



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 30 October 2025

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## THURSDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### PRIVILEGE

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 June 2025, the member for Waterford wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training deliberately misled the House on 21 May 2025. I consider this matter to be trivial in nature. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training and member for Mudgeeraba.

I have circulated a ruling. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

Honourable members,

On 16 June 2025, the member for Waterford wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training deliberately misled the House on 21 May 2025.

The matter relates to statements made during debate on a motion.

Specifically, the minister stated:

*'Those opposite cannot hide from the fact that they took 10 years to make the referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which resulted in the report Sentencing of sexual assault and rape: the ripple effect. I repeat: it took them 10 years to make the referral. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government.'*

...

*It took 10 years to make a referral. I am proud to be part of the Crisafulli LNP government that has gotten straight to work on this issue despite being at the helm of government for only six months. We certainly did not wait 10 years. The former government was there for 10 years.'*

...

*'They have been waiting nearly 10 years, but they were in government for 10 years. Nearly 10 years it took them, but they were there for 10 years.'*

The member argued that these statements were misleading because the time taken from when the former government was elected to when a referral was made was 8 years, 3 months and 4 days. The time the former government was in office was 9 years, 8 months and 15 days.

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

The minister argued that it was commonplace to refer to the former government as being in office for 10 years. She supplied an instance in Hansard where the current government was referred to as being in opposition for 10 years by the Leader of the Opposition.

The minister also stated that she corrected herself in the closing remarks of her speech to say 'nearly 10 years' with respect to the former government making a referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council.

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

The Minister has clearly used puffery and political exaggeration when stating it had taken 10 years for the former government to make a referral to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, as well as referring to the period the opposition were in government as being 10 years. Whether it was 8 or 9 years, it is common in everyday language to round up to the nearest decade.

I find that this matter is very clearly trivial in nature.

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

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 June 2025, the member for Bulimba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House on 11 June 2025. I consider this matter to be trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services and member for Currumbin.

I have circulated a ruling. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

Honourable members,

On 16 June 2025, the member for Bulimba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House on 11 June 2025.

The matter relates to an answer to a Question without Notice.

Specifically, the minister stated:

*'I will say to the member for Bulimba in response to the question she has just raised that she has had a fulsome answer from me to the question on notice.'*

...

*I have already answered this in a question on notice. I provided a fulsome answer to the member for Bulimba, which they are well aware of.*

...

*The member for Bulimba already has the answer to this question.'*

The member argued that this answer was deliberately misleading because the question she asked was not the same as the Question on Notice. The member stated she was referring to whole-of-portfolio meetings, rather than just meetings with the Expert Legal Panel.

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

The minister argued that she interpreted the question to mean meetings of the Expert Legal Panel and insists that she had answered the question appropriately.

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

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

In this matter, the member and the Minister have interpreted the question differently. The Minister answered the question in the way she saw fit and the member felt the question went unanswered.

I consider this matter to be trivial in nature and would have been better dealt with at the time, rather than raised as a matter of privilege. I note that there was ample time remaining for follow-up questions to the minister, both on that specific day and for the remainder of the sitting week.

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

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in a letter dated 17 September 2025 and received on 18 September 2025, the member for Burnett wrote to me alleging that the member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 28 August 2025. The matter relates to a statement made during private members' statements regarding an election commitment by the opposition to fund a new fire station in Bundaberg. I consider that the member for Bundaberg has made an adequate explanation with respect to this allegation. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Bundaberg.

I have circulated a ruling. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

Honourable members,

In a letter dated 17 September 2025 and received on 18 September 2025, the member for Burnett wrote to me alleging that the member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 28 August 2025.

The matter relates to a statement made during Private Members' Statements.

Specifically, the member for Bundaberg stated:

*'For the benefit of the minister, in the previous financial year \$2 million was allocated to secure the preferred location. The land was purchased but due to the contractual arrangement with the business that was then on that site that business was able to finish their lease before construction started, which would have meant money in this financial year. That is why there was an \$11.5 million commitment in the election commitments last year.'*

The member for Burnett argues that this statement is misleading, because the public record shows only a \$2 million land acquisition and no construction commitment. He also noted there was no mention of an \$11.5 million election commitment by the former government and the Commissioner of the Fire Department also confirmed there had been no funding allocated to the second fire station.

I sought further information from the member for Bundaberg about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member for Bundaberg provided an excerpt from the Queensland Labor Election Costings Financial Statement which shows a commitment of \$11.5m in the 2026-27 financial year for a new Bundaberg fire station.

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

Based on the information provided by the member for Bundaberg, I consider that he has made an adequate explanation.

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

#### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament



**Mr SPEAKER:** On 18 September 2025, the Leader of the House wrote to me alleging the member for Miller reflected on the chair in a Facebook post on that same day. The post in question said—

The Crisafulli government just gagged me in Parliament from speaking on a health bill to prevent debate—back to the bad old days of Newman.

I believe it is arguable that the post is reflecting on a decision of the government, rather than a decision of the chair. As such, I consider the member has made an adequate explanation and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Miller.

I have circulated a ruling. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

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

Honourable members,

On 18 September 2025, the Leader of the House wrote to me alleging that the member for Miller reflected on the Chair in a Facebook post on that same day.

Specifically, the member for Miller stated in the post:

*'The Crisafulli Government just gagged me in Parliament from speaking on a health bill to prevent debate—back to the bad old days of Newman.'*

The Leader of the House argues that this statement is a reflection on the Deputy Chair because the member for Miller was repeatedly raising matters that were not relevant to the *Health Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025* and was eventually sat down by the Deputy Chair, ceasing the member for Miller's contribution.

I sought further information from the member for Miller about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The member for Miller provided an excerpt of the Record of Proceedings that showed that after he had been asked to cease his contribution by the Deputy Speaker, the member for Morayfield moved a motion that the member for Miller be further heard. That motion was resolved in the negative with the government party members voting 46 to the opposition's 31.

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

I reviewed both the social media post and the Record of Proceedings and am of the belief that it is arguable the member for Miller was reflecting on the decision of the government to vote down the motion that he be further heard, rather than reflecting on any earlier decisions of the Deputy Speaker.

Accordingly, I consider the member has made an adequate explanation and I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament



**Mr SPEAKER:** On 22 September 2025, the Leader of the House wrote to me alerting me to a social media post by the Leader of the Opposition from 21 September 2025. There were two valid procedural issues with this complaint. Firstly, the matter was raised by the Leader of the House on behalf of another member. As per my ruling on 27 August 2025, complaints should be made by the member who believes their rights or privileges have been interfered with. Secondly, the complaint did not have sufficient particulars as required by standing order 269.

Nonetheless, I did write to the Leader of the Opposition concerning this matter. The social media post was a combination of commentary from the Leader of the Opposition with footage from the broadcast of proceedings. My concern was that the commentary appeared at odds with what actually happened. The Leader of the Opposition did not think that the post breached the guidelines nor misrepresented the record, but, out of respect, removed the post in question as soon as I asked him to consider doing so. I encourage other members to follow this behaviour. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt of Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba.

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 October 2025, the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Volunteers wrote to me alleging that the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood deliberately misled the House on 15 October 2025. The matter relates to statements made by the Manager of Opposition Business during matters of public interest regarding fire appliances at the Mount Cotton Fire and Rescue Station. I note that the Manager of Opposition Business apologised to the House on 28 October 2025, and this is recorded at page 3276 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Springwood.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitors to Public Gallery



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Wynnum State High School in the electorate of Lytton and Islamic College of Brisbane in the electorate of Stretton.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### McArdle, Mr MF



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): I move—

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

Mark Francis McArdle was born in Brisbane on 21 December 1956. He went to school on the north side of Brisbane, at St Paschal's in Wavell Heights, St Kevin's School in Geebung and St Columban's Christian College in Albion. After leaving school, Mark entered the Public Service, working in the Public Curator of Queensland. Determined to further his career, Mark went to night school and that led him to study law. After graduating, Mark was appointed as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1984, and as a solicitor of the High Court of Australia in 1989. He became a highly respected figure within the legal fraternity and, I understand, a fierce opponent to be up against in any case.

Having settled on the Sunshine Coast, Mark also became involved with the Liberal Party in the area. He was preselected by the party as its candidate for the state seat of Caloundra, following Joan Sheldon's decision to retire. At the state election on 7 February 2004, Mark successfully retained the seat of Caloundra for the Liberal Party. That began a parliamentary career that would last over 16 years until his retirement at the state election of October 2020.

During his time in the parliament, Mark served in many roles. He held several shadow ministries: attorney-general, justice, health and fair trading. He served on numerous parliamentary committees. Within the Liberal Party, Mark served as the party's whip from 2004 to 2005 and, in August 2006, he was elected as the party's deputy leader. In December 2007, Mark was elected as Leader of the Liberal Party, and he went on to play a crucial role in the merger of the Liberal and National parties here in Queensland in 2008. Many observe that the merger would never have happened without Mark's bravery.

At that point, Mark became the first deputy leader of the parliamentary LNP, also serving as deputy leader of the opposition until just after the state election in March 2009. Between 2012 and 2015 Mark was the minister for energy and water supply. During this time, he developed a plan to secure Queensland's water supply and a plan to ensure we had a more resilient and cost-effective energy system. As I said at the time of Mark's passing, I witnessed how much ministerial responsibility meant to him. Mark was always well prepared—always—and he made each decision on the basis of what he felt was right for Queensland, free from political consequences.

Mark bravely fought prostate cancer after receiving the diagnosis in 2013, returning to his ministerial duties after successfully battling the disease. He deserves much credit for publicly talking about this battle and for raising awareness within the community for men to get checked and get the help they need.

Mark McArdle was an unassuming, modest, no-fuss, humble man who had a positive effect on shaping the Sunshine Coast and Queensland as a whole. In his retirement speech in this place, Mark said that he enjoyed every minute of his time here and, to quote him, 'the bloodletting, and the good times as well—because this is a House of robust debate'. Mark Francis McArdle passed away on 14 August 2025 aged 68 years. On behalf of the government, I place on the record our thanks for Mark's service over many years. I extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mark's wife, Judy; his sister, Jennifer; his family; and all his friends. Vale Mark McArdle.



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier. On behalf of my Labor team, I extend our condolences on the passing of former member for Caloundra Mark McArdle. Mark was a decent man, a straight shooter who was not averse to a robust exchange of ideas, someone who weighed the evidence and made rational decisions based on the weight and credibility of the arguments and someone you could engage in debate with but at the end of the day still sit down and have a drink with. While Mark McArdle was the minister for energy and water in the Newman government, he was also the leader of the Liberal Party at a pivotal time for conservative politics. Mark was the leader of the Liberals at the time of the party's historic merger with the National Party.

I imagine those were challenging times in different ways for Mark, but, as I said earlier, his good nature and natural sense of decency never seemed to desert him, regardless of the events unfolding around him. I know from my own experience that he was a strong advocate for health care, particularly men's health. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife, Judy, and the rest of his family, including his sister, Jennifer, who I understand joins us today. He is missed by all and respected on both sides of this chamber, a chamber he graced with his trademark decency and good nature. Vale Mark McArdle.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.42 am): I pay tribute to a good friend and my mentor from when I first joined the Liberal Party—the Young Liberals—in 1999. Mark was a champion of the cause on the Sunshine Coast in the Liberal days before our merger, in which he played a pivotal role, as the honourable Premier said. I was honoured to attend Mark's funeral and represent the Premier and the government and catch up with Judy and the rest of the family and to pay tribute to an exceptional individual who not only was a friend and mentor of mine but also was a neighbouring member of parliament.

When I first joined the Young Liberals in 1999, I was trying to work out whether I was a young progressive moderate or a more sensible conservative in the Liberal Party. Mark always gave the advice that it did not matter what side of the fence I was on—although I did decide within a matter of minutes which side I was on more—because we were a broad church.

I served on Joan Sheldon's campaign committee before Mark. I served on Bruce Laming's campaign committee as a Young Liberal. Then I had the honour of serving on Mark's first campaign. In fact, my wife, Sally, and I had only been married a couple of years when Mark and Judy came to see us. They had coffee in our home in Caloundra. Mark was the FDC chairman at the time, and he expressed an interest in running for Caloundra. As I said to the guests honouring Mark at the funeral, when Mark and Judy came to see me I was the chair of the Caloundra branch at the time and, obviously, would be a big supporter of Mark if he decided to run. Mark came to see me with Judy, and we had coffee. He told me he intended to run for Caloundra. I was talking to Mark about this later, after reflecting on that time, and I said that it was very decent of him to come and see me first to tell me that he was going to run for Caloundra. More importantly—and Mark did confirm this—he was making sure I did not put my hand up to run for Caloundra at the time! I absolutely backed Mark when he ran, just as he backed me when I decided to run and was preselected in Kawana at 26 years of age.

I give a shout-out to Judy, Mark's wife. When I was preselected at the age of 26, Sally, my wife, was only 24 years of age. We were young going into politics, particularly Sally. We had been together since she was 15 years of age and she had grown up with politics, being a member of the Young Liberals with me since 1999. Judy was a strength, support and comfort for Sally when she needed it when I was first elected at 27 years of age. I recall we went to Mark and Judy's home a number of times. Mark and Judy would always open their home to Sally and me for advice and comfort.

He was always on his treadmill on a Saturday or Sunday morning. I have a view in politics that the gentlemen in the room ought cover their legs most of the time. Rarely should we see politicians' legs in public. Mark had a completely different view. Mark would go to campaign meetings, would talk to his community, would do his mobile offices and would be on his treadmill on the weekends with his bright white legs out on show.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am not taking that interjection. We would not have the Sunshine Coast University Hospital if it were not for Mark's advocacy. He was in the same group as me—the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Action Group. The honourable member for Caloundra will speak about the investment in the roads in Caloundra shortly. Mark and I stood on the side of that road for many years, and Mark came up with the description that Caloundra Road was the biggest car park in Queensland. We want to make sure we fix those roads and bust congestion in Caloundra. That is Mark's legacy.

He was such a humble individual. I mentioned to Judy that after we do all of this amazing work on the roads in Caloundra we could name it 'McArdle Motorway', but she said that he would not have liked that. He did his job. He loved the community. He loved Caloundra. The Caloundra we see today is because of Mark's legacy and the amazing number of years he was the member for Caloundra.

I had the honour of serving with him in cabinet as well. The Premier said that he enjoyed everything. He did have the energy portfolio as well, Premier. I am not sure if that was as enjoyable as he had anticipated, because it is a tough portfolio. You are doing well, Janetzk. It did not matter if it was the people of Caloundra or the people of Queensland in his ministry, Mark always put people first. That is what I remember about Mark, and that is his legacy.

Finally, condolence motions are a good time to tell stories. We had big fights in the Liberal Party back then. I was on Mark's side when we were trying to get rid of a federal member we had on the Sunshine Coast. It was a slippery slope, I might say, with that particular individual. We had a huge campaign against us and we were dubbed the 'Caloundra Ferals'. I was proud to be one of the Caloundra Ferals at the time when all of the Liberal Party members down there were trying to change a federal member. We did not succeed. He ran off and did his own thing anyway.

We had many meetings in Mark's home at Golden Beach. Judy and Mark dubbed it 'The Bunker', and that was our HQ. That is where we would plot about the party and do all the things we did. I will not tell the House the rest of it—that will stay between Mark and me. Others will have lots of stories to tell.

I pay tribute to Mark. What an incredible journey he had in public life. What an incredible support and mentor he was for me. I will always remember his frankness, friendship and mentorship and, on behalf of Sally, our friendship with Judy over the many years and the support she gave to my wife and to me. Vale Mark McArdle.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.48 am): I just wanted to add a few words to this motion. Unfortunately, I never got to know Mark outside the context of parliament, which is a great sadness and a loss. I had the great pleasure of working with Mark on the health committee and on the Ethics Committee. In fact, we served an entire term on the Ethics Committee along with a really stable team of the members for Nudgee, Pine Rivers, Clayfield and Mermaid Beach. Queensland and his community have lost a true gentleman and a leader. Mark always debated hard, but he did it with dignity and respect. In the health committee, he was always open to discussing any and all policy ideas. I always had a sense that he had a genuine curiosity and drive to find the best policy outcomes.

As a relatively new member when we were on the health committee, he encouraged and supported me even though we were on different sides of the political fence. I always felt that he knew that this was a hard place but it was a better place if we had good people here who were supported.

Mark would often continue the policy discussions after the close of an official hearing. Our committee travelled quite frequently and these conversations often occurred in airport lounges, buses and at dinner—usually with him with a red wine and me with a beer. I never had a sense that he was attempting to score a point but he was genuinely exploring policy ideas and issues. He continued these discussions in the corridors whenever he had a chance. Perhaps it was that that led me to support one of his amendments and cross the floor, which is not an easy thing for a Labor member to do.

I always felt that he was a man who opted for conciliation rather than total victory. I suspect this played a part in his role in creating the LNP from two very different parties. I certainly saw his ability to bring people closer together in the Ethics Committee. He had an easy laugh, a sense of humour and a nonstop politeness and he treated people with respect and dignity. He used all of this to calm debates and put them back on track.

It may not surprise the House to learn that at times we had robust debates in the Ethics Committee. You may not be surprised to learn that sometimes, particularly the member for Pine Rivers and the member for Mermaid Beach, did not always see eye to eye and, without breaching confidence, on odd occasions inside voices were not used. In amongst the fray, a polite, quiet, reasoned voice would often bring us back together and bring us back to the point of a reasonable debate.

Finally, we dealt with many big issues in the health committee. Mark was always looking for the best policy outcomes for Queensland but he always couched every issue in terms of what it meant for his community. He was first and foremost always a great local member. Condolences to the family. Vale, Mark McArdle.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.51 am): I rise today on behalf of the people of Caloundra to express our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family of the Hon. Mark McArdle, the former member for Caloundra, on his passing. I thank the Deputy Premier for his words regarding Mark McArdle. It is an interesting dynamic to come into the Liberal National Party. I joined eight, nine or 10 years ago and I love hearing the stories from back then. In the same way that I have always been very grateful to be on the same team as Mark McArdle, I think we can attribute some of those early years to the Deputy Premier, so I have the same thought in this chamber that I am so glad that I am on the same side as the Deputy Premier.

I acknowledge Mark's distinguished service to the people of Queensland, honour his leadership and community commitment, and recognise the legacy he leaves behind for his beloved Caloundra region, his colleagues and the state of Queensland. Mark served the people of Caloundra with unwavering dedication for 16 years from 2004 until his retirement in 2020. During that time he held

ministerial responsibility as the Minister for Energy and Water Supply from 2012 to 2015 where he led work to secure Queensland's water supply and strengthen the state's energy system. Prior to that, he guided the Liberal Party as leader and played a pivotal role in the formation of the Liberal National Party in Queensland. It is a bold and defining moment in our state's political history.

What set Mark apart was not merely his positional leadership but his unwavering commitment to community, his quiet dignity and his genuine humility. He remained rooted in Caloundra and deeply connected to the people—always accessible, always prepared, always respectful. As our Premier rightly noted, Queensland is poorer for the passing of Mark McArdle. He loved his Caloundra community and his deep connections remained right up until his passing.

I first wrote to Mark as a constituent taking a position on payroll tax. I was very angry. Mark promptly requested a meeting, and I attended that meeting in the same office I am honoured to serve in today. He was already a legend in our community. At the conclusion of this meeting and upon discovering I was a proud LNP member, he swiftly added me to his policy committee which started for me a great and deep passion for state political issues.

He guided me through politics 101 and was most displeased when I decided not to run for preselection for the 2020 Queensland state election because, like always, he had a plan and a vision. Mark was a talented politician and one of the most captivating speakers I had the opportunity to listen to frequently. He always took people on the journey with him and had an ability to move people through his words. He led our local branch with gusto and never shied away from a fierce debate—which he normally won.

Right up until the 2024 state election Mark remained the patron of many of our community groups as he was just so loved by many. During doorknocking in the 2024 campaign I lost count of the number of people who mentioned Mark, knew Mark and considered Mark and Judy friends—a sign of a well-connected and great local member.

I was lucky enough to have Mark run my own tally room on the night of the election. It is a life experience like no other, particularly in a marginal seat. To have him there controlling the numbers and the information, a steady hand guiding the ship—telling me not to have any more wine and not politely either, for the record—was a memory I will be forever grateful for.

Mark was dedicated to process. He hand wrote personal thankyou notes to everyone he met with, and many of us in this chamber would have those notes from across the years. He had long-term supporters who were his best friends, and together they supported the LNP political movement in Caloundra across two decades.

In parliament and in public life he embodied the values of service. He was both a vigorous advocate for the Sunshine Coast region and collaborated with colleagues across the aisle, earning respect well beyond partisan confines. His courage too remains noteworthy, publicly sharing his prostate cancer diagnosis in 2013, taking leave for treatment and continuing to champion men's health causes.

To Judy, Marks wife, your relationship was something that we all watched and we all loved. He absolutely adored you, and together you managed to rule Caloundra and show us what love looks like and how you still have a life outside of this room.

To his extended family, his brother and sister: to listen to your words at Mark's funeral was truly inspirational and it is a sibling relationship that has stood the test of all of the life experiences you have had. Your loss is shared by many. Mark has left a significant mark on this state and the lives he touched. In giving so much of himself to his community he enriched the lives of so many others. It is such a significant loss because it was just way too young.

For the people of Caloundra and for all Queenslanders his legacy lives on in the policies he helped shape, the infrastructure he supported, the spirit of service he modelled and the relationships he nurtured. Mark's voice may have been stilled but his example remains alive in our civic life. As we honour his memory today we can all recommit ourselves to serving our communities with the same dedication he displayed. Vale, Mark McArdle.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (9.58 am): Mark McArdle was a true parliamentarian, a gentleman and a fighter—I think it has to be acknowledged a very good fighter—and a decent person, as a range of people have said today. I acknowledge his substantial role in the amalgamation of the Liberal and National parties—something that cannot be underestimated, as I think it was clear to everybody it was a very difficult process. For somebody to play a key role in that should be

acknowledged from everybody here. The fact that there are a whole range of speakers from the opposition as well as the government shows just how much respect Mark had in this place.

There are a few other things I would say about Mark. I succeeded him as the minister for energy and water supply. I never, ever heard any static about him around the ridges. There was nothing but respect for him as an honourable minister in the Newman government at the time. I think that should be said. He was a man of integrity.

I used to run into Mark before parliament on sitting days when he used to go for morning walks et cetera. I distinctly remember a speech he gave in the House speaking about prostate cancer. He was quite emotional, and I remember the member for McConnel and I interjected our support for him during that speech. He obviously had a long battle with it. The next morning he came over and said to the member for McConnel and me, 'Thank you for your support during my speech.' That is a man who was very human, very connected with people and who fights for what he believes in, but it just shows how big a man he was.

I offer my condolences to his wife Judy and his family. I was deeply saddened to hear that he was only 68. He deserved a lot longer on this earth than he got, but he did make a substantial contribution in this place. He had a very good career. We never defeated him in Caloundra. We got close towards the end, to be fair, in a seat where development has probably gone against the conservative parties over time, but he was very hard to dislodge as he was so well-respected in that community. I wanted to place my thoughts on the record. Vale, Mark McArdle.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.00 am): I rise to make a contribution to the condolence motion for my friend Mark McArdle. As many have said, the first thing I want to acknowledge is the incredible role he played in establishing the Liberal National Party. I was not as conflicted as my good friend the member for Kawana and other gentlemen of the Liberal Party. For me it was a lot broader than that as a member of the National Party. There was not a lot in the National Party framework I disagreed with, but there was a lot within the Liberal Party platform that I did agree with, so the merging of the parties gave me the opportunity to represent all of the best values of our merged party. It would not have happened without two gentlemen, Lawrence Springborg and Mark McArdle, and it is worth, as others have, putting that on the record.

Mark was at my preselection in 2008. It was a preselection that also included the seat of Kawana. My colleague the member for Kawana was preselected on that same day. Although both of us have different memories of the day, I suspect his preselection was a little bit easier than mine. Like the member for Kawana, Judy McArdle did come up to me afterwards and say, 'Politics is tough, particularly for young family men. Please put me in touch with your wife Taryn. I look forward to working with her and giving her guidance as you navigate this path.' Mark was there all the way through that 2009 election assisting me, and we became partners in crime in representing the Sunshine Coast hinterland for the 11 years we had the honour of serving in this House together.

We would be at the Maleny show. We worked together as a tag team presenting at Beerwah State High School awards nights and then Glasshouse Christian College awards night given that, whilst they were in the seat of Caloundra, students from both of our electorates attended them.

I will never forget the 2017 redistribution. The community of Mooloolah Valley went from the seat of Caloundra into the seat of Glass House, and Mark did a fantastic job introducing me to the community. As others have said, he just had a way with constituents. There was a particular demographic within Mooloolah Valley—let's label it female, over 55—that just adored Mark. Even eight years later I still do not think I have convinced them that I am worthy of the reputation Mark had. I am trying, Mark; I really am.

He also, as the member for Caloundra pointed out in detail, played a significant role in seeing that seat returned to the LNP at the last election. His knowledge, his ability, his calmness and his guidance I know were well-appreciated by the member for Caloundra. He was a gentleman but he also had this quirky, cheeky sense of humour that came through every now and again. He was my friend, he was my colleague, he was my mentor. To Judy and the family I offer my sincerest sympathies.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.03 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for the former member for Caloundra. I found him to be a genuinely lovely colleague for the term that we shared together. I echo the Premier's sentiments about his character. I also found Mark to be a very kind and thoughtful colleague and member of this place. I have a couple of unremarkable memories about Mark that I wanted to share, not because they were any particularly great moment in either of our lives, but because I think they really speak to his character as a member of parliament and a human being.

I remember standing in line at Strangers coffee shop late in my first term. Members might recall that I was very heavily pregnant with my daughter Elyse. Mark was standing there beside me. He got quite misty-eyed as he was looking at me. He asked me how I was feeling and how I was getting on in what was my very late pregnancy. I was probably seven or eight months along by then. We chatted amiably for a while and then he asked me if it was my first. I was quite amused by that because I had a 10-year-old and 12-year-old at home, and I realised how little your colleagues sometimes know about our personal life in this place. He was so kind and thoughtful in taking a moment just to check in on my wellbeing. That is a memory that, while it is unremarkable, always stayed with me because of his kindness in taking a moment to check in with a colleague who was probably a little bit under the weather at that moment. I was very tickled pink that he thought it was my first baby.

The second occasion was after he retired. I was doing some postpartum shopping to get some new clothes because my old ones did not fit. I was so tired that I do not remember whether on this day I had Elyse with me, but I remember seeing Mark McArdle's face across the Queen Street mall. I called out to him and I like to think he did not hear me, but I really wanted to say hello so I kept calling out. I think I finally ran halfway across the mall to wave him down and say 'Hi, how are you?' It was only when I was right in front of him that the glaze came off his face. I call it the retirement look. He had a look of general wellbeing and happiness that I cannot see on any faces around here today. He was relaxed, he was happy, he was in his element. He was daydreaming, but he had that thoughtful Mark McArdle look that I think we all know. I updated him on how Elyse was going, but I was very keen to hear how his retirement was going. He looked happy, he looked well-rested and he looked a little bit off in his own little world. That gave me great hope for all of us that, one day when we leave this place, we should enjoy a retirement like the one he got to experience briefly.

I do just want to touch on the fact that, sadly, Mark did not get a long retirement—68 years of age is far too young to lose somebody. He deserved so much longer than he got. I remember sharply drawing breath when I heard of his loss because he is the same age as my father. I think the unspoken bargain we all make is that we work hard and then when we leave this place we will have time to spend with our family, friends and loved ones doing the things we all enjoy. I am deeply sorry for the loss his family has sustained because I know they would have wanted to have so much more time with him. It is truly a loss to Queensland. He made great contributions to his party. He was somebody who every single member of this House who had the privilege of working with him greatly enjoyed. His loss will be deeply felt not just in his community but throughout Queensland for some years to come. Vale, Mark McArdle.

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (10.08 am): I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mark McArdle—who, as the member for Caloundra for 16 years, was one of my Sunshine Coast colleagues—and to express my sincere condolences to his wife Judy, his family, friends and loved ones and the broader Caloundra community. Mark really was a wonderful man. As has been mentioned, he had a bit of a cheeky sense of humour. I think what the community saw was his genuine love of people, his genuine love of community, and the way he served that community was really a testament to the person that he was.

Mark served with decency, dedication and a deep respect for people. As we heard, he had 16 years of parliamentary service but he also had a prior life as a lawyer and a community member. He played a critical role as Leader of the Liberal Party in that merger of the National Party and the Liberal Party which gave us that significant legacy of the LNP today. He was leader of the Queensland Liberal Party, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and later Minister for Energy and Water Supply. He brought integrity and diligence to every role that he held.

Beyond politics, as we have heard, he sadly had quite a significant health battle. He showed such personal courage when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer as he chose to speak publicly about it—not to draw attention to himself but to help others. That truly showed his humility and his desire to make a difference which defined his life. He never lost touch with the people whom he represented, and when he retired from political life he kept serving people.

To Judy and all who loved him, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. I particularly wish to pay tribute to Judy because, like Mark, she has also been a true community champion. We know she has lost her beloved husband but, Judy, we do not forget that you also have had a lifetime of service and that everything Mark achieved was because you were right there as well, serving alongside him, serving in the community. I think we got the benefit of two for the price of one with all that you did to serve alongside Mark. Vale, Mark McArdle. We will not forget you with your grace, grit and generosity of spirit.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (10.11 am): I had the privilege of attending Mark's funeral in his beloved Caloundra with hundreds of other people who supported him and his family. His siblings, Andrew and Jennifer, gave wonderful dissertations, beautiful dissertations, on their life growing up together—a time that was filled with a lot of joking, a lot of hilarity, a lot of ribbing, and that carried through to Mark's persona in his life here in the parliament. Mark came into the parliament in 2004, as we have heard, and I came into the parliament in 2006, with the member for Clayfield. Mark was a great friend to me and we loved to have our little joke sessions as well. He would particularly deride me about my lack of a defined benefit superannuation scheme, which I knew nothing about when I ran for parliament—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** True story. I know a lot about it now. He and others voted to abolish the system while still remaining on it themselves. To square up, whenever Mark got in the lift with his perfectly coiffured, stylish grey hair, I had great fun in tussling it up, which would send him immediately off to the mirror to redo it to keep up his immaculate appearance.

Mark's place in the history of Queensland politics is indelibly etched in the birth of a brand new party in Queensland called the Liberal National Party. If Laurie Springborg, as leader of the National Party, the senior partner in that group, is the father of the LNP, then Mark McArdle, as the leader of the Liberal Party, was his co-founding second-in-command to bring about the successful amalgamation in 2008 that led to government in Queensland in 2012.

Mark was an accidental leader of the Liberal Party—here I go, with three members from that era still here. This came about after the then eight-member parliamentary group of Liberal members gathered at the Heritage Hotel in 2007—I love telling this story; this is my truth-telling, folks—to pick a new leader after Bruce Flegg. For three days and countless ballots the vote was drawn, time and time again, four-all. In fact, Eric Idle of Monty Python fame, who was in Brisbane at the time, said that even Monty Python could not have come up with a comedy sketch as ridiculous as the Liberal Party leadership spill. Eventually, Mark prevailed and the rest is history.

Marky Mark, as we affectionately called him, was the epitome of good grace, gentle leadership and a dedication to job and friends, but his greatest dedication was to the love of his life, Judy, and his family. The age-old adage of two peas in a pod fits them and their life together to a T. Judy was always foremost in his thoughts, even when he deliberated about becoming leader of the Liberal Party, which was a bit of a surprise to him at the time.

I attended his massive funeral, where Laurie Springborg spoke eloquently and passionately about Mark's contribution to the parliament. The tributes were glowing from friends and family, and the Deputy Premier did a wonderful job as well. I am extremely proud and honoured to have called Mark my friend. To Judy and family, I am so sorry for your untimely loss. Rest in peace, Marky Mark. As Mark would have said in his own special way, he was admired and respected by thousands. Sorely missed, never to be forgotten.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (10.16 am): I certainly did not know Mark as well as the government members and do not have quite those stories to regale you with, but I did want to add some words in support of this condolence motion. Mark and I only overlapped in here for three years, as my first term was his final before his retirement. Although we were perhaps the proverbial chalk and cheese in terms of not so much our politics but our experience of this place and our understanding of how it worked, he was an absolutely invaluable mentor throughout my first term as we served together on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, where Mark was the deputy chair. I spent that time on that committee along with the member for Nicklin in his first term, the member for Lytton and the then members for Thuringowa and Rockhampton. It is fair to say that that committee dealt with some of the biggest and most complex issues that were put before the parliament in that term, including abortion law reform and the inquiry into aged care, palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. Those were the early years of the COVID pandemic as well, so the health committee had a major role to play there.

As others have indicated, Mark came to these issues with such a genuine interest in what was going to be the best for the state, what was the best work we could do as a committee. While often times we might have landed on opposite sides of a given issue, I know that Mark approached it with nothing but the highest of integrity and the best of intentions. I suspect he probably might have personally liked to bring a level of nuance to his contribution in that committee that a two-party political system makes very difficult sometimes. I learned more from Mark in that time, not just about the actual business of committee work but also about how he carried himself and the way he contributed to those

processes. I should mention as well that it was a bit of an all-star team back then, with not only Mark's experience in parliament but Rob Hansen as the committee secretariat that year. They had seen it all and it was an incredible schooling for me.

Mark really was the consummate gentleman. He carried himself with a kind of old-school chivalry that he somehow managed to not make stuffy but was very endearing, and there was a warmth to him. Committee work, as we heard from the member for Greenslopes, is a very rare opportunity for us in this place to connect personally and to develop relationships that can put aside, at least for a time, the political division and acrimony that is all too common here, and Mark was certainly great at that. He was all too eager to discuss the detail of whatever it was the committee was working on and the rest of the big issues in life. I recall one night when Aaron Harper, the member for Nicklin and I decided we were going to take a 'tripartisan' approach to solving all the state's issues. He wisely left before we got to the last of the 'too many beers'. He loved that kind of engagement and I really appreciated his contribution to my experience in the committee during that term.

He has always struck me as a humble, respectful and generous person and, as I have said, he really was genuine and straight talking. He was not especially gushy or overly effusive, but he always spoke with the greatest of love and affection for Judy and for his family. Of course, you cannot contribute as much as Mark did to the parliament, to the state, to his party and to his community without that coming at a really substantial cost to your personal life and to that of your friends and family, so of course I want to offer my sincerest condolences to Judy and the family, especially in circumstances where Mark was taken far too soon. I know I speak for others on the crossbench who may not contribute in saying that. Vale Mark McArdle.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—Ind) (10.20 am): I would like to rise to make a small contribution. Our time in this House did not cross over, but I want to talk about Mark's contribution as a parliamentarian and his deep respect for this place and for its processes. I loved the reference that the member for Mermaid Beach gave. I was back there in the day when Monty Python jumped in to the internal politics of the leadership and I will leave the internal workings of the LNP to those in government. What I remember about Mark is from when I was a senior adviser to the then health minister, Paul Lucas, in the Bligh government and Mark was the health spokesperson. What I can say about him is that he was absolutely genuine and he was always across his brief. I remember putting bills through the House where question after question after question was not political framing; it was about getting to the detail of what he believed in and, as the member for Maiwar said, a genuine concern for what was best for Queensland, and that was obvious. There were times, whether it was in the House or at estimates, when it might have got a bit feisty but afterwards he would come over and say, 'Well done. Keep up the good work. We'll fight another day.' That was his approach. I think all of us can take something from his dedication to this democratic process and being across our brief, being across our detail and actually trying to represent our community.

He was clearly a very good local member because, as the member for Miller said, we tried and tried and tried and could not get him. It is sad that in his retirement he did not get the years that he and Judy and his family deserved. With that, I want to say I send my condolences to his family and to his community who I know will still have affection for him. I wish them all the best. Vale Mark.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.23 am): I was not intending to contribute to this debate but this morning in my office I saw something that really reminded me of Mark McArdle, and the wonderful picture that has been painted by so many speakers about the great, wonderful, kind gentleman and effective politician that Mark was is certainly no less than the truth.

I want to reflect on something that the member for Glass House said in his contribution when he talked about the quirky sense of humour that Mark McArdle had. The thing which reminded me of Mark was an article that was left in the office I inherited from him after he retired. We all know that after an election there is a shuffle of offices in the Annexe. After having served three years with him I took over the office that he had been using. Amongst the effects that he left in remarkably tidy array—rubber bands, staples, pens and so forth—was a very bulky padlock. Applied to the surface of this padlock was a photograph of the member for Woodridge. I am sure none of us have any inkling whatsoever what the connection would be between a lock and the member for Woodridge, but I know that the quirky sense of humour of the former member for Caloundra probably enshrined some deep allegorical significance there. I am happy to pass the padlock on to the member for Woodridge in due course.

As a new member of parliament coming in when he was an elder statesman, I enjoyed his company and I enjoyed his conversation voraciously. He was a great man and my sympathies go to Judy and his family. Vale Mark McArdle.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.25 am): I want to add my thoughts and my words of condolence to the family of Mark McArdle. Like the member for Southern Downs, I have been moved to say a few words having listened to honourable members speak about a man who was difficult not to like, but it was even harder not to respect Mark McArdle. The reason he had a lock with my picture on it was he could not unlock the mystery of Cameron Dick. Coincidentally, I have just received a message from my family about our Kris Kringle for this year and I will be sending that present to every member of the LNP for Christmas this year.

I had the privilege of serving with Mark McArdle in the parliament from 2009 to 2012. I served as the health minister when Mark McArdle was the shadow health minister. I think he set an exemplary standard for what it is to be a shadow minister. My father passed away about 36 hours before my first estimates hearing. That was perhaps the most difficult time of my life in public service. Given my father's service, I knew the work has to go on, so I turned up for that estimates hearing. Mark was very good to me. He did not pull his punches; he stuck to his line of questioning. Mark McArdle demonstrated that this business is about policy and progress and it is not about personal politics. He set an example I think for all of us.

I also recall an occasion when he got one over me in this House. I will not recall the details of that—they are fading in my memory—but Mark worked extremely hard. I think I associated myself with some of the work and values of Mark McArdle because he worked so hard. He brought the forensic skill of a lawyer—and I worked as a lawyer before my time in politics—and he brought the forensic analysis of a lawyer to his work and I think that is something we should all reflect on.

I also wanted to speak because I think that was the best ever speech I have heard from the member for Mermaid Beach. Let's face it, I have heard him give a lot of speeches, but that was one of the best. The member for Maroochydore talked about courage and Mark was a man who had great courage. I also want to associate myself with the words of the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Miller, the member for Greenslopes and the member for Maiwar.

Cancer is such a terrible thief. It steals our energy in fighting it and in recovering from it. It steals our resources. It steals our money but, most devastatingly, it steals our time. Time was taken from Mark McArdle and time was taken from his family. That is what we reflect on today. We reflect on someone who served his community with genuineness, with honesty and with hard work. We did not agree on a lot of things, but I do respect Mark McArdle for the way he went about his work as a member of this parliament.

Mark McArdle was also someone who gave up power. When those two parties came together, the National Party of course was the dominant party in that merger and, for the sake of the whole, Mark McArdle gave up power. That is not an easy thing to do, and history will judge the journey of that party as it has judged our party over many years now. I want to recognise Mark McArdle. I want to express my sympathy to his dear family, who has lost time with a man they loved greatly. I express my condolences to Judy, to his brother and to his sister and to all who knew and loved Mark McArdle.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I will briefly add a couple of comments. I first met Mark McArdle at about the time of that amalgamation. I was involved in the organisational side of one of our previous parties and went on to get to know Mark very well. I endorse all of the comments made by my colleagues. I also note that one former colleague, Matt McEachan, who is a former member for Redlands, is in the gallery for this condolence motion. The office that the member for Southern Downs talked about that Mark held for so long was right next door to me.

**Mr Lister:** That's right.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We had many conversations—many serious conversations, many lighthearted conversations—and we got to know each other very well. Those who knew Mark know how meticulous he was, and not just in his appearance. He would look at this desk here in front of me in horror. When you went into Mark McArdle's office, everything was in order—the notepads, the biros, the stapler—and I may have snuck in there once or twice and disrupted that a bit. He would bowl into my office and say, 'You've been in my office!' I would say, 'Why would I be in your office?' and he would say, 'I know it was you.' When I was first elected my son gave me a set of those Newton's balls and they sat on my desk, and they are on my desk in the Speaker's office. Well, they used to trigger Mark McArdle like you wouldn't believe. Different members—and the member for Coomera in particular—would come down to my office and peep around the door to see if McArdle was there, start the balls clanking and scoot off back to their office and leave me to deal with it.

Mark and I stayed in contact after he left this place. A couple of days after I finished the two weeks of estimates I thought, 'That's very strange. I haven't had a text from Mark McArdle,' because I

used to get them on a regular basis, but of course his health was failing and he was not well at that time. I had a coffee with his sister, Jennifer, earlier this morning. I express my sympathy to her, to Judy and to all of the McArdle family. He has left a legacy that should not be forgotten and should be honoured for many years to come. I would ask all honourable members to indicate their agreement with the motion by standing in silence with me for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## PETITIONS

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

### **Moah Creek Wind Farm**

**Mr Kelly**, from 299 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw all state investment from the Moah Creek Wind Farm.

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

### **Castle Law**

**Mr Dametto**, from 114,184 petitioners, requesting the House to do all in its power to legislate Castle Law in Queensland.

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

### **E-Petitions, Procedures**

898 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the current standing orders regarding e-petitions that prevent petitions on similar subject matter from being raised simultaneously.

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### 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)—

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Supporting Report on State Facilitated Development Applications', October 2025

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 1

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 2

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 3

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 4

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 5

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 6

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 7

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 8

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 9

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 10

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 11

Queensland Government: Report titled 'Report to the Legislative Assembly—State Facilitated Development Declarations', October 2025: Schedule 1, Volume 12

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.34 am): There has never been a more exciting time to live in Queensland. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a defining moment for our state. It will provide so many opportunities as the eyes of the world will be on Queensland, but it is more than just a sporting event. It will bring more tourism, more jobs and more investment. I am also most excited for what it can deliver in the years beyond the games. It is an opportunity to transform Queensland and create a legacy for generations to come.

One year ago we came into government with a plan for Queensland's future. Whether in the south-east corner or the regions, our government has a plan to deliver what is needed for a rapidly growing state. We are committed to delivering one million homes by 2044, including 53,500 additional social and community homes. We have already delivered over 1,700 social and affordable homes, and we are not stopping there: \$1 billion for 15 new schools across Queensland will ensure we have the facilities needed to educate our kids, including new special schools; a new TAFE Centre of Excellence in Caloundra focused on construction and trades will give the next generation skills for the future; new and upgraded venues—right across the state—will inspire our future sporting stars; and an historic 80-20 funding deal for the Bruce Highway will improve connectivity and make our roads safer.

We will always fight for Queenslanders. It is the same approach we took to securing a funding deal for our schools or fighting for our fair share of GST from Canberra. Our government is on the side of Queenslanders. It is that approach of backing Queensland and listening to our communities that led to our government's priorities—to restore safety where you live, to deliver health services when you need them and a place to call home, to respect your money and to be a government that works for Queenslanders. That is exactly what we have spent our first 12 months delivering, but we know there is more to do. It will take time to undo a decade of decline under Labor, but we will continue to deliver the fresh start we promised.

### Child Protection



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.36 am): Tomorrow is Day for Daniel. It is a time for all of us to be reminded that keeping kids safe is a responsibility we all share. Daniel's loss was tragic, but his parents, Bruce and Denise, who join us today, have turned unimaginable pain into historic change—and today we will be part of that history. Today this House will vote to create Queensland's first child sex offender register, legislation named in Daniel's honour. We owe this to Daniel, to his family and to every Queensland child, who deserves to grow up safe.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will commence at 11.18 am.

### Child Protection



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.37 am): Tomorrow is Day for Daniel. Daniel's story changed Queensland. It changed the way we as a state think about protecting children, but the hard truth is that there are too many families who have lived through the unthinkable and too many parents who still ask, 'How can I keep my child safe?' That is why today matters. Today is not just another day in this chamber: for me and for so many across Queensland, this is personal. Before I stood in this place—before I ever imagined holding ministerial office—I served in another capacity: serving the very community where Daniel Morcombe was taken from his family and from this world by a known serial child rapist. I remember those days vividly—the fear that gripped the community, the heartbreak that never left his parents and the absolute determination of every officer who swore to never stop looking for Daniel and swore to do everything possible to never let this happen again. For years I sat across from families whose worlds had been shattered by the actions of offenders who hid in plain sight. I saw their pain, I heard their disbelief and I swore—quietly but firmly—that if I ever had the chance to do more I would. Today is that day.

We will give parents something they have never had before: the right to know. We will give them the right to see the truth that for too long has been hidden in closed files and behind locked doors. We are focusing on the worst of the worst—the predators who pose a danger to our children—and shining a light on them so that families can protect what is most precious. This is not about fear; it is about empowerment. This is not about vengeance; it is about vigilance. Too much time has been wasted and too many lives have been destroyed. For a decade those opposite had their chance and chose to do

nothing. That stops with us. The Crisafulli government will not sit back and risk another child falling through the cracks of secrecy and silence.

To Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who are here today: your grace, strength and courage have inspired an entire state and nation. Our reform carries your son's name but it carries your legacy, too, because from your heartbreak has come hope, from your resolve has come reform and from your unimaginable loss has come lasting protection for generations of Queensland children. Daniel's legacy will forever stand for truth, for light and for the unwavering belief that every child deserves the right to grow up safe, loved and free from harm. That is why I joined the police, that is why I entered politics and that is why today, as a member of the Crisafulli government, I could not be prouder to serve.

### Housing Supply

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.40 am): Just over a year ago, Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. They voted for change—whether that be in the crime space, as the honourable police minister just said, the cost-of-living space, the health space or the housing space. We have unlocked so much more land than the Labor party did in their 10 years in government and recently, I announced another cog in the wheel of housing supply in the state and that is, unlocking the potential of the Visy site in Brisbane. Colleagues would know the Visy site was underutilised. It is a glass manufacturer and recycling facility at the moment. Under the former government's plan it was going to be a broadcasting centre for the 2032 games. We think the site has so much more potential for arts, culture, housing and sport. It will go, as well, with the Gabba entertainment precinct this government has recently announced which is in the EOI phase. I table a copy of the information memorandum for the Gabba entertainment precinct for the information of honourable members.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Report titled 'Gabba Entertainment Precinct, Information Memorandum', October 2025.

We are unlocking the Visy site, a 7.1-hectare site that is currently a glass factory. It could deliver up to 4,000 new homes. The only way we can unlock the Visy site is because we now have a refocused Economic Development Queensland EDQ. EDQ will be unlocking what was a white elephant under the Labor government. People will be able to live there and construction will start in early 2027. I table a copy of Economic Development Queensland's landmark waterfront development at the edge of Brisbane city. It will create a vibrant hub of housing, culture and lifestyle at the city's edge. It is better than a glass and recycling factory and certainly better than a broadcasting centre, which will be at the convention centre. I table a copy of that.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Report titled 'Economic Development Queensland, Landmark Water Development at the edge of Brisbane City'.

This is part of the Crisafulli government's plan to build more housing—get a roof over their head—unlock the city, unlock the regions and unlock rural Queensland with housing, development, arts, culture, entertainment, sport—you name it, Queensland is the place to be. Why, I see honourable members ask? Because, under the David Crisafulli government, Queensland is now open for business.

### Caboolture Hospital, Medical Imaging; Townsville University Hospital, Urology Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.43 am): I want to update the House in respect of two independent inquiries into the Caboolture Hospital medical imaging issue and the Townsville Hospital urology services issue. When Queenslanders attend a hospital or a specialist health service, they expect the health system to deliver the care they need when they need it. Queenslanders are right to be concerned about the recent system failures with Caboolture Hospital's medical imaging department and Townsville University Hospital's urology services. These issues stem back to 2023 and 2022 respectively. We are taking proactive and transparent action to ensure patients receive the support and care they need and that the systems are improved and made better. For this reason, I am providing this update today, starting with Caboolture.

In September, Caboolture Hospital identified inconsistencies in how medical imaging results were distributed within its specialist outpatient department. This followed a change in process that occurred under the former government in April 2023. To understand the scope and scale of this issue, Metro North has been reviewing patient records to ensure patients have been followed up appropriately. I can advise the House that more than 98 per cent of reports have now been checked and cleared, equating to 12,156 patients. Patients are being contacted directly if they require follow-up from this review and, to date, 21 patients have been contacted for this purpose. The processes within Caboolture Hospital's

specialist outpatient department have also been revised and strengthened to ensure medical imaging results are managed as they should be.

I now turn to Townsville. Following concerns raised about urology patients, the Townsville Hospital and Health Service launched an initial urology patient assurance review covering a period from January 2022 to September 2025, with 576 patients for review. In passing, I thank the acting minister who took an immediate and substantial interest in ensuring this process was initiated. That initial review is now complete and all 576 patient records have been reviewed. I can advise the House that 218 patients—too many—were identified as being lost to service, which means the appropriate follow-ups did not occur. I am advised that, of the total clinical incidents, about two-thirds, or 141, resulted in either minimal or no harm, thankfully, but the simple fact remains that too many patients missed the care they needed in the time that they should have received it. This is unacceptable and should not have happened.

This is one of the many issues we have inherited from the former government, whose decade of decline left our health system in a crisis. This assurance review has occurred alongside the commencement of an independent part 9 investigation commissioned by the director-general to understand how this could have happened and to prevent it occurring again. I would like to thank the director-general, who is in Townsville today to work through some of the issues that have arisen. I thank the Townsville Hospital and Health Service and their staff for their proactive and transparent approach to addressing this serious matter.

As Townsville HHS continues to contact impacted patients, I can also inform the House that further resources and supports are coming online. Two additional urologists will commence next month and a specialist urology nurse has already come on board. Additional supports are being provided by the Metro South Health and Hospital Service. There will be more. These are just some of the additional supports available to ensure these urology patients get onto the appropriate care pathway and receive the care they need. We said we would usher in a new era of transparency in our hospital and health system and that is exactly what we are delivering for Queensland.

### **Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence**



**Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.47 am): It has been 12 months of delivery for the Crisafulli government. We have been hard at work ensuring victims of domestic and family violence are getting the protection that they need and that perpetrators are being held to account. We passed legislation in this House in August that enabled GPS monitoring trackers to be placed on high-risk offenders to track and monitor their movements 24/7, as well as giving victim-survivors the option to receive a device that would alert them immediately if a perpetrator breached orders.

I can update the House that last week a high-risk domestic and family violence offender was the first person using violence in this state to be ordered by a court to wear the GPS tracker as part of the trial in Townsville. This offender was fitted with the device at the Townsville Watch House and will be tracked 24/7. This measure will not only be an added layer of protection for victim-survivors but it will also ensure the offender is held accountable for their actions. The victim-survivor was also linked and referred to a specialist domestic and family violence service so that they could receive additional support during this time. The GPS monitoring pilot of high-risk perpetrators is underway in Townsville and Caboolture, with courts now able to place trackers on offenders and they will be monitored 24/7. I can further update the House that there have been a further 14 applications for persons using violence to have this tracker fitted and we will continue to monitor those numbers.

The work continues with DVConnect to fix the state's domestic and family violence 24/7 crisis line. I am pleased to hear from DVConnect that their improved performance continues month on month. I will continue to update the House on their progress. This, in line with our 24/7 North Queensland hub that is currently under design, will double the 24/7 crisis line capacity for our state's domestic violence response.

We have fast-tracked the domestic and family violence peak body's establishment—four years earlier than the former Labor government. The peak body will now be formed and stood up by Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network following initial work done by QCOSS. I thank both stakeholders for their participation in bringing forward this establishment. It will be stood up by January 2026. This is a critical partnership for the Crisafulli government as it comes at a pivotal time with the

introduction of the new laws that will protect victims sooner as well as hold perpetrators to account with the introduction of the PPD framework, another additional tool for police.

The Crisafulli government will also commission the Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety to conduct a study on misidentification in a domestic and family violence setting in Queensland. I thank ANROWS for undertaking this work. As Sexual Violence Awareness Month Comes to an end, the Crisafulli government has also committed to funding and standing up a domestic violence peak body in Queensland—something that had been advocated for for many years and was a recommendation of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. The former government failed to achieve it, but I am pleased to report to the House that QSAN will be standing up this peak body in the first half of 2026. This is particularly important given the growing number of victims of sexual violence in this state. QSAN executive officer Angela Lynch thanked the Crisafulli government for finally funding and supporting their efforts in establishing a peak body. The Crisafulli government is committed to better outcomes for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence and sexual violence in this state and we are committed to delivering a safer Queensland.

### **Women; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Multiculturalism**

 **Hon. FS SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism) (10.52 am): Twelve months ago, Queenslanders voted for a government that delivers, a government that empowers and champions women, a government that listens to our First Peoples and the issues in their communities and a government that supports social cohesion and celebrating our diverse range of cultures. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is what we have been delivering.

After a decade of Labor being all talk and little action, Queensland women face maternity services closed by Labor, gaps in safety with Labor's youth crime crisis and CFMEU thuggery. Meanwhile, progress on Queensland's key Closing the Gap targets went backwards under Labor and Labor's so-called government champions program was ineffective, with one Indigenous mayor saying it was hampered by red tape. The former government had clearly abandoned these very remote and discrete council communities given their level of need. Our multicultural communities reported that they felt like nothing more than a box-ticking exercise under the Palaszczuk-Miles government when they really wanted to fully participate socially and economically in Queensland and to thrive.

The Queensland Crisafulli LNP government has listened and is delivering for Queensland women—women such as Evie, who wants to return to the workforce after a 16-year career break caring for her children. She plans to apply for a Women's Career Grant to help with the cost of retraining, child care and the equipment she needs to upskill and find work as a make-up artist. Under the Crisafulli government, the Women's Career Grants are helping deliver cost-of-living relief and helping women improve their economic security.

The Crisafulli LNP government is also delivering for Queenslanders in some of our most rural and remote communities, like Territa, the mayor of Kowanyama, and Terence Munns, the mayor of Woorabinda, who want to get things done in their communities to improve living standards such as having clean drinking water and seeing their children thrive. The Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for multicultural communities with the Multicultural Connect Grants Program, which will help their communities build stronger connections, improving social cohesion and access to opportunity in Queensland. We will continue to deliver the fresh start Queenslanders voted for, delivering a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

### **Sport and Recreation; Olympic and Paralympic Games**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.53 am): What a 12 months it has been for Queenslanders who love their sport and are excited by 2032. The Crisafulli government has been delivering for sport in Queensland. Our \$250 million Games On! program is enhancing grassroots clubs across the state, with new or upgraded courts, change rooms, lighting and clubhouses being delivered. After a decade of underinvestment from the former Labor government, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Queensland's grassroots clubs and community groups. More than two-thirds of the 119 clubs have now received funding, with 18 projects already underway and more to commence before the end of the year.

On Saturday I was at Souths Rugby Union Club, where I announced a \$1 million investment from the Crisafulli government for the club to complete stage 2 of its clubhouse development, which I am

sure the member for Miller is ecstatic about. We are delivering \$4.1 million for a new netball clubhouse for the Pine Rivers Netball Association at the Les Hughes Sporting Complex. I am looking forward to seeing the member for Pine Rivers putting up a post on social media congratulating us.

The LNP's new Play On! Sports Vouchers program has been enormously successful, with \$200 vouchers helping children across cities and regional Queensland, including kids with disability, get into organised sport. It is more money locked in for four years, proportionately allocated across the state and making sure we do not discriminate between summer and winter sports. Play On! round 2 will be open in early 2026.

We are developing a 10-year Sport Strategy to maximise the opportunities that 2032 presents. We have conducted community forums across the state and received almost 2,000 survey responses and close to 100 written submissions. We have transitioned the Queensland Academy of Sport to a statutory body, a full 12 months before Labor said it would, so that it can continue to support the best athletes in the country and unearth Queensland's next sporting stars. We have established a para reference panel with extensive knowledge and lived experience to help improve accessibility in sport for all Queenslanders. We are determined to make Queensland a world leader in para-sport.

We have introduced the Games Leadership Group to oversee the coordination of all games planning and streamlined the Brisbane 2032 board, from 24 members to 15 members. The restructuring of the OCOG board directly addresses key recommendations from GIIA's *100 day review* report and reflects our commitment to good governance, efficiency and ensuring the games delivers tangible benefits for our state. We now have experienced advisory groups in place to assist the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games to have the expert advice it needs. We have also launched the procurement program with the organising committee to ensure this is a games for Queensland, by Queensland. We have delivered so much already and there is so much more to come in the future.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.57 am): I am pleased to advise the House on the Crisafulli government's progress to deliver Destination 2045, a transformative strategy that will define Queensland's place on the global stage and deliver a lasting legacy from the 2032 games. As opposed to an absentee former minister cutting the tourism budget by 95 per cent and slashing nearly \$100 million from Tourism and Events Queensland, the Crisafulli government is proudly investing in Queensland tourism.

By 2045, Queensland will be home to an even bigger collection of world-class tourism experiences that reflect the natural beauty and cultural richness of our state. Our ambitious 20-year plan is already inspiring the tourism sector to think big and act boldly. From developing 45 new ecotourism experiences to positioning Queensland as the events capital of the nation, our vision is reshaping the future of tourism in this state.

What is particularly exciting is the enthusiasm we are seeing from the industry. To date we have received more than 30 proposals for ecotourism projects, ranging from early-stage ideas to fully developed plans. These proposals are not just about increasing tourism numbers; they are about creating experiences that will leave a lasting legacy for Queensland and its visitors as well as a deeper appreciation for our stunning natural landscapes.

In Far North Queensland, tourism creates one in six jobs. That is why we are cleaning up Labor's mess by getting the Wangetti Trail back on track and making it the world-class tourist offering it should be. We are delivering \$15½ million for a new and expanded Smithfield Mountain Bike Park. We are also delivering a new cultural and ecotourism centre in the heart of the Daintree National Park, with construction underway. That is all part of our plan to make Queensland a global ecotourism leader—a far cry from Labor's decade of decline.

However, Destination 2045 is about more than just ecotourism. By 2045, Queensland will be recognised as the event capital of Australia. Our mega and strategic events fund is already delivering results with highlights including Sting's *The Last Ship* at QPAC in 2026 and a groundbreaking partnership with Germany's Bundesliga to grow football in Queensland. If we have anything to do with it, by 2045 Taylor Swift will not be skipping Queensland on her 20th anniversary Eras Tour.

Connectivity is one of the six pillars of Destination 2045 and aviation plays a critical role in achieving our target to double total visitor expenditure by 2045. We are working with airports to develop new or expanded services, with support from the Connecting Queensland Fund. This will open possibilities for new international markets and provide better connections into our regions. The sky is

quite literally the limit. It is all about sharing with the world what we as Queenslanders already know: Queensland is one of the most extraordinary places on earth. Queensland is the destination of 2045. In closing, should the member for Murrumba have a lot of spare time on his hands following 8 December, I look forward to providing some Queensland holiday suggestions.

### **Small and Family Business**

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (11.01 am): The Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for small and family businesses, ending a decade of Labor's decline when it comes to support for those Queenslanders creating jobs and supporting diverse local economies across our state. We are delivering what we said we would and for small and family business it is all outlined in the Small and Family Business First Action Statement, which is backed by more than \$100 million in additional funding. We are creating an operating environment that will help establish 120,000 new small and family businesses in Queensland by 2032. Under our plan we are making it easier to access government services; tailoring support to start, grow and thrive; identifying and responding to red tape and other pain points; and boosting procurement opportunities.

We kicked off the year by refocusing the Queensland Small Business Commissioner on the priorities of reducing red tape and improving dispute resolution. In May we refocused Queensland's Small Business Month, replacing Labor's \$26,000 red carpet champagne-popping soirees to instead focus on critical information and meaningful events to assist small and family businesses to recover, grow and tackle local issues.

We launched our \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program and announced \$9.6 million in funding across 42 projects as part of round 1. This important program helps to tackle Labor's crime crisis by improving safety throughout local small and family business precincts, including CCTV, lighting, lockable fencing and improved perimeter security. Round 2 will open before the end of the year and eligible small businesses will be able to apply directly for funding to implement crime prevention measures.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Premier and the member for Redlands to launch the Small Business Apprenticeship Pilot Program, which will help small and family businesses with the cost of apprenticeship wages during training. These are clear examples of how the Crisafulli government is putting small and family business first.

The Crisafulli government is also working to become Australia's most customer focused government. I commend the Premier for establishing a portfolio with a focus on customer service, which is a Queensland first. Ninety customer service centres, online services, call centres and digital identity services have transferred into this new department. We have made online services easier and more secure for customers by replacing at-risk identity management systems with a new secure Queensland Digital Identity system. We have delivered an improved customer experience in our phone contact centres by implementing real-time queue position updates as well as increased specialist staff for the Homeless Hotline. We have delivered around-the-clock customer support during major weather events, managing community recovery and SES interactions over the phone. We have introduced live chat support for the first time in Queensland and assisted community recovery customers with over 9,400 chat interactions.

In addition to those achievements in customer service, the Crisafulli government has also put an end to Labor's piecemeal short-term thinking when it comes to cybersecurity and digital systems. We terminated Labor's \$15 million spend on Cryptoloc, replacing it with a partnership with the Australian government and COSBOA to access the Cyber Wardens program, which is delivering real and impactful support to small and family businesses to upgrade their cyber defences and awareness.

Our \$1 billion Queensland Government Digital Fund will coordinate a whole-of-government investment in ICT systems over the next four years. We recognise that as Queensland is evolving so the services that we provide to our customers need to evolve. We have embraced digital innovation to ensure that every Queenslanders, whether in a remote town or a bustling city, has access to our services. The Crisafulli government is putting Queenslanders at the heart of government service, whether that is being delivered online, over the phone or in person. I look forward to continuing to deliver a fresh start for Queenslanders and for Queensland's small and family businesses.

### **ABSENCE OF MINISTER**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.05 am): I advise that the Minister for Primary Industries will be absent for today's sitting. I advise that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development will answer questions for the minister in question time.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Crime and Corruption Commission, Report

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.05 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commission's report titled *Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated 14 October 2025. The committee received the report on 14 October 2025 and I am tabling the report within the 14 days required.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the Work and Activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under Chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated 14 October 2025.

### Alleged Unauthorised Disclosure of Committee Proceedings, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.06 am): In accordance with standing order 268(1), I report to the House that the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee has determined to refer to the Ethics Committee a matter involving the unauthorised disclosure of the committee's confidential proceedings by a former Townsville mayor, Mr Troy Thompson. On behalf of the committee, I advise the House of the referral so that standing order 271 can be invoked.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.07 am): I lay upon the table of the House Ethics Committee report No. 239 titled *Annual report 2024-25*. This report provides a summary of the activities of the ethics committees of the 57th and the 58th parliaments. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee: Report No. 239, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (11.07 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation 2025, subordinate legislation No. 62 of 2025, tabled in the House on 26 August 2025, be disallowed.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 12.07 pm.

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

 **Mr MILES** (11.07 am): My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. In a January meeting, the deputy director-general and chief information officer said that the department would 'not go live unless the Unify program is ready and fit for purpose so that employees can do their jobs from day one'. Can the minister advise what changed between January and April that forced the director-general to go live on Unify despite known flaws?

**Ms CAMM:** I welcome the question from the honourable member opposite because, as I said yesterday in media statements, the reason Queenslanders and those opposite know about the disastrously designed Unify system that this government inherited is that I told Queenslanders about it.

Unlike those opposite, on this side of the House we take ministerial accountability very seriously. The Unify system was commissioned under former minister Fentiman. Then it was handed over, designed and signed off on by former minister Farmer. Then it was handed over to former minister Linard. Then it was handed over to former minister Crawford—he is not here anymore because we have a fantastic local member for Barron River who is doing a fabulous job. Then it was handed over to the very short-lived minister, former minister Mullen.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Jordan and member for Bulimba, I forewarn you.

**Ms CAMM:** I have now served as the Minister for Child Safety in the Queensland government longer than former minister Mullen served as child safety minister.

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

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

**Ms CAMM:** I am continuing to review all of the governance arrangements around the Unify system.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There are way too many interjections.

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. Never have I had a question from those opposite about missing children that five failed child safety ministers ever cared about, ever reported to the media, ever went looking for, in fact. I asked questions at estimates during the four years that I was the shadow child safety minister because I cared about the children in our system—the vulnerable children who were forgotten by those opposite and whose numbers continued to explode year on year. There was an increase in children entering the system, an increase in children going missing, an increase in children interacting with the youth justice system and an increase in children in the residential care system.

The first question I get from those opposite about my portfolio outside of estimates is about the failed system that they designed and created. The question is not about the vulnerable children in this state. The question is: what did they know about the system?

*(Time expired)*

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

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. It is understood that as many as 5,000 reports of suspected harm to children went unactioned due the failed Unify system. Will the minister confirm today how many reports of harm to vulnerable children are still waiting to be assessed in the Unify system?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the shadow minister for the question. At times when I am out and about working in my very important role as the Minister for Child Safety I know that the shadow minister has had interactions with both my department and our stakeholders. I think that is really important as I did that as the former shadow minister. I note that the member is not one of the failed former child safety ministers, and I hope she never gets the opportunity to be one.

The question asked about harm reports with regard to children. I find it very interesting that for the first time there is even consideration or talk of child harm reports by those opposite. I find that interesting because of the harm that was caused under those opposite. I will refer to the 2024 census of children in care. The figures were: 11 per cent had been sexually abused; 46 per cent had been physically abused; 83 per cent had suffered emotional abuse; 88 per cent had been neglected; 68 per cent had been exposed to domestic and family violence; and 69 per cent had experienced three or more types of abuse. Under those opposite, the number of children who lived in residential care grew to over 2,000.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was specifically about the number of reports of harm to vulnerable children waiting to be assessed under her failed Unify system and not other figures. I ask you to draw her back to relevance.

**Government members** interjected.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order in relation to relevance is that the minister is being responsive to the question as asked and is outlining some significant matters with respect to statistics. There was also an imputation in the point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business. I would ask you to consider that as well.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I ask that you keep your points of order to the specific issue that you are talking about. It is not an opportunity to make a speech. Minister, you have heard the question.

**Ms CAMM:** I think it is important that we talk about neglect and harm of our state's most vulnerable children.

**Ms Grace:** Answer the question.

**Ms CAMM:** I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. The Unify system and program was first signed off on by the department under former minister Fentiman. The Unify system and program was commissioned by the Labor government in 2018. The Unify system was promised by not one, not two and not three but five ministers to the frontline child safety officers—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I will be very specific. The question was: how many reports of harm to vulnerable children are still waiting to be assessed in the Unify system?

**Mr SPEAKER:** As stated earlier, if your point is relevance, you have already stated it. It is very hard for me to know whether or not the minister is being relevant with the level of noise in this chamber. It is completely off the scale. Minister, I would ask you to be relevant to the question as asked. You have 40 seconds left.

**Ms CAMM:** Those opposite have asked questions about the Unify system when they went to the front line—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Ms CAMM:** They committed to frontline staff—when I have travelled the state I have met with our very hardworking child safety officers—that it would reduce administration, improve productivity, support them in doing their job and make their job easier. What we have inherited due to the failed functional design of those opposite is the opposite.

### Community Safety

**Mr FIELD:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring safety is restored to Queensland communities, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches due to a decade of decline?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for the question. It was grief and a desire for a stronger community and a safer society that drew the member to this place. On a day when we are honouring a brave couple who have found themselves in a similar position wanting to drive change and see Daniel's Law implemented, I acknowledge both families.

The member asks about how we are doing it. It is like this: stronger laws, early intervention, rehabilitation with purpose, more police. Everything we do is about making sure we address the issues behind the youth crime crisis that was created by those opposite. Everything we do around crime is in relation to how we can strengthen the laws to make this state safer. Everything we do relates to how we can ensure we provide the kinds of social services that help keep people on the straight and narrow.

There is another thing that can be done, and that is in relation to resources for the men and women who wear blue uniforms. I am not just talking about tasers, that the police cried out for and were never funded properly; I am not just talking about tyre deflation devices, body worn cameras or tourniquets, the things that are the difference between life and death; I am also talking about the facilities from where they work—facilities that Queenslanders—

**Ms McMillan:** That we built.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection. I think it is the member for McConnel.

**Ms Grace:** No, it is not.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection. I apologise to the member for McConnel. It was an inappropriate interjection from those opposite, as normal. The member for Mansfield said, 'That we built.' Member for Mansfield—Stones Corner. That leads me exactly to the question. Thank you very

much. It was a dodgy deal that cost taxpayers a bucket load, and which continues to, and no-one was held accountable. I want to ask: when did it go to CBRC? Which of the guilty party in front of me agreed to it? Was it the reason the member for Morayfield was demoted from the front bench? Who knew what and when?

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** What we have is an opposition that refuses to acknowledge they have cost Queenslanders millions of dollars and no-one has been held accountable.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Will they step outside and admit who knew what—what was the deal? Why is the member for Morayfield sitting there and why are Queensland taxpayers paying for their failures?

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns and member for Logan, you are both warned.

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

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Over 300 of the minister's departmental staff provided scathing responses to the union survey on the Crisafulli LNP government's failed Unify rollout. How was the minister oblivious to the concerns frontline workers had for five months, particularly when the minister claims she visits child safety offices?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to an imputation in the question as asked by the member for Woodridge.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question. Minister?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. I welcome the opportunity to speak about our hardworking frontline child safety officers. I will never forget. It is 12 months since the Crisafulli government was sworn into office. In my first month or two as minister, I travelled to Mount Isa to meet with our frontline child safety officers. Through those conversations, we discussed the work of the frontline. We discussed their case load numbers. We discussed the jobs that were not funded, that the Treasurer and I had to work hard together to find \$461 million that was previously not funded for residential care and the increased funding we had to find for over 90 frontline positions.

I thank those opposite for asking a question about our frontline child safety officers, as they failed to fund supports for child safety officers and positions into Christmas. The former treasurer knew that they were going to cut over 90 jobs in the lead-up to Christmas, the jobs of those who work to protect our state's most vulnerable. Some of those jobs belonged to workers in Cairns, in the Cape and in Mount Isa, where they were dealing with case loads in excess of 30 to 35. They were cut under those opposite. They washed data, failed to report on the facts and, ultimately, through failing to resource the frontline child safety officers, were putting children at risk in Queensland, in some of our most remote and rural communities.

I had members from the frontline, including union delegates, almost in tears over the way they were treated under the former Labor government, over their pleas for extra resourcing not being heard and over the culture of fear in speaking out. The frontline workers were vulnerable. They shared with me, as their new minister, the challenges that they were confronted with and faced in trying to protect our children, our most vulnerable children. They relayed to me that the pleas they had expressed under the former government had not been heard.

I made a commitment, from the time I took on this portfolio, to the frontline workers at the child safety service centres that I visit, and when I sit down with them around the table, that I will be a minister that listens. They can speak frankly without fear of retribution, without any risk, and that we will make a commitment to resource them, unlike those opposite who failed to do so time and time again.

*(Time expired)*

### **Police Resources**

**Mr VORSTER:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the resources our police and communities need, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. It was great to attend Burleigh just last week with the Premier, almost a year to the day where we stood up and we announced that if the Crisafulli government won the election, we would restore policing services to Burleigh, with Tess and other retailers and community members who had fought for that, through a number of different petitions which those opposite ignored, calling for more police presence and more police in Burleigh.

It was not just the \$1.1 million police beat that we were proud to announce, and which we will be opening later this year, it was part of the \$4.1 million multipronged police law enforcement approach to tackle crime and restore community safety. It included \$500,000 for CCTV. It included \$1 million to be used for police specials or overtime, or even for health services at the late-night precinct to help return community safety to Burleigh.

That is why it was awfully disappointing just the other day to hear my opposite, the member for Gladstone, call this a glorified coffee shop. It just goes to show that those opposite do not get police. They do not get police. We are delivering more police around the clock to Burleigh. It was an absolute insult to suggest that our police, in police beats, police stations or otherwise, are sitting around drinking coffee. We want more police, with tougher laws and now better resources—including tasers and vests—we want them out on the street catching criminals and putting them behind bars. They are not sitting around drinking coffee. For the extra two police at Burleigh, there will be more police at Palm Beach. Under those opposite, the number of police declined at Burleigh and at Palm Beach, like it did across the state. The crime stats reflect that. With fewer police, crime goes up. For the member opposite to call it a glorified coffee shop shows they do not get police.

That brings me to the ultimate question. After announcing the \$1.1 million police beat, it brings me to the \$240 million question about the dodgy deal at Stones Corner which we know, as has been reported in the media, is under investigation by the CCC. You do not need to have been a former detective to find the first lead because there is a picture on Facebook—

**Mr SPEAKER:** We do not need any props.

**Mr PURDIE:**—of the former police minister, the member for Morayfield, the member for Greenslopes and others spruiking about the government's new police facility at Stones Corner. Maybe that is the place to start. \$240 million! Who else knew? The treasurer at the time? The premier at the time? That is a big deal. That is bigger than Wellcamp—\$240 million. How many police beats could you open for that money? I look forward to going down to Burleigh at Christmas and opening the new police beat. However, I know what those opposite will doing at Christmas: they will not be on the frontline opening police facilities; they will be taking out their leader.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The Unify survey had hundreds of respondents, including one who said 'there is high likelihood of losing a report using this system, which would mean concerns could be reported and go unassessed—putting children at risk'. Can the minister advise why the Crisafulli LNP government still turned on the Unify system?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. I remind the House of my contribution some weeks back with regard to the Services Union survey—and I acknowledge the work of the Services Union in engaging with our frontline staff. I also remind the House that Queenslanders know about the Services Union survey into Unify because I stood in this House and told Queenslanders about it. I provided it within a day of being notified about it—I stood up in this House.

The member quoted someone from the front line. When I became aware of the issues with Unify, I took action. Firstly, I was open and transparent with Queenslanders, because that is what we do as a government. That is what Queenslanders expect. We will get to the bottom of who knew what when with regard to the Unify system, and there will be some governance reviews into that.

We have also taken action and commissioned Deloitte to get to the bottom of the functional issues of Unify—the system designed under five failed child safety ministers. After the issues were uncovered I had the opportunity to hear from the front line, to meet with the union, to read the survey and to sit down with the union. I was able to have very frank dialogue—

**Mr Smith:** What's the name of that union?

**Ms CAMM:** That was the Together union. I take that interjection. I will read from an email I received from a Together union delegate. It states—

We spoke in the meeting about the 'culture of fear' that permeates Child Safety. Together delegates have been explicitly naming this and offering to work with the Department to change this for many years. As someone who has been involved in difficult discussions with the leadership of the Department I am not impacted by this negative culture, although name it when I see it. I value openness, transparency and trust in the work that I do, and am encouraged that you share similar values. I look forward to future opportunities for open and direct communication with yourself.

I thank that union delegate for her courage, for her openness with me as the minister and for her commitment to openness and transparency. I look forward to having a proactive working relationship with the Together union for the next three years.

### **Crisafulli LNP Government, Government Expenditure**

**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 outline the importance of respecting taxpayer money with construction costs, and is the deputy aware of any instances where this was not upheld during a decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Redlands for her question. It was a very good question about transparency and respecting taxpayers' money, an issue we took to the election. I have to say to the honourable member that we knew that Labor was bad. We saw it in this place. Many of us observed it for a long time. We knew that Labor was bad, but every day we lifted up a rock we found that it was worse than any of us could have ever imagined. I think that is why Queenslanders voted so strongly for a fresh start—something the Leader of the Opposition still denies happened in October last year.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He did not do a concession speech—I take the interjection. We see the consequences of Labor's dud deals daily, and we are seeing them just as exposed today with a dodgy \$240 million deal for the Stones Corner police station. There is not a dodgy deal that the opposition leader does not know about, because he was involved in every single dodgy deal of the former Labor government, particularly over the last 10 years. Wellcamp—aka 'waste camp'—was his responsibility. He was the minister for state development at the time, and he said it was a great deal.

Look at the issues that have been reported today about Stones Corner. There used to be a police minister who would stand up in this place and say things like, 'I've known a lot of members in this place who when they ask questions are good members.' I have known a lot of police ministers in this place, and I will say that the member for Morayfield was the worst—absolute worst. He should be disclosing to Queenslanders if he is under investigation by the CCC for the Stones Corner debacle, the dodgy dud deal. Is he under investigation? If he is, he should disclose it to Queenslanders. Is the Cabinet Budget Review Committee under investigation? There should be a proper investigation of the dud deal. The opposition leader oversaw every—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Premier, you have 58 seconds left.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** There was \$200 million wasted by the opposition leader on Wellcamp. With QSAC, \$1.6 billion blew out to \$2.25 billion. He was responsible for introducing Coex. He introduced Coex. Look at the report that has been tabled on Coex. Then he praised the \$2 billion cut to our GST revenue by the federal Labor government, and he said as an excuse, 'It's okay. Other states will build infrastructure with Queensland's money.' Remember, he went to Canberra saying, 'Team Queensland,' but he came back with absolutely nothing.

Even his mate 'Blocker' is fleeing Queensland to go to Canberra. He is losing all support. He has lost the support of Blocker. His colleagues think he is lazy, disloyal, sloppy and desperate. They are the words. Who remembers 'Socialist Stevo'? Who remembers the Sunday soggy sangas? Christmas is coming, but you are not going to get a present. It will be a big block of coal from your Labor colleagues, mate!

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will use proper titles.

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. The Unify survey had hundreds of respondents, including one who said—

I feel like I am holding so much risk because I can't locate anything I need and I am extremely fearful I will miss something and a child will die / get hurt.

Can the minister advise if the director-general was aware of this response when they were given the interim survey results?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. Once again, I read some of those comments in the survey, which was conducted by the Together union, in the House some weeks ago. I have since met with frontline child safety staff. We have commissioned Deloitte to undertake the investigation and review into the functionality of the system.

We have also taken action towards scaling a workforce with regard to support. We have also taken action with regard to ensuring communication with our front line is very clear and concise. We are providing extra resources with regard to regional intakes, and I am attending the child safety service centre in the north Brisbane region, which has sadly seen an increase year on year in the number of children coming into the system—a system that was overseen by those opposite.

There are questions that need to be answered. I am sure there are questions that those opposite know the answers to. They know who decided when to design the system, how to design the system, when to test the system and when to invest in the system. It will be not just the former child safety ministers, of which there were five, but also the members of the former government's leadership team who sat around the CBRC table when they kept going back for more money with regard to the design of the Unify system.

For the benefit of the House, I was briefed on Unify on 24 September. After I was briefed, I stood up in front of Queenslanders at the earliest opportunity and spoke of the failings of the system, which was designed under the former Labor government. I made a commitment to Queenslanders to get to the bottom of the functionality issues of a system that was designed by those opposite. To the member's question—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about the awareness of the director-general of that quote from the survey.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I think you were speaking to that issue. It was my understanding that the minister was being relevant. The question was: was the minister informed? The minister was speaking to that, to my understanding.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect, my question was whether or not the director-general was aware of that response to the survey.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have taken advice. The minister is being relevant. Minister, you have 41 seconds left.

**Ms CAMM:** I am getting to the heart of the member's question. Through the work of both Deloitte and other internal investigations that are underway, and potential external investigations that are underway, we will get to the bottom of whether there is a functionality issue that has put children's lives at risk. I will get to the bottom of it. Those who knew about it and when they knew about it will be held to account.

Upon my being made aware of the functionality issues—the briefing—we took swift action. We stood down the chief information officer. I have stood down the deputy director-general through the director-general. We will take action and continue to.

*(Time expired)*

### Public Moneys

**Mrs STOKER:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Will the Treasurer inform the chamber about the importance of respecting Queensland taxpayers' money, and is the Treasurer aware of any approaches that failed to uphold this principle during a decade of decline?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question and for her contribution in her assistant ministerial capacity to restoring respect for taxpayer money in Queensland. I thank her for her efforts.

We have already heard this morning from some of my colleagues in respect of restoration of respect for taxpayer money—\$240 million in a dodgy deal. That is \$500,000 every month that has been done on the dodgy deal at Stones Corner. That is a significant set of questions for those opposite to answer. I look at the frontbench of the opposition now and they were all there in the CBRC. They were all there.

**A government member:** A lot of them.

**Mr JANETZKI:** A lot of them—whether it is the member for Murrumba, responsible for ‘Wastecamp’, the Wellcamp quarantine facility; whether it is the former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, with respect to his capturing \$70 billion more in revenue than what he forecast in his first budget, yet services were declining across the state; whether it is the member for Waterford, who left unfunded health services littered throughout the budget when she was in the CBRC—and I will have more to say about that when I introduce the supplementary appropriations bill later today to fund their black holes. Restoring respect for taxpayer money is not just how you spend it; it is how you fight for it.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley!

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is how you fight for it. We know that those opposite have a chequered past. They used to talk about the 50-50 health funding all the time. Then the federal government changed in 2022.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, you are now on the list.

**Mr JANETZKI:** What did those opposite have to say about 50-50 health funding after that?

**Mr O’Connor:** Nothing!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Crickets! The member for Woodridge could have literally knocked on the internal wall of his electorate office to the federal Treasurer and said, ‘Jim, hey, help us out,’ but did they ever say anything? No. They never said a thing.

Then there is the GST. I have been wondering why they have been so silent for so long when it comes to the GST. There has not been a mention of it—not a skerrick of a mention of it—from those opposite. Now we know why. It is on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. The member for Murrumba has been swanning around Canberra at the Australia Institute giving speeches where he said he is proud to be giving Queensland’s share of the GST to New South Wales and Victoria! That is them fighting.

**Mr MILES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Premier, did you just hear me? Treasurer, the member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I withdraw. This is the member for Murrumba in a prerecorded statement—prerecorded! You cannot hit delete on that, member for Murrumba. You cannot leave it for an hour and hit delete on that. He is down in Canberra on the public speaking circuit. He wants to be like Mike. He wants to get his CV out and start looking for jobs because we know what is coming. We know Jackie is back at the Clean Energy Council. We know he is out there looking for work because they are after him.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice. On 28 April, the minister’s former director-general, Mr Bob Gee, told a parliamentary committee that there were issues with Unify. As the more senior minister, did the Minister for Youth Justice advise junior Minister Camm of the issues with Unify which her department was raising?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for McConnel you are warned. I had just called for order.

**Mrs GERBER:** It is actually laughable that the member for Bulimba is asking a question about a system that she created—that they knew about. I am grateful that I get the opportunity to put the history on the record because the member for Bulimba knows the history. This is it: the Labor Unify system that was created for Youth Justice is, of course, different from the one that was created for Child Safety. Labor was advised by an auditor-general back in 2014 that it was needed. They did not invest any time or effort into creating it until 2019. This is the history of the Unify system under Labor—2019.

Then they planned and announced the completion of Labor's Unify in 2023. Labor and the member for Bulimba and the member for Nudgee stood up and said, 'Unify will be completed by Labor in 2023.' That is what they said. That target was missed. It shifted to July 2024. Again, the Labor government stood up and said, 'Unify will be completed in July 2024.' Then what did they do? Just before caretaker mode, just before the election was called, Labor switched off the Youth Justice Unify system. They switched it off and they turned on Labor's new Unify system—and what happened? We had a complete data blackout. In fact, in my questions on notice to members back in December, I advised them of the data issues that Youth Justice was facing with Unify—the Unify Youth Justice system—because Youth Justice was having to do workarounds. Youth Justice was having to do data workarounds.

Labor built it. Labor knew, and now we know that Labor delivered it. Labor absolutely created this system and it started back in 2019. They were advised back in 2014 that it was needed. This is 10 years of Labor creating a system that has turned out to fail Queenslanders. The Unify system that Youth Justice has to use was riddled with errors, and Labor knew about it. They switched it on. There were data blackouts as a result of it. The minute I knew about it I told Queenslanders. The minute the child safety minister knew about it she told Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### **Townsville University Hospital, Urology Services**

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister advise the steps the government is taking on the urology issue at the Townsville Hospital and update the House on the progress to deliver the facilities and services the Townsville community was denied during a decade of decline?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Townsville for a question that reflects his dedication and commitment to the people of Townsville, whom he worked very hard to obtain approval from at the last election to represent in this place. He has done a terrific job. I thank the member for that question and for his representation of the people of Townsville. Townsville is one of the great places to visit in Queensland. It is one of my favourite places in Queensland.

I am asked about issues regarding urology and other failures, so I turn to volume 1 of 'Labor's Hospital Failures', a book I keep close by me. Volumes 2 and 3 are rapidly being added to. Urology is the latest of those. As I mentioned earlier today, Townsville Hospital and Health Service's initial review of 576 patients is complete: 218 patients were identified as being lost to service. That should not have occurred and it is simply not good enough. Patient follow-ups are being fast-tracked. In fact, this morning I spoke to the chair of the hospital and health service, Mr Tony Mooney, about our expectations in relation to that, and he agrees entirely that it was inappropriate and that work needs to be done. The director-general is in Townsville today working with the HHS on further supports and resources. We are also making sure that all those affected are being notified, so the member for Townsville can rest assured that his constituents and those in the surrounding areas are being followed up.

We also inherited an underfunded and undeliverable Townsville Hospital expansion project under Labor's decade of decline. After Labor's hospital failures, what do we have? We have, of course, our Hospital Rescue Plan, a document that will deliver the hospital services and additional beds those in North Queensland require. We are getting on with the job. Labor's flawed plan would have delivered only 70 per cent of Townsville's requirements. There is a laundry list of failures under Labor's plan including a \$500 million cost blowout—who would have thought?—delay of at least two years, no pharmacy, no sterilising department and no link bridge to the existing hospital. Imagine that! How much surgery can you do without a sterilising department?

**Ms Bates:** Not much.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** None at all. The member for Moggill knows. He is a proper practising doctor, not a pretend doctor. We are getting on with the job. Our \$18.5 billion Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering for Townsville, including 22 more beds than Labor promised, and the project continues to move forward. We will return to market shortly through a competitive retendering process, starting with registrations of interest to secure a new construction partner. We have eliminated BPIC, the CFMEU tax. We will deliver Townsville's new hospital.

### Castle Law

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Queenslanders are still scared in their own homes. They have spoken up with the largest e-petition this parliament has seen, calling on the House to legislate castle law in Queensland. Will the Attorney-General listen to Queenslanders and commit immediately to delivering castle law?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I would really like to thank the member for Traeger for that question. I understand that, when it comes to crime, all Queenslanders are very concerned about the crime rates across Queensland.

**Ms McMillan:** You said you'd fix it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is too early for me to start taking interjections, member. I am happy to say that we said we would fix it, because that is what we are doing. We will get to that in a minute. Respectfully, member for Traeger, crime under the former Labor government—not just in Mount Isa, not just in Townsville, not just in the Hinchinbrook area, not just in the South Burnett and not just on the Gold Coast, north Brisbane or anywhere—was out of control. We know that. We all admitted that. That is what the former Labor government left us with.

We are doing what we said we would do—that is, taking definitive action on crime in this state. The first piece of legislation we passed in this House was our Making Queensland Safer Laws. We have committed to reduce victim numbers across Queensland, and that is exactly what we are doing—methodically and calmly. We know that more needs to be done. Victim numbers are down 6.5 per cent. We know they are still too high.

For the information of the member for Traeger and others in this House, we need to support our police. We need to make sure that people in their own homes feel safe. That is why we put more police on the beat. That is why we have had flying squads going around this state. Members need to know that—and this is for the benefit of the whole House—there are defences available to people. For example, section 267, 'Defence of dwelling', is available to people; section 271, self-defence, is available to people. As I have said publicly before and I will say again: I cannot say to elderly people in this great state, 'It is up to you to defend your own home.' No! We need to ensure our police are resourced properly. We need to make sure we have laws that protect this state and the people who live in it. We need to make sure that our elderly and young mums sitting in their homes do not feel as though they have to take it into their own hands.

We need to make sure those matters are getting through our courts. It is important to note that we need to let the police do their job. We need to make sure people are safe in their homes. It is only the Crisafulli government that is doing that.

*(Time expired)*

### Training and Skills

**Mr LEE:** My question is to the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is boosting Queensland's training opportunities during a year of delivery, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. I know that the member for Hervey Bay is very passionate about delivering training opportunities in his area of Hervey Bay, including the new Yakka Providing Pathway, which is a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project being delivered in Pialba supporting 30 young ex-offenders with a career pathway in the rail, construction and mining industries and getting them back on track.

The member asked me about how the Crisafulli LNP government has boosted Queensland's training opportunities over this past year of delivery. Let me say that it started with saving TAFE. We saved TAFE after the former Labor government was going to let 336 full-time-equivalent positions cease after 30 June this year—336 full-time equivalents would have lost their jobs under Labor. This is the

same former Labor government that failed to stand up to the federal Labor government and their colleagues and let the Commonwealth off the hook for the funding of free nursing.

We did not just save TAFE; we are making it even better. We are boosting training opportunities by delivering more than \$201 million to build a TAFE Excellence Precinct in Rockhampton, a TAFE Centre of Excellence on the Sunshine Coast and one in the southern Moreton Bay islands. We have delivered better, targeted, subsidised training, with \$10 million to support free apprenticeships for under-25s—focusing on apprenticeships that will address Labor's skill shortage after a decade of decline. Our focus is on providing free or subsidised training to Queenslanders in the areas and industries where there are shortages. We are also boosting training opportunities for Queenslanders by delivering up to \$50 million to leverage the National Skills Agreement, working to build the VET workforce and support best practice initiatives at TAFE Queensland.

The member also asked me about alternative approaches after a decade of decline under Labor. Let's start with the skills shortage. In the construction industry alone there is an anticipated shortfall of 50,000 workers by 2026-27. This was made worse, of course, by Labor's CFMEU tax. We saw that Labor was great at making announcements and producing glossy brochures but not so great at putting funding into the budget. We saved the Back to Work program after Labor failed to fund it and we saved the regional jobs committees. I am happy—

*(Time expired)*

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

**Ms BOYD:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support. Given the number of youth justice children in the child safety system, what proactive steps, if any, did the minister take regarding the Crisafulli LNP government's failed Unify rollout?

**Mrs GERBER:** Firstly, I reject the imputations in that question. Secondly, it gives me an opportunity to talk about how the Unify system for youth justice that Labor developed—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** They switched the old legacy system off and turned on their Unify system. This gives me an opportunity to talk about how it is different to the child safety Unify system. Labor know this because they built it over five years. An Auditor-General told them back in 2015—I think I said 2014 last time, but it was 2015—that a new IT system was needed, but it took them until 2019 to do anything about it. They then announced that it would be up and running in 2023, and of course that was delayed. They announced again in July 2024 that it would be up and running.

The question specifically asks about the intersection of youth justice and child safety and the children in that system. Let me put some harrowing facts on the table in relation to the intersection and pipeline of children from child safety entering my youth justice system as a result of 10 years of the Labor government failing those kids, time and time again. The Labor government allowed child safety to become a pipeline into youth justice—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the member for McConnel, who is on a warning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will be watching closely. I will look after the House. I did not pick that up.

**Mrs GERBER:** Under those opposite and their 10 years of decline, we saw that almost 30 per cent of kids in our youth justice system were child safety children. Almost 30 per cent of kids in the youth justice system were in the care of the state, in the care of the then Labor government. Those opposite allowed child safety to become a pipeline into youth justice. What did that mean for those kids and those families? We saw victim numbers rise. We saw those kids become serious repeat offenders because year on year under Labor serious repeat youth offenders rose from five per cent to 10 per cent and then to 20 per cent. We had a revolving door of kids in and out of our detention centres, and almost 30 per cent of those kids were in the care of the state. That happened under Labor; they caused that pipeline. They now stand up in this House and try to say, 'Nothing to see here. We take no accountability for the 10 years of failing the youth justice kids.' It is pretty disgraceful, and I would like to see the member for Pine Rivers apologise.

*(Time expired)*

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could I clarify whether the member for McConnel was actually on a warning?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, she was. I will look after the House.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery**

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. How is the Crisafulli LNP government's 2032 Delivery Plan getting the games back on track, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Mr MANDER:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I am not sure there is a happier member in this House than the member for Rockhampton—I will add the member for Keppel and the member for Mirani—with regards to the record investment in sporting infrastructure that will happen in Rockhampton and the greater Central Queensland area. We have over \$40 million as part of our plans being invested in the Rockhampton Sports Precinct, where one of the major beneficiaries will be the sport of netball. Let us hope we see more about netball in the future with regards to the games. There is investment in Browne Park, the traditional Rugby League headquarters of Rockhampton, where we are completing the grandstand and the upgrade of the grounds, and we have added extra money to make sure we have grass. That was one of the major things that the former government missed. Of course, Rockhampton will be the location for the great sport of rowing and canoeing on the Fitzroy River. Row, row, row your boat will be happening on the Fitzroy.

Just down the road we are going to go to Maryborough—which some people now call 'Olympic-borough', with the member for Maryborough—where, in the spirit of the ancient Greeks, and contemporary Greeks as well, we will be having archery. Then we go to Toowoomba with the equestrian centre—giddy-up. I have been to that Toowoomba centre; that location was born to be in the Olympics and Paralympics. Let us go further north to Cairns.

**A government member:** What about whitewater rafting?

**Mr MANDER:** Okay, I take the interjection with whitewater rafting in the Redlands.

**Mr O'Connor:** Hockey on the Gold Coast.

**Mr MANDER:** Yes, hockey on the Gold Coast. Look at the enthusiasm for the games that we have brought back. Then we go to Cairns and Townsville where we will have football, and we will have sailing at the great Whitsundays—what a perfect background. This is what we are doing to put the games back on track.

What are those guys over there doing? What is the opposition's view on where the games should be? We have the member for Cooper, who agreed to it and then flip-flopped and is now against it. We have the member for McConnel, who is the shadow minister. I think the member for McConnel is one of only 50 people in this state who are against the Victoria Park stadium. It is something that has been proclaimed right across this state.

That leaves us with the last piece of the jigsaw with regards to the opposition's position. Where does the opposition leader believe the games venue should be? We have heard basically silence about Victoria Park. He believes it should be at QSAC. He is the only one I have seen in the last four or five years who has pushed the barrow of QSAC and a \$2 billion temporary stadium. Is it any wonder there are rumours that he will be out by Christmas!

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

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Queenslanders have seen ramping hit record highs, misleading crime data released, a bungled child safety IT system, staff fleeing the youth justice minister's office and a government that cannot run a high school exam. When will the Premier enforce the ministerial accountability that he promised Queenslanders?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you have one minute.

**Mr Bleijie:** He didn't even get time to ask his second question!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In politics, timing is everything and this guy's time is up. If you cannot even run a question time strategy, how can you run an opposition?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, correct titles, please.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition could not even arrange his question time strategy to give me three minutes to highlight how good this team is in dealing with the crises that we have inherited—cost of living, health, housing, youth crime. These are crises created by those opposite in a decade of decline. There is only one thing more certain than the fact that my team is up

to the job of delivering a solution for those crises; it is that the set of eyeballs opposite me that are looking at me now will not be the set of eyeballs at the start of 2026. The Leader of the Opposition is gone, gone, gone.

*(Time expired)*

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

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.07 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 29 October 2025, from the Deputy Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DEBRA ANN MULLINS AO, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2024

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 29 October 2025

### Introduction



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.08 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2024. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I today introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. The bill seeks approval for supplementary appropriation of \$5.4 million for the unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in the 2024-25 year. The unforeseen expenditure largely relates to costs associated with the 2024 state election, bargaining and tribunal determination outcomes, and reimbursement of committee costs from the prior year. The bill fulfils a legislative requirement that all payments from the Consolidated Fund be authorised by parliament in a timely manner. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

## APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-25) BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.10 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-25) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 29 October 2025, from the Deputy Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025.

#### MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY 2024-2025) BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DEBRA ANN MULLINS AO, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2024

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 29 October 2025

### Introduction



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.10 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2024. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights, and I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025, explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Supplementary 2024—2025) Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights.

I today introduce the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill 2025. This is an annual process under the Financial Accountability Act 2009 to finalise the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year. Parliamentary approval is now being sought for the unforeseen expenditure—that is expenditure not originally provided for in the former treasurer's appropriation bills, introduced when the 2024-25 budget was handed down in June last year.

The bill seeks approval for \$5.741 billion in unforeseen expenditure incurred in 2024-25 by 17 departments. In aggregate, including the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, the unforeseen expenditure for 2024-25 was \$5.746 billion. This was disclosed in the *Consolidated Fund financial report 2024-25*, which was tabled on 12 September 2025. The \$5.7 billion in unforeseen expenditure represents 6.3 per cent of the original appropriation. This is down from a figure of over \$9 billion, or 11.6 per cent, of original appropriation the year prior. That, in fact, was a figure so large it had to be broken up into three supplementary appropriation bills. While unforeseen expenditure has been nearly halved in percentage terms, this remains a higher than usual level of supplementary appropriation. The reason for this is the deception of those opposite.

As we have repeatedly revealed during the last year, the former Labor government hid their project blowouts and underfunded essential frontline services. A significant driver of last year's unforeseen expenditure is the funding black holes left by those opposite and which this government has had to fill. Billions in housing and homelessness, child safety, and health services and projects needed to be funded by the new LNP government because the former Labor government did not. For the purposes of this bill, this funding is referred to as 'unforeseen' expenditure. It was certainly unforeseen by Queenslanders, but it was not unforeseen by those opposite, and we will call it out.

Shortly after coming to government last year, we revealed that Labor had left a black hole of \$461 million in Child Safety in 2024-25 alone. There was over \$200 million in net unforeseen

expenditure across the housing portfolio in 2024-25. This includes nearly \$120 million for previously unfunded housing and homelessness services and \$62½ million for unfunded essential social housing maintenance. An amount of \$118 million in previously unbudgeted funding was required for financial assistance to victims of crime to help them recover from the physical and psychological effects of violent crime. As all members know, we also stepped in to fully fund the delivery of the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares after the former government failed to do so. They did not even fund 50-cent fares for a full year, let alone fund it in the forwards.

The most significant contribution to the unforeseen expenditure in 2024-25 is the additional funding for Queensland Health. There is over \$2 billion in unforeseen expenditure, due to the historic mismanagement at the hands of those opposite, most recently the member for Waterford. This includes over \$800 million of equity funding for black holes and cost overruns in hospital maintenance, refurbishment and infrastructure delivery—funding we have now provided as part of our comprehensive Hospital Rescue Plan. We also provided the necessary funding for Surgery Connect Surge to urgently address the elective surgery waitlist, which skyrocketed during Labor's decade of decline. This funding, which the former government did not allow for, has meant the waitlist has been stabilised, as promised and ahead of schedule.

Unforeseen expenditure and the need for supplementary appropriation is a normal function of government and can be required for many reasons. Departments may need additional appropriation to manage genuine emerging issues, to fund the response to natural disasters, for drawdowns from funding held centrally, or to deal with changes in timing of federal funding or project delivery. There are also some more technical changes which may trigger the need for supplementary appropriation. This includes changes in depreciation or the timing and quantum of beneficiary payments for superannuation and annual leave, which can be difficult to estimate. These are paid from existing provisions and do not represent an additional expense to the state. However, in the main, that is not what we are talking about in this bill.

Funding for massive cost blowouts due to poor scoping and planning or to deliver projects and services that were announced but never actually funded is not how you manage a budget and it does not demonstrate respect for Queenslanders' money. We have returned respect for Queenslanders' money as a fundamental principle guiding the Crisafulli government, and we are calmly and methodically cleaning up the mess of Labor's fiscal legacy of debt, deficit and deception. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (12.16 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from 29 October (see p. 3447), on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.17 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I think it is telling that a significant number of Labor members have not spoken on this bill including members of their leadership. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the shadow treasurer have all

been silent. Why? Why do they not want to speak on this bill? I see a few members opposite have jumped back on the list, but these members have not: Murrumba, Woodridge, Waterford, Miller, Ipswich West, Algester, Logan, Bundaberg, Ipswich, Kurwongbah, Bundamba, Aspley, Lytton, Mount Ommaney and Sandgate. That is 15 members who have elected not to speak on this very important bill. Where do these members stand on these laws? I say to those members that there is still time to jump back on the list today.

The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 delivers on the Crisafulli government's election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of a new three-tier public register to protect Queensland children and to put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. The public register will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents, guardians and those exercising parental responsibility to access information in order to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their child. The bill recognises the advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who have championed greater public access to information about child sex offenders in the community. The bill is named Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe.

Under the existing legislative framework, the Queensland Police Service administers the existing non-public child protection register. This non-public register contains a range of personal details about child sex offenders and particular offenders who pose a risk to the lives of children. These reportable offenders are required to keep police informed of their whereabouts and personal details for a set period of time. Reportable offenders are liable to the longest reporting obligation periods in Australia of 10 years, 20 years or life, depending on the offender's age at the time of the offence and whether they have repeat prior convictions. Members of the community cannot access information stored on the non-public register.

The QPS will have powers under this bill and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to monitor compliance and engage in investigative and enforcement strategies where necessary. The act currently permits information about a reportable offender to be provided to a person, including a parent or guardian of a child, if it is reasonably necessary and appropriate to reduce a risk to one or more children or of children generally. Additionally, the power can be used in circumstances where police become aware of changes to a reportable offender's contact with a child or children.

This bill establishes a new framework within the act to enable the release of particular information about particular offenders through the public register. The bill is designed to build on the existing non-public register and existing information-sharing mechanisms. 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. Importantly, 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 public register also operates through the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register website to be established by the QPS.

The policy intent of the public register is to make information available to communities so they can remain vigilant in their local communities. As such, the public register is designed to strike an appropriate balance of community safety and 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 these risks, the public release of information under the public register will occur in a measured way. In that regard, 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.

Specifically, the bill will insert a new part 5AA into the act providing the framework for the three-tier public register. Tier 1 is the missing noncompliant offender website—a public webpage displaying facial images and particular personal details of offenders who have breached their obligations and whose whereabouts are unknown to police. Under tier 1, in addition to a photograph of the reportable offender, the information published may also include a reportable offender's name, 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, thus ensuring that the information considered necessary to keep the community informed is 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. Under tier 2, upon request, 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 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 people 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.

Tier 3 is the parent/guardian disclosure scheme—a scheme enabling 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. 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.

Queensland's public register has distinct features that strengthen its framework compared to other states in that there is a legislated process by which a person can apply under tier 2. As well, there is a broader scope of reportable offenders captured for tier 2 in the bill that captures all offenders in schedule 1 of the act. Also, the publication of information of offenders who are considered to pose a serious risk and do not otherwise meet the tier 2 criteria is a discretion held by the Police Commissioner. Importantly, tier 3 information is not restricted to a parent or guardian of a child in the act. The access extends to any person with parental responsibility, ensuring a broader range of primary caregivers can apply for information.

From a safeguard perspective, 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, enabling a flexible approach for individual cases. Further safeguards in this bill include three new offences prohibiting misuse of information accessed or obtained from the public register. Each of those offences carries a significant penalty. Indeed, 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. There are other penalties of up to three years imprisonment as well. The bill legislates a five-year statutory review of the public register to be carried out by an independent and appropriately qualified person.

In conclusion, the public register empowers families to make informed decisions about who their children interact with, allowing them to take proactive steps to protect their children. I commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their strength, for their determination and for their persistence. I commend this bill to the House in the knowledge that it has come at an unimaginable cost to Bruce and Denise and their loved ones. I commend the bill—the Daniel's Law bill—to the memory of a young boy whose passing has changed the way we think and the way we act against offenders of such heinous crimes.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (12.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. At the very outset I want to, like others have done in this debate, commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe and every victim, advocate and survivor who, like them, has turned their pain—that unimaginable pain—into purpose. It is because of your courage that countless children across this state and across this nation have been protected. It is because of your relentless advocacy that governments across this nation have been pushed to do better. Daniel's legacy is one that will continue to save lives for generations.

I want to pause for a moment because, whilst I wish to associate myself with the very considered remarks of other speakers in this debate who have reflected on the Morcombes' pain, the loss of Daniel and others like him, I do want to address some of the remarks that have been made by those opposite. I want to completely separate what has been very clear acknowledgement and support for this bill and the establishment of this register by the Labor opposition from my observations about the remarks made by those opposite. This debate should never have been allowed by the Premier to descend into the opportunity which has been taken by members of the government to use this debate for personal political attacks. This should have been entirely a debate—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Members! Member, could I just remind you not to stray from the bill itself, please.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Over the last two days of debate on this bill, those opposite have continued to deliver personal political attacks around the position of various members of this House on a public child sex offender register. Numerous perspectives have been criticised.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, he is not taking interjections. Allow him to proceed. If he strays I will pull him up, but can we let the member proceed. Thank you.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Numerous opportunities have been taken, ad nauseam, to criticise the various positions taken on this. They have always been considered positions. No member comes to this House without a considered position on how to best protect the lives of young and vulnerable Queenslanders. For all of those political attacks—which exposed the motives of so many members opposite who are speaking to this—none of them mentioned that in 2014 they failed to use their super majority of 64 members to pass a bill which was brought to this place to establish a public sex offender register. They voted against it when they had a super majority. They did not mention that in any of those speeches. That is why it is so disappointing that they have used this as a lever for political attacks and political pointscoreing.

I want to make some observations in relation to this bill. It is my particular view that this bill could have been improved. I think the government should listen carefully to the views of stakeholders in considering the bill they have brought to the House and what future steps might be taken. We will always support frameworks that protect young people, families and members of our community, especially from the worst types of despicable criminals who inhabit our neighbourhoods. Every effort must be made when it comes to protecting children from harm.

We know that this bill seeks to give Queenslanders access to information about serious child sex offenders. That is important. As a parent I know that, as do people like teachers and neighbours, but we want it done properly. The government's effort—not their intent—seems to have fallen somewhat short of what the community expects from sophisticated frameworks. Protecting our children is not just about passing this bill, which we will do—we will make sure that happens today; it is also about ensuring the system is international best practice every single day for victim-survivors and for officers on the front line.

Governments have been making progress in this space for some time. When in government Labor strengthened laws to protect children, introduced tougher penalties for those who breached reporting obligations, invested in specialist police who track down and manage these offenders and backed the people doing the hardest work in our justice system—those who deal with the darkest of crimes. We will continue to back them and continue to back the advocates, because laws alone will not protect people; people do.

We have before us a bill which I think could have been more effective, and that is a considered view. I understand that the bill does establish the register through the website, but I note the advocacy of some who say that the framework has failed to ensure it will function safely or as effectively as it possibly could. Some advocates have said that a clear provision for opt-in notifications, so that victims know when an offender relocates to their community, would have made it more effective. That omission, one could say, leaves victims in the dark and makes them feel unsafe in their own neighbourhoods. How often do they need to check the register—daily, weekly, once a quarter? The bill establishes the register, but it is a concern that only around one in four reportable offenders will actually be listed on it. That means some offenders will remain invisible, free to move around our communities largely undetected. I want to be very clear: that is not a reason not to proceed.

The government has allocated \$10 million for the IT platform that underpins the scheme. I have genuine reservations that that is inadequate. If the system fails or if data is lost or corrupted, the consequences are unthinkable. Then there is the question of what is missing entirely. My observation is that the bill does not seem to address some of the modern risks of technology misuse—things like artificial intelligence or digital publishing tools being used to fabricate false content. There do not appear to be safeguards to prevent someone from mocking up a fake screenshot of the register, posting it online and wrongfully portraying an innocent Queenslanders as a listed offender. It is not clear to me in this bill that if the image of a person who is not an offender is displayed in this way there is any remedy provided by this legislation. At best, the action of an aggrieved person could be around defamation—civil proceedings that would take vast sums of time and money to resolve. At worst, it could destroy a person's reputation, safety or mental health. The question is: does the absence of any specific criminal offence for this kind of misuse risk undermining public confidence in the system? I hope not, because

if people stop trusting the platform they might stop using it and then fewer people would be protected. I hope that does not happen.

I also ask: are there more protections in this framework for serious offenders than there are for innocent Queenslanders? I hope that is not the case. It is staggering, though, that, 13 years after the WA model was introduced and with so many advances in IT, AI and digital security, it appears that the government has not even contemplated those risks.

Finally, I want to address the timelines for the statutory review, which I understand will take place as soon as practicable following five years of operation. I think five years is probably too long. All of us want to see these statutory reviews, but advocates have been clear that they want this review to occur sooner. The question that arises is: if this framework does not achieve what we all want it to, does a lengthy delay mean we be waiting too long to know what to do to address it? Waiting too long is unacceptable when children's safety is on the line.

We will ensure this public sex offender register is established by passing this bill, but we call on the government to ensure they properly fund it, properly resource it and properly review it within more effective timeframes to ensure it resolves any deficiencies, where required, sooner rather than later. Finally, to Daniel's family and to all survivors of these horrific crimes: your advocacy will always be honoured in this place.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member for Logan and member for Waterford, I remind you that you are still under a warning.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I would like to start my contribution today by paying tribute to Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who experienced the very worst thing that could ever happen to any of us. Bruce and Denise have joined us in parliament today, and I thank them for being here. Bruce and Denise have been an incredible part of our Sunshine Coast community. I think we can all agree that we will never be able to count the lives they have potentially saved through the work they have done. I realised just how special and effective the work of Bruce and Denise was when my own children in those younger primary school years would come home and talk about Daniel and what they had learned about being safe. They would speak about listening if they got a 'funny feeling in their tummy'—in child language, explaining how to listen to your gut in a way that sticks with both kids and their parents.

The establishment of the public child sex offender register allows parents and those with parental responsibility to access information in order to make informed decisions about who their children are spending time with. This register is about arming adults with the tools to remain vigilant in keeping our community safe. The tireless advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation in lobbying for greater publicly available information has led to this first-of-its kind register, named Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe. The reality we face as a society is that there are bad, bad people out there who are capable of doing horrific things to children. This bill is a significant step in the right direction. As we know, many sexual assaults of children are inflicted by people they know and that disgusting situation is something that, as parents, we should be aware of. This bill takes away a layer of questioning regarding those registered sex offenders. No, this does not capture and eliminate all risk, but it sure is a step forward.

During the summer of January 2016 my then six-year-old daughter was the victim of a sexual assault. I want to share with the chamber the impact of what that looks like in my experience and just why this legislation is so important. I did not know. With a four-year-old, a two-year-old and a newborn, I never would have put two and two together about the events of that day. There were other people around, it was broad daylight and it was not a stranger. What I did know, though, was that just four weeks later, when school returned for the new school year and she was entering year 2, she was all of a sudden terrified to be left at a place she had always been safe and thrived.

This once-confident, happy little girl was, out of nowhere, hiding under desks and crying—happy at home, not happy away from home. I took her to a well-known child psychologist to figure out why I was witnessing such a dramatic change in behaviour. I was worried, and still had no idea. After months of therapy, this professional described her as 'the worst case of avoidance I've ever seen' when talking about what might be wrong and concluded that she was very introverted and a bit different.

Five years later, at age 11, this beautiful, mature, super smart, wonderful daughter of mine came to me in her quiet, no-fuss manner and described the events of that day in so much detail it was like it was yesterday. What followed from there was bouts of anxiety, sadness, questioning, a different psychologist, a therapist, GP support, school refusal at times, all whilst navigating growing up and her

teenage years. My daughter is not defined by this, but it has definitely had a significant impact in different ways over time.

Victims live a battle of weighing up chasing justice versus healing themselves and the journey is individual and complex. What works for one person does not necessarily work for all. My heart goes out to all victims as it can be a lifelong battle for the victim. I would like to pay tribute to the angels at Laurel Place in Maroochydore who specialise in sexual assault counselling who, in just one session, had more impact on our family than anyone. This perpetrator was a distant relative and my daughter had not known him before and has not seen him since, but if it can happen to me it can happen to anyone.

Bruce and Denise paid the ultimate price for the dark side of society and remain my inspiration and have the eternal gratitude of an entire country for the teaching they have given hundreds of thousands of children in a way that parents do not always have the right words for. We will all remember Daniel, and his legacy will live on forever. My message is for the sake of our children: there are very few people we can trust so we have a right to know the ones that we definitely cannot. We all benefit from talking about sexual assault and sexual exploitation of children openly, as by bringing it into the open it is harder for the perpetrators to hide. At all costs let's work together to ensure no child pays the price that Daniel and his family have. What happened to Daniel was a crime of opportunity by a depraved individual who should never have been walking the streets.

I am baffled by the amount of members who have chosen not to speak on this bill, but my position should be made clear: the rights of perpetrators mean nothing when compared to the safety of children. As we all remember Daniel tomorrow in the annual Walk for Daniel event wearing our red shirts, remember to take the opportunity to keep the conversation going with our children about what is not okay and how to talk about it, both around crimes of opportunity and stranger danger, and also to remain vigilant in our homes, schools, sports clubs and safe environments. Thank you.



**Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.44 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the member for Caloundra. Sharing that story must have been very difficult. Thank you. It was obviously timely and very powerful to listen to in support of the safety of all Queensland children.

I rise to contribute to the debate on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. This legislation, known as Daniel's Law, is named in honour of Daniel Morcombe, a young Queenslanders who we are all familiar with and whose tragic story has profoundly shaped our state's commitment to the protection of children. On the 20th anniversary of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, I want to pay the highest tribute to Bruce and Denise. Their courage and resilience in the face of unimaginable grief is extraordinary. Out of heartbreak they created hope, dedicating their lives to keeping other children safe. Through their advocacy, their education programs and their unwavering determination, they have no doubt saved many young lives in this state.

The passage of Daniel's Law marks a deeply meaningful and significant moment for the Morcombe family. It reflects their tireless efforts to create a legacy of protection, awareness and accountability. This Friday is Day for Daniel, Australia's largest child safety education and awareness day. Each year more than two million Australians participate, wearing red and learning how to stay safe online and in their communities. The foundation's work extends well beyond that day. This year, to commemorate its 20th anniversary, it released a 30-minute documentary titled *Don't Waste It*. It is a powerful education resource designed for teenagers aged 13 to 15, helping them understand personal safety in real-world situations. It highlights the foundation's journey in child protection and shows exactly why the Morcombes' advocacy has national significance. The Queensland Labor opposition will be supporting this bill. The safety of our children must always come first and this parliament must contribute to keeping kids safe.

This bill establishes a three-tier system to increase community awareness and enables carers to access information about certain reportable offenders where this is appropriate. Tier 1 will include a public website listing missing or noncompliant offenders, along with their photographs and vehicle details; tier 2 will allow Queensland residents to apply to temporarily view photographs of certain reportable offenders in their local area; and tier 3 will allow parents and guardians to check whether a person with unsupervised access to their child is a reportable offender. Civil liberties are critical to a democratic society, as is the appropriate use of information. On that basis, to ensure this information is not misused, the bill also includes strong offences to prevent the misuse of information, with penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment for harassment and to prevent vigilante justice.

While this bill represents an important step forward, the work cannot end with its passage. For Daniel's Law to deliver what it promises it must be properly resourced. The Queensland Police Service

will carry the responsibility for administering the register, processing applications, ensuring accuracy, monitoring compliance and managing public inquiries. This is a significant undertaking. Through the parliamentary committee process the QPS indicated that only a handful of staff—four or five—will initially be assigned to get the scheme underway, with ongoing needs still to be assessed. It is concerning that no ongoing funding has yet been provided for the operation of the register, only for its establishment. The Queensland Labor opposition calls on the government to ensure that the QPS has the ongoing resources it needs to manage this register safely and effectively. That includes additional funding, sufficient staff, appropriate technology and the training and oversight required to prevent mistakes and protect both community and victims.

We know from the experience of other jurisdictions that such a register is not simple to operate. It requires constant monitoring, updates and checks to ensure the accuracy of information and the privacy of those affected. The system being developed to administer this register must be built carefully, properly tested, secure and robust, and it must not be rushed. Stakeholders, including the CCC and the Queensland Law Society, have highlighted that there is limited evidence globally about the effectiveness of registers in reducing offending and that is why education and awareness are so critical.

Education helps parents and children to understand that most offenders are not strangers. Sadly, often they are people close to the victim. The register is one tool in our toolkit, but it must be part of a broader holistic approach to child safety that includes education, prevention and early intervention. The Queensland Labor opposition urges the government to ensure that any education campaign supporting Daniel's Law is substantive and practical. It must explain clearly how the system works, what information it provides and, just as importantly, what it does not. Parents must not be given a false sense of security.

During the committee process the QPS advised that, of more than 3,200 reportable offenders on the child protection offender register, fewer than 750 will be captured under tier 2 of the scheme. That is less than 25 per cent. It is critical that families understand these limitations and that the government closely monitors how the scheme operates to ensure it achieves its intent without unintended harm. The legislation includes a statutory review after five years. We believe that review should occur earlier and more regularly to ensure any emerging issues are addressed swiftly and effectively.

Queensland Labor has a proud record of strengthening child protection laws. We introduced the toughest monitoring framework in the nation, doubling the periods for which child sex offenders were subjected to police oversight. We permanently integrated Task Force Orion into the Queensland Police Service's Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group and, since 2015, we almost doubled the resources allocated to the child protection offender register with a commitment to further double those by 2030. We expanded police powers to inspect digital devices, required offenders to disclose anonymising software and created new penalties for failing to comply with reporting obligations. Those are all tangible, nation-leading reforms that make Queensland safe, and Daniel's Law builds on that legacy. However, laws alone are not enough. For the system to work, for parents to have confidence and for victims to be respected, it must be appropriately resourced, monitored and continually improved. Every victim matters, every child deserves safety and every Queenslanders has a role to play in protecting our children.

Again, I wish to pay tribute to Bruce and Denise for their strength, compassion and unwavering commitment to child safety. Daniel's legacy lives on through them, through those lives that have been saved and through the millions of children who are safer today because of their bravery and commitment to change. The Queensland Labor opposition supports this bill because it reflects our shared determination to do everything possible to keep Queensland children safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (12.52 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. I also pay tribute to Bruce and Denise, who I know are here in the gallery. Yesterday I had the pleasure of being with them and the Premier at Milton State School. I will refer to that matter a little later. I also acknowledge the member for Caloundra and her personal story, which was very poignantly told. Often in this House members are able to give us their own personal perspectives about these types of issues. I thank the member for Caloundra for being prepared to do that. I wish her and her family the best into the future.

As we have heard, we are establishing a public register. I remember being in opposition over the past couple of terms when the then premier would speak about some social issue and say, 'These are amongst the most important things that we are going to do in the 55th Parliament'—or the 56th

Parliament or the 57th Parliament. I think members on this side will say that this is amongst the most important work that we will do in the 58th Parliament. However, those opposite do not really have their hearts in it, evidenced by the lack of spokespeople from their leadership group.

However, it is not just that. In contributions that we have just heard, both the member for Stretton and the member for Springwood said, 'We're supporting it but here are some things we are unhappy about.' One quote was, 'Waiting too long is unacceptable when children's safety is on the line.' Those are not my words, although I concur with them. Those are the words of the member for Springwood. He said, 'Waiting too long is unacceptable when children's safety is on the line.' Instead of then saying, 'So we support this unequivocally,' those opposite have raised issues such as, 'We're concerned whether it will capture all offenders'; 'We're concerned about the funding that has been allocated'; 'We're concerned about whether AI may have some issues with this particular register'; 'We're not sure we have trust in the platform'; 'We're not sure about the statutory review, which should be either earlier or less than five years.' In my opinion, that is offensive given the Morcombe family is in the gallery. It is just outrageous because those opposite had the opportunity to do something about this. They will talk about the things that they supposedly did to strengthen these issues, but obviously they did not and do not have their hearts in it. They are prepared to raise these types of questions about legislation that has gone through the committee process and I think it is outrageous that they are prepared to do that.

Not only that, the member for Springwood raised an issue about a bill that was debated when we supposedly had what he called a 'super majority'. There is no such thing as a super majority. In a parliament of 89 or 93, all you need is a simple majority. There is no such thing as a super majority. Importantly, the bill to which the member for Springwood referred was a private member's bill introduced by another party and not subjected to the same investigation that this bill has been subjected to. To try to suggest that this side of the House, when in government, did not support a private member's bill is specious to say the least.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Out of respect for the Morcombes, who are in the gallery, I ask all members to remain silent while this member gives his speech.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Many on this side have spoken about the specific provisions of the register and its three tiers. I will not go into those details. I want to speak more personally about what Bruce and Denise have done over the past 20 years. The Premier announced this particular policy at a function called the Red Ball, which was held before the election last year on the Gold Coast. My wife, Stacey, and I were proud to be there with Hermann Vorster, now the member for Burleigh, and his wife, Melissa. The then opposition leader made an announcement that received great acclamation from the audience. A very enthusiastic supporter of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and someone whom I have come to know very well is Adrian Parsons. Adrian and his wife, Karen, organised the first iteration of that function at the Langham last year and they have held another function this year to support Bruce and Denise.

Bruce and Denise have transitioned to more of an ambassadorial role. Having met with them, my department was pleased to announce that we will support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. As we all know, the Walk for Daniel is on tomorrow but it has been a whole week of activities. The foundation has improved the resources that they have developed as they educate young Queenslanders. I remember back to 2012 or 2013 when I saw Denise and Bruce present to one of the first classes in regional Queensland, in Barcaldine, when I was the then minister. I want to compliment them on how they have made the resources progressive to deal with issues as they arise as we know that predators will find different ways to do things. Bruce and Denise have worked very hard on those resources.

As I have mentioned already, yesterday I was with the Premier, the Morcombes and Minister Camm at Milton State School. We watched a class being given a vignette of the video that is going to be shown tomorrow during Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson. I think 500,000 people saw it last year and 50,000 of those saw it live. That is something for which they should be commended. Two million people engage in Day for Daniel and they should be commended for that as well. The new resources that were shown to the young students in year 3 at Milton State School yesterday talk about issues such as deepfakes and constantly reassuring young children about the importance of safety, but not in a fearful way. I know that that is something they have developed over the intervening years. Again I commend the Morcombes, as I know everyone here has and does. Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson will be streamed live tomorrow.

The public register is well needed. I am also very happy, as I have been with other examples in my portfolio, to be debating legislation that has been introduced elsewhere. We know that Western Australia and South Australia have similar registers. I hope that we have refined ours. While some

aspects might be a little more stringent than those in other jurisdictions, we have looked at what has happened with those other registers and made sure that what we have is the 2025 version, which will be as good as or better than any other. This is about transparency and accountability as well as ensuring that caregivers and parents have access to information to keep their children safe from harm.

Recently I was with Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin. Honestly, when you drive past the overpass where young Daniel was taken it makes you realise—we used to drive past it all the time on the way to the Big Pineapple. The Morcombes have continued to do their work so unselfishly on behalf of all Queenslanders and that is something that I think we should all acknowledge. With those words, I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Crisafulli Government, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I am pleased to make a private members statement this afternoon. As I have said in this House on many occasions, when the Premier says something he means something else or when the Premier says something, it means nothing. Just like the Premier said he would fix the housing crisis.

What do we know about housing in Queensland? Rents have exploded—up at least nine per cent on the Gold Coast, or more if your landlord happens to be the housing minister, perhaps. The social housing waiting list has continued to blow out—up 11 per cent in three months under the LNP government. Queensland housing costs have increased 13.2 per cent in one year. The number of houses started construction under the LNP government is down 4.4 per cent. They are not Labor numbers. They are not part of the decade of decline. They are from CommSec.

What do you do when there is an LNP housing crisis? The No. 1 thing you do is slam the door shut on more affordable and social housing. That is exactly what the LNP has done. What they have done in doing so in places like South Brisbane is that they have slammed the door shut on ambos, nurses, teachers and police officers who want to live and work in the community that they serve. The LNP condemns them to hours on the road or hours on public transport just to get to their job because they will not deliver the affordable housing—the thousands of homes—that should be delivered for Queenslanders.

I know there are former police officers on the other side. They are not willing to stand up for their colleagues in blue who need a place to live near where they work. They are not willing to do that. They are willing to shut the door on affordable housing. The LNP are not builders. They do not construct. Instead, they deconstruct a better future for Queenslanders.

The Premier's duplicity is not confined to housing. Cost-of-living relief in power bills—remember he said he would keep that. What he meant was that he was not going to keep that. What about when he promised that ambulance ramping would go down. What he meant was that ambulance ramping would go up to record levels. What about when the Premier said that heavy rail would be built to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. What he meant was: get out your go card because you are going to get a bus.

What about when the Premier said he would 'heal the health crisis.' We now have a health system out of control under a hapless health minister. Ramping is out of control and hospitals are not being built across Queensland. What about the doozy of them all—no new stadium for Queensland. When the Premier said that, what he really meant was that of course there is going to be a new stadium. Finally, what about the promise from the Premier to hold ministers accountable—exhibit A, Minister Nicholls; exhibit B, Minister Gerber; and exhibit C, Minister Camm. None of them are held accountable for their failings in public administration in this state. Do not listen to what the Premier says; look at what he does.

### Daniel Morcombe Foundation

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.03 pm): As many have this week, I rise to pay tribute to Bruce and Denise Morcombe and to acknowledge the incredible work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation which continues to be proudly based in my electorate of Nicklin at Daniel House in Palmwoods. This Friday marks the 21st Day for Daniel—Australia's largest national day of action for child safety. What began

as a local walk in Palmwoods to honour Daniel's memory has grown into a movement embraced by schools, communities and families right across the nation. Each year, Australians wear red, learn about child safety and remember a young boy whose story continues to inspire and protect others.

Every Day for Daniel carries a powerful message that child safety is everyone's responsibility. Of course, this year will be especially meaningful. At last year's walk, which just happened to fall on the day before the last election, I made a promise to Bruce and Denise. I told them, 'Were I to be elected, I would fight alongside the LNP to deliver a public child sex offender register for Queensland.' To be able to return to Palmwoods tomorrow having kept that promise through the passage of Daniel's Law through the parliament this week will be something truly special.

I first met Bruce and Denise Morcombe back in 2017 when I was a police officer and I had the privilege of joining them for the very first Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson. I saw firsthand the difference it made. It is a simple, engaging and empowering program that gave children the tools to stay safe. Since then, that initiative has evolved through the technology available to us today to reach more children in more schools. Another lesson has just been released for Day for Daniel tomorrow.

It is an extraordinary example of how innovation and purpose can combine to make lasting change. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation stands today as a symbol of hope, education and community strength. From Daniel House in Palmwoods, their team continues to lead the way in child safety education and support for victims of crime. Their impact is national, but their heart remains in our Sunshine Coast hinterland community at Palmwoods.

To Bruce and Denise, and everyone at the foundation: thank you for your courage, thank you for your persistence and thank you for your unwavering dedication to making Australia a safer place for children. This 21st Day for Daniel will be a very special one—a moment to celebrate how far we have come and to honour the legacy of a young boy whose story continues to make a difference every single day.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Before I call the next member, I place on record my thanks to the member for Nicklin for his work with the Morcombes and the foundation. Good luck tomorrow.

### Local Government Association Conference

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.06 pm): Queensland's local governments came together on the Gold Coast, but the Premier's temper was higher than a skyscraper by the time his toes hit the sand—described time and time again by everyone who encountered him as fuming. The source of his frustration was the comedic ministerial social media sensation, his own ministers Leahy and Simpson.

It is rare they get day release from the ivory tower, but the local government sector got to see firsthand why these modern day maidens are locked away in a high tower. Our bumbling heroines were caught in choppy coastal conditions, having to face the music with the Indigenous leaders network. They suffered a case of temporary amnesia and announced an Indigenous voice—a direct line to cabinet. This was the cause of the fury for the member for Broadwater, who had to leave his home in Brisbane and scream down the M1 to let everyone know in no uncertain terms that he was the clean-up squad.

Speaking in slogans and forked tongue has become an art form for the LNP, but the local government leaders saw straight through it. We hear much of their mantra of equal partners in local government, but it is clear that some healthy relationships training is sorely needed because relationships are not equal when there is an all-or-nothing approach on critical matters and when local governments are force-fed a poison apple under this hapless, coercive government. Thankfully, democratic processes endured. That is important when fairy tales start to become nightmares and slogans have no substance.

Congratulations to the institution of the LGAQ that put on a sensational 129th conference, but particularly to their elected leaders who did not crumble to the bad, all-or-nothing LNP deals and defeated the villains with unanimous votes despite the numerous phone calls placed. Collectivism held out and democracy endured.

We know this Premier has a track record of blowing up at mayors and hanging up on his minister. What is next? What a year of delivery. One thing is for sure: this is a cabinet of actors scripted with slogans, bereft of ideas, charter letters of thought bubbles, wanting to move onto the next take with every single misstep. When they have to land something, they either make a meal of it or they have to force it down people's throats.

We are still waiting for the legislative process. The honourably admonished minister is surely a safe and trustworthy set of hands for that job. I cannot wait for next year's LGAQ conference in Cairns, where I predict it will be the next scene where we will have the LNP gagging the crocodiles themselves.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Before I call the next member, I welcome to the chamber students and teachers from the Islamic College of Brisbane based in Stretton.

### **Payne, Mr H; Pumicestone Electorate, Events; Brighter Future Grants**

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise to speak about the enduring legacy of Harrison Payne, an inspirational young man whose life was tragically cut short in May 2021 at just 18 years old. Harry lost his life in a four-wheel drive crash on Woorim Beach, a place he loved deeply and where he spent so much of his time. In recent weeks, the Ocean Beach Access Track at Woorim has officially been renamed the Harrison Payne Track, with new signage now proudly installed. This change, unanimously supported by Moreton Bay Regional Council last month, is more than a name; it is a powerful tribute to Harry's bright spirit, his passion for the outdoors and his leadership among young local people.

On Saturday, 16 November, our community will come together to officially celebrate this renaming, joined by those who partnered with and supported the Payne family through the Harrison Payne Initiative. It will be a day of remembrance, unity and pride for all who have helped honour Harry's legacy. I thank Mayor Peter Flannery, division 1 councillor Brooke Savige and my colleague Minister Brent Mickelberg for this important tribute. I was honoured to lend my voice to the Payne family's request, and I know the community stands proudly behind them.

Last month I was also pleased to host a Dementia Morning Tea with Leah Keating, joined by Dovidia in-home care, Jodie Doe from the Bribie Dementia Chit-Chat Group and Velan Health. It was a reminder of the importance of community connection and awareness for those living with dementia and their families. I was also delighted to tour the new precinct at the Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre alongside Cecilia and her team, whose commitment to providing safe, inclusive and supportive spaces for locals is absolutely invaluable.

Another highlight was the success of the Destiny Rescue fundraising event at the Bribie RSL which brought together people across Pumicestone to help combat child exploitation and restore hope to vulnerable young lives. Our community spirit was also on full display at Dragonfest 2025, hosted by the Pumicestone Dragon Boat Club. Congratulations to the organisers for another vibrant celebration of culture, sport and togetherness along the Bribie foreshore.

Finally, I want to congratulate the latest recipients of my Brighter Future grants: Shane Fixter from the Pumicestone Passage Pirates; Nicole Jenkins, who will be bringing astronomy to Bribie; the Bribie Island Community Kindergarten; and local cheerleading champion Lacie, whose energy and determination inspire us all. A special mention goes to one of our past recipients, five-year-old motorsport prodigy Leo Melia from Beachmere, who has just been signed by Parolin Australia as a factory development driver on a multiyear contract, making him one of the youngest in the world to achieve this title. Leo's future looks bright and so does that of Pumicestone.

### **Gladstone Ports Corporation Board**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.12 pm): I rise today to speak on behalf of the people of Gladstone—hardworking, community minded locals who are rightly outraged by the action of the Crisafulli government in stripping away their voices from the Gladstone Ports Corporation Board. The people of Gladstone deserve to be heard and represented in decisions that affect their livelihoods.

For generations the Port of Gladstone has been the beating heart of our regional economy, built by the hands of local workers, guided by the knowledge of local industry and represented by proud Gladstone people who understand our community, our economy and our future. The port is not just an economic asset; it is part of our city's identity and our pride. It supports thousands of local jobs in Gladstone and underpins critical industries and strengthens Queensland's position nationally and internationally.

However, what have we seen from this LNP government? We have seen a blatant power grab. Every single local representative has been removed from the Gladstone Ports Corporation and replaced with Brisbane-based political connections. Locals who have served with distinction, who know our industries, who know our workers and our challenges in Gladstone, have been sidelined to make room for party insiders. This is not about performance; it is about politics. It is about the LNP once again

treating regional Queensland like a resource that needs to be managed, not a community to be respected or heard.

If that was not bad enough, we now learn that the government has also appointed former LNP member for Gregory Lachlan Millar to the Gladstone Area Water Board of all things—a move that reeks of political favouritism. These are critical organisations in the Gladstone region that shape our jobs, infrastructure and environmental future, not places for recycled political loyalists to come into Gladstone.

The people of Gladstone deserve better. They deserve representation from people who live in Gladstone, who work in Gladstone and who understand the unique challenges we face in our part of the regions in Queensland. Gladstone is not a political playground; it is a proud, hardworking and resilient community that demands and deserves respect, recognition and proper representation in all key decision-making bodies and boards in the Gladstone region. Gladstone is calling on this government to put a Gladstone representative on the Gladstone Ports Corporation Board, like we have had for decades and generations in the Gladstone region. It is imperative that they make this decision and implement it right now.

### Callide Electorate

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.15 pm): We have a report of a 17-year-old paddleboard rider missing at Callide Dam since late yesterday afternoon. Our emergency services are working hard to find the individual. Sunwater and our wider Biloela community are also leaning in to assist in these efforts. My thoughts and prayers go out to the teenager's family and wider community that he is returned safely. The dam remains closed until further notice. I ask anyone who has to be in the area to please follow all instructions from emergency services personnel until further notice.

Women deserve the very best of health services. They deserve them in Callide as well. Since I have been elected I have been fighting hard to see more health services closer to home for our communities, including maternity services—maternity services that were closed by the Palaszczuk and Miles Labor governments. They would not admit they were closed, but they were placed on bypass for many years. When you place something on bypass for many years, that means you have closed that facility. We have committed to reopening maternity services in Biloela. There is a lot of great work happening to reinstate those services.

Importantly, when we reinstate maternity services we want to make sure they are sustainable and that the care provided is safe. That is what we are working through. We inherited a decade of decline that saw those services closed, but we remain committed to getting them back online. I say to the Chinchilla community that, while we have not yet committed to reopening them there, I will keep fighting to make sure we get those opened in the long term, because it is an incredibly important service to women across rural Queensland—women I represent. They deserve these services in those communities, and I will continue to stand up until such time as we have them.

I have spoken in this House previously about studying at QUT in the science faculty. Last sitting week I raised my concerns with the QUT cutting science faculty staff, including academic staff, from the university. I have written to the Vice-Chancellor of QUT and to date I have not received a response. Some 2,500 people have signed a petition against those proposed cuts, and I fully support them in their endeavours to get this decision reversed. I hope the QUT listens to what those 2,500 individuals have said and that they will not allow this to happen. I hope the vice-chancellor responds soon, because there are a lot of questions to be answered about decisions the university has made over the years that have led to their financial situation and likely led to this position that I dare say they still have plenty of time to reverse.

### Skin Cancer Prevention

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (2.18 pm): I rise today concerned and, quite frankly, flabbergasted by this LNP government's decision to axe Queensland's skin cancer prevention program. We live under the harshest sun in the world. Queensland is not just the Sunshine State, we are the skin cancer capital of the world. I know the danger personally. I have had skin cancer surgery. Thankfully, it was caught early because education and regular checks taught me to take it seriously. However, not everyone gets that chance. Every year around 4,000 Queenslanders are diagnosed with melanoma. Hundreds die. I know this has touched many in my electorate. There are too many families who have lost a parent, a friend or a young adult child to this preventable disease. That is why cutting this program

is reckless and wrong. Queensland should be leading the nation, if not the world, on prevention, not turning its back on it.

Queensland's prevention program worked. It saved lives. It helped people recognise the warning signs, get checked early and stay safe in the sun. Many of us remember Sid the Seagull and the Slip, Slop, Slap message that changed how we raised our kids. We learnt how to protect them, and I want the same protection for the next generation. Every dollar spent on prevention saves many more in hospital care, surgery and oncology. This decision will not save money; it will cost lives in the long run. Prevention is about keeping parents around to see their children grow up and keeping Queenslanders healthy, productive and alive. I call on the Minister for Health to immediately reinstate this program.

Heading into this election, the Premier promised to put experts back in charge. He is not listening to the Cancer Council of Queensland, to dermatologists or to those who have been fighting this battle for decades. He is more interested in changing colours on Queensland branding than warning about the changing colours of melanoma.

Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide means something different to this shady government. They have slipped back to the seventies before the time of Sid the Seagull. They have made sloppy decisions that put lives at risk. They have delivered a slap in the face to Queenslanders. They are seeking to save money at the expense of lives. They will slide straight back into opposition if they keep this up. Queenslanders deserve protection from the sun, not to be burnt by this government's reckless cuts.

### **Warrego Electorate, Infrastructure Funding**



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.21 pm): I rise to update the House on how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for the Warrego electorate. We promised a fresh start at the last election and that we would deliver for regional Queensland. We have been busy, and it will take more than three minutes to get through the long list.

We have committed \$105 million to the first ever Exclusion Fence Restitution Program to help producers rebuild their exclusion fencing that was damaged by the floods earlier this year. We have funded \$155 million worth of Betterment projects to aid access to places like Quilpie, Thargomindah, Hungerford, Yowah and Cunnamulla during flood events. We are delivering a rebuild of the more than 90-year-old Eulo Bridge over the Paroo River.

In Dalby, we are providing a new multipurpose hall for the state high school and a CT scanner for the hospital to service the entire Western Downs region. In the far west, we are supporting upgrades to the Bob Young Memorial Park at Quilpie. We are providing more housing in Thargomindah and upgrades to the Thargomindah Golf Club. We have also committed funding to the Warri Gate Road, a road that Labor ignored for 10 years.

In Roma, we are working in partnership with the local council to redevelop the Denise Spencer Aquatic Centre, and I thank the Deputy Premier for his commitment and for coming to Roma to make that announcement. We are also extending the Adungadoo Pathway and committing over \$5 million to rehabilitate and widen the Roma-Condamine Road. For 10 years the former Labor government did not spend one cent on the Roma-Condamine Road. We are upgrading the Cunnamulla pool, have committed funding to the Jakelwar Goodooga Road and are providing funding to develop a shire-wide aerodrome master plan for the Balonne Shire.

At Charleville, we have committed funding to address runway defects at the airport, and we have committed \$11 million for the Great Artesian Basin Water Security Program—Australia's best water conservation program. We are delivering a CT scanner for the Charleville Hospital, which is greatly needed in Charleville and the south-west because we only have one CT scanner available in that HHS area. The Residential Activation Fund is supporting hundreds more lots of land in Thargomindah, St George, Roma, Charleville and Dalby. The Crisafulli government is increasing the land supply, because many of these communities are almost out of blocks for housing.

This is not everything; it is all that I can fit into the time that we have allotted here today. I thank the people of Warrego for entrusting me to deliver for them. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering to Queenslanders, and we have done more for the regions in 12 months than what Labor did in 10 years. This is just the start. We are only just starting. There is much more work to do. We look forward to continuing to deliver for Queenslanders. It is just the start of what we will continue to do.

### **Health Services, Youth**



**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.24 pm): Access to health care should never be determined by ideology, yet under this LNP government young people are being denied essential, evidence-based health services that exist to keep them safe. Earlier this year the government quietly halted access to gender-affirming care for young people in the public health system. Clinics were paused. Referrals were closed. Families were left without guidance or support. It has since been reported that not a single person who worked on the cabinet submission or the health directive had any expertise in supporting trans children. In fact, the online meeting in which the directive was given lasted all of 22 minutes. That is not what listening to experts looks like.

It is a political ideology deciding who can and cannot access health care. Gender-affirming care is not experimental; it is endorsed by every major medical and psychological body in this country, and it saves lives. It allows young people to access professional, supervised care that supports their identity and wellbeing. Denying that care does not protect young people; it isolates them and increases risk. We are seeing a disturbing pattern: a government that claims to listen to experts but systematically silences them. The same disregard for evidence that halted gender-affirming care has extended to harm reduction services.

Last year, under the former Labor government, Queensland became the first state in the nation to establish pill testing services. These clinics were free, voluntary and confidential. They connected young people to doctors, nurses and health educators who provided real-time interventions and potentially life-saving information. It was an evidence-based, compassionate approach that focused on harm minimisation, not ideology. Last year the LNP shut down those services and stripped them of public funding. A few weeks ago they went even further by banning pill testing altogether, right before thousands of young people arrive at schoolies. This year they will be there without life-saving and harm-reducing services not because the evidence demanded it but because the politics suited them.

Whether it is trans young people seeking gender-affirming care or young people accessing pill testing at schoolies, the story is the same: evidence-based healthcare services are being replaced by political ideology under this LNP government. Labor's position is clear: we believe in health care guided by evidence, compassion and respect. There is no safe way to take illicit drugs, but pill testing saves lives. Gender-affirming care is not political; it is medical and it is necessary. Labor will always stand up for young Queenslanders in this state and their right to access health care safely and with dignity. When governments ignore evidence and silence experts, it is young people who pay the price.

### International Mining and Resources Conference



**Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.27 pm): Last week I had the honour of representing Queensland at the International Mining and Resources Conference—better known as IMARC—in Sydney. With more than 10,000 delegates from over 200 countries in attendance, this was an enormous platform to showcase what Queensland brings to the global resources stage. Let me tell the House: interest in Queensland has never been stronger. After a decade of decline under Labor, whose anti-mining policies sent investor confidence off a cliff, Queensland is back and open for business.

Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli government values our resources sector and we back the hardworking Queenslanders whose livelihoods depend on it. That is the message I took to the global investment community at IMARC, and it is a message that resonated loud and clear. Overseas investors are looking at jurisdictions that offer certainty, stability and an efficient regulatory framework. Under the Crisafulli government, that is exactly what we are delivering. At IMARC, I met with dozens of global investors and company leaders who are now actively considering Queensland as a preferred destination not just for emerging critical minerals, like graphite and vanadium, but for our traditional strengths as well, like our world-class coal.

Yesterday, I addressed the chamber to talk about Graphinex, a Queensland company that has secured backing from the Trump administration through the Export-Import Bank of the United States, which followed a trade mission that I led to North America earlier this year. I also spoke about EQ Resources, which has received US backing to progress the expansion of its Mount Carbine tungsten mine in Far North Queensland, and RZ Resources, which has similar US backing for its mineral separation plant at Pinkenba. These are real projects creating real jobs in Queensland communities. These wins are no accident. They are the result of deliberate, disciplined decisions to put global investment attraction, project delivery and regional development back at the heart of government.

While international investors are putting their money into Queensland projects, there is a glaring absence closer to home. Time and time again, Australian financial institutions are turning their backs on Queensland's resources sector, particularly our world-class coal industry, despite the jobs and regional opportunities they deliver. It should not be up to overseas institutions to believe in Queensland's future more than our own banks do. Australian banks that have made billions of dollars off the backs of Queensland customers and companies should back the industries that underpin our state's economy.

The Crisafulli government is unapologetically pro mining because when a mine opens in regional Queensland it is not just workers onsite who benefit; it is the local cafe owner, the school, the local suppliers and small businesses who see opportunity and growth. That is why we are delivering for Queensland mining families and for our mining communities by restoring confidence, unlocking investment and backing the regions that keep this state running.

### South Brisbane, Visy Site

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak about the redevelopment plans for the Visy site in my community of South Brisbane. The seven-hectare site on Montague Road in South Brisbane is state owned riverfront land and is currently being used by Visy Glass as a recycling and manufacturing facility. This land was purchased by the Palaszczuk government to be the temporary location for the International Broadcast Centre during the 2032 games. The Deputy Premier announced in May the site would no longer be used for the broadcasting centre and instead alternative uses would be explored such as new housing, economic development and community use.

You would think at this point that the government might have asked the local community for their views on how to use the last parcel of state owned land in the area, but, no, that did not happen. This is where the plot thickens. Under the planning rules for the area around the Visy site, developers had to include at least one housing affordability or diversity measure such as dedicating 20 per cent of homes as affordable housing or long-term rental options. These planning rules ensured that, as the roughly 24,000 new homes for the area were built, a share of these would be set aside for frontline workers and for families and young renters struggling in the rental market. It meant new height and density increases were tied to real community benefit.

Three weeks ago the Deputy Premier, as planning minister, quietly removed all of those housing affordability requirements without any public consultation. With the stroke of a pen, he took away 4,800 affordable homes in an area with parks and riverbanks full of people living in tents, desperate for affordable housing. Then, 10 days later, the government invited private developers to submit proposals for development at the Visy site with no mention of affordable housing and with no community consultation.

My residents are worried that the redevelopment of the Visy site will not meet community needs such as providing public green space, affordable housing and schools. They are concerned about the lack of transparency of the redevelopment plan. My community wants to know whether the land will be retained as a public asset and leased like at South Bank or whether this public asset—this huge area of state owned land—will be sold off to private developers and, if so, under what terms. On behalf of my community I ask the Deputy Premier to undertake formal community consultation on the future use of the Visy site, as promised, and that this feedback be incorporated into any decision regarding the redevelopment of this site.

### Mackay Rugby League, Female Facilities

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise today to speak about an important campaign recently launched by my electorate—a campaign to deliver new dedicated female facilities at the Mackay Rugby League grounds. This campaign is being led by Rugby League Mackay & District. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in calling for the investment needed to support the growing number of women and girls playing the great game of Rugby League across our region. I must add that no action was taken by the previous member for Mackay.

Women's participation in Rugby League has exploded in recent years. Across Mackay we have seen junior girls picking up the footy for the first time, new women's teams forming and our local Mackay Cutters helping to pave the pathway to the NRLW. While the game has grown, the facilities have not. Too often female players are still forced to share or adapt in changing rooms built decades ago for men. They deserve better. They deserve safe, modern and inclusive facilities that respect their professionalism and their passion for the game. I visited these changing rooms. The showers are group

showers right next to the urinals. The men leave and the women come in, but the women have to deal with what might be left behind by the men.

As Emma Coburn from the Mackay Cutters said so powerfully, these new changing rooms will lay the foundation for stronger participation and long-term success. Supporting our junior girls now means more Mackay talent rising through the ranks in years to come. As Rugby League Mackay & District Finance Committee Chair Simon Vigilante has said, this campaign is about more than bricks and mortar; it is about dignity, safety and opportunity. It is about ensuring that every player, regardless of gender, has the facilities they need to perform, compete and thrive.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Pine Rivers, that was bad timing. You have been very busy this afternoon. You are now warned.

**Mr DALTON:** Community sport is one of the great unifiers in regional Queensland. It brings families together, builds confidence in young people and keeps our communities strong. That is why I am calling on the Queensland government and Mackay Regional Council to partner with us to deliver this much needed upgrade.

I also want to encourage every member of our community to get behind the campaign: sign the petition, share it online and lend your voice to supporting the next generation of female athletes, because when we invest in women's sport we invest in our future. I am proud that Mackay continues to lead in that way.

### **Kurwongbah Electorate, Road Infrastructure**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise today to say a bit more about the level crossing at Mackie Road in Narangba and the adjacent local government intersections. I note the transport minister confirmed in his answer to question on notice No. 1099 that he has no intention of attending a town hall meeting in Narangba to hear locals' concerns—a town hall meeting that the LNP federal member Terry Young said to our local hero petition organiser, Haley Riches, that he would organise and that he would get his state mate Minister Mickelberg along to. Why did Terry Young promise this meeting? Was it just the LNP member for Longman paying lip-service to try to win votes for his LNP mate Dean Clements in the recent council by-election? I think so.

Not only was the minister's answer to my question on notice late; it was also full of political rubbish trying to disguise the fact that the minister will not be coming to Terry's town hall meeting, although I am sure Narangba locals would really appreciate the visit as we could talk more about buses from Narangba Valley High on Wednesdays as well. Maybe it would not be so hard to cop this disdainful political nonsense as a deliberate snub to my community if the minister had not also completely missed the point about this level crossing. Indeed, the minister told me in his response that his department told him that I have never asked for an upgrade to the level crossing 'despite those community concerns'. He admonished me. Why on earth would we want to upgrade one of the most problematic level crossings in South-East Queensland? I do not want it upgraded. As I said in my speech last night, I want it closed.

The problem is that local commuters need another way to get across the railway line, and finding that solution is the responsibility of council—in this case the City of Moreton Bay. As I also said last night, council have already costed some solutions but, sadly, they are yet to put a dollar in their budget. Nor has the council put forward a proposal to the state for co-funding, although I note that in its new City of Tomorrow document the council has identified the Mackie Road open level crossing as a top priority and articulated a desire to the work with the state on planning.

I would say to the council that there is no such thing as a free ride—although you can get one for 50 cents, thanks to Labor, on public transport—and council will need to put its money where its mouth is to deliver for its ratepayers on roads. If the minister wants me to ask for money for the level crossing, well, here goes: Minister, show us the money for the Narangba level crossing! Perhaps the minister could proactively indicate to council a value that the government could contribute to the cause, because I reckon that question is coming. There has been huge population growth in and around Narangba. I am keen to work with council, and hopefully the federal government too, to improve traffic outcomes for locals at these Narangba bottlenecks. Let's be clear about this: if the state says 'no deal', we will make sure locals know that it was the LNP that said no.

### **Scenic Rim, Weather Event; Beaudesert Hospital, CT Scanner**



**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.38 pm): I want to place on record concerns that have arisen in parts of my electorate in relation to the damage caused by last Sunday's storm, especially around the Mount Walker and Rosevale areas in Scenic Rim and also some of the south-western suburbs of Ipswich. When that storm raged through it caused a lot of damage to council assets and farm assets. It also very nearly caused serious injury to some local residents.

In particular I table some articles from local media telling the story about a fellow called Norm Kerle, who had to crawl underneath his header in a farm shed to escape damage from the storm. He was putting the header away to try and avoid damage, and in the process of doing so the storm hit and he had to crawl underneath the header to get away from the sheets of metal and other debris being blown around him while that storm raged through.

*Tabled paper:* Article from The Fassifern Guardian, Scenic Rim, dated 29 October 2025, titled 'Saved by a header as storm savages shed'.

I know that the Scenic Rim council is out there on the job today assessing damage to see if there is any avenue for state or federal government disaster support assistance as a result of the terrific storm that went through. I also want to mention some of the comments that were made by people in the media. One of the landholders commented that they have not seen a storm like that in 80 years they have lived there. Also, some of the iron from the shed that blew away from Norm Kerle's header was found about three-quarters of a kilometre down the road, such was the intensity of the winds blowing through there. It is good that Scenic Rim is on the job. I look forward to seeing the submissions to state and federal authorities.

I also want to make mention of the terrific investment made by our government in CT and MRI scanners across Queensland, but in particular for Beaudesert Hospital. Beaudesert Hospital has been waiting for the commitment to be made by Metro South and Queensland Health for almost a decade. I know for a fact that it was on Metro South's agenda back in 2014 and early 2015, but for 10 long years of decay under Labor it was never brought to the fore to be funded and made a priority. I am proud to say that a commitment has been made to the Beaudesert Hospital for a CT scanner. That is a massive improvement in services. We have been waiting a long time.

The other thing that needs to happen in the near future is an upgrade to the emergency department at Beaudesert Hospital. It is something I am going to keep working on with Metro South to ensure they get the right cases put forward to Queensland Health and the minister for funding to be made available for an emergency department improvement. Ideally we would do both things at the same time, but that commitment for a CT scanner in Beaudesert is a long time coming after nearly 10 years of a Labor government that simply was not listening even to their own health authorities when they were calling out for that infrastructure investment. It is great that our minister has done that.

### Housing Affordability; Movember



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to talk a little bit more about the failings of the LNP when it comes to providing ordinary Queenslanders with housing. Today we heard the member for Woodridge say that the housing waitlist has gone up 11 per cent in three months and there has been an increase of 13.2 per cent in housing costs in a year in Queensland, but the number of houses started has gone down 4.4 per cent compared to the average for the last decade. Yesterday we from the Premier and Deputy Premier that the only solution is supply. If that is their own solution it is simplistic and inaccurate, because it does little about the biggest issue: affordability.

They are not my words; they are the words of Centacare, which has put out a report. They have also said that hospitality workers, meatworkers and early childhood teachers and workers can only afford 0.8 per cent of available rentals nationally. That is less than one per cent of rentals they can afford across our nation. If we are talking about supply then developers are going to do well out of that, as they would do well out of the Visy site if that ever gets into their hands, but ordinary workers cannot afford to rent or buy the new stock that comes on board at this point. It is simplistic to imagine that affordable homes will simply trickle down, appear on the markets and be available for people to buy. That economic theory was absolutely discredited in the Reagan era, but what we are seeing at the moment is a re-embracing of trickle-down economic theory as the only viable solution they have for fixing housing. If supply, supply, supply is their only solution, then I am afraid they have nothing of substance to help address all of the nuances of the housing problems we have in our state. I believe that is another failing of the LNP.

On a different note, Movember is around the corner and I can announce that I will be gracing this chamber again—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I know!—with my mo a la Ron Burgundy. When I was a kid I was inspired by those sporting heroes Dennis Lillee and Allan Border, great sporting men with moustaches. I loved that. It is great to see that sporting people these days are re-embracing the mo, whether that be in cricket or hockey, but not the mullet. I am not going down that path. It is good to see these younger people who inspire me. Men's health is a good cause. You can go onto my social media pages to make a donation. You stay classy, Queensland.

### **Crisafulli Government, Achievements; Capalaba Electorate**

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.44 pm): It is a privilege to stand here as the member for Capalaba. It has been just over a year since the October 2024 state election, and I am enormously grateful that the people of Capalaba placed their trust in me. I took this role knowing what I stand for and what I believe in. I stand for victims and I believe in justice. Politics is not a game for me; it is real-life. Every action I take in this chamber is dedicated to the memory of my son Matthew, his partner Kate, my grandson Miles, and all of those victims whose lives have been shattered by youth crime. My job is not to let you, the people of Capalaba, down.

When we were elected we were given a clear mandate to restore safety to our communities, and we are delivering on that promise. Before Christmas last year we legislated Making Queensland Safer Laws, fulfilling our commitment to introduce Adult Crime, Adult Time. We strengthened these laws to contain 33 offences that send a crystal clear message: these offences mean something to victims and to the community. We are restoring consequences for actions. We have also supported vital tools for our police: we have made Jack's Law permanent, allowing police to use handheld scanners without warrant in relevant places to detect knives. This law is saving lives. We also supported extending the trial of electronic monitoring devices for youth offenders for a proper evaluation. This supports our police and works alongside our hundreds of millions of dollars in investment in early intervention programs to break the cycle of crime.

As a member of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I have been involved in hundreds of hours of meetings and hearings to ensure that the government is pro-active, not reactive, in keeping Queensland safe. Furthermore, we have delivered vital legal reforms, modernising the 50-year-old Trusts Act and acting on sentencing reforms to limit the use of good character references in sexual offence cases, ensuring victim harm is recognised as a sentencing purpose. There is still much more to do.

I am proud that every one of my election commitments for Capalaba has been funded in our first budget. We secured: funding to complete investigations into the metro expansion to Capalaba, a key piece of transport infrastructure for the future; the business case for the Tingalpa Creek bridge duplication project; and a feasibility study for the remediation and recreational use of Leslie Harrison Dam. We also allocated \$12 million to fund the new RSPCA wildlife Hospital and Centre of Excellence at IndigiScapes to support our local fauna. We funded over \$4.3 million in upgrades to local schools and TAFE and we secured \$600,000 for anti-motor vehicle theft devices.

I continue to listen to concerns about better transport services, more policing and health services locally. Residents are telling me that an MRI machine—

*(Time expired)*

### **Bundaberg Hospital; Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal**

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.47 pm): As we have heard, it has been a year since last year's state election and in my address-in-reply I forgot to mention some people, so I just want to thank these people for turning up to pre-poll: the Deputy Premier, the transport minister, the Attorney-General and the member for Burnett. Thank you for convincing the people of Bundaberg to vote Labor. Thank you very much!

I bring my concerns to the House because there was one person who did not show up, and that is the now Minister for Health. I need the Minister for Health to come into this chamber today and provide a ministerial statement. Whistleblowers within the Bundaberg Hospital have raised an alarm that, of all of the inpatient beds in the Bundaberg Hospital, more than a third are currently being taken up by long-stay patients. These are patients who are fit for discharge but currently occupy more than a third of the beds. We need to know from the minister what he is doing to address this in the short term and

the long term. Why are key stakeholders telling the opposition that the minister refuses to meet with them in person to address these needs?

I further wish to bring to the House's attention that the Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal) Bill 2025 passed the federal parliament recently. Prior to the amendments, an individual was able to seek a review of a defence honour and award by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal when they were dissatisfied with a decision regarding a defence honour, defence award or foreign award concerning conduct or service dating all the way back to the commencement of Australia's involvement in the Second World War, which was 3 September 1939. Whilst recognising Minister Keogh's comments about the difficulties in confirming historical actions relating to conflicts of the 20th century, I cannot support the newly legislated restriction window of 20 years after the relevant operation ending. This statement in the minister's speech was also concerning—

To provide flexibility and to ensure the framework remains fit for purpose, the bill will enable regulations to shorten these 20-year ... periods in the future if required.

I have spoken to RSL members in Bundaberg and former defence personnel who are outraged by this decision, and I stand with them. Many veterans will go decades before revealing the details of their service, and these deserve to be honoured. Quite often it is the children and the grandchildren who seek these honours in the names of their parents and grandparents so that their great sacrifice can be honoured as it should be.

I cannot believe we are looking at a point where service men and women who served in the gulf and Middle Eastern conflicts will not have the opportunity to seek the awards and honours they deserve. I will be writing to the minister to outline my disappointment and that of Bundaberg's veterans who do not support this decision. I will also be asking that this decision be reconsidered.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Before I call the next member, I remind all members about the convention of not reflecting on people's absence in the House.

### **Townsville, Crisafulli LNP Government**



**Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (2.51 pm): We have just marked one year of the Crisafulli government delivering for Queensland. One year ago, Townsville voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what I work to deliver every day along with the members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra. The fresh start began with the Making Queensland Safer Laws—removing detention as a last resort, putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders and restoring consequences for actions—with Adult Crime, Adult Time being applied to 33 offences.

We established a dedicated Flying Squad, enabling police to bolster their resources when and where they are needed, and we established a second Polair helicopter in Townsville to enable a 24-hour response. We have funded four early intervention programs in Townsville for disengaged, at-risk young people and a 12-month intensive rehabilitation program for every youth offender as they exit detention in Townsville. We have also made real progress tackling antisocial behaviour in our city, creating safer spaces for locals, visitors and businesses alike. We are a long way from where we want to be, but making Townsville safer remains our top priority.

We are addressing the health crisis with a commitment to deliver at least 165 new overnight beds at the Townsville University Hospital, in addition to expansions to the transit lounge and services such as the step-up step-down mental health programs. We have already begun making progress on health by reducing the elective surgery waitlist by three per cent, with over 7,000 elective surgeries delivered in Townsville under the Crisafulli government.

On housing, we are investing \$44.2 million through the Residential Activation Fund to unlock 4,200 new homes in Townsville's northern suburbs. On Palm Island we have delivered the first new social housing in seven years, with 10 new modular homes. Let us not forget that we axed a tax and abolished stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers. We are addressing cost of living through our \$200 Play On! vouchers and our \$100 Back to School Boost. We are delivering local projects on Magnetic Island, including reopening the Alma Bay bus stop, delivering Picnic Bay jetty repairs and funding new public toilets after they had been temporarily closed for years.

We have invested over \$5 million in local arts, charity and community groups and sporting clubs as well as \$4 million for air conditioning and upgraded lights at the Townsville Sports Precinct. We are establishing Townsville as the events capital of the north, hosting the No. 1 event in Queensland as voted by Queenslanders—India Fest—as well as the WNBL Townsville Tip Off, the Magnetic Island

Race Week, Nitro Circus, Supercars, the Wallabies versus Argentina, as well as performances by Crowded House and The Killers. This week alone we will be hosting Jelly Roll and the professional bull-riding grand final.

Last but not least, big-ticket items—like commitments to CopperString, the 80-20 funding for the Bruce Highway and the fact that Townsville will be an Olympic city in 2032—mean billions of dollars of investment in the north that would not have otherwise been invested if the Crisafulli government had not been elected. There is still a lot more to get down and I will continue to work hard for my electorate. I am looking forward to continuing to deliver for Townsville, Magnetic Island and Palm Island.

### Charters Towers, Housing

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.54 pm): I rise to talk about accommodation in Charters Towers and the Eventide site. An accommodation crisis is gripping all of Queensland, and in Charters Towers it has now become a big issue. There is a tent city, if you like, at Sellheim now. I have had businesses reporting they had shut down their business because they could not get workers as they were sick of living in caravans and they had to leave town. It is at a crisis level.

The great part of the situation is that there is capacity to provide 54 units on the old Eventide site, the old people's home. A private investor has said, 'I'll do them up as long as I can recover the costs from the rent. I'll do a cheap job and the government doesn't have to spend a cent.' What a fantastic solution for the government. I have taken that to the government—I took it to the previous government as well—and said, 'Here's a solution for you.' The government had done consultation without consulting me or the Townsville Hospital, and the current mayor, Liz Schmidt, said that she did not know anything about it, either. The new hospital has not been announced and we seem to be a long way off getting even an indication of funding for it, but the government is saying that we cannot possibly have these 54 units because they are going to bulldoze them to put the new hospital there—and not on the four hectares of vacant land that has services and access connected on the other side of Eventide. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Map, undated, depicting vacant land proposed for development and existing units for redevelopment in the Charters Towers electorate.

There is a large four-hectare site on the other side of Eventide where everyone thought the new hospital was going. However, the government are not going to use that site and they are going to bulldoze those 54 units instead because, according to their reasoning, the admin building is closer.

I can say for a fact that the Laura Johnson Home in Mount Isa did 75 rooms with \$18 million or \$20 million and they repurposed their old admin building. Jay Morris did the work and they repurposed about 16 rooms out of that. That is what the government have to do here. I am trying to save the government money and address these problems, but the minister has refused to do it.

I am appealing to the good conscience of the government. They must look at this. I am trying to give the government an affordable solution for 54 units. The council in Charters Towers is onside. We all want it. There was limited consultation with the mayor and me on this. In fact, the first business case had what I am saying is an option on that spare block of land. The whole town thought the new hospital was going on the spare block of land, which makes sense because it is the big parcel and not squashed on the front of the site where all of the other buildings were bulldozed.

This is madness and it speaks badly of a government that is not being efficient. That is why we have government—to come in and say, 'That doesn't make sense.' I want the government to replan that and save those units to provide accommodation for Queenslanders where it is desperately needed. It is an appeal to the government. Please step in and review this decision.

### Government Owned Corporations

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.57 pm): After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is enhancing the performance of Queensland's government owned corporations to deliver the best services and value for Queenslanders. Over the past year as the Minister for Finance and GOC minister, I have been working alongside my fellow shareholding ministers to refocus our energy, ports, water and finance GOCs on financial and operational performance. We are implementing enhanced governance through new leadership and revised strategic expectations so our GOCs can deliver for Queenslanders.

Our GOCs play a critical role in Queensland's economy—providing essential services, critical infrastructure and jobs for Queenslanders. Our energy GOCs are responsible for delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. Our port GOCs play a pivotal role in our state's trade opportunities,

supporting our producers and exporters. Sunwater delivers critical infrastructure and irrigation services for our regional and rural communities to drive economic opportunity. QIC, as the state's investment manager, helps to grow Queensland's wealth and invest in new projects to create Queensland jobs.

Today, the Crisafulli LNP government is announcing the appointment of two new chairs for Stanwell and Ports North, completing the refresh of leadership for all 11 GOC boards that has taken place since the election. I welcome Mr Ben Kidston's appointment as director of Ports North and the incoming chair from 1 January. Mr Kidston is leaving his role at the Port of Townsville to take up that position. Mr Justin Parer has been appointed as the chair of Stanwell.

In February this year the government appointed Mr Parer as a director of Ports North. Mr Parer disclosed a conflict at the time of his consideration for appointment by government relating to an interest in land adjacent to Ports North's facilities, including within the Cairns Marine Precinct. Following Mr Parer's appointment, the Ports North board advised it implemented an appropriate conflict management plan in accordance with its conflict management policy, which has been active at all times. Since that time, Ports North have been working on further developing the common user facility including private sector engagement. Given the proximity of the land in which Mr Parer has an interest, both the Ports North board and Mr Parer advised the active conflict management plan was becoming more difficult to maintain in practice. As such, Mr Parer is leaving the Ports North board which the government fully supports. The government welcomes Mr Parer's commitment to continue serving as he moves into his new role as Stanwell chair.

Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is driving change in our GOCs with highly skilled boards, a majority of whose members are women, and strengthened oversight of service and infrastructure delivery. Through this work Queenslanders can have increased confidence in their GOCs as the Crisafulli LNP government continues to reverse a decade of decline in performance and service delivery under Labor.

## JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 16 October (see p. 3216), on motion of Mr Hunt—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 16, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*, tabled on 5 September 2025.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.00 pm), continuing: I pick up where I left off. Alarmingly, the commission's warning has now become a reality with the government's mishandled rollout of the Unify system, which has undermined the very data that frontline child safety officers, the QFCC and countless frontline agencies rely on. Case records are missing, reporting functions are broken and transparency has been eroded. The QFCC has been clear: without high-quality data, accountability suffers. Without accountability, children fall through the cracks. No accountability has been taken by the minister, who is so quick to apportion blame to everyone else. No leadership has been provided, just deflection and subterfuge, throwing her own department and frontline public servants under the bus.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Nudgee, I had some clear advice about this report, which relates to the 2023-24 year. There is some link to the current system through that system, but criticism of the current government for something that was reported on back then—please stick to this report.

**Ms LINARD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am just referring to the reference the report makes to the data including in the 2024-25 year.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have been listening carefully and I have had very clear advice about this. Please stick to the 2023-24 year and the system and you will be fine.

**Ms LINARD:** Fixing this Unify bungle is not just about saving an IT system; it is about saving lives. It is about ensuring that every piece of work from organisations like the QFCC, every dashboard, every review and every insight is built on reliable, transparent information.

In the time remaining to me I would like to touch on two other points canvassed in the QFCC report. The first is, in the QFCC's words, the most confounding challenge facing the Queensland child protection system and that is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children continue to be removed from their parents and placed in out-of-home care at rates significantly greater than non-Indigenous children.

Permanent care orders commenced in 2018 as part of a broader permanency framework to promote timely outcomes for children in care by providing relational, physical and legal stability and providing them a permanent home. One of the important issues Commissioner Lewis and I regularly discussed was the importance of ensuring that PCOs or indeed any order granted to kin and/or First Nations kin was in line with the permanency principles for First Nations children and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle.

The annual report indicates that in a review of data pertaining to First Nations children subject to PCOs during 2021-22, an increasing number of First Nations children and young people were being placed on PCOs. Importantly, 100 per cent of them were with kin in accordance with the child placement principle, a significant achievement in reaching timely permanency and stopping statutory involvement as quickly as possible.

Finally, I would like to reflect on the effort and focus the QFCC continues to put into engaging meaningfully with young people in the system and the opportunities they provided me to spend time listening with young people impacted by the system when I was the minister. Amplifying and giving voice to lived experiences and voices that are often unheard or marginalised was a key focus of my time as minister—legislating a voice for children in the child protection system, extending support for children in care to 21 and establishing a charter of rights for parents involved in the system. The QFCC has continued their focus on empowering these voices and I hope that they continue to do so because they make a meaningful contribution.

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this report. I want to acknowledge the work of the committee in their interrogation of the report. I also want to acknowledge Luke Twyford and the work of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. We know the important work they do. In speaking to this report, once again I see a long list of former child safety ministers and members on that side coming into the chamber to talk to this report. I hope they are coming in to take responsibility for 10 years of overseeing a broken child safety system. I do not have long enough to go through the Mason Jett Lees and the others and the long list of child safety ministers. I am happy to follow a former child safety minister who was—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker—relevance, your ruling?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for McConnel, I have been listening clearly. Thank you, I will look after the order in the House. I do not believe you have any point of order.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order is relevance in case you did not hear.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand. I do not believe there is any point of order. The minister is being directly reflective of the time of the report and the ministers involved at that time.

**Mr PURDIE:** I return to the report about child safety and the great work that Luke Twyford and his team do. The report is a dire indictment on those opposite. This report covers the entire 12-month period when they were in government. There is a long list of failures that they oversaw and there was a number of ministers from that side, a revolving door of child safety ministers who never took responsibility for some of those things.

I remember the Mason Jett Lee matter clearly as frontline colleagues of mine were involved. The child safety minister at that time took no responsibility. They threw the frontline workers under the bus—frontline workers who were understaffed and overworked at the time. No-one took responsibility and that is what this report is about: taking responsibility. I notice some of those opposite still have not taken responsibility like the member for Bulimba, who also spoke on this committee report. She has never taken responsibility for how they proudly watered down the youth justice laws which led to kids in watch houses, which led to the broken watch house system covered in this report. Who could forget that same minister on *Four Corners* saying that 90 young people were held in maximum security in the Brisbane City Watch House, which is a—

**Mrs McMahon:** How many are there now?

**Mr PURDIE:** It rarely gets over three; I welcome the question. When those opposite were tearing each other apart about supporting the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws the same minister was saying, 'Where are you going to put them all?' We said a harsh penalty will act as a strong deterrent. Now, on average, there are fewer kids in watch houses than there were for 10 years under those opposite. The report states it. Those opposite created the watch house crisis. They created the watch house crisis and they did nothing about it. When are they going to come in here and take responsibility for watering down the laws—

**Mr McCALLUM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and I reference your rulings relating to timeframes. The minister has been speaking in relation to the actions of his government, which is outside the timeframe of the report that is being debated today. It is on relevance.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Ninderry was being directly responsive to an interjection that he took and a question from the member for Macalister. As such, he is being relevant because he was responding to an interjection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. One moment and I will take some advice. I have received some further advice. This report also includes watch houses and responses regarding those matters. Again, if all members talk to the 2023-24 report and the importance of that report going forward they will be on safe ground.

**Mr PURDIE:** There are detailed tables in this report about kids in watch houses and it is an indictment on those opposite. When are the former ministers who were responsible going to take responsibility? I was directly talking about what led to it, as addressed in this report, and I took an interjection. When I was speaking about 90 young people held in the Brisbane City Watch House—a maximum security watch house—I was referring to a time under the former minister and there was an interjection asking how many there are now. Today in Queensland there are three children in watch houses. I am happy to take further interjections. When are those opposite going to take responsibility? That is what this report is about, and it is dire reading. Let us talk about domestic and family violence.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, order!

**Mr PURDIE:** The report also talks about—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

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

**Mr PURDIE:** The report also talks about the Child Death Review Board. It talks about domestic violence and drug use and the fact that the overwhelming number—more than half—of children whose death was reviewed by the board were in instances of domestic violence. When the now commissioner became the commissioner, he publicly called on the former government at the time to give the police what they needed to help better protect vulnerable victims of domestic violence. Those opposite put their heads in the sand as calls for service for domestic violence went through the roof. When are they taking responsibility for that?

Another alarming aspect is that a third, as assessed for the report, of the cases that the commission assessed of young children who died—32.6 per cent or similar—had parents who were addicted to or had used drugs such as methamphetamine. Those opposite—just like they proudly watered down the youth justice laws not that long ago—proudly watered down the drug laws in this state because they said it was a health issue, but this report shines a light on it. The overwhelming number of young people who die in the care of their parents or guardians die because their parents or guardians are addicted to drugs, and that is something we are going to fix.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.11 pm): The purpose of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and improve the child protection system. This is set out in the act and in the committee report, which expands on that in that the responsibilities of the QFCC include oversight of the child protection system; the promotion and advocacy of children, particularly those in the child protection or youth justice system; and, importantly, reviewing, analysing and evaluating systemic policies and practices relevant to the child protection system.

It is of paramount importance that Queenslanders have confidence that the systems that are being used to protect the children who are in the youth justice system or the children who are in care are robust, are working and are going to deliver the outcomes these children need. That is why it is so concerning to see that there have been so many problems with the rollout of the Unify system since it was switched on. I note that throughout the 2023-24 annual report the progressive rollout of Unify is mentioned multiple times. I take note of the debate that has occurred—

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the minister, and I will get to that in a moment. With regard to the rollout of Unify and the debate of this report to date and the various Speaker's rulings, a Deputy Speaker at the time made a ruling in relation to a point of order, saying—

I find there is no point of order as long as the member can relate what she is talking about now back to the report, and there is a mention of the progressive rollout of Unify in the report.

I also note the comments of both the child safety minister and the youth justice minister in this House earlier today in relation to Unify. During the time this report covers, those ministers were referring to the rollout of Unify. The question now becomes: when it comes to the failed Unify system that has been rolled out in Queensland, why are Queenslanders not being informed of where up to 5,000 child harm reports are? There is a backlog. There were questions that were put—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the member for Bundamba there has been a bit of latitude, but I think he is well and truly now straying into areas outside what is contained within the report and the reporting period and on to other matters. I refer to the rulings that have been made in relation to that.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, is the ruling that you made just a few moments ago in relation to the commentary from the Minister for Police, who took the opportunity to bring a contrast into the present time, and I would submit to you that that is exactly what the member for Bundamba is doing. He is basing that contrast on the ruling that you made just moments ago in respect of the Minister for Police's comments and I think it is of value to the House that you apply those rulings in a consistent way.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Going to your previous ruling, the minister was actually responding to an interjection and, therefore, you ruled in that context.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Theodore.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in response to that point of order, if I may: I am simply responding to the debate that has already occurred.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bundaberg. I will again—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I apologise, member for Bundamba. There is a clear difference between you and the member for Bundaberg. Member for Bundamba, as my neighbour down near Ipswich whom I see often, I should not have made that mistake. Coming back to the issue at hand, you were going very well in referencing the report and just strayed as the Leader of the House jumped to his feet on to topics that are more relevant to today. Please continue to highlight the importance of the things that have come from that report and we will be fine. Thank you.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The report identifies key highlights and achievements of the QFCC in the annual report, including the completion of 14 oversight reviews in respect of statutory child protection systems and other systemic issues impacting children and families. Can members imagine what might have been found during this annual report had a flawed Unify system been turned on by a government that should not have been relying on bad advice or making bad decisions to turn on the flawed Unify system? It is absolutely derelict of the government to turn on a child protection system that is knowingly flawed.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, how does that relate to this report? You are now making criticism of turning something on that is not referred to in that report. I am giving you latitude, member for Bundaberg.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Bundamba.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba.

**Mr McCALLUM:** 'Data' is mentioned over 250 times in the annual report. Page 16 of the annual report states that it used data to improve the sector's understanding of risk factors and to support the development of new policies and practices to reduce harm to children and young people. When it comes to these oversight systems, the Queensland public needs absolute confidence in them. When we see public servants being sacked, as sacrificial lambs to protect ministers, that undermines integrity and it undermines public trust in the systems that are supposed to protect our most vulnerable.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bundamba.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.19 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report No. 16, which examines the oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. At the outset, I acknowledge the important work of the committee and thank its chair the state member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt, and all members for their diligence and

consideration of this important report. Having served on the Health and Ambulance Services Committee and the Mental Health Select Committee, I know committee members do important work in relation to the oversight of many departments and other matters. I thank them for the work they have undertaken in the preparation of this report.

This report specifically reviews the Queensland Family and Child Commission annual report 2023-24, the Child Death Review Board annual report 2023-24 and the public hearing held with commissioners on 13 March 2025. This report shines a harsh light on the decade of decline under the former Labor government. It is a system that should be focused on protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children but, under Labor, it was left in crisis and presided over a rotating door of failed Labor ministers who ignored every warning from the QFCC and frontline staff. When the Crisafulli LNP state government came to office, we inherited a broken system, one that was defined by record numbers of children in residential care, exhausted caseworkers and soaring costs.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am sure that the Leader of the House is familiar with the modern history of this state. The date upon which his government came to office was after the date to which this report pertains, therefore, I submit to you that the Leader of the House's contribution is not relevant to this debate in accordance with the rulings that you have repeatedly issued to the House this afternoon. I would ask you to remind him to be relevant.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I do not believe there is a point of order. The Leader of the House is referring to a historical context that included this time.

**Dr ROWAN:** This report, as it relates to 2023-24, is another sobering reminder of the failures, neglect and complacency that became hallmarks of the former Labor government's approach to child protection in Queensland. Under the former Labor government, the number of children in residential care exploded from 650 in 2015 to over 2,212 in 2024, including 116 children aged five and under. Costs skyrocketed from \$200 million to more than \$1.1 billion. The QFCC also reported that the number of children under 12 in residential care more than doubled in recent years. That is a human cost when it comes to the incompetence of the former Labor government.

As we know, the LNP state government has launched a commission of inquiry into Labor's broken child safety system. In reading the report, the QFCC warned that children absent from care placements are at significant risk of exploitation. Under Labor those children were forgotten, files were left open and accountability vanished. In contrast, the Crisafulli LNP state government has taken action, launching a Queensland first census to locate missing children. I know there have been a number of contributors to the debate who have talked about missing children but we are determined to actually fix that system and that is certainly a practical reform.

Case numbers climbed; staffing did not. The result was burnout, high turnover and more children falling through the cracks. This is certainly what is evident in this report in respect of that reporting period of 2023-24. What I would particularly like to reflect on in relation to the QFCC and this report is the repeated warnings about the crossover cohort; that is, children known to both the child protection and youth justice systems. Specifically because that is contained in the report, it is important to put on the record that Labor ignored the warnings and what needed to be done to ensure those children were not only protected but also, that action was taken to deal with some of the recidivist offenders who were in the youth justice system.

When we come back to 2023-24, the report should have been what was occurring in the system at that particular point in time. It should have really highlighted to the Labor government at that time what they should have been doing but they had been neglectful. They had not acted. There were multiple ministers who had not done the appropriate due diligence when it came to the system. That is why, when we look at the reporting period of that specific year, it is a snapshot in time as to the failings of the system.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I take the interjection from the minister: that was under the former Labor government. That is why the LNP state government is determined to fix the system. It is determined to protect children. We know what the remit of the QFCC is all about. It is about ensuring the safety of children, their health and their wellbeing and building stronger communities. The LNP state government is determined to do that. We will rebuild the broken system under the former Palaszczuk and Miles state Labor governments.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the report *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission* of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. I wish to acknowledge and thank the QFCC for their diligent work in promoting the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and their work to improve the child protection system. I believe that is something that we can all agree on. I note the work undertaken in the 2023-24 financial year: including the completion of 14 oversight reviews in respect of statutory child protection systems; the 20 formal recommendations made to government; as well as the 32 formal submissions that the QFCC made to state, federal and international reviews and inquiries.

The committee report noted that in 2023-24, there was increasing transparency about the performance of Queensland's youth justice and child protection systems. I am aware that data in 2023-24 was actively released every three months. Every three months, data on the child protection system was released. I have seen—and I just checked right now on the child safety website—is that the last available data for child safety right now ended on 31 March 2025, so we are months behind on the release of data. I wonder about transparency when we have a system that has now been switched on. It means that we are now not getting reliable data as a result of the bungled Unify system that the LNP government has introduced. It is very concerning if we, and all stakeholders, do not have access to that data—

**Mr HUNT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There seems to be a pattern to the contributions from Labor members. As chair of the committee, I can assure you we were examining the report of 2023-24 and we reported on that. The Labor members seem to be speaking about contemporary issues and not on the report that was produced by the committee and an examination of that annual report.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thank you member for Nicklin. Member for Jordan, I was having a side conversation with the next deputy speaker coming into the chair. Please confine your contribution to the 2023-24 report and the importance of those matter.

**Ms MULLEN:** I was speaking about data in 2023-24 and I was speaking about the fact that data was released every three months under the previous government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stick to the report and we will be right. We will start the clock.

**Ms MULLEN:** That is what I was doing, thank you, Deputy Speaker. There were some specific aspects of the QFCC's work that I would like to specifically focus on, including the work that I was able to do with the QFCC in the time that I was the child safety minister in Queensland. One of these was the QFCC's report, a thematic analysis of provisionally approved kinship carers who received a subsequent blue card negative notice. The QFCC examined cases where child safety had determined that a kinship carer did not pose safety risks to a child as parts of provisional approval, but the carer could not continue caring for the child because they were not approved for a blue card. That report found that the blue card screening was not designed for accessing kinship carers, and that its processes actually created barriers to people becoming kinship carers.

The report recommended removing the requirement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carers to hold a blue card while retaining the child safety assessment and approval processes and removing the need for provisional approval. The former Labor government supported the QFCC report recommendations in principle and we moved to remove the requirement for all kinship carers to hold a blue card. Those recommendations by the QFCC were specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship carers, recognising the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. However, the QFCC's recommendations also presented an opportunity to take a more nuanced risk assessment approach in screening processes for all kinship carers, at the same time recognising that in removing the blue card requirement we do not make children in kinship care less safe.

In 2023-24 the child safety department had been tasked to work with stakeholders to develop a new framework for screening kinship carers to ensure culturally safe and appropriate safeguards are in place. In response to committee questions about changes to these requirements, the QFCC advised the committee that it anticipates that up to 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children could be moved from residential care to safe placements within their families as a result of these changes, whilst also noting these changes are not yet in force as a commencement date for the relevant legislation has not been set. It has been over a year since the provision in the legislation was passed by the Queensland parliament. The LNP in government has been in power for almost 12 months and yet we still see no framework or progress. The LNP seem to have a lot to say about the broken residential care system but are right now preventing 200 children, according to the QFCC, having the opportunity to be

moved out of residential care and into safe placements with kin. I think that is really important and the government should get on with progressing that framework so that we can have those children out of residential care and with kin. I also give a big shout-out to the First Nations and child rights advocacy team whose funding was sadly not continued.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.31 pm): In making comments to this report No. 16 of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, I would like to thank the committee for its work in compiling this report. The committee is very ably chaired by the member for Nicklin, Mr Marty Hunt. Welcome back for the 58th Parliament. Congratulations on your appointment as chair. I would also like to say thank you to the Queensland Family and Child Commission for the work they do in highlighting important issues in the child safety system in Queensland, overseeing the Child Death Review Board and undertaking a range of other activities within their remit. In particular, I would like to thank the commissioners. As a former member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, which was chaired by another member of parliament, the member for Toohey, in the 57th Parliament, I had a number of opportunities to ask questions of and interact with those commissioners. The member for Toohey did not do too bad a job of chairing that committee—not as good as the member for Nicklin does on this committee, of course. The member for Toohey was not a bad chair. I thank him for his work in the 57th Parliament, which of course relates to the financial year 2023-24 that we are speaking of.

Whether we are talking about the financial year 2023-24, the previous years that led to this report, or, indeed, the present day in relation to child safety matters, some things never change—especially in relation to Labor never accepting responsibility for their failures. They will try time and time again to rewrite history and to whitewash themselves of their abysmal failures in government, just as former child safety minister Shannon Fentiman was washing child safety data. I still remember the day when the former minister stood in this place and said they were washing the child safety data, as if it was something that had to be cleansed of bad things before it could be released for public consumption.

**Mr Power:** Is this relevant to the report?

**Mr KRAUSE:** Of course it is relevant to the report, because when we got to the financial year—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Scenic Rim, there will be no debate across the chamber. Keep your comments relevant and direct them through the chair.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I was merely responding to an interjection about how this is relevant to the report. That was the question I was asked. The failures we are highlighting and the issues we are talking about in this report from financial year 2024 have a genesis, as it were, in the early years of the Palaszczuk-Miles government. One cannot discount the history that led to the failures we are talking about in financial year 2024: the washing of child safety data before it could be released for public consumption and a variety of other issues as well.

Another issue covered in this report was blue card reform. The previous speaker in this debate spoke about blue card reform. Members of the committee in the 57th Parliament, the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, will recall that we highlighted the issues with the blue card system and also the massive backlog of recommendations that had been made to the former government over many years that were not implemented, including in relation to kinship carers that the previous speaker, the member for Jordan, referred to. We welcome the fact that there was some change on that front very late in the term of the former government—probably within the financial year 2024—but it took an enormous amount of time for that to be undertaken, like everything did when it came to the former Palaszczuk-Miles government. They just dragged their feet. We referred to the explosion in the cost of residential care. The number of children in residential care was highlighted by this report. It took the cost from \$200 million in 2014-15 to over \$1 billion in this financial year, and it would have been a similar amount—a very high figure—in 2024.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.36 pm): I rise to speak to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report No. 16 of the 58th Parliament, titled *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. The Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, plays a critical role in protecting the rights, safety and wellbeing of Queensland's children. Its work ensures that government systems are accountable, that the voices of children and families are heard and that transparency drives reform. The report outlines that the QFCC has delivered 14 oversight reviews and made 20 recommendations to government. These reviews addressed issues ranging from the treatment of young people in watch houses to the impact of parental drug use, to the challenges facing children leaving detention. Importantly, the commission has continued to shine a light on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in statutory systems, an issue that must remain at the centre of all reform.

The commission's work is not just about pointing out problems; it is about providing solutions. Through the Child Death Review Board it recorded 422 deaths in 2023-24 and used that data to drive prevention strategies, from drowning and suicide awareness to sudden infant death syndrome research. Each of these lives lost represents a tragedy, and the commission's work reminds us that data must be turned into action.

The committee's oversight report makes it clear that the QFCC is working to deliver on its mandate: advocating for vulnerable children in our community, strengthening partnerships with government and non-government bodies and engaging directly with over 4,600 Queenslanders last year alone. The QFCC's engagement with young people and families in communities across Queensland and regional and remote Queensland is ensuring that the voices of those most affected are not lost in bureaucracy.

I would like to raise the issue of the commission's data transparency. In 2024 the QFCC launched the Principle Focus dashboard to monitor the over-representation of First Nations children in the child protection system. It created the Data Explorer, a digital platform capturing wellbeing data from over 8,000 young Queenslanders. These initiatives put real-time, reliable information in the hands of policymakers, service providers and communities, yet this progress is now at risk.

As we have heard and talked about often in this space, Unify, as mentioned in the QFCC report on pages 103, 145 and 204, is an issue. The LNP government's decision to go live on the Unify program has disrupted the very data systems that the QFCC relies on. Case records are missing, data feeds are broken and frontline workers are left without the information they need to keep our vulnerable children safe. The commission itself has warned us that poor quality data undermines accountability and erodes public confidence.

Let us examine the facts. The QFCC conducted major reviews on children absent from care and 'crossover' kids, that is, young people engaged with broken youth justice and child protection systems. A recurring theme was the barriers to information sharing that undermine coordinated service responses. In the report the commission warned that poor quality data erodes accountability and identified data access as a strategic risk. Sadly, the rollout of Unify has confirmed this, with missing case records and broken data feeds. Fixing Unify is not just an IT issue; it is a child safety issue and public confidence depends on it.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Again, I come to the fact that the reporting period is 2023-24. Some of the content that the member for Lytton seems to be covering now is straying into current matters as opposed to the specifics around that reporting period. I have given some latitude but I raise that with you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your consideration.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): I do consider your point of order. However, reports are fairly broad. I think the member is drawing on an extension of what the report related to.

**Ms PEASE:** In their annual report, the QFCC has made clear how important data is. That report is a public document. I remind everyone that it was tabled on 13 September 2024 and the committee report was tabled in mid-2025. The information tabled in that document has been on the public record for a period and is able to be read and acted upon.

It is beholden on decision-makers of the day to ensure that new systems will work and, in this instance, deliver what is expected and required of the system before going live. Having worked in IT, I know that many checks and balances are taken before systems go live. In fact, I worked on a government contract where we were getting ready to go live, but because it was not going to meet the expectations they decided not to go ahead with that system. Queenslanders expect more than empty assurances. Queenslanders expect their ministers—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.42 pm): At the outset, I want to very quickly take a moment to correct the record. During the last sitting week, I made some comments about the Woollongabba Priority Development Area and the work of local Labor members around that. I said at the time that, to my knowledge, they had not made submissions. I have since become aware that the member for South Brisbane has made a submission on that. Certainly it was not my intention to mislead and I apologise unreservedly for any issues that caused.

I want to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee oversight report as someone with a very keen interest in the work of the QFCC and as a member of the committee. I have to start by sincerely thanking Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Twyford and all of the staff at the QFCC for their work. They do extraordinary and very important work. I think it is easy for us to overlook

the breadth of the QFCC's functions. Very broadly, their purpose in statute is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and to improve the child protection system. That takes them in all sorts of directions. While we regularly rely on their submissions on legislation and other crunch points within the child protection or youth justice systems, it is important to remember that they really are the experts. That body has been established specifically to inform the government on how to achieve the best interests of children.

In that context, I regularly find myself wondering how it is that the QFCC's advice is given such short shrift when they advise governments on the direction legislation should be taking and where proposed legislation is driving deeply problematic outcomes. I sympathise with the commissioners for the fact that they have to present themselves at committee hearing after committee hearing and say essentially the same things about why the youth justice system in particular is failing and why the child protection system and the youth justice system interacting is so problematic. Not that long ago, Commissioner Twyford said—

... we have been here before and we have said these things. The frustration within me and people who have appeared before us, I suspect, is this weaponisation of youth justice policy ...

He went on to say—

At my very first committee appearance at Queensland parliament in my current role ... it was a bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility in Queensland. The thought in my head today is how far we have come from that debate to now—the hope that we had for a bipartisan youth justice reform select committee that was then ceased and the multiple submissions where I continue to say the same things ...

If we should be listening to anyone on youth justice policy it is the QFCC but, instead, they are roundly ignored and the consequence is that our system fails. It continues to fail. We can see this in black and white not just in the QFCC's annual report but also in the committee's own report on it. We have echoed their observations in this report.

Queensland detains more children than any other state, we have the highest rates of unsentenced detention and Queensland children spend the most nights in custody. Over the five years referred to in the report, there had been an increase in the number and rate of children and young people subject to youth justice custody and a decrease in community-based supervision. The committee's report says, in as many words, that the Queensland model of youth justice is not effectively rehabilitating offenders. I cannot point to anything that has happened in the meantime that will have improved that. In fact, the quotes I was reading from Commissioner Twyford referred to the changes that this government has made. Their view is that they are going to take us backwards. They are going to result in worse outcomes, more reoffending and more young people tied up in the youth justice system and the cycle of criminalisation.

This report also makes a point, which we barely need to be reminded of, about the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in child protection and youth justice and also the fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care are dramatically overrepresented. In the oversight hearing, Commissioner Lewis specifically pointed to the work of the First Nations and Child Rights Advocacy team and how uncertain their funding was at that point. They need more certainty and long-term funding for that work within the commission. I endorse the suggestion she made that we establish a commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. I have little faith that this bunch are going to take us there, given how blithely they have disregarded First Nations voices so far in this term—

*(Time expired)*



**Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.47 pm): I take this opportunity to speak to the committee's report into the 2023-24 Queensland Family and Child Commission's annual report. At the outset, I thank the committee, led by the committee chair and member for Nicklin, for their work. I welcome the continued opportunity to unpack the failings of the previous government in this space. I agree with the opening sentiments of the member for Maiwar about the broad work that the commission undertakes, which is often in areas that people do not understand or are not aware of, right across the child safety spectrum.

I commence my contribution by looking deeply into the 'exiting youth detention' references made in the commission's report. They found that 'transition plans and rehabilitation programs are not as effective as they could be' and that there are 'negative community views about young people', making recommendations that inevitably became this government's policy platform. There was also a very clear comment made that—

In February 2023, the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) raised concerns with us regarding 13 young people who had been detained in a watch house for a period of 25 to 32 days.

That is more than three weeks and more than four weeks. The report went on to say that those concerns 'came on the back of a slew of evidence' so was irrefutable.

As we have heard in earlier contributions, that number has been substantially reduced. Whilst any on that list is too many; it is in a substantially better place than we discovered then. This report also discussed in detail the crossover cohort. The QFFC undertook a statistical study into the crossover between the youth justice and child protection systems to provide data from different perspectives. The fast facts of that study showed—and I will comment at length on the study's findings—

A significant proportion of young people living in Queensland youth detention centres are currently subject to a child protection order

- As at 30 June 2023, 20.7% of young people living in Queensland youth detentions centres (51 out of 246) were subject to both a supervised youth justice order and a child protection order.

The report also says—

In 2023—

this is, once again, the period of time that this study refers to—

First Nations children were almost three times more likely than non-First Nations children to be on both child protection and youth justice orders.

Probably one of the most alarming statistics to be extracted from this study is—

A significant proportion of young people who have been identified as serious repeat offenders ... are currently subject to a child protection order

- As at 30 June 2023, of the 452 Queensland young people classified as SROs—

serious repeat offenders—

133 (29.4%)—

almost 30 per cent—

had an active child protection order.

More than half of young people who had been in youth justice supervision during 2020-21 had also had an interaction with the child protection system in the last five years

I guess this study was part of the reason for the change that was undertaken in the Queensland parliament 12 months ago. In direct response to the findings and outcomes in this report, the Crisafulli LNP government is quite grateful for the opportunity to discuss reforms around blue cards. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of keeping our children safe by reviewing and strengthening the blue card system.

We provided access to free kindy. In our first year we announced the free kindy program, giving eligible children 15 hours per week of free kindy for up to 40 weeks per year. It took Labor a number of years to pass legislation around child safe organisations. The Crisafulli government is bringing forward the Reportable Conduct Scheme, strengthening protections for children sooner.

In my last few seconds, I think it is important to point out the work that has been undertaken by the child safety minister in commissioning the inquiry into child safety in Queensland. Whilst that body of work is about to be undertaken, the work in this report only touches the surface of what we will see come out of that commission of inquiry.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Safety Committee report *Oversight of the Queensland Child and Family Commission*. At the outset, I thank the commission for their dedication to their very important role. Alongside the members for Moggill and Mansfield, I was honoured to attend the Children's Rights Queensland event, which is one of the many events referenced in this report. That is a very small part of the work of the commission. They do many different events, but this one is very important.

This event not only highlighted the rights of children and how we can better educate our children about their rights but also involved an awards component. It was at these awards that I was delighted to get to know one of their Bravehearts ambassadors who was up for an award, young Amelia. Amelia has previously spoken very bravely and very publicly about her experience. It is young people like Amelia who have dealt with the incredibly serious issues canvassed in this report and it is these incredibly serious issues that are the reason the children's commission exists and the reports of the commission are so important.

We have heard a lot about how alarming the different statistics in the committee report are, but when reading this report there was one statistic that stood out to me and absolutely took my breath away. It reads—

Suicide is the leading cause of death for Queensland children aged 10 to 17 years.

That should shock everybody in this House. The report continues—

Of the cases the CDRB reviewed in 2023-24, six children died by Suicide.

The report goes on to state—

The cohorts of children at greatest risk of mental ill-health are children and young people who have experienced child maltreatment, children experiencing sexual abuse—

that is children like Amelia—

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and gender diverse young people.

I am deeply concerned, after reading that report, about the decision this government has made to once again go against the health advice and stop young people who are explicitly named in this report from accessing the health care they need. This report clearly outlines the increased risk that these young people are at. Despite knowing that, this government has chosen to take that action. According to this report we have a cohort who are at increased risk of suicide, and the government has made a decision that will put their mental health at the risk. What we can see from this report is that that puts their lives at risk. I do not know about others, but that sits terribly with me. We are putting young people's lives at risk with the decision this government has made. That is shocking. I hope members opposite read this report and see how important it is that young people have access to the health care they need, especially when they sit in one of these vulnerable cohorts. I will read those cohorts out again for the benefit of the House—

... children and young people who have experienced child maltreatment, children experiencing sexual abuse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and gender diverse young people.

We heard the voices of gender diverse young people. They spoke loudly and clearly at City Hall earlier this week when they came together to appeal to this government to listen to their voices and give them back their healthcare rights and put those decisions back in the hands of clinicians where they belong. Clinicians will make the best choices for young people based on their healthcare needs and not their ideological bent. This part of the report spoke to me loudly and clearly and concerningly. On behalf of the young people this report speaks about, I say to the LNP government, 'Please reconsider your decision. This report demands it.'

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (3.57 pm): The Family and Child Commission performs one of the most sensitive oversight duties in our state. It holds governments—any government—to account for the decisions that affect Queensland's most vulnerable kids. To be clear: I think the role the QFCC undertakes has never been more important. While the commission is working tirelessly to lift transparency, improve data and strengthen accountability, the Crisafulli LNP government is doing the exact opposite.

This is the commission that built a digital platform like the principle focus dashboard to shine a light on the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids in our system—a legacy that demands action, not excuses. It is the commission that developed the Growing Up in Queensland data tool that puts the voices of over 8,000 young Queenslanders at the centre of decision-making—something that seems to be a foreign concept for this government because if they were listening to young Queenslanders I am sure they would not have banned pill testing, I am sure they would not have banned gender-affirming care, I am sure they would not have axed affordable housing and I am sure they would not have axed renewable energy targets that are critical to climate change. All of those things are so important to young people.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I can hear the interjections of the so-called minister for young people. I am not sure where he has been advocating for the voices of young people on all of these issues, because every day he sells out their values to the hard right of his party.

**Mr O'Connor:** Very relevant.

**Ms SCANLON:** It is particularly relevant. I take the interjection from the youth affairs minister. I think the voices of young people in the report are pretty relevant to the QFCC's annual report.

**Mr O'Connor:** Just 'youth'—the portfolio you abolished.

**Ms SCANLON:** Evidently you have not read it, which is alarming to me, given you are supposed to be the youth affairs minister.

**Mr HEAD:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would appreciate your guidance under the standing orders about the speaker addressing comments through the chair, thank you.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Gaven, just recommence for the moment.

**Ms SCANLON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is alarming to me that the youth affairs minister does not think the voices of young people are relevant to this debate.

Debate, on motion of Ms Scanlon, adjourned.

## DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Cameras in Chamber

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Honourable members, I would like to advise the House that television pool cameras will be filming in the chamber during government business this afternoon.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee reports on the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 19 December 2025, and that the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee reports on the Appropriation (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2024-2025) Bill by 19 December 2025.

The committee has also resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's *Report 4: 2025-26—Supporting industry development* be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—  
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 18 November 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3496, on motion of Mr Purdie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to make a short contribution on what will be known as Daniel's Law. Initially, I felt that I would not be able to speak on this bill for personal reasons—reasons that relate to one of my siblings when she was young. I acknowledge the contribution the member for Caloundra made. There will be members in this chamber, no doubt, that will have reservations on speaking on particular parts, if not all, of this bill due to their involvement or certainly close to their family involvement. I will not be drawn into discussing anything on my sibling related to this bill. I feel it too hurtful and certainly something I cannot bring myself to, so I will keep it relevant to other parts and my experience not only in this place but also externally in respect to the nature of this bill.

I commend the submitters and the committee for its work on this bill. There is one recommendation: that this bill be passed. I acknowledge that we have a consensus of parliament in passing this bill here today.

I will never stand by and support someone who steals the innocence of a child and commits these heinous crimes against the youth in our society. It is a disgusting act. This parliament today will come together and bring, to some degree, a close on those sorts of actions. We have heard today that it is not possible to ever guarantee the full protection of our youth, but every measure we can do as a parliament towards that is worthwhile doing and worthwhile trialling.

I want to commend Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their endeavours. I have known them, prior to coming into this place, from working in another parliament, and I have always been encouraged by the tireless work they do. As a parent—and there are many parents in this chamber—I cannot imagine what it would be like to go through that happening to one of your own children, to experience those outcomes, and then set on a course of looking to assist our youth right throughout our country. They are highly commendable people. They are amazing. When you look at their bravery in the face of such unbelievable grief, it is outstanding. To have lost a child in the most horrific way and them dedicating their lives to doing what they can do to keep children safe is such a tribute to them. The work they do through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation has made a real difference and something they have every right to be proud of.

Tomorrow marks the 21st Day for Daniel, and I am sure every one of us will be out in our communities supporting the foundation and supporting Bruce and Denise in their continuing endeavours. I have seen them in action at Ferny Grove State School in the past, and I am very pleased with the development of their contributions in educating children into the future.

There was a time some years ago when I was foreman on a jury where we had to deliberate on a paedophilia case—an Italian father who had committed acts of sexual violence against his own daughter. It was a compelling case. It was a case where, fortunately, by the end of the deliberations, the jury saw eye to eye and we committed that person to the rightful place that he deserved, to answer for his crimes.

Closer to home in my electorate, I met with some constituents in 2022 who were seeking answers over concerns of their daughter's situation regarding sexual abuse in a childcare centre. Having spoken with officers from the Ferny Grove police station, with whom we have an excellent working relationship, it became apparent that the Australian Federal Police was investigating this case as well, so unfortunately we could not provide information back to that couple in regards to particular circumstances of what happened to their daughter and what was occurring throughout their grieving process. We now know the perpetrator was Ashley Paul Griffith, Australia's most prolific paedophile, a childcare worker, who was sentenced to life in prison for his offending against young girls. Griffith abused 65 girls at 11 Brisbane childcare centres over a 20-year period. He pleaded guilty to 307 offences, including 28 offences of rape and 190 counts of indecent treatment of a child in his care.

I want to commend also another parliament that is dealing with issues in child care at present and that is the Albanese government which is proposing measures to combat child abuse in childcare centres. The government has introduced legislation to parliament to lift child safety in early education and care services, so there are other people in our country that are doing similar to what we are doing here today. That legislation will give the Commonwealth government the power to cut off funding to childcare centres that do not meet the National Quality Standard when it comes to safety and quality, where there is a breach of law, or where centres are acting in a way that puts the safety of children at risk. That legislation will allow the Commonwealth officers to perform spot checks without warning to detect fraud and noncompliance across the sector. I do commend that parliament in their endeavours. I was only recently this week watching *Four Corners* on the ABC on what is happening in childcare centres. This is a universal problem—not only in this country, but the world. It is important we act on these measures to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Specifically to the bill, it is broadly based on the Western Australian model which was established in 2012. It will insert a new part 5AA into the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, providing for the release of limited information on some reportable offenders, through a three-tier system. I will not go through that three-tier system; that has been ventilated today and in people's contributions.

When we were in government, we certainly brought in laws. We increased the monitoring of first-time offenders from five years to 10 years. We increased the monitoring of repeat offenders from 10 years to 20 years or life. Over the last couple of days I have been frustrated to hear some people

claiming this bill as a particular party's position. There are times that we need to be respectful and measured in this place and demonstrate some bipartisanship, especially when it comes to matters like this. I cannot imagine Bruce or Denise being satisfied or comfortable with some of the deliberations they have heard during these proceedings today.

This parliament should be more professional and more measured when passing legislation like this which will protect the children in our society. It is not a time for branding. It is not a time for claiming, 'It's my bill,' or saying the other party did something when they were in government. We need to come together and be more professional and respectful. We need to pass this bill, which is what the committee recommended. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise today in support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This bill honours Daniel Morcombe and delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to put the safety of Queensland children and families first. For the first time in Queensland, this bill—named Daniel's Law—establishes a three-tier public register of child sex offenders. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation has tirelessly advocated for greater transparency, and this bill responds directly to that by giving families access to vital information that has been previously withheld by police. Currently, the Queensland Police Service maintains a non-public register of reportable offenders, but families have no way of proactively protecting their children. The bill changes this by creating a public register that empowers parents and carers to make informed decisions before harm occurs.

The register is structured in three tiers. Tier 1 is the public website that lists missing noncompliant offenders with facial images and key personal details. Tier 2 is a secure locality search which allows residents to see images of certain offenders living nearby, covering repeat and lifelong offenders and those under supervision orders. Tier 3 is a disclosure scheme that enables parents, guardians and carers to confirm if a person with unsupervised contact with their child is a reportable offender. They will receive a clear yes-or-no reply. Queensland's register is more comprehensive than those in Western Australia and South Australia, covering a broader range of offences and empowering more caregivers. Importantly, access is free for all families.

Safeguards are built in. Some offenders, such as those who committed offences as children or who are part of witness protection, are excluded. The Police Commissioner is given discretion over what information is released, considering the impact on victims and ongoing investigations. To prevent misuse, the bill introduces strong penalties for intimidation, harassment and unauthorised sharing of register information, with up to 10 years imprisonment for the most serious offences. The bill also requires a five-year independent review to ensure the register remains effective and accountable.

At its heart, Daniel's Law is about empowering families. By making information about child sex offenders more accessible, the public register enables parents, guardians and carers to make informed decisions about whom their children interact with. It allows them to take proactive steps to protect their children from harm. The register also serves to improve public confidence in our justice system—promoting transparency, accountability and a firm commitment to restoring safety in our communities—by allowing community members to be more vigilant in their local areas.

The establishment of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register is a landmark moment for Queensland. It reflects our collective determination to keep children safe and our willingness to learn from best practice around the country. It honours Daniel Morcombe and his family, whose courage and advocacy have paved the way for this vital reform. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise to support the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. Firstly, I want to recognise the Morcombes. Denise and Bruce have done so much for Logan children and parents. I have walked with so many schools on Day for Daniel, and I know that parents and school communities have had conversations which have kept children safe.

These issues are very tough to speak about. I have incredible admiration for the Morcombes, who get up day after day to keep others safe. For some other families it is difficult to even bring up these issues. That is why I am disappointed, as was the member for Ferny Grove, that some on the other side were inferring that those who are not speaking have some other view. It can be very difficult for some to speak on these issues. I recognise that some in this House spoke of their own family experiences of child sexual abuse. I think that is extraordinary. I want to support them, but I do not think any member should have to speak of their own family members. I respect their choices. It is not easy.

When I think of the bill, I think of what advice I would give to the families in Logan who want to do their best to keep their children safe. Many families in Logan who have listened to the speeches may

think that this bill finishes the job for them, that it will keep our children safe and remove all child sex offenders. One member in this debate said that every parent had the right to know everyone who might hurt their child. I support that principle, but we need to argue against giving false confidence or any complacency to families and communities. This bill simply does not do that.

Some members on the other side spoke much more accurately when they said it was a good tool for those in the family who want to keep their children safe. Perhaps it is even a discussion point. However, as others have said, we need to recognise what it does and does not do. We need to understand that, as yet, we do not know the radius of where an offender might be. For those of us in outer suburbs or even in country towns near major cities—I am thinking of places like Beaudesert, Boonah or Jimboomba—how wide will the radius be? Will it be larger in country areas? I do not want anyone to be falsely confident that anyone who might visit their children or be in proximity to their children will be captured by this bill.

To give families that information, I hope the minister can answer this question: of those who were convicted last year, how many would have been on the public register? We know that the government has already said that only 25 per cent of those in tier 2 who are convicted sex offenders would be on this register.

There are also those who have never been caught committing a child sexual offence. We know it can be very difficult for children, and sometimes it can be many years before they have the courage to step forward. I respect that. It is not easy. That means, though, that they are often historical offences and someone who is a danger to our community will not yet have faced prosecution. We also know that there might be others who have not committed an offence yet but who can still be a danger to our children. When we say this, perhaps 90 to 95 per cent of those who might hurt our children through a child sexual offence will not be on this list. My message to parents is that we still need to be vigilant.

I am also concerned about the workforce required for the system. We read about that in the report. The minister, I think, would have done the right thing—because I know he is genuine about this—and asked for the full complement of staff needed for this. I know the member for Springwood brought up issues of extra staffing and extra funding, and he was criticised by the other side for not unilaterally agreeing with everything here. We owe it to those who have fought for this bill—and in some cases for many years—to see that it is implemented properly. We owe them that. That is actually our responsibility in here and we should not be criticised for that.

We have heard through the process that more funding and staffing is required. Last night I saw that the CBRC was meeting. That is the budget committee that sets extra funding. This House has heard that extra funding is required for the police minister to ensure that this job is done. I had hoped that today, after that meeting last night, there would be an announcement about the proper funding needed to deliver this because we know that the amount budgeted for is inadequate.

I want to turn to the people of Logan and to the advice I would give them: yes, check the register but trust your doubts—trust your instincts—and, most importantly, have conversations with your children to say, 'We love you and we believe in you and, if something happens, we will still love you and believe in you and you will be with us.' We need to tell our kids about the dangers that are there for them.

The most important thing is that tomorrow, Day for Daniel, the parents in Logan go to the website, look at the information and take the time to discuss it with their children. We do this not only in memory of Daniel but also to strengthen what we do for our community to keep our children safe.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak on Daniel's Law, one of the most important pieces of legislation we have seen come through this House in our first 12 months in office. I would like to congratulate the police minister for bringing this legislation into the House—I am sure with the support of the Attorney-General in giving him enforceable legislation on all of these matters. It is a very positive and refreshing approach to a very difficult subject. I cannot comprehend how these child sex offenders are born and raised, if you like. I am told that there are many psychological issues involved in these matters. This will be a step—probably a small step but a positive step—in making people aware of the problems that may exist in their particular communities.

I remember quite clearly the abduction of young Daniel and the issues that went on and on for ages. In fact, former assistant commissioner Brian Wilkins came to see me a number of years ago just before he retired and advised me that he was part of the brains trust that put together the group that put in place the plan to catch the perpetrator—which they eventually did. They eventually locked him away and that is where the man should be. I do not believe that the mindset of those sorts of people ever changes, and he is in the place that he should be.

It was a wonderful effort by the police in bringing that perpetrator to justice, but this bill here today will assist the communities involved with housing particular types of people who have this crazy bent that we do not understand and that I do not believe they will ever lose. This system will assist them in finding out the threats within their communities. I thank the minister particularly for making it a priority as part of our total commitment to law and order and the protection of communities throughout Queensland. It was the focus of the election 12 months ago. This is another big part of that.

I hear some comments in relation to bipartisan support for this bill. I do appreciate the fact that the opposition will be supporting this bill. It is a very important bill and it should have bipartisan support, as it could have had in the 57th Parliament when these matters were raised previously by the opposition. I get the fact that we are all on one team for Daniel's Law now, but this could have happened quite a bit earlier had other people involved in government legislation then been more supportive.

To Bruce and Denise Morcombe, I cannot ever express to you the sorrow that you have felt over these 20 years. I am now a grandfather and I could not look at my little grandkids and think of a horrible heinous crime happening to them. For the Morcombes to suffer that pain for all those years and to keep working so hard in the community to see Daniel's Law hopefully become law today is an absolute testament to their wonderful stoic natures and their determination to protect Daniel's memory. He is not here with us these days, but he lives on in our memory. This law will enshrine his memory forever in the Queensland parliament and in the legislative processes of Queensland.

To them, I say keep up the great work that you do. There is a celebration day tomorrow obviously, but this work needs to keep going for our children because that is the important part, learning about stranger danger and even close relatives and others who may be involved in inappropriate behaviour with their crazy mindsets. I still, as I said, do not understand how anyone could be involved in that sort of behaviour, but it is out there. It will not stop. There will be generations to come who will have to deal with these matters. This bill is shining a light, if you like, on difficult people within our communities. It is a wonderful step forward. I congratulate all who are involved with it. I thank the opposition for their support for the bill. It will be a momentous day when this bill is passed. I cannot thank everybody enough, particularly the Morcombes, for their contribution.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. Much of what needs to be said has been said already. The baseline for this place, and something we can all agree on, is community safety and keeping our children safe. That is one of the primary concerns we should have. A lot of what we do in this place contributes towards that. Here is a gap that has been narrowed. I commend the government for taking the initiative to bring this legislation forward and the Morcombes for their advocacy.

On a personal level, applying my own personal experience, I have young girls now. That gives you a more acute awareness of the risks and dangers that are there and the fear and anxiety that goes along with that. You can only imagine the horrific feelings of families who suffer from this. I would also add, on personal reflection, some observations I have made of people who have had this experience. They are irreparably damaged. They never really come back. It has stolen something from their life. It is something so horrible and sometimes I think we easily forget the cost that is borne by those people. They are still living but part of their personality is ripped from them when they are young and these people take advantage of them. It goes without saying that we all want to protect our kids from these people. Having better visibility on that is a good thing.

I just observe the fact that the tier 2 locality searches are what I would be more interested in using myself. I do express some concern because, as I think was mentioned earlier, there is still a large proportion of offenders who are not captured in tier 2, so the system can give a false sense of security—like the blue cards. In saying that, no policy is perfect and, as I advocate with the blue cards, there are risks with everything.

It is not fair to say this will fix everything and this exposes everyone and provides that sort of picture of the legislation as it stands. There are still gaps and I do not have a better idea of how to fix that. I am not advocating there is a better policy to pursue, but it is important to acknowledge that gap exists and it is not doing everything we need it to do. I certainly commend the government on having the initiative to bring this forward. It is good to see what would appear to be unified support in the House for something like this. It is good to see local grassroots advocacy reach legislative instruments like this, which will do some good to protect our children in the future.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (4.30 pm): It is somewhat daunting to

speak on this legislation, Daniel's Law, today. First I want to acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who are joining us in the gallery this afternoon. It has taken a long time to get here with Daniel's Law. As a Sunshine Coast member of parliament, I join with all of my coastal colleagues who have been supporters of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and the amazing work that Bruce and Denise and the foundation have done throughout Australia and internationally to spread the message of child safety.

I have spoken to Bruce and Denise on many occasions about not only these laws but also the work they do. I know they would not even want to debate these laws or have these laws; they would give anything to have Daniel back at home living his life as he should have—had the tragic circumstances not happened to him with the monster. Bruce and Denise have fought with courage and tenacity for better laws to protect children across the country, not only through education campaigns and what they do with the foundation but also to see kids at schools wearing red for Daniel, remembering Daniel and making sure that his life was not lost in vain and his legacy continues. The legacy of Daniel is not only a memory; it is about making sure that offenders are held accountable, young kids are protected and we have the strongest laws in place to deal with those monsters in our community.

We have these monsters in our community. For years in this place we have been debating laws to target sex offenders. Every sex offender is a monster, but a child sex offender has a special place in hell as far as I am concerned. The amazing work that Bruce and Denise and their family have continued to do on behalf of all Australians and all kids around the world is testament to their courage.

It is very pleasing that we are now able to debate Daniel's Law, because this is the first child sex offender public register in Queensland's history. When I was the attorney-general we were talking about these types of laws. I remember that Mr Hinch came and saw me. Unfortunately, we lost office and could not proceed with further discussions, and we remained out of office for 10 years after that. I am particularly proud to have these laws in place and debated now, only a year into the Crisafulli government.

Tomorrow we will join Bruce and Denise, all of their family and thousands of people around Australia and the Sunshine Coast as we walk for Daniel to spread the message of love, the message of children and safety. Collectively, we all have a responsibility, but as legislators we have a responsibility to ensure that monsters are held behind bars for the maximum time possible and that if they are out the community is kept safer than they were. One way to do that is with a public sex offender register. The police minister has spoken about the three tiers, which I fully endorse, and there will be a five-year statutory review of the law.

Queenslanders have been calling for these types of laws for many years. I think we owe it to young kids across the state to do whatever we can to protect them. We will always need reform. Reform is always necessary because with every monster comes a way around laws, so this is not the end of it. We will do what we need to do to implement the first child sex offender public register with three tiers and protections in place. I think the police minister and other ministers responsible have gone through this in a very calm way. It was not rushed; it has gone through a parliamentary committee. When it starts and the photographs are available and so forth and people are able to search, I have no doubt that children will be more protected with these laws. I thank the police minister, Dan Purdie, another Sunshine Coast MP, who I know has a special place in his heart for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, Bruce and Denise and their entire family.

Bruce and Denise, we are walking with you tomorrow. I want to say thank you because, thinking of your situation, I would not have been able to do it. If I lost my young son in the circumstances in which the Morcombes did, I would not be strong enough to do what they have done over these years. We have seen the community rally behind you, fighting for you, for Daniel's legacy and for better laws and protections and for resources for the police and in our schools. It would not have happened without the most amazing people sitting in the public gallery today. Bruce and Denise, it brings cold comfort to you that we have to pass these laws. On behalf of Premier Crisafulli and the entire state government I say thank you, because without your tenacity, courage and advocacy over the last 10 years we would not be debating these laws. I am particularly pleased to support these laws today.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.36 pm): I rise in support of Daniel's Law today, the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register. At the outset, as so many speakers have done, I place on record my deep and abiding respect for the Morcombes, Denise and Bruce, who I can see sitting up in the gallery today, for their unwavering and steadfast commitment to keeping all of our Queensland children safe. As many members on both sides of the House have also said, it is truly beyond comprehension how they have endured the loss that they have and been able to come out

the other side and not just endure that loss but then turn it into meaningful and ongoing reform. That is not just the legislation that we have before us, which is very meaningful and incredibly significant legislation that we are going to pass today, but also the ongoing work they have done for over 20 years.

We know that tomorrow is the Day for Daniel. It is a day that every member of this House and I think almost every young child in Queensland, including my own, can tell you about. I take this opportunity to encourage members of the parliament, but especially members of my Mount Ommaney community, to have a look at the resources that are available online through the Day for Daniel website and then, as the member for Logan has said, take a moment to discuss those resources with your young people. Talk to them about what you have learned from those resources and talk to them about those uncomfortable situations. The fact is that these are the conversations we dread having with our young people. We dread having that conversation because we dread the idea that they might be exposed to a predator; even more, we dread the idea that they may have already been exposed to a predator.

When my daughter Allegra participated in the Day for Daniel as a primary school student, I asked her about what she had learned. She certainly talked about the stranger danger aspect that I think many members of this House were taught; that was the kind of education we got about the dangers in our community. As a young child, the term 'stranger danger' was quite prevalent. She also learned on the Day for Daniel about the predators who hide in plain sight—those predators who are known to the family and are either a member of that family or seeking to ingratiate themselves into a family so they can have easier access to young people.

That thought chills us all because we have heard in recent months about people who work with young children, and there is a lot of work being undertaken right now in our early childhood sector. We have so many wonderful people who work in early childhood and do such a great job, so it is a shame in some ways that those wonderful, hardworking educators feel the brunt of that extra scrutiny but that scrutiny is required to make sure we can protect our innocent and vulnerable children, many of whom cannot even yet put a name to their own body parts.

Allegra spoke with me about the resources that she learned about when she participated in Day for Daniel. This register will be a tool in an arsenal that comprises several weapons, if you like, in the fight against child predators. The register will allow some people to be checked. However, it is also important that we continue to empower our children to trust their gut and know that they can have those conversations with their trusted people. As many members of this House have acknowledged, we will never unfortunately be able to truly eradicate the kinds of people who perpetrate these crimes, but we need to make sure that if it does happen our young people feel empowered to go to their trusted people—their parents, their teachers—and share what has happened so we can start that journey of healing with them.

This bill is a profound and important piece of legislation, and I am proud that we have such strong support right across the parliament for it. Like you, Deputy Speaker Furner, I was not sure whether I would be able to get up and speak on this bill today for reasons that are known to me and my family. Therefore, it was very disappointing to hear members opposite speaking about people who have chosen to not make a contribution. It is important to note that in bills that bring up traumatic subjects every member may be experiencing different things at different times and those traumatic subjects can impact members in very upsetting and mentally traumatic ways. Sometimes members make the choice that they cannot speak on a particular issue on a particular day.

I know that everybody who votes for this bill supports this bill. I support the bill very strongly for all of the young people who have been impacted by these heinous crimes. This bill is another tool in the Queensland parliament's arsenal to protect young people, and that is so important to me. I think it is really important that we do come together in a bipartisan way on bills like this and that members do not reflect on the willingness of other members to speak. The subject matters in these bills are incredibly traumatic and it is important that we respect the lived experiences of other members in this House. If we cannot do that and show each other that basic kindness and respect, then I really do despair for this place. I commend this wonderful bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.44 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. This legislation represents a significant step forward in the Crisafulli government's commitment to safeguarding the children of Queensland and ensuring that the rights of parents and families take precedence over the interests of sexual predators. The establishment of a three-tier public child sex offender register is a critical initiative designed to empower our communities. This public register will provide parents, guardians and those

responsible for the care of our children with access to vital information. In doing so, it will enable families to make informed decisions about who has, or will have, contact with their children by enhancing their ability to protect children from harm.

This bill is named in honour of Daniel Morcombe, who in December this year would have been 36 years old. As a parent, as a father, I cannot imagine the grief the Morcombe family has gone through. They have gone through the darkest night but they have turned that grief into a symbol to prevent this from happening again. I take the comments from the member for Kawana: Bruce and Denise, you are so much stronger than a lot of the members here because we would find it so difficult to channel that grief for change.

A lot of members in this chamber have young families. I have a young family—two daughters and a son—around the same age as Daniel was and I cannot imagine what it would be like for my family to go through what your family went through. Queensland owes you an absolute debt of gratitude for that strength you have harnessed to fight for change, to fight for a better Queensland, to protect children from these evil people who do this to children. I reiterate what the member for Kawana said again: there is only one place for those evil people and that is hell. Every single child in this state should be allowed to grow up in safety.

A lot of other members want to speak so I will keep my comments short. I mainly wanted to focus on the gratitude felt by the community of Queensland and those on the northern Gold Coast in my electorate. All of these school students wear red on Day for Daniel. You have changed the mindset of a community and this legislation will go a long way to further protecting our children. As I stated earlier, I can never, ever deep down understand how you could channel so much grief into something beautiful to make this state a better place. Thank you, Bruce and Denise, on behalf of my electorate on the northern Gold Coast.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of Daniel's Law. I acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe in the gallery but also all of those people who have such a strong interest in this legislation. I have gotten to know Bruce and Denise over a number of years in previous roles. They are marvellous people—kind-hearted, generous people who are committed to safer communities and committed to ensuring they do whatever they can to prevent this happening to another family.

There are some moments that you never forget. I remember being at one of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation dinners at City Hall a number of years ago. My wife, Holly, and I were there and were on a table with Bruce and Denise. It was a good night. There was some good entertainment and obviously always great conversation with Bruce and Denise. It was just after the birth of our first child. Denise asked what we called our firstborn. I paused for a moment because it did not dawn on me immediately, but I responded and said 'Daniel'. Denise, in her truly generous way, smiled and said, 'It's a beautiful name.' Denise and Bruce, we do this in memory of Daniel. It is my hope that forever on from this moment Daniel's name will always be attributed to something good: the protection of children.

In addressing the legislation before the House, I say there has been a journey for many jurisdictions to get to this point. Everything this parliament does should be in the best interests of Queenslanders. It should have a good foundation, it should be evidence-based and it should be supported by research, because the last thing we want to do is cause adverse consequences or unforeseen consequences.

I am pleased that this legislation before the House is based on some experiences from other jurisdictions, reviews from other jurisdictions, much thought and much research. There will still be opinions on either side about how to deliver the best outcomes, particularly when it comes to child protection. Daniel's Law is based on legislation in other jurisdictions, legislation that has been reviewed. It is important for this government to ensure that, in implementation, the proper resources are dedicated to it but also the proper education campaigns are rolled out alongside it and that the history of getting to this point is acknowledged.

Of course, governments of all persuasions over the years have strengthened laws and have dedicated more resources to this critical subject, which is the protection of children. I do want to acknowledge that there were some laws passed in the previous parliament on which I did engage with the Morcombes in my previous role, particularly the 'worst of the worst' legislation, that legislation around additional powers for the Parole Board to keep in custody those prisoners sentenced to life in prison for the murder of children or for multiple murders—I remember the support and engagement with Bruce and Denise on that. There was also the focus on extending monitoring periods for child sex offenders, the additional resourcing of the Queensland Police Service for the child protection offender

register and the work done generally in the community to enhance awareness and education. Every child in every school knows that Day for Daniel, a day when you wear red, is a day when you talk about the protection of children and there is great awareness of those people in the community who seek to cause harm.

It is important to acknowledge that a lot of education and awareness needs to go along with the implementation of Daniel's Law. First and foremost, the community needs to be aware that Daniel's Law will be available soon in the community. I note from the review of the Western Australian scheme that one of the first recommendations was to enhance awareness so that more people in the community can apply to get information about child sex offenders who may be living in their community. There should be greater use of this tool. It is important, obviously, to raise that awareness first.

Once you have raised the awareness, you also need to make the community aware of the scope of this tool. Of course, there is good reason the tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 cohorts have been shaped as they have. The community needs to appreciate the breadth of that scope, what it means when they receive information and how they can best use this tool, Daniel's Law, to keep their children safe but also to then support the conversations with their young people around safe behaviours in the community and with others. Of course, we know that most child sex offenders are known to the poor young children who become their victims—not all but most.

I also wish to talk about the framework, and I think it would be important to get the minister's perspective on this. I think it is very good to have the framework around accessing the information and dealing with the information, but I also think there needs to be real context about how reasonable, rational people will deal with that information. I do not know anyone who is not concerned for the wellbeing of their own child and information they might have about a risk to their child. This is a very genuine remark I am making here. I put myself in these shoes; I think every parent would put themselves in these shoes. If they get information about the child sex offender living next door or across the road or about someone who frequents a park, I think it is very reasonable that a rational person might have an adverse reaction to that information. How do we ensure that very reasonable people with rational reactions do not unfairly get criminalised due to being impacted by that concern for their child and having information about the risks?

I understand that there needs to be a framework around how people deal with the information they receive, but this legislation also makes it a criminal offence for what is quite a foreseeable event of a reasonable, rational person responding to information that might put their child at risk. The legislation quite clearly says you cannot tell anyone about it. Does that mean you cannot tell your mother, who might be watching the grandkids, to be careful of the next-door neighbour? Does that mean you cannot tell your next-door neighbour who has young children that they need to be careful of the person across the road? It is a very genuine remark, because I think there is a very foreseeable circumstance where reasonable, rational people might find themselves in difficult predicaments.

For the interest of the House, I also want to get assurances from the minister that proper resourcing at the Queensland Police Service will be put in place, particularly around the automated system, to ensure that is ready to go as soon as the laws are ready to go. I commend the bill to the House, commend Daniel's Law and once again commend Bruce and Denise for the important legacy they will leave for the safety of children.



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (4.59 pm): I rise to support the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill before the House and to acknowledge the contribution by the very many speakers who have spoken with regard to it and to acknowledge the work of the Morcombes in relentlessly pursuing greater good for the safety of children not only here in Queensland but throughout Australia ever since that day in December 2003 that Daniel was lost to them.

There are many events in our lives that we remark on that are hallmarks. For people in this place it might be the day that they were elected here. For many of us it may be the day that our children were born. For others it can be the loss of a loved one, but thankfully very few of us have to remark on a day, in the festive season, on the loss of a child. To be able to do so and to continue to carry on in the face of that loss with the dignity and the stoicism that the Morcombes have faced over that period of time speaks volumes to their individual integrity and their desire to do good. That is why I think it is important that this bill is called what it is called. I am not a big fan of naming bills after people—I think bills are for all of us—but I think in exceptional circumstances an exceptional decision should be made, so acknowledging Daniel with the title of this bill as Daniel's Law is one of those exceptional circumstances where I think it is absolutely suitable to break that rule, if you like, or that proposition.

Times have changed and this legislation becomes necessary. The days of a carefree and happy childhood where we thought we could get a kid on a bike and they could ride around for a couple of hours after school without fear or worry of harm have disappeared. Increasingly we see the prevalence of those depraved individuals who seek to prey on the innocence of young people, and the police minister in his prior role has seen plenty of it. I remember talking to him before he became a member of this place in relation to the terrible events found with young Mason Jett Lee. Some of those events have shaped his view of the world—shaped all of our views of the world—and that is why this legislation is so important.

Whilst it is important for what it does as a piece of legislation, it is also important as a symbol, and it is a symbol of the importance that we in this chamber place on the safety and security and sanctity of children in our community. Symbols are important. In fact, we could argue that they are almost more important than the words of a dry piece of legislation that goes through this House because they send a message and they send a message to the community, and the message to the community from the passage of this legislation by this government is that we support protecting children and that we support providing information that we believe people are entitled to in order to make their own lives safer. It also sends the message that we should rely on our Police Service and that vigilantism is not part of our society, but that the laws and the rules we put in place with the adequate resourcing and the adequate support of police and other services will provide the protection that people seek and they desire.

I have been listening to the debate over the last couple of days and I have listened to some of the concerns raised and it is clear that this is not the end of the matter. This is another step. We put another brick in the wall around protecting our children. This is not the whole answer. There has never been the pretence that it has been the whole answer, but it is another part of the answer that we continually build on, and the price of doing that is continual vigilance and it is continually reviewing the way we do things. It is not all of the answers, but we should not let any theoretical or supposed complaints stop us proceeding in the best way that we know how in this place to take another step in protecting our children. It is often said that we should never let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and in terms of this bill that is exactly right.

There will be many things that will need to be done in the future and we will no doubt need to come back in here and other parliaments will no doubt need to revisit steps that are taken to protect children into the future. In terms of fulfilling the aims of the bill to increase community awareness by giving parents and carers access to information to help protect children and to guard against misuse of offender information, this bill achieves what it set out to achieve and it does so in a very measured, a very calm and a very proper way. The bill also recognises the need to align with the work undertaken through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to provide educational resources, tools and strategies to help the community and help parents to protect their children and empower them to do it, because it recognises that it is not the be-all and end-all—it is not the answer—but it is a very significant step in providing those answers.

This is the end of a long journey for this bill. I remember the genesis of it when I was opposition leader in 2017 and the initial discussions we had about introducing a law like this. We looked at Western Australia because it had had that law in place for some time and we discussed the matters that we are discussing here. I remember very firmly the work undertaken under the leadership of the member for Nanango at that time in 2019 and the discussions we had in this place in relation to it, and now we see the culmination of all of that work. My good friend the member for Mudgeeraba was also a fierce advocate for child safety and child protection, amongst other matters that she took to heart and still has close to her heart. Here we are another six years later finally putting in place a piece of legislation about which I think everyone will stand up and say, 'Why didn't we do this a decade ago? Why did it take so long?'

The experience in Western Australia provides us with clear guidance, and that is there is no outbreak of vigilantism and there is no misuse of the information. In response to the member for Morayfield in relation to what a reasonable, rational person would do, the experience in Western Australia is that reasonable, rational people act reasonably and rationally. They are good, decent Australians. They do the right thing. They are interested in the protection of themselves, their kids and their community and they behave appropriately. I have great faith in them. They do not always vote for us, but I have great faith in them and I think we should have the same faith in them. This bill places the same faith in them and it puts another step and another brick, as I said, in the wall around the protection of our kids. With those brief words, I conclude my contribution by saying that, like all Queenslanders, I welcome the introduction and later today hopefully the passage of Daniel's Law in Queensland.



**Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (5.07 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025—a bill that delivers on the government's election commitment to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect Queensland children and to put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators.

We debate a lot of legislation in this place and every now and then a piece of legislation comes before this parliament that unites us. It does not happen very often, but this is one of those occasions. It is a bill that has united this chamber, and we need to recognise that. Not only do I want to recognise Bruce and Denise today, but I also want to recognise Bernadette Radford, or Bernadette Strow as I knew her back then. Bernie started as a roster clerk at Townsville Police Station, joined the job and has been with Bruce and Denise from day one. I want to acknowledge your work, Bernie, and thank you for your journey and your support of Bruce and Denise through all those many years.

When I was the OIC at Townsville police station, Bruce and Denise would come around on their annual tour. It started as a journey, in trying to get that message across. It was a long road, but I can say today that that message has got through. My kids now talk about the day they wore that red shirt to school to honour the memory of Daniel. It has worked. It has been worth it. All of that hard work you have done over many years has paid dividends in raising the awareness of child safety in this state. There is no greater responsibility, when you think about our role in protecting our most vulnerable. Certainly, our children should be protected at all costs. There is an onus on us to ensure that. This bill should have been passed many years ago. Thank goodness we have finally got to the stage where we will pass it tonight. To name it 'Daniel's Law' is fitting.

We know that the passing of this law will not bring Daniel back, but if it saves one life then it will be worth it. We will know that we played a role in passing this law which protects children in this state. That is an enormous responsibility. This public register is the first of its kind in Queensland. The bill establishes a new framework, designed to build on the existing non-public register, to give parents and guardians information that allows them to take action at an individual level. It is sad that we need those safeguards, but we should have those safeguards because these offenders are in our communities right now. They belong in jail, and when they are brought to justice they should rot in jail.

Let's do everything we can to raise awareness in this state, to put in place the mechanisms and safeguards we need to give parents the comfort of the ability to know who is in their community and to know that if their kids go down to the local park or ride their bike down to the local shop they can do so safely. Surely, we want to be able to get back to people not having to wonder if there is some vile predator lurking around the corner, waiting to grab their kid.

Over many years I delivered death messages to parents who had lost children. The devastation at the moment you deliver that message—I see the member for Mundingburra nodding—is something you never forget. They carry a scar on their heart forever, as I am sure Bruce and Denise do. Bruce and Denise, know that we are all collectively in this chamber with you on this journey. We support you. We will be with you tomorrow. We will carry forward this legacy and know that we played a very small part in making Queensland a safer place for our children.



**Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (5.12 pm): I rise to speak on Daniel's Law. It is every parent's hope and desire that their children will outlive them. For parents to suddenly lose a child through accident or illness is difficult to comprehend. To lose a bright young man with his whole life ahead of him in the way the Morcombe family lost Daniel is incomprehensible. As members of the public, community and society, we can but look on with compassion yet little understanding of the absolute grief these parents endured. As members of parliament, we not only owe it to the Morcombes to enact legislation that reflects the measures they seek after years of advocacy; we also have a duty to society to take all steps we can to protect our children from these horrific crimes.

Public life is about shared values. As parties we congregate around those values—values that bring about change that will make our communities and, in fact, our society a better and safer place to live. Upon consideration of this contention and the importance of the legacy the Morcombes seek to leave for all of our children, I could not in any circumstance imagine any values that would motivate any of us to come to this House and not support Daniel's Law.

The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025 delivers on the Crisafulli government's commitment to strengthen Queensland's child protection framework; to put the rights of children, parents and families ahead of the rights of sexual predators; and to honour the tireless advocacy of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. There would be few

Queenslanders who were not touched by Daniel Morcombe's story as the details of this tragedy unfolded in the days, weeks and years following that fateful December day.

Queensland is joined by Western Australia and South Australia and is soon to be joined by Tasmania in implementing a version of Daniel's Law. From the indescribable pain, hurt and ultimately loss of young Daniel, positive action is now being enacted in law that raises awareness, utilises the power of education and has guaranteed action to keep our children safe. This bill prioritises the safety of children. It ensures parents and caregivers gain access to information that helps them make informed decisions about who interacts with their children. It provides communities with knowledge and confidence that our lawmakers have not forgotten Daniel and will continue to keep our children safe and keep them from harm.

The Queensland Police Service has administered a non-public child protection register under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 for many years. That register is pivotal for police in monitoring offenders and preventing reoffending; however, it has not been accessible to the community and, more importantly, to those most able to protect our children from harm: their parents. Daniel's Law provides transparency to parents and guardians with practical means of protecting their families. The Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register will strengthen confidence in our justice system, it will make information more accessible, it will give families the power to act early and, above all, it will help prevent harm before it happens. This legislation will cross socio-economic, geographic and cultural boundaries to ensure greater protection of our children wherever they live. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to contribute to the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025. Like other members, I want to acknowledge the unyielding advocacy of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. What Bruce and Denise went through was a tragedy of unspeakable proportions, but they have turned their unimaginable grief into a better future for Queensland children and children right across the nation. Daniel's name will live forever, not just through this bill which carries his name but in the impact his loss had on so many Queenslanders and Australians who have heard his story and have benefited from the advocacy of Bruce and Denise. That is one of the reasons it is such a privilege today to speak on this bill. Many members on all sides have spoken to the mechanics of it—I will not focus on that tonight—but I will focus my contribution on why this bill matters and reflect on what a historic moment it is for our state.

One of the hallmarks of a good government is their commitment to the safety of their citizens and of their children. As parliamentarians and legislators, we have a solemn responsibility to do whatever we can to keep children and families safe. That is achieved not through platitudes and commentary but through real, firm action. That is why we took to the election our commitment to establish the Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register, a three-tier system to keep children safe. It is something that former leader the member for Nanango did a lot of work on in her term as leader. I still vividly recall my colleague from Toowoomba, the member for Toowoomba North, moving a motion in this House calling on the then government to implement a public child sex offender register. It is a significant day for this government that we can now put this idea, this long-held belief of ours on this side of the House, into action.

This is a measure that puts the rights of children, victims and parents ahead of dangerous predators and sex offenders. That is a principle fundamentally important to all of us. It is fundamentally important to the government and it is pleasing that it is a principle that enjoys the support of the whole House. It is the right thing to do. It is what Queenslanders expect. It is what we promised we would do and what we are now doing.

I want to touch briefly on some issues that have been raised by members with respect to resourcing. It is an important point. As Treasurer I am pleased to advise the House that we are making the investments needed to ensure this system gets up and running and works from day one. As part of the budget we committed \$10 million to support the implementation of Daniel's Law. That is money in the budget now that will ensure this system can become operational and deliver on the commitments we have made.

This bill is for Daniel; it is for every child in Queensland who has suffered at the hands of an offender; and for every parent who has had to live with those terrible actions. This is an important day for the people of Queensland and it is an historic day in our shared mission in this House to keep all Queensland children safe.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. This bill delivers on the Crisafulli

government's election promise to further strengthen sex offender laws with the establishment of a new three-tier Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register to protect our Queensland children and put the rights of parents and families ahead of sexual predators. This public register will make information more accessible to the community and allow parents, guardians and those exercising parental responsibility to access information in order to make informed decisions about who has or will have contact with their children.

This very important bill is named Daniel's Law in honour of Daniel Morcombe. My heart goes out to Daniel's family. They have my deepest respect and admiration for their advocacy all these years. This public register will be the first of its kind within Queensland. It is absolutely critical that people living in our beautiful state have access to this information. People deserve to know if the person living next door has been convicted of such heinous crimes. As a parent and as a representative I share that same concern. I want to protect my family, my children and every child in my community from the potential risk of interaction with child sex offenders. This bill empowers communities like mine to stay informed, stay vigilant and, most importantly, stay safe.

The introduction of this legislation cannot come soon enough. Child sex offences are amongst the most heinous crimes imaginable. They destroy lives—not only the lives of the victims but also the lives of their families and loved ones. As members of parliament our foremost duty is to serve, protect and represent our communities. On behalf of all residents within the Maryborough electorate we are in strong support of this bill. I commend the Crisafulli LNP government for the introduction of Daniel's Law, the honourable ministers and committee members for their hard work and, again, Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their advocacy for all this time and for the future. I commend the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill to the House.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (5.23 pm): My contribution on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill is one that means a great deal to me, to my team and to a number of Queenslanders. That is the last time I will refer to it as that. From now on I will call it Daniel's Law. I will always call it Daniel's Law. Two names are missing from that title, but they are the reason we are here today. They join us in the gallery. Tomorrow we get a chance to walk with Bruce and Denise Morcombe in honour of their little boy who never walked home. This bill is to make sure that others do not go through that same heartache. No system is ever perfect—this one is not perfect—but it is a massive step in the right direction. I want Queenslanders to know that we are doing this because our heart is in it and we said we were going to do it and do it we will.

I have listened to some of the contributions. Of those who have spoken you can tell who means it and who it is personal for and who wants to drive change. I am just going to pick up one comment because it has to be placed on the record. One of the members, and I am not even going to name who the member is because I think it is unfitting, said, 'I fear that the backslapping and grandstanding will result in children in our communities being put at risk.' That is not having your heart in it. This bill is before this House because we made a commitment to do something about a broken system, a system where monsters could hide in plain sight—next door, at the sporting club, perhaps a place where you send your kids overnight. That has happened. This gives parents one more tool—just one more tool—to maybe keep their kids safe. My heart is in it, and so is the minister's. Minister Purdie will be wrapping this up shortly.

The reason the three-tier system is so important is that it gives every parent at a different stage and a different moment a tool to do good. We have seen this operate in the west for a long time. I will not dignify with a response some of the commentary around why this might not work and the backslapping, all I will say is that all of the predictions that were made in the west by all of the same dogooders who put the rights of paedos ahead of the rights of kids never came to fruition—never! It has been there a long time. I hope that this triggers a conga line of states to follow suit. I hope that the people sitting in the gallery today might be in other parliaments tomorrow because every kid matters. It would be great if then there is a force that gets rolled out in other parts of the world because in the end no child deserves to go through what the young boy whose name this bill carries did and what the brave family who join us today have endured.

To you, Bruce and Denise, you have used your tragedy for good. You have harnessed your pain to ensure others do not go through the same heartache. It was my honour to make you a commitment before the election that this law would be law. Today, Queenslanders, this is an historic day because Daniel's Law will be law.



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.28 pm), in reply: I want to thank all honourable members who have contributed to the debate on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. I acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe, who are in the gallery again this evening for this momentous occasion. As we know, this bill is called Daniel's Law in honour of their son. I thank Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their more than two decades of advocacy through the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. This bill reflects their strong resolve to ensure the safety and protection of all children. Daniel's legacy is to keep kids safe and Daniel's Law will help do just that.

Through this bill, the Crisafulli government is delivering on its commitment to restore safety in our communities. This government is strengthening child protection laws by putting the rights of children and parents ahead of the rights of sexual predators. We must do everything to keep Queensland children safe from sexual harm. The public register will ensure Queensland families have access to information to make informed decisions when it comes to protecting their children. It begs the question: why has it taken so long?

Yesterday I was with the Morcombes when someone from the media asked that question, and it is a good question. I think the answer became obvious during the debate when members opposite, even senior members such as the shadow attorney-general, raised baseless assertions about the need for an extra 100 police and the millions of dollars required to maintain the system. For 10 years the Morcombe family lobbied those opposite. Labor never even had the decency to pick up the phone to the police in Western Australia, who have been operating this system for over a decade, to find out the answers to those resourcing questions. We did and the answer is three. In Western Australia, three staff are required to monitor and operate their system.

I can tell members that their system is a paper system where people are asked to download a form, fill it out, scan it and send it back. As we have announced, we are investing \$10 million to devise and develop a system that will be easy for parents and caregivers to quickly make an application to get the information they need to put protective strategies in place around their child. I asked that question. For 10 years the Morcombes have been asking for this and in this debate we heard some of the excuses that those opposite gave not to do it.

Similarly, questions raised about vigilantism, retraumatisation and the identification of victims have not proved to be an issue elsewhere. The committee report states—

The committee is encouraged by the experience of Western Australia which suggests that the risk of vigilantism and physical retribution against child sex offenders following the provision of information from the public register is very low. The committee also understands that Western Australia has not experienced any issues in relation to the identification of victims because of its public register.

However, I will note the differing approaches taken by some of those opposite—namely, the member for Nudgee, a former child safety minister, and the member for Gaven, the opposition attorney-general. On the one hand, we have a reasoned optimistic argument; on the other, we have a poorly disguised ideological tirade that demonstrates deep prejudice and a failure to accept the need for change. While accepting some practical concerns about aspects of the bill, the member for Nudgee was prepared to accept that those who supported it were genuine in their advocacy. Her remarks concentrated on how this legislation will keep children safe, rather than trying to drum up unsubstantiated fears about the reform. She put the issue of child safety at the top of the priority list and it is for that that she must be acknowledged. On the other hand, the member for Gaven spent most of her contribution reading from the ALP talking notes, promoting a series of unlikely outcomes and endeavouring to raise unfounded concerns around, as I said, 100 extra police being required while protesting that she supports the legislation. They are typical Labor tactics as they seek to explain away why they did not introduce this reform during their decade in office.

Yesterday the Minister for Youth Justice issued a challenge to Labor members: to front up in this debate and tell Queenslanders where they stand. Few have responded, including the opposition leader and the two members squabbling over his job: the deputy leader, the member for Woodridge, and the shadow treasurer, the member for Waterford. I call on ALP members to nail their colours to the mast and reveal exactly what they think about this reform.

Moving to resourcing, the Crisafulli government is delivering what Labor failed to do: Queensland's first-ever public child sex offender register. This landmark reform is backed by \$10 million in dedicated funding to establish the register and ensure it is implemented effectively. The Queensland Police Service already has specialist capability units with statewide responsibility for preventing, disrupting, monitoring, responding to and investigating child sex offenders. The new public register will be managed within the existing child protection offender registry, supported by a dedicated team

responsible for its administration and ongoing operation which will be fully funded. The child protection offender registry team is based across Queensland and already performs critical work managing the existing non-public register. Those highly trained staff are experts in best practice offender management and have a proven record of keeping communities safe.

Several members of the opposition have expressed concern that the public register may create a false sense of security within the community. The public register is designed to complement, not substitute for, existing initiatives that keep our communities safe. It is merely an additional protective tool. All visitors to the community protection website will have access to protective safety and child protection information to keep children safe and will be required to acknowledge the limitations of the public register. Additionally, the Queensland police will work with other government departments and advocacy groups to ensure that public communication and messaging provides adequate awareness of child safety risks beyond offenders who may be identified through the public register. The community protection website will also provide support and resources for members of the community who want to provide police with information about a person they believe or know poses a sexual risk to a child.

Concerns have also been raised that the number of people captured by tier 2 is significantly less than the total number of reportable offenders. Tier 2 has been specifically designed to capture the most serious class of offenders. It is consistent with the models implemented in Western Australia and soon to be implemented in South Australia. Therefore, it follows that the number of people who fall within tier 2 will be lower than the total number of reportable offenders. It is important to note that, if the Police Commissioner considers at any time that a reportable offender poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more children or of children generally, the Police Commissioner may deem the offender to be a serious-risk offender and therefore included within tier 2.

Several members, in particular the member for Jordan and the member for Maiwar, noted that the majority of child sex offenders are people who are known to the child and their family. It is recognised that risks to children do arise from within trusted circles. That is precisely why tier 3, the parent and guardian disclosure framework, is such an important part of the public register. Under tier 3, a parent, guardian or person with ongoing parental responsibility for a child will be able to apply to confirm whether a person who has or will have unsupervised contact with their child is a current reportable offender. This contact includes any form of communication, whether in person or through electronic means. Even when a 'no' response is provided, applicants will receive material that promotes the use of proactive protective behaviours to help keep their children safe.

The member for Gladstone and the member for Noosa raised concerns about the statutory five-year review period. They called for an earlier interim review and ongoing monitoring of the public register to ensure early identification and rectification of any unintended impacts. The bill includes a statutory review of the public register to take place as soon as practicable following five years of operation. This review will provide an important opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the public register and make any necessary adjustments to ensure it continues to serve its intended purpose. It will give the government a substantial period to understand the trends, the impacts and the volume of traffic that we see through the register. It will ensure a fulsome review is conducted. The findings of the review will be tabled and made publicly available through this assembly.

The member for Gladstone and the member for Nudgee expressed concerns about the risk of victims being identified through the public register. Protecting future child victims from harm is a core principle underpinning the public register. It strikes an appropriate balance with the need to make information available so that parents and families can protect their children and strongly promotes leveraging existing support services to ensure the dignity, safety and privacy of those most affected by crimes committed against them by sexual predator.

The bill introduces an effective safeguard through the broad discretionary power for the Police Commissioner to have regard to particular matters when determining whether to release information about reportable offenders. The government acknowledges that a small portion of victims may wish to express their views and make a submission in relation to the disclosure and publication of a person who has offended against them. However, this small percentage may be outweighed by decisions that are based on crime prevention, making information accessible to the community to protect children, preventing future harm and potentially reducing child victims of sexual crimes. The Crisafulli government takes this matter extremely seriously and it is resolute that victims must never be retraumatised.

The member for Gladstone noted the lack of evidence supporting the protective impact of public sex offender registers. The purpose of the public register is to increase community awareness and

vigilance by making certain information about particular reportable offenders available to the public. All visitors to the website will also have access to protective child safety information to enhance understanding of child sexual offending and promote shared responsibility for keeping children safe. This approach provides a proactive tool to enable parents, guardians and the wider community to have the information to act to reduce risk and better protect the lives and sexual safety of Queensland children.

The member for Macalister and the member for Maiwar raised the issues of the discretionary powers provided to the Police Commissioner. This government is committed to ensuring that decisions made under Daniel's Law are guided by fairness and careful consideration. The bill grants the Police Commissioner broad discretion to release or not release information about reportable offenders. In making such decisions, the Police Commissioner may have regard to all relevant matters. This could include conviction history, the effect of publication on an ongoing investigation, the offender's compliance with reporting obligations, any available or credible intelligence and any impacts on victims, where these are known. The Police Commissioner will also retain discretion to not release information under tier 2 in particular circumstances.

I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge officers from the Queensland Police Service, in particular those officers within the CPOR, the Child Protection Offender Register, and our CPIU, Child Protection Investigation Unit, officers who work each and every day to keep Queensland children safe. I also wish to thank: the Police Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon; Detective Superintendent Denzil Clark; Detective Acting Superintendent Stephen Blanchfield; Acting Director Andrea Joseph; manager Jessica Mudryk; manager Andrew Wilson; manager Hannah Murphy; Principal Policy Officer, Jayme Say; Senior Strategy Officer, Cristina Vitanzi; and Senior Sergeant Michael Webb.

I also wish to acknowledge departmental staff within the Department of Justice and the co-signatory to this bill, the Attorney, and her team for the assistance they provided in the development of this work. I acknowledge the staff in the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for their work on this bill.

Lastly, and most importantly, I want to again acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe for their tireless advocacy, for standing up when others would have collapsed in grief, for their strength and determination to make change and for their unrelenting pursuit to protect children from the monsters who hide in plain sight. Bruce and Denise, you have inspired Queensland and inspired our nation. This legislation carries your son's name, but it carries your legacy too. You never gave up. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 11, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.43 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 August (see p. 2370)

### Second Reading



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.43 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise today to speak again on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 26 August this year and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for detailed consideration.

The bill will reduce red tape—a key aim of the Crisafulli government—and amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, which provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across participating jurisdictions. The bill is an outcome of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Review that adopted a risk-based, outcomes focused regulatory approach to improve road safety, boost productivity and innovation, and simplify the law and its administration.

Truckies provide a critical service across Queensland and driving a heavy vehicle is already a difficult enough task without the need for onerous administration and unnecessary red tape. I am sure truckies, and their employers will welcome a simpler system that boosts productivity and innovation without compromising safety. They will welcome these changes as they have helped craft them, with the committee receiving 11 submissions to its inquiry on the bill, including from industry associations, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the Local Government Association of Queensland. Overall, submissions were positive, endorsing the bill and its reforms.

Public hearings were held in Brisbane on 1 October and in Cairns on 8 October. In Brisbane, the committee heard from representatives of the Australian Trucking Association, AgForce, the Australasian College of Road Safety and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. In Cairns, representatives from Cairns Heavy Haulage, Brays Transport and Gostelow's Cattle and Freight Transport shared their perspectives. I thank all of the individuals and organisations who made submissions and assisted the committee by providing their valuable feedback and insights to help craft this bill.

Their contributions were carefully considered by the committee. The committee tabled its report on 17 October, making just one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I would like to acknowledge the work of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee in conducting its inquiry into the bill. Thank you in particular to the chair of the committee, the member for Lockyer, and the other committee members for their prompt and detailed examination of the bill and their report.

**Mr McDonald:** Thanks, Minister.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. As noted in the committee report, 'without trucks, Australia stops'. I fully agree. This bill strengthens the operational efficiency of the heavy vehicle sector and delivers tangible benefits to Queenslanders. The bill modernises the regulatory framework for heavy vehicles, aiming to improve safety, streamline compliance, reduce red tape and ensure responsiveness to industry and community needs.

Key reforms in the bill include a new duty to be fit to drive, changes to penalties, accreditation requirements and codes of practice. The new duty to be fit to drive combines the existing requirement not to drive while impaired by fatigue with a broader requirement to be fit to drive. This new combined duty will be expanded to apply to drivers of all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes regulated under the Heavy Vehicle National Law. To clarify, work and rest limits and fatigue management record keeping requirements will still only apply to drivers of heavy vehicles over 12 tonnes, and do not impact drivers of lighter vehicles. This duty aligns with the workplace health and safety requirements, placing responsibility on drivers to manage their own health and fitness, and empowering them to stop driving if unfit. Drivers pressured to drive while unfit can report concerns to the regulator's heavy vehicle confidential reporting hotline.

Recognising that many operators and drivers will need support in understanding their obligations, the regulator is preparing extensive guidance and education materials. I commend their efforts and note the allocation of additional resources to meet industry demands.

The bill also revises penalties—some increasing, others decreasing—based on a thorough review, to ensure proportionality and maintain deterrence. These changes were broadly supported and will be monitored to address any unintended impacts. An enhanced accreditation framework now requires operators seeking accreditation to implement a safety management system. This is voluntary and scalable, ensuring that businesses of all sizes can adopt a safety plan suited to their operations.

Concerns about fatigue management education and training were raised, and the regulator continues to provide and update resources to support heavy vehicle drivers. The revised code of practice framework simplifies the process and shifts responsibility for development and approval of codes of practice to the regulator, who must consult with the industry and allow public input for at least 42 days before finalising any code.

The bill represents many years of consultation, agreement and hard work from the National Transport Commission, the regulator, transport and police agencies, and industry stakeholders. While some have expressed concern over the time taken and the scope of the reforms, this legislation marks a significant step forward under the Crisafulli government. Importantly, reform efforts will continue. The National Transport Commission, the regulator and participating jurisdictions remain committed to ongoing improvement. Industry participants have played an invaluable role in the heavy vehicle reform process and will continue to remain vital in shaping future regulations.

In summing up, I want to thank my department for their role in delivering this legislation. As Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the Heavy Vehicle National Law, the bill must first pass here before it can be adopted elsewhere. The bill is also a testament to the collaboration of many agencies, including the National Transport Commission, the regulator, state transport agencies, police and industry bodies and other participants. Into the future, heavy vehicles will be able to operate within a modern regulatory framework with less red tape and safer roads for all, and that is a great outcome. Consistent with the committee's single recommendation, I support the bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (5.50 pm): The bill updates the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to deliver reforms to the National Transport Commission's review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law endorsed by infrastructure and transport ministers. It aims to improve road safety, productivity and compliance efficiency in the heavy vehicle sector. It simplifies complex provisions, reduces red tape and introduces a more flexible, risk-based regulatory framework for drivers, operators and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator itself.

The committee received 11 submissions from key stakeholders, including industry associations, local government, safety advocates and individuals during the public consultation process on this bill, noting, of course, that there was a prior round of community consultation undertaken on the proposed changes in the national context, with the National Transport Commission releasing an exposure draft of the bill for consultation back in 2024. I will keep my contribution short, given the nature of the concurrent national law and the prior consultation that has been undertaken on these measures.

The committee held two hearings—one in Brisbane and one in Cairns. A variety of issues were raised relevant to National Heavy Vehicle Law at both hearings. At the Cairns hearing we heard that the government's proposal to truck cane from Mossman to Gordonvale was currently a nightmare for heavy vehicle operators. Dale Bray, director of Bray's Transport, told the committee on the Mossman mill to Gordonvale trip—

We currently do that nightmare. There are a few things. Obviously, we have traffic management plans. It is all well and good to go through that and tick all the boxes. With any processes moving forward with bigger, heavier vehicles on that road, there is a bit of a debate about where we are allowed to go with that. I had my reservations and there are other people with different reservations. There are safety concerns with that current road infrastructure, especially with the roadworks.

He went on to say that the process was very confusing at the moment. Dale further stated—

Nothing is set in stone on what combination. I do not think there has actually been an approved vehicle. The biggest problem was that the miller was running away on their own little tangent and basically getting trailers built for what they thought. These people are not doing the run. Essentially, I did not contribute to any of the manufacturing or design work—what they should be using. That was my concern. We had an incident there on Friday. The same thing went through my head: if they think they are going to run back to a full-length B-double on that road, they are dreaming.

He goes on. Let's not forget why this confusion is happening with regard to heavy vehicle regulation.

Last year, in a media release titled 'LNP commits to Mossman Mill future', the now premier said the LNP would ensure the long-term success of Mossman's sugar industry. The media release stated—

The LNP's plan includes a commitment to work with growers, the industry and the community to ensure a long-term future for the Mill and town.

The LNP's plan will protect local jobs.

Under the plan—

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member, are you able to tell us how what you are saying is relevant to the bill, please?

**Mr MELLISH:** I am responding to matters that were raised in the consultation of this bill. In the public hearing we held in Cairns, we heard at length about issues to do with heavy vehicle regulation between Mossman and Gordonvale.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will just get some advice. Member, without looking at the transcripts, you have to remain relevant to the long title of the bill, so I ask you please to bring it back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am happy to go on with regard to other measures within the bill. I would just say on Heavy Vehicle National Law with regard to the movement of cane from Mossman to Gordonvale that it is clear this government has no plan to continue that on from this year. That is yet another broken promise from this government.

Key provisions from this bill include: the existing fatigue duty is broadened into a new duty to be fit to drive, applying to all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, not just those over 12 tonnes; and responsibility for developing and approving codes of practice shifts from industry to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. The regulator must consult stakeholders and can issue, amend or revoke codes of practice. The minister retains oversight powers to direct changes to ensure consistency and practicality.

There are some reforms with regard to the NHV Board: it will expand from five to up to seven members, with stronger conflict-of-interest provisions and limits of 10 years total service. Penalties are recalibrated, with 50 increased and 21 reduced, to ensure fairness and deterrence. Some minor or overlapping offences are removed or consolidated to simplify compliance. We heard a bit about the increases and decreases during the committee hearings.

We do not oppose the bill as it represents a continuation of nationally agreed reforms developed through the NTC and endorsed by all state and territory transport ministers, including Queensland under the previous Labor government prior to the October 2024 election. We support continued commitment to the responsible management of the heavy vehicle industry, in close consultation with the heavy vehicle industry including the Queensland Trucking Association, the Australian Trucking Association, relevant unions and other key stakeholders. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.56 pm): I am pleased to rise and speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. I appreciate the work of this bill. I am pleased to be the chair of the committee that conducted the inquiry into this bill. I thank my fellow committee members—the members for Cook, Mulgrave, Aspley, Kurwongbah and Cooper and deputy chair—for their work and consideration. I would also like to place on record my thanks to the secretariat for the large amount of work they did behind the scenes in organising our inquiries, submitters and witnesses.

We held two inquiries with regard to this bill, the first here in Brisbane and another in Cairns. Both of those were vital in understanding not only the details of the concerns that some of the heavy vehicle operators have but also the confidence many had with regard to codes of practice and the professionalism of the industry. I use the term ‘professionalism’ articulately, because professionalism is when an industry continually learns from itself and puts in place continuous improvement. I must say that the Heavy Vehicle National Law is one that uses a great deal of industry knowledge in capturing that and maintaining continual improvement, thus the term ‘professional’.

The truck drivers of today are absolute professionals. I am pleased to associate myself with many from my local community, some of whom are good friends, who give us an insight into the lifestyle that they have to live and some of the sacrifices that are made by their families. I must say, I appreciate the minister’s affirmation that ‘without trucks, Australia stops’. It is a very great quote that came from a federal inquiry, but it is something that is so true in the Queensland context.

It is important for us to know that there were a number of concerns raised about two particular areas in the bill. One was from drivers who were worried that the regulators, or the scalies as they call them—that is the colloquial term that people use for the transport enforcement officers on the side of the road—might interpret the use of ‘unfit driver’ and actually look at a driver and say, ‘Well, they are a bit scruffy and they might be unfit.’ That is not the intention of this element of the bill. This is about driver protection. If they feel that they are unfit to drive, they can report that to their employer and report unfit for duty. If the drivers have concerns they can actually report to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to say that they are not able to exercise that right that is being put in place.

I want to talk about this issue of drivers being unfit to drive, which will apply to all drivers of vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. Fatigue management, rest limits and work diary requirements still only apply to drivers of vehicles over 12 tonnes. There was a lot of confusion when the bill was first introduced and some in the industry were concerned that fatigue management was going to apply to all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, thus is the scuttlebutt of the industry and the misinformation that was out there. I wanted to place on the record this important point: a driver's duty to not drive when unfit is for vehicles over 4.5 tonnes now and fatigue management is for vehicles 12 tonnes or more.

When we were in Cairns, we had a great conversation with Brays Transport, Gostelow's transport and Cairns Heavy Haulage. They gave us great insight into some of the challenges they face. In fact, there was one conversation we had—and it is recorded in our committee report—about them travelling up to 600 kilometres, which might take them 12 or so hours for a return trip. It is very challenging for people in regional areas when they are faced with difficult climatic conditions, regional conditions or poor road conditions. We made note of that in the committee report and we have asked the minister and the departmental officers to further consider some of those things. Whilst those issues might not be addressed in this bill, industry can consider them and work on making recommendations for further changes.

I note that another review of the penalties will be in about three years time. I recognise that a number of fines for serious offences have been increased, but there have also been a number of driver-facing fines—21, in fact—that have been reduced. There are a number of practical solutions in this bill. For those who are listening to this online, I should give some context to this. I am a former police officer and officer in charge at Laidley. It has been a long time since I have done much traffic work, but operationalising legislation was one of the things I did often. Having practical solutions in this latest suite of changes that give enforcement officers the discretion to give a warning for some of the fatigue related issues and to lessen some of those fines is a very welcome change to the industry. Sometimes a clerical error means the driver is facing a very large fine. I really welcome the fact that the industry has made some changes, and the minister and his department have obviously captured them and made those changes in this suite of reforms.

It is in that context that I must say I was pleased to be the chair of the committee that looked into this bill. I was also a forensic crash investigator. I do not want to dwell on my history, but with that history comes understanding. I have attended many serious and fatal crashes that needed to be investigated. Some of those did involve trucks and truck drivers, unfortunately. Most of the time they were not involved. If they were, most of the time it was never the fault of the truck driver because of their professionalism, the way they drive safely and how the modern trucks are maintained—some of the changes in the Heavy Vehicle National Law are looking at some engineering solutions as well. Many of the modern changes to trucks are very welcome and are improving driver safety and their ability to travel long distances safely as well.

There were a number of concerns raised by owner-drivers, but, again, they were addressed by the department in its response to the submissions. I welcome the department's consideration of those matters and its ability to inform the committee immediately upon receiving those concerns from submitters and witnesses. It certainly satisfied me that we were very much on the right path and that there were very practical solutions in this suite of changes to the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Again, I am pleased that Queensland is the host state for this legislation. Once we pass the legislation, other states and agencies will be able to implement it. All in all, I must say that I appreciate the inquiry and the work that truck drivers do. I have some very large national carriers in my local area—Nolan's Interstate Transport is probably the most famous. The work that they do in our community and their participation in our community is absolutely outstanding. I commend the bill and the support that it gives to our trucking industry to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Before I call the next member, there is a lot of chat in the chamber at the moment. Please keep it down. I am finding it difficult to hear.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise also to speak this evening on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. As a previous chair of transport for many years, I concur with the current chair that reviewing the Heavy Vehicle National Law is a fun time, and no-one should dare to put it down because we love it; don't we, Chair?

**Mr McDonald:** We love it.

**Mr KING:** We do. I will start by summarising what the bill does. It brings in a requirement for heavy vehicle operators to have a safety management system—SMS—in Queensland. It is recommended at the national level, but it has not been a legal requirement for accreditation here until

now. An SMS will include a risk assessment and how risks will be monitored and controlled. It might also include safety training, communication, performance monitoring and reporting, among other things, all to keep our truck drivers and other road users safe.

The bill also introduces a duty to be fit to drive, to complement the existing duty not to drive fatigued. Currently, the dual duties apply to drivers of heavy vehicles over 12 tonnes. The bill extends that requirement to all heavy vehicle drivers. The bill simplifies the process to make new codes of practice, reducing double handling by shifting responsibility for development and approval to the national regulator.

The bill legislates new ministerial direction and approval powers in response to other changes that balance regulatory discretion and ministerial oversight, along with changes to governance arrangements to modernise the operation of the regulator board and allow responsible ministers to approve a statement of expectations for the regulator. The bill introduces new measures to make fatigue or impairment management recordkeeping easier and enables applications for alternative compliance accreditation where operators can prove they are doing things a little bit differently without compromising driver or road safety. Finally, the bill amends some offence penalty amounts to be more proportionate to outcomes and moves some functions of the existing act into the regulations to improve flexibility when administrative or descriptive changes are required.

For the benefit of anyone not familiar with heavy vehicles—and I think the minister raised it before—they are defined as having a gross mass of over 4½ tonnes. We are talking about semitrailers, big freight trucks, road trains, buses, vehicle carriers, livestock vehicles and mobile cranes. Anyone driving those vehicles comes under these rules.

We have a lot of heavy vehicles on local roads out my way, with a huge amount of housing development going on. I will digress a bit to say that most of that housing work was started under the former state Labor government. I know that the LNP likes to say, 'There's a new house,' but Queenslanders are smarter than that. Anyone who has built a house, especially since COVID, knows it takes more than a year. The availability of workers and resources, which are often transported to development sites by heavy vehicles, is a big part of that. I thank our heavy vehicle drivers and our truckies for the essential work they do. I will not use the same slogan the chair used, but I do endorse it. They work very hard in the pipeline of delivering more homes for Queenslanders.

I also give a shout-out to all our bus drivers. I have the headquarters of Kangaroo Bus Lines, owned by the Webster family, at Burpengary in my electorate. I have had the pleasure of visiting there many times to see the work they do, particularly when we rolled out the tap-and-go technology for credit cards and phones on buses and in the development of electric buses. I also have Thompson Bus Services in the south of my electorate, based in Joyner.

Being part of the committee that examined this legislation, I heard from a large range of stakeholders during the inquiry, from peak transport industry organisations to members of the public. I thank our parliamentary committee team for the usual exemplary work they do. It is always excellent, so thank you. I thank everyone who shared their experiences with us and I thank the committee members.

I note the contributions from regional operators about the unique challenges drivers face in North Queensland and in remote and regional parts of our state. The chair mentioned a couple. One that resonated with me is that under fatigue laws you have to stop after a certain time. They said that on some of those dirt roads out west and long roads in the north you can be just half an hour or an hour from your depot, yet you have to take a break when you are that close. We took the need for flexibility on board. That is the sort of thing they work on to make it easier and safer for our truck drivers.

The amendments put forward in this bill were recommended by the National Transport Commission in consultation with other states and territories. For a national law and a national regulator to work, there cannot be inconsistencies with state laws. These amendments enable the national regulator to do more of the job that it was set up to do, prioritising road safety not just in Queensland but across the country. Our committee recommended that the bill be passed and I will be supporting its passage.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise tonight to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025, a significant step forward for Queensland and indeed for all participating jurisdictions under the Heavy Vehicle National Law. The bill seeks to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 and the Heavy Vehicle National Law, as scheduled to the act, in order to implement key policy recommendations that have emerged from the comprehensive HVNL review.

The primary objectives of these reforms are clear: to improve safety and productivity, reduce unnecessary regulatory red tape, enhance the functions of our regulatory bodies and streamline the administration of the law. These reforms will not only strengthen the operation of the Heavy Vehicle National Law but also deliver tangible benefits to the heavy vehicle industry, Queensland's road users and the broader community, all while maintaining a consistent regulatory approach across participating states and territories.

Firstly, we are enhancing the accreditation framework. Under the new arrangements, operators will be required to establish a safety management system, SMS, as a core part of accreditation. This scalable system will underpin both general safety accreditation and alternative compliance accreditation, offering greater flexibility and reflecting the diversity of our industry while also improving safety outcomes for all Queenslanders. Operators will need to identify and address public risks, implement controls and have their SMS independently audited against standards approved by ministers. Courts will be able to use these audits as evidence in prosecutions, ensuring accountability and transparency.

Secondly, the bill introduces a new duty for drivers to be fit to drive, combining this with the existing duty not to drive while fatigued. Previously, this only applied to drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles—those over 12 tonnes. The bill expands this duty to all heavy vehicle drivers regulated under the HVNL, covering vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. Drivers are empowered, and obligated, to proactively manage their health and fitness, with the duty designed to allow them to cease driving if their condition could impact road safety at any time. Definitions of 'unfit to drive' and 'impaired by fatigue' are prescribed, and the matters a court may consider in such cases are clarified.

Thirdly, we are modernising the code of practice framework. The bill streamlines the process for developing and approving codes of practice, shifting the responsibility from industry to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. The regulator will consult broadly and may initiate, develop and approve new codes, while ministers retain the power to direct amendments or revocations as needed. This will enable better guidance for all regulated parties and support a risk-based approach to safety obligations.

Next, the bill grants new ministerial direction and approval powers. Responsible ministers may now issue directions to the regulator in cases of serious public risk and in the public interest as well as direct investigations or provision of advice and information. These powers strike an appropriate balance between regulatory discretion and ministerial oversight, ensuring critical risks to the public can be addressed swiftly and effectively. The regulator will be required to publish such directions, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Improvements to governance are also a core feature of the bill. The composition of the regulator's board will be expanded from up to five members to a minimum of five and a maximum of seven, with qualification requirements modernised to ensure the right mix of skills and experience. Term limits are introduced—three consecutive terms or 10 cumulative years—and mechanisms for removal in cases of misconduct or inability to perform are clarified. The ministerial statement of expectations is formally recognised, setting out the outcomes and performance standards expected of the regulator, and the regulator must submit its corporate plan annually in advance for ministerial review.

The bill also addresses enforcement arrangements. By removing the restriction on concurrently issuing improvement notices and commencing prosecutions, the regulator gains flexibility to respond proportionately to breaches. Authorised officers may issue formal cautions and warnings for a wider range of breaches, making the law fairer for minor errors, especially in fatigue record keeping. Courts are empowered to issue alternative verdicts for primary duty offences, allowing conviction for related but lesser offences where appropriate.

In terms of penalties, the bill increases 50 penalty amounts and decreases 21, reflecting a sensible balance between deterrence and fairness, consolidating offences where appropriate and removing outdated provisions. This regime has been developed following a comprehensive review of the NTC in consultation with police, transport agency representatives and industry stakeholders. The aim is to ensure penalties are proportionate and effective in supporting compliance, road safety and the public interest.

The bill also moves a wide range of prescriptive detail and offences into regulations. This approach responds to the need for flexibility in a rapidly changing industry, allowing the law to be more easily updated to meet future challenges. Matters such as compliance standards, permit requirements and work diary arrangements will now be dealt with in regulations, streamlining the primary law and reducing complexity.

For Queensland specifically, consequential amendments are made to remove duplication and update references, ensuring consistency with national regulation. These amendments are accompanied by a separate package of regulation amendments to ensure all legislative references remain accurate and up to date. Alternative approaches to achieving these policy objectives were considered, but ministers agreed that only through legislative amendment could complexity be reduced and the law made more effective. Implementation costs will be met within existing budgets of the regulator and state and territory agencies.

The amendments have been scrutinised across all Australian jurisdictions and drafted with regard to fundamental legislative principles as defined in the Legislative Standard Act 1992. Where duties or increased penalties may affect the rights and liberties of individuals, these changes are justified by the overriding need for public safety and the effective regulation of the heavy vehicle industry. Provisions relating to delegation of legislative powers and abrogation of rights have been carefully balanced to ensure parliamentary scrutiny and alignment with the best practice regulation framework.

Finally, extensive consultation has been undertaken with government, transport and enforcement agencies, industry organisations and the public. The amendments enjoy broad support. The bill will ensure the consistent and equitable regulation of the heavy vehicle industry across all participating jurisdictions. I commend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.20 pm): I also rise to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. I want to start by thanking the committee I am on, including, of course, the members for Aspley and Kurwongbah, who are fantastic, and our chair, the member for Lockyer, and of course the members for Cook and Mulgrave, who are also not too bad to work with as a committee, I have to say. I thank the secretariat, the department that briefed us, and the 11 submitters who provided us with wonderful content for this important bill.

Earlier this year I was chatting to a truck driver named Matt. He had been hauling products through Queensland for about 20 years through droughts, floods, the pandemic and a whole range of different circumstances. I asked him over that time what he observed that had changed the most. He did not talk to me about trucks or the roads. I am paraphrasing, but he essentially said that it is the rules, because they are getting harder to follow and understand. That line really stuck with me. This bill is supposed to make those laws and rules simpler, safer and fairer.

I think it is easy in this chamber to think of the Heavy Vehicle National Law as dry legal scaffolding. The debate tonight will be quite technical in nature, but out there it is the rule book that determines how people like Matt do their jobs: how long they can drive; when they are required to rest; what records they have to keep; and who shoulders the blame when things go wrong. These are not abstract provisions: they are the guardrails of livelihoods for truckies, small freight companies and the towns that rely on them. In regional Queensland freight is not an industry that sits apart from a community: it is the community. It is the person who delivers food to the grocery store or fuel to the servo, cattle to saleyards or supplies to a regional hospital. When we amend this law we need to make sure it is working not just for regulators and bureaucrats but also the people on the road at two o'clock in the morning with a couple of tonnes of weight on their back and a deadline to meet.

The bill before us implements the outcome of a national review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law. It introduces a new accreditation framework that requires operators to have a safety management system and expands the type of accreditation that is available. It strengthens the duty on drivers to be fit to drive physically, mentally and emotionally and updates how fatigue, recordkeeping and enforcement ought to be managed. It also gives the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator more flexibility, allowing it to develop modern codes of practice and adjust penalties to be more proportionate and practical. I think these are sensible reforms and the opposition supports efforts to make the system simpler and fairer.

We also know that good intentions on paper do not always translate to good outcomes out on the road. Implementation and oversight of this reform is really key to make sure they are achieving what they set out to do. Submissions to the inquiry reinforced that. AgForce, for example, welcomed the bill's direction but warned that road managers, especially local councils, need to be recognised as part of the chain of responsibility. There is not much use tightening the law for drivers if councils cannot maintain the routes that drivers rely on. Others, like the Queensland Trucking Association and NatRoad, supported the changes but called for targeted education, particularly for smaller operators and rural drivers who do not have compliance departments or lawyers. They are right to be concerned. A 50-page safety management template is not much good to a bloke who is running one truck out of Charleville.

The government says that the bill will cut red tape. Let's make sure that it does—and not by shifting that red tape onto the shoulders of small business owners.

The parliament has seen this government roll out reforms with glossy promises and little support. It is not enough to say that the regulator will educate the industry. We need a real plan with clear communication, tailored training for regional operators, and practical tools that will make compliance achievable, not impossible. Let's be honest about the realities on the road. Drivers do not work in a vacuum. They work in a system shaped by fatigue, tight schedules, isolation and often a lack of basic infrastructure. When we talk about being fit to drive we also have to talk about access to rest stops, shaded parking bays, healthy food and fair contracts, because all of that affects a driver's fitness and safety just as much as any checklist. This bill is certainly a step in the right direction, but it will not fix those deeper issues and it should not be used to pretend we can solve them.

Regional Queensland depends on a freight system that is both safe and efficient, and these two goals should not be in competition. A well-rested, well-trained driver is a more productive one. A clear and practical logbook keeps freight moving faster than a complex one that traps people into paperwork. The opposition supports the bill, but we will watch closely to see how it is implemented. We will hold the government and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to account for ensuring that the promised consultation with industry actually happens—not just with the big players but with the small family owned operations that form the backbone of freight in the bush. We want to see genuine engagement with those impacted, not just more press releases. We want to see education delivered face to face and in communities, not just built into a PDF on the back of a website. We also want to see ongoing reviews so that if the new framework does not deliver the simplicity and safety it promises we can at least fix that.

When drivers like Matt finish his run he should not feel like he is navigating a legal maze to do his job. He should know that the rules are clear, that the law values his safety, and that government respects the realities of life on the road. This bill is a start, but the work of implementation will determine whether it is a step forward or another layer of bureaucracy. The opposition will support the bill, but we will hold the government to its word that this reform will make life simpler, safer and fairer for the women and men who keep Queensland's freight and our economy moving. I commend the bill.



**Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (6.26 pm): With close to one million registered heavy vehicles—

**Mr McDonald:** One million?

**Mr KEMPTON:** One million—in Australia travelling over 20 billion miles a year, it would be an understatement to say that we are a nation dependent on road transport for our very existence. Given the vast distances travelled between capital cities and the range of goods and services transported across the nation, there needs to be a universal approach to governance, regulation, compliance and enforcement. The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 does just that.

While travelling on our national highways, roads and streets it is commonplace to encounter numerous trucks in a range of size and configurations. Members in the south-east are likely to come across semitrailers or B-doubles, commonly known as 18-wheelers. In some situations these vehicles can be daunting for even the most seasoned drivers. For those members to the west and north—and no more so than in my electorate of Cook, the most remote of all electorates—encountering double road trains of 50 wheels or even triple road trains of 70 wheels on a dirt road can be next level terror for some.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr KEMPTON:** Could I ask the member to withdraw. I take offence to that comment.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Bundaberg, I did hear that as well. The member has taken offence. I ask you to—

**Mr SMITH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under the standing orders I did not mention the member by name, and therefore there is no point of order from the member for Cook.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, I note what you said about the standing orders, so I ask you to sit quietly in the chamber and let the member for Cook speak.

**Mr KEMPTON:** If for no other reason than the sheer volume of heavy vehicles on our roads, a balance must be achieved between public safety, transport logistics and economics, which is the main objective of these amendments.

At the core of the amendments is the establishment of a scalable safety management system as a core accreditation requirement to underpin general safety accreditation and alternate compliance

accreditation. This approach is designed to reflect industry diversity and will offer more flexibility while improving safety for the community. Other reforms include increased penalty amounts, the removal of red tape and an improved code of practice and governance.

A new and unique reform is the fit-to-drive duty. Currently, drivers must not operate a fatigue regulated heavy vehicle while impaired by fatigue. These amendments will impose a further obligation on drivers to ensure they are fit to drive. This amendment has the twofold effect of creating a duty on fatigued drivers not to drive; on the other side of the coin, the amendments empower drivers to stop driving if their health or fitness impacts on their ability to drive, thus giving some protection from pressure from employers to drive when unsafe to do so.

Further, the amendments provide for variations to the existing penalties, seeking to achieve a sensible balance between compliance and taking a fair and reasonable approach towards minor and technical breaches. These amendments increase 50 penalties and decrease 21 penalties to deliver proportionate outcomes that increase deterrence with a view to enhancing overall road safety.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr KEMPTON:** The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 was referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, which is ably chaired by the member for Lockyer and generously supported by the secretariat. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The committee heard from a wide range of stakeholders and in particular several owner-operators from the remote Far North.

To this end, the committee noted that amendments to the accreditation framework are designed to reflect industry diversity and offer more flexibility while improving safety for the community. The committee also acknowledges the questions raised by stakeholders about the new accreditation framework, particularly how implementation will impact their businesses and what costs may be associated with its implementation. Accordingly, the committee encourages the regulator to ensure that the new framework is accompanied by a comprehensive education program so that operators can fully understand the impacts of any new requirements on their business.

The committee also encourages local industry to contact the regulator to clarify whether solutions to some of the driving challenges faced in regional and North Queensland can be addressed through the revised accreditation framework. To put some context around this comment I refer to the evidence of one witness, Debbie Gostelow from Gostelow's Cattle & Freight Transport, who operates on road networks that are often corrugated dirt. She said—

It is very difficult for us in these areas up here in our region because of the road networks. There are places we go where we would do 600 kilometres in 12 to 14 hours, and that is sometimes unloaded. That is just getting there. We are doing 30 clicks along the road, and then we get back down and we hit a bitumen road and NHVR is sitting there wondering why we have a full load of cattle on and we cannot get to market. If that happens, in that scenario we have to stop and let them stand seven hours, after travelling 12 to 14. We then have to just sit on the side of the road. ... We believe there should be leniencies and allowances for travel on these roads unless they are brought up to some sort of reasonable standard, because 600 kilometres is not far. You can do that quite easily in eight to nine hours, fully loaded.

Ms Gostelow also spoke to other examples of when flexibility should be required. She said—

We also have other issues. You may leave at three o'clock one afternoon, travel for five hours, have a nine-hour break, and the next day you only have seven hours of work time left but you have to do that up to three o'clock. You still have a 24-hour clock. That means we could sit on the side of the road with those cattle for three hours in the middle of the day, waiting for our time to catch up to a 24-hour period. Then the driver drives into the night to catch his hours up. It does not make sense to us. You are sitting there in the middle of the day and you are not going to go to sleep because you just had nine hours the night before, but it does not reset a 24-hour logbook and it does not reset a seven-day logbook. It seems a ridiculous thing to us to have to sit and rest. All the people we talk to say the same thing. They sit and rest when their 24 hours is coming up. As soon as they hit their line, they have to drive like the clappers to get there.

The committee also heard from Mr Bray from Brays Transport on the subject of safety management systems. He said—

I do not know if everyone here operates under some of these systems currently. It does say that they will revoke those systems into a new system, so how is that going to affect us and what cost will that have on our business to go through and entertain new systems?

On the issue of the fit-to-drive amendment, Gostelow's transport expressed similar concerns, stating—

I also have very big concerns about somebody perceiving someone to be tired. My husband is 65. He does not bother shaving and he is often hairy. Is someone going to pull him up—because it has happened—and say, 'You look like you should have a couple of hours off'? If this comes in, does that mean he can be told to sit on the side of the road after he has had seven or nine hours sleep? Whose perception is it? Is it ours? It also says part the way through that the driver must know he is safe to drive. Who is right? Is it the driver or the officer on the side of the road who does not know the driver?

Cairns Heavy Haulage also spoke about the impact of requirements on industry to provide measurements of powerlines on a monthly basis in order to get a permit to travel certain routes. Mr Mohammed said—

I shift a lot of cane harvesters in this district, and they—

being Ergon—

have now said that for my overheight permits I have to pay someone every month to go and measure a powerline so I can get a permit. Ergon has just come back to me today and said that. It used to be a blanket cover before. I put in what roads I travel on, and now Ergon have come to me and said that I have to pay someone to measure every single powerline in that district and then they will assess it and give me a permit every month. Then every month someone has to go and recheck every powerline.

Whilst the bill does meet the national requirements, I stress the point that its interpretation and implementation must recognise regional considerations. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.35 pm): The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 represents a vital step forward in modernising and strengthening the safety and productivity of Australia's freight transport sector. The legislation delivers on years of nationally coordinated reform driven by the federal Labor government in partnership with Queensland to create a more flexible, risk-based and responsive regulatory framework for heavy vehicle operations.

The Heavy Vehicle National Law has always stood as a model of national cooperation. Originally passed in Queensland in 2012 and adopted by most states and territories, it established a single, consistent regulatory system for heavy vehicles across borders. The federal Labor government's leadership through the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meetings and the National Transport Commission has been central to these current reforms.

The 2025 bill implements the key outcomes of the National Transport Commission's comprehensive review, a review endorsed by all transport ministers, including Queensland's, before the 2024 election. It demonstrates how collaboration between Canberra and Queensland can drive reforms that are both nationally consistent and, more importantly, locally practical. The federal government's pivotal role cannot be understated. Through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, the Commonwealth continues to provide strategic oversight, funding and policy guidance. Programs such as the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative and the Chain of Responsibility training are examples of how federal investment complements this legislation by directly funding projects that improve safety, training and technology across the industry.

By supporting the NHVR's governance and capability, the federal government ensures that this reform is not simply a rewrite of the rules but a recalibration of how road freight, safety and compliance are delivered nationally, which is absolutely essential.

At the heart of this bill is an enhanced focus on safety and shared responsibility. The introduction of a mandatory safety management system for accredited operators marks a transformative shift in how safety is embedded across all levels of this industry. Operators will now be required to proactively identify, assess and control safety risks and to verify their performance through independent audits. This reform aligns the Heavy Vehicle National Law with modern safety management standards used in aviation, maritime and rail. Importantly, it is scalable, ensuring small regional operators can comply without facing unreasonable administrative burdens. That is very positive news, particularly for operators in Cairns and the surrounds, because in the past they have been exposed to significant financial burdens.

Equally significant is the new duty to be fit to drive extending to all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. This reflects an understanding that safety begins with the individual behind the wheel. Drivers will now have a clear legislative responsibility to monitor their own health and fitness and to stop driving when unfit. For regional Queensland where long distances, heat and fatigue are daily realities, these provisions will save lives and inevitably increase safety. This bill also strengthens accountability by empowering authorised officers to issue improvement notices and formal cautions for minor breaches while still allowing prosecution for serious or repeated offences. It is a balanced approach that distinguishes between honest mistakes and systematic compliance.

Queensland is both the home of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and the engine room of Australia's freight economy. From Mount Isa's mining exports to Cairns's regional logistics, from the Bruce Highway to the inland freight corridors that sustain agricultural towns, heavy vehicles are essential to the rhythm of regional life. For too long regional operators have shouldered the double burden of complex regulation and safety risks on aging road networks. This bill brings relief through simpler compliance, digital systems and a risk-based approach that rewards good practice rather than

punishing paperwork errors. It delivers what the heavy vehicle sector has sought: clear duties, practical compliance and a modern regulator capable of working with, not against, operators. It strengthens protections for drivers and for the travelling public alike and builds on previous national transport reforms.

In supporting this bill, we affirm our commitment to safer roads, fairer regulation and a more resilient freight industry, one that keeps regional Queensland moving and keeps Australia safe.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.41 pm): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. A recent Australian government heavy vehicle road deaths report reveals that there were 205 road deaths involving heavy vehicles and 98 deaths involving heavy rigid trucks in the past 12 months. This amendment bill has a strong focus on the safety and wellbeing of the heavy vehicle industry.

The heavy vehicle transport industry is integral to the success of our economy and is a critical element in our transport infrastructure. At the outset I want to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Brent Mickelberg, in bringing this important legislation before the House. How refreshing it is to have a minister who displays visionary leadership and is across his brief. It is a real contrast to the conga line of failed former Labor ministers for transport and main roads. I also recognise the diligent work of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.

A heavy vehicle is defined as a vehicle that has a gross mass of more than 4.5 tonnes and may include semitrailers, freight trailers, road trains, passenger buses, vehicle carriers, livestock and other agricultural vehicles, and even mobile cranes. The Bruce Highway runs through the Fraser Coast and is a major and critical logistical route for heavy vehicles. We have heavy vehicle providers including Richers Transport in nearby Maryborough and Wide Bay Transit. Both provide important logistical and passenger services throughout the Wide Bay.

I must confess that my education about the heavy vehicle industry is limited to a periodic viewing of *Outback Truckers*. However, I can make some subjective observations. Our all-weather heavy vehicle drivers are resilient and ingenious and provide invaluable services to our community. We saw some of them in action in Hervey Bay in the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred delivering life-sustaining food and products to replenish our local supermarkets.

The Heavy Vehicle National Law and its associated national regulations regulate heavy vehicle operations across Australia except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The heavy vehicle laws have been in operation since 10 February 2014. The Heavy Vehicle National Law is incorporated in the Queensland Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012. Any changes made to the Heavy Vehicle National Law need to be enacted in Queensland before its application in other participating jurisdictions.

Since 2019 the Heavy Vehicle National Law has been under review. That review is a collaboration between the National Transport Commission, the regulator, transport ministers across Australia and heavy vehicle industry stakeholders. This bill amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act to implement the amendments arising from that review. There are several substantive amendments calculated to reduce the regulatory burden and improve safety and productivity. This bill will provide, firstly, for an enhanced accreditation framework to improve safety that requires operators to have a safety management system, an SMS. The SMS helps operators to identify hazards, assess and control risks, and implement continuous quality improvement. The bill also proposes to replace the current module system with the ability for the regulator to grant alternative compliance accreditations.

I now turn to an expanded duty to be fit to drive. A driver of a heavy vehicle is unfit to drive the heavy vehicle on a road if the driver is not of sufficiently good health or fitness to drive a heavy vehicle safely. The bill expands the new duty to not drive while fatigued to include a duty not to drive when unfit. Furthermore, the bill places obligations on drivers to take a proactive and preventative approach to managing their health and fitness as they have a shared responsibility with operators to ensure that they are fit to drive.

Enforcement will be implemented jointly by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator through their authorised officers and relevant police agencies. This bill will also implement changes to penalties for offences under the Heavy Vehicle National Law recommended by a National Transport Commission review. The bill increases penalty amounts and expands the use of formal warnings. Enforcement will be expedited through a reduction in red tape, particularly in relation to fatigue management, record keeping and the issue of notices. The National Transport Commission reviewed the penalties. A total of 349 offences were reviewed using a transparent methodology known as the Heavy Vehicle National Law penalties assessment matrix. As a result of that review, 50 penalties were increased and 21

penalties were decreased. A further penalties review and evaluation is planned in three years to ascertain the effectiveness of the program.

This bill, furthermore, introduces an improved code of practice framework that simplifies the process and shifts responsibility for development and approval of a code of practice to the regulator. The Department of Transport and Main Roads submitted to the committee that a code of practice 'is a document providing practical guidance on how to comply with legal obligations, setting out good practice methods for managing safety in a particular industry or area of work.' The regulator will create and approve the code of practice following industry consultation. The draft code must be made publicly available for 42 days to allow time for industry to respond. Ministers will have oversight of the process.

In relation to ministerial oversight, new ministerial direction and approval powers will support changes to the accreditation and code of practice frameworks and provide an appropriate balance between regulatory discretion and ministerial oversight.

I now turn to the governance arrangements of the regulator. This bill will modernise the operation of the regulator's board and provide for responsible ministers to approve a statement of expectations for the regulator in exercising their functions. The purpose of these amendments is to reflect the process and arrangements in place for other government owned corporations and regulators. The Heavy Vehicle National Law establishes a governing board for the regulator, the board. The bill proposes to make the following changes to the board appointment and governance process: number of board members, appointments of members, terms of appointment and removal of members.

In closing, this bill will improve the safety and wellbeing of the heavy vehicle transport industry through a range of mechanisms. I commend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.



**Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.48 pm): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I would like to acknowledge the many organisations and individuals that made submissions to the inquiry into the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The collective experience—from drivers to regulators, from growers to local councils—underpins the importance of getting this reform right. The Heavy Vehicle National Law underpins one of the most essential tasks in our economy: moving freight safely and efficiently across Australia. More than 60,000 businesses and 200,000 people make up the trucking sector. The Heavy Vehicle National Law has been in place for a decade, yet after a six-year review many stakeholders still see more red tape than reform.

This amendment bill is an opportunity not just to tidy up laws but to improve safety, reduce unnecessary costs and restore industry confidence in the system that governs them. The bill, which was introduced into the Queensland parliament on 26 August 2025, aims to shift prescriptive detail from the primary act into regulations, allowing faster adaptation to technology and changing practices; introduces a driver duty not to drive if unfit, recognising the shared responsibility between drivers and supply chain parties; reforms penalties and provides greater scope for formal warnings and a fatigue education option for minor breaches; modernises the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme with a core safety management system standard, lifting safety performance and transparency; and improves productivity through higher access limits, streamlining permits and aligning vehicle dimension rules.

There is strong support for consultation and forward planning. Across the board, organisations like NatRoad, the Australian Trucking Association, Canegrowers and the Local Government Association of Queensland stressed that industry consultation must be ongoing, not one-off. NatRoad called for a forward work plan with key performance indicators to ensure continuous improvement and accountability to ministers and the bureaucracy. The Australian Trucking Association likewise proposed a systematic review and maintenance program, with amendments introduced every two years. We cannot treat this bill as the end of reform; it must be the foundation for continuous engagement and evidence-based change.

The bill's introduction of a safety management system standard within the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme is widely seen as a step forward. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator noted that this will allow tailored accreditation options and lift safety standards for governments, industry and the community. The Australian Trucking Association explained that most accredited operators already meet higher standards and that auditing safety management system frameworks can streamline safety compliance and reduce duplication. However, smaller operators need scaled requirements and practical templates to avoid being disadvantaged. Safety systems must be effective but proportionate, with support for smaller operators transitioning to new frameworks.

Fatigue management has emerged as the most contentious issue. NatRoad and the Australian Trucking Association support simplifying fatigue paperwork, lowering penalties for minor breaches and introducing education options. Canegrowers wants clarity for tractor-trailer haulout operators and fatigue rules that reflect agricultural realities. Submissions highlighted research, showing many fatigue crashes occur within the first 300 kilometres of a journey, not after five hours of driving, undermining the 'hours on task' assumption. There was also legal recognition for 15- to 20-minute power naps and more driver discretion to rest when fatigue symptoms appear.

While a new duty not to drive if unfit is welcome, fatigue policy must evolve with science. Power naps and operational realities should inform future amendments. Several submissions supported expanded formal warnings and reduced penalties for minor offences. The Australian Trucking Association showed how fatigue penalties are being cut from \$4,000 to \$3,000 for minor breaches, aligning punishment with risk. However, one individual submitter criticised the doubling of some maximum penalties to \$20,000 as 'excessive and counterproductive', warning it could deter enforcement officers from issuing fines at all. Enforcement must be fair, consistent and risk based. Officers need discretion to educate rather than penalise for technical breaches.

Almost every stakeholder linked productivity to safety. NatRoad urged eliminating 90 per cent of access permits by 2028. The Australian Trucking Association modelling showed that improved high-productivity vehicle access could reduce industry costs by \$13.6 billion by 2050 and cut emissions by 13.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The Local Government Association of Queensland emphasised local councils' critical role, because most freight starts and ends on local roads, calling for equitable funding to repair road damage and improve infrastructure. Canegrowers, as I have already said, pressed for tailored record-keeping rules for haulout tractors and clear fatigue rest provisions. Streamlined access, local government partnerships and modern infrastructure investment will unlock productivity and safety gains.

The bill strengthens ministerial direction and approval powers, which Canegrowers welcomed for reducing bureaucracy. The Australian Trucking Association and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator also backed changes to give the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator more autonomy, a larger board and clearer statements of ministerial expectations. Governance reform can deliver a more responsive, trusted regulator. When we bring together the insights from these submissions, a clear road map emerges: consult, measure and review; embed KPIs and forward plans; target safety where it counts—SMS, accreditation and risk-based fatigue rules; simplify and scale—paperwork, penalties and access permits must match operator size and risk; partner with councils and local industries, especially where agricultural and regional freight tasks differ from long-haul trucking; and invest in technology and education—from portals and templates to power nap research and public awareness campaigns.

This bill should be a springboard for developing fatigue countermeasures based on biological science, including approved short naps; building a national automated access system to streamline permits; funding local road upgrades and trailer breakdown facilities where permitted routes terminate, as the Local Government Association of Queensland urges; and recognising the unique conditions of agricultural haulage, including short-haul tractor trailers.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (7.58 pm): Every Queenslanders has the right to travel on safe roads. Parents should be able to pick up their children from school safely. Workers should be able to get home safely at the end of the day and our truckies and heavy vehicle operators deserve to work in a safe environment. That is what the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 is all about—delivering safer outcomes for every road user across the state. This bill makes the heavy vehicle national law simpler, more flexible and more responsive, with safety front and centre in every amendment. It introduces a new duty for drivers not to drive while unfit, strengthens the accreditation scheme, enhances ministerial powers and increases accountability for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. These reforms will improve safety, streamline compliance, reduce red tape and ensure that our national laws meet the needs of both industry and community.

All drivers should be fit to drive, and that includes our heavy vehicle operators. This bill expands the existing duty not to drive while fatigued to a broader duty not to drive when unfit, whether due to alcohol, drugs, illness, or simply knowing you are not capable of driving safely. Previously, that duty only applied to vehicles over 12 tonnes but under this bill, it applies to all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. This is a sensible, practical and life-saving change. Enforcement will be undertaken jointly by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and police agencies in the participating jurisdictions.

We all know the pressures of the workplace, the pressures to perform, to meet delivery deadlines and to meet targets, but no-one should ever be pressured to operate a heavy vehicle when they are

unfit to do so. This bill makes that clear—safety must always come first. Drivers who feel pressured to drive when unfit can report those concerns confidentially through the regulator's heavy vehicle reporting hotline. The regulator will continue to work with drivers and operators to support compliance and ensure officers are properly trained to enforce the law. This is not just about protecting heavy vehicle drivers; it is about protecting everyone who shares the road with them.

In nearly 30 years as a police officer I have seen too many devastating crashes. I have been first on the scene and I have had to deliver that unimaginable knock on the door. Those moments stay with you. They remind you that every decision we make in this chamber about road safety can mean the difference between life and death. Families want to see their loved ones walk through the front door. That is why this bill is so important. Every provision, from clearer duties to stronger regulation, is about protecting lives and preventing tragedies.

As the member for Mundingburra, I know that road safety is not an abstract concept, it is a daily concern for families right across my community. In Mundingburra we have major freight routes, we have school zones and busy suburban roads all intersecting. Whether it is the parents doing the school run in Wulguru and Stuart, workers commuting across the city, or our heavy vehicles travelling through our industrial precincts along the Port Access Road, everyone deserves to be safe on our roads. Our school zones, in particular, are areas we must continue to prioritise. Every parent should have confidence that their children can walk or ride to school safely. Every truck driver should be supported and guided to ensure they can operate safely near those high-traffic areas.

As the Assistant Minister for North Queensland, I also want to highlight how vital heavy haulage is to our regional economy. From Mackay to Cardwell and all the way out to Mount Isa, heavy vehicles are the lifeblood of North Queensland. They carry our mining exports, our agricultural produce, our fuel and our building materials. They keep our ports running, our shelves stocked and our industries strong. On any given day, thousands of heavy vehicles travel along the Bruce Highway, the Flinders Highway and the inland freight corridors that connect our communities and our economy. Our truckies work long hours, often in harsh conditions—heat, fatigue, wildlife hazards and remote stretches of road. They do it with professionalism, they do it with pride and they do it with a strong sense of responsibility. They deserve laws that recognise their realities, laws that protect them and every motorist they share the road with, and this bill does that. It sets clear expectations, supports good operators and promotes a culture of safety across the entire transport industry.

It also strengthens governance of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, ensuring greater transparency and accountability. It gives ministers the power to act quickly when there is a serious public safety risk and ensures penalties are proportionate, stronger for serious breaches and fairer for minor errors. That is what good law making looks like: firm where it needs to be, practical where it should be. I want to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for bringing this bill to the House and for his continued focus on improving road safety across the Mundingburra electorate and across Queensland.

I acknowledge the work of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for its careful review and recommendation that this bill be passed. The Crisafulli government made an election commitment to restore safety where you live and that commitment extends to every road, every suburb, every school zone and every regional highway. We know that safer roads mean stronger communities. We need fewer families shattered by tragedy and more Queenslanders getting home safely to the people they love. This bill delivers on that promise. It strengthens safety, supports industry and keeps Queenslanders safe from the suburbs of Mundingburra to the highways of North Queensland. I commend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.



**Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (8.06 pm): I feel like I have had a guide through all of the roads in North Queensland. I will try to engage in the same way. The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill is about putting in new standards. It was sent to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee with 11 valuable submissions from the key stakeholders and it introduces the mandatory safety management system. There are mandates on accredited operators to undertake safety standards. It is a pity that there are not the same standards for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads when it comes to the Stoney Camp and Granger Road roundabouts and bridge and the sections in-between because there the minister has let the lights stay out for over 365 days—that is right, longer than the entire length of the Crisafulli government—and they have been refusing to fix them.

We know that STC, one of those accredited operators, comes through from Bromelton and picks up interstate freight. It is one of the major routes for interstate freight in our state and this minister has done nothing to repair the lights on those key roads. I want to see that the minister does not just have

up the signs that say 'Lights under repair', because they have been there so long that someone actually stopped and wrote on the sign, 'Is it under repair?' They know this minister has failed the Mount Lindesay Highway and failed to make the key repairs that would actually make the roads safe. When the residents of Logan—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** Sorry, Minister, you were saying? There is no interjection from the minister. It goes on to say that there is so little commitment that we know that fatigue is very important on our roads. We know that truckies coming across from the Mount Lindesay Highway from Mount Lindesay Road in New South Wales have to deal with those mountain roads and then come through Beaudesert. They are already tired, so that is why their fatigue is so important. I want to thank the former roads minister, Bart Mellish, who committed to get to four lanes all the way from Johanna Street to South Street built.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): One moment member for Logan. Member for Theodore, you have been continuously interjecting. The member for Logan is not taking your interjections.

**Mr POWER:** This is extremely relevant to fatigue. Having come through the electorate of the member for Scenic Rim they are going to be fatigued—fatigued by him, no less—by the mountainous roads, and we need them to have safe roads as they come through Jimboomba. The minister would have stopped this project, but it was funded by the federal government—unlike last time, when the upgrade between Hotz Road and Stoney Camp Road was abandoned by the LNP. Because there is accountability to the Albanese government, this minister could not stop the Johanna Street to South Street project. He wants to make that cut, but he cannot stop it because he would run afoul of the federal government that is holding him to account.

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I ask you to keep your comments about the bill, please.

**Mr POWER:** After such great guidance on the roads of Mundingburra and all the details about them, I felt inspired to add something. I will try to be more disciplined. I will not, for instance, be speaking about helicopters.

Penalties play an important part in compulsory safety management. Penalties are recalibrated to ensure fairness and deterrence. I think there should be penalties on the main roads minister, because the LNP made a promise to release a plan for the Fedrick Street-Green Road overpass.

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, you really need to talk to the bill in front of us, thank you.

**Mr POWER:** Indeed, there should be penalties that are part of this bill. I know that those in the LNP do not want me to talk about these key safety projects on the Mount Lindesay Highway. Madam Deputy Speaker, I will take your guidance. Those opposite did not raise these points of order whatsoever when the member for Mundingburra was—

**A government member:** Talk to the bill.

**Mr POWER:** Good point. When the member for Mundingburra gave her contribution she did not talk to the bill and no-one said anything. As soon as we are talking about roads in Logan that are required for safety, this minister wants to shut us down. I will not be shut down. I will continue to fight for the Green Road-Fedrick Street intersection.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot hear the member speak at all. Member for Logan, have you completed your contribution?

**Mr POWER:** I think it is too noisy for me to complete the speech so I have to be sat down.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, did you want to continue? We will make sure the House is quiet for you.

**Mr POWER:** Thank you.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Logan. I would like the member for Logan to be able to complete his speech. There has been too much background noise so if people could try to keep quiet and let the member finish his speech—thank you.

**Mr POWER:** Importantly, the bill introduces new powers that are to be directed by the minister.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** I have no idea what the minister said, but it was neither directed at this bill nor directed to the previous speech I made about the Mount Lindesay Highway.

The bill introduces new powers allowing the minister to direct the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to act where there is a serious public risk or investigate reports on safety matters. This is new. Ministers have specific powers under this bill. Ministers also approve key audit and SMS standards, all directions to be made in public to ensure transparency and accountability. These new powers add to the extensive existing powers that the minister has, for instance, to make roads safer, like fix the lights on the Mount Lindesay Highway. Release the plan that has been paid for by Labor in the budget and do something to make the Mount Lindesay Highway safer, instead of laughing and instead of making snide comments.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been pretty patient. This is clearly not relevant to the long title of the bill or in any way relevant to any contributions to the bill. My point of order is on relevance. This is well and truly outside the scope of the bill.

**Mr POWER:** I will be silenced by the minister because he does not want to fix the Mount Lindesay Highway.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (8.14 pm): Without trucks, Australia stops—whether it is our food, our minerals, our packages or even our furniture. Members of the heavy vehicle industry are skilled people often doing technical and difficult mechanical or engineering work. It is not just truck drivers, although they very much matter in this industry, but people who cover a range of really important trades, all directed at getting you the things you need when you want them and when you need them.

Given the huge demand for skills in this industry, it has been my real privilege to work with groups like Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia and TAFE to champion the great careers that are available for men and women from all walks of life in this important and rewarding industry. Indeed, we owe it to the hardworking people who operate in this industry to make the Heavy Vehicle National Law simpler and more flexible and to make it easier for the people who work in this industry to understand and comply with all of the obligations in it. Ultimately, it is all about getting the people who work in this industry to work and home again safely.

If you live in my electorate, there is a fair chance that you do not work in this industry. Maybe you do not even know anyone who does. That is okay. This is still a bill that matters to you, because, whether you are a tradie on the road to their job, a mum doing the school run or maybe someone on their way to work in the office, you need to know that the truck drivers who drive alongside you on the highway are rested and safe. That is what this bill does. Do you want to avoid additional costs at the supermarket check-out? The steps this bill takes to help keep the trucking industry run safely and efficiently help to keep the cost of living lower for you. Do you want a country that is growing and prosperous, with more and more opportunity across the whole range of industries that make up our economy? You need every one of the producers in this country efficiently and quickly getting their product to their export market.

Again, whether you are a mum, a professional, a retiree or a tradie, better, more efficient and safe industries like the heavy vehicle industry make our whole community more prosperous. They keep downward pressure on the cost of living, and that makes a difference for you. That is why I support this bill wholeheartedly—so truckies get home sooner and safer, so young Queenslanders can see a great career in this vibrant and dynamic industry, so that we build a better, stronger economy, so that we keep a lid on the cost of transport that feeds into the cost of everything we want to be able to buy, including our food, and so that everyone, from the mum on the school run in Ormiston right through to the truckies getting their produce to market on our highways, can stay safe on our roads. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.18 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The bill updates the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to deliver reforms to the National Transport Commission's review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law endorsed by the infrastructure and transport ministers. The aim of the bill is to improve road safety, productivity and compliance efficiency in the heavy vehicle sector. It simplifies complex provisions, reduces red

tape and introduces a more flexible, risk-based regulatory framework for drivers, operators and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. I particularly note the provisions around fatigue management and improved enforcement arrangements and the recognition of education and awareness initiatives to make sure drivers are aware of the changes. It is important that we include and acknowledge that in every bill that we pass through parliament. In fact, we have just finished talking about that to a significant extent in relation to Daniel's Law. It needs to be in every bill so that the people for whom our laws are passed are aware that they have been passed for them and that they are to improve their lives.

Many people might wonder why a member for an inner-city electorate such as Bulimba would stand up to speak about a bill such as this. Many people may see my electorate as a place where there are a number of very expensive homes and some ritzy retail precincts. It is a very vibrant area. I know the Premier likes it so much he has chosen to live there. It is a classic inner-city electorate. What people do not know about my electorate is that, in fact, we have a significant amount of heavy industry and light industry, which is how my electorate looked 20 years ago. Some nationally and internationally significant industries are based in my electorate. At the time that they were established, they were located well away from residential areas. As the area has developed, we see heavy industry and light industry in the same streets as retail and residential properties.

**Mr Fumer:** There's Australian Country Choice as well.

**Ms FARMER:** Australian Country Choice is an example. In my electorate, we are used to seeing very big heavy vehicles driving along the same suburban streets that are used by thousands of kids to get to hockey, cricket, swimming or the local beach reserve. We see them driving along the same streets where our very heavy retail precincts are located. Therefore, there are a couple of levels on which I acknowledge how important it is that industry can operate safely and with the right level of regulation.

Employers contribute so much to the economy and the prosperity of our community and they employ many local residents. Their success is predicated on the efficiency of their transport logistics. To know that those transport logistics operate against a backdrop of sensible regulation that is constantly being monitored is very important. However, it is also important that the drivers themselves are safe. It is a Labor thing to make sure that people are safe at work. That is in Labor's DNA. The issues around fatigue management and drivers being able to operate in a safe environment are absolutely critical and go to the heart of Labor's core beliefs.

Another really important reason that I wanted to speak on this bill is to thank the people at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. The very tight interface between industry, heavy vehicles and residential areas has caused a range of challenges in my community. I will not go into all of those challenges but they present themselves in a range of ways that require solutions. I want to talk particularly about Queensport Road in Murarrie where heavy vehicle traffic goes through the middle of residential areas 24 hours a day. The impact of that traffic has meant that it is one of the few roads where the Brisbane City Council has imposed a curfew. I want to thank all of the residents around Queensport Road and in Murarrie generally. We have worked for a number of years to get those curfews in place. They work for a little bit but then they lapse, which has enormous impacts on the local area. Not long ago, we went through one of those periods.

We all know what happens when there is more than one agency involved, whether it is the police, council or transport. We all feel a little challenged by that because, when there is not one single person or agency in charge, things can be hard to solve. However, the local residents and I grappled with a number of those agencies and then the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator came in. I acknowledge the efficiency with which they conveyed the legislation, made sure everyone was aware of the rules and then policed the rules. The care and concern they showed not only for local residents but also for the very people who drive the vehicles and the companies that need them to do their business was really exemplary. I have so much praise for the way they operate. I am really pleased to see that this bill will support them to do their job even better. I want to say a special thank you to all of the people at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator because they are extremely professional and very good at their very important job. I say a big thank you to them.

I thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for the work that they have done on this bill. Obviously, we support the bill.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (8.25 pm): I rise to talk on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. The electorate of Mirani is reliant on roads so it should come as no surprise that road safety and ensuring that people get home safely at the end of the day is one of my top priorities. In my electorate of Mirani we have over 400 kilometres of the Bruce Highway, not to mention thousands of

kilometres of other arterial freight roads. Those roads carry a lot of goods such as livestock and grains as well as large and small machinery such as mining gear, so we are no strangers to seeing big movers on our roads. They form an essential part of our economy by ensuring that people can get the things they need and that farmers can get their products to market to feed our state.

I know what it is like to sit behind the wheel of a prime mover or a small truck, so I know all too well the risks that come with handling a vehicle that has a lot of weight in it or on it. This bill will help improve safety and productivity, remove the burden of regulatory red tape on our truck drivers, improve regulatory functions and simplify the administration of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act. We lose too many lives on our roads because of fatigue. We need to make sure that the guidelines that are in place are easy to understand and follow for our hardworking truckies, while also ensuring safe driving practices.

By streamlining the regulatory burden, we are making it easier for drivers to comply with safety standards. By creating more flexibility for operators to demonstrate compliance with the prescribed requirements around fatigue management work and rest hours or general mass limits, we are making it easier for operators to ensure their safety. To do this, the bill will require operators to implement the safety management scheme that is scalable to their organisation. This will be subject to audits and is a new core accreditation requirement that will underpin both general safety accreditation and alternative compliance accreditation under the national law. By providing for ultimate compliance accreditation, we will be supporting operators with the flexibility to apply different and innovative methods for complying with the obligations rather than boxing them into methods that may not suit the particular requirements of their operation. Operators will be required to identify and address any public risks that are associated with their activities as part of their safety management system.

By creating a proactive approach, operators will have to think about the risks in their operations and prepare for and address those risks, rather than operating reactively when something happens. By thinking of the risks associated with their work, they are able to put plans in place to mitigate the risks to their drivers and take driver safety seriously. This will ensure that operators will not be running on a hodgepodge set of rules that have been developed in an ad hoc way but rather have been thought about and built on as part of their operational necessities.

This bill will introduce a new duty of fit to drive which will expand on the existing obligation for drivers not to drive while impaired by fatigue. This new duty will apply to all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, not just those operating fatigue regulated vehicles over 12 tonnes. We have to remember that even smaller trucks can present a lot of danger. This is important because one of the biggest killers on our roads is fatigue. By placing an additional obligation on more drivers to monitor their fatigue we will help reduce the toll on our roads.

Driving through my electorate, I am often driving for long hours and often in the evening or early morning and I know how quickly fatigue can hit and how it can impact your concentration. All it takes is to lose concentration for a second for everything to go wrong. My hat goes off to those who drive these trucks day or night because it is not easy. We need to make sure drivers are managing their fatigue because we do not want them to be a risk to themselves or other people on the roads. People will be all right if their delivery is a little late because the driver has made sure they are safe. It is better to be late than not make it at all.

I would like to think that everybody in this chamber takes the safety of our truck drivers seriously. I hope to see those on the other side who are affiliated with our transport workers support this bill to help ensure the safety of our drivers. That is why members can imagine my surprise when I went to look at the submissions to the inquiry on this bill and there was none from the organisation that is meant to stand up for our road freight workers. Unfortunately, the Transport Workers Union did not make a submission to the inquiry on this bill. This was a surprise to me. They are a union that is normally pretty on top of worker safety so it was disappointing not to have had their feedback on how this bill is going to help improve safety for our truck drivers. Maybe it is because they did not want to admit that we are doing the right thing by both the drivers and operators? Those opposite might be able to shed some light on this in their contributions. The TWU has traditionally been at the forefront of safety for our truckies.

Luckily, we did have other stakeholders provide evidence to the inquiry. They were generally supportive of the reforms we are debating tonight. We do not want people to lose their lives while just doing their jobs. We do not want people to have their jobs put at risk because they do not want to risk their own lives because they were not fit to drive. This is why having clear, easy to follow requirements, with the flexibility to accommodate different conditions for different operators, is important to ensure the

efficiency of our heavy vehicle transport sector. We are a big state and conditions are different for truckies operating in the south-east corner with relatively good roads and shorter distances to those in my patch who have to spend their time dodging potholes and driving hours on end between towns.

These reforms are important because the more red tape, the more the cost and the more mums and dads at home see it in all their purchases. More costs flow onto the grocery bills of our uni students living out of home who are already struggling to pay their bills. We understand the importance of getting the framework right to ensure the safety of our drivers, but it has to be without creating more unnecessary regulatory burden that pushes up prices without improving safety. Adequate safety standards are not just important for truck drivers, but for everybody they are sharing the road with. That is why I am proud to stand up today and support this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (8.34 pm): I am pleased to make a contribution to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. I will start by saying—and I think this has already been said in the debate—without trucks, Australia stops. You become very aware of that when you represent the 429,000 square kilometre Traeger electorate with vast distances between remote towns that rely on those critical deliveries, whether they be deliveries of cattle, diesel, groceries or even grain. We could not live without those trucks and deliveries. The quality of the roads for those drivers is a big issue.

The NHVR has popped up a lot in discussions around these changes. One of the conversations I had with a very experienced truck driver about the introduction of the NHVR is that it is about removing red tape for drivers. The intention of the changes is to remove red tape and allow drivers to drive. I am sure that was the intention. The bloke who explained it to me said, 'They might have removed the red tape but now there is purple tape, green tape, yellow tape and all the other tape.' It has not achieved its initial ambitions. If anything, it has become worse in terms of the amount of compliance and paperwork that these drivers have to fill out.

What I wanted to focus on in this debate is not so much the regulation and who is doing the enforcement, but the way it is done. We experienced a big blitz in Richmond. I certainly knew about it because my phone ran hot. If someone is in Richmond and they have been on the Croydon Road—someone said there were doing 10 kilometre an hour along the Croydon Road the other week due to the corrugations; it needs grading—they could get a cracked windscreen or their lights could go out and the next thing they are in town and they get an \$800 to \$1,000 fine for having a cracked windscreen or their lights out.

They had a police blitz in Richmond. There were six police cars and six police officers. There have not been fatalities or any big accidents in Richmond. They were just doing a blitz. This can create a culture of fear in people. It is the way those duties are undertaken that makes a big difference.

The other comment that is made is that officers will be flown in from Brisbane or Townsville and they start circling a vehicle and they will not talk to the driver or owner and say what they are looking for. They will just hand them something at the end and say that they have 10 faults. There is no interaction. People might wear the faults, but they would like the courtesy of being engaged with the officer who has flown out to look at their vehicle.

Another example is someone will have their trailer parked up in Charters Towers, go to Townsville and then come back and there is a notice on their windscreen saying that they must comply but there was no discussion. Other complaints that have come in is that they have an LED light with 10 bulbs and five have gone after being on the Croydon Road and they have 24 or 48 hours to comply. There are no parts immediately available in Richmond or Hughenden. They have to take their truck off the road—that is their livelihood—because a bloke has flown up from Brisbane and said they must comply. It is not the same in Hughenden, Richmond or Cloncurry as it is in Brisbane and Townsville.

A lot of times it comes down to the competency and common sense of the officers. When we build these big institutions like the NHVR there is more of a tendency for a taskforce of people to be flown out to our areas. It does not work. Some people are lamenting that we still do not have the TMR model. There is not necessarily anything wrong with NHVR, but there is a requirement for the minister and the government to watch over the competency and culture among the officer in terms of the way they operate. I trust the minister we have. He has good experience from out in the rural areas to understand those issues as this rolls out.

Another common saying is, 'There are no Windscreens O'Brien in Hughenden, Richmond and Julia Creek.' If you have a windscreen down, you might just be docked from your pay and you have 24 hours to fix it. That is going to be a problem if you have drought-stricken cattle or there is rain coming and you have to move things. There needs to be some latitude and commonsense provided. Really,

will it risk people's lives if you have a cracked windscreen driving up to Croydon? No. There has to be some commonsense applied here.

The member for Mirani made some good, sensible comments around fatigue management. I am not going to debate that we need to change log books. I would in terms of the drought because if you have drought-stricken cattle and stressed cattle on the back of the truck, and the officers are saying, 'You will be out of log books if you don't make it to there,' you say, 'Well, you can have the cattle die in the back, if you like, but I am trying to make it to there, and I had big crosswinds coming across the Barkly Highway so I am now two hours behind.' Some NHVR fellow is going to walk you down to the roadhouse and get your log books and, whooshka, two grand later and that driver will say, 'You know what? You can have it. I will go drive a loader for the council. You can have the keys to the truck because I am sick of getting these fines.' Well done, NHVR—now we have no more truck drivers out in Cloncurry. This is what is happening right now.

Everyone in most industries are saying, 'Safety is paramount. Safety is paramount. Safety is paramount.' Yes, but there is a cost to this on the other end. A lot of these businesses and owner-operators are finding it harder and harder to find drivers to fill the trucks if they are not doing it themselves.

There are the fines. Someone in Richmond the other day was chased into the roadhouse, as I am told. He was allegedly chased into the roadhouse and was asked, 'Give us a look at your log books. By the way, you weren't on a road train approved road.' The driver disputed and said, 'Yes, I was. I have been doing that for 20 or 30 years.' No—he received a \$2,000 fine, I am told. That is discouraging drivers. Everyone in town knows it is. There are experienced truck drivers up in Richmond that said, 'Well, our shed has been there for 20, 30 years. We have been driving out the road trains.' These guys just come in their taskforce.

There are a lot of things which need to be heavily watched. I really implore the minister to keep a heavy eye on this because the complaints are not going to go away, the issues are not going to go away, and we need truck drivers in the seats of these trucks, particularly in these remote areas, or everything will stop.

There is a saying which is said a lot, but I think it is a very pertinent saying. They say you have to have roadworthy trucks—for example, you have to have all 10 of your LED light bulbs working otherwise you have to take the truck off the road—but what about truck-worthy roads? Bradley Hawkins at Normanton, with his 30 or 40 trucks, has to drive across these smashed up roads in poor condition all the time, yet he pays the same registration as for a truck here in Brisbane that is going up the Bruce Highway or the Pacific Highway. It is a lot different for him to operate up there. If he fully charged to offset the cost to him to keep his trucks on the road, it would push the cost of groceries and everything up through the gulf. It would be unaffordable. He wears a lot of that cost. Next thing he knows, the likes of NHVR are breathing down his neck, making life even harder.

You have to be very careful in the application of these rules and the one-size-fits-all approach. That is the comment I would like to drive home in this debate. The truck drivers are suffering out there. A lot of the truck drivers are walking away from the industry—from the regiment of fines and everything that is going on. I implore the minister—I say again, I know he has good knowledge of that area—to keep a sharp eye on these matters because there are some overzealous officers out there.

I have one further comment to make. There have been comments made about the competency of the officers going out doing inspections where they are saying, 'You better have a look at that.' Commentary has been made to me that, 'I do not think they are in a good place to comment on the validity of some of these inspections because they are not experienced people in this field.' That is another matter to be looked at. I am not disagreeing with the legislation of the bill, but I am saying there is a lot to watch out for in this industry.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (8.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that strengthens safety, cuts red tape and modernises the way Queensland regulates our vital road freight industry.

As someone who represents a region where road transport is the lifeblood of our economy, I know firsthand the importance of this sector. From the coal fields of Moranbah and the cane farms of the Pioneer Valley to the fuel trucks that roll in and out of the Port of Mackay every day, heavy vehicles are what keep Queensland moving. This bill makes sure our laws keep pace with that movement, ensuring that safety, fairness and productivity go hand in hand.

What is the purpose of the bill? It delivers the next stage of reforms under the Heavy Vehicle National Law review, led by the National Transport Commission and endorsed by all Australian transport ministers. These reforms aim to improve safety, simplify regulation and make the law more responsive to the modern transport realities. The bill amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to: introduce a new duty for drivers to be fit to drive, strengthen the safety management and accreditation framework, streamline codes of practice and ministerial oversight, modernise governance arrangements for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, and simplify enforcement, penalties and administrative processes across the board.

Improving safety on Queensland's roads should be everybody's responsibility. Safety has always been at the heart of the Heavy Vehicle National Law, and this bill builds on that foundation. It introduces a new general duty for drivers to be fit to drive, complementing the existing requirement not to drive while fatigued. Until now, the duty only applied to fatigue-regulated heavy vehicles—those over 12 tonnes—but this amendment extends the duty to all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. That means more consistency, clearer expectations and greater accountability. Drivers will be required to take a proactive approach to managing their health, fatigue and wellbeing, recognising that being fit to drive is just as important as being skilled behind the wheel. It is about empowering drivers to stop when something is not right and ensuring every operator and employer shares responsibility for keeping our roads safe.

At this stage, I would like to thank the heavy vehicle companies in the Mackay Isaac areas who get involved in safety lessons for young drivers, particularly in the Moranbah area, for example. The Moranbah High School students get the opportunity to sit in a heavy vehicle to see the blind spots from the cab which the truck driver has to deal with every day. This knowledge helps driver behaviour along the Peak Downs Highway and the Bruce Highway, and increases safety for all who drive on that highway.

This bill also strengthens accreditation and accountability under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme by introducing a mandatory safety management system, or SMS, as a core part of accreditation. This means that operators seeking accreditation must have a safety system that identifies risks and outlines clear controls to manage them. For many operators, this will not be a new concept, but by making the SMS a consistent requirement, it lifts the standard right across the industry. The bill also allows the safety systems to be independently audited, ensuring integrity and accountability. This is good news for responsible operators who already do the right thing. It creates a level playing field and ensures that safety is recognised as part of professional business practice, not just compliance paperwork. Importantly, the bill makes sure the evidence from an accredited operator's safety audit can be used in court, ensuring that accountability is both practical and enforceable.

While this bill strengthens safety, it also makes life easier for the operator by cutting unnecessary red tape. It simplifies codes of practice, shifting responsibility for their development and approval from industry bodies to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. That means a single trusted authority can issue, end or revoke codes of practice as needed, in consultation with industry, without waiting years for ministerial approval. It also enables ministers to step in when needed, giving direction to the regulator in the public interest or to manage serious risks. That is the right balance between industry flexibility and government oversight.

The bill also streamlines permit approvals and record keeping, reduces duplicate offences and moves prescriptive technical details into the regulations where it can be more easily updated, as technology and practice evolve. That is modern, commonsense lawmaking—reducing clutter and improving clarity for drivers, operators and enforcement officers alike.

This bill also delivers fairer and more consistent enforcement. It removes outdated restrictions that previously stopped regulators from issuing an improvement notice and commencing a prosecution at the same time. Now authorised officers can respond to serious safety risks immediately, while still holding operators accountable through the courts when necessary.

The bill also allows formal cautions to be issued in place of fines for minor breaches, especially around fatigue record keeping, recognising that not every mistake is a matter for prosecution. For more serious offences, courts will have greater flexibility to issue alternative verdicts for primary duty offences, ensuring proportionate justice where the evidence supports a lesser charge. Penalty levels have been comprehensively reviewed and recalibrated. Fifty penalties will be increased, 21 will decrease and several obsolete offences will be removed altogether. The goal here is balance, ensuring deterrence and fairness without punishing honest mistakes.

This bill also modernises how the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator operates. The size of the regulator's board will increase from five to up to seven members, broadening expertise and diversity.

Board members will now be subject to stricter conflict-of-interest rules and a 10-year cumulative term limit, improving transparency and accountability. The regulator will also operate under a new ministerial state of expectations, aligning its priorities with national transport objectives and ensuring ministers retain appropriate oversight without interfering in day-to-day decisions. This is the right model for modern governance. The consultation and implementation reforms have been developed through extensive consultation with transport agencies, police, road safety experts and industry stakeholders across all states and territories.

In conclusion, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 represents practical reform—the kind of reform that makes the system safer, simpler and smarter. It strengthens safety by ensuring every driver is fit to drive. It supports productivity by reducing red tape and simplifying compliance. It improves fairness through proportionate penalties and clearer enforcement. It delivers a modern, national framework that will serve Queensland's transport industry well.

Our truck drivers, freight operators and logistics workers are among the hardest working Queenslanders one will ever meet. I have had many early morning conversations with truck drivers, and I think the term to describe all whom I have met would be 'salt of the earth'—honest, reliable and decent. They deserve a system that values safety, respects professionalism and supports productivity. This bill delivers exactly that.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (8.52 pm): I rise to support the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025, a bill that puts safety first, cuts red tape and gives the industry the certainty that it deserves. Let's be clear: this bill builds on nationally agreed reforms developed by every state and territory transport minister, including Queensland's minister under the previous Labor government. It is proof that when governments work together Australia's transport sector benefits. It is proof that road safety is too important to play politics with.

This bill strengthens the Heavy Vehicle National Law by introducing mandatory safety management systems, ensuring every operator has clear and accountable safety practices in place. We are talking about safety, so I want to pay special attention to the fatal five. Just to be clear, I have rearranged them. The first of the fatal five is speeding. The second is distraction, and distraction whilst speeding is certainly a big issue and we do not want that happening in our state. The third, fourth and fifth are drink and drug driving, seatbelts not being worn and fatigue. The bill expands the duty to be fit to drive, because no load, no deadline and no profit is worth a life. It gives the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator stronger tools to ensure compliance, while also giving operators flexibility and fairness.

Here is the truth: this government did not come up with these reforms. The LNP is simply catching up on work Labor had already started. While the former Labor government drove these national reforms, the LNP sat on the sidelines. They talked tough on safety—although some in this House do not show it—but they were nowhere to be seen when it came to doing the hard yards of policy work. Let's call it for what it is: the bill is a Labor policy delivered late by an LNP government that is more focused on headlines than on heavy vehicles.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is too much chatter in the chamber.

**Mr BUTCHER:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. Labor supports this bill, but we will not stop holding the LNP to account. Safety is not something that you legislate once and walk away from; it takes commitment, big investment and leadership. Where is the LNP's investment in driver training as part of this program? Where is their plan to help smaller operators meet new compliance standards? Truck drivers across Queensland have every right to ask, 'Who's really got our backs?' This bill matters because behind every truck is a worker, a family and a community depending on them to get home safe.

I want to pay a little bit of attention to my electorate of Gladstone, particularly the port. The port of Gladstone is an economic powerhouse. It is vital for our community to be able to get product both in and out of the port on trucks. There will certainly be opportunities moving forward with better access to the Gladstone port, as everyone in Queensland knows. Some of our bridges still have restrictions on big trucks. It does not help businesses in Gladstone when they get projects and contracts for large-scale manufacturing and repairs of equipment from Western Queensland only to find that they cannot get through to the Gladstone port because of the structural integrity issues we have on some of our bridges. There needs to be continued investment into that.

These reforms will certainly save lives. If the government does not do its job and deliver the education, enforcement and infrastructure that go with that there will continue to be issues on the road networks not only in Queensland but also right around Australia.

While we support this bill, we say to the LNP, 'Don't pat yourselves on the back for implementing Labor's reforms. Deliver them properly. Fund them fairly. Make sure Queensland's heavy vehicle industry is safer, stronger and more sustainable for the long haul.' Road safety is not a slogan; it is a shared responsibility.

I reiterate: if you are out and about driving on our roads in Queensland, make sure you are not distracted while you are driving, like taking videos from the backseat. Make sure you do the speed limit too, because it is really important. Speed is a killer here in Queensland. We need to make sure we keep to the speed limits and are not distracted at the same time. Drugs and alcohol are certainly a major player in accidents here in Queensland. Fatigue is certainly important to manage as well, particularly for our long-haul truck drivers here in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.57 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. It is a transformative piece of legislation that will deliver safer roads, smarter regulation and stronger productivity for Queensland and beyond. The bill represents a major step forward in creating a single, consistent national law for the regulation of heavy vehicle operations across Australia, including Western Australia and the Northern Territory. As the host jurisdiction, Queensland will lead the way in enacting this law and setting the standard for other participating states and territories.

These are important amendments to the legislation, as the heavy vehicle industry is, as many have already said, the backbone of Queensland's economy. It supports our supply chains, creates thousands of jobs and ensures the movement of goods across the state and the nation. From courier drivers and livestock transporters to concrete agitators, refrigerated food carriers, fuel tankers, public and school buses and some emergency services, like fire trucks and ambulances, this bill touches every corner of our transport sector.

In Rockhampton alone an average of 3,020 heavy vehicles pass through daily. On some of our regional highways, heavy vehicles account for up to 50 per cent of all of the traffic. This bill is not just about trucks, though; it is about safety, efficiency and fairness for every Queenslanders who shares the road with those trucks. The amendments within this bill are about improving accountability and, most importantly, saving lives. It strengthens the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme by requiring operators to implement scalable safety management systems that are subject to audit and can be used as evidence in court during primary duty prosecutions.

It introduces a new duty to be fit to drive, expanding upon existing fatigue laws. Drivers who feel pressured to drive while unfit can now report their concerns confidentially, empowering them to be able to speak up without fear.

The bill also expands the use of formal cautions and warnings, ensuring proportionate responses to breaches without compromising safety. It is a fairer, more balanced approach to enforcement. Importantly, this legislation cuts through bureaucracy, streamlining compliance and reducing red tape. It removes duplicate offences and adjusts penalty amounts based on a comprehensive review of 349 offences and reduces penalties for minor infractions like clerical errors in work diaries, while increasing penalties for serious breaches.

Alternative compliance accreditation will give operators the flexibility to meet obligations through innovative methods tailored to their operations. This encourages creativity and continuous improvement in safety practices.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Kirkland, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.00 pm): Today the member for Coomera chose to attack me in this chamber for not speaking during the debate on the Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill. With that, he questioned my commitment. He questioned my values. He suggested that my silence represented indifference to the safety of children. What he did not bother to consider before making me the subject of a political attack is why I remained silent. Debates on bills like this, as crucially important as they are, may often require one to relive trauma—

trauma that I work every day to heal from. I made the difficult decision, a personal one, not to speak on this bill and to vote in support of the bill, as is my right as a member of this place.

It is unfortunate and deeply painful that the member for Coomera, a colleague I work with on committee business, and members of this government have used this bill for political attacks. The bill is about protecting our children. It is about protecting the most vulnerable in our state, but they saw this as an opportunity to score political points by attacking someone in the opposition. This attack was disgusting. It is disgusting that such a serious issue like child safety—an issue that affects real people and real families and has real trauma survivors—would be weaponised for partisan gain. It is disappointing that members of the government chose division and personal attacks instead of unity. It is deeply disappointing that the member for Coomera violated human decency for a momentary political advantage.

I want to be absolutely clear: I supported the bill. I voted for the bill. I want strong protections for children in our community and across the nation. My commitment to child safety is unwavering, and it is personal in ways members opposite clearly cannot fathom. The member's attack reveals something troubling about how someone in this place views serious policy issues. Protecting children against abuse is not a political football. It is not a weapon to be wielded against your opponents.

To any survivors watching today: your boundaries matter. You do not owe anyone your trauma as proof of your commitment to justice. You can care deeply about an issue and still prioritise your own wellbeing. I will never understand what goes through the mind of a monster who chooses to commit horrendous acts against innocent children, but I will say this: I am wholeheartedly committed to protecting every child in my community and in Queensland against abuse. I promise to always put people first. I promise to put people over petty politics.

#### **Ewan, Mr W; McBride, Mr B, OAM**



**Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.03 pm): I would like to acknowledge the tragic incident reported in the media this evening where a young boy has lost his life in what is understood to be a crash between two e-bikes at Mountain Creek in the Buderim electorate. The police will investigate that incident, but I would like to place on the record this evening that my thoughts are with the family and friends of the young man who has lost his life so tragically this evening.

I would also like to place on record this evening my thanks and appreciation for two hardworking members of the Buderim community who our community is farewelling this month. Firstly, I want to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr William Donald DeConlay Ewan—‘Don’ as he was known—and, in particular, to his wife, Janet, and his sons, Bruce and Douglas.

Don was a very hardworking man who never complained and just got on with the job. He began his working life at the age of 15 as a jackaroo and quickly rose through the ranks. He had a diligent work ethic and finished up as the manager at Wanganella Station by the time he was 21. It was arguably one of the most famous and influential merino studs in Australia. Don's talents and the confidence that others placed in him were evident right throughout his life and he achieved numerous awards. He was voted Citizen of the Year by his fellow community members. After spending his life working and living on the land, he and Janet moved to retire to the electorate of Buderim, where I got to know him.

In recent years, despite Don's declining health, his service to our community never wavered. He was the patron of local community groups. He spent hours on pre-poll in the most recent campaign, despite being in his later years, in the heat. He was also a familiar face alongside me at roadsides. He loved it about as much as I loved it, but he was there. He was the kind of volunteer you always wanted to have by your side. It is not only a testament to his character; it was also an amazing effort for a man of his age. I will forever be grateful for Don's friendship and the time we spent together.

I also want to bid farewell to a Buderim great, Mr Brian McBride OAM. He is leaving our community in a different way as he moves to Melbourne to be closer to his family. In my opinion, Brian has contributed as much as anyone. I cannot think of anyone who has contributed more to Buderim. He has given over 20 years to the Buderim Lions, serving as the president from 2012 until he stepped down last year in 2024. He has been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of initiatives like the Walk to School program and the reimplementation of the Buderim Street Party. Every Wednesday Brian walks to school alongside kids from Buderim Mountain State School, including my own kids, who have grown up and developed under his and the Lions' mentorship.

Brian is a humble man. He never gives himself credit for the amount of time and effort he puts in. Nonetheless, despite his reluctance, we recognised him as the Buderim Volunteer of the Year a few

years ago. His kindness, his diligence and his commitment to our community will be front of mind forever. I wish him all the best for his new life in Melbourne, and I look forward to staying in touch over the coming years.

### **Rosewood Craft and Quilters**

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.06 pm): Tonight I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable community organisation that has stitched its way into the very fabric of Rosewood and the broader Ipswich region: Rosewood Craft and Quilters. This group began in the 1980s when just four ladies gathered around Joan Kim's kitchen table. What started as a simple act of friendship and creativity has evolved into a dedicated group of around 30 women who now meet every Wednesday from nine to one at the Rosewood Showgrounds Cultural Centre. Their hands are always busy quilting, crocheting, sewing scrubs and crafting with love, but it is their hearts that drive their work.

The list of where their generosity reaches is extraordinary. They provide quilts to the Children's Hospital, the dialysis unit, Cabanda Care home, Nolensville Home, the Ipswich hospice and many families struck by tragedy through fire and flood. They create angel quilts for stillborn babies, and every year they contribute 18 quilts to Rosewood's community Christmas hampers. Their compassion is practical and wideranging: crochet rugs made for people experiencing homelessness; placemats to brighten the meals delivered by Meals on Wheels; and scrubs sewn for our hardworking nurses at the Ipswich Hospital. They even provide \$200 every year to the Rosewood Fire Brigade to help fund Christmas lollies for local children. They never stop. Each year the group sets itself a new challenge, choosing a charity to support—from children's diabetes through their Easter raffle to brain tumour research and numerous other causes.

It is not a story about money or recognition but a story about community spirit, about 30 women who say, 'We love doing all of this and we love giving to our community.' When she was alive my mother was part of this amazing group of women. I thank the Rosewood Craft and Quilters group for their dedication, their creativity and their unwavering commitment to caring for others.

Tomorrow our communities will walk in support of Walk for Daniel. It was an important day today with the passing of Daniel's Law. I am proud to have supported this, despite what those on the opposite side would say. I would say to the member for Coomera: you do not know me at all. Everyone on this side of the House wants to ensure the safety and protection of our children across the state.

### **Mount Peter Priority Development Area**

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.09 pm): Recently the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, Jarrod Bleijie MP, declared the Mount Peter area in Mulgrave a priority development area, PDA. PDAs are established under the Economic Development Act 2012 and are managed by Economic Development Queensland. Each area is subject to a specific development scheme which outlines the planning and assessment framework unique to that locality. These schemes are tailored to accelerate and coordinate growth, streamline approvals and ensure that infrastructure and services are delivered efficiently to meet community needs. As a result, PDAs play a vital role in shaping the future of Queensland's urban and regional landscapes, fostering innovation, investment and sustainable development across the state. I was pleased to hear from the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, about the decision to grant a priority development area across the Mount Peter locality. I have been working closely with the Cairns Regional Council and the Deputy Premier's office to assist with this determination.

The Mount Peter Southern Growth Corridor covers a total land area of 3,300 hectares between Edmonton and Gordonvale. The area has the capacity to deliver 18,500 new dwellings for up to 42,500 new residents. Acknowledging the housing crisis our region is enduring, the opening up of this large supply of housing blocks will make a huge difference for residents seeking a place they can call home. Declaring Mount Peter a priority development area will provide fast-tracked development and infrastructure delivery such as road networks, public transportation and utilities such as water, sewerage, power and connectivity, therefore delivering better housing and community infrastructure faster.

The Crisafulli government is delivering a major step forward for housing supply in Far North Queensland with the declaration of a new priority development area in Mulgrave. As I said, the priority development area will unlock 18,500 new homes, with 200 to be fast-tracked through an early release area. Once fully developed, the priority development area will cater for 42,500 new Mount Peter residents. An interim land use plan is now in effect and enables development applications to proceed

immediately for the early development area. Economic Development Queensland will work with the Cairns Regional Council, industry and the community to deliver the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time.

*(Time expired)*

### **Lytton Electorate, Melanoma**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.12 pm): My bayside is a wonderful place to live. We walk along the esplanade from Wynnum down to Manly and Lota. Our children play in Whale Park and swim in the historic wading pool. We play Rugby and ride our bikes along the esplanade. However, alongside its natural beauty comes a serious health risk. Data from the Australian Cancer Atlas reveals that Brisbane's bayside community has some of the highest melanoma diagnosis rates in the country. In fact, Wynnum melanoma rates are 57 per cent higher and in Many-Lota the figures are even more confronting, being 93 per cent higher than the Australian average. That makes it the third highest in Australia.

Melanoma is the second most common cancer diagnosed in Queenslanders. It is one of the most serious forms of cancer because of its potential to spread rapidly if not detected early. Importantly, most cases are preventable. Simple steps can save lives. That is why I was so pleased to join forces with the Queensland Cancer Council last Sunday to launch my local Bayside Sunsafe program. We spoke to hundreds of locals about the risks and prevention and handed out over 600 bottles of SPF50+ sunscreen. Our message was clear and practical: slip on protective clothing, slop on SPF50+ sunscreen, slap on a broadbrimmed hat, seek shade wherever possible and slide on wraparound sunglasses. These five steps—slip, slop, slap, seek, slide—remain the most effective protection against harmful UV radiation. Equally vital is early detection. I encourage all baysiders to regularly check their skin and to see their doctor if they notice a new or changing mole, freckle or lump or a sore that does not heal after a few weeks. The earlier melanoma is detected, the greater the chance of successful treatment.

The campaign is not about politics. This Atlas data is equally shocking for the Redcliffe and Redlands areas, communities represented by members opposite. Melanoma does not recognise LNP blue or Labor red. A melanoma mole can be any colour: brown, black, blue, pink or white. They are the colours we should all be worried about. I hope the member for Mermaid Beach is listening to this. He seems to enjoy interjecting on me all the time so perhaps he might learn a lesson. This is about awareness, education and protecting the health of our communities. I encourage all members on both sides to consider similar awareness campaigns in their electorates.

The Cancer Council of Queensland, together with QUT, has developed the Australian Cancer Atlas, which provides localised cancer data that can be tailored to each community. I encourage all members to reach out to the Cancer Council and use this resource to inform and protect their constituents. Given those opposite have defunded the melanoma awareness program by \$2.1 million, we need to step in and lead local education programs.

*(Time expired)*

### **Comments by Member for Coomera, Apology; Coomera Electorate, Events**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.15 pm): I would like to begin by apologising to any member opposite who felt that there was a personal attack on them, in particular—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member is issuing an apology. I will hear that in silence.

**Mr CRANDON:**—the member for Sandgate. I say to all of them or anyone who felt that I was making a personal attack: I feel your pain. I thought long and hard before I stood in this House to speak to that bill. They do not know me, either. They do not know my background. They do not know my family experience. I am saying to them now sincerely and honestly in this House in front of these people and for the record: I apologise to them unreservedly for any pain that they feel as a result of the words that I used in this House. They were not intended as a personal attack.

Last week was yet another busy week on the northern Gold Coast and some exciting events were taking place, starting with the official opening of the Pimpama train station, which was eight years in the waiting. I was joined by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Brent Mickelberg, and Queensland Rail CEO Kat Stapleton for that event. The Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent

fares were a big win for commuters on the northern Gold Coast. We finally saw the station open and buses actually going to Halcyon Greens instead of cruising straight past.

I also attended Pimpama State School for an early World Teachers' Day event with people celebrating 10, 15 and 20 years of service. We also had a look at where the new facility—the \$2 million tuckshop—is going to be situated. There were many other events on that day. I say congratulations to my two bursary recipients, Emily White from King's Christian College and Kai Dale from Pimpama State Secondary College. We also saw St Joseph's College and had a look at their facilities and many other things.

If I may be granted a little bit more time, I do want to finish on this. There was a particularly special occasion where I attended the LORDS awards night. It was my pleasure to present the Michael Crandon MP dedicated commitment award to foundation principal Jodie Hoff. This was in recognition of Jodie's commitment and devotion to the LORD School, parents, carers and broader community. Under her guidance we have witnessed the school flourish not only in its physical structure and student numbers but also in its spirit and values. LORDS has become a beacon of excellence and compassion, deeply rooted in community service. This growth is a direct reflection of Jodie's leadership, vision and tireless commitment.

**Ms BUSH:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time—

**Mr CRANDON:** Jodie is far more than a principal.

**Ms BUSH:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member—

**Mr CRANDON:** If I may, please—she is a mentor, a friend and a cherished member of the school community, and her influence reaches far beyond the school gate. Her legacy will continue to shape LORDS in years to come. Jodie, I say thank you—

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is enough.

**Mr CRANDON:**—for her service, her heart, her leadership. We all wish her every success and happiness—

*(Time expired)*

### **Path to Treaty; Olympic and Paralympic Games, Netball**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.18 pm): Tonight I rise to congratulate the Premier on establishing a voice to parliament for Queensland's First Nations communities. Last week, on 21 October, Premier David Crisafulli signed an historic accord providing First Nations people a voice to parliament and a direct line to his cabinet. This is a level of access that no other person or no other council or body has in Queensland, and I congratulate the Premier on this worthy reform.

Who can forget the emotional speech the now Premier and then leader of the opposition made during debate on the Path to Treaty Bill, describing it as 'a catalyst for materially improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this state' and 'a genuine opportunity for our state to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians'? I recall this speech at the time and felt it was sincere. Despite the Premier not always honouring those words, I welcome his renewed commitment to delivering for First Nations communities and hope that this opens the pathways for even greater reform like treaty and truth-telling here in Queensland. I was, however, confused by the minister's comments on Sky News when she appeared to distance herself from the Premier's commitment, stating—

It's the complete opposite of the Voice. It's completely not like that.

I do not know why those opposite are hiding the fact that this is a voice to parliament. The federal Voice to Parliament was intended to be elected representatives from communities providing direct advice to government on issues like housing, water and frontline services. The Premier's accord provides elected representatives from Indigenous communities a direct voice to ministers to, in the minister's own words, provide advice on areas like housing, water and frontline services. I welcome the Premier's voice to parliament and I welcome the Premier's prioritisation of the rights and interests of our First Nations communities.

I also want to take the opportunity to back netball's bid for inclusion in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With over 20 million players across 117 countries, it is a no-brainer that netball

should be included in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Importantly, netball has the highest participation rates for women and girls in the country.

**An honourable member:** It's a beautiful game.

**Ms BUSH:** It is a beautiful game; I take the interjection. We know that women and girls face unique challenges in playing sport, and one of those unique challenges is visibility. I cannot think of any other way, or certainly no more impactful way, to address this than to include netball in the Olympics. We know that netball has the highest approval rating for the bid, with 66 per cent of Australians supporting netball's inclusion in the Olympics. I encourage all Queenslanders to back netball's Olympic bid formally at [www.netball.com.au/2032](http://www.netball.com.au/2032). Let us all get behind this fantastic game.

### Hervey Bay Electorate, Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.21 pm): It was the poet Kipling who coined the phrase 'fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run'. As local members of parliament, we do not have a minute to waste and we are accountable to our electorate for the diligent expression of our incumbency. I am privileged to be part of a Crisafulli government that is serving and delivering for the Hervey Bay community. It is a fresh start for Hervey Bay and Queensland, so here is a snapshot in my electorate.

We are delivering 18 units for seniors social housing on Torquay Road; 26 supported units for the homeless in Rose Street; \$1.5 million as part of the Residential Activation Fund to construct 73 apartments in Hoadley Street; instigating the Fraser Coast Integrated Transport Strategy; \$190,000 for LED night lights at the Bombers AFL Norm McLean Oval; \$25,000 for the purchase of a heat-sealing machine at the Meals on Wheels Fraser Community; \$100,000 to replace the roof, external guttering and downpipes at the Bayside Transformations drug and alcohol recovery centre; a new \$2.6 million QPSW 12-metre vessel, the *Bunbee*, to patrol waters from Double Island Point to Baffle Creek; a new MRI machine for the Hervey Bay Hospital following a petition signed by 6,782 people in our community; the construction under our Hospital Rescue Plan of 10 ICU beds, 25 general medical beds, 182 car parks and a state-of-the-art helipad—and this comes after Labor's \$56 million capital cost blowout and false representations of a \$60 million multistorey car park; a reduction of the speed limit on Booral Road from 80 kilometres to 60 kilometres per hour to improve traffic and pedestrian safety; \$300,000 for the Galangoor Aboriginal corporation to address target 14 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap; and \$1.17 million for the Fraser Coast Turtle Rehabilitation and Research Centre, with more than 1,400 turtles having been rescued on the Fraser Coast over the past two years and more than 300 needing specialist care at the nearest rehabilitation facility on the Sunshine Coast.

I will continue to persuasively advocate for a new fire and rescue station and a pontoon at River Heads after the former Labor member for Hervey Bay deceptively and misleadingly claimed to my community that both projects were budgeted. In closing, I will continue to fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds worth of distance run. Hervey Bay is well recognised as a rapidly growing community, and I will continue to persuasively advocate for fit-for-purpose infrastructure and services that meet the existing and future interests of my Hervey Bay community.

### Children, Hormone Therapy; Spencer, Dr J

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.24 pm): I rise to speak on an issue I have raised in this parliament many times before: the deeply flawed gender affirmation model within Queensland Health and the disgraceful sacking of Dr Jillian Spencer, a highly respected child psychiatrist who had the courage to speak up. I begin by acknowledging the Minister for Health, who earlier this week used his ministerial powers to ban public doctors from prescribing puberty blockers to adolescents. This is a significant and courageous step which I applaud the minister for taking. The gender affirmation model used by Queensland Health has failed children worldwide. Many countries, including the United Kingdom, have abandoned this approach after independent reviews found no evidence of psychological benefit but overwhelming evidence of harm, yet here in Queensland we have allowed an ideology-driven medical model pushed by activist lobby groups to dictate treatment for some of the most vulnerable children in our health system.

When a senior doctor raised concerns, she was silenced. Dr Jillian Spencer was suspended in April 2023 after expressing her professional concerns about the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones on children. These interventions have no proven long-term benefit but are associated with infertility, altered sexual development, bone density loss and, in many cases, lifelong regret. Dr Spencer did exactly what we as Queenslanders expect a doctor to do: she put the welfare of children first. For

that crime she was punished. I refer to the *Courier-Mail* article by Des Houghton in July which laid bare the infiltration of Queensland Health by radical gender ideology. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from *Courier-Mail*, dated 19 July 2025, titled 'Email sign-off sets a gender'.

This ideology has overridden caution, silenced doctors and exposed children to irreversible harm. A recently closed petition calling for Dr Spencer's reinstatement attracted nearly 7,000 signatures from Queenslanders who are angry, alarmed and demanding accountability. The message is very clear: Queenslanders do not support medical experiments on our children. They do not support the bullying and removal of doctors who speak up and they will not tolerate ideology overriding evidence. I say to the Minister for Health: you have taken the first step in banning puberty blockers. Well done. Now take the next step and reinstate Dr Jillian Spencer. We need medical professionals who have the intestinal fortitude to speak up.

(Time expired)

### Moah Creek Wind Farm

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.27 pm): The Moah Creek Wind Farm has caused serious anxiety and anguish in Kalapa, Wycarbah and the small local communities around Rockhampton. On behalf of my constituents I sponsored a petition of 299 nonconforming signatures calling on the state government to withdraw all investment in the wind farm. Tonight I table an additional 771 nonconforming signatures.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition regarding responsible planning and community consultation on Moah Creek Wind Farm.

A total of 1,070 people in the community surrounding the Moah Creek wind factory are calling for the Treasurer to direct CleanCo to withdraw from all future investment in the wind farm. CleanCo currently holds an option to buy the whole project at the end of the development but before construction. The community opted to do this as a paper petition to ensure they were only receiving signatures from local communities, to show the strong local opposition to this project. In an area with a small population, 1,000 signatures would have to be almost everyone in and around that project.

The developers of this project, CQP, a partnership of RES Australia and Energy Estate, snuck around in these communities for years before coming into the community saying, basically, that it was a done deal and they had to live with it. Of the 150 homes and structures within 1.5 kilometres to five kilometres of a turbine, not one of those residents heard anything about this project until the plans were done and approved documents were ready to go. They were told it was a done deal. When the community stood up and said that they did not want it, CQP held what they called community consultation sessions, which were more like lectures, and told mistruths to the community about multiple aspects of this project. Many times community members have asked questions about this project and the developers have always said they would get back to them on it, but they never did.

This project has always been an issue in these communities around Rockhampton. It has been put on the map as a project that was done wrong by the developers. If this project was coming through now with the new legislation put in by the Crisafulli government, it would never get up. As these developers said, they could not do that because they have spent too much money on it. When it comes to renewable energy, such as wind and solar, I have learned that these developers do not care about the communities; all they care about is money. I stand with my community and what they want, which is the government withdrawing this investment and giving these communities some hope that the developer, CQP, is made accountable for what it did to us.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Resolved in the affirmative.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, 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, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young