or even years weaving a web of deception. The heinous act that follows is a violation. It is the shattering of a young soul, leaving scars that may never fully heal. Rape, molestation, exploitation: these are the brutal realities inflicted on too many Queensland children every year. One in five girls and one in eight boys will endure sexual abuse before turning 18, often at the hands of someone they know—someone hidden in plain sight—and the next victim could be your daughter playing in the park, your son at footy practice or the neighbour's kid down the street. This is the nightmare we must confront head on. Daniel's Law is not optional. It is our moral imperative to shield the next child from the unimaginable terror of these crimes. We owe it to them and to the survivors who carry the weight of what never should have happened to act now without apology or delay.

Today I rise not just as an elected representative of Thuringowa but as a mother, an aunt and a community advocate who believes that government must act decisively when the safety of our children is at stake. Daniel's Law is that decisive action. Named in heartbreaking honour of Daniel Morcombe, whose tragic loss in 2003 shattered our state and ignited a movement for change, this bill establishes Queensland's first public register for child sex offenders. It is a tool, a beacon of transparency designed to empower parents, carers and communities with the knowledge they need to protect those they love most. Let me be clear from the outset: this is not about vengeance or sensationalism; it is about prevention. It is about breaking the cycle of predator behaviour that has gone unchecked for far too long. It is about learning from those who have walked this painful path before us.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge Denise and Bruce Morcombe, whose courage and tireless advocacy have brought us to this point. Denise and Bruce have turned unimaginable grief into a force for good and Queensland owes them a profound debt of gratitude. Their words, their wisdom and their unwavering focus on the next victim have shaped this legislation in ways that will save lives. As Denise so powerfully reminded us during our first public hearing into this bill, this is about protecting the next victim. Providing a tiered, accessible register arms us with information. It allows us to make informed choices and intervene before harm occurs. Let's talk about the structure of this register, because critics might whisper that it is too hard or too innovative. As the Morcombes have rightly pointed out, the three-tier approach is a measured one. This is not a blunt instrument; it is a calibrated response honed by years of consultation and evidence.

Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender webpage. It displays facial images and particular personal details of offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Tier 2 is the locality search, a local area search allowing Queensland residents to request to temporarily view facial images of particular offenders residing in their locality. Tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme, which enables parents, guardians or people with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has, or will have, unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender.

This graduated system balances transparency with fairness, prevention with proportionality. It is not about casting a net over everyone; it is about targeting those who pose the greatest threat while giving authorities the flexibility to adapt as risks evolve. Let me emphasise that this register is a tool and not the whole answer. Daniel's Law is not a silver bullet. It will not erase the scars of past abuses or single-handedly reform our justice system.

Debate, on motion of Ms Marr, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Children, Hormone Therapy; Supreme Court Ruling

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (12.56 pm): On 28 January 2025 the director-general of Queensland Health issued a health service directive to pause stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment for children and adolescents under 18 years of age pending an independent review of the evidence base for such treatment. Today the Supreme Court set aside the direction issued by the director-general for procedural reasons in relation to consultation. The Supreme Court was concerned with the circumstances of making the directive, not whether a pause on stage 1 treatment or stage 2 treatment was appropriate. In fact, at paragraph 6 of the judgement His Honour says—

By their intrinsic character, these proceedings do not involve any review of the directive's merits. They are concerned solely with the legal requirements that attend any decision of this nature, irrespective of the subject matter.

In accordance with section 44(1) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, I am satisfied that it is in the public interest that I consider giving a written ministerial direction to health and hospital services with immediate effect. I will be considering the implications of doing so over the next little period of time. I have not yet issued such a directive; I will consider doing so.

The government's position remains unchanged. This direction, should I consider it appropriate, would implement a restriction on the provision of stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment to children and adolescents under 18 years of age with gender dysphoria. Patients who are already on a treatment plan will remain exempt from that directive. That restriction would be in effect until such time as the government considers and acts on the outcomes of the independent review of stage 1 and stage 2 hormone therapies currently being led by Professor Ruth Vine with a panel of assistants. The reviewers are currently scheduled to provide a final report to the director-general of Queensland Health by 30 November 2025.

I want to make it clear that, as you would expect, the government anticipated this might be an outcome. A matter before a court can go either way. In this instance, His Honour has made that decision and we are considering the reasons for judgement. Going through his reasons, His Honour has made a number of statements. I have already read one of those into the record; there are more. As stated in His Honour's reasons—

It should also be acknowledged that both the Minister and the respondent were operating in a problematic legal terrain, that has, as Mr Horton KC put it, seen "*all the great minds of the High Court over the years ... at odds ...*". When in that sort of territory, it is hard to be critical when a finding is made, under this heading, that relevant actions fell on the wrong side of a fine line.

Nor is there any point of general application to be delivered from this conclusion, which turns on specific provisions ...

Also—

To be clear, there can be in this case no suggestion that the Minister was trying to circumvent the requirements of the HHB Act.

I do want to be clear about it. The government was prepared for this. We are considering the steps that are available to us. The reasons for the decision, as His Honour states, are clearly procedural. They do not go to the merits of the actions that were taken with respect to the health service directive issued by the director-general. I am now considering whether to issue a ministerial directive, as the act permits under section 44, with due consideration of all of the factors outlined in the exercise of that discretion by me.

As parents, as communities and as a state, we owe it to children to ensure care is grounded on solid evidence and that we act with caution. It was with those principles at the forefront of its mind that the government previously—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Order!

Mr NICHOLLS:—communicated that decision. I will obviously keep the House updated.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It being 1 pm, the House will break for lunch and we will return at 2 pm for matters of public interest.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Do I have to warn you, member for McConnell? Before we leave, I am adding you to the list of warnings. No, I cannot add you to the list of warnings now, can I? It is highly disorderly to keep interjecting while I am leaving the chair.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Chelepy, Deputy Commissioner S; Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): At the outset, I want to join the police minister and say thank you to Deputy Commissioner Shane Chelepy for his service to Queensland. We worked side by side through some of Queensland's toughest days on the front line of COVID. After his time as acting commissioner, I am sure Shane will be looking forward to time with his family. On behalf of my Labor team, we thank him for his dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe.

When it comes to this LNP government, Queenslanders were promised a lot but what they have got over the last 12 months has left them disappointed. The Premier said before the election that the test of a government was whether people were better off. It is painfully clear right now, a year into this LNP government, that people are not. Our health system is under strain, and today we see that the person tasked with overseeing that system rejected the advice of health experts. Ministers should be lawmakers, not law-breakers. After this extraordinary court judgement, where is the Premier, where is the Deputy Premier—

Mr Bleijie: Here.

Mr MILES:—and will they defend him? Will you defend him? Will the minister be held accountable, as the Premier promised his ministers would be?

The cost of living continues to crush families, one big bill at a time. The dream of owning a home is slipping further and further away and this government has no plan to fix it. When this government was elected it promised integrity, transparency and delivery. Instead, the Premier has broken more than 30 promises—more than 30—and they are not small ones. They are promises that people voted on—like promises to make housing more affordable and promises to bring down bills and provide cost-of-living relief. Instead, Queenslanders are watching their rents skyrocket, their electricity bills jump by 20 per cent and their car rego rise by 24 per cent—all while this Premier pats himself on the back for a job well done. In fact, he said he was genuinely at peace for breaking promises he made to Queenslanders.

My Labor team has been on the ground around the state listening to Queenslanders, most recently in Moreton Bay last week. What they tell us is that cost of living is making their life tougher—and so is housing affordability. The two are intrinsically linked, as housing continues to be one of the biggest drivers of economic insecurity for so many Queenslanders. However, it seems under this Premier the commitment to deliver more social and affordable housing is just another broken promise that the Premier is at peace with. This LNP government has already scrapped almost 10,000 social and affordable homes. At Kurilpa, 4,800 affordable homes have been axed. At Woolloongabba, 3,200 affordable homes have been cut. At the Visy site, 800 homes have been scrapped. These were homes in the pipeline and they are gone, and thousands more are likely on the chopping block.

The LNP have made it harder to qualify for social housing and harder to get crisis accommodation—something the housing minister has justified as kicking out bad tenants and people earning too much. However, those struggling are not loaded landlords; they are nurses, teachers and professionals who are struggling. Interest rate hikes have punished those who fought hardest to buy a home. Landlords have passed those costs straight on to renters, and rising property values have made saving a deposit feel like chasing a mirage.

For too many Queenslanders, the dream of owning a home or even having stable rent is exactly that: a dream. When you do not have secure housing, cost of living never gets better; it haunts you every single day. For millions of Queenslanders, secure housing is the foundation of a stable life. If you

cannot afford a roof over your head, every other cost—energy bills, groceries and rego—becomes unbearable.

Despite that, the Crisafulli LNP government do not see housing as a right; they see it as an asset class. That is why we have an LNP government that treats people's homes like numbers on a spreadsheet—all while vulnerable Queenslanders sleep in the streets, in tents and in their cars and couch-surf across our cities and suburbs. These are vulnerable Queenslanders who cannot afford a home under this government and cannot access social or crisis accommodation.

It is not just housing that is becoming unaffordable. Bills under the LNP are rising. This government's policy decisions are making everything harder and more expensive. They have hiked rego by nearly a quarter. They have presided over a 20 per cent increase in electricity bills, and these energy bills will only go up under their plan to axe cheaper renewable energy projects. They have also cut the cost-of-living relief measures that were helping families to make ends meet. Everywhere you look, Queenslanders are paying more and getting less.

This Premier talks about 'economic discipline'. In fact that was the only thing he talked about in his first year in opposition, but let us call it what it really is: neglect. While Queenslanders are skipping meals to pay their rent, while parents are working two jobs just to cover the power bill, David Crisafulli is busy installing his mates and donors into cushy government jobs—60 of them, in fact—all while preaching about efficiency. That is not discipline; that is arrogance and that is entitlement, and Queenslanders are sick of it.

To quote some TikTok comments I have seen, it is giving Queenslanders the ick. The Premier just does not get it because he is not living it. He does not understand what it is like to open a bill and feel sick. He does not know what it is like to wonder if you will be able to pay the rent next week or to explain to your kids why you cannot afford their sporting fees this term. Queenslanders are seeing right through it. The LNP have lost the confidence of Queenslanders on every issue that matters—issues this government promised to fix. Voters were promised change and what they are getting is chaos. We have a Premier who is too busy with photo-ops to notice the pain his position void is causing, the pain of a cabinet too divided to deliver.

We need only look at the basket case that is Queensland Health right now. Ipswich Hospital is plagued with bed block, out-of-control ramping and still questions to be answered about why the Premier and health minister refuse to meet with the daughters of Christine White, who sadly died in August because of their cruel KPIs. That is just Ipswich. There are issues in Townsville, Gladstone and Caboolture, and big builds are on pause while the cost of construction grows with every passing day.

After 12 months, what do Queenslanders have to show from this government? They have higher rents, higher bills, more people homeless, more jobs for mates and fewer affordable homes. They also have a Premier who promised to make Queensland safe but cannot even say how many offenders end up in jail, a government that scrapped renewable energy targets and torched energy projects just to please their far-right fringe and a team that is already blaming everyone but themselves. If this is what 12 months looks like, imagine what four years will do.

Queenslanders are telling us in every corner of the state that they are doing it tough, that they feel forgotten, that they feel betrayed and they feel like this government just does not care. We will keep holding them to account for their broken promises, for their failures and for putting their party and their mates before the people of Queensland. We will stand up for our values and a fair go for everyone because it is what we on this side of the House do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Before I call the Deputy Premier, I would like to remind members that they need to be in their correct seat if they are going to interject.

Queensland Labor Party

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): A good government needs a good opposition to hold it to account. We do not have that in Queensland in the opposition. We have a failed leadership team in the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who failed at the state election. The opposition leader has just spent 10 minutes speaking and we heard not a new idea, not a positive for the state; he was just putting Queensland down. This is from a guy who has still not accepted the election result, just as he did not accept it on election night. Who could forget that speech? He talks about the Crisafulli government and the projects we cancelled which were Labor projects one of which was the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme, a \$37 billion hydro hoax. He

stands in here and defends it like it is a good legacy. It is not a good legacy. He defends his Olympic and Paralympic Games debacle as a good legacy.

Mr O'Connor: QSAC.

Mr BLEIJIE: QSAC, I take the interjection—\$2.25 billion in temporary stadiums. He stands here, a year after the election result when Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and he just spews the same Labor lines that he did when he was the Premier. It is no wonder his colleagues are now sharpening the knives for the Christmas coup.

Mr Minnikin: Annastacia.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the same speech I made two years ago when they denied it, just like the member for McConnel; she is denying it just like she did when I said it about Palaszczuk. I would say to the honourable member for McConnel that I have seen this play out before because it is exactly what they did last time and it is happening again to the honourable opposition leader.

I was not going to mention social media, but he did. This is how much he is not up to the job. On the weekend Hayden Johnson from the *Courier-Mail* reported leaks from the Labor Party, his own members—which one was it? The article stated—

'SLOPPY' LABOR

Steven Miles's colleagues aren't certain he will lead Labor to the 2028 state election.

They're not sure he wants to.

...

He's not lazy, but MPs are starting to acknowledge that returning to power in 2028 demands more than a strong social media presence.

He just spent so much of his 10-minute contribution talking about—

Mrs Frecklington: TikTok.

Mr BLEIJIE:—the comments he reads on TikTok. It has been proven that he is doing videos with fake Queenslanders, because they are Young Labor, and now he is quoting Young Labor TikTok comments to save his leadership. Cry me a river for goodness sake! Could it get any more embarrassing than this fellow?

They talk about health and crime. For 10 years they oversaw the crises that affected Queenslanders. Every crisis: health, cost of living, crime—you name it; they oversaw it. Then he stands in here today and he defends his legacy of 10 years. Time is up for the Leader of the Opposition. We know the Labor Party are gunning for him. They know it. We know it; we read about it in the media. They are leaking against him just like they did before. They are setting it up just like they did with Annastacia Palaszczuk.

The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job in a positive way. We back Queensland; we back Queenslanders, unlike the Labor Party. We are not going to do what the Labor Leader of the Opposition does and talk down Queensland, talk down the economy, just like the deputy leader is going to get up next, whingeing and whining, Mr 'Negative', saying nothing positive. If they want to talk about positivity, I have some positive news. This will trigger the members opposite because it is more housing announcements.

I can announce today that I have now called in the Dreamworld master plan development. This was a direct request from Mayor Tom Tate and the Gold Coast council demonstrating how we are resetting the planning partnership with local government. Labor stifled development. They had a decade to approve this development—housing and ecotourism—and they did nothing. The former minister for housing shakes her head. She is benefitting from this government. She benefits because she can now afford to be a home owner under the Crisafulli government and she could not afford it under the Labor government.

This Dreamworld investment will bring \$180 million over the next four years and a thousand direct jobs for the Gold Coast. The LNP Crisafulli government is delivering for the Gold Coast and delivering for Queenslanders no matter where you live.

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I am pleased to speak on a matter of public interest today. Unlike the Premier's dodgy crime data, some numbers tell the truth or, in the case of the Crisafulli government, the real numbers tell an ugly truth—a not so beautiful set of numbers. How about this one: 31 and counting? That is the number of promises the Premier has broken since the 2024 state election. How about this one: 60? That is the number of LNP mates, donors and cronies the LNP Premier has handed cushy government jobs. Here is another big ugly number: nearly 10,000. That is the number of social and affordable homes the Premier and his arrogant Deputy Premier and planning minister, Jarrod Bleijie, have cancelled so far. Affordable housing projects have been cut on the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Hamilton and in South Brisbane. Axing affordable housing and crushing the dreams of home ownership for thousands of Queenslanders at the same time, because the LNP simply do not value affordable housing. The LNP have made it harder for Queenslanders to secure a home of their own.

Here is another ugly LNP number: zero. That is how much electricity bill relief the vast majority of Queenslanders now receive under the LNP. There is zero cost-of-living relief when it comes to power bills for the vast majority. Here is another LNP number that zaps Queenslanders in the hip pocket: 20 per cent. That is how much the cost of electricity has spiked under the Crisafulli LNP government. Here is another nasty LNP number: 24 per cent. That is how much car rego is going up under the Crisafulli government. That is about \$180 extra for a typical two-car family every year. It is a toxic equation: the cost of living goes up but cost-of-living relief goes down under the LNP.

The reality for everyday Queenslanders is that it has been a year of decline and disappointment under the Crisafulli LNP government: a decline in the number of Queenslanders with jobs. This is a truly ugly LNP number—10,000 more Queenslanders have joined the unemployment queue since the election of the LNP government. That is the record of this government. That is 10,000 more Queenslanders living with the reality of not having an income. In Cairns the unemployment rate has jumped from 3.3 per cent to 5.3 per cent. In Townsville the unemployment rate has risen from 4.2 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The thing to remember about those numbers is that these percentage points are not just numbers; they are people, real people, who in the middle of the LNP's cost-of-living crisis simply do not have a job. All the numbers I have spoken about are the record of the Crisafulli LNP government—numbers that reveal the true nature of the LNP government, numbers that reveal a deficit of integrity and a deficit of honesty, numbers that reveal a deficit of delivery for everyday Queenslanders.

Premier David Crisafulli governs for his LNP mates and donors and cronies and ideological weirdos in the LNP instead of governing for mainstream Queenslanders. During the flu epidemic the Premier and Deputy Premier refused to encourage Queenslanders to get vaccinated. Why? Because they were pandering to the extremist views of the anti-vaxxers in the LNP. What was the consequence? The consequence was that the vast majority of flu patients filling our hospitals in Queensland were not vaccinated. A preventable public health problem was made worse by the deliberate actions of the Premier and Deputy Premier, and now we see that their attack on gender-affirming care has thankfully been stopped by the Queensland courts—but wait, in will rush the emergency legislation that they will ram through the House in the middle of the night so that their ideological war on Queenslanders can continue. The Premier and Deputy Premier put politics before supporting good, effective public health measures.

Labor will not relent in holding this ideologically-driven government to account. That will be Labor's No. 1 job—holding this right-wing LNP government to account. We will keep count of the 'Crisa-failures', we will keep count of the broken promises, we will keep count of the jobs for LNP mates, we will keep count of the dodgy deals for donors, we will keep count of the failures of integrity, we will keep count of the failures of honesty and transparency, we will keep count on the deficit of delivery by the LNP and we will always keep count on behalf of those who really count, and that is the people of Queensland.

Labor Party Opposition, Performance



Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.20 pm): I acknowledge the good students of Nambour State College who are in the gallery, because those good students have just witnessed the second audition for the final caucus meeting at the end of this year. The Leader of the Opposition had nothing to say after a year in the job. That was the first audition. We have just seen the second audition. If I go to the run sheet of who is talking on behalf of the Labor Party, I see we will have the third audition. It is going to be the member for Waterford next.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock, please. Members! Member for Nanango, you have the call.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Ms Fentiman: How did your audition go?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am more than happy to take that, because the audition that sees us—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: She has nothing, so she is going to keep laughing. We on this side of the House are actually making changes and reducing victim numbers around this state. The member who just interjected had 10 years to do something and what did she do? She put her head in the sand about the DNA debacle. When she is deciding when she is going to do this—

Mr Dick: Go to Kingaroy Hospital! I built that for you and your electorate!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection as well. It is thanks to Lawrence Springborg that we have the new Kingaroy Hospital. Under those opposite, what did they do? There is still the long-stay unit that those opposite refused to put staff in. They refused to have mental health beds. That is the legacy of the former health minister who just spoke in this debate. He obviously wanted to talk about numbers in his audition. How many times before the last election did the former treasurer say that there would be no new or increased taxes? He said it 26 times, and as the former treasurer he increased taxes day in and day out, but I digress. We are then going to hear from the member for Gaven—we will be listening to that—but there is a surprise on the list. The member for Bancroft is apparently going to be doing an audition today, which I did not know. The member for Bancroft will enjoy that.

What I am also waiting to hear from the Labor Party is who will be its candidate in the great seat of Hinchinbrook. I really enjoyed being in the Hinchinbrook electorate with Wayne Chiesa just the other day because he is a local who is fighting on behalf of the LNP. He knows where his values lie and he knows exactly who he is, and that is with the LNP. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have someone who gets a seat at the table right beside the Premier in a government that is looking out for regional Queensland? We then need to look at who the Labor Party has selected—I am sorry, who the Katter party has selected on behalf of the Labor Party. It has selected a candidate called Mark Molachino, the Labor member who was a member—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Gerber: Grace loves him!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Exactly; I take that interjection from the member because there is no greater indication of what I was saying in Hinchinbrook yesterday. This bloke is a member of the Labor Party. He only resigned because the Katter party said, 'You can run for us and then you can skip over and jump over to the Labor Party as soon as you get down there.' We know that it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Here we have a Labor Party member who has put a hat on his head, walked down the streets and pretended he is going to run for the Katter party. I can tell this to the good people of Hinchinbrook—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Just pause the clock for a moment, please.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth! Members on my right and left, it is too noisy in the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member, but the candidate is a self-confessed Centre Left, and members can watch the interview where this is what happened: this bloke chose the Labor Party while crime spiralled out of control. He chose the Labor Party to put criminals' rights before victims' rights. Members can watch the interview where, in the middle of a youth crime crisis, he chose 'to share Labor's values' despite the terrible impact of their disastrous policies across Queensland. We are supposedly meant to believe that the Labor Party has not selected a candidate. It is pretty obvious. We had the member for Woodridge up there the other day trying to do the numbers with Mark Molachino, because when—

Mr Dick: That was good. They love me up there!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member cannot even say that with a straight face. Those opposite say, 'Come over and run for the Katter party, win the seat and join the benches of the Labor Party.'

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (2.26 pm): After that contribution from the member for Nanango, I am so bewildered as to why Queenslanders did not want her to become the Premier. I am so surprised! What we want to talk about 12 months on—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am sorry, but I can still hear the member for Nanango trying to audition. I am sorry, member for Nanango, that the good people of Queensland did not see fit to elect you to that top job.

Today we are talking about a year on from David Crisafulli and the LNP team taking government and how hard it is to keep track of all of the broken promises. Queenslanders right now are feeling the pinch. They are doing it tough. If any of those opposite spent any time actually talking to real people, they would understand that families are really having a tough time of it. David Crisafulli, the Premier, said during his time as opposition leader that energy rebates would continue and that there would be cost-of-living relief. I think that is the biggest broken promise from the LNP, even though there are so many of them.

Queenslanders were banking on getting an energy rebate because it was the thing that was enabling them to keep paying all of their other bills—the rent, the groceries, the petrol in the car. That decision to not continue energy rebates has been devastating for Queensland families. Then there is the fact that rego has gone up 24 per cent. There are no energy rebates, energy is going up by 20 per cent and rego is going up—taking that discount away from families doing it tough. He said that he was going to be responsible with taxpayers' money, but his decision to take away that discount for car rego and the energy rebates has made it really difficult for Queenslanders to be responsible because they do not have any money to pay these ever-increasing bills. The fact is that he promised they would continue, but then he gets into government and does the exact opposite.

Then we have the pressures around housing. We heard the Deputy Premier bang on about everything he is doing but the reality is: the decisions that he and the housing minister made actually mean there are far fewer social and affordable housing projects in this state because they are now in government. The Premier, even today, said, 'It is all about supply'. Well, his government is restricting the supply, and that is what is driving up house prices in this state. That is why when you go for a walk in any of our local government areas, you see more and more tents in the parks. People are doing it tough. The cost of living and housing are absolutely linked. The fact is: if you are renter, things are insecure for you right now and your rent keeps going up. So many people are being forced into their cars and into tents—that is what we see every day—but they just do not seem to care. They do not care that they broke their promises. They do not care that there are now more people living in their cars and living in tents in our parks.

The other promise that the Premier made was that the health crisis would be fixed and, in fact, what have we seen? The worst ambulance ramping on record.

Ms Boyd: The biggest crisis is this minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers: the biggest crisis in health is this minister. Today he has been found to have made decisions unlawfully because he refused to take health advice before making a decision around life-saving health care. You would think, as the health minister, your first port of call would be to take medical expert advice before making a decision that impacts so many Queenslanders and their health. It is absolutely embarrassing that we have a health minister who is making decisions that impact the health of Queenslanders unlawfully, and here we have the Premier, who promised again to hold his ministers to account. What are the consequences for a health minister who is refusing to take expert health advice and is making unlawful decisions? I do not think there will be any consequences, because we have not seen any consequences for the ministers who are failing to meet his KPIs. There are so many broken promises. The reality is: there are so many families doing it so much tougher under the LNP government.

(Time expired)

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Representation

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.31 pm): North Queenslanders know the difference between talk and action. They know a fake when they see one and they certainly will not have the wool pulled under their eyes. In the upcoming Hinchinbrook by-election, they have a clear choice to make between a proven values-driven local in Wayde Chiesa—someone I have known for over 20 years—and a political opportunist who has flip-flopped between parties and who now wants to pretend he is something else. Let's be crystal clear: Mark Molachino is a former Labor man who declared that the Labor Party aligned most closely with his values, a man who described himself as centre left and who only joined the Katter Party when it suited his personal ambitions. He cut his teeth under Labor and he now wants North Queenslanders to believe that he has suddenly changed. That begs the question: will the Labor Party stand a candidate in the seat of Hinchinbrook, or will they hide behind the Katter candidate and come up and hand out for him while they wear their big akubras? Let us see what they do when the by-election happens in Hinchinbrook. They talk about being the party for all of Queensland and they cannot even bother running a candidate in a by-election in Hinchinbrook. When it suits them, they just ditch Hinchinbrook—they are not interested.

People in the north remember. They remember who let crime spiral out of control. They remember Labor's decade of decline when inner city priorities were forced on North Queensland. They deserve better than a candidate who changes colours like a chameleon. They deserve a representative who stands by their values and that is Wayde Chiesa. He is a local who has never wavered in his commitment to the north. He is a small business owner who knows what red tape does to enterprise. He is a true believer in North Queensland's future. He is a former CEO of Regional Development Australia for the north and north-west, bringing an economic development perspective to the role—that planning perspective—that high-level leadership to the table. He has worked in the resource sector. He gets it. He is a North Queenslander through and through. He is out there right now. I talked to him 10 minutes ago. He is out there right now. He is doorknocking. He is putting in the hard yards. He is driving from one end to the other—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for McConnel, you are warned.

Mr LAST: He knows the region. He knows the people. He knows what matters. He will fight for the Bruce Highway; for better health access in the north; for affordable housing; for a tough response on youth crime. I lived and worked in Ingham and Rollingstone for four years. It is a community very similar to the Burdekin. Wayde Chiesa's family still operate a small business in Ingham. He understands how communities in the north work. He understands what it is to be in Ingham when there is a flood happening, when that community is being battered by a cyclone. He gets it. He has rolled up his sleeves, he is having a red hot go and you cannot fault him for his commitment to this campaign. Those on this side of the House are backing him. We are backing him because he will be an outstanding member of this parliament—that is the record of this government.

There is a choice facing the people of Hinchinbrook: a choice of going back to more of Labor's chaos and excuses, or moving forward with a government that is restoring confidence, cutting red tape and backing the regions. It is a choice between Wayde Chiesa, a trusted local small business owner, someone who has never forgotten where he comes from, or the chameleon Katter candidate who cut his teeth under the Labor Party, declared Labor's values as his own and now wants to rewrite history wearing his big akubra. The people of Hinchinbrook do not want to go back to Labor's toothless approach to youth crime. They deserve someone who will roll up their sleeves, someone who will deliver and someone who knows where they stand, knows their values and will fight for them every single day. Someone who will fight for every road upgrade, every regional project and every local business—that is why I am backing Wayde Chiesa.

Housing Affordability; Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.36 pm): It has been a year of the Crisafulli government and a year of broken promises. Remember when the Premier said that he valued the independence of the Public Service? Well, the decision today shows that the Premier's word means absolutely nothing. After not being successful in making the Public Service do their dirty work, no doubt they will come in here and rush through a ban that will impact trans kids in this state—all in a deal to keep the hard right in the Liberal National Party happy. Who can forget when they said that the test would be 'if people were better off'? I think that Queenslanders would say that given that rents are up, the social housing waiting list has blown out, thousands of affordable homes have been axed and more Queenslanders are sleeping on the streets, this demonstrates that test has been broken by the LNP.

We were told that Premier David Crisafulli would fix housing and instead, he has created an administrative circus. Three ministers are supposedly responsible for housing and evidently, not one of them is talking to each other. First, we have the member for Bonney, the bloke who spent almost all of last year railing against affordable housing in his own backyard and now turns up to Labor's projects like he has built them himself. He spends more time pretending to be Labor than standing up to the hard right of his own party. Then we have the member for Kawana, the chief NIMBY himself, whose first act was to tear up an affordable housing project—again, in its own electorate—after Labor had already approved it. We hear all of this nonsense about how they are unleashing the community housing sector and yet, they overturn approvals for one of the largest community housing providers in Queensland. Finally we have the Treasurer, a former investment banker who is somehow the answer to young people wanting to get into the housing market. God help them because if that is the answer to young people getting into the housing market, I am not sure what the question was! Three ministers for housing—one pretending to be Labor, one blocking new homes and one in a completely different economy—

Mr O'CONNOR: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Pause the clock.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for order. What is your point of order?

Mr O'CONNOR: I have a pretty thick skin, but I take personal offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Bonney has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms SCANLON: I withdraw. What I think a lot of Queenslanders take offence to is the spin coming from those opposite about so-called supply when all this government has done so far is scrap social and affordable housing projects across the state. There is less housing now with the Liberal National Party in charge compared to what there would be if we were in government. In the middle of a housing crisis they thought it was a good idea to axe mandatory social and affordable housing targets in the middle of Brisbane, one of the most well located areas in Queensland. It is hardly surprising given Julian Simmonds is in charge. The bloke has gone from the coal front group to chairing our public developer. He has never met a public asset he did not want to flog or a donor he did not want to please. That decision now means that 2,800 fewer social and affordable homes are going to be mandated. That is the decision those opposite have made—a gift to the wealthy few and a blow to nurses, teachers and frontline workers who keep this city running.

As has been outlined, it is not just in Brisbane. There are projects right across the state that have been axed by those opposite because apparently there was too much affordable housing in each of those projects. They were projects from developers and community housing providers ready to build and those opposite said no. Now they have stopped accepting the SFD affordable housing proposals that were deliberately designed to ensure we gave people a fast-track approval. The real kicker, though, is that when it comes to Olympic infrastructure the LNP is happy to bulldoze councils, override planning laws and charge ahead with the very stadium that David Crisafulli said he would never build. When it comes to homes for Queenslanders, suddenly it is too hard; suddenly it is all up to councils. They will move heaven and earth for a stadium but clearly not build a single house for a renter who needs one.

The cruellest part is the quiet changes they have made to make it even harder for homeless Queenslanders to get access to emergency accommodation. We are seeing the consequences of the decisions of those opposite in our parks. There was an 11 per cent increase in the social housing waiting list in just three months. That will increase because of the decisions being made by those opposite to axe social and affordable housing projects. We also heard during estimates—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I hear the interjections from the housing minister, that they are going to sell off public housing. Instead of taking credit for Labor projects, you should take responsibility—

(Time expired)

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.42 pm): There are a number of matters of public importance that I want to raise this afternoon and they relate

to the good administration of this state. After a 12-month period of delivery by the Crisafulli LNP government, what are we faced with from those opposite in terms of drive, determination and policy alternatives? We are faced with nothing new. Twelve months down, those opposite have not learned anything new. We have had whingeing, we have had whining and we have had complaining, but have they actually made the effort to do something and promote an alternative policy?

I am concerned for the people of Queensland because I think it is killing season. Christmas is coming. We know that around Christmas time the turkeys get worried as the knives get sharpened. We saw it happen with Annastacia Palaszczuk and I reckon it is happening already. The only question is how many of the turkeys opposite are going to be dressed for the Christmas table. We have had the member for Murrumba, whose own team say lacks the drive: 'We don't know if his heart's in it. We're not sure whether he's up to it.' They know him better than I do. They are the best judges of his capacity and ability.

I want to focus on the member for Miller. The turkeys might be gobbling but the chickens are worried and they are going to come home to roost over there. The member for Miller is not too sure what is going on because, when it comes to blunders, he is the king of the blunderers in this place. He is forced to apologise to this House for not getting his facts right around perinatal mental health beds. He is forced to apologise in this House for failing to obey the courtesies of this House. He refuses to apologise for confusing the number 42 with the number 3 in relation to the Toowoomba Hospital and making false statements with regard to the pausing of surgery there.

I do have a modicum of sympathy for the member for Miller. I know he is being strident. I know he does not work past 10 o'clock. I know he has been loitering around the halls of the PA Hospital. The staff ring up and say, 'Who is this person? What is he doing here?' He is not adding a sum total to the delivery of health services, that is for sure. He is supposed to be working hard. As he said, everyone is entitled to take some leave from their job. We all believe that everyone is entitled to take some leave from their job, don't we? 'News Corp harassing Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk ... while she is on leave is just vile,' said the member for Miller. I thought that was interesting. He has some sympathy for people who go on leave. I looked a little further. On his Facebook page one of his correspondents said—

A very sad story, where is Tim Nicholls today, hiding probably

Fair enough; have your go. Mark Bailey's response was—

Evan ... to be fair he's on leave Evan and I don't begrudge him that. Everyone is entitled to their leave.

I thank the member for Miller for his endorsement and his support, but I would have to say that he says one thing online and another thing in this place. The member for Miller has to be consistent. You have to have an alternative. Until we have a decent opposition who can hold an argument and who can put up a policy alternative, the people of Queensland, as is their right, are entitled to say, 'Where are they? What are they doing?' They have not learned from their mistakes. They are not going to get the support. No wonder the results are what they are when we see them in the paper.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Miller, you can join the warning list. I was in the process of calling your colleague to speak. It is highly disorderly. You have had a pretty good go this afternoon.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (2.47 pm): How underwhelming is this one-year-old LNP government? On Sunday in Petrie a resident said to the member for Murrumba, 'The LNP promised the world and all they did was give us an atlas.' Firstly, it is very clear that the LNP have underdelivered in the area of youth crime. They are touting their 10.8 per cent fall figure, but, digging into their dodgy data, it appears it is 6.5 per cent. A youth worker explained to me that is in line with long-term trends of reduction that have been seen. Essentially what we have seen is a continuation of the fall that started under Labor. What an underwhelming achievement in what they call their signature area of policy.

Secondly, the LNP promised to sort out housing and what have they done? Instead of wielding a hammer and a shovel, all they are doing is wielding a pair of golden scissors to open projects that Labor started such as the multistorey block on Sutton Street in Redcliffe. Soon a project at Deception Bay Road and one at Mango Hill will get the golden scissors treatment from the LNP. There was a block in Portwood Street in Redcliffe that the member for Redcliffe touted as a future site for a project. What was not revealed was that that site was acquired by the then Labor government.

However, the LNP have been using their scissors for something else—that is, cutting affordable and social housing projects. Earlier we heard that 10,000 affordable and social homes have been cut under this government. They are cutting projects in their own backyard: 790 homes at Arundel, 90 at Birtinya, 40 at Tewantin and 73 at Redland Bay have gone, because the first thing that the LNP did when it formed government was to introduce a bill that gave the Deputy Premier the power to scrap and reduce affordable housing. They have cut the policy of buying and acquiring hotels and unused aged-care facilities to help vulnerable Queenslanders and they have cut the requirements for developers to build affordable and social housing across Queensland.

Thirdly, Queenslanders are underwhelmed by the lack of cost-of-living relief under this LNP government. We know that the \$1,000 electricity rebate is gone. It was a real life changer for many people. Car registration has gone up because the rego rebate has been cut. The most proactive LNP action on cost-of-living relief is to support Labor initiatives. Of course, I give you 50-cent fares from 'Mr 50 Cent Fares' himself, the member for Murrumba. They have embraced free kindy. They have embraced the \$200 fair play vouchers used to help out families. And that is about it. For most Queensland families that has been pretty underwhelming.

Fourthly, the Premier said, 'We'll do what we promised to do' but they never promised to abandon a hospital expansion project. Construction had already started on the Redcliffe Hospital expansion. The day they announced they were going to build a new stadium and aquatic centre at Victoria Park was the day that the piling contractor pulled the last rig from the Redcliffe Hospital site. There have also been the underwhelming attempts to prop up the member for Redcliffe. They have left her as the face of that abandoned project in Redcliffe. The minister, for example, had to clarify that they want to build a three-level car park after the member said on social media that they were building only two levels. The LNP has been caught out using a picture of the cut Labor project at Redcliffe Hospital to promote their supposed rescue plan for the hospital. Locals are very unimpressed with how the LNP is running the Redcliffe Hospital. We know that you now wait longer in an ambulance to get into the Redcliffe Hospital. You wait longer to see a specialist at the Redcliffe Hospital. You wait longer for your planned surgery at the Redcliffe Hospital.

Their reason for cutting the project was design flaws, which is distinctly unimpressive. Today the minister said that 1,000 comments from clinicians were ignored, but I have discovered that 27 groups, in four rounds of consultation, were involved in designing the Labor project. From that process, 3,000 pages were generated. It is an insult to those clinicians and non-clinicians to abandon their work after they had worked long and hard on designing this—

(Time expired)

Redcliffe Hospital

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (2.52 pm): Today I rise to speak on a matter of public importance. I wish to provide an update to my electorate of Redcliffe and those opposite on the Redcliffe Hospital expansion rescue plan after Labor's disgraceful attempt at misleading my community with their shadow cabinet roadside last week although I am delighted that so many on the left were out in Redcliffe. Shadow ministers and Labor staffers were more interested in the Redcliffe Hospital than in their own electorates.

I have said it before and I will say it again: I was born at the Redcliffe Hospital, my first job as a nurse was at the Redcliffe Hospital and my daughter and family work at the Redcliffe Hospital. I am fiercely and passionately committed to ensuring the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan is delivered. Let me be clear: my community and many beyond Redcliffe rely on the health services delivered there. I again put on record my heartfelt thanks to all the hardworking staff: the nurses, doctors, radiographers, pathologists, pharmacists, allied health workers, ancillary staff, administration staff, caterers, hospitality workers and security staff. I also express my deep thanks to the executive director, Cang Dang, with whom I meet regularly to receive updates on the Redcliffe Hospital rescue plan. Anything contrary is categorically untrue and a desperate scare campaign from those opposite. I want to give a special shout-out to Redcliffe Hospital's occupational therapists as yesterday was World Occupational Therapy Day.

The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to delivering easier access to world-class health services in Redcliffe and for all of Queensland. Labor's decade of decline left the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan—and I quote from the independent Sam Sangster review—'undeliverable in its current form'. The laundry list of failures are far and many. Under their plan, it included a \$1 billion cost blowout, a delay of at least two years due to planning failures and site risks, inadequate planning that ignored

the clinical advice, no paediatric outpatients, no mortuary and no education and training facilities. They failed to address major safety concerns and they failed to resolve the cultural issue with the scar tree, which caused more than \$50,000 per day in delay costs. That is a waste of taxpayers' dollars.

The Crisafulli LNP government's fully funded \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering for my community, including through the provision of more beds than Labor promised with at least 210 overnight beds. The project continues to move forward with the hospital and health service executive and clinicians welcoming and embracing the opportunity to be involved in redesigning the hospital. They want to ensure it is truly fit for purpose and will meet the growing needs of our community. Soon we will return to market through a competitive retendering process to secure a construction partner for the new hospital expansion. We are committed to ensuring value for money for taxpayers and an open market process. The recent car park tender at Redcliffe, which is expected to be awarded shortly, demonstrates this commitment.

Let me be crystal clear: the Crisafulli LNP government will deliver the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan through calm and methodical planning and budgeting, not because of any petition or roadside appearance from the member for Bancroft but because we are committed to diagnosing, treating and healing Labor's health crisis. Those opposite attempt to distract from the decade of decline that they created—a mess that failed to deliver the Redcliffe Hospital expansion that our Hospital Rescue Plan has saved. I put on record my thanks to health minister Tim Nicholls who was one of the first ministers to visit my electorate and has visited multiple times since. I thank him for his commitment to the people of Redcliffe and to Queensland that we will deliver better health services closer to home.

Parliamentary Procedures

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.57 pm): With the government nearing its one-year anniversary, how have we fared in terms of the reforms needed for Queensland to restore trust in our governance systems, democracy and politics? As I have raised previously, our parliament is not living up to what its role should be. Harry Evans, the longest serving clerk of the Australian Senate, has said that legislating means making laws and conducting inquiries as well as disclosing information necessary to ensure capable and honest government. Basically, he highlighted the crucial role of parliament and parliamentary inquiries for shining light on the legislative process and on the government of the day. Since 2019, the crossbench, the current government when in opposition and I sought committee and estimates reforms to fulfil that role as Mr Evans outlined.

During elections, our new government promised to overhaul the estimates process. However, all we have achieved is a different but not independent chair and a reversal of positive reforms that had already been secured. Chamber content has also gone backwards with the loss of the regular crossbench private member's motion, in effect denying debate on the diverse topics important to our communities.

In addition, voices remain muffled or unheard when topics are banned or when legislation is inserted at the last minute or pushed through during consideration in detail. Bypassing the appropriate, though flawed, scrutiny of committees that ensure Queenslanders' voices are heard is just plain wrong. We could fix all of this through an independent review of the operations of parliament. The current model of the CLA is insufficient due to its dominance by the two major parties that ultimately, as we have seen—and it does not matter which one is in power—are not supportive of changes that may diminish their ability to circumvent those processes.

Regardless of previous calls, chamber behaviour has not improved. I will continue to raise that we, as leaders, must set the example for our children, our grandchildren and all Queenslanders. This is imperative to bring back respect and trust within our communities and it is up to every single one of us to demonstrate how it is done.

Where are the reforms to our electoral laws such as South Australia's banning of donations to registered parties, MPs and candidates? What about the content of election materials and advertising and those misleading reply-paid envelopes for postal vote applications that also need to be dealt with to rebuild trust? Nowhere is it to be seen. In other states and the Commonwealth there are bipartisan reviews of elections; however, in Queensland we have the Electoral Commission reviewing itself, which is insufficient.

Independent reviews, whether of elections or disasters, as routinely occur in other jurisdictions, are essential for transparency, accountability and building trust. That is where we need to get to. That there was no appropriate Queensland review of our pandemic response or our housing crisis, as is done with our fires and floods, is a major failing. We need to know what we do well and what needs to

be improved on such as capability gaps in the public sector as part of effective disaster management. I am sure everyone in this House wants to see that.

The report *Fault lines: an independent review into Australia's response to COVID-19* identified several key issues in public administration, particularly in terms of seeking broader advice, transparency and collaboration. While the formal recommendations of Professor Coaldrake's 2022 review into public sector accountability have been reported as implemented, the 'asks' and 'shoulds' still await. It is imperative that Professor Coaldrake be invited back to consider these and provide a report on progress and further steps that need to be taken.

Regarding access to information, we are meant to have a push model for government to routinely and proactively push information into the public domain, instead of waiting for freedom of information requests to pull that information out. Queenslanders need this. As well, we need statistics and data that come from an independent source that are easy to understand, comparable to other jurisdictions and remove the ability for either side of the House to manipulate and cherry-pick. How do we ever know what we are achieving when what is presented can be skewed to suit a particular narrative?

To move Queensland forward we need these long-sought-for reforms. If not, where do we go? Is it the reintroduction of the upper house? Communities have had enough of politics that is about power and control instead of where it needs to be: about people.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013, the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Tabled paper: Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I am proud to introduce the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 into parliament today. This year's theme for Safe Work Month of 'Safety: every job every day' encourages all workplaces, regardless of occupation, industry, location and size, to prioritise safety in their job every day—a theme that the Crisafulli government wholeheartedly endorses. Of course, it is not only in October but also each and every day that the Crisafulli government reinforces the significance of promoting safe and healthy workplaces. This government is committed to ensuring Queensland workers have adequate protections and fair conditions in their employment: workers should be safe at their workplaces and paid competitively.

The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring productivity and stamping out systemic misconduct and bullying, particularly that in the CFMEU. To this end, in November last year the Crisafulli government moved quickly to implement a key election committed by reintroducing the requirement for workplace health and safety entry permit holders, being union officials, to give at least 24 hours notice before entering a workplace, except where there is an immediate or imminent threat to the health and safety of a worker. This brought an orderly system around union entry back to Queensland worksites.

We also repealed changes introduced by the former Labor government intended to expressly allow WHS entry permit holders to take photographs and videos at workplaces. At the heart of our changes is promoting Queensland workplaces as a safe and productive place to work—and there is plenty of work to do with a record \$116.8 billion capital infrastructure pipeline and the 2032 Delivery Plan that has the games finally back on track.

While those opposite were more interested in running a protection racket for the CFMEU, this government backs Queenslanders and focuses on workers' safety and not militancy, intimidation, misogyny, bullying, harassment and violence. The Crisafulli government furthermore suspended the Best Practice Industry Conditions—also known as the CFMEU tax—on new government funded construction projects—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to the use of unparliamentary language in the Deputy Premier's speech. He used impugning terms around protection. I would ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Deputy Premier, the advice I have taken is that there has been a ruling in relation to unparliamentary language. For the benefit of House, I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr Dick: That came back to bite you, didn't it?

Mr BLEIJIE: No, not really. I will get to you in a minute.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge and member for Kawana, comments will be directed through the chair and not across the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: While those opposite—particularly the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when he was the treasurer of the great state of Queensland—were more interested in legislating for the benefit of unions and the CFMEU in Queensland, this government backs Queenslanders when we focus on workers' safety, not militancy, not intimidation, not misogyny, not bullying, not harassment and not violence by the CFMEU that has funded the Labor Party time and time again.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, please keep interjecting and I will take every single interjection in the hour that I have. Keep interjecting, through the Deputy Speaker, and I will take every interjection. I will talk about the history of corruption in the union movement. I will talk about the CFMEU. Move an extension of time and I will go all night, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I will talk about every dollar that the CFMEU donated to the Labor Party. I will talk not only about every dollar they donated but also about the legislative changes they made when they got the donations from the CFMEU.

Mrs Nightingale interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I say to the member for Inala: keep interjecting because your predecessor protected the CFMEU. Annastacia Palaszczuk introduced legislation time and time again and accepted the donations of the CFMEU—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I have only taken a moment to peruse the bill and explanatory notes and I do not see any reference in them to any legislative reform to political donations.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand your point of order on relevance. Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is being completely relevant. He is taking interjections from those opposite, which he is entitled to do, but he is also being relevant to the bill that he is introducing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, thank you for your point of order. The member for Kawana is being relevant to the bill. However, member for Woodridge, you are warned under the standing orders for interjecting on the Leader of the House while I was taking the point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: If the first three paragraphs of my introductory speech get the level of excitement from the Labor Party, you ain't seen nothing yet, Deputy Speaker. Wait until I get to the rest of the speech; the good stuff is later. I have not even started, for goodness sake. Jeez! I understand the triggering effect the CFMEU has on those opposite. When we speak about the CFMEU and when we talk about rolling up the red carpet that the CFMEU had on the Labor Party, I understand why the Labor Party get so triggered by these words.

This will get them, too. The Crisafulli government, furthermore, suspended the Best Practice Industry Conditions, aka the CFMEU tax on new government-funded construction projects, and re-established the Queensland Productivity Commission with its first order of business to provide recommendations on improving productivity in the construction sector. Following the release of the Watson report, *Violence in the Queensland CFMEU*, we decisively commenced the landmark commission of inquiry into the CFMEU which will lift the lid on the militant union's culture of systemic violence, intimidation to spotlight potential criminality, organised crime links and financial irregularities in the union movement.

The changes outlined in this bill are another step to support the Crisafulli government's zero tolerance approach to bullying, fear and intimidation in Queensland workplaces.

In March 2024, the Workplace Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill passed parliament. Among other matters, changes included allowing a relevant workplace health and safety entry permit holder or health and safety representative to directly request the work health and safety regulator to give them information from an improvement notice, prohibition notice or non-disturbance notice if related to the workers they represent. This was a very open-ended information request. The bill repeals those provisions. I repeat: this bill repeals those provisions.

It should go without saying how easily this provision could have been abused. There is no limit on how many requests can be made or how often, there is no limit on the number of notices that can be requested, and no limit on how far back the requests can be made. There is no requirement for the union representative or health and safety representative to explain the reason for requesting the information from the regulator. There is no way for the government to impose any fees to recoup the administrative costs that would arise in actioning these requests.

There are already mechanisms in place under the Work Health and Safety Act to help representatives access information. For example, entry permit holders can request relevant and necessary documents and make copies of them when they are legitimately inquiring into a suspected workplace health and safety contravention at a workplace. A person conducting a business or undertaking is already required to give copies of notices to health and safety representatives upon them being issued to the PCBU—the person conducting a business or undertaking. Both these provisions are about managing active or current safety matters. There is a stark difference, however, between a HSR receiving a current notice in relation to a current compliance issue, compared with a HSR obtaining a 12-year-old notice.

The truth is the former Labor government carved out a special pathway for entry permit holders, like the CFMEU, to exploit the regulator and to weaponise information against employers. This represents another example of the former government who had simply facilitated and emboldened the union mates pushing through industrial relations reform which would have no impact on making Queensland workplaces safer for Queensland workers.

I fail to comprehend how the former government believed copies of outdated enforcement and compliance notices would truly benefit a CFMEU official in performing their role as an entry permit holder. I can understand how it would assist an entry permit holder, such as a CFMEU official, in their harassment campaign, and perhaps the Labor Party understood that quite well when introducing the reforms they did which we are repealing today.

Let's not forget, it was the Labor Party, in government for 10 years, which has a history of backing the CFMEU's business model of intimidation, coercion and harassment, and this legislation today is another footstep in the right direction for making sure that we say on behalf of Queenslanders that behaviour is not tolerated anymore in Queensland.

It is clear Labor's information-sharing laws would be used as nothing but an information-gathering exercise by the CFMEU, and it would not be in the interests of safety, but merely as a means to harass non-unionised workforces. The law, as it stands, could easily be used to gather material to launch a targeted campaign on businesses and stifle productivity in the process. Unfortunately, it will be the WHQ staff who will be caught in the crossfire by having to disclose this information at the demands of the CFMEU.

The only jurisdiction that have something resembling these laws are South Australia, who introduced regular information-sharing provisions in 2024 to allow worker representatives to access certain information if they have a direct connection to an incident and, of course, Victoria, which continues to be embroiled in serious allegations of systemic corruption, abuse and organised crime, perpetuated by the CFMEU. In fact, the federal CFMEU administrator recently ordered an investigation into disgraced CFMEU National Secretary and the administration's executive director of Victoria, Zach Smith, after allegations he sent a CFMEU organiser to meet with underworld figure Mick Gatto. Also, only last week, Victoria's second most senior official, John Perkovic, was sacked over allegations of bribery and corruption.

It is also important to note that this additional avenue for entry permit holders to request information, as was passed by the previous Labor government, was an extension of a recommendation of the 2022 review into the WHS Act. It came direct from the Labor government. This policy was therefore nothing more than the CFMEU leadership controlling government policy under Labor.

The former Labor government should be ashamed of how it prioritised the CFMEU over the core functions of the safety regulator. Labor should be ashamed of the unjustified administrative burden

these laws would have imposed on the work health and safety regulator and the risk of further exposing public servants, workplace health and safety officers, to more intimidatory practices by the CFMEU.

Let's not forget, the reason we are introducing these laws today is because the Labor government had a long history of facilitating the CFMEU's harassment campaign and the laws that we are repealing today were to that extent. Labor's information-sharing laws are just one example of a decade of Labor bolstering the powers of the CFMEU. Let me read into the record a few of the Labor CFMEU enabling laws.

In 2015, Labor restored right of entry powers, allowing WHS entry permit holders to gain immediate access to a workplace to inquire into suspected contravention of the WHS Act. At the same time, they removed the penalty for failing to provide notice of entry and halved the maximum penalty for contraventions of the workplace health and safe entry permit conditions from 200 penalty units to 100 penalty units. In March—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I expect the question that the Deputy Premier is foreshadowing is that the bill be read a first time. The bill states that the member has circulated—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): What is your point of order?

Mr de BRENNI: I am explaining my point of order. It is for particular purposes. I submit to you that the contributions presently from the Deputy Premier are outside of the particular purposes listed in the bill and therefore are not relevant to the debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order relating to the content and the context the Deputy Premier is providing and particularly with respect to the entry requirements of permit holders into there. It is directly related to what the bill is about—the content is there—but the Deputy Premier is also providing a broad context in relation to some of those elements related to the bill and, therefore, I would submit to you, that the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business is not relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice on this. Members, thank you for your points of order. The minister is explaining the historical context and backgrounds to the development of the bill which is relevant to the bill and particularly relevant for the first reading speech. Minister, you have the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: As is the case with first readings, courts look at the introductory speeches of ministers to ascertain the government's context by which we are introducing legislation. I am setting out the history of why we are repealing Labor's laws today. It is quite shocking, I would say, to be interjected upon and have many points of order raised all in a bid to try to stop the flow of this speech in introduction. It begs the question: why? Maybe the person opposite can answer that.

At the same time, Labor removed the penalty for failing to provide notice of entry, which is in the bill today, and halved the maximum penalty for contraventions of WHS entry permit conditions from 200 penalty units to 100 penalty units. In March 2024, through the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, Labor diminished the rights of employers, preventing employers from requiring the WHS entry permit holders to comply with a WHS obligation onsite if compliance would unreasonably hinder or delay their inquiry into suspected contraventions. In the very same legislation, Labor opened the door for the CFMEU to invite themselves to be a party to work group negotiations, issue resolutions and dispute resolutions simply by giving written notice, even if no-one involved actually asked them to be there.

Labor also made a suite of changes to health and safety representative training provisions, reducing the interval for refresher training from once every three years to annually. On top of this disruption to business, Labor also significantly reduced the time for health and safety representatives to undertake their training, putting huge pressures on business, particularly those in regional Queensland, as they were compelled to provide this training in only 28 days of the worker being elected into this voluntary role. Originally, business had up to six months to provide this training.

I will point out that many legislative changes were rushed through parliament before the 2024 state election. I reiterate what I said in parliament during the second reading of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024—

It all seems very curious and convenient that CFMEU powers and entry permit powers are all being increased just before an election.

These laws were a clear legislative overreach by Labor at the time. Thankfully, the new information-sharing provision has not yet come into effect. We are taking action today so this provision and other consequential changes can be made before the CFMEU has an opportunity to exploit them. Repealing these provisions will realign this aspect of Queensland's work health and safety framework with that of other states and territories.

This bill continues the Crisafulli government's commitment to protecting the safety and welfare of all Queenslanders. The Crisafulli government is committed to having safe workplaces across Queensland. This includes prioritising electrical safety by modernising certain provisions and correcting discrepancies in the electrical safety framework.

The Electrical Safety Act is directed at eliminating the human cost to individuals, families and the community of death, injury and damage to property that can be caused by electricity. This is an important safety framework to prevent harm to both people and property. A sunset review of the Electrical Safety Regulation is currently underway. As part of this review, my department has identified targeted improvements necessary to support the proposed remake of the Electrical Safety Regulation. These improvements relate to electrical equipment defect notices and to prohibiting the sale, installation and use of unsafe electrical equipment in our community.

Under the Electrical Safety Act, electricity entities, like Energex and Ergon Energy, have duties to ensure their works and the way they are operated are electrically safe. This duty includes requiring electricity entities to inspect, test and maintain their works. Currently, the Electrical Safety Regulation provides that an electrical safety inspector or an electricity entity can give a written notice to a person in control of electrical equipment requiring them to fix any defect affecting the equipment's electrical safety. This situation may arise when an electricity entity attends a residential property to inspect an electrical installation, observes defective electrical equipment such as a damaged general power outlet or an unsafe switchboard and gives a notice to a person in control of the equipment requiring the person to fix the defect.

It is a longstanding practice for Queensland electricity entities to alert consumers to safety issues with electrical equipment. The Electrical Safety Act includes a regulation-making power for prescribing broad powers for a person to discharge their electrical safety duties or ensure the electrical safety of persons or property; however, the head of power for electricity entities to give electrical equipment defect notices is not clearly specified. To avoid any doubt and to ensure there is certainty and clarity in the framework, the bill proposes to confirm the longstanding practice of electricity entities giving electrical equipment defect notices. It does so by including a clear and limited head of power to prescribe this ability under the Electrical Safety Regulation. This will enable electricity entities to continue giving defect notices and, in turn, make sure defective electrical equipment is identified and fixed. A validation provision is included in the bill to recognise that electricity entities have been giving these notices in good faith and to remove any doubt about the validity of existing defect notices. Notices issued under the Electrical Safety Regulation will remain in force to require action and protect Queenslanders from unsafe electrical equipment.

Another important change included in the bill is to recognise the impact of the regulator's existing power to prohibit the sale or use of electrical equipment if the regulator believes it does not comply with relevant safety criteria. This is a significant but necessary power to protect Queenslanders from electrical risks and ensure the purpose of the Electrical Safety Act is achieved by allowing the regulator to swiftly respond when new hazards are identified, preventing potentially dangerous electrical equipment from being sold or used.

To illustrate how this power has helped to keep Queenslanders safe, in 2013 the regulator prohibited the installation of Infinity branded electric cables that were being used in the walls and roof spaces of Queensland homes between 2011 and 2013, with an estimated 753 kilometres of cabling sold in Queensland during that time. These cables were found to be prone to deterioration, leading to an increased risk of electric shock and fire, becoming a silent risk inside people's homes. An investigation found the cables failed to meet electrical safety standards due to the poor quality of the plastic insulation coating. Using the prohibition power, the regulator—and, incidentally, I was the minister at the time—was able to act promptly to immediately stop the sale and installation of these unsafe cables and prevent further risks to Queenslanders and their homes. A nationwide recall of the cables was later instigated by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission in August 2014.

To provide another example of the value of this power to Queenslanders, in 2017, following the tragic death of Townsville resident Kerry O'Connor, the regulator acted immediately to prohibit the sale and use of the KASA Deep Diver branded submersible pump. The pump was found to be of an

inferior design that did not comply with electrical equipment safety standards, leading to the pump's casing becoming live and causing immediate risk of electrocution. The power to act quickly and decisively to prohibit the sale and use of these pumps may well have saved other Queenslanders and their families from injury or death.

Given the potential impact and reach that such a prohibition may have, it is more appropriate for this framework to be relocated from the Electrical Safety Regulation to the Electrical Safety Act, in keeping with other significant powers within the act. Further, the current prohibition power does not appropriately provide for matters such as when and how a prohibition may be given or provide certainty on the length of a prohibition. The current prohibition power only identifies the 'sale' and 'use' of unsafe equipment and does not specifically articulate 'installation' as a subset of 'use'. The Infinity wiring example provided earlier illustrates the importance of clearly recognising 'installation' as a specific application that the regulator should consider when responding to unsafe electrical equipment.

In addition to relocating unsafe equipment directions into the Electrical Safety Act, the bill proposes to modernise the prohibition framework to ensure it is robust, transparent and fit for purpose. For example, there is now greater detail on the grounds on which a direction may be given, a 10-year limit on the duration of a notice and greater clarity on the reissuance of a direction for the same equipment where it continues to present a risk. There is now an obligation for the regulator to publish a copy of a direction on its website, along with a copy of the decision notice, to assist a person seeking a review of the decision by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The existing penalty of \$4,000 remains in place for failure to comply with a direction without a reasonable excuse; however, there is now clarity that the evidential burden lies on the person subject to the direction in demonstrating whether they have a reasonable excuse, similar to other offences in the Electrical Safety Act.

In summary, this bill will be yet another test for the failing and fumbling leadership of the Leader of the Opposition and those Labor members opposite. Are they going to cave in to the demands of the CFMEU—like they did for 10 years in government during a decade of decline—or will they back Queenslanders, with a genuine focus on safety?

We know that the Leader of the Opposition owes his existence to the CFMEU. He restarted his meetings with them when he became premier. He rolled out the red carpet to Michael Ravbar and co time and time again. It is a pleasure to say in this House today that the new LNP government has rolled up the CFMEU red carpet and we have tossed it away. We have thrown it over the biggest bridge you would find in Queensland. We have put it on the Bruce Highway and we have run over it. I have allowed members to stampede on it. I have allowed dogs to chew it. I have allowed pussy cats to use it as kitty litter. The Labor red carpet for the CFMEU is dead, buried and cremated.

We now have a government focused on law changes to put the safety of Queenslanders first. Despite the objections that we have seen during the introductory speech by the Manager of Opposition Business, who knows a little too much about union intimidatory behaviour and thuggish behaviour, clearly seen on display today defending the CFMEU—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw those comments.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We will strike out the bad behaviour in the CFMEU as poison is drawn from a wound. This LNP government is taking tough action against the CFMEU. This LNP government is putting workers and safety first. This LNP government does not owe our existence to the CFMEU. This LNP government does not accept and has not accepted donations from the CFMEU. This LNP government will continue to drive reform that makes workers safe and puts the interests of Queenslanders first, not the union movement, not the CFMEU.

This legislation that I have introduced today is but a small cog in a big wheel of reform that will be coming over the next three years. We have set up the CFMEU royal commission of inquiry. It is going to start its public hearings in a few weeks time. We will see what reforms the royal commission recommends and we will act on those reforms. We cannot have productivity return to workplaces if things do not change in this state.

It is clear by the objections raised by the Labor Party today that they still owe their existence to the CFMEU and will come in here time and time again and defend and make excuses for the behaviour of the CFMEU. There is no excuse—no excuse—for the behaviour, the bullying, the intimidatory practices and the misogyny of the CFMEU on construction sites in Queensland. It is only a freshly minted LNP government that will take the serious action required—and I would dare to say that we have the courage to do it. I do not care what the CFMEU say about me. I do not care what threats they make to me, to my face or online. We have the courage to make these reforms because these reforms

are in the public interest. These reforms will return productivity to the worksite. These reforms will put Queenslanders first. These reforms will undo 10 years of dodgy deals the Labor government did with the CFMEU. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (3.33 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Crocodile Management Plan

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.33 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. Last October Queenslanders voted for change. After a decade of decline under Labor, our government inherited a mess—one we have been calmly and methodically working to clean up. When I was briefed on the status of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan, I was shocked to learn that Labor had not reviewed the plan since 2017.

The Crocodile Management Plan needed review to ensure that it was fit for purpose, so our government is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan to ensure it reflects current priorities and better meets the expectations of rural and regional communities. Our review will be thorough and we are encouraging stakeholders from right across the state to be involved. We are working hand in hand with councils and listening to communities to ensure we get this right.

The review is scheduled to be finalised before the end of the year. Given the plan's direct relevance to the government's response to the Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill 2025, it would be both practical and appropriate to allow for its completion before proceeding further to ensure the bill is considered alongside the state's Crocodile Management Plan. That is what working together as a whole parliament looks like. Therefore, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 36:

ALP, 34—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.39 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders, general business order of the day No. 1 be postponed until Tuesday, 9 December 2025.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.40 pm): Obviously, this has just been dumped in here without any notice. Whilst I do not support the bill this motion relates to, I do support the right of members on this side and those on the crossbench to move private members' motions and to have them dealt with in the appropriate timeframe.

Let's be really clear about what the government are trying to do here. They are trying to avoid a debate on a bill moved by Katter's Australian Party until after the Hinchinbrook by-election. That is what this is all about. It is a shameful abuse of this chamber to come in here with no notice whatsoever and take away from duly elected crossbench members the right to have their bill debated. It is ready to be debated today and it should be debated today. There are members on this side of the House whom I represent who are prepared to speak. They have their speeches written and they want to put the views of their community on the record, but those opposite want to avoid a discussion about crocodiles until after the Hinchinbrook by-election.

This is an abuse of the parliament, an abuse of the process and a misuse of their big majority to try to stop the parliament debating something that has been duly considered. The bill was properly read a first time, properly considered by a committee and properly ready to be debated. The Labor opposition will oppose this motion because we support the process and we support the right of non-government members to propose and have debated their legislation.

Government members interjected.

Ms Fentiman: Just because you never had any private members' bills!

Mr MILES: I take that interjection from the member for Waterford. Those who now sit on the government benches had the opportunity to move private members' bills but they chose not to. That lazy opposition did not propose private members' bills in the way the Katters have on this occasion. Again I say that while I do not support their bill I support their right to have it debated and the Labor opposition will be voting that way.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.43 pm): We have obviously been caught off guard here by a deliberate attempt by the government to shut down or at least contain or curtail debate on a very important issue. Another crocodile attack was identified on the weekend up at Cape Tribulation, so I guess that would speak to the urgency of trying to deal with something like this. We all know why this is being done, and that is because, rather than trying to fix problems in this place, the government have spent the last two sittings trash-talking our candidate in Hinchinbrook. They are not talking about the things we should be talking about, like how we are going to fix things in this state.

Mr Bleijie: He's the Labor candidate.

Mr KATTER: I take the interjection from the government. The Labor candidate, the one who was approached by the LNP—I will keep saying that—

Government members interjected.

Mr KATTER: I do not want to keep talking about this stuff.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Traeger, I will just remind you that you are talking to the motion as moved.

Mr KATTER: I appreciate that. Mr Speaker, I do not want to talk about that stuff; I just want to talk about our policies. Whether you agree with them or not is fine, but what drives me insane is when I have to go up to North Queensland and people go, 'Oh, it's good we got rid of Labor because now we'll get some action on crocodiles,' and nothing changes so here we are. That is why this is being delayed, because nothing is going to change. Then I get called out and people say, 'Hang on, nothing changed. You said we had to get rid of Labor.' That is why we are here. We are not here to fix things. We are not here for the betterment of the public or the betterment of debate. We are here to hide things and what we really stand for. Someone said something about the values of the person who is running for the LNP in Hinchinbrook. Well, let's see his values. Ask him what he thinks about this. In a conversation with someone up at the Bohle tavern or the Bushland Beach Tavern, ask him what he thinks about crocodiles, because this is an issue—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to relevance to the motion that is currently being debated.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Traeger, once again you are talking about the bill and not the motion that has been moved.

Mr KATTER: I understand. It is quite clear why they are doing this. Please, let's at least have the decency to acknowledge why this is happening. There is a by-election happening in Hinchinbrook and we have this debate, so we have a gag order now. We cannot talk about uncomfortable things and positions the KAP have. We are not going to expose anything we discuss about crocodiles. We have lowered the bar on the crocodile stuff. We have tried to make it moderate policy to get some buy-in to try and get political assent on this. We are not trying to make a political statement with this. We need it debated in this period so people can make an informed judgement. Let's not forget that Hinchinbrook is a ground zero area—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Traeger, I have to bring you back to the motion we are debating.

Mr KATTER: I thought I was speaking within the motion, Mr Speaker, because I am trying to speak about the importance of bringing this debate forward and the urgency that it requires. You cannot ignore the fact that there is a by-election and that that is what is driving this. Issues need to be put in front of the people of Queensland so they can make informed choices about whom they vote for. That is what this parliament exists for. That is the whole point of the process.

I am happy to wear it if people do not like our pro-life stance or our crocodile stance. We are happy to wear that, but let's just call it for what it is and let's all know where we all stand on this. That is how the political system should work. You can throw names and labels at things if you want, but let's talk about policy and solutions. To do that we need to debate things and not play games in the parliament so we can hide it and suppress it. That is exactly what has happened here. It is a very unfortunate position for the government.

There is an integrity issue here for the government. They do not need to win this seat to keep government. They are compromising their integrity by playing around with the timing of these bills, including it with something else. It is political chicanery that does not belong here. The public is yearning for some integrity in this place and for people to just call it how they see it. They might accept it if you say you do not support this—they might like it; it might make you popular—but just say what you mean and be honest with the people of Queensland. Don't play these games to try to hide your true position. Let us at least be a voice for those people who want urgent action on this and to see this stuff come forward. All those people who do not form the masses out here who oppose this stuff deserve a voice. There are people up there who want action on crocodiles and the like who would love to see this debated.

We have waited a long time. The member for Hill has spent a lot of time preparing for this and trying to build momentum so that it is showcased in the media and people can make an informed choice, but he has had the rug ripped out from under him. This is very disappointing to see. The LNP is still going to be the government after this debate and after this by-election so let's us all just play fair and try to do our job here for the people of Queensland.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.49 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved in the House this afternoon. Let's face it: we all know the truth, and the truth is that the little birds have been coming over here and telling us that the leadership of the LNP do not want this bill debated in the House because they do not know how their backbench is going to vote. There are plenty of members of the LNP who would love the opportunity to support this bill.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DICK: Just like the Premier gagged debate on abortion, they do not want to have this—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, if you addressed your comments through the chair you would realise I am on my feet.

Mr DICK: The Premier does not want to let his backbench loose on this bill because he does not know what they are going to do. There are plenty of members who would love this opportunity because that is what we have heard. The birds have been twittering on this side, telling us what is going on in the LNP backbench. The crocodile whisperers have been telling us what is going on in the LNP. That is why they do not want this bill to go forward.

The member for Traeger is right: whether or not you agree with the Katter's Australian Party, whether or not you agree with this bill, every member of this House should agree with their right to be able to move and debate a bill in this House. It should not be gagged by a fiat of the Premier just making

a decision off the cuff: 'We're not going to do this because it's going to damage our chances in Hinchinbrook.' The member for Traeger is right on that issue as well. The LNP do not want this debated because they will have to reveal their position. This bill has gone through all of its stages and it is mature and ready to be debated.

I remember, and all members of the Labor opposition remember, those hollow words of the Premier during the campaign that he was going to lift the standards of the parliament. Do you remember what the Premier said, Speaker? He was going to lift the standards. What we have seen time and time again by this government is the standards of this parliament being lowered. Bills are being rammed through the House in the middle of the night, and there was no debate on the ban on drug testing. They gagged the parliament on that and they gagged the parliament on abortion. You cannot even say the word.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the member for Woodridge remaining relevant to the motion that is currently before the House. He is now straying into other areas.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I bring you back to the motion we are debating at this moment.

Mr DICK: Again, this motion lowers the standards of the Queensland Legislative Assembly. This bill has gone to a committee and the committee has had hearings around Queensland. For the longest time, Queenslanders have had a say. They have been able to come to this parliament, put in a submission and be heard through the committee process, but the government has said, 'We don't want to hear from Queenslanders.' Haven't we heard that time and time again from this government? 'We don't want to hear from Queenslanders.' If you do not sign up to the LNP position, your voice will not be heard.

The Labor opposition today says let the voice of Queenslanders be heard. Let the Katter's Australian Party bill go forward. Let us debate it. Members of this House have spent time preparing for this debate but, again, the government do not care. They are willing to trash the process here. It also demonstrates a government that cannot control the agenda in the parliament. Time and again we see bills start but then stop. What about that magnificent effort on the Trusts Bill! We will never forget that. Wasn't that a magnificent effort by the government! They cannot control the agenda. When it gets out of their control, when the Premier cannot control it—and we know the Premier wants to control everything—he wants to stop the process of the parliament. Well, we are not elected here as members of the LNP; we are elected here by members of the citizenry of Queensland to allow this parliament to be their voice, and the voice of Queenslanders should be heard today. That is why the Labor opposition opposes this motion. The bill should go forward, and everyone in this House should be given an opportunity to be heard.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.54 pm): I rise to oppose this motion moved by the Minister for the Environment. If there was ever a scurrilous action to shut down debate in this House, we have seen it here this afternoon. What makes this worse is that the mover of this motion has skin in the game when it comes to dealing with crocodiles, and I know this for a fact. When I was coming through the Weipa Airport after spending some time on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve back in 2012 or 2013—and this was the first time he was the environment minister—he was arriving at Weipa Airport to spend some time on the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, so he knows the detriment from shutting this bill down and gagging the debate. We have to give credit to the Katter boys for moving this bill in the House as well as their other bills to address some of their concerns.

Regardless of what you think about crocodiles and safety and those matters that apply for people up in North Queensland, we know quite well the purpose of this motion. It is to shut down the debate and to limit the opportunities for those people to have a fair dinkum decision made in the by-election in Hinchinbrook. The LNP are scared about what is happening up there in Hinchinbrook and they are scared about what this bill might do, and that is why they are gagging the debate this afternoon. This is a scurrilous motion moved by a fellow who should know better in terms of dealing with crocodiles and the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.

Let's not kid ourselves. If debate on this bill is gagged this afternoon, the LNP will come back into this House after the by-election and they will vote against it. We know what their agenda is. We know that they are scared of this bill and the outcomes of the Hinchinbrook by-election. This motion is an absolute crock.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.56 pm): The Premier indicated very strongly after the election when they won government that they were not going to fall back to the mistakes they made during the Newman government. These are exactly the same tactics the Newman government used, and they

went from 78 seats down to 42 seats and lost government in an unlosable election. The Crocodile Control and Conservation Bill is a big issue. If we go back to 2010, there were 178 reported sightings of crocodiles in Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to stop you, member for Hill. We are not debating the bill. We are debating the motion so I bring you back to the motion.

Mr KNUTH: This is a motion to stop that bill, Mr Speaker.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, it has come to my attention that you are on a warning so I am going to have to ask you to leave the chamber for a period of one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Waterford withdrew from the chamber at 3.57 pm.

Mr KNUTH: This bill is a matter of urgency. We have seen an attack up there in Cape Tribulation, and we are seeing the crocodile breeding season at this time. People in my electorate and the electorate of Hinchinbrook are asking us what the government is going to do about crocodile management in this state. We were looking forward to going back to the people of Hinchinbrook and telling them because they are desperate to have the crocodiles removed out of their waterways, out of their boat ramps and out of the whole river. They have been crying out for this. This is a golden opportunity and they thought the LNP would be backing them.

This action is an absolute disgrace. We have waited years to debate this second bill here in the Queensland parliament but we are seeing it gagged and guillotined. I say to the LNP, shame on you. The new LNP members will start to wake up and see what is going on here. They are going to go down the same path as the previous Newman government. A lot of you will not be here after the next election, so all the best. If the government want to beat me in the election, they should not abolish my seat; they should at least beat me fair and square.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.59 pm): What a totally disingenuous motion. The member for Hill and I do not agree on this issue. We did not agree the last four times and this would have been the fifth time. Of course, he will not know the great reasoning I was going to put in the House which could have changed his position because we are not going to get to debate this issue. That is a real concern to the member for Hill and it was a real concern to the previous member for Hinchinbrook when they raised this issue repeatedly and we did not agree. We have not agreed for a long time, but we always had the debate. We always had the honest conversation in community and in this House. We never stifled that debate. We never shut down the members of the Katter party and those who were concerned about the issue. We would have the conversation.

This substantive motion—and I appreciate I do not have it in writing, but I will check *Hansard*. I think the minister mentioned that, because of his great shock at the fact the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan had not been reviewed since 2017, the government needs more time to consider it. If that is what he put on the record, that is not true. This plan was independently reviewed in 2021. It is publicly available. This plan has a consultation draft that I personally released as the then environment minister last year. It is on the website. It is on the department's website, so the government—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I will bring you back to the motion that we are debating.

Ms LINARD: The motion that was put and the speech by the minister was that they cannot debate this tonight because the government needs more time to deal with the substantive issue of the Queensland Crocodile Management Plan. That is not true; they have had a year. They have had a year to consider it. We had already consulted across Queensland. If they did not like the consultation outcomes then they should own that, too.

This House is a place where we can have robust debate, we can disagree respectfully and we can move forward. The people of the Hill and Hinchinbrook electorates want to know that we are at least debating the things that matter, not always putting politics—and that is what this government does—between the issues that Queenslanders expect us to stand up here every day and debate. I am ready to debate the actual issue tonight. I say to the member for Hill that I am ready; I am ready to have an honest conversation. The opposition is ready to have an honest conversation with him and to own our position, which may not be what everybody in that community wants.

I do want to acknowledge this. We do not just listen; we act. That is why we announced changes to the zones in Hinchinbrook, and the former member for Hinchinbrook acknowledged that publicly. We acted when they raised concerns. This government have said they do not care. What they do care about is playing politics; what they do care about is trying to win the seat. The people of Hinchinbrook

need to know that, even if those opposite do win the seat, they do not actually care what the public want to talk about because they will always put politics first, before every Queenslander. I oppose the motion.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker—

Ms BOYD: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the House.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I move that—

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

That the member for Pine Rivers be heard.

Mr SPEAKER: I still have not heard that point of order here.

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

Mr Ryan: He didn't even have his mic on.

Mr SPEAKER: He called and then he turned his mic off. I made the call, unless you have a problem with it. Did you rise on a point of order?

Dr ROWAN: No, Mr Speaker. I was seeking the call.

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

That the member for Pine Rivers be heard.

Division: Question put—That the member for Pine Rivers be heard.

AYES, 37:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

Resolved in the negative.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (4.08 pm): As the minister has indicated, the government is still considering the legislation and has outlined a detailed response in relation to those matters. As such, I move—

That the question be now put.

Division: Question put—That the question be now put.

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

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 37:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—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, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 37:

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

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3315, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (4.13 pm), continuing: Let me emphasise: this register is a tool and not the whole answer. Daniel's Law is not a silver bullet. It will not erase the scars of past abuses or single-handedly reform our justice system. What it does is complement existing safeguards, from mandatory reporting laws to enhanced police resources and family support services. It is one vital piece in a broader puzzle of child protection. We must pair it with education campaigns in schools and trauma-informed counselling for survivors, but as a tool it is indispensable. Imagine a parent in Kirwan in my electorate wanting to know about a new babysitter or a youth group leader and discovering a hidden history of harm. That simple act of access could prevent the next tragedy. That is the power of this register—proactive, practical and profoundly human.

Let me delve deeper into the grooming tactics that make this law so urgently needed. Predators do not operate in isolation. They are cunning, manipulative and deeply embedded in our social fabrics. Predators are not only grooming children; they are grooming families. They build trust over time, attending barbeques, volunteering at events, weaving themselves into the everyday rhythm of community life. This register disrupts that facade. By shining a light on known offenders, they can no longer hide behind a veneer of normalcy. Families deserve to know, not out of paranoia but out of prudence, who is seeking proximity to their children.

What gives me such confidence in this model? It is not untested theory; it is proven practice. The Western Australian scheme has been operating for more than 10 years and has also undergone rigorous review. Launched in 2012, Western Australia's public child sex offender register has been a success, with multiple evaluations affirming its role in enhancing community safety without the feared deluge of vigilantism. Daniel's Law is modelled on this blueprint, incorporating Western Australia's lessons to ensure our Queensland version is even stronger. We have borrowed the best—the tiered access, the oversight mechanisms—while tailoring it to our unique state needs. This is not reinvention; it is refinement, and that longevity—that scrutiny—provides a level of comfort we can all embrace.

In Western Australia the minister authorises the publication of information of offenders whom they consider pose a serious risk and do not otherwise meet tier 2 criteria. Importantly in Queensland, this discretion will be retained by the Police Commissioner. Of course, no legislation is without challenges and we have addressed them head-on. Moreover, we have learnt from Western Australia's decade of operation to prioritise considerations of community awareness, safeguards against misuse and lessons from WA of protection against unintended harm. Education is at the forefront. Safeguards are robust, with strict penalties for misuse such as harassment or false reporting.

As we debate this bill, I urge my colleagues to join me in this bipartisan imperative. Child protection is not red or blue; it is the colour of innocence, the laughter of a child at play, the trust in a parent's gaze. We have waited too long. Daniel Morcombe's family waited too long. The next potential victim—perhaps a girl in Kirwan or a boy in Heatley—cannot wait any longer. I am deeply honoured to have served on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee that led Daniel's Law, protecting

the vulnerable as a duty I hold close to my heart. In closing, let us honour Denise and Bruce Morcombe's vision—a Queensland where knowledge is our shield, where communities stand vigilant but united, and where predators find no safe harbour. Pass Daniel's Law today and make it law, as we promised, and together let us build a safer tomorrow for every child in this great state. This is about protecting the next victim—to shield that child from the unimaginable terror of these heinous crimes. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.18 pm): As many before me have, I want to start my contribution by acknowledging Bruce and Denise Morcombe's contribution and their tireless dedication to child safety through the extraordinary work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Their strength and compassion in the face of unimaginable tragedy have inspired millions of Australians and driven meaningful reform for two decades.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation's reach is immense. Day for Daniel, which will be held this Friday, is now Australia's largest child safety education event with more than two million participants each year. Beyond that single day, the foundation leads national advocacy and education programs all year round. The foundation's new documentary, *Don't Waste It*, released for the foundation's 20th anniversary, speaks directly to young people about personal safety in real-world situations. These are not easy conversations to have with our children, but they need to be had, and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has courageously initiated that conversation in schools with our children over a long period of time. As a parent, I thank them for their service to keeping our children safe. As a former child safety minister, I had the privilege of getting to know Bruce and Denise and, like every child safety minister before me and, no doubt, those who came after, found their warmth, generosity and resilience humbling.

Whether in government or opposition, Labor will always support laws that make children safer. Keeping our children safe is a principle that sits above politics. When in government we consistently delivered the toughest monitoring framework in the nation for child sex offenders. We doubled monitoring periods from five to 10 years for first-time offenders and from 10 to 20 years or life for repeat offenders. We permanently integrated Task Force Orion into the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. We almost doubled the resources of the child protection offender register since 2015 and committed to doubling them again by 2030. We introduced new digital device inspection powers, reporting requirements and offences for failing to produce electronic devices—all to ensure police have the tools they need to monitor offenders effectively. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the officers and staff of the Queensland Police Service, particularly those working on the front line of such incredibly difficult areas—CPIU, CPOR and Argos teams.

The reforms we introduced brought about important improvements to keeping children safe in Queensland, but it is work that should never stand still. We should always be vigilant and willing to move forward in continuing to improve protections, because the safety of children is paramount. That is the intent of this bill and that is why the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the bill.

The bill before us proposes to establish a framework for a three-tier public register in Queensland. Queensland currently has a child protection offender register managed by the Queensland Police Service, though not public-facing. This is, of course, not the first time a public register of this nature has been debated in this House. As in previous debates, I acknowledge that there are a wide range of views from stakeholders, both on what this bill will achieve and what it will not. I similarly acknowledge that stakeholders have raised several unintended consequences during the committee process that are worthy of this House's consideration. Chief among them is the false sense of security that can result for parents and guardians of children who access the scheme. This is a concern that I have raised in each of my previous contributions on this subject because I do not want a false sense of security to befall any parent or family. It is critical that the community understands that this bill will not capture all reportable child sex offenders and it does not capture all offenders in the community who are subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. It will capture an estimated 25 per cent or less and, of course, it will not capture those who are yet to be brought to light and justice.

We must remain vigilant as parents, as families and as communities and, however uncomfortable it is to acknowledge it, particularly with those known to us. Safeguarding mechanisms within familial or institutional contexts remain the greatest protection we can provide our children. Too many have known the devastation that such events cause. The wounds are deep and lifelong and I acknowledge all of the survivors of such offences. My family is no stranger to those wounds. Gratefully, my children are. That is why I have always spoken in debates on this issue and I always will. While both of the offenders whom my family or I had the misfortune of coming into contact with were brought to justice, neither of them would be caught by these amendments or listed on the register. Again I say: we must remain

vigilant, and parents and the community need to be made aware of the kinds of gaps that exist to reduce any false sense of security that could result.

As I said earlier, our duty as legislators is to never stand still but, rather, to always keep improving our systems and protections. It is also to ensure the laws we introduce are free of unintended harm. During the committee process, the Crime and Corruption Commission questioned whether there is clear evidence that public registers of this kind deliver measurable safety benefits and warned about resourcing shortfalls within the Queensland Police Service to manage the scheme. The Queensland Law Society echoed those concerns, noting the absence of empirical studies demonstrating that public access to offender information necessarily improves child safety. Voice for Victims, while strongly supporting the bill, raised important cautions including the risk of secondary trauma for survivors, the possible public identification of victims and the danger of false reassurance for parents. They called for mitigation strategies such as better victim support services, opt-in notification protocols and education campaigns to ensure the register is used responsibly. Legal Aid Queensland, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and the Queensland Human Rights Commission raised the importance of the government ensuring the policies it enacts are evidence-based and limit human rights no more than necessary to achieve their purpose. Those very real and legitimate concerns were canvassed in their submissions and those of other submitters. Conversely, the Queensland Family and Child Commission in their submission state—

I acknowledge the debate about the civil liberties and rights of offenders who have served their sentence for child sexual abuse who may be identified through this mechanism; however, this cannot override the importance of protecting children from the indelible harm of child sexual abuse.

No child should suffer abuse because authorities failed to act on information they held.

These alternative perspectives do not oppose the bill; they remind us that good intentions must be matched with good implementation.

The Labor opposition will support Daniel's Law because its intent to keep children safe is one that we all share, but we call on the government to: properly resource the QPS for ongoing operation, not just establishment; educate the community honestly and fulsomely about not only where this register serves a purpose but also where the gaps are and about the need to continue to be vigilant, to prevent and reduce a false sense of safety; ensure victims are supported and not retraumatised; and monitor the scheme closely to address any unintended consequences quickly and transparently.

Daniel's Law carries the hopes of countless families who simply want their children to be safe. It must be implemented with care, accountability and compassion worthy of Daniel's name and the legacy his parents have so selflessly built, worthy of all who have experienced the cost of child sexual abuse and worthy of every Queensland child who deserves the very best protection that this House and our community can afford.



Mr LEE (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill is named Daniel's Law in memory of a forever-13-year-old boy, Daniel Morcombe, and in recognition of the tireless and courageous advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Thank you, Denise and Bruce, for standing up for the safety and protection of Queensland's children. I also wish to acknowledge the advocacy of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Hon. Dan Purdie, and the diligence of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.

This bill implements a 2024 pre-election commitment to Queenslanders to strengthen sex offender laws. We are doing exactly what we said we would do. The objectives of this bill are: to increase community awareness by giving parents and carers access to help protect children through a three-tier public register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004; to guard against the misuse of offender information by introducing offences targeted at conduct likely to incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and to protect against the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the register.

This bill is broadly consistent with the Western Australian public child sex offender register which has been operating since 2012 and the South Australian register which is expected to be operational by the end of this year. South Australia's public child sex offender register is like Western Australia's, with some variations. The purpose of the Queensland act is to provide for the protection and safety of children, reduce the likelihood that the offender will reoffend and facilitate the investigation and prosecution of any future offences that the offender may commit. The existing act only provides for a non-public child sex offender register. This bill proposes a publicly accessible child sex offender register with similar information to the non-public register, such as the offender's name, details of each

reportable offence the offender has been convicted of or charged with and the address or locality at which they reside. This bill does not amend the existing section 5 definition of a reportable offender.

The public register will operate independently of the existing non-public register and the registers will be administered by different units within the QPS. This bill introduces a new part 5AA to the act, providing for a three-tier community protection and public child sex offender register. The tiered public register is designed as a proactive tool for parents, guardians and the community. Tier 1 of the register provides for missing noncompliant offenders. Only tier 1 information will be publicly available without the requirement for an application. Pursuant to existing restrictions on the non-public register, the public register will not enable the publication or disclosure of information about an offender who is under the age of 18 years or who was under the age of 18 years at the time they committed the child sexual offences and has not reoffended or engaged in particular conduct as an adult; about an offender who is participating in a witness protection program; or where a court has prohibited identification of the offender or the disclosure or publication of personal information about the offender. Under tier 1 the Police Commissioner will be authorised to release information to the public via a website. The website will display the reportable offender's name, or any other known names; the reportable offender's date of birth; details of any tattoos or distinguishing marks that the reportable offender has; the make, model, colour and registration number of any vehicle the reportable offender owns or has driven on at least seven days within a one-year period; and the make, model colour and registration number of any caravan or trailer the reportable offender generally resides in or that was attached to a vehicle driven by a reportable offender if the offender has driven the vehicle on at least seven days within a one-year period.

A new section 74AB of the bill will require a photograph or digital image of the offender and a description of the general locality of any premises where the offender resides or each locality where the offender can generally be found. Under the new part 5AA the Police Commissioner must have regard to the following matters: the effect the publication, removal or provision of identifying information might have on a victim of an offence committed by the offender; whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information would be likely to prejudice a criminal proceeding in relation to the offender or an investigation by a law enforcement agency into an alleged contravention of law by the offender; additionally, whether the publication, removal or provision of the identifying information is in the public interest and consistent with the purpose of the legislation. Any other matter the Police Commissioner considers relevant will be taken into account.

Tier 2 of the register is for a locality search for serious offenders. Under clause 8 of the bill the tier 2 public register will operate by allowing Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view facial images of reportable offenders residing in their general locality. Eligibility for inclusion in tier 2 is restricted to those reportable offenders who have lifetime reporting obligations and are subject to supervision orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 or are deemed to be a serious risk offender by the Police Commissioner pursuant to section 74AG(5). A locality is defined within the legislation as meaning the general locality where the person resides in the state.

A tier 3 public register provides for a parent/guardian disclosure scheme. Parents or guardians with ongoing parental responsibility will be able to apply for confirmation of whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child or children is a reportable offender under the act. The information on the tier 3 register aligns with the Western Australian model which is simply limited to a yes or no answer in response to whether the person is a reportable offender.

To mitigate the risk of misuse of the information on the public register, new and targeted offences are introduced directed at a broad range of vigilante conduct. The bill provides for an offence carrying a maximum 10 years targeting conduct intending to or inciting others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; an offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years targeting conduct that is likely to or likely to incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and an additional offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years for the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the register.

Clause 10 of this bill provides for the retrospective operation of the public register. It applies to a reportable offender whether the person became a reportable offender before or after the commencement of the new part 5AA. The bill requires the statutory review of the public register to occur as soon as practicable after five years of operation, with a report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. In closing, the Crisafulli government is doing exactly what we said we would do: strengthening child sex offender laws through a three-tier public child sex offender register named Daniel's Law. I commend Daniel's Law to the House.



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (4.36 pm): I begin by acknowledging Bruce and Denise Morcombe. Their courage and tireless advocacy have transformed unimaginable personal tragedy into a powerful legacy of protection for Queensland's children. Through their determination the name Daniel Morcombe has come to symbolise hope, vigilance and community action. Daniel's life, though cut tragically short, continues to inspire change and keeps other children safe. Few causes could ever carry greater moral weight than the wellbeing and protection of our children and few individuals have embodied that cause more fully than Bruce and Denise Morcombe. Today's legislation, the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 represents a deeply meaningful milestone in that ongoing mission. It is not just another piece of law, it is a living tribute to Daniel's legacy and to the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation whose advocacy, education and awareness campaigns have reshaped child safety, not only across Queensland but also across Australia.

Each year, Day for Daniel unites more than 2 million Australians in a shared commitment to child protection, making it our nation's largest child safety awareness event. That reach and impact is extraordinary but it also reflects something deeply personal—that is, that the foundation's message has touched the hearts of families, teachers and children in every corner of our country. Their new documentary, *Don't Waste It—The Daniel Morcombe story*, released to mark the foundation's 20th anniversary, powerfully captures that journey, from the heartbreak of loss to the national leadership we see today in child protection and education. It is testament not only to Daniel's memory but also to the idea that awareness saves lives.

This bill, known as Daniel's Law, builds on that principle. Its purpose is simple but profound: to give parents and guardians more access to information that helps keep their children safe while ensuring that law enforcement remains in control of how that information is used. Under this bill a three-tier register will be established. It allows for public access to certain information about reportable child sex offenders, particularly those who have breached their obligations, pose a risk to children or are missing or unaccounted for. Tier 1 will make public the details and photographs of offenders who are noncompliant or whose whereabouts are unknown; tier 2 will allow Queenslanders to conduct local area searches; and tier 3 will enable parents and guardians to seek confirmation about whether a person who has unsupervised contact with a child is a reportable offender.

The intent of the bill is clear: to empower parents, to strengthen transparency and, above all, to keep children safe. The Queensland Labor opposition supports that intent wholeheartedly. Protecting children must always transcend politics. When it comes to child safety, there can be no greater cause and no greater failure than inaction. However, to ensure Daniel's Law succeeds in both purpose and practice, it must be implemented with care, diligence and, most importantly, proper resourcing. This is not a set-and-forget reform. It is a complex, sensitive and demanding system that will only be effective if the Queensland Police Service has the tools, staffing and support it needs to not just build the register but also maintain and monitor it safely over time.

The opposition calls on the government to ensure the QPS is properly funded for the ongoing operation of Daniel's Law. The current budget only funds the establishment phase, not the permanent staff required to administer and oversee the register once operational. That is not enough. We cannot expect existing police and civilian staff, already stretched by frontline demands, to absorb this new and complex workload. Experts suggest that the effective operation could require up to 100 full-time-equivalent positions, costing around \$17.5 million annually. That is a realistic investment for a law designed to protect Queensland's most vulnerable: our children. Without that commitment, we risk building a register that looks strong on paper but is weak in practice. We also risk undermining the very intent of Daniel's Law: to protect, not to promise without delivery.

It is also important to acknowledge the concerns raised by experts and stakeholders during the parliamentary committee process. These include the potential for a false sense of security among parents and guardians who access the register. The QPS itself has advised that only around 749 of Queensland's 3,240 registered reportable offenders—less than 25 per cent—will be captured under tier 2 of this scheme. That means many offenders will not appear on the public register. That fact must be made absolutely clear to the public. Education and transparency are vital. This register is an important tool but it cannot be the only one.

We know that most offences against children are committed not by strangers but by people known to the victim, and those people may not appear on the register at all. That is why community education, awareness and prevention remain our most powerful weapons against abuse. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has shown us that knowledge saves lives. It is education, not fear, that truly empowers parents and children, and any government-led awareness campaign around Daniel's Law

must reflect that. It should be substantive, not superficial—grounded in safety and education, not political slogans.

We urge the government to conduct regular and transparent reviews during the early years of implementation. This will allow parliament to respond quickly to any unintended consequences such as the misuse of information, technical failures or the risk of vigilantism. The legislation rightly includes strong penalties for those who attempt to misuse or weaponise information from the register, including up to 10 years imprisonment for intimidation or harassment. Those safeguards are essential and they must be enforced with the same vigilance that we are applying to protect victims. This parliament honours Daniel's memory today, not through words alone but through lasting action. I support the bill.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This is a landmark piece of legislation that delivers on our government's commitment to strengthen Queensland's sex offender laws and, most importantly, to put the rights of parents and families ahead of the rights of sexual predators. This bill, known as Daniel's Law, honours the memory of Daniel Morcombe, whose tragic story moved Queenslanders deeply and sparked a movement for child safety. When Daniel was abducted 22 years ago, I was a mother of four young children aged seven, six, five and three. It made me paranoid about their safety and I put my own protections in place for them. I am sure I was not alone at that time.

The tireless advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morcombe has been absolutely extraordinary. The work they have done through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has been unwavering, and this legislation recognises their relentless, passionate parent advocacy and their commitment to making all communities safer. They have not only advocated for changes to law; they have also created a child safety program called the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum, developed in partnership with the Queensland Department of Education. It is a school-based program for Queensland students in prep to year 9, based on the three key safety messages of recognise, react and report. The foundation also offers other resources such as Keeping Kids Safe resources and their annual Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson. I want to acknowledge local Redcliffe business owners Aaron and Jesse, from Trending Media Australia, who produce the videos. This Friday is Day for Daniel, when millions around the nation will walk in his memory and for the safety of all children.

For the first time in Queensland, this bill establishes the three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register. This will empower parents, guardians and caregivers by providing access to information so that they can make informed decisions about who is spending time with their children. The public register will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents to exercise their responsibility to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their child. In a community like mine in Redcliffe, a peninsula—or, as I affectionately call us, a geographic hug—where we pride ourselves on being a close-knit, family focused region, this new framework will make a real difference. Parents from Margate to Scarborough and from Clontarf to Newport deserve to know that their children are safe when they go to the park, take a bus, play sport or walk home from school.

This bill builds on existing protections. Currently, Queensland operates a non-public child protection register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. While this system is robust, it is only accessible to police and certain authorities. Daniel's Law builds on this by creating a public-facing register—a transparent, accessible system that complements rather than replaces existing safeguards. As outlined in the bill, the public register will operate in three tiers: tier 1, a public webpage listing missing or noncompliant offenders, including facial images and identifying details; tier 2, a locality search function allowing residents to securely request access to images of certain offenders living in their local area; and tier 3, a parent and guardian disclosure scheme enabling parents to apply for confirmation on whether someone who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. This structure gives families in my electorate of Redcliffe and right across Queensland, especially those involved in community sport, child care or youth programs, an added layer of protection when making decisions about their children's and teens' safety.

Importantly, Daniel's Law strikes the right balance between community protection and fairness. The bill includes significant safeguards and oversight to prevent misuse. The report outlines that the bill is designed to guard against the misuse of offender information by introducing offences targeted at conduct intended to intimidate or harass another person. There are serious penalties for those who attempt to misuse information, including up to 10 years imprisonment for harassment or intimidation. These safeguards ensure the register serves its purpose to protect, not punish. The Police Commissioner will have discretion in determining what information is published or withheld, considering

the impact on the victims and ongoing investigations. This approach reflects a careful and measured response—one that protects the rights of children without creating unintended harm.

The people of Redcliffe will directly benefit from Daniel's Law. Our community is full of young families, schools, sporting clubs and local organisations that nurture our next generation. Whether it is a parent at the Redcliffe Dolphins Junior Rugby League Football Club, a volunteer at the Redcliffe Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club or a carer working in one of our local childcare centres, everyone shares a common goal of keeping our children safe. This legislation will empower them with the knowledge they need to act responsibly. The public register empowers families to make informed decisions about who their children interact with, allowing them to take proactive steps, if necessary, to protect their children.

Transparency builds trust. When parents know that a system works for them—not behind closed doors—confidence in our justice system grows. That is another key benefit identified in this bill. For families in Redcliffe that means peace of mind. It means no more uncertainty about whether someone in their child's life poses a hidden risk. It means the power to check, to verify and to act if necessary.

This legislation is also informed by best practice from across the nation. It is modelled in part on the Western Australian scheme, which has operated since 2012, and South Australian laws that were passed in 2024. However, Queensland has strengthened these frameworks even further. For example, under Queensland's model there is no fee to access the register, unlike in South Australia. A wider range of offences are covered, including possession of child exploitation material. The ability to apply under tier 3 is extended beyond parents and guardians to include any person with parental responsibility. These additions make Queensland's approach fairer, safer and more accessible.

Daniel's Law represents what Queenslanders stand for—courage, compassion and community protection. It reflects the powerful advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morcombe and honours Daniel's legacy by ensuring his story continues to protect other children.

In conclusion, my children are now 29, 28, 27 and 24, and I am expecting my first grandchild in the new year. It has taken 22 years to see these changes. However, Daniel's Law is about empowerment and ensuring parents and grandparents—all carers of children—have access to the information they need to protect their children. It is about creating safer communities from Redcliffe schools and sporting fields to its beaches and backyards. Most importantly, it is about ensuring that no family has to endure what the Morcombe family went through. This bill reminds us that the rights of parents and families must come before the rights of sexual predators.

This legislation delivers on that promise. I want to thank the police minister, Dan Purdie, those in his team as well as the parliamentary committee and the secretariat for bringing this report forward with one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.53 pm): From the depths of unimaginable pain, grief and loss, Denise and Bruce Morcombe have dedicated themselves to making the children of our communities safer. Their life's mission is advocacy, awareness and education—protecting other children from the horrors that they endured. I was also a teenager when Daniel went missing. For me, like many Queenslanders, this event was a flashbulb memory—an event that rocked our state and was deeply felt through our communities. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation was established to give back to the community that provided them so much support. It has evolved into one of our nation's most well-respected child safety organisations.

I reflect as a community leader, but more desperately as a mother, on the journey of almost 8,000 days that the Morcombe family has been on with deep respect, admiration and appreciation. Our nation has been inspired through their determination and the dedication that they have shown, as well as the tangible good they have contributed through our communities.

There is often a difference of views in this place around matters but not when it comes to keeping children safe from child sexual assault. On that we can all agree. It was clear through the committee process that there is a genuine concern from experts and much of the credible feedback included what would make a stronger system. Experts directly called on us to do more, to work harder and to provide a more robust and meaningful framework. Concerns around safeguards, educational resources, reviews and resourcing were all raised—and I share many of these concerns. Respectfully, I add my voice of concern and trepidation to this debate. Through my contribution I will highlight those concerns with the legislation.

The Queensland Sexual Assault Network submitted that child sexual abuse is a relatively common experience. While it can be perpetrated by anyone, most perpetrators are someone known to

the child or young person. The most recent Australian Child Maltreatment Study found 28.5 per cent of children reported experiencing child sexual assault—almost three in every 10 children. They are incredibly alarming statistics. Sadly, we know all too well that sexual abuse often has a very low reporting rate. More desperate is the conviction rate. It is even lower, particularly when the victims are children or young people. We know that many abusers will not, firstly, be reported; secondly, see their day in court; or, thirdly, actually ever be in a position where they could be captured on a public register of this nature. These specific metrics are alarming.

I know there is nothing more disempowering or destructive than having a grown-up in your life who preys upon you. We know that this is almost certainly commonly happening in environments that should be the most protective by adults who should be the most trusted. This is the lived experience of Queensland children being abused. We need to acknowledge the additional difficulties that children face in these settings: to be heard and believed by those whom they confide in and to be supported through the justice system knowing that their perpetrator is a blood relative, a member of the family, a trusted friend, a sporting coach, a member of the faith community—and the list goes on. We should enter into this debate not with backslapping and congratulations on a legislative fix—far from it. My focus is on how much further we have to come to tackle this deeply challenging and complex issue and to protect the most vulnerable in our community.

Through the committee process the Queensland Police Service advised that of the 3,240 reportable offenders on the child sex offender register only 749, including the DPSOs, will be included under tier 2 of the register. This is a rate of less than 25 per cent of known offenders. This is in no way absolute.

I am alarmed by the contributions of those opposite who are purporting that this will be a system where people can get on and figure out whether there is a perpetrator or predator in their local sporting group or school. Not all of those will be captured. We have a responsibility to be clear about that with the community—not just through this legislation but ongoing through resources. Clear education and communication about the limitations of the system was a call repeatedly made through the submissions of experts to the committee. It needs to be an urgent priority for implementation. Victim-survivors deserve more than a committee report strongly supporting the intention of the QPS to develop information and resources. It needs to be guaranteed and provided.

The Queensland Law Society submitted that stranger perpetrator cases represent a minority of sexual assault cases and the disclosure scheme should be clear and carefully calibrated to reflect this reality. Interestingly, the Bar Association of Queensland talked through their concerns about unintended consequences being a deterrent for some individuals to plead guilty.

Stakeholders talked in detail about how imperative it is to have evidence-based safeguards built into this reform. The committee heard how this model is lacking review mechanisms and critical safeguards that are built into the WA model. That Western Australian model was reviewed within 12 months of operation and there were 12 findings and 10 recommendations. Why on earth would this government not want the opportunity to finesse their system and make it better and stronger? This government are saying that they think it is acceptable to wait for five years before review—a period of operation of almost 2,000 days. They are making this call in the full knowledge of the benefit from the WA review in less time.

There have been calls for additional resourcing and staffing to sit alongside the system, and it is critical that this model is appropriately funded and staffed. It is clear that the sector does not have confidence around the ability to build, staff, maintain and protect a system that has this level of sensitivity, and I share those concerns. We live in a digital age where electronic systems contain sensitive data. It is imperative that there is rigour and confidence in these systems to prevent them from being hacked, to prevent their misuse and to prevent risks associated with artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. A limited-life fund has been committed to the establishment of a team and a register, but there is no transparency about how this will be funded and supported into the future.

Then there are safeguards around victims themselves. Numerous organisations talked through the traumatising impact a public register can have. Many victims in our state choose to be on our victims' register—a system that so many, particularly victim-survivors, praise and support—yet when it comes to mandatory notifications to victims impacted by the register that is too impractical, we are informed by this government. A person whose details are wrongly published or disclosed would be unable to require a commissioner to amend the website or to seek compensation. It is alarming once again to be back in this chamber talking about legislation under this government where there are voices of experts that have been diminished and discarded through the committee process. If they are not acknowledged and

if there are not further safeguards and an ability to strengthen this legislation, I am very fearful that there will be unintended consequences.

Those opposite have claimed that this will prevent predators from hiding in the shadows of our communities. We need to be really up-front with people in our communities that there will still be predators hiding in the shadows—absolutely. This will not eliminate that. This will not be the panacea whereby people can have a look on a website and see listed anyone who has ever perpetrated a crime of this nature. They certainly will not be. We know that a small percentage of people who are convicted will actually be on these websites. We need to be really clear about that; otherwise, there will absolutely be unintended consequences.

The Attorney-General today made the statement that the LNP government will take whatever steps it can to make children safe, so let's review this system sooner. Let's do more to protect victim-survivors in our state. Let's be really clear with people around what this legislation will do and what a public sex offender registry will actually provide to our communities—not slogans or rhetoric but real information that is based in fact that can be provided to people. Our language needs to be measured, it needs to be temperate and it needs to be responsible; otherwise, I fear that the backslapping and grandstanding will result in children in our communities being put at risk.

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. It is a privilege for me to be able to speak to this bill, having stood with the Premier of Queensland alongside Denise and Bruce Morcombe when we made the public commitment to deliver Daniel's Law as part of our election commitments. That is what the Crisafulli government is doing. We are doing exactly what we said we would. We are here to reduce the number of victims. We are committed to implementing all reforms that will protect children in Queensland, to make Queensland one of the safest states in the nation.

I would like to pay tribute to Bruce and Denise Morcombe. What I would like to say to them on behalf of Queensland is thank you. Thank you for continuing to advocate for Daniel's Law, because for 10 years those opposite did nothing. Daniel was taken and was murdered after suffering horrific abuse by a known sex offender. For 10 years the Labor government did nothing. They did nothing! They come into this chamber and speak platitudes and then they question the validity of this policy and this legislation.

We must do everything we can to protect children in this state. We must do everything we can to give parents and carers the tools to protect their children. Those opposite for 10 years not only failed at introducing any meaningful laws to protect children but also were slow in delivering any reforms. That was demonstrated at the last sitting when the Crisafulli government brought forward the Child Safe Organisations Bill.

All of those opposite who have contributed to debate on this bill today have talked about offenders in our community who abuse through systems and through places where children are and said that those are the unknown. That is correct, so what did those opposite do? They failed to bring forward reportable conduct in line with every other state. We have had to do it. We came into office and brought it forward first. Why have we done that? Because we want to protect children.

We have seen a model of Daniel's Law undertaken by the Western Australian government and, through their review, they have implemented legislation. I heard criticism from the member for Pine Rivers that we should undertake a statutory review sooner. Those opposite would have us waste decades undertaking reviews instead of getting on with the job of protecting children. That is what is important. We should not waste a moment.

I want to thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their continued advocacy. They deserve respect and the acknowledgement that, in their own state where their son was taken, a Labor government failed to implement protections. Well, we will not, and we will right the wrongs of the former government.

Every child deserves priority and protection in this state. The introduction of Daniel's Law will provide parents, guardians, carers and other adults who care for children with another tool to ensure that within our community our children are protected and are safe. This register will help families make informed decisions about who interacts with their children and about the areas their children frequent and the activities they participate in, and it allows them to take proactive steps to protect children. I think the mums and dads of Queensland will be thankful for the Crisafulli government introducing Daniel's Law.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Police and the Attorney-General. We have worked very closely both in opposition and in government to deliver this important child protection initiative. I have no doubt that the Queensland Police Service will appreciate this as another tool and a resource in community safety because we have placed community safety at the heart of everything we do.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of children, particularly our most vulnerable. That is why we have taken the step to fund the Queensland Sexual Assault Network, which I have heard many members opposite quote. They had the opportunity for 10 years to fund a peak body for sexual violence in this state and they did not. By not doing so, they failed victims. What we saw over time is an increase in the number of those who experienced sexual violence, sexual abuse and sexual assault. That is the record under the Labor government: an increased number of sexual violence victims. I want to thank Angela Lynch and her board for their ongoing advocacy for victims of sexual violence. We are pleased to work with them to stand up the first independent peak body for sexual violence for Queensland and only the second in the nation.

I also want to talk about other measures we have put in place to increase child protection and child safety in this state, including embedding child safety officers with police and having youth justice officers out on the beat with those children who are self-placing and missing. They are vulnerable and at high risk of being sexually abused or assaulted in this state. It is important that data sharing is improved. It is important that we have a collaborative approach. We have broken down the silos across our departments because, unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House do not operate in factions.

We put children first. We put the protection of our community first, and we will resource that. I have heard a lot from those opposite about what is required to resource Daniel's Law, including for the tier 1 missing noncompliant offender website, the tier 2 locality search and the tier 3 parent-guardian disclosure scheme. Those opposite should rest assured that we will provide the resources and fund the positions. Unlike those opposite who—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. Those opposite were prepared to sack 93 child safety workers before Christmas. They were not funded, but the Crisafulli government funded them. It was less than a year ago that I stood in this House after uncovering the fact that those opposite were happy to sack 93 frontline child safety officers. That is where their priorities lay in protecting children in this state. We are committed to protecting children in this state and resourcing where we can. The committee's report stated—

The Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission ... Mr Luke Twyford, was also supportive of the Bill and its elevation of the rights of a child.

Let us never lose sight of the rights of a child to be protected now and forever. He said—

... the protection of children from harm must be the paramount consideration in all decision-making. While adult privacy and reputational rights are important, they cannot outweigh the obligation to ensure that children are safe. The harms caused to a child by sexual abuse can be lifelong, irreversible and often intergenerational.

Those opposite can stand up and defend the civil liberties of sex offenders, but we have put at the centre of Daniel's Law the rights of children—the rights of children to be safe and the rights of parents and carers to be able to ascertain information to protect their children. Finally, I thank all of our frontline staff in child safety in my department. I have received correspondence about the culture of fear that they experienced under five failed child safety ministers—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Ms CAMM: One is interjecting right now. I am not taking the interjection, and I will never take an interjection from a failed child safety minister. I thank our frontline services. I read the files of the number of children who are sexually abused day in and day out in our state. I read the briefs. I meet the frontline staff. I know what they are confronted with. This tool will help them in their work because it is a community safety tool. If we can pull the levers for everyone in our community to play a role in protecting children that will help my frontline staff in child safety as well. I hear them. I understand where they are at. I understand the culture of fear that they have had to work under. It stops with the Crisafulli government because we support our front line. We value their work because we value protecting children.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. It would be remiss of me not to make a comment about a minister who claims to be so concerned about child safety yet pulled the

trigger and said, 'Go,' on a Unify system that is supposed to manage the safety of our most vulnerable children but instead has put 16,000 children at risk.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Member for Mansfield, please return to the long title of the bill. Thank you.

Ms McMILLAN: At the outset, I remind this House that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2025 outlines that the most likely person to offend against a child is a person known to the child, including other children, young people and family members. I spent 13 years as a school leader and 24 years as a teacher, and, overwhelmingly, of the number of young people who reported child sexual abuse to me, most were abused by people who were known to them or their family. The world's largest child sexual abuse perpetration prevalence study conducted by the University of New South Wales, Jesuit Social Services and the Australian Human Rights Institute in 2023 affirmed what countless survivors have said: the men who abused them were well connected to their families and relatively wealthy, and their behaviour was secretive and easily overlooked. We must ensure through the passing of this legislation and the publication of a register that the Queensland community is not given false hope nor afforded a false sense of security. A much more evidence-based framework is needed in response to this very complex issue of child abuse—it is a very calculated issue, a very organised issue and an issue that we know affects many children in our community.

The safety of our children is of the highest importance. This value, of course, is at the core of this bill and it honours the loss of Daniel Morcombe and the ongoing work of his parents, Bruce and Denise. I cannot imagine the grief that Bruce and Denise have suffered over all of these years with the loss of their beautiful son Daniel. I look forward to walking alongside Bruce and Denise on Friday morning, on behalf of the opposition, in memory of Daniel. I commend the work of the Morcombes through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and their tireless dedication to helping keep children safe, particularly in the work that they have done in our schools across Queensland.

The Day for Daniel is this Friday, and it is the largest child safety education and awareness day in Australia. Denise herself has said that more than two million people participate in the event alone. I know that many of the local schools in my electorate of Mansfield will march and walk to school in memory of Daniel on Friday morning.

I acknowledge that the passage of Daniel's Law will be a deeply meaningful and significant moment for Bruce and Denise. It is a bill that will take a step forward for child safety, and it will do so through the three tiers of the legislation. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website, where the Police Commissioner will be able to publish personal information on reportable offenders who have breached their obligation and whose whereabouts are unknown to police on the publicly accessible part of the website. Tier 2 is the locality search, where Queenslanders may apply to view images of certain reportable offenders who reside in their local community. Tier 3 of the legislation allows Queensland residents who are parents or guardians to apply for a disclosure of information about whether a person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender.

The bill also creates deterrents for vigilantism it might unintentionally inspire via the creation of offences in relation to the register's misuse, including: an offence carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years targeting conduct intending to, or inciting others to, intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; an offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years targeting conduct that is likely to, or likely to incite others to, intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and an additional offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years for the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the public register.

This bill also provides liability protections to workers involved in the administration of the public register, as well as legislates a statutory review as soon as possible after five years of the register starting operations. Again, I am concerned about the five-year review. It is not appropriate. It needs to be much sooner than five years. Any policy that we implement in this place should be reviewed more regularly and sooner to ensure the levers we are pulling to manage such a complex social issue are working and evidence based.

It is important to note, in addition to that concern, that a number of organisations raised concerns about this bill. This includes the Crime and Corruption Commission, which said that there was a lack of evidence to support the proposition that the register will provide protection to children. There were a number of other submitters who raised the issue of populist politics versus real, evidenced-based strategies that will improve the safety of children in our community.

The commission also voiced concerns about whether the resources of the Queensland Police Service would be adequate to manage the register. It is reported that up to 100 QPS employees will be needed to administer this register, at a cost of \$17.5 million. Administratively, we really need to be asking the question about how the QPS will manage the register, how we spend the money and what outcomes we are expecting, because that is a lot of QPS employees off the beat to manage this register that we know is undercooked and not ready for release—another Unify example.

It is also a concern echoed by the Labor opposition. We would urge the government to ensure QPS receives the resources it needs to manage the public register as well as to establish it. This is a requirement. It is not a 'nice to have'. It is absolutely essential that the QPS has the resources it needs to ensure that public safety is improved and that parents are given the confidence that their children will be safer.

The Labor opposition will be watching the rollout of this register very closely, as we are with Unify, as we all know what happened the last time the LNP was in government. It removed 1,700 convicted child sex offenders from police monitoring overnight. The now Premier was in the 2024 cabinet responsible for changing the laws that led to that incident. That is the LNP's record on this subject, and they all know it. In contrast, Labor has a record of strengthening protections for Queensland children. We doubled the period child sex offenders would be monitored by police. The then Labor government made Taskforce Orion a permanent fixture of the QPS's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. We almost doubled the resources for the child protection offender register since 2015.

Additionally, we passed new legislation to expand police powers to enter the residence of a reportable offender to undertake a digital device inspection. We required reportable offenders to disclose the use of their anonymising software, their vault and black hole applications, and their media access control address. We introduced a new offence, with penalties of up to five years imprisonment, of failing to comply with a requirement to produce a digital device for a device inspection. We required reportable offenders who have been convicted of failing to comply with their reporting obligations to report those details to police within seven days. That is Labor's record on protecting children. With a record like that, we know what it takes to protect our most vulnerable: our children.

It is paramount and we will always back measures to increase the protection of our children. If this parliament does nothing else in the 58th term, it must do just that: we must keep our children safe. I know that this is the intent of this bill which is why the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the bill, but it is not without concern. The bill is not without flaws and I believe that the bill needs a far more rigorous framework.

(Time expired)



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to address the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This legislation represents another important reform by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government to protect Queenslanders, to strengthen community safety and to deliver on our commitment to restore trust, confidence and transparency in the laws that safeguard our families and children. It is a clear indication of this LNP state government's belief that the rights of children and families must always come before the rights of offenders.

Fundamentally, Daniel's Law is about one thing: ensuring parents, guardians and carers have the information they need to keep their children safe. It is about empowering families with access to vital information and reaffirming the fundamental principle that the safety of our children will never be compromised. This legislation delivers on our government's election commitment to further strengthen Queensland's sex offender laws by establishing a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register. This is the first public register of its kind in Queensland, and it builds on the strong foundations already in place through our existing offender reporting framework.

This legislation also stands as a lasting tribute to the extraordinary work and advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. The Morcombes have dedicated their lives to championing the cause of child safety since the tragic loss of their son Daniel more than two decades ago. Through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation they have inspired countless Queenslanders to be more vigilant and to take practical steps to protect children from harm. It is an extraordinary contribution and legacy through such traumatic circumstances that they were then able to champion these important initiatives and do some important child protection work not only across Queensland but across Australia as well. It has been an extraordinary contribution they have made to our state and to Australia, particularly given the circumstances they have endured over a long period of time. It was a privilege to see Bruce and Denise Morcombe once again at the 2025 Children's Week launch and awards, hosted by Children's Rights

Queensland. It is fitting, therefore, that this legislation is named Daniel's Law, honouring Daniel's memory and the tireless efforts of his parents to make Queensland a safer place for every child.

The existing Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 provides the framework for managing reportable offenders in Queensland. Under that act, the Queensland Police Service administers the non-public child protection register, which holds detailed personal information about offenders who pose a risk to children. These reportable offenders are already subject to some of the longest reporting obligations in the nation—10 years, 20 years or life, depending on their circumstances. However, while this system has been effective for law enforcement purposes, the community has limited visibility of offenders who may pose a risk. Members of the public cannot currently access the existing register, even though they may have a genuine need to know whether someone interacting with their child is a convicted offender. This legislation addresses that concern. It gives Queensland parents and guardians the ability to make informed decisions and take proactive steps to protect their children.

The new public register builds on existing mechanisms and extends access to key information in a safe, controlled and responsible way. Daniel's Law strikes the right balance. It recognises that every risk to the safety of a child is unacceptable, but it also ensures that the release of information occurs in a measured and lawful manner, preventing misuse or vigilante behaviour.

The new framework establishes three tiers of access to information, each designed for a specific purpose and with appropriate safeguards. Firstly, tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website. This tier will publicly display the facial images and personal details of offenders who have breached their reporting obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. It will ensure communities can play a role in assisting law enforcement to locate these individuals and prevent further risk.

Secondly, tier 2 is the locality search function. This tier allows Queensland residents to request access to images of certain high-risk offenders living in their local area. It applies to repeat or lifelong reportable offenders as well as those subject to supervision orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. Importantly, it allows police to include an offender in search results if that individual presents a serious risk to children in the community.

Finally, tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme. This gives parents, guardians and those with ongoing parental responsibility the ability to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. Unsupervised contact includes both physical contact and electronic communication without another adult present. This tier is perhaps the most empowering feature of Daniel's Law. It allows parents to act on their instincts, to seek reassurance and to take preventive action before harm can occur.

The Queensland framework has been carefully designed to be stronger and more transparent than those operating in other jurisdictions. It draws on lessons from the Western Australian and South Australian models but includes distinct improvements. Unlike Western Australia, Queensland's tier 2 system includes a clear legislative process for applications, ensuring transparency and accountability in how information is accessed. It also captures a broader range of offenders, including those convicted of non-contact offences such as possessing child exploitation material, acknowledging the harm these crimes inflict on victims.

In addition, Queensland's register extends eligibility for tier 3 applications beyond parents and guardians to include anyone with parental responsibility, reflecting the reality that many children are cared for by grandparents, step-parents or other primary carers. Access under tier 3 will result in a simple yes or no confirmation, ensuring families receive the information they need without compromising police investigations or the safety of others.

We know that the effectiveness of such a register depends on strong oversight and safeguards, and this legislation delivers both. The public register will not include information about child offenders, offenders who committed offences as minors, those in witness protection, or cases where a court has specifically prohibited identification. This ensures the register remains focused on protecting children from adult offenders who pose an ongoing risk.

The bill grants the police commissioner the authority to determine whether to publish, withhold, or remove information from the register, taking into account important factors such as the impact on victims, potential prejudice to ongoing investigations or prosecutions, and the broader public interest.

To prevent the misuse of information, the bill introduces new offences with strong penalties. It will be a crime punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment for any person who intentionally intimidates, harasses or incites others to harass someone they believe to be an identified offender. Even where

intent cannot be proven, conduct that is likely to intimidate or harass carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. It will also be an offence carrying up to three years imprisonment for any person to share, display or publish identifying information obtained from the public register without authorisation. These offences make it clear that this government will not tolerate misuse of the register or any form of vigilantism.

In addition, the legislation also includes a mandatory five-year statutory review of the register to ensure it remains effective, balanced and fit for purpose. An independent reviewer will be appointed to evaluate the operation of the register, with their report to be tabled in this parliament.

This is evidence-based, carefully designed and community-driven reform. It empowers parents and families, it strengthens police capability, and it restores confidence in the justice system. More importantly, it also places child safety where it belongs: at the centre of our laws and our community values. Under the Crisafulli LNP state government Queenslanders can be confident that we are delivering on our promise to restore safety, protect families and uphold the rights of victims. It is also part of our broader suite of reforms to strengthen our criminal justice system, enhance community safety and deliver the fresh start that Queenslanders voted for.

Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes, in their communities and in their schools. They want to know that they can see their children grow up free from harm, and this legislation helps make that possible. It empowers communities with information, ensures transparency, and sends a clear message that this government will always put the protection of children above the rights of offenders.

In concluding my contribution today, through Daniel's Law the LNP state government is reaffirming our collective responsibility to safeguard the next generation. We stand united with the Morcombes, with Queensland families and with all those who believe that child safety is not negotiable. Daniel's Law will not only strengthen our justice system; it will strengthen the bond of trust between government, law enforcement and the community. Ultimately it is about empowering parents, protecting children and delivering safety where Queenslanders live. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. From the outset I wish to place on record my regard for Bruce and Denise Morcombe and for their sons Bradley and Dean. I had the enormous privilege of working alongside Bruce and Denise and getting to know them when I was the minister for child safety, and I am very proud to now call them my good friends.

Anyone who is old enough to have been around when Daniel disappeared in 2003 would remember the anguish of Bruce and Denise and their family in the ensuing period when, year after year, nobody knew what had happened to him. Years later the murderer was charged and subsequently sentenced. Anyone who is old enough to register that would remember how they felt themselves at that news, wondering how they would feel if it happened to their kids and how they could possibly get up day after day as Bruce and Denise did. Our hearts collectively right across Australia broke for them and our hearts collectively went out to them. But Bruce and Denise not only got up every single day and faced life; they were determined that Daniel's disappearance and death would mean something. Every single day since then they have devoted their lives to doing whatever they can to keep our kids safe.

Many speakers already in this debate have referred to the half-hour movie the Daniel Morcombe Foundation recorded to mark the 20-year anniversary of Daniel's disappearance. It is called *Don't Waste It*. If you watch the movie—and I encourage everyone to do that—you will see it refers to a quote from Bruce: 'Don't waste your pain.' In fact, there is a quote from Daniel's twin brother, Bradley, referring to something his father, Bruce, said. In the early days when it was all happening, Bruce said that, whoever's responsible, 'they picked on the wrong family'—and they did.

Today we see the success of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation including the Day for Daniel, which we have already referred to. I am looking forward to walking with Cannon Hill State School families on Friday morning. It is a big child safety education and awareness day in Australia. Many people have quoted what Denise said during committee hearings about two million people taking part in that. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation is also involved in: Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson, supporting victims of crime, keeping kids safe resources and supporting communities of practice. In fact, one of my most treasured memories of my relationship with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation is the day we opened Daniel Morcombe House. Quite spookily, a rose bush which had been specially planted in Daniel's honour bloomed a red rose that very day. We were all quite emotional and taken with that, and ever since there has been so much good work coming out of that place.

I want to also acknowledge the countless visits that Bruce and Denise have personally made to schools across Australia. Denise has said to me—and I hope I am not misquoting her—that pretty much

after every school visit when they are talking to kids about being safe and what they need to do schools report to them that at least one or two kids will disclose it has happened to them. I do not think we can count how many kids Denise and Bruce have saved through all of the work they have done.

Surely there can be no greater responsibility for this parliament than keeping our kids safe. The intent of this bill is to set up a public register so that members of the public can identify child sex offenders in their midst. As has already been said by the shadow minister and many opposition speakers, we will always support laws that protect children. We recognise that is the intent of this law. We also recognise that the passage of this bill is a deeply meaningful and significant moment for the Morcombe family, which makes it all the more important that, however this law is implemented, it is done properly. I think that is something we need to get some reassurances about. Bruce and Denise need to know that this will be done properly when it passes through this House. It is why the committee process is so important. As we know, the committee process is a way to iron out any of the loose ends. It is a way to make sure that the laws we are putting in place are going to be as effective as humanly possible.

We have a responsibility to Bruce and Denise to make sure these laws are reviewed in a timely manner. I was a little surprised by the comments of the Minister for Child Safety, who said that the government could not be going around reviewing things all the time because they had better things to do. I may have misquoted her, but that was the general context.

The review that is being proposed is after five years. There have been some concerns expressed about this, but it is actually pretty standard practice for any new system to be reviewed by this parliament or by departments within a two-year period. That is actually standard, whether or not concerns have been raised. When we are talking about child safety, I think there should be timely reviews to ensure laws are as effective as possible and there are no unintended consequences, which was a concern raised by submitters. I do not think it is untoward to want to be absolutely sure and to be able to reassure Bruce and Denise that these laws are working as they so desperately want them to.

There were a number of other issues. One of the big concerns raised by many stakeholders was potentially raising a false sense of security amongst parents and guardians of children who access the scheme who may think that all child sex offenders who are in their neighbourhood will be able to be identified. We know that that is not the case and that in fact there will be a number of reportable offenders who will not be identified.

Members on all sides of the House have acknowledged that it is important that parents and guardians are not misdirected from the fact that the majority of child sex offenders are actually people the child knows and often knows quite well. This is where we go to the heart of education and awareness, which I know Bruce and Denise spoke to. Parents need to be absolutely sure that they understand what this register is about and, more importantly, that they know how to protect their own kids and teach them where to identify threats.

Another concern is the budget for this, and I hope the minister will respond to this in her summing-up. Many on this side of the House have expressed concerns about the fact that no additional permanent FTEs seem to have been allocated. There does not appear to be a budget for implementation, particularly in the forward estimates. In fact, we had some information that up to 100 staff were needed. I am very keen to make sure we hear about this. I am sure the Attorney-General will want to make sure that Bruce's and Denise's minds are at rest and that it will be fully implemented and properly supported from a financial point of view.

Another issue is the IT system. Again, we would greatly appreciate it if the Attorney-General responded to that. We all just want Bruce and Denise to feel supported in the work they do. We want to make sure everything we do will be as effective as possible when it comes to keeping kids safe. I thank the committee for the work they did, but I thank Bruce and Denise most of all.

Debate, on motion of Ms Farmer, adjourned.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Children, Hormone Therapy; Supreme Court Ruling



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.43 pm): Earlier today I updated this House following the Supreme Court's decision on the Queensland Health director-general's health service directive which paused stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment for children and adolescents under 18 years of age. The Supreme Court was concerned with the

circumstances of the making of the directive, not whether a pause on stage 1 treatment or stage 2 treatment was appropriate. In his judgement Justice Callaghan said—

By their intrinsic character, these proceedings do not involve any review of the directive's merits. They are concerned solely with the legal requirements that attend any decision of this nature ...

I also note that in his judgement His Honour said—

It should also be acknowledged that both the Minister and the respondent were operating in a problematic legal terrain ... When in that sort of territory, it is hard to be critical when a finding is made, under this heading, that relevant actions fell on the wrong side of a fine line.

I have now had an opportunity to consider this issue further and consider the steps available to the government, given that we were prepared for an adverse finding. Having done so, and in accordance with section 44(1) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, I am satisfied it is appropriate and in the public interest that I issue a written ministerial direction to all hospital and health services with immediate effect.

The approved ministerial direction—titled 'Treatment of gender dysphoria in children and adolescents with hormone therapy'—will be available on the Queensland Health website. The ministerial direction implements a restriction on the provision of stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment to children and adolescents under 18 years of age with gender dysphoria. Patients who are already on a treatment plan remain exempt from this directive. I have considered an appropriate human rights compatibility assessment in this deliberation. The restriction will remain in effect until such time as the government considers and acts on the outcomes of the independent review of stage 1 and stage 2 hormone therapies.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND PUBLIC CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER (DANIEL'S LAW) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3353, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Ms JAMES (Barron River—LNP) (5.45 pm): There is nothing more sacred than the innocence of a child, and there is nothing more important than our duty to protect it. When a child is harmed, it shatters more than just one life. It ripples through families, through communities and through our collective sense of safety. I have spoken often about youth crime and the loss of people's property and peace of mind, but when a child's innocence is stolen it is something that can never be repaired, replaced or returned. That is why the LNP are putting children first and are taking a strong and decisive stand through the community protection and public child sex offender register bill 2025, known as Daniel's Law.

We all know the name Daniel Morcombe. We know his story. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of his parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, we are taking decisive action to deliver stronger child safety laws. I believe this is one of the most important bills our Crisafulli LNP government has considered in the last 12 months. This bill will establish a publicly accessible register of child sex offenders in Queensland. For more than a decade, the Morcombe family called for action on a public child sex offender register. While the former government failed to act for the last decade, our government has made it a priority in our first year. I am so proud our government is doing this for the Morcombe family and other families impacted by these types of horrendous crimes against our children.

This legislation is about transparency, accountability and, above all, protection. It ensures parents and communities have the right to know when those who have committed the most serious crimes against children are living nearby. Daniel's Law is about prevention. It is ensuring Queensland leads the way in putting the safety of our children before the rights of offenders.

The objectives of this bill are clear: to increase transparency for parents, caregivers and the wider community; to empower the public with vital information about high-risk offenders, particularly when offenders breach reporting obligations or their whereabouts are unknown; and to ensure our children are protected from sexual offenders who pose a threat to their safety and wellbeing. This bill represents a promise to every child in Queensland that their safety is our priority and that every possible measure will be taken to protect them.

This bill is just one of the puzzle pieces in the Crisafulli LNP government's solution to the crime crisis we inherited from the Labor government. Since coming to office we have delivered Queensland's most comprehensive crime reduction agenda in decades as our government puts the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals. It began with tough new laws under the Adult Crime, Adult Time policy. The government also made Jack's Law permanent, expanding police wandering powers across public spaces.

A permanent State Flying Squad and expanded Polair helicopter fleet now give police rapid response across the state backed by new tasers, body worn cameras, tyre deflation devices and funding to recruit 1,600 new officers. Alongside stronger enforcement, the government has invested heavily in prevention and rehabilitation. Programs like Circuit Breaker Sentencing and Staying on Track provide structured rehabilitation for repeat youth offenders while \$50 million has been committed for a secure care residential facility for at-risk young people. Monthly victims of crime data is now published to ensure there is transparency, and a dedicated ministry for victim support has been established to put victims at the centre of the justice system. This comprehensive approach is already delivering results, but we will continue to work on this for as long as it takes.

This bill, Daniel's Law, is another step in the right direction. This bill lays out the three-tier disclosure system for public access. Tier 1 is for convicted sex offenders who fail to comply with reporting obligations or whose whereabouts are unknown. This person's name, photo and year of birth are listed on the public website so the community can remain vigilant. Tier 2 is for convicted sex offenders who are considered high risk. These offenders will have their name, photo, year of birth, current location and offences committed all shared online. Parents in the neighbourhood can be aware of the presence of a convicted sex offender and take extra steps to protect their children. Tier 3 relates to moderate-risk offenders where information published will only be accessible to police, certain government agencies and organisations working with children. This includes their name, photo, year of birth and relevant details to manage the risk. Let me be very clear: every convicted child sex offender will be included in this model.

Closer to my region, a 2022 investigation into the alleged grooming and exploitation of young people in Cairns identified 48 child victims during Operation Uniform Kalahari and I suspect the actual number is much higher. The trauma that these victims face will stay with them forever. This is something we cannot change, which breaks my heart.

This new public register is the first of its kind in Queensland. Ninety-three per cent of alleged sex offenders are said to be male. Under the current law, members of the community have no access to the information stored on the restricted, non-public register. This means that schools, parents and community members are left completely in the dark about who is living in their neighbourhood, who is working with young people and whether there are risks that they should be aware of.

Under Labor's watch, Queenslanders witnessed multiple cases where convicted child sex offenders were released back into the community only to reoffend—an appalling failure of protection. Not all sex offenders reoffend, but many do. Statistics sit at around 10 to 15 per cent of those convicted of a sexual offence will reoffend. When this happens, the outrage from Queenslanders is immense and the anger is always about how the laws are not protecting our children but protecting these disgusting creeps. Names like Adam Crosswell, Christopher Mackie, Andrew Vassel and Peter Buchanan are a tragic reminder of what happens when accountability and transparency fall short. Daniel's Law is designed to change that by giving parents and communities access to vital information, increasing public awareness and putting in place greater deterrence for offenders.

When offenders know the community is watching and when families are informed, we will create stronger safeguards that help prevent reoffending and protect our most vulnerable. Under the previous government, we were left in the dark about where these offenders live. Under the amendments, we will no longer be left in the dark. This bill is another step in the right direction and proof that we are a government that protects people, not criminals. Those children did not have a choice. Those who abused them did. Sadly, as the statistics show, too many of these criminals will do it again if given the opportunity. We cannot change what has happened to these victims. What we can change is the sense of fear and the sense of being left in the dark that our community experience, unaware if someone with a history of sexual offending could be living next door.

I rise today not only as a member of parliament but as a mother and as a guardian of the next generation. I speak on behalf of every parent who deserves the right to know who is engaging with their children. Protecting the innocence of our children is not a choice; it is an obligation we all share. Sexual abuse steals more than innocence; it robs young people of trust, safety and the sense that the world is

a good place. As we mark Day for Daniel this Friday, we honour the Morcombe family's tireless advocacy by finally turning their call for change into reality with this legislation. I wholeheartedly support this bill.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise to speak on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. I want to start by saying to the Morcombe family that there is no parent in Queensland and no family in Queensland who has not been moved deeply by their story. What they endured is unimaginable. What they have done with that grief—transforming it into action, into education and into protection for other people's children—is nothing short of extraordinary. They have done that not with anger but with compassion and with purpose. For more than 20 years through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation they have turned pain into prevention. On behalf of the Labor opposition and on behalf of every parent and every family who tucks their children into bed each night, we say thank you for what they have done for our community.

We recognise that the passage of Daniel's Law today will be a deeply meaningful moment for them and their extended family. As has been mentioned, the Queensland Labor opposition will always support laws that protect children and recognise that this is the intent of Daniel's Law. It builds, of course, on the work that Labor governments have championed for decades, creating one of the strongest child protection frameworks in the nation. We doubled the monitoring period for child sex offenders, we integrated Taskforce Orion into the Queensland Police Service, we expanded powers for police to inspect digital devices and almost doubled resources for the child protection offender register since 2015 with a commitment to double them again. All of that came off the back of the then LNP who, in 2014, removed 1,700 convicted child sex offenders from police monitoring overnight, a decision that was made by that cabinet, and the now Premier sat around that cabinet table.

I did not hear any outrage about that decision from the member for Whitsunday in her contribution. She is big on lecturing people on this side but short on taking responsibility herself for pressing go on the Unify system, compromising data for more than 16,000 children just so they could save money. I also did not hear the same sense of outrage when we exposed in estimates that the LNP have not, in fact, allocated ongoing funding for the blue card screening positions that in the director-general's own words are being 'carried at risk'. I repeat: blue card screening positions being carried at risk, and yet those opposite have the nerve to come in here and lecture us about child safety. The director-general went on to say—

... we were not keen to let any of the people go, but the funded positions are less than previously ...

It is very clear that that ongoing funding is not there under those opposite. The member for Whitsunday can save, frankly, all of us the fake outrage because there are decisions that those opposite are making that are completely opposite to the premise that they want to protect children in this state. If we are truly to honour Daniel's legacy, we must make sure that these laws work in practice, not just in politics. Stakeholders from across the spectrum—from the CCC, the Queensland Law Society to Voice for Victims—have all cautioned about what can go wrong if this scheme is not carefully implemented and properly resourced.

Let's be clear about what this bill does and does not do. The public register will not list every reportable offender. It is important for parents and guardians to know that this bill will not capture all reportable child sex offenders and it does not capture all offenders in the community who are subject to the dangerous prisoners act. The Attorney-General in her remarks said that parents will know if an offender is living in their neighbourhood, but the fact is that of 3,240 offenders on the child protection offender register only 749, less than 25 per cent, will fall under tier 2 of this register. That means three-quarters of known reportable offenders will not appear on this system. To suggest, like the Attorney-General did, that parents will know if they are living next to a paedophile is simply not true.

If parents and families do not understand that, there is a real risk of a false sense of security that somehow if a name is not there a person is safe. That could genuinely lead to dangerous consequences. That is why public education has to be at the front and centre of implementation. This cannot be a self-congratulatory exercise with glossy fliers and three-word slogans. It needs to tell the truth. It needs to be explained what the register does and what it does not do. It must make clear that most offenders are not strangers in parks or shopping centres; they are people known to the victim, often close to the family and not always known to police. The register is one tool.

The second major risk is resourcing. During the public hearings the deputy commissioner advised that only four or five staff will be assigned to establish the register, with no ongoing funding allocated for its operation. That should alarm every member of this House. A system of this complexity and sensitivity cannot be done on the cheap. Experts have advised that a scheme of this nature could

require up to 100 full-time-equivalent positions costing around \$17.5 million per year, yet the government has only provided establishment funding—no ongoing FTEs, no allocation in the forward estimates. How can Queenslanders have confidence that this system will be properly managed if the police do not have the people or resources to run it safely? Even more worrying is that, when asked about victim notification, police said it was impractical to contact every victim. That is not good enough. Every victim matters. No-one should find out through the media or social media that the person who harmed them has reappeared on a public register. Victims deserve to be supported, not blindsided.

We also have concerns about the technology that will underpin the register. At the time of the committee hearing no tender had been awarded, there was no proof of concept and no system had been built, so how can this government say with confidence that it will all be ready and safe and secure? The last thing anyone wants is a system that fails to protect because it was rushed through for a headline.

The opposition believes that the implementation of the scheme should be monitored closely, as many have outlined, particularly given South Australia's scheme is relatively new, to ensure unforeseen unintended consequences do not arise in Queensland. Multiple stakeholders raised concerns that the review of the scheme will not occur until after five years of operation, and the opposition implores the government to consider additional earlier and ongoing reviews to ensure the system is operating as intended and to address any unintended consequences. Again, I heard the contribution from the member for Whitsunday suggesting that if we do a review somehow it brings everything to a halt. It does not. It just means that you continuously review measures to make sure they are working. If those opposite are so proud of this system then they should have nothing to fear. They should be open and transparent like they said they would be during the election, but I suspect, as per usual, that was just lip-service and will not be delivered.

Daniel's Law carries Daniel's name. It carries the legacy of a boy whose life was stolen but whose story has changed a nation. As we pass this law, let us do so with respect and sincerity. Let us make sure we do not just build a register; we build understanding. Let us make sure we do not just promise safety; we actually deliver it. Let us make sure that the pain that Bruce and Denise Morcombe have carried for more than two decades is met with the kind of care, diligence and humanity they have shown every day since losing their son. To the Morcombes: your strength has inspired a generation and it is now our duty as legislators to ensure Daniel's Law lives up to the promise of its name. We support the intent of this bill, but we will hold the government to account to make sure it works and it never fails the children it seeks to protect.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (6.02 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, and I do so wearing several hats—as the member for Mundingburra, as the Assistant Minister for Community Safety, as an ambassador for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, as a former police officer who worked in the Juvenile Aid Bureau and, most importantly, as a mum. When it comes to protecting our children—the most vulnerable members of our community—it is not about politics; it is about people. It is about every parent's right to know, to act and to keep their children safe, and this bill carries the name of a young boy whose story changed our nation—Daniel Morcombe.

Daniel's tragic abduction and murder in 2003 shook our state, and from that heartbreak came extraordinary courage—the courage of Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who turned their grief into purpose. For over two decades the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has worked tirelessly to educate, to empower and to protect children across Australia, as have Bruce and Denise tirelessly through their work and through the child safety education program of Recognise React Report.

This Friday marks Day for Daniel—a day that Bruce and Denise Morcombe have set aside as the day to honour Daniel. We will see a sea of red shirts in schools and businesses across our state honouring Daniel at events marking child safety. We will also see Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson, once again online, throughout the nation through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. I have had the absolute privilege of working closely with Bruce and Denise through my role as an ambassador for 15 years and I know that their drive has never wavered—not for one day—in their mission to prevent another family from enduring what they endured and to keep our kids safe. Daniel's Law is, in every sense, a continuation of their work, a tribute to Daniel's legacy and a testament to what determined Queenslanders can achieve when they stand up for what is right.

This bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's election commitment to strengthen Queensland's child protection laws and ensure parents have the information they need to also keep their children safe. As a former police officer having worked in the Juvenile Aid Bureau, I know firsthand how

devastating child sexual offences are for the victims, for the families and for the entire community. I have seen the lifelong trauma for victims and the heartbreak for families who trusted somebody who should never have been near their child. As a mum I know that every parent shares that instinct to protect, to know and to act.

Until now, Queensland's child protection register has been behind closed doors. Police have had access but parents have not, and Daniel's Law will change that. It will give families the information they need to make safe, informed decisions about their children's lives. As I said, this changes with this bill. Daniel's Law establishes Queensland's first ever public child sex offender register—a practical, balanced and powerful tool to help parents protect their children and strengthen community safety. It is a three-tier system that makes information available in a way that is responsible and measured, ensuring the safety of children while preventing misuse or vigilante behaviour.

Tier 1 will list missing or noncompliant offenders whose whereabouts are unknown to police. These are individuals who have breached their reporting conditions. Tier 2 allows Queenslanders to conduct a locality search to see if serious or repeat offenders live in their area, empowering parents to remain vigilant and aware. Tier 3 enables parents, guardians or anyone with parental responsibility to check if a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. This is not about punishment; it is about protection and it is about prevention. It is about giving parents the tools they need to make safe choices for their children.

We have been careful and considerate in developing this legislation. This is not a free-for-all publication of names and photos; it is a measured framework with strong safeguards and oversight and there are strict penalties—up to 10 years imprisonment—for anyone who uses the information to intimidate, harass or target offenders. This ensures the register is used for its true purpose—protecting our children—and it ensures that the Police Commissioner retains discretion to publish or remove information where it is in the public interest or where doing so could impact a victim or an ongoing investigation. This is how we strike the right balance between community safety and individual rights, between protection and responsibility.

Daniel's Law does more than empower parents; it restores confidence. It tells Queenslanders that this government is serious about protecting our children. It tells victims and survivors that their voices are heard and it tells offenders that they will be held accountable—not hidden away, not shielded, but monitored and managed in the public interest. It also aligns Queensland with the work already done in Western Australia and South Australia but with stronger safeguards, broader scope and no fee for access because when it comes to child safety, no-one should be priced out of protection.

When I joined the Queensland Police Service nearly three decades ago, I swore an oath to protect and serve. Working in the Juvenile Aid Bureau changed me forever. I not only saw the worst of humanity, but I also saw the strength of children, families and communities who refused to give up. Today standing here as both a former police officer and a mother, I know this bill could save lives. It could prevent harm, it could stop one more child from suffering what Daniel did. As a parent myself, I can say with absolute conviction, I would want to know—every parent would want to know. Daniel's Law is more than legislation, it is a promise. A promise that our government will always put the rights of parents and the safety of children ahead of the rights of sexual predators.

This bill empowers families, strengthens communities and honours Daniel's legacy in the most powerful way possible by keeping Queensland kids safe. I would like to thank the members of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Child Safety and the Minister for Police, himself a former detective who has investigated these heinous type of offences. This bill is our promise to Denise and Bruce Morcombe—and to Daniel—that their fight for child safety was not in vain. This bill is for every Queensland child. Bruce and Denise Morcombe: this bill is for you. Bradley and Dean: this bill is for you. This bill is for you, Daniel. I commend this bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Thank you, member, for your contribution and service.



Ms MULLEN (Jordan—ALP) (6.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I begin, as many others have, by acknowledging the Morcombe family. Bruce and Denise Morcombe are truly remarkable people. I am not sure that there are many people in this world who could have survived the ordeal of losing a beloved child at the tender age of 13. Not many people in this world would have had the courage and determination to not only keep going—one step ahead of another—but to also make it their life's mission to protect all children through the work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, a foundation which began as a mission to find Daniel and which today is a powerful force for educating children, supporting young

victims of crime and helping families of missing persons. Day for Daniel this Friday has grown to become Australia's largest child safety education and awareness event, with over two million participants. I know many schools in my own community support Day for Daniel and whilst, of course, it honours the memory of Daniel Morcombe, it also reinforces the vital message that keeping kids safe is a responsibility we all share—parents, carers, educators, businesses, the entire community.

On this side of the House we will support key measures which keep children safe and the Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting the legislation before us today. The bill proposes amendments to the act to establish a three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register with the aim of protecting Queensland children. It is intended that the public register will operate via the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register website and it will be administered by the Queensland Police Service. Tier 1 will be a public website, displaying facial images and personal details of reportable offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Tier 2 is a local area search that will allow Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view facial images of particular reportable offenders, including reportable offenders who the Police Commissioner considers pose a serious risk to the lives or sexual safety of a child, or children residing in the general locality. Tier 3 is a parent or guardian disclosure scheme that by application will enable parents, or those with ongoing parental responsibility for a child, to confirm whether a particular person who has had, or will have unsupervised contact with their child, is a reportable offender.

As the committee report outlines, the aim of this three-tier public register is to act as a proactive tool for parent, guardians and the community. It is meant to provide them with the information and agency necessary to take actions that reduce risk and better protect Queensland children. As outlined in the committee's examination of the proposed register, there was, however, concerns raised by a number of submitters and stakeholders regarding the false sense of security that may result for parents and guardians of children who access the scheme. The National Office for Child Safety highlights research which indicates that most child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the victim or survivor. The Australian Child Maltreatment Study released in 2023 highlighted that the two most common adult perpetrators of child sexual abuse are offenders who are known to victims or survivors, specifically: parents or caregivers at home at 7.8 per cent; other known adults at 7.5 per cent. The prevalence of child sexual abuse perpetrated by unknown adults was 4.9 per cent. As was noted by Carol Ronken, Director of Research at Bravehearts—

I think the biggest limitation is the concern around the false sense of security that communities and families may feel.

... For example, we know that the majority of child sex offenders are people who are known, loved and trusted by the child and/or their family. There is still that myth out there that it is strangers we need to be aware of, and we know that is not the case.

... The reality is that most offenders are known and we need to be able to protect our children from everybody.

What was also made clear through the committee's examination is that the legislation will not capture all reportable child sex offenders and it does not capture all offenders in the community who are subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. The QPS advised at the hearing that for tier 2, of the 3,240 reportable offenders on the child protection offender registry, less than 25 per cent would be captured under that tier of the register. It is imperative that the government is transparent and open about the scheme's limitations. To not do so would be highly irresponsible and indeed, potentially dangerous if there is no clear guidance to parents and guardians that they cannot solely rely on this scheme to protect children.

Given the significance of this scheme, it is also important that it be well resourced and ready. It was deeply concerning through the committee process to see how underdeveloped the work on the register is—a concern raised by a number of stakeholders including the Crime and Corruption Commission. We were advised that limited staff—four or five—are working on the establishment of the register, with no clarity on how many staff will be needed in terms of the ongoing operation of the scheme. No ongoing funding has been provided to the Queensland Police Service for the operation of the register. There was limited funding of around \$10 million provided in this budget to build and establish the register and, given this government's rush to turn on critical IT systems that were clearly not ready just to save money, one would hope this funding will be sufficient for the register to work. We have seen no additional funding for staff resources in this year's budget nor allocated in the forward estimates.

There is also no funding for a public education campaign—something that so many submitters, including Bravehearts, Queensland Sexual Assault Network and the Morcombes themselves raised as a critical part of the scheme. Bravehearts stressed the importance of community education, specifically

in relation to the limitations of the public register, noting that it pertains to identified offenders only. In particular, Bravehearts emphasised that the public register and any supporting communication and education materials should be trauma-informed and developed in consultation with victim-survivors to limit retraumatisation.

The government has made the decision to bring this legislation forward. Clearly, they wish to pass it before the Day for Daniel on Friday but to not allocate sufficient funding in the budget to operationalise the register and provide education on it, is truly irresponsible and potentially dangerous. Whilst it is understood that this type of register would require upwards of 100 ongoing full-time-equivalent staff, none of this has been included in the implementation plan.

It was interesting to hear from the deputy commissioner that in addressing resourcing, the QPS are looking at a level of automation which, of course, leads to more specific questions around whether AI will be used to operationalise the register and what specific safeguards will be in place to ensure automation does not lead to critical errors that could have serious repercussions, especially for victims.

Finally, I wish to address the issue of potential vigilante action resulting from the register. The potential misuse of information about offenders which could lead to a broad range of vigilante style conduct is a serious and real concern. I welcome the decision to include new and targeted offences in division 3 of the bill, including an offence carrying a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment targeting conduct intending to or inciting others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; an offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment targeting conduct that is likely to or likely to incite others to intimidate or harass another person they believe or suspect is an identified offender; and an additional offence carrying a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment for the unauthorised sharing of information obtained through the public register. Again, this will require a significant public education campaign to ensure the public clearly understands that there will be zero tolerance of vigilante action as a result of information that will be made publicly available through the register.

On this side of the House we are hopeful that the public sex offender register will make a difference in keeping children safe. Along with stakeholders, I believe we have raised legitimate concerns regarding whether the new scheme has the potential to create a false sense of security for the community given its limited application, the small amount of limited-life funding, no plan for an education campaign as yet and resourcing of the new register, which seems to have been an afterthought.

In concluding, I would like to once again acknowledge the significant work and advocacy of wonderful organisations such as the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and Bravehearts. Each and every day they are committed to ensuring we have a world where people, communities and systems all work together to protect children from sexual abuse. To quote the submission of Bravehearts, notification schemes should only be considered as part of an holistic approach to the protection of children and young people. Offender reporting laws and notification schemes only protect against known convicted sex offenders. Research indicates that only a small percentage of sexual offence cases make their way into the criminal justice system. We would emphasise the need for governments to invest in public awareness of safety and protective skills, specifically programs that build resilience and empower children with the knowledge to keep safe.



Hon. AJ STOKER (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.21 pm): This is a bill that directly seeks to deal with every parent's worst nightmare, a nightmare the Morcombe family have been living every day since their son Daniel was abducted on the Sunshine Coast on 7 December 2003, only to be murdered by a known paedophile. Little 13-year-old Daniel was just trying to catch a bus to the shops to buy Christmas presents for his family, but he never made it there. Such a loss would crush most of us, but, in the 22 years since, Denise and Bruce Morcombe have channelled that pain into a legacy that has educated children and families and that is, with this legislation, equipping parents with the tools they need to better protect their kids.

I am sad to say that the exploitation of children by predators of the worst kind, whether in person or online, is much too common. When I was a criminal prosecutor it used to infuriate me to hear submissions made in favour of a defendant being sentenced for online sexual crimes against children claiming that their conduct was victimless because they were simply consuming images or videos. Let us be clear here: every one of the children depicted in online exploitation material is real. The people who consume it are not engaging in a harmless pursuit; they are creating a market for ever more children to be abused by sophisticated networks of criminals who profit from the misery of the innocent.

As I commend the tireless advocacy of the Morcombe family, I similarly salute the officers of Task Force Argos in the Queensland police, who I found to be, and who have the reputation for being, among the very best in the world at dealing with this revolting trade. This kind of work changes you as a person. I hear that from officers all the time. For my part, it has made me a very protective parent—something that probably frustrates my kids from time to time. I implore all parents to be vigilant about what their children access online and the things they are exposed to. Please supervise carefully and diligently. Childhood can be so easily stolen. Our job as parents is to protect that innocence. There is a large and growing body of evidence that too much digital time is deeply harmful for the developing brain of a child, even when that content is clean and not of the predatory kind. When you factor in the additional layers of danger that come from exposure to predators, even on apps that are marketed to children such as Roblox, the imperative to restrict device use and to carefully supervise is intensified.

This is a bill that deals with child sex offenders wherever they lurk. It is the fulfilment of a commitment that this team made well before it was elected to government when Labor had, despite a decade of opportunity to do so, failed to implement a publicly searchable register. Based on the contributions we have heard today it looks like they might vote for it now, but make no mistake: given the 10 years they had to act, it is a vote they are providing reluctantly, not really believing in it, some of them kicking and screaming. If it were otherwise, this register would have been established a very long time ago.

This bill establishes a three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register that will make information about these offenders more accessible to the community and to give parents, guardians and carers access to information about people who have contact or will have contact with their child. There is already a private register of sex offenders in Queensland and information-sharing arrangements between agencies, but a public register will, for the very first time, equip parents to make active decisions about the risks their children face on an individual level. Never before have parents had any right to know the risks to which their child or children will be exposed.

The register will be operated and maintained through the Queensland police and it is broadly modelled on the Western Australian public registry. I say that because, to the extent that we have heard from some Queenslanders opposing it in that it would expose offenders to unfair or unreasonable treatment or vigilantism, that has not been borne out by the Western Australian experience. In the bill before this chamber there are protections in the form of an offence of misusing information from the register to engage in conduct intended to or likely to incite others to intimidate or harass a person they believe or suspect is an identified offender. There are also restrictions against the unauthorised sharing of information accessed through the register. The Western Australian experience shows that these are effective balancing measures.

I have mentioned that the bill establishes a three-tier system. The first tier is for missing and noncompliant offenders. It will display facial images and the personal details of offenders who are in breach of their reporting or other obligations and whose location is not currently known to police. The Police Commissioner will have the power to release additional information if necessary, such as distinctive features like tattoos. The second tier allows for local area searching. A resident of Queensland can request access to temporarily view facial images of the offenders who are residing in their locality. Repeat reportable offenders will be in this tier, as will lifelong reportable offenders and reportable offenders who are subject to a supervision order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. The third tier provides a scheme to enable parents, guardians and others with parental responsibilities to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. Contact is defined in the bill to include physical contact right through to electronic communication without the presence of another adult.

The way these categories are drawn captures a broader scope of offenders than is captured by the Western Australian model. For instance, this bill captures in tier 2 both contact and non-contact offences such as possession of child exploitation material. Those are not captured by WA's scheme. More people are entitled to access the information on the register that is proposed by this bill than are able to do so in, for instance, the South Australian comparable equivalent. What we have before the House today is a best-in-class option that has been carefully crafted to learn the lessons from similar measures that have been tried and tested in other states.

There is no way we can eliminate all risks, despite the best efforts of police. I say that with a heavy heart, but it is true. Not all offenders have been detected by the system such that they have been marked as offenders. Parents will always need to be careful. With good information and active parents we can keep kids safer than they ever have been before. This Friday is Day for Daniel. It is a day to remember a little boy who was lost in the worst possible way. However, this year will be different

because, after 22 years, the Morcombe family's plea has been heard and the protections for which they have advocated have finally been delivered and are ready to be operational alongside their comprehensive work in the education space. It is called Daniel's Law. His loss, while it will never be okay, has delivered something important—that is, a community that will be safer because of the law that bears his name. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.29 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (7.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. Last Friday I was at Camp Hill State Infants and Primary School, Camp Hill SIPS, where I was presenting an award. I was greeted by a sea of red as the assembled grade 4 class were marking Day for Daniel a week early. As always it was a powerful sight as we continue to recognise one of the positive responses that emerged from tragedy.

Child safety is dear to my heart. I think back to instances in my electorate when children have been left behind during school pick-up or drop-off, and the work we did as a community to address that and to keep our children safe. Driven by Bruce and Denise Morcombe and supported by the community, Day for Daniel delivers an important message for young people across Queensland. Just like the sea of red we will see later this week, the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, or Daniel's Law, is a step forward, driven by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and the tragedy that beset the state in December 2003. To Bruce and Denise, I offer my admiration. I am proud to be a member of a government that recognises the advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which has championed for greater public access to information about child sex offenders in the community.

Our children deserve to be safe and parents deserve access to information to protect them. The bill will be known as Daniel's Law and the public register is the first of its kind in Queensland. It is broadly modelled on the limited public notification scheme that has operated in Western Australia since 2012 and follows the passage of similar laws in South Australia in 2024. However, Queensland's public register has distinct features that strengthen its overall framework compared to those other jurisdictions.

This bill establishes a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect Queensland's most valuable assets, our children. It will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents and guardians to access information in order to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their child. It strikes an appropriate balance for community safety as well as the protection of children. While recognising that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable and that everything must be done to safeguard children against those risks, the public release of information under the public register will occur in a very measured way. We believe that parents and guardians deserve access to information to keep children safe from harm and this information will allow parents and guardians to remain vigilant in their local communities. The public register will be an additional tool to make informed decisions and take action at an individual level to keep children safe.

The public register is designed to protect against the potential misuse of information about offenders disclosed under the public register and potential harm to offenders and other individuals as a result, for example, arising from acts of vigilante violence. As previously mentioned by other speakers, there are three tiers to the public register. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website, a public web page displaying facial images and particular personal details of offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Published details may include a reportable offender's name, year of birth and unique Queensland Police Service identifier. Furthermore, under tier 1 the Police Commissioner may decide to publish additional personal details about an offender, such as descriptions of visible distinctive tattoos, if considered necessary. This approach ensures that only information considered necessary to keep the community informed is indeed published.

Tier 2 is the locality search function, a local area search allowing Queensland residents to request to temporarily view facial images of particular offenders residing in their locality. Upon request, photographs will be available for inspection by the person in a very secure way and will be designated to be accessible only by the person who made the request. Tier 2 is also limited to reportable offenders who are repeat reportable offenders, lifelong reportable offenders and reportable offenders who are subject to a supervision order made under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003. The bill also ensures that, where police identify or receive information that a reportable offender demonstrates a serious risk to the lives or sexual safety of a child or children generally, the Police

Commissioner is empowered to include their photograph in a tier 2 request made by a person within their locality.

Finally, tier 3 is the parent and guardian disclosure scheme, a scheme enabling parents or people with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for information about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. The bill defines 'unsupervised contact' and includes physical contact and contact that occurs by electronic communication with a child without the presence of another adult. This is all designed to improve public confidence in the justice system by promoting transparency and accountability by making information more accessible, thereby demonstrating a commitment to restoring safety in communities and keeping children safe from sexual harm. We are empowering families to make informed decisions about who their children interact with, allowing them to take proactive steps to protect their children.

I congratulate the Minister for Police, his department and other supporting ministers and departments for their work on this landmark legislation. As I said earlier, I am proud to be a member of the Crisafulli government and I am proud of the steps we are taking to protect Queensland children and put the rights of parents and families ahead of the rights of sexual predators. In concluding, this bill enshrines the indomitable human spirit of love and courage. When our time in this place sets, we will look back on some bills and know in our heart of hearts that they were indeed significant landmark pieces of legislation through which all of us in this chamber strived to do the best for our communities—and I can think of no greater asset than our children—and tried to make a difference overall for society and for our kids. This is indeed such a landmark bill.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.37 pm): That was a fine speech by the member for Chatsworth. I join my Labor colleagues in supporting the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I start by acknowledging and applauding Denise and Bruce Morcombe who, following a seemingly unbearable tragedy, have dedicated themselves to keeping kids safe. I saw that in action when Denise and Bruce attended Mount Gravatt State School in my electorate for the launch of Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson. Their foundation involved the students from the school in the process of creating the materials and then broadcasting the launch throughout Queensland and Australia. It was really evident to me how engaged the students were in the program. I am sure it has made a huge difference to their lives. Of course, every year students across my electorate participate in the Day for Daniel. I will see that again this Friday. I know that this program educates and empowers children to be safe in a range of situations.

I join with my Labor colleagues in commending Bruce and Denise Morcombe on their continued and tireless dedication to keeping children safe and in recognising that the passage of Daniel's Law is a deeply meaningful and significant moment for the Morcombe family. In my time in this parliament, and in my roles in nursing, disability support and trade unions, I have seen an ongoing evolution of approaches to keeping kids safe. The mandatory reporting and training that I am now required to participate in as a nurse did not exist when I started nursing in the 1980s. There are a range of other mechanisms in place now to keep kids safe.

I was pretty disappointed with the contribution from the member for Whitsunday. Taking a tragic murder from 23 years ago and trying to draw a line and blame the previous government was undignified. I thought it was disgraceful and undignified and showed great disrespect for the intention of this bill.

Ms CAMM: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr J KELLY: I withdraw. To suggest that nothing was done by the previous Labor government was ridiculous and was a potential misleading of the parliament.

Ms CAMM: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr J KELLY: Deputy Speaker, I seek your guidance. I did not mention that member and was merely reflecting on many statements made by many members.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Greenslopes, I suggest you move on now.

Mr J KELLY: I will take a moment to rebut those statements. I think it is worth looking at Labor's record in this area. Labor introduced the strongest and toughest legislative framework in the nation for the monitoring of child sex offenders by doubling the monitoring period of child sex offenders subject to police monitoring. These laws increased the monitoring for first-time offenders from five years to 10 years and increased the monitoring of repeat offenders from 10 to 20 years or life. Labor permanently

integrated Taskforce Orion into the Queensland Police Service Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group. Labor almost doubled the resources for the child protection offender register since 2015 and committed to further double the resources by 2030.

Additionally, Labor introduced new laws to: expand police powers to enter the residence of a reportable offender to undertake a digital device inspection; require reportable offenders to disclose the use of their anonymising software, vault and black hole applications and their media access control address; create a new offence with penalties of up to five years imprisonment for failing to comply with a requirement to produce a digital device for a device inspection; and require reportable offenders who have been convicted of failing to comply with their reporting obligations to report those details to police within seven days. That is a short list of the things that were done and a rebuttal of the statement that Labor did nothing.

As a nurse I have worked with many people who have been victims of child sexual abuse. The impacts are devastating and lifelong. The trauma that is inflicted on the individual is highly likely to transport through the generations and cause problems for subsequent generations. This parliament has an obligation to keep kids safe. That is the intention of this bill and that is why we on this side of the House support this bill.

It should be noted that there were a wide range of views from stakeholders on both what this bill will achieve and what it will not. A number of potential unintended consequences were identified such as the potential for a false sense of security that may result for parents and guardians of children who access the scheme. This may occur because this bill will not capture all reportable child sex offenders, and it does not capture all offenders in the community who are subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act.

For example, the QPS advised during the hearing that, of the 3,240 reportable offenders on the child protection offender registry, only 749 total reportable offenders, including those subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act, would be under tier 2 of the register. That is less than 25 per cent. This needs to be closely monitored and parents need to be made aware of these kinds of gaps to reduce any false sense of security that could result. As a result of these potential unintended consequences, the laws must be closely monitored to ensure that if issues occur steps can be quickly taken to address them.

I have spoken to many people in my community about these terrible issues. It is always painful and distressing to acknowledge that a very significant number, if not a majority, of children who are victims of sexual assault or abuse or murder will be assaulted by someone who is known to them. Many submitters noted concerns that these laws may not protect children in these situations. The register is one important option to help keep kids safe, but it must be complemented by other measures. Education and awareness were noted by many submitters as being a very effective way to keep children safe in all situations. That is why the Day for Daniel on Friday is so important. It is about educating children.

I join my Labor colleagues in raising concerns about the proper resourcing of this scheme. It seems that the number of staff allocated initially is very small and no ongoing funding has been provided to the QPS by the Crisafulli LNP government for the operation of the register. The Queensland Labor opposition has been told that the effective implementation of a register of this type could require upwards of 100 FTE ongoing. This would cost up to \$17.5 million per year, on an ongoing basis. Finally, I again acknowledge and applaud the ongoing commitment of Denise and Bruce Morcombe to keep kids safe.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.45 pm): Daniel Morcombe's story is deeply personal to Queenslanders. His disappearance and the long years that followed left an indelible mark on our state. From that unimaginable pain, his parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, created a legacy of awareness, education and community protection, and I commend them for that. It is in that spirit that we consider Daniel's Law. This bill has one purpose: to make Queensland's children safer. I begin by acknowledging that every member of this House shares the goal. Regardless of party or position, we are united in our determination to do everything possible to protect Queensland's children from those who would harm them.

Labor has a proud record of taking tough and evidence-based action to protect children and to hold offenders to account. It was a Labor government that introduced the strongest legislative framework in the nation for monitoring child sex offenders—doubling reporting periods and extending oversight for repeat offenders to 20 years or life. Labor permanently integrated Taskforce Orion into the Queensland Police Service, targeting the online sexual exploitation of children. Since 2015 we have almost doubled the resources of the child protection offender register and had committed to doubling

them again by 2030. We expanded police powers to inspect digital devices, introduced new offences for failing to comply with reporting obligations and cracked down on the use of anonymising software that offenders used to conceal their activities online. These are the kinds of strong and practical measures that keep Queenslanders safe. Daniel's Law builds on that work.

The bill creates a three-tier public register designed to give parents access to information about offenders living in their communities. It strengthens monitoring powers and introduces new offences for providing false information or attempting to manipulate the register. These are positive steps that increase transparency, empower families and send a clear message that the safety of children will always come first.

It is right that we recognise the Morcombe family for their extraordinary advocacy in helping bring this reform to life and the many Queenslanders who have supported them in those efforts. As we do this, we also have to remain clear-eyed about the scale of the problem we are trying to solve. National research tells us that more than one in four Australians have experienced child sexual abuse. Most were harmed by someone they knew—a family member, a neighbour, a coach or a trusted adult. They are not isolated cases. These represent an ongoing epidemic of harm that affects health, education, relationships and entire life trajectories. That is why no one single piece of legislation—no register or system—can ever be a complete solution.

This bill has to be implemented alongside strong public education, resourcing and prevention programs—the kind that help parents, carers and children to recognise grooming, to report abuse and to know where to turn for help. Every expert who submitted to the committee process made that point. The Family and Child Commissioner, the Public Guardian, the QFCC and all others emphasised that laws alone do not protect children; people do. It is why an education and awareness campaign has to sit alongside this reform. It is what the Morcombe foundation has modelled for two decades through the Day for Daniel, empowering children and communities to identify unsafe behaviour and to speak up. If the register is to achieve its purpose, it has to be supported by those same principles: education, vigilance and trust.

There have been statements made today by members of the government that this bill will protect every child in Queensland. It is comments like these that concern me, comments that fail to recognise the complexity of the issue and fail to take responsibility for the education that is critical alongside this reform. Resourcing will also be critical. The bill introduces new tiers, notifications and reporting mechanisms. These must be matched with adequate funding, training and technology to ensure the register remains accurate, secure and effective.

The Deputy Commissioner advised the committee that only four or five staff will be assigned initially to get the program underway. That is grossly insufficient when stakeholders estimate that up to 100 full-time-equivalent staff could be required to administer this register. The minister needs to tell us today about the level of resourcing he is going to provide this critical register. We cannot afford to create a sense of safety that is not backed by strong systems and properly trained officers. Our police, our agencies and child protection workers are already stretched, and they deserve every resource necessary to implement these laws well.

We all want, of course, for this bill to succeed, and the Morcombes deserve the fullest attention by this government to the issue. It is not enough to issue a press release and move on. This reform will require a lot of resourcing, training and institutional reform within a number of departments and community education, and the minister and members opposite have been silent on that. So, while I welcome the bill and the intent behind it, we also have to be honest with Queenslanders about what this bill can and what it may not be able to do. A public register may help parents make informed decisions, but most abuse happens behind closed doors, often long before police or any system can intervene.

On a final note, I do have to, on behalf of victims of crime, express disappointment that it appears there is no intention from the government to notify victims when their offender is listed on this register. Queensland actually has obligations under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act where victims have explicit rights and expectations of how they should be treated by investigating and prosecuting agencies. One of those rights is the right to information—the right to know about the status of their case, including key events that occur after sentencing. It would be a really simple amendment for the government to obligate the Victims Register which is located within the Department of Corrections to simply contact victims and inform them ahead of the offender's name being made public. I simply cannot understand why the government would not be doing this because, as my colleagues have already said, every victim matters.

Daniel's Law is a step forward and it honours a young boy whose name has become synonymous with the protection of children in Queensland. It is a tribute to Denise and Bruce, to their tireless advocacy and to the thousands of Queenslanders who have said, 'Never again.' But it also reminds us that child protection is not achieved by legislation alone. It is achieved through culture—a culture of vigilance, care and shared responsibility. Labor has always believed that our duty as legislators is not just to respond to tragedy but to prevent it, which means continuing to resource our police, to strengthen our child protection systems and to educate our communities. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (7.52 pm): On 7 December 2003, Daniel Morcombe left his home in Palmwoods and ventured out to Sunshine Plaza to buy Christmas presents for his family. He never returned home. Instead, his life was cruelly ripped away from him by a depraved, twice convicted paedophile. Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise, were robbed of their beloved child. His brothers, Brad and Dean, spent their childhoods not knowing where their brother's remains were. Just about every Australian knows the Daniel Morcombe story. It broke the hearts of Australian parents and collectively it appalled an entire nation.

For me, it struck heart-wrenchingly close to home. In March of 2003, my wife, Taryn, and I and our then two kids moved to Daniel's community of Palmwoods. We knew the bus stop, we knew the streets and, like so many parents in Palmwoods, we heard that voice of parental angst lingering in the back of our heads asking whether this could have happened to our children, too. My eldest son's name is Daniel.

Long before I became an MP and long before the LNP first joined with them to push for no-body no-parole laws in 2016, it was through the Palmwoods community and my job in the Department of Child Safety that I first came to meet Bruce and Denise Morcombe. To be honest, I could probably spend this entire speech attempting to describe their courage, their strength and their unwavering determination, but no speech could do that justice. Instead, we need only look to the title of this bill—Daniel's Law. The legislation we will pass this evening cements Bruce and Denise Morcombe's years-long fight for a public sex offender register. It is yet another element of Daniel Morcombe's legacy. Because of Bruce, Denise and Daniel, generations of Queensland children will be better protected than ever before. If this register can spare just one child from harm and just one set of parents from what Bruce and Denise had to go through, it has been completely worth it.

The Morcombe family are Queensland treasures. This state is better for their advocacy. That is why Bruce and Denise have been our partners in this legislation. I am just devastated we did not get here sooner. We could have delivered this sooner—back in 2019—if those opposite had supported it.

The LNP believes that parents have a right to know if there are dangerous people in proximity to their children. Sending our children out into world will always come with risk, but parents should be armed with the information necessary to mitigate that risk to their children.

Daniel's killer was a serial paedophile with a long history of preying on children. He flew completely under the radar in the community. It is thought that even his own wife was blindsided by what was happening under her nose. He should not have been on the street to begin with, but at the very least the local community should have had the right to know. That is why Daniel's Law establishes the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, delivering on our election commitment for a public sex offender register and honouring the activism of the Morcombe family. This bill is designed to build on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms. We recognise that any risk to the lives or sexual safety of children is unacceptable, and everything possible must be done to safeguard the lives and sexual safety of children. I do not believe we could ever be doing too much in this space.

Our new register aims to increase general community awareness and vigilance, give parents, guardians and anyone else who regularly cares for a child access to information that may assist them to keep that child safe, and simultaneously protect against vigilante action by maintaining safeguards on access to that register. The scheme is modelled on the proven Western Australian system which has been in place since 2012 and provides a three-tier disclosure framework for offenders.

Tier 1 of the website will be a public display of images and particular personal details of reportable offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are, at that present moment in time, unknown to police. Offenders lose their right to privacy the second they breach their responsibilities and become an unacceptable risk to the community.

Tier 2 will allow Queenslanders to apply to temporarily view facial images of reportable offenders living in their general area. It will not show their personal details. It is limited to reportable offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending against children.

Tier 3 will be an application-based process whereby parents or people with ongoing access to a child are able to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised access with their child is a reportable offender. There are concerns that this level of access will encourage vigilantism, and we have addressed that. Any information accessed or received through the public register must be treated as confidential. That means that, outside of mum and dad having a conversation with each other about information accessed to keep their child or children safe, recipients cannot share register information with others.

To that end, we are also introducing three new offences to prohibit misuse of register information. The penalty for vigilantism after register access will be up to 10 years imprisonment.

Bruce and Denise have shown a strength that most of us can only imagine, that we never even want to imagine. Through their heartbreak they have chosen to stand up, speak out and protect other children from suffering the same fate as their son. Daniel's Law is more than a piece of legislation; it is a legacy of love, courage and community—a community that will, again, gather this Friday. It reminds us that in the darkest moments good people can create light. I want to thank Bruce and Denise for everything they have done and continue to do for Queensland families. Because of their tireless efforts, generations of children will grow up safer and parents across our state will have greater peace of mind knowing Daniel's story has changed our future for the better.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (7.59 pm): I rise to speak on the bill, which as we know the opposition will be supporting. I join with the member for Glass House and the minister, and I understand that this is a very moving debate. There is no doubt about that. I also join with others in the House in saying that the work that Bruce and Denise Morcombe have done over the years has been second to none, and all while going through unimaginable grief. Many of us in this House are parents, and we know that our lives would change forever if anything like that happened to our child. The manner in which they have kept going and embarked upon education to make a real difference in people's lives by raising awareness even after the horrific way in which they lost their child shows outstanding bravery on their part.

When I was the education minister I met with Bruce and Denise Morcombe many times. They have an education program that they run in our schools. We funded them in relation to that, and they always did great work. They were tireless workers going into schools and raising awareness and educating the students, and obviously they have advocated to make sure we continue to work on the laws. We worked with them on all of the laws that we introduced when we were in government. Those opposite have suggested that nothing was done, but that is untrue. It is ridiculous to even suggest that. If we look at the statute book we can see what we did, and we worked with the Morcombes as well.

I pay tribute to them. I wish them all the best for the Day for Daniel. I wish them all the best for their documentary *Don't Waste It*, which is directed at teens aged 13 to 15. As many have said in here, the message of recognise, react and report is what we want to get through, and it is essential that our children know that. How many times do parents say to their kids—and I am sure that Bruce and Denise would have said it to Daniel—'If a stranger pulls up, don't get in the car. Don't talk to them. Alert someone.' The horrific circumstances for Daniel will never leave our minds.

When you consider that over two million people participate in the Day for Daniel, they have done a pretty good job in continually trying to push the message of how important it is to be safe. When it comes to our children's safety, obviously we will try to do whatever we can to keep them safe. We did work with the Morcombes when we were in government. When 1,700 convicted child sex offenders were removed from police monitoring overnight by the Campbell Newman government—and the current Premier was part of that cabinet—we spent a lot of time strengthening those laws and ensuring monitoring was happening. We increased the monitoring for first offenders from five to 10 years. We increased the monitoring for repeat offenders from 10 to 20 years. There were myriad things. Taskforce Orion was about combating sex-crime groups.

We put in place all kinds of things, so it cannot be suggested that we on this side of the House do not consider the safety of children as paramount. I have said time and again that when statements like that are made by those opposite it is insulting and it is not correct. Nobody has the right to suggest that they are the only ones who want to make sure we have laws. We are all parents here, and we all want to make sure our kids are safe.

There is no doubting that there are some concerns with the laws. I think it is right that, when we are debating something, members of our community can raise concerns with us. When people come to the committees to make submissions and raise their concerns, it is our duty to raise them as well, to highlight them and to make sure we review the legislation and get it right. Laws are never perfect, and the government will find that, as we found out many times today. For example, the Supreme Court decided that it was not the right directive—it was found to be unlawful. The minister has now taken further action, so we will see where that takes it as well. That happens all of the time with laws. They are not always 100 per cent accurate, and those opposite will find that out.

I have concerns with tier 2. The QPS advised during the committee hearing that there are about 3,240 reportable offenders on the child protection offender registrar. These are their words, not ours. We are not saying this; this is in *Hansard*. This is the evidence that was given to the committee: of that number, only a total of 749 reportable offenders, including those subject to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act, would be under tier 2 of the register. That means that 75 per cent of child sex offenders are not captured under tier 2—75 per cent! They are not my words; they are the words of the QPS. Those opposite can say what they want, but 75 per cent of them are not captured under tier 2. That needs to be closely monitored and parents need to be made aware.

My plea is: let's not give parents a false sense of security that everyone will be captured when they get the information they want, because that is not the case. We have to be very clear to give parents and guardians the information they need and allay any sort of false sense of security when they access the scheme. Education, ongoing monitoring and awareness are absolutely essential, and we will hold the government to account that they do this. It is important that people are aware that this is what they get. Police resourcing is also very important. Yes, we might have additional police.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Ms GRACE: Yes, they started under Labor. I know you quoted the numbers. We need people specifically for this piece of legislation. Not all of them are going to be processing these applications. It is nonsense.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member. What is being said is absolute nonsense. Grow up! This is about police dedicated to this unit and it being properly resourced. People are not going to go to the local police station in Fortitude Valley or in the city, or wherever they are, to access this register. It is a nonsense argument, and you should stop interjecting with nonsense arguments. What you have to do is actually make sure that—

Mr Head: Do you want to apologise for not doing it for 10 years?

Mrs Gerber: Apologise to the Morcombes for voting it down in 2019?

Ms GRACE: What a disgusting interjection from both those members—the minister and the member for Callide—about apologising to the Morcombes. For goodness sake, if you want to talk about apologies, apologise for not including all of those on the sexual register.

Ms Camm: Move an amendment. Why doesn't the opposition move an amendment?

Ms GRACE: Move an amendment—yes, well, you have the numbers!

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

Ms GRACE: You have the numbers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for McConnel, could you take your seat for a moment?

Ms GRACE: Through the chair, I take the interjection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, could you sit down for a moment.

Mr POWER: I just want to point out that the speaker has had a very large number of interjections. We have had a respectful debate. I ask that—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Could I have silence while I listen to the point of order please?

Mr POWER: I am asking that the speaker be able to complete their contribution to the debate without interjection.

Ms Camm: The member took the interjection!

Mr POWER: I want to point out that that is extraordinarily disorderly. If you have a point of order, make one.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could we have order in the House, please. I will ask the member for McConnell to resume.

Ms GRACE: It is important that police are adequately resourced and that we take into account the resources necessary to ensure that everyone is serviced in regard to these new tiers in the bill—

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members for Nicklin and Cook, could you please stop interjecting.

Ms GRACE: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection. We have three tiers. Tier 1 is with regard to the missing or noncompliant offenders website. Tier 2 is the one we have concerns about where not all offenders are covered—in fact, 75 per cent are not covered. Tier 3 is the guardian disclosure scheme.

I agree with the vigilantism provisions in this bill. We need to ensure that people do not take the law into their own hands. That is the worst thing that could happen. It is largely based on the laws of Western Australia and the laws of South Australia. Hopefully they are not seeing that happen there, but concerns were raised by other sectors during the committee process. The Law Society had concerns, citing that they were not aware of any studies that demonstrate that this will work. Obviously we are supporting the bill. We are hoping that this will work. We are hoping that it is a step in the right direction. We are hoping that it will be adequately resourced. We are hoping that we will get the necessary information to people in a timely way and that we monitor this to make sure it is meeting the objectives of the legislation, but we are supporting the bill.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (8.11 pm): 'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it protects its children.' Tonight our parliament is debating the right to protect our children, to protect our children from those who have and those who would do them harm. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to strengthen Queensland's child protection framework—to put the rights of children, parents and families first—ahead of the rights of sexual predators—and, ultimately, to honour the tireless advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Born from unimaginable pain, of hurt and ultimately the loss of Daniel, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has raised awareness, has fostered the power of education in our schools and has demanded action to keep Queensland children safe.

Queensland is joining Western Australia and South Australia and shortly will be joined by Tasmania in implementing a version of Daniel's Law. This bill prioritises the safety of Queensland children. It ensures that parents and caregivers gain access to information that helps them make informed decisions around who interacts with their children. It also empowers communities with knowledge—the most powerful tool that any of us can have in preventing harm.

For two decades the Queensland Police Service has administered a non-public child protection register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. That register, as has been stated by previous speakers, has been an essential tool for police in monitoring offenders and preventing reoffending. However, that information—that critical information which could mean the difference between safety and harm for our Queensland children—has not been accessible to our community. Parents should not have to rely on luck or circumstance to be informed. They deserve transparency and they deserve a practical means of providing extra protection for their families.

This bill builds on the foundation by establishing a new three-tier public register—the first of its kind in Queensland. Tier 1 will identify missing or noncompliant offenders whose whereabouts are unknown, displaying their image and limited personal details to assist the public and police in locating them. Tier 2 will enable Queenslanders to conduct a secure locality search to see whether repeat or high-risk offenders live in their community, in their neighbourhood. This empowers families to stay vigilant in their own neighbourhood. Tier 3 allows parents, guardians and those with parental responsibility to seek confirmation—a yes or a no—about whether an individual who has, or will have, unsupervised contact with their children is a registered offender. Together, these tiers provide a

measured, practical and protective framework—one that prioritises the safety of our children and puts our community safety first.

Tonight we have heard from other speakers about the need to strike a careful balance between protecting our children and safeguarding against the misuse of information. This bill introduces strict offences for anyone who intimidates, harasses or incites harm against someone they believe to be an offender. We all believe that vigilantism has no place in Queensland.

This bill also protects sensitive information—identifying details that can be accessed from the public register and details that cannot be shared or published without authorisation. To ensure accountability—something that every member of this House desires—the bill legislates an independent five-year review of the register to be tabled in this House, ensuring that Daniel's Law continues to protect our children effectively and responsibly.

Queensland's model draws on proven frameworks but goes further in several ways. It provides a legislated, transparent process for community access. It captures a broader range of offences than other legislation including non-contact crimes like child exploitation material and it extends the eligibility to anyone with parental responsibility, recognising the many forms of caregiving that are experienced in Queensland homes and amongst Queensland families.

Importantly, there are no fees to access this register. The right to protect our children, the right to protect our families, should never depend on the ability to pay. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register will strengthen confidence in our justice system. It will make information more accessible for our community. It will give families the power to act early. Above all, it will help them prevent harm before it happens. Every parent knows that the safety of their child is their greatest responsibility. It is also our greatest fear when that safety is threatened. This bill gives Queensland parents, Queensland guardians and Queensland families a vital new tool to help keep their children safe.

Many speakers tonight have spoken of the past. We know collectively that we cannot change the past, but what we can do together is shape a safer future for our communities, a safer future where every child in Queensland can grow up safer, more secure and better protected because of the choice we make here tonight. I commend this bill to the House and I commend the Crisafulli government for bringing these positive reforms into the parliament so that we may protect our youngest Queenslanders even further.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.18 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I firstly want to place on record my thanks to Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their tireless advocacy. They have experienced years of trauma personally as well as their family. I was privileged with my fellow Zonta members Kell Freeman and Heather Hall, just to name a few in the club, to host Bruce and Denise in Roma some years ago as guest speakers at the Zonta Club annual International Women's Day breakfast. They spoke of their journey and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which teaches children about child safety. I do not think there was a dry eye in the room at the breakfast that morning. We had the utmost admiration for Bruce and Denise.

It is a privilege to speak on this bill, which is named in honour of Daniel Morcombe. This legislation is the first of its kind in Queensland. I thank the committee members for their consideration of the bill. I understand the committee also travelled to Western Australia to consider how their legislation operates in that state. The legislation we are debating here is broadly modelled on the scheme in Western Australia which has been operating since 2012. I understand that similar laws were passed in South Australia in 2024. This bill delivers on an election commitment of the Crisafulli LNP government to further strengthen sex offender laws. The Crisafulli government is doing what we said we would do. We promised prior to the election that we would implement these laws, and we are doing just that.

These laws have been a long time in the making for Queensland. In 2008, some five years after Daniel Morcombe was abducted, a convicted paedophile by the name of Dennis Ferguson moved into a property near Miles. When the mothers and fathers of that community complained about his presence we saw nothing from the Labor state government at the time. There were pleas from the community to move him on but they were not heeded by Labor. At that time, Labor was more concerned about the privacy rights of a convicted paedophile than the safety of children in the Miles community. The Miles community was rightfully outraged. It was this situation in Miles that caused me to do a lot of research about what other jurisdictions were doing. At that time, in 2008, many American states published the photographs of convicted paedophiles. They still do this today. The concept we are framing into

legislation has been around the world for many years. After years of Labor, it has taken an LNP, victim-centric government to finally deliver these reforms.

This bill establishes a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register that will help protect Queensland's children. Importantly, it will place the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators—something that was not happening in communities like Miles. The existing non-public register was established under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. It contains a range of personal details about offenders, including those reportable offenders who pose a risk to the lives of children. Although the register requires reportable offenders to keep police informed of their personal details and whereabouts, members of the public cannot readily access the information stored within it. Such information can only be provided to persons, including parents and guardians, in particular circumstances as defined under the legislation. This bill aims to make this information more accessible to the community—something that communities like Miles have been calling for since 2008.

Empowering those with parental responsibility to make informed decisions and take action at a personal level will help keep children safe. Building on the existing regime, it creates a new framework to enable the release of information about particular offenders through the public register. To give effect to the new public framework the bill includes a three-tier public register. These three tiers include the missing noncompliant offender website, which shows those offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. That would have been particularly helpful in the situation that occurred at Miles. The location search function allows Queensland residents to request to temporarily view facial images of particular offenders residing in their community. This is limited to reportable offenders, lifelong reportable offenders and reportable offenders who are subject to a Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 supervision order. The other tier includes a parent or guardian disclosure scheme, which enables those with ongoing parental responsibility to apply for confirmation about whether a particular person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender.

To me, the key safeguard is how this new public register will prevent Queensland children and families having to go through the grief, horror and trauma that the Morcombes and other communities like Miles experienced when people turn up in their communities. If it protects one child then this legislation has done its job for the community and for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.24 pm): I rise to contribute on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. As pretty much every speaker has noted, this bill is named in memory of Daniel Morcombe, the son of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. Also like pretty much every other member, at the outset I want to acknowledge the relentless advocacy of Bruce and Denise and thank them for their work over decades, recognising this is work they did despite dealing with the unimaginable loss of their son in truly unspeakable circumstances. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation is an incredible resource that provides free education and resources on child safety and direct counselling support to children who are victims of crime.

The purpose of this bill is said to be to increase general community awareness of and vigilance around child safety and to reduce the risk of harm to children. Of course I, like everyone here, wholeheartedly support that intent, but we as legislators have to be clear-eyed about the reality that there is next to no evidence that a publicly accessible register of reportable offenders reduces offending against children. There is a risk that these schemes may even increase recidivism. All children deserve safety, and any child safety being compromised is devastating and unacceptable. That is why the intensive resources required to implement and maintain the public registers could be better used and diverted to interventions that we know actually work.

I will not go over it in too much detail because so many others have, but this bill sets up a three-tier public register of reportable offenders who are adults convicted of sexual offences against children, including both contact and non-contact offences. People included on the registered will not be notified of their inclusion or provided with an opportunity to make submissions in relation to their registration; nor will the victims of their offences.

Tier 1 is intended to be a public website listing identifying details for offenders who are noncompliant with supervisory orders and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. It is accessible to any member of the public. Tier 2 enables Queensland residents to request a search of their locality. That search would return photographs of offenders whom the Police Commissioner has deemed a serious risk as well as offenders covered by other relevant supervision orders who are in their area. Importantly with tier 2, locality is not defined or limited, so it is within the commissioner's discretion to

widen or narrow the area subject to a search. The third tier provides a scheme for parents and guardians to request disclosure of a person's reportable offender status where they have had or will have unsupervised contact with their child.

Several well-respected stakeholders raised concerns about the implementation of this scheme. To be clear, this is not a case of arguing in favour of offenders' rights at the expense of the protection of children. There are genuine concerns about whether these reforms are capable of achieving their purpose and whether there is a real risk of increasing recidivism rates and vigilantism. Perhaps the most common thread throughout the submissions and during the committee hearings was in relation to the scheme creating a false sense of security. Other members have spoken of this. We know that most childhood sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child, with 88 per cent of women and 82 per cent of men who experienced childhood sexual abuse knowing their perpetrators, the most common perpetrators being members of their family.

The trope of a monster who lurks in the shadows is counterproductive in terms of the community's understanding, and it fails to recognise the reality of offending. Moreover, a majority of people who disclose experiences of childhood sexual abuse do so as adults, with the average time to disclosing being almost 24 years, during which time the offender clearly cannot be included on this register. ABS data suggests that 84 per cent of offending against girls is never reported to police and 99 per cent of offending against boys is never reported to police. For those who do report, even fewer result in convictions. Again, the vast majority of offenders could never be included on any public register like the one proposed in this bill. As a result, the registers are not capable of responding to or preventing the vast majority of child sexual offending. There is a real concern that relying on the registers and perpetuating stereotypes about people who commit sexual offences against children as being strangers may actually result in decreased vigilance—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): One moment, member for Maiwar. The background noise in the chamber is too loud and I cannot hear the member's speech.

Mr BERKMAN: As I was saying, perpetuation of these false stereotypes, these myths, may actually result in decreased vigilance to the more likely threats as they exist. We have heard from a number of members in this debate about the false sense of security, but it really struck me just how little attention that issue, among others, got in the committee's report. As a member of this committee, I cannot overemphasise how important the work is. I think the least we owe Queenslanders and the least we owe this parliament is for the committee's interrogation of legislation like this to really drill down, identify the issues and report back honestly about what we find. A single dot point mention of the risk around a false sense of security falls well short of what parliament and Queenslanders should expect of us in committees.

Another point along these lines is the very limited evidence of effectiveness and the risk that it undermines rehabilitation. Queensland already has legislative mechanisms in place to exert significant control over the lives of registered offenders, especially those deemed dangerous prisoners, and to restrict any chance of contact with children. Similarly, there are circumstances in which information on the existing public register can be released to relevant people. I have heard other members refer to this being evidence-based reform, but it is true to say that there is no evidence that public sex offender registers reduce offending—not in the United States where they have been in effect since 1994 and not here. The Western Australian scheme, on which this bill is partly modelled, has driven no demonstrable reduction in offending rates.

On the other hand, there is some evidence to suggest that public registers may actually increase recidivism. This is consistent with the evidence of those who work closely with offenders. For example, the Prisoners' Legal Service foreshadows that registrants 'will face significant challenges relating to employment, housing, harassment, stigma, fear and vigilantism, which can cause behavioural dysregulation and increase risk'. Similarly, registrants may face increased barriers to accessing critical support services.

Other submitters detailed concerns about basic principles of natural justice and procedural fairness not being followed. This is particularly significant in circumstances where the commissioner is tasked with deciding what level of risk a person presents in the community and will be asked to do this without any input from the person themselves, including how registration may impact their prospects of rehabilitation through access to services. The idea of procedural fairness here is not about giving offenders a chance to evade consequences; it is about ensuring that decision-makers have the information they need to make good decisions for the benefit of the community.

Importantly, this scheme may also have significant unintended but predictable consequences, particularly by creating a real risk that the identity of victims could be inadvertently disclosed, noting that the majority of offenders are known to the victims or may be family members. There is no provision in the bill for victims to share their views with the commissioner on any part of the public register or their decision-making under the scheme.

Others have spoken on vigilantism. I will not go into detail here but I want to note that, while there are new specific offences for harassment, intimidation and incitement and for misuse of information on the register, these only relate to the offender and not people associated with the offender. Again, those people close to offenders on the register, and potentially victims of offenders on the register, are not offered the protections as they relate to vigilantism.

Finally, as many submitters pointed out, the register will require significant resourcing. The \$10 million set aside to implement the register could instead be diverted towards evidence-based prevention strategies. In its submissions PeakCare advocated for increased investment in and support for preventive education to assist families and communities to identify, prevent and respond to the risks of harm. We also clearly need to see increased investment in trauma informed and culturally safe rehabilitation programs, as well as access to sexual offending treatment programs in prison and by expanding throughcare programs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Before I call the next speaker, can I say that the Morcombes have been pursuing this bill for a number of years. I think as a matter of courtesy we should hear the debate in silence. If members must talk, please go outside.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (8.35 pm): I rise to speak to support the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, a bill that stands as a landmark step forward in protecting Queensland's children and restoring public confidence in our justice system. This legislation delivers on a clear election commitment of the Crisafulli government to strengthen Queensland's sex offender laws to put the rights of parents and the safety of children ahead of those who seek to harm them.

This bill honours the legacy of Daniel Morcombe, whose story touched every corner of this state. His parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, have spent years turning heartbreak into action, advocating for greater transparency and better protection for children. This bill, Daniel's Law, is named in Daniel's honour and it reflects their tireless commitment to make sure no family ever endures the same pain again.

Firstly, I must declare that I have fully supported the Daniel Morcombe Foundation from the first day of the DMF which Bruce and Denise Morcombe set up. I have watched the DMF curriculum build over the years. I have been blessed to have the Daniel Morcombe Foundation on board at the Central Queensland University's Conservatorium of Music's production, Safety Circus. This university student led production, written by Hannah Barn and Professor Judith Brown, has been running for some 12 years and now is presented to around 5,000 students each year in the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday area. This musical production highlights the main theme of the DMF: recognise, react and report. It is delivered to children in year 2 in their school, free of charge. Safety Circus has received high praise and awards, but education is not always enough to keep children safe. This is why this bill is needed.

The Queensland Police Service already administer a non-public child protection register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. That existing register is used by police to track the movements and personal details of reportable offenders—those who have committed offences against children and must regularly update their details. It is an important tool but until now has been entirely confidential. Parents and carers in the wider community have no access to this information, even in situations where an offender may pose a clear risk. Daniel's Law changes that. It builds on the existing framework, establishing a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register designed to protect children all the way across Queensland, empowering parents and strengthening community awareness. Under Daniel's Law, the public register will operate through three tiers, each carefully designed to balance public access with privacy and fairness.

The first tier allows police to publish photos and key details of any reportable offender who has failed to comply with their reporting obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown. This means that if an offender goes missing—if they breach their obligations or evade supervision—the public can be alerted through an official police managed website. The information published will be limited to what is necessary for community safety and as soon as the offender is located these details will be removed.

That is the kind of sensible, targeted measure that Queenslanders expect: protecting families without fuelling fear.

The second tier allows residents to apply to view photographs of certain reportable offenders who reside in their general locality. This is not an open database; it is a controlled access system limited to offenders who pose the greatest risk. That includes repeat offenders, those serving long-term reporting obligations, those under a supervision order and those deemed by the Police Commissioner to be a serious-risk offender. This tier gives parents and residents peace of mind—the ability to know if somebody living nearby has a history of offending against children—but it also ensures access is managed responsibly. Only the applicant can view the photographs and information is provided securely. This is about vigilance, not vengeance.

Finally, under tier 3 a parent or persons with ongoing parental responsibility can apply to the Police Commissioner to confirm whether a particular person—someone who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child—is a reportable offender. This means that if a parent has concerns about a new neighbour, a coach, a tutor or a family acquaintance they can formally apply to find out if that person has a history of child sex offending. That is a powerful safeguard and it ensures parents have the tools they need to protect their children while the process remains lawful and confidential and is carefully managed.

The bill is very deliberate in drawing boundaries around what can be published. It prohibits disclosure of information about any offender under the age of 18, offenders who committed crimes as juveniles but have not reoffended as adults, persons under witness protection and cases where the court has ordered that identification or disclosure is prohibited. This ensures the register focuses squarely on those who continue to pose a genuine risk, not those who have turned their life around.

Crucially, Daniel's Law includes strong penalties to stop the misuse of this information. There are new offences for anyone who intimidates, harasses or encourages others to target a person identified under the register, carrying penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment. There is also a separate offence for unauthorised distribution of information, ensuring details obtained through the register cannot be shared, reposted or weaponised on social media. This message is simple that this law is about protecting children, not promoting vigilantism.

This bill also protects the integrity of the process. The Police Commissioner retains discretion over what information is released, guided by clear statutory criteria including the potential impact on victims, ongoing investigations and the public interest. Those making decisions under the act are protected from liability for honest actions, ensuring officers can carry out their duties without fear of legal repercussions. The bill mandates statutory review after five years, led by an independent qualified person and with the outcomes to be tabled in parliament. That review will ensure this legislation is working as intended: effective, proportionate and accountable.

The community have made it clear that they expect strong protections and greater transparency when it comes to child safety. Parents deserve to know whether someone who has harmed children previously is living in their neighbourhood, coaching their child or spending time around schools. This bill gives families that right while ensuring the information is accurate, lawful and responsible. It is about prevention; it is about putting the rights of children and parents ahead of those who betray the trust of the community; and it is about ensuring Queensland joins other jurisdictions—Western Australia and South Australia—in providing a balanced, evidence-based public register that keeps kids safe.

Daniel's Law represents compassion, backed by courage. It honours the memory of a young boy whose life was taken too soon and ensures his legacy continues through meaningful action. It is a promise that this parliament will always put the protection of children first. It sends a clear message to the community that this government is serious about safeguarding Queensland's children, empowering parents and holding offenders to account. We cannot undo the past but we can shape the future. Through Daniel's Law, that is exactly what we are doing. I commend this bill to the House.



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (8.45 pm): Our role as parents and communities is to do everything we can to keep our children safe. This bill introduces a public child sex offender register in these efforts. Supported and fought for by Bruce and Denise Morcombe of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, this bill will be known as Daniel's Law in memory of their son. They have tirelessly campaigned for over a decade for this and, as Bruce said, it could act as a deterrent to potential offenders as well as to convicted offenders who breach their court orders. He also noted it is not a silver bullet—and I think we have heard that tonight—but provides the ability for us to check on those who are in contact with our children and grandchildren. Others in support were the Queensland Family and Child Commission and

the Voice for Victims foundation, with several suggested amendments including more supports for victim-survivors.

Our most recent Noosa electorate survey about the proposed register saw that 82 per cent of those who completed the survey were in support of it. This was with some very aged information available that we unearthed over the years since 2021, when we ran our first survey. Some included that in 2011 the *Journal of Criminology* found that sex offender registers do not reflect what was known about sexual offending and had not been successful in reducing offending. In 2018 the Australian Institute of Criminology found mixed results from research studies, with some showing no impact, others a decrease and others a concerning increase in offences. That is all we could find in going back.

This bill replicates the 12-year-old model used in Western Australia, which has three tiers. We have heard about them but I will quickly go through them. The first is a website available for all to access displaying personal details, including pictures, of offenders who have breached their reporting or supervision obligations or whose whereabouts are unknown. Tier 2 allows Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view facial images of offenders residing in their general locality, with the application via an approved form to the Police Commissioner. The final tier allows parents and carers to apply for confirmation of whether a particular person who has had or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. A key question, of course, in all of this is: how effective has the Western Australian model been? In 2018 the WA Police Force published a review of the operation and made the limited conclusion that it met its overall identified purpose of providing a register and is accepted as a tool for providing information to the community.

The Bar Association of Queensland in their submission did not support the bill, stating that the public register was not evidence-based, unjustifiably removed opportunities for judicial review and may deter some offenders from pleading guilty. The Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties stated that it would not protect children as it will at best be ineffective and at worst create a false sense of security—and I think we have heard that multiple times in speeches—thus increasing the risk to children. The director of research at Bravehearts highlighted that 70 to 80 per cent of child sex offenders are known by the child or the family and the Public Guardian highlighted that the sexual recidivism rate for offenders is 7.7 per cent. What is really concerning is that at any given time the offenders who have not been caught are not on a register and they could be anywhere around us. I think that sends a clear message that we must be vigilant at every moment.

Victim-survivor voices are important. Dr Kelly Richards from the QUT School of Justice has undertaken research for the Australian Institute of Criminology where victim-survivors raised concerns that they would be identified, triggered, shamed or retraumatised by the public release of information. We must take this seriously as well as the risk of exposure to families of those with historic sex offences and the impact that could have on innocent partners and their children.

The committee report recommended that the bill be passed and, given the variable and contrasting evidence and the emotion that we all bring to this chamber as mothers, fathers and grandparents which can make it difficult for evidence-based decision-making, government must at a minimum ensure an independent evaluation is undertaken over the coming months, prior to the five years mentioned. We really do need to know if in any way this creates greater danger to our children or trauma to victim-survivors or, as has been raised, sends offenders underground through vigilante type activity. The Australian Centre for Evaluation recommends starting evaluations before any program is implemented to ensure the right data is being collected from the start, and I trust this is being done or thought about right now.

In closing, I want to thank the minister, the committee and its secretariat, departmental staff and all who submitted. To Denise and Bruce: I, like every resident on the Sunshine Coast, never forgot that day when Daniel was taken. My youngest—my daughter—was 13 at the time, the same age as Daniel, and she caught the bus as he and all of them did. The enormous grief you and all of his loved ones have endured for years, as well as so many others whose children have been horrifically taken by monsters—and that is what they are—who masquerade as humans is forever imprinted in our minds and changed us forever. Your tireless efforts to make our world safer for our young ones, dedicated advocacy and enduring compassion has inspired us all. On behalf of my electorate, I send our deepest gratitude and support for your work and for this bill.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.51 pm): Today I rise in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025, appropriately referred to as Daniel's Law. This bill resonates with families across the state of Queensland—families who for the last 20 years have stood beside the Morcombe family in their pursuit of justice. Today we deliver the

legislation that brings transparency, accountability and safety to our communities. Twenty years into the future some may ask: why is this bill called Daniel's Law? Who is Daniel? Daniel Morcombe went missing on 7 December 2003 on his way to buy Christmas presents for his family. Daniel did not come home that day, having fallen victim to a known repeat child sex offender who had remained undetected within the community.

Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, have been relentless in their pursuit to honour Daniel, with their mission to protect children and families across Queensland. Their efforts have been instrumental in helping to prevent future heinous child sex offences. This legislation is the result of Bruce and Denise's persistence and their faith that a government would stand beside them to deliver laws that empower families, parents, carers and communities to make more informed decisions about the safety of their children. This legislation is the first of its kind for Queensland and it fulfils an LNP Crisafulli government election commitment to deliver on the Morcombe family's advocacy. As a mother and a grandmother, I want to acknowledge and to thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their strong advocacy and their work through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in shining a light on the need for these law reforms.

The existing non-public child sex offender register contains a range of personal details about child sex offenders, specifically those who pose a risk to the lives of children, referred to as reportable offenders. Reportable offenders are required to keep police informed of their whereabouts and personal details for a set period of time. In Queensland, individuals classified as reportable offenders face the most extended reporting obligations in Australia, spanning 10 years, 20 years or even life, yet currently members of the community cannot access the information stored on the non-public register.

The bill we present today addresses what the community has called for: a publicly available child sex offender register. This public register will operate through the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register website, to be established by the Queensland Police Service. Shocking as it is, statistics indicate that approximately one in four children have experienced a sexual offence, and that trend is rising. Our communities across Queensland, including Rockhampton, Central Queensland and beyond, deserve access to tools that will inform and, in doing so, help protect their children.

To ensure this legislation was well rounded and aligned with its intent, a measured and considered approach was taken. Through the committee process and stakeholder engagement, the bill has been structured into three tiers of delivery framework. Tier 1 is a public registry containing personal details and photographs of missing and/or noncompliant reportable child sex offenders. The registry is updated by the Queensland Police Service after all other measures to locate offenders have been exhausted. Tier 2 provides a locality search function that allows community members to request facial recognition data of potential repeat and/or high-risk reportable offenders within the vicinity of their residence. Tier 3 is a significant provision that enables carers, parents and families to request information about any person who has unsupervised access to their children either in person or electronically, taking into account the dangers of electronic predators. The QPS will also follow up with families, providing support and materials to help teach protective behaviours. These legislative provisions give our communities supplementary powers to identify risks and to make informed decisions for the safety of their loved ones.

To illustrate, consider a scenario where Bill and Jane—fictional names—have divorced and share custody of two children. Bill has a new partner and Jane is concerned about this person's history with children. Under tier 3, Jane can request a check before allowing unsupervised access to her children. This provision could also apply to new carers, tutors, sports instructors et cetera. South Australia has passed similar laws but includes barriers—that is, community members must pay to access tier 2 information and tier 3 requires at least three separate requests over 12 months before any information is released. Queensland has removed these obstacles, ensuring our communities can access the child sex offender registry without unnecessary hindrance. For Bruce and Denise Morcombe and the two million people across the country who march to recognise the need to educate, inform and be vigilant in the safety of our children, your efforts over the last 20 years have not been in vain. Today this legislation is about protecting future victims, and I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House.



Dr O'SHEA (South Brisbane—ALP) (8.57 pm): Today I rise to address the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill is named Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe and in acknowledgement of the outstanding work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. On this 20-year anniversary of the foundation, I want to recognise Daniel's mum and dad, Denise and Bruce Morcombe, who out of such great tragedy, pain and sadness found the strength to keep going and not only get justice for Daniel but also set up the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to

educate the community and children to keep children safe. Day for Daniel takes place this Friday. As a mum I took part in Day for Daniel every year at my children's school and this year I will be with the children and staff at Dutton Park State School to mark this special day—part of the over two million people who participate in the event each year. That is quite an achievement for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

The Morcombes have campaigned for years for a public child sex offender register in Queensland to make children safer, and this bill delivers that. The bill is about reducing risk and helping to protect Queensland children. The safety of children should always come first, which is why the Labor opposition will be supporting this bill. The bill aims to increase community awareness by giving carers access to information to help protect children through a public child sex offender register and to guard against the misuse of offender information by introducing offences carrying terms of imprisonment from three to 10 years for the misuse of information or vigilantism.

The register will be administered by the Queensland police and will allow for the release of personal details of certain reportable offenders in three distinct tiers. Tier 1 information will be available on a public website and will provide details of reportable offenders who have gone missing. This will include their photographs as well as the details of any vehicles associated with them. Tier 2 allows Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view photographs of certain reportable offences.

Debate, on motion of Dr O'Shea, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

Gladstone, Deaths



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (9.00 pm): Wednesday, 15 October 2025 will forever be a tragic day in Gladstone's history when we lost three beautiful souls in a house fire. The Saturday just gone was a time for the Gladstone community to come together at Barney Point Beach, Yallarm, to be with their family, their friends and the wider community to share their stories, smiles and memories while remembering Jordana, Jordan and Chazz. The gentle sounds of the waves at Barney Point Beach set the tone for what was a deeply moving and heartfelt gathering. It was more than a memorial; it was a moment of togetherness.

The morning was made even more special as two cultures came together, walking side by side on a shared journey of healing. The beach, a place of deep significance for the Gooreng Gooreng people in Gladstone, provided the perfect setting—a site of healing, reflection and unity. It was heartwarming to see so many people from all walks of life standing together on that beach, holding space for one another in both grief and gratitude. There were tears, yes, but there was also warmth, laughter and a quiet strength that radiated throughout the whole crowd on the morning. Moments like this remind us why the Gladstone community is so special. In times of heartbreak, we do not turn away; we turn towards each other. That spirit of compassion and resilience is what binds us all. It continues to make Gladstone a great place—a strong, caring and connected place to live.

I want to extend a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who helped make the morning a possibility. To the organisers, to the elders, to the families and to all those who came along to pay their respects and lend their support. As the local member, I am so proud of Gladstone. I am grateful to represent people I call my friends in a community that leads itself with kindness. We stand together in loss and we walk together to heal. To the families: I am here for you. I am here to support you through this very tough, unimaginable time for you all. Rest in peace, Jordana, Jordan and Chazz.

Whyte, Chief Inspector R



Mrs POOLE (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.03 pm): RCW—the man, the myth, the legend. Tonight I take this opportunity to honour not just a colleague but a dear friend, Chief Inspector Roger Whyte. Roger has spent 42 years as a police officer with the Queensland Police Service proudly serving the people of Queensland, starting back in 1983 as a young, fresh-faced high school graduate.

His first posting was to Mackay as a cadet and from there his career took him right across the state—Mareeba, Weipa, Babinda, Brisbane, Roma—and finally brought him back home to Townsville, where he finished as a chief inspector. Roger has seen enormous change in policing in the community

during his 42 years of service and through it all he has never lost his sense of purpose, his humour or his dedication. He has been there through some of Queensland's toughest moments. In every one of these moments Roger stood firm, calm, compassionate and always focused on keeping people safe.

While most people would take a milestone birthday off, especially one that marks your retirement, not Roger. He will work up until the very last hour of his 60th birthday today at midnight. That is just who he is—dedicated to the very end. What really makes Roger special is that he has never just been about the job, he has always been about the people. Back in his academy days he played Rugby League under Wayne Bennett and Mal Meninga. What a great coaching line-up! For Roger that passion became a lifelong commitment. For more than 30 years he has poured his heart into Rugby League, supporting at-risk youth, opening doors for kids from remote and First Nations communities and backing the rise of women's Rugby League. This year that dedication was recognised at both the state and the national level when Roger was named both the QRL and NRL Volunteer of the Year 2025.

Roger—Boss—you have been a mentor, a mate, a steady hand for so many of us, both in the uniform and out. You have left an incredible legacy in the Queensland Police Service. On behalf of the community and everyone who has had the privilege of working with you, thank you for your 42 years of service, your friendship and everything you have done to make our community stronger and safer. You will always be remembered fondly by your family of blue. At the end of the day, when the dust settles, Bub, 100 per cent, Roger Whyte, you have been our favourite chief inspector. Enjoy your retirement. I look forward to having a long black in a small cup with an extra shot and catching up with your Roger stories.

TNQ Tourism Industry Excellency Awards

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (9.06 pm): On Friday night I joined hundreds from our tourism industry celebrating the TNQ Tourism Industry Excellence Awards. It was a celebration of 50 years of the shared vision, resilience and community spirit that built Tropical North Queensland's industry into the \$4.5 billion powerhouse it is today. More than 350 guests gathered at the Cairns Convention Centre to honour half a century since the region's first tourism body, the Far North Queensland Development Bureau, was formed. Among them were founding chair George Chapman who laid the groundwork for what is now Tourism Tropical North Queensland, Australia's oldest and largest regional tourism organisation. TTNQ chair John O'Sullivan spoke of the region's trailblazing pioneers, local families who built the industry from the ground up through innovation and grit. CEO Mark Olsen reflected on five decades of hunting as a pack, a philosophy that has defined this region's cooperative marketing success and remains as relevant today as it has ever been.

It was fitting that the 50-year celebration also introduced a new perpetual trophy, the Robbie Bastion Award for Inbound Marketing, honouring one of our industry's most colourful and beloved characters. The inaugural winner, Andrew Steele, of Hot Air Balloon Cairns and the Gold Coast, epitomises that same relentless drive in global advocacy that Robbie Bastion brought to every boardroom and barstool from Tokyo to Toronto.

Whilst I acknowledge all of the evening's winners and congratulate them I want to make mention of a remarkable man whose contribution can best be described as unparalleled. John Morris's long history of contributing to tourism in our region stretches back from the early 1970s when he developed the first tourism accommodation in Port Douglas. He has not retired. Now at 97 he helped to develop the Douglas Shire development control plan to protect the community's character and over the past five decades has developed much of the tourism infrastructure in Port Douglas, including several resorts, Wildlife Habitat and Port Douglas Marina amongst others.

Tourism in the far north is not an abstract economy. It is livelihoods, culture and community. It connects reef to rainforest, travellers to locals and the world to the warmth of the far north. From the first road warriors to today's innovators in sustainable tourism, the TTNQ awards remind us that, while technology, trends and markets may change, one thing endures: the spirit of people such as Robbie Bastion and the many winners over the years who believed fiercely and competitively in this remarkable place where Mother Nature has provided so much. It is an amazing place that we are all so pleased and proud to call home. Congratulations to all winners and those nominated.

Glass House Electorate, Events

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.09 pm): It is all happening in the electorate of Glass House. It was a night of glitter and gold—quite literally gold—for Maleny Jewellers earlier this month as they celebrated

25 years in business. One of the most highly anticipated moments of the night was the drawing of the lucky door prize: a piece of gold bullion valued at almost \$6,000. I had one job which was to draw the winner and of course I drew my own name. A quick re-draw followed and the rest of the evening was spent celebrating Jim and Sandra and all they have invested in both Maleny Jewellers and the broader hinterland community.

Speaking of successes, what an honour it was to be invited to present the winners of the annual Woodford Community Art Group members' competition. Congratulations to Diane Sattler who won first place for her mixed media piece titled *Pears and an Apple*, Dawn Evans who received the Helene McEwan watercolour encouragement award and Hannalore Storms who was recognised with the group's most improved prize. More recently, Saturday saw a hugely successful Beerwah Spring Fair where there were rides, a car show, food, fun and fireworks. It was great to be a part of the community celebration.

The fabulous 30th celebrations of the River School in Maleny also took place on the weekend. The event will go down in everyone's memory for the children's brilliant farewell to longstanding and much-loved principal, Ann Donoghue. To bangers like *Never Gonna Give You Up* and *Time of My Life*, the kids danced Ann through the fair. Seriously, members have to check out my socials. It is so worth it. Ann, we all love you and wish you all the best on your next exciting adventure.

On a sadder note, our communities have again lost three amazing individuals. Anita Verwayen was a stalwart of the Mooloolah community and so instrumental in everything to do with the Mooloolah Valley Community Association, including the establishment of the Mooloolah Valley Mens Shed. Anita was not someone you messed with, but she was one of the warmest and kindest people I have ever met.

If you drove down Maple Street early in the morning, you would see Glenn Howard sitting outside the bakery or the Maleny Food Co., enjoying a coffee and chatting to locals. In fact, he 'requested' I join him as regularly as I could and I did. I will miss you, mate.

Finally, Kay Herron: Kay and her husband, Joe, dairy farmers from Conondale, were two of the first people I met in that beautiful community in the lead-up to the 2009 election. Kay was much loved by all. Tragically, and many would have read about this in recent media reports, a farming accident took Kay far too early. My thoughts and prayers are with Joe and the family.

Logan City, Hooning



Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (9.12 pm): Every week many residents from across Logan City report hearing screeching tyres and seeing cars tearing through residential streets and feel the frustration of knowing that this kind of reckless behaviour can put lives at risk. That is also happening in the seat of Alger. It is dangerous, it is disruptive and, frankly, our community has had enough of hooning. That is why, under the former Miles Labor government, we had a clear plan to back our police and our community with the technology needed to tackle hooning head-on and help make our streets safer. We committed \$1 million for high-tech cameras that would have linked Logan City Council's CCTV network directly with the Queensland Police Service. That announcement was about giving the police the tools they need to identify and stop dangerous hoons faster and more effectively across our city.

However, what has the new LNP government done? They have turned their backs on the people of Logan and abandoned that important initiative. Instead, they have directed funds to the seat of Hinchinbrook, 1,500 kilometres away from my community and, coincidentally, where a by-election that they are hoping to win will be held. It is a slap in the face to the people of Logan and Alger who have been crying out for action and who deserve to feel safe in their own neighbourhoods. Once again, the LNP is showing us exactly where their priorities are: not with the people of Logan or with their safety, but with political pointscoring.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Order, members! We will hear this in silence, please.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Our message is simple: Logan deserves its fair share. Our residents deserve safer streets and our police deserve the tools to do their job more effectively. Earlier this year, Kaylene from Regents Park, where I live, contacted my office and said—

Yet again we have been woken up by some idiot who thinks that it is cool to set up their car to loudly backfire like a machine gun and drive the streets of Regents Park around midnight and early hours of the morning.

Kaylene added—

Residents are calling the police and posting photos ... on our local groups out of sheer frustration about the hooning. We have put reports into the hoon hotline but without seeing them actually do it and providing a rego the police won't do anything.

That is why Logan MPs have launched a parliamentary petition—

Mr de BRENNI: I rise to a point of order, Deputy Speaker. Just a moment ago you drew the House to order. I draw your attention to standing order 251 which sets out the very particular reasons other members may make a noise when a member is on their feet speaking.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand that.

Mr de BRENNI: The member is not being provocative in her—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I have quiet, please. I am aware of that standing order.

Mr de BRENNI: I acknowledge that the clock has been stopped, but I would like the opportunity for the member to complete her speech in silence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have taken the point of order. Resume your seat, thank you. Member, you have 37 seconds left. We will hear the member in in silence, please.

Ms ENOCH: That is why Logan MPs have launched a parliamentary petition calling on the Crisafulli LNP government to fund this \$1 million commitment. I am not surprised that almost 2,000 residents have already signed the petition and added their voice to this issue.

This is not about politics; it is about community safety for residents in Logan. It is about every child riding their bike on a local street, every parent driving home late from work safely and every residents who just wants peace of mind and an uninterrupted night sleep. I say to the government: please stop ignoring the Logan community; do the right thing, provide this funding and show that you take community safety seriously.

Queensland Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.16 pm): I rise to celebrate the unsung architects of Queensland's progress—our surveyors. From the flood-resilient subdivisions of Kirwan to the precise cadastral work expanding our ports, when surveyors stop everything stops. Roads do not connect, buildings do not stand and communities do not thrive.

Australia's own Torrens title system, recognised globally as best practice for its simplicity, security and efficiency in land registration, relies entirely on the skill, integrity and innovation of this profession. It is a system born from South Australian roots, but perfected through the daily dedication of Queensland surveyors, ensuring every boundary is defensible and every title indisputable.

On Saturday night, I was honoured to join Surveyors Australia CEO Michelle Blicavs and President Craig Turner at Customs House here in Brisbane for the inaugural Queensland Excellence in Surveying & Spatial Information Awards. It was a profound honour to have the opportunity to speak and present awards at the inaugural Queensland excellence awards night. These occasions remind us that behind every great advancement in our state lies the quiet precision of those who map our future.

I thank Surveyors Australia for recognising our Queensland surveyors and for the honour of bringing the awards to our state. It was a great night of celebration. There was a room full of proud individuals and industry businesses. Congratulations to every winner on the evening, but I would like to acknowledge the individual awards. They were: Vocational Student of the Year, Haidyn Todd; University Student of the Year, Luke Cimpa; Young Professional Surveyor of the Year, Patrick Metcalfe; and Professional Surveyor of the Year, Nima Karkhaneh.

In 2025, as the LNP government's \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund unlocks 158,000 new homes, surveyors are at the forefront measuring not just land but progress. Sustainable, inclusive, climate resilient progress has an important role in the economy of our state.

To every surveyor in this great state, from cities to mines to coasts, your unseen efforts fuel our state's engine and plot our path ahead. To Surveyors Australia: thank you for your advocacy. To every surveyor plotting our path ahead, thank you. Without surveyors progress halts.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Cost of Living

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.18 pm): One year on from the election and all we see is the same old stale, shifty, slippery LNP, and today was a day just like so many before it—extraordinary: a senior LNP minister found by the Supreme Court to have acted unlawfully and the government gagging

the voices of the north, just to further their own extreme political ideology. Gagging the voices of the members in this place is not a new tactic. It has become essential for the LNP to stay on the same page, to enforce the mantra to act normal. The LNP, using this parliament as their political plaything, is something we have seen since its very first day on the government benches, and it tells you all you need to know about this government. They are more interested in politics than in governing.

While the LNP may feel like the winner under this model of suppression and control, the losers are Queenslanders. They are living with the fallout every day that ticks over. When the LNP are more interested in power plays, we see power prices jump by more than 20 per cent. I know every single member of my community feels every cent of that increase. The Premier promised power bill relief would continue, but after the votes were cast, the deception was unveiled.

When the LNP are furnishing their mates and donors with cushy taxpayer positions, rents are skyrocketing in my community and more tents are popping up in our local parks. We have seen an 11 per cent increase on the social housing register in the last three months alone, all this while the LNP is more concerned with setting their donors up with six-figure salaries. Rents continue to rise, consuming every available cent in families' budgets.

While the LNP are splashing cash on changing the state's colours from maroon to blue, the sickening increases at the fuel bowsers and supermarket registers remain unheard and unaddressed by this government. They are happy to spend hard-earned taxes, but not on the things that will meaningfully benefit the lives of hardworking taxpayers. Food and fuel prices are through the roof. What do we hear from this government to address it? Not a thing. More food hampers in my community are going out week on week to those Queenslanders who are feeling the cost-of-living pressures every single day.

There is no big thinking or tackling the challenges that face our state from those opposite. The LNP only focus on vanity, surface-level politics—too weak, too polarised and too backward to demonstrate any kind of leadership. They are not focused on the things that matter. One year of failure down, only three to go with no improvements in sight.

Men's Mental Health



Mr HUTTON (Keppel—LNP) (9.21 pm): 'She'll be right, mate.' 'Keep calm and carry on.' 'Mei shi.' 'Hakuna matata.' These terms, taken from cultures throughout the world, tell us to have a quiet confidence that things will sort themselves out, that it is okay, that sometimes it cannot be helped, not to worry, and to trust that everything will work out in the end. These sayings offer an appreciation that some things in life are beyond our control. Perhaps they ease the burden upon our collective shoulders just a little, maybe they provide some solace, yet the most important part of each and every one of these phrases is what comes next. 'She'll be right, mate. I'll come over this arvo and let's have a look at the engine together.' 'Keep calm. We'll try another way and sort it out.'

'We'll', 'let's', 'together'—words for collectivism, for shared action, for being and doing together what apart we cannot resolve or maybe just for today cannot handle.

Across Australia, a silent epidemic is leaving farms untended, families broken and parents distraught beyond grief. The rate of suicide for males is tragically high. This silent killer festers in loneliness, in isolation and in separation from family and friends. It thrives on problems that we face and sometimes we cannot solve alone.

Depending on your geography, October is host to Mental Health Week, Mental Health and Wellbeing Month and a myriad of incredibly important days which raise the cause of Australians' mental health.

Tonight I wish to acknowledge the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our men and give thanks who reach out, those who check, 'Are you okay?' and those who stand up and are present. Next month, men across Australia, myself included, will be growing distinguished and furry trails across their upper lips, to give a face to the cause of men's health, raising awareness of the challenges some in our communities face.

Those furry creatures can also be a conversation starter, yet statistically we will lose another 200 men—some six a day with an average age of 45—before the end of November. When it comes to mental health, 'she'll be right, mate' does not work, unless the next sentence represents Queenslanders stepping up and looking out for their mates. It does not work unless Queenslanders are giving a friend a helping hand—Queenslanders helping to change the face of men's mental health in our communities.

Maiwar Electorate, Severe Weather



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (9.25 pm): This Sunday just gone was far from a regular Sunday around Maiwar, all of the western suburbs and much of the south-east corner. The member for Moggill and, no doubt, the member for Springwood and plenty of others would have seen extraordinary scenes in their electorates. We had seven-centimetre hailstones bucketing down in St Lucia, and yet I thought to myself, 'These clowns want to open a new coalmine.'

We had tens of thousands of homes without power, but they want to open a new coalmine. We had kids missing their year 12 exams because schools could not open without power, but they want to open another coalmine. We had a 39-degree day the next day—the hottest October day since 1957—and the elderly residents of my electorate were without power and without air conditioning, but these guys want to open a new coalmine and start a new gas project. It is not just them. They might be holding the reins at the moment—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member, please address your remarks through the chair and not across the floor.

Mr BERKMAN: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. It might be them who hold the reins at the moment, but let us be clear: neither major party here in Queensland has ever seen a coal or gas project they did not want to approve, irrespective of how clearly we understand the impacts of climate change to be and how real they are in our communities right now.

Labor at the federal level, no less, are refusing to include any kind of climate trigger in their environmental law reviews. The federal environment minister's first order of business was to approve the north-west gas project until 2070! It is mind-boggling. The science has been so clear for so many years that, yes, there will be more destructive hailstones and more destructive storms along Australia's east coast. It is crystal clear that heatwaves, like the one we had yesterday, will be more intense. They will continue to be more intense in Queensland.

I am not here to dwell on that, though. To be perfectly honest, I think most Queenslanders understand that our politicians have been bought and sold by the fossil fuel industry for decades. It is important to recognise that we still have Energex out there—they are in the bucketing rain right now still trying to reconnect power—and it is all for the benefit of the fossil fuel CEOs, who are getting richer.

Did anyone else in here try to put their six-year-old to bed last night at nine o'clock in 30-degree heat without power? When I left my house this morning, my neighbours were having a tree pulled off their roof. This is real. It is happening. I am calling on the government to activate disaster recovery support for Brisbane areas hit hardest by Sunday's hailstorm and the subsequent power outages. There will be more hailstorms, more heatwaves and more bushfires.

(Time expired)

Pizzey Park, Pickleball



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.28 pm): I am bringing it home, Mr Deputy Speaker! It disappoints me to report to the House a woeful outcome for a local sporting group in my Mermaid Beach electorate that has led to major disruption to that sporting group, forcing them to find a new home. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia and even throughout the world. I have a large group of pickleballers—some 200 members—and many others playing independently who have called Pizzey Park home for the last 10 years, playing as tenants on the Miami seniors tennis courts. Pickleball is like mini tennis played with a small bat and soft plastic ball and is enjoyed primarily by many seniors as their healthy exercise and gregarious social interaction. I note that the member for Surfers Paradise's wife is a pickleballer, as is my wife too.

Someone who lives probably 30 metres from the courts complained about the noise of the bats hitting the balls to the Gold Coast City council, who rejected her complaint. That led to her engaging the local government ombudsman. The ombudsman sent a department of environment compliance officer to the woman's house, which is on a very busy suburban street, and he registered a noise level of 48 decibels. To put that into perspective, a lawnmower registers 68 decibels. The council then wrote to the club and said, 'Pickleball must cease at the venue.' What rubbish! It means that 200 or 300 pickleballers have been forced to find a new home because of one selfish complaint. What in the world is sanity coming to!

There is incredible demand on the Gold Coast for sporting facilities because of the mass migration to the Goldie from down south, so finding new premises for the pickleballers is no easy task. The council has given them a stay of execution for 12 weeks, but it seems ridiculous to me that major

council expenditure will be incurred because of one unreasonable complaint. I have Rugby League, soccer and AFL all looking for more grounds to cater for rapid growth in juniors, so, again, finding new pickleball courts will be no easy task.

It is an active sport enjoyed by seniors, and the local councillor Nick Marshall is doing a good job finding a new home on their behalf. The question is: why the department of environment officer finds a 48-decibel reading in daylight hours unacceptable to a person's livability? I wonder what the decibel reading would be from the cars on the busy road fronting the woman's unit.

I do hope the Gold Coast City council can find and fund new facilities for the pickleballers ASAP, perhaps in another part of the huge sporting area that is Pizzey Park, as this is an important sporting group of seniors who enjoy enormous goodwill throughout my community.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, 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