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# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

# Tuesday, 18 November 2025

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## TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable P. Weir MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 6 November 2025

A bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

6 November 2025

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 November 2025, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 6 November 2025.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Absence of Members



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Waterford that she will be absent from the House from 18 to 20 November, inclusive of those dates. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

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

### ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF HINCHINBROOK

#### By-Election, Issue of Writ



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to inform the House that I have issued a writ for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Hinchinbrook. The

dates in connection with the issue of the writ are as follows: issue of writ, 3 November 2025; cut-off date for electoral rolls, 7 November 2025; nomination day, 11 November 2025; polling day, 29 November 2025; and return of writs, 26 January 2026, the details of which will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the relevant correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence regarding the Writ for an election to fill a vacancy in the Electoral District of Hinchinbrook.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Parliament House, Artwork

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this sitting week we are showcasing two more works from our regional council artwork collection. Our first piece is *Jordan River* by Alice May McLaughlin. Alice studied under John Rigby, Stanislaus Rapotec, John Firth-Smith and Michael Winters, and later taught art with the Queensland Education Department. The work was donated by the Jericho Shire Council. Jericho, Aramac and Barcaldine shires were merged to form the Shire of Barcaldine in 2007. You can see more of Alice's work at a new exhibition at Childers Arts Space this month.

The second piece is *Hervey Bay Range* by North Queensland painter John Raggatt, created in 1979 and donated by Thuringowa shire council, which is now part of Townsville City Council. John Raggatt studied in Adelaide, won several major regional art awards during the 1970s and in 1978 led a painters' workshop for the Townsville Art Society. His works are held in collections across Queensland. Next sitting week we will feature two more artworks, continuing to highlight regional communities represented in this chamber.

### Speaker's Gin

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am pleased to advise that the much-anticipated Speaker's gin has arrived and is now available for purchase in the Lucinda Bar and the gift shop, just in time for Christmas. The bold London-style dry gin features a local twist as it is infused with local botanicals including Halo Farm native finger limes and fresh bay laurel, providing a unique flavour profile. This is the first of two specially crafted Speaker's spirits made by Pechey Distilling Co., located just outside the town of Crows Nest in the electorate of Condamine. The second limited-edition spirit, 'The Fifty-Eighth', has now been barrelled and will be released in 2027.

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Redlands College in the electorate of Oodgeroo and Indie School in the electorate of McConnel. I am also informed that during question time we will be joined by the Rotary Club of Burleigh Heads.

## PETITIONS

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

### Coomera and Helensvale, Public Transport

**Mr Boothman**, from 474 petitioners, requesting the House to provide village residents increased access to public transport by making minor changes to Route 725 between Coomera and Helensvale stations.

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

### Animals, Regulation

1,021 petitioners, requesting the House to incorporate the regulation of petting zoos and displayed animals into the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

### Animals, Euthanasia

879 petitioners, requesting the House to prohibit the euthanasia of animals in non-urgent circumstances unless carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon.

### Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Planning Scheme

2,843 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Proposed Planning Scheme 2025.

### National Fire Ant Eradication Program

2,248 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a range of measures to reform the National Fire Ant Eradication Program.

#### Local Government, Flood Studies

6,942 petitioners, requesting the House to suspend any changes to Local Government Flood Overlay Codes and conduct a review of flood studies that cross LGA boundaries to ensure AEP flood levels are consistently applied across LGAs.

#### Israel

866 petitioners, requesting the House to boycott, divest from and sanction all businesses from Israel and Israel the country.

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

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

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

31 October 2025—

- [1713](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 8, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 June 2025 and 26 August 2025
- [1714](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 15, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Report 12: 2022-23—Growing Ecotourism in Queensland
- [1715](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Improving consumer confidence in retail energy plans) Rule 2025, No. 3
- [1716](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Assisting Hardship Customers) Rule 2025, No. 2
- [1717](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Improving the ability to switch to a better offer) Rule 2025, No. 4
- [1718](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014: National Energy Retail Amendment (Improving the application of concessions to bills) Rule 2025, No. 5
- [1719](#) Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator—Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1720](#) Queensland's Category 2 Water Authorities—Consolidated Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1721](#) Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1722](#) Queensland's River Improvement Trusts—Consolidated Annual Report 2024-2025
- [1723](#) Land Tribunal—Annual Report 2024-25
- [1724](#) Land Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2024-25

3 November 2025—

- [1725](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Europe by the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, Hon. Ros Bates, 21 September-3 October 2025

6 November 2025—

- [1726](#) Auditor-General Report 5: 2025-26—Attracting and retaining teachers in regional and remote Queensland
- [1727](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 6, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 June 2025 and 26 August 2025
- [1728](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 June 2025 and 26 August 2025
- [1729](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 15, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Report 5: 2024-25—Preparing for the Brisbane Games
- [1730](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 16, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

7 November 2025—

- [1731](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 16, 58th Parliament—Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025
- [1732](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 20, 58th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General Report No. 15: 2023-24—Reducing serious youth crime
- [1733](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 21, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 June 2025 and 26 August 2025

10 November 2025—

- [1734](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 14, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 26 August 2025

11 November 2025—

- [1735](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2024-25

[1736](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 11, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 June 2025 and 26 August 2025

12 November 2025—

[1737](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Inspector of Detention Services: Combined inspection report for youth detention centres, November 2025

[1738](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development (Hon. Last) pursuant to Section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal Land Regulation 2011, the Torres Strait Islander Land Regulation 2011 and the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011

[1739](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to Bridgetown, Barbados by the Speaker, Hon. Pat Weir, the member for Ferny Grove, Hon. Mark Furner MP, and the member for Noosa, Ms Sandy Bolton MP, to attend the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, 5-10 October 2025

13 November 2025—

[1740](#) Response from the Minister for Education and the Arts (Hon. Langbroek), to an ePetition (4231-25), sponsored by the member for Cooper, Ms Bush, from 362 petitioners, requesting the House to work with Brisbane City Council to replace the Dean Street footbridge at Red Hill

[1741](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. O'Connor), to an ePetition (4279-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 374 petitioners, requesting the House to bring Glastonbury Road, the Gympie-Woolooga Road, up to a safe standard and fix the four lane bridges to be dual carriage bridges with Armco barriers

[1742](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation (Hon. Powell), to an ePetition (4268-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,969 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a complete ban on soft plastics in Queensland

14 November 2025—

[1743](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to an ePetition (4273-25), sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 2,913 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the proposed Charters Towers Hospital is reconfigured as a greenfield development on vacant land north of Eventide, and that the existing hostel accommodation is preserved and made available for private rental or leased to developers interested in its renovation and reuse

[1744](#) Response from the Minister for Primary Industries (Hon. Perrett), to an ePetition (4307-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,002 petitioners, requesting the House to not issue any native timber licences within Deongwar State Forest

[1745](#) Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee: Report No. 7, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1746](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 112, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1747](#) Education, Arts and Communities Committee: Report No. 9, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1748](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 17, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 26 August 2025 and 16 September 2025

[1749](#) Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: Report No. 18, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1750](#) Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 22, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1751](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 17, 58th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 26 August 2025

[1752](#) Governance, Energy and Finance Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1753](#) Primary Industries and Resources Committee: Report No. 12, 58th Parliament—Annual Report 2024-25

[1754](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4303-25), sponsored by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 675 petitioners, requesting the House to secure the urban water infrastructure for the community of Flinders

[1755](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to an ePetition (4272-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 1,495 petitioners, requesting the House to dissolve the Redland City Council and appoint an interim administrator until the conclusion of an election of councillors to be held on a stated date or the conclusion of the next quadrennial election

[1756](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers (Hon. Leahy), to a paper petition (4310-25), presented by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(3), and to an ePetition (4281-25), sponsored by the Clerk under the provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 149 and 338 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to investigate whether the Western Downs Regional Council complied with the Local Government Act 2009 to construct a cultural and tourism centre in the Thomas Jack Park and take other actions

17 November 2025—

[1757](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2025

[1758](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2025, explanatory notes

## TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

## Police Service Administration Act 1990:

- Police Service Administration (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 134
- Police Service Administration (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 134, explanatory notes
- Police Service Administration (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 134, human rights certificate

## Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:

- Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 135
- Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 135, explanatory notes
- Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 135, human rights certificate

## Economic Development Act 2012:

- Economic Development (Port Hinchinbrook Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 136
- Economic Development (Port Hinchinbrook Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 136, explanatory notes
- Economic Development (Port Hinchinbrook Provisional PDA) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 136, human rights certificate

## Disaster Management Act 2003:

- Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 137
- Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 137, explanatory notes
- Disaster Management Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 137, human rights certificate

## Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

- Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 138
- Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 138, explanatory notes
- Rural and Regional Adjustment (Irrigation Pricing Rebate Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 138, human rights certificate

## Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025:

- Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 139
- Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 139, explanatory notes
- Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 139, human rights certificate

## Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008:

- Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 140
- Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 140, explanatory notes
- Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Amendment Regulation 2025, No. 140, human rights certificate

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Federal Labor Government, Aged Care



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): Our government will always stand up for Queensland. Since being elected, we have advocated strongly for our state. It has allowed us to work well with the federal government to secure the best outcome for Queenslanders. We secured an 80-20 funding split for the Bruce Highway to deliver critical improvements and safety upgrades that have languished for decades. We reached agreement to secure the biggest funding boost for Queensland state schools and I enjoyed working personally with the Prime Minister on that. We have also called out the federal government's unfair distribution of GST revenue. Despite our strong population growth, Queensland is the only state where GST revenue has not kept pace with inflation. That is a cause that we will continue to champion. However, our fight for a fair share will continue.

A funding shortfall from the federal government has left Australians right across the country stranded in our hospitals. Patients have been left without suitable care and are languishing in hospital beds. These are people who need care but do not need it in an acute ward. Many of them are elderly

people—some of our most vulnerable—and they deserve the dignity of the care that they require. They are stranded in hospitals when they should be given the dignity of care in dedicated facilities. This is putting our hospitals under pressure. As a result, there are currently over 1,100 long-stay patients stranded in Queensland alone. That is the equivalent of removing Queensland's largest hospital from service every single day.

Therefore, we have united with the other states to call on the federal government to rescue our stranded Australians. We are asking the Commonwealth to do what they are responsible for and we will do what we are responsible for. It is about health workers. It is about families. It is about patients. It is an issue that should worry every Australian. We have all had a loved one who has been in a situation like this and it is a national disgrace. The federal government needs to step up and take responsibility for aged-care and disability patients who are stranded in public hospitals.

Today, I make the offer to the Commonwealth to sit down with all states and work out a way through. I know the view of almost all premiers is that this is an issue too important for tribalism and partisan politics. Let's get in a room, let's leave our allegiances at the door and let's rescue these stranded Australians, once and for all.

Queenslanders—Australians—deserve better and we will continue the fight. I want to be clear: the state government accepts full responsibility for healing Queensland Labor's health crisis. We are addressing elective surgery backlogs and ambulance ramping, building beds that should have been delivered in the last decade and returning services where people need them. We are just asking Canberra to accept responsibility for the things that they control—that is, aged-care and disability services. While Queenslanders understand that delivering these changes will take time, it is time for the federal government to take responsibility.

### Leavers, Mr I



**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.40 am): I would like to briefly reflect on the tragic passing of Ian Leavers. He was dedicated to making a difference for this state, having served in the Queensland Police Service for many decades. Most recently, he was Queensland's first Cross-Border Commissioner. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Ian's family and friends, including brother Simon who joins us today.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### Federal Labor Government, Aged Care



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.40 am): At the outset, I associate myself with the comments of the Premier in relation to the tragic passing of Mr Ian Leavers who, like many in this House, I knew well.

Nobody wants to stay in hospital longer than necessary, but with a growing and aging population we are seeing more patients stranded in our hospitals because they cannot access timely aged-care or disability supports. Quite clearly, the former Labor government did not take up the fight for Queenslanders and Queensland patients.

This is the case for patients like Denise Mcauley who has been stranded in Logan Hospital since June. Denise's daughter Liana is here in the gallery with us today in her continued advocacy for her mother. Denise has been in Logan Hospital for over 140 days—that is 140 days that her family has been looking for a new long-term home for Denise. While she waits she is being cared for 24/7 by the staff at the Logan Hospital. Liana has written to the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and several federal ministers to seek help for her mum, but the Albanese government continue to ignore the human cost of their failures. That human cost is being paid by Denise Mcauley and her family—in the heart of the federal Treasurer's electorate.

The Commonwealth has dropped the ball in its area of responsibility—that is, providing aged-care facilities. The result is that the state's hospitals are bearing the brunt—the brunt of stranded patients, and Queensland is ground zero in Australia. At the end of August, there were 1,126 Queenslanders like Denise stranded in hospitals. These patients represent almost 10 per cent of all our hospital beds. That is a hospital the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital out of commission every day of the year.

Queensland is not alone. Stranded patients are hurting health systems across the country. Health ministers, including Labor ministers from South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia, stood with me in Perth to take this failure up to the Commonwealth. This failure means pressure mounts

everywhere else in our hospitals. It slows patients moving from EDs to wards and increases ambulance ramping. It congests the system and, most importantly, it is unsafe for patients. It is not the care they neither need nor deserve.

This issue is not the fault of patients. The fault lies squarely at the feet of the Commonwealth. While the Commonwealth dithers, in Queensland we have been pulling every lever possible to improve ambulance ramping, including: the 2,600 beds that will be delivered under the Hospital Rescue Plan; an \$80 million investment in transit lounges in our state's busiest EDs; and \$270 million for the announcement of nine new CT and six new MRI scanners throughout the state. As we will not ignore patients like Denise, Queensland is also fully funding 515 interim care beds at a cost of \$581 million over two years.

We are prepared to talk to the Commonwealth. We are prepared to negotiate, but the Commonwealth must step up and come to the party. The Crisafulli LNP government is doing the heavy lifting and it is time the federal government started doing some lifting itself for the sake of patients like Denise McAuley and the thousand more who are stranded in our hospitals.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have been advised that the Hon. Neil Roberts, former member for Nudgee, is in the gallery. Welcome.

### Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.44 am): I associate myself with the remarks of the honourable Premier and Minister Nicholls in relation to the passing of Mr Ian Leavers. Ian and I worked very well together when I was the attorney-general and he was the Police Union president and more recently as the Cross-Border Commissioner.

The Crisafulli government is squarely focused on the delivery of essential infrastructure for all Queenslanders after a decade of decline under the former Labor government whereby projects were not delivered on time, on budget or at all. Queenslanders had come to expect infrastructure in a dilapidated state under the former government that failed to maintain our roads, railways, hospitals and community facilities to the standard which our growing state needs and deserves. They will not forget the former Labor government boasting in this place about the so-called 'Big Build', which we revealed was nothing more than a 'Big Hoax', with projects underfunded and undeliverable.

Do not take my word for it. That was the assessment of the independent Sangster review into Queensland's hospital and health infrastructure pipeline, with projects announced by the former Labor government which, if they had proceeded in the form in which we inherited them, would not have been able to be delivered and which would have left more Queenslanders unable to receive life-saving care. Thanks to the Crisafulli government, and the work of Minister Nicholls, our Hospital Rescue Plan is being implemented to ensure a responsible capital works program will deliver more beds, new hospitals and a standard of care which Queenslanders rightfully expect.

When Queenslanders see this government, they know that we will stand up for their interests, particularly when Canberra are not paying their fair share. The Leader of the Opposition and his deputy never stood up to their Labor mates in the federal government to ensure that Queensland got what it is entitled to—even the very dramatic flight to Canberra pretending to be on 'Team Queensland' securing nothing other than—

**Mr O'Connor:** The great lunch at the Press Club.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The free lunch he got and listening to Kevin Rudd's daughter launch her new book.

We saw Queensland Labor roll over on 50-50 funding for the Bruce Highway—something this government could not accept. We have also done deals with the federal Albanese government on education and the infrastructure for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. While our government has worked with the federal government in the best interests of Queenslanders, the Commonwealth have another thing coming if they think we will not come back and fight for Queensland's fair share of funding for health infrastructure, particularly as far as aged-care beds and facilities are concerned. The delivery of Queensland's record \$116.8 billion capital pipeline will require more than just funding; it will require productivity to return to Queensland worksites as well.

I congratulate the health minister on the capital investment of \$18.5 billion across five years into the Hospital Rescue Plan that he has implemented in his short time as health minister. There is: \$3.159 billion for the new Timely Investment Infrastructure Maintenance program, uplifting the base capital allowance for the first time since 2010 despite the asset base increasing from \$9 billion to

\$30 billion; \$2.647 billion in new funding; \$355 million in new funding for Labor's underfunded commitments on the Building Rural and Remote Health Program; \$146 million in new funding for Labor's underfunded commitments on the Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program; and \$5.592 billion in new funding to address the cost overruns on Labor's failed hospital capacity expansion program so that these projects and beds can be delivered. Now it is time for the federal government to put their money where their mouth is and front up and protect Queensland Health patients just as the Crisafulli government has done under the leadership of the Premier and health minister Nicholls.

### **Federal Labor Government, Disability Services**



**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) (9.49 am): As the minister responsible for six portfolios across the human services sector, every single day it is my role to ensure the state's most vulnerable are taken care of, that they are heard, and that we are doing all we can to support them. Whether it is ensuring that we are fixing the broken child safety system inherited from those opposite or it is bringing into this House new legislation to protect victim-survivors of domestic and family violence or whether it is helping Queenslanders get back on their feet after a weather event, we are committed to our state's most vulnerable.

When I see thousands of Queenslanders and their families being taken advantage of, children's lives upended, anxiety being expressed by carers and parents because, at a federal level, Canberra are only seeing the dollar signs on a spreadsheet, as a state we will not be silent. If we allow the Commonwealth government to make changes to the NDIS unchecked, as they are trying to, our state and our children will be worse off. The Crisafulli government will not allow Queenslanders to be short-changed by the federal government on this crucial funding. This goes right back to when federal health minister Mark Butler stood up at a Press Club conference and announced Thriving Kids without any consultation of states, including those of his own party. They are trying to strongarm states and territories, sideline disability ministers and silence the advocates of those from the disability sector in the interests particularly of children when it comes to foundational supports.

Thriving Kids will shift children with mild disabilities, including children with mild autism, off the NDIS. There has been no detail and no consultation, leaving children and families in limbo. What the federal government is proposing is not aligned with Queenslanders and their needs. We have been serious about our negotiation in good faith with the federal government, and we have serious reservations about their modelling and the gaps that will exist for people with disabilities.

At the time the federal government made the Thriving Kids announcement, demanding a substantial contribution by states and territories, disability ministers were blindsided, as were states, and while I can imagine that perhaps being a federal minister down in Canberra is time-consuming, and perhaps no minister or staffer had time to pick up the phone to anyone across the state jurisdictions to advise they were off-loading their responsibilities of the NDIS, what I cannot imagine, and what I will not accept, is a plan that is presented to Australians who are living with disability that short-changes them and leaves them vulnerable with system gaps. We cannot in good conscience accept any reality where disability ministers are taken out of a conversation of reform to the NDIS so that the Commonwealth can tie hospital funding to disability supports and leave disability participants out in the cold. The NDIS is too important for changes to be made that affect thousands of Queenslanders and their families without their best interests at heart, and we continue to negotiate in good faith.

It is a national problem requiring a national solution and that is why my interstate colleagues and I united in saying no to the Prime Minister's plan to short-change our health systems and also leave those with disabilities vulnerable. Despite all of this, I recently met with federal and state disability ministers and we were eager to negotiate, but to my disappointment, the meeting provided little clarity around foundational supports or, in fact, Thriving Kids. We are no better off in understanding what this structure looks like. I would go so far as to say that the concerns raised were completely disregarded by the federal government, and that is not acceptable to the Crisafulli government nor to Queenslanders.

I want to be clear to Queenslanders who live with a disability: we will continue to support and advocate on your behalf, but we want to make sure our state gets its fair share. I have full confidence in the Minister for Health in negotiating our state's best deal when it comes to health services and, as disability services minister, together we will do all we can to ensure that the federal government does not short-change those with disabilities.

### **Federal Labor Government, GST**



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.53 am): The Crisafulli government is doing everything it can to ensure patients receive the health care they need and deserve, however funding for the NDIS and aged care is the responsibility of the Albanese government. It must fix a critical shortage of aged and disability care beds. These are Queenslanders occupying beds in hospital and health services who have been medically cleared for discharge but remain in hospital. More than 1,000 Queenslanders are currently stranded in hospitals. That is a hospital the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital out of our system every day. There are 85 stranded patients occupying beds in Townsville health and hospital facilities, 64 on the Gold Coast, 102 on the Darling Downs, 109 in the Far North, 74 on the Sunshine Coast and 90 stranded patients in Wide Bay hospital and health facilities. The Albanese government must do their job.

It is the same with the GST. In the last decade, the national GST pool has grown by 75 per cent, while Queensland's GST revenue has only grown 28 per cent. To contrast, New South Wales GST revenue grew 58 per cent, Victoria 118 per cent and Western Australia 317 per cent. It means in real terms Queensland will receive less GST revenue in 2025-26 than it did in 2015-16, despite the growing national GST pool and the increase in Queensland's need.

The current federal Productivity Commission inquiry into GST revenue, which began in September, was the Albanese government's opportunity to right this wrong. However, the terms of reference issued by that government and federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has been severely narrowed from those which were unanimously agreed to by all state and territory treasurers, and the inquiry will no longer take the holistic view needed to drive national productivity and provide a truly fair distribution of revenue between the states.

The Commonwealth has restricted its review to the operation of the 2018 legislation and does not include an evaluation of how the broader GST system impacts outcomes. Given the confined terms of reference for the federal review, today I announce I have directed the Queensland Productivity Commission to analyse and assess the economic impacts of Australia's GST distribution system on Queensland and the implications for the state to deliver essential services and infrastructure. Queensland will once again do the heavy lifting. I am going to table those terms of reference for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2025: Section 38, Direction regarding Economic Impacts of Australia's GST Distribution System on Queensland.

How can a methodology be fair if it creates fiscal disincentives for states to make good policy decisions and support industries like gas and coal that build national wealth? How can the federal Albanese government abandon the original intent of the GST and fail to recognise the unique challenges posed by Queensland's decentralised population? If the Albanese government and Jim Chalmers will not ask the right requests of their Productivity Commission, we will ask the right questions of ours. If the Albanese government, Jim Chalmers and those opposite will not fight for Queensland's interests, then we will on this side of the House. If those opposite just bow down to their mates in Canberra, then we will stand tall for the interests of all Queenslanders.

## Procurement



**Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.57 am): I rise to update the House on one of the most significant economic reforms undertaken by the Crisafulli government—the launch of our new Queensland Procurement Policy, the biggest shake-up to government procurement in decades. Under Labor, the government procurement system involved more than 700 pages of red tape, spread across nearly two dozen duplicative, confusing documents, documents so complex and inconsistent that many small and family businesses did not even bother trying to get government work. Labor's procurement approach meant higher costs, fewer local jobs and slower project delivery. That is why we have delivered a complete overhaul. I will table a copy of our new procurement policy which comes into effect on 1 January 2026.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Report titled 'Queensland Procurement Policy 2026'.

The QPP 2026 is a complete reset of how government buys goods and services. That matters because every year that value totals more than \$35 billion. We have replaced hundreds of pages of duplication with a single, 50-page, plain-English central policy that puts results ahead of red tape and opens more doors for Queensland businesses than ever before.

Under QPP 2026, it will be easier than ever to do business with government in Queensland. We put small and family businesses at the heart of our approach. Through QPP 2026, we have embedded

our target for 30 per cent of government spend to be with small and medium enterprises into our central policy, not off to the side as an afterthought. We are driving outcomes with our new purposeful public procurement approach, allowing agencies to allocate clear portions of major tenders to economic, environmental and social outcomes, including opportunities for First Nations businesses, social enterprises and suppliers employing people with disability.

I want to highlight one of the most important and nation-leading reforms that we have included in our new government procurement approach: our commitment to Queensland's veterans. Queensland is home to more veterans than any other state in the nation. They bring with them unique skills: proven leadership, discipline, problem-solving abilities and the ability to perform under pressure. They are exactly the qualities that can help us deliver high-quality projects and services for all Queenslanders.

For the first time anywhere in Australia, our QPP 2026 allows government agencies to allocate five to 10 per cent of a major tender's evaluation criteria directly to veterans outcomes. That means taxpayer dollars will be able to support businesses owned by veterans, businesses that employ veterans and help them transition to civilian life and businesses that support veterans and veterans organisations. It is a practical way to help those who have served.

There is one thing that is not included in our new Procurement Policy: BPIC—Labor's CFMEU tax. We have permanently removed Labor's costly BPICs from government procurement to restore fairness, competition and productivity to our construction sector. Declining productivity since 2018 cost Queensland 77,000 homes, led to billions of dollars in blowouts and locked out tens of thousands of tradies and subbies from competing for government projects. Scrapping BPICs means Queensland contractors, especially regional contractors, are back in the game.

Finally, our new Queensland Procurement Policy replaces the punitive and duplicative ethical supply mandate with the new procurement assurance model. It is all about rewarding good performance and lifting standards across the supply chain instead of punishing minor administrative errors. QPP 2026 delivers a procurement system that respects taxpayers' money, backs Queensland businesses, restores productivity and ensures Queensland is ready to seize all of the opportunities ahead.

### **Procurement; Customer Services**



**Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.02 am): The Crisafulli LNP government will always put small and family business first. It is in our DNA. That is why under the new Queensland Procurement Policy 2026 small and family businesses will be at the heart of how the government buys goods and services with clear targets, less paperwork and greater transparency for taxpayers. Queensland now has a clear policy that sets a target of 30 per cent of annual government procurement spend with small and medium enterprises, cuts red tape and makes it simpler, fairer and easier for businesses to bid for work. We are committed to making it easier for small and family businesses to tender for government work, with simplified procurement processes, standardised contracts and more tendering opportunities.

We are also taking a small and family business first approach to working across all government agencies to raise awareness, build capability and reduce complexity. The Crisafulli government's Queensland Procurement Policy 2026 is in stark contrast to Labor's 700 pages of policy that were overly complicated and filled with red tape that shut out small and family business. I thank Minister O'Connor and the Department of Housing and Public Works for delivering the Queensland Procurement Policy 2026. I thank Minister Mander and the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games for delivering the 2032 games procurement program, prioritising early engagement and preparation for small and family business to deliver a world-class event. That is a gold medal effort. Well done!

It was great to join the member for Redlands, Rebecca Young; the member for Oodgeroo, Amanda Stoker; and the member for Capalaba, Russell Field, along with representatives from their local small and family business community, to discuss Olympic and Paralympic procurement. I look forward to joining members and the business community in North Queensland in the coming weeks to discuss opportunities ahead of 2032.

While we are getting on with the job of delivering for small and family businesses and the outstanding customer service that Queenslanders deserve, we continue to have to circle back and clean up Labor's mess. Following the transition of many customer service functions to the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business on 1 July this year, a review of online services identified a failure that occurred back in December 2020. Perhaps the member for Miller would like to know what was happening right under his nose.

It is another failure by this member. This time it is related to driver's licence holders who have a medical condition, such as diabetes or epilepsy, and are required to have a current medical certificate at the time of renewal. The failure continued under the member for Aspley when he toppled the member for Miller in late 2023. Importantly, it took my department four months to pick up this failure—something those opposite failed to do in four years. Two failed Labor ministers oversaw this massive mess. This failure allowed 17,000 current driver's licence holders to renew their licence online without a medical clearance recorded. We are, yet again, tidying up Labor's mess. We are sending out communications, including emails, letters and SMS messages, to customers affected by this error in a coordinated approach with clear instructions on how to submit a valid medical certificate. This has only been an issue for licence holders with certain medical conditions who were renewing online.

As I said, this failure has been in place since 2020. It is yet another failure in a long list of missteps by former minister Bailey and former minister Mellish. Rest assured, we are now getting on with the job of fixing, yet again, Labor's failures and working with affected customers in a calm and methodical way to ensure their details are up to date. Queenslanders can rest assured that, while we are cleaning up the considerable mess left by former Labor ministers, we are getting on with the job of delivering a vastly improved customer service experience.

### **Townsville City Council**



**Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (10.07 am): I wish to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Ian Leavers following his passing.

Over the weekend we have seen democracy in action in Townsville. The people of Townsville made it clear they wanted to put an end to the chaos of the previous 19 months—chaos that brewed under Labor's watch. We all know that sad story: month after month went by and Labor did nothing, but a few hours before going into caretaker mode they wanted to be seen to be doing something. I am told the opposition leader and the former minister for local government could not agree on what to do. They ended up sending the former mayor a show cause notice riddled with errors. Lucky for Queenslanders, the Labor chaos is over. Now, because of the actions we have taken, Townsville gets to put that sad chapter behind them.

The people of Townsville have spoken decisively and given our former colleague in this place Mr Dametto a resounding mandate to make Townsville great. As the Premier said, Nick will bring the local leadership that Townsville needs and Townsville deserves. I also want to thank the ECQ staff who worked very hard in the short run-up to deliver residents a fair and open by-election and the opportunity to have their say. It was a postal ballot, and that has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars of ratepayers' money that can now be spent on delivering services for the community of Townsville.

### **Justice System, Bail Laws**



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.09 am): I as well would like to associate myself with the Premier's comments regarding the tragic passing of Mr Ian Leavers. I worked closely with Ian in his role as the Cross-Border Commissioner, especially for the border communities of Goondiwindi and Mount Isa. He was a fierce leader and a champion for police and community safety.

Last week Queensland played host to the Standing Council of Attorneys-General which saw my fellow attorneys-general from every jurisdiction come together to discuss issues of mutual concern. One topic placed on the agenda by the Albanese government was a highly contentious report which recommended that states and territories water down our bail laws. The Bail and Remand Reform Working Group report recommended that imprisonment be treated explicitly as a 'last resort' and that states and territories should expand presumptions in favour of bail particularly for young offenders, and proposed the removal of breaching bail offences.

I want to be crystal clear with Queenslanders: we will not be weakening our bail laws. In fact, representatives of some parts of Queensland, including our candidate in Hinchinbrook, Wayne Chiesa, are calling for the exact opposite—strengthening our bail laws. The Crisafulli government has already demonstrated we are willing to take bold action to turn the tide on youth crime after a decade of decline under Labor. We are seeing early results with a 6.5 per cent reduction in victim numbers, and we know more needs to be done.

The recommendations in Labor's report are completely at odds with the approach we have taken to tackle youth crime and repeat offending. Queensland did not endorse this report at SCAG. In the

end, the states and territories agreed only that the document could be released publicly but without any endorsement. It is important to understand that individual jurisdictions must be able to determine their own bail laws based on the needs of their communities. Our position has not and will not shift.

The Crisafulli government has acted decisively on Adult Crime, Adult Time and we will not apologise for prioritising community safety. If the Albanese government and the state Labor opposition believe they can pressure Queensland into going soft on crime, they are mistaken. While other jurisdictions—

**Mr Bleijie:** Labor.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—other Labor jurisdictions are now inching closer to the tough-on-crime stance that our government takes, we remain focused on keeping Queenslanders safe. We will not hesitate to strengthen our laws if this is what needs to happen. The Crisafulli government will stay the course and maintain our tough approach, and we will always put the safety of Queenslanders first.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

### Comments by Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (10.12 am): At the outset the Labor opposition also wishes to place on the record our acknowledgement of the sad passing of Mr Ian Leavers and express our condolences to those close to him.

On a personal explanation, on 29 October 2025 the member for Currumbin criticised me for not at that time having spoken on a question during government business, pointing to the speaking list circulated in the House. I submit to the House that the ways a member can state their position on legislation is not only by adding themselves on speaking lists, which are an administrative tool to support the functioning of the House. I understood that this was reinforced in a long-observed Speaker's ruling that members should not be criticised for their absence during debate.

Notwithstanding that ruling, I felt that the speaking list was weaponised against me whilst I was present in the House. I do not speak on every question before the House, as clearly the business of parliament would grind to a standstill if we all took that approach. I and others exercise judgement about when a contribution adds value, and the procedures of the House recognise that. Finally, I wish the record to reflect that no remarks made by other members on that or any other question have influenced my decision to speak or otherwise.

### Comments by Government Members

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (10.13 am): I rise to make a personal explanation. On 30 October government members weaponised the debate on Daniel's Law for political tactics, attacking opposition members, including myself by name, for choosing not to speak on the debate, questioning my commitment to child safety. This was poor form and below the standards that we should accept in our parliament.

Speaking lists are administrative tools used for the working of the House by the whips and the Speaker to assist the working of the parliament, not something that we should be weaponising for political attack. The government failed to consider why a member may remain silent on legislation. Debates on some bills may require members to relive personal trauma. Survivors should never be forced to publicly share their trauma and experience as proof of their commitment to justice.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the members for Sandgate and Springwood, I submit to you that they are not totally compliant with the requirements in relation to personal explanations. There is content that is being submitted here in relation to debating certain elements, as well as criticism of members opposite in relation to those things—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Dr ROWAN:** My point of order relates to the adherence and compliance with personal explanation aspects, and I ask you to consider that matter.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The convention of this place is that members are entitled during personal explanations to provide their personal perspective on something that relates

to them and do that in a concise fashion. There is no question before the House, so this is not a matter of—

**Mr Bleijie:** Nothing concise about you.

**Mr de BRENNI:** If I could finish, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am not taking the Deputy Premier's interjections, Mr Speaker. I reiterate there is no question before the House, so this is not a matter of debate. I submit to you that the members are fulfilling their obligations under the conventions.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Personal explanations should be very short. They are already getting too long. They should not include attacks and they are not an opportunity to debate the issue.

**Ms ASIF:** I am happy to finish. Mr Speaker, the point I was making is that the opposition was clear from the start that we were going to support the bill, yet members chose to attack and specifically name members of the opposition. If we establish this precedent and create a parliament where trauma becomes a political weapon—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, no. That is not a personal explanation. You are once again debating.

**Ms ASIF:** They named me, Mr Speaker, so I wish to make this point. It is unacceptable and I would submit to the House that—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms ASIF:** You personally attacked me for choosing not to speak!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, resume your seat.

**Mr Mander:** Get used to it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have two things before we go any further. Member for Pine Rivers, that interjection was totally out of order. You are warned.

**Ms Boyd:** It wasn't me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It wasn't you? It came from over there.

**Ms ASIF:** Mr Speaker, I take personal offence. I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order is that the member for Everton—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have a point of order over here.

**Dr ROWAN:** My point of order is that there has been clear direction and instruction given to the member for Sandgate. Then there were not only persistent reflections on the chair but also continuation of the content of which clear instruction and direction had been given to the member for Sandgate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on for one second. Member for Pine Rivers, I have taken advice and you did make an interjection, so the warning stands. Member for Sandgate, speak directly to your personal explanation. If there is any more debate or personal attacks, you will be sat down.

**Ms ASIF:** Mr Speaker, before I continue I would like to take a point of order. I take personal offence at something the member for Everton said. He said I should get used to it. I will not get used to—

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have taken personal offence to a comment made by the member for Everton. Member for Everton, I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Conclude very quickly please, member for Sandgate.

**Ms ASIF:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to stick to the facts. The fact is that I was attacked in this House for choosing not to relive my personal trauma and I think that is a precedent that should not be set in this place. We should hold it to a higher standard.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Sandgate continues to ignore your ruling and directions. I would submit to you that the member for Sandgate should be warned in relation to her continuing conduct.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you for your point of order. Member for Sandgate, I am going to conclude your contribution.

### Comments by Member for Coomera



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.19 am): Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, you have heard my ruling on what a personal explanation is.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Indeed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I expect you to stick very strictly to the guidelines.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I rise to make a personal explanation. On Thursday, 30 October the member for Coomera chose to specifically criticise me for not speaking during the debate on Daniel's Law. The inferences contained in that speech are inaccurate and I find them personally offensive. I was paired with a government minister on that day and the government was aware of this pairing arrangement. Accordingly, the member's specific criticism of me was arguably done in direct contravention of longstanding Speakers' rulings that members should not be reflected upon for their absence in the chamber.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, you are straying. I think you have made your point.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I submit that these circumstances raise a question about the government using administrative tools like speaking lists to arguably impact—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundamba, you will also resume your seat. You are done.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There has been clear direction given by you to all members of the House in relation to personal explanations; that is, they must be concise and to the point. In relation to the member for Bundamba, before he commenced his contribution you clearly asked him whether he was aware of your previous rulings in relation to other members. I submit to you again that the member for Bundamba should be warned on this occasion, given the flagrant disregarding of your rulings.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I have heard your point of order; you have just beaten me to it. Member for Bundamba, I was very clear in my instructions. You ignored them. You are warned.

### Comments by Government Members



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (10.21 am): Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algeria, you have also heard my instructions.

**Ms ENOCH:** Yes, Speaker. I do rise to make a personal explanation. During the debate on Daniel's Law at the parliamentary sitting week of 27 October, members of the government criticised me for not being on a speaking list, suggesting that I was obliged to speak or else be seen as not supporting the intent of the bill. Given the government's public commentary regarding victims, I would have expected government members, in particular the Minister for Victims, to assume a trauma informed approach to such a challenging issue. Whilst some members are comfortable with publicly sharing their personal trauma in this place, there are others, including myself, who are not.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit there is a deliberate and flagrant disregarding of the direction you have given to the House and members in relation to these issues. In relation to personal explanations, you have clearly stated the obligations all members—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I am being interjected on, Mr Speaker. I would submit to you in relation to my point of order that—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, you are now warned. What is your point of order?

**Dr ROWAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Algeria, you were arguing. I will give you one opportunity to conclude very quickly. Otherwise, you will be warned.

**Ms ENOCH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Both positions, as I outlined, should be respected given the complex nature and impact of childhood sexual abuse. Speaking lists are administrative tools that assist the Speaker in the running of the business of the House and should not be used to shame victims into speaking or question a member's decision to participate in debates.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, you are also warned.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.23 am.

### Hospitals, Ramping

 **Mr MILES** (10.23 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. In the wake of Christine White's tragic death, the Queensland Ambulance Service has released a video to educate paramedics to better advocate for patients on the ramp. Why do paramedics need to be trained to advocate for patients affected by the minister's cruel KPIs?

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was an imputation on the end of that. I would ask that you rephrase that question, member for Murrumba.

**Mr MILES:** I am happy to rephrase. In the wake of Christine White's tragic death, the Queensland Ambulance Service has released a video to educate paramedics to better advocate for patients on the ramp. Why do paramedics need to be trained to advocate for patients affected by the LNP government's new KPIs?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I will take that question. Of course, I refute all of the imputations made by the disgraceful Leader of the Opposition as he continues to weaponise the tragic death of Christine White. Queenslanders should be appalled at the lack of humanity and lack of care in base political terms from the Leader of the Opposition with respect to this. There is one KPI we are interested in, and that KPI is saving Queenslanders' lives. That KPI is delivering the best care that can be delivered by a system that was decimated by a decade of decline under those opposite. That decade saw waiting lists for elective surgery expand out of control, to almost 65,000, and there was no plan to deal with it.

What have we done? We have reduced that elective surgery waiting list by five per cent, and we have done it in a year as we promised. Queenslanders should know that under those opposite ambulance ramping rates reached 45 per cent and they had no plan to deal with it. Queenslanders know that our plan is to invest \$80 million in transfer lounges and, for the first time ever, an uplift in base funding for the Queensland Ambulance Service. For the first time since 2013, the Queensland Ambulance Service is getting more money out of this government than it got under a decade of Labor. We will be delivering 174 more ambulances in the next year alone, we will be building more ambulance stations and we will be employing more paramedics. That was disclosed during questioning at estimates, where neither the Leader of the Opposition nor the shadow health minister asked me one question. In three hours there was not one question. That approximately equates to the time and effort they put into advocating for Queensland with their mates in Canberra as the long-stay patients waiting list gets longer and longer.

Our Queensland ambulance officers do a fantastic job. I support them in doing everything they possibly can and to make sure they get out into the community and address those people who need their help as quickly as possible. That is why the ambulance response rate remains steady at 8.8 minutes per call on average. Last Friday I went with the Ambulance Service for three hours to look at what they are doing and to support our ambulance services. The Crisafulli government supports our ambulance officers and paramedics.

*(Time expired)*

### Redcliffe Hospital, Expansion

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I table a document which reveals that the contract for the Redcliffe Hospital's new 210-bed expansion will not be awarded until quarter 3 in 2026. Can the minister advise when the first patient will be treated in the expanded Redcliffe Hospital?

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 6 November 2025, titled 'Addendum No. 1' regarding the Redcliffe Hospital Expansion.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What a question, because it allows me to pull out my heavily thumbled view of 'Labor's Hospital Failures'—a compendium that gets larger by the day as we discover more and more

of their failures, including their failure to address the problem of stranded patients, including at the Redcliffe Hospital, who are driving the wait times that people experience. What we know in relation to the Redcliffe Hospital is that it was a program that was undeliverable in the shape and form that it had been proposed by those opposite. It was being delivered without an education service. It was being delivered at a cost of \$55,000 a day because they were unable to deal with a heritage issue regarding an artefact on that property. It was being delivered without a heap of services that were going to be necessary. What we have said—and I said it Monday week ago—is that we have now called for expressions of interest for the Redcliffe Hospital and we have actually awarded a contract for the delivery of the new car park. That was unable to be delivered by those opposite, and we are delivering it—

**Mr Bleijie:** They were going to do a tree house.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Exactly. I take that comment by the Deputy Premier. They were going to deliver a tree house there. We are delivering more car parks and we are delivering them—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The quarrelling across the chamber can cease.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We are delivering it at a cost—and they are not going to like this—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The quarrelling across the chamber will cease!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We are delivering 210 new overnight beds, which is six more than promised by Labor. We are delivering maternity, endoscopy and surgical services that had not been designed into the hospital by Labor. We are ensuring the safety of nurses, doctors and healthcare workers. We are avoiding the tree. We have appointed Richard Crookes Constructions and they are delivering the car park for \$13,000 a car parking space less than those over there. We are saving money and we are delivering almost 100 more car parking spaces. That contract has been awarded. The contract for the next stage of the Redcliffe Hospital will be awarded in September next year, as we said we would and as I announced 10 days ago.

There is no great surprise in the Leader of the Opposition's question. It just shows how lazy and incompetent they are and that they should pay more attention. It shows that they never had a plan that they could deliver for Queensland's hospitals.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Mr LISTER:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering safety where you live, and is the Premier aware of any alternatives that may be putting this at risk?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I want to thank the honourable member for Southern Downs for the question. I want to start by pointing out how much he has taken up the fight for his community, particularly in the border town of Goondiwindi. Goondiwindi was under siege under the former government, and no-one in the former government was prepared to accept responsibility. What happened is we had a town that was cowering in fear.

We have got a long way to go to get Goondiwindi back to that proud town it once was where people felt safe, but I can say that the early numbers are good. I can reveal to the House today that, in the first 12 months of our government, break and enters in Goondiwindi are down by about a third and stolen cars are down by about a quarter. That is within 12 months. I want to say to the people of that proud border town that more help is coming. We are determined to make sure that we restore safety to the great people of that border town.

The member asked about addressing the youth crime crisis and how we have gone about it. We have done it through stronger laws, early intervention, rehabilitation with purpose and more police. They are four things the former government could never get right, and they could not get it right because their heart was not in the changes that needed to be made. Since the start of this year, in the first nine months, victim numbers are down 6.5 per cent. That fall is a direct result of those factors.

I say to the community that we understand how much work needs to be done, and I will reveal to Queensland why so much work needs to be done. It is because in the decade of decline under those opposite victim numbers increased by 193 per cent: 193 per cent! In the two areas that I always keep

an eagle eye focus on—which are the two crimes that are most heavily dominated by youth criminals—break and enters grew at twice the population rate and stolen cars increased by 101 per cent during the decade of decline.

Mr Speaker, if you want to know why we have seen that first reduction, why we have seen victim numbers fall and why, across the board, people have reached the realisation that stronger laws need to be part of the solution, I point to Victoria as an example. When you have a left-wing government like Victoria acknowledging what has happened here, you know that something needs to be done. There is one political movement that does not agree with Adult Crime, Adult Time and it is the Queensland Labor opposition. I point to this headline: 'Steven Miles'—the member for Murrumba—'not drawn on whether future Labor government would keep adult crime, adult time laws'. The reason for that is he is hanging by a thread. He is propped up by the radical left wing. He does not believe in adult crime. He does not believe in adult time for it. He does not believe in more police, nor early intervention. He presided over a youth crime crisis and they do not have their heart in fixing it.

*(Time expired)*

### **Townsville University Hospital, Expansion**

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise when a contract will be awarded and works on the delayed hospital expansion at Townsville will begin?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I refer the member for Woodridge to the Hospital Rescue Plan, a document that was necessitated by the abject failure of the member for Woodridge as Treasurer to adequately fund and provide the money that was necessary not only for the Townsville Hospital but for the Coomera Hospital, the Bundaberg Hospital, the Toowoomba Hospital, the Mackay Hospital and the Redcliffe Hospital. There are many more I could mention. I have a booklet on them here in my 'Labor's Hospital Failures' document and they have all been—

**Mr Minnikin:** Volume 2?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I think I may need volume 2. It may be coming; I will be working on it. They are all listed here in the Hospital Rescue Plan.

What do we know about the Townsville Hospital? We know that we will be providing 165 new beds, which is 22 more than were provided for by Labor. We will be doing it in a staged development and a pathway to make sure they can be delivered. We will also be delivering a multistorey car park, which will be procured immediately under a simplified delivery model that will deliver greater value with more car parks sooner. The members for Townsville and surrounds ought to be congratulated for advocating strongly for that area.

We have done that because of Labor's failures, and what were those failures? There was a \$500 million cost blowout. It went from \$530 million to \$1.029 billion under the member for Murrumba, under the member for Woodridge and under the member for Waterford—the three worst health ministers in Queensland's history. It was delayed at least two years. It only included 70 per cent of clinical requirements. There was no pharmacy, there was no sterilising department and there was no link bridge between the new components and the old part of the hospital so you could not get from part A to part B because there was no corridor or link bridge to join them together. There were no site investigations and no identification of asbestos and the underlying ground conditions. That is why I have a very large book called 'Labor's Hospital Failures', and that is why we put together the Hospital Rescue Plan.

I simply say to those opposite: you just wait and see. When those cranes start swinging, when that concrete starts pouring and when those beds start delivering, you will see what a competent government can do, not an incompetent government who failed to plan and failed to deliver and were more interested in headlines than hospital beds.

### **Community Safety**

**Mr LEE:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. What is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering to keep Queenslanders safe, and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches that would put Queenslanders at risk?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Of course, I give a big shout-out to the honourable member for Hervey Bay—someone, on behalf of all of the Wide Bay, we can thank for his strong action on crime. Under a decade of decline under those opposite, we saw things like the rate of stolen cars going up 101 per cent. We know that juvenile crime rates skyrocketed under the decade of decline. What has the

Crisafulli government done? We have delivered on our key election promise—that is, Adult Crime, Adult Time. It is important to know that victim numbers are also down 6.5 per cent across the state. We know that more needs to be done and we are not going to sit back and just wring our hands.

When the member for Hervey Bay talks about crime in his electorate, he knows it is going down; he knows that Queenslanders are starting to feel safer, thanks to the Crisafulli government. I know that the people of Hervey Bay are frightened out of their wits at the thought of the former Labor government getting back in again. We know that the member for Murrumba has been very clear to all of those opposite, saying, 'No. 1, don't acknowledge that crime was a problem. No. 2, let's not talk about it. No. 3, let's not have any plans for crime.' Their heads are down. We know why. The shadow attorney-general was nowhere to be seen when her federal counterparts were trying to rip up the strong bail laws. We know that the Labor conference is coming up. I thought this was interesting. There was a very good article in the *Australian* which states—

There's not a sniff of any new ideas about youth crime, the thorny policy issue that helped sink the Palaszczuk-Miles governments ...

Interestingly, the article goes on—

... the Policy Coordination Council—

of the Labor Party—

got a stern warning from Opposition Leader Steven Miles's office to give youth justice a wide berth.

I wonder who is doing that. That is right: it is the former member for Pumicestone, who is trying to roll the former police minister. He probably tried to do something on crime but the opposition leader could not do anything. They go on further—

"We don't want to touch anything to do with youth justice, or anything really controversial ...

There is obviously only one side of this House that wants to stand up for Queenslanders and that is the Crisafulli government. I thought it was fascinating when I read this—

The leader's office is ruling with an iron fist. I get the vibe it's going to be a very controlled conference ...

It will not be about keeping Queenslanders safe; that is for sure.

*(Time expired)*

### Yeronga Child and Youth Mental Health Service

**Mr BAILEY:** My question is to the Minister for Health. As treasurer under former premier Newman, the minister allowed the closure of the Barrett adolescent centre without replacement with tragic consequences. Why has the minister decided to close the child and youth mental health clinic at Yeronga when the minister knows the risks of doing so?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, the member is misleading the House and I will be writing to you directly in relation to that. The member has form. We remember the member for Miller—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the minister in relation to me and I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member has taken personal offence.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, in respect of the member for Miller's statements in this House because they are mistruths. The history will show that the member for Miller has perpetrated mistruths in this place and in public including in relation to, infamously—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, I take personal offence at the comments made by the minister and I ask that he withdraw and even answer the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, the member has taken personal offence.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I withdraw and I will be writing to you directly in relation to the comments made by the member for Miller in relation to the falsity of the statements made by the member for Miller. I will also be happy to answer the question.

The member for Miller is telling a mistruth to this House. No service has been cancelled. I visited the service. The service is being provided by the Child and Youth Mental Health Service at Mount Gravatt, as it was meant to be. Of course, the member for Miller is not telling everyone the whole story; that is, an election promise they made in 2020 had not been fulfilled. In four years in office they actually

had not delivered—and it was in the member for Miller's own electorate. The cost of a facility that they promised at \$8.7 million had blown out to more than \$39 million. But wait—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bailey:** On time, on budget.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, you know what I am going to say. You are warned under the standing orders. I was on my feet.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** On time, on budget!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, I had just called the House to order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It was promised at \$8.5 million, \$39 million is the budget and it was not going to be delivered until 2027. In addition, it was going to be 4½ thousand square metres at \$8½ million. It was 950 square metres at \$39 million. It has gone up four times in price, it is now a quarter of the size and there is eight years for delivery. That is the member for Miller's record and we know it all too well. Whether it is the Cross River Rail or whether it is delivering the trains, that is the member for Miller's record. We are delivering more spaces. We are delivering four more spaces, including four at Taringa—a total of 20 child and youth mental health service and eating disorder spaces. We are delivering after a decade of Labor decline.

### Victims of Crime

**Mr VORSTER:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Minister for Corrective Services. What has the Crisafulli LNP government delivered to reduce the number of victims, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs GERBER:** I want to thank my neighbour, my good friend the member for Burleigh, for the question. The member for Burleigh himself has fought for some of the policies that have helped reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. He supported and fought for Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. He supported putting the rights of victims before the rights of offenders, and he has supported early intervention and more investment in rehabilitation programs. Those are the things the Crisafulli government is doing to help see fewer victims of crime in this state. Queenslanders voted for a fresh start and that is exactly what we are delivering, and we will not stop until Queenslanders feel safe again in their home.

Under the Crisafulli government, youth committing serious crimes are finally being held to account and we are starting to see the impact of those laws. Our strong Adult Crime, Adult Time laws are starting to see fewer victims of crime in this state. After a decade of decline under the Labor government there is still a long way to go, and what do we hear from the Labor Party in Queensland? We heard that the Labor Leader of the Opposition will not commit to keeping Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

We remember how divided they were when we introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time. Do honourable members remember the caucus chaos—those opposite threatening to defect from the Labor Party because they simply could not support Adult Crime, Adult Time? Now we see a recent social media post by the member for Cooper. To paraphrase, here is what the member for Cooper said about Adult Crime, Adult Time just yesterday: 'Interventions like Adult Crime, Adult Time are exacerbating the problem and creating more victims.' We do not need any more proof than that post from a Labor member to establish that their entire plan is to weaken our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. That is a concerted effort by the Labor Party to unwind Adult Crime, Adult Time. The Leader of the Opposition has sent out his factional allies to soften the ground to weaken Adult Crime, Adult Time. Labor want to tear down the very reforms that Queenslanders voted for, the very reforms that are seeing fewer victims of crime in this state.

This is the same Labor Party that called the youth justice crisis a media beat-up, the same Labor Party that made detention a last resort, the same Labor Party that removed breach of bail as an offence. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government will not stop strengthening our laws. Stronger laws like Adult Crime, Adult Time, more police, greater investment in early intervention and

rehabilitation—that is how we will see fewer victims of crime in this state and the Labor Party simply do not support that.

*(Time expired)*

### **Mackay Base Hospital, Expansion**

**Ms ASIF:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister labelled claims the Mackay Hospital expansion was on pause as a scare campaign. Can the minister confirm that construction is on pause as the builder packs up onsite?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Sorry, Mr Speaker, but I could not hear the last bit. Would the member mind repeating the question? I could not hear the detail of the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, I struggled to hear it as well. Could you repeat the question please?

**Ms ASIF:** I am happy to repeat the question. My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister labelled claims the Mackay Hospital expansion was on pause as a scare campaign. Can the minister confirm that construction is on pause as the builder packs up onsite?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I can confirm that Mackay was one of the hospitals that was failed to be delivered by Labor after more than a decade of decline. It features highly in the Sangster report as undeliverable, both within the timeframes and within the cost parameters that are provided. Mr Sangster made a recommendation that that project should not proceed and that that contract should not continue. The government in fact did not accept that recommendation. The government continued to work with the builder to progress that because we were aware of the needs. In the meantime, the member for Mackay and I jointly released the public consultation for the new car park and helipad at Mackay, and that work is continuing at a pace. In fact, HIQ was only in Mackay last week to discuss the new plans for the new car park in Mackay to deliver what had been ignored for far too long and which was never going to be delivered up there.

When we remember Mackay—and this is very serious—we remember the terrible maternity deaths that occurred under those opposite. They are all still there—13 maternity deaths under those opposite. They failed to believe patients, they failed to believe the mothers and they failed to take action for so long that they were finally shamed into doing it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When it comes to Mackay and dealing with those patients and the hospital in Mackay, those on the other side should hang their heads in shame. We are taking steps to ensure that those children's lives are remembered—

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—and that those mothers are remembered.

**Mr SPEAKER:** One person has the call. That is the minister. Minister, you have a minute left.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When it comes to Mackay, we are getting on with the job. We have released for public consultation the plans for the car park and the new helipad which had not been dealt with by those opposite. We are now redesigning the Mackay Base Hospital to accommodate the changes that are being spoken about with clinicians in order to be able to deliver it, on top of which we are also working to build the workforce in Mackay, which was left underfunded and which our workforce gap analysis also investigated. We are rebuilding Mackay after a decade of decline by those opposite, who put it in the too-hard basket.

Mr Speaker, while I have you here I want to address that question by the Leader of the Opposition earlier today when he talked about a video that had been circulated by the QAS. We support the QAS educating its 6,000-strong paramedic workforce and for over 12 months it has been doing education videos every Monday morning. Some of the topics it touches on—and I am happy to share the past three weeks—have included pain management, delirium and dementia—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am afraid your time has expired.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—advocating for patients, and this morning—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—leadership capability. I will send him a copy.

*(Time expired)*

**Ms Grace:** Sit down.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I go to the next question, I would remind all members that when the clock expires the time has expired.

### Youth Crime, Construction Sites

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is keeping construction sites safe from juvenile offenders, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches that put this at risk?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Thuringowa for the question, and I can answer it in the positive: yes, we will not only protect construction sites from juvenile offenders but all offenders—the misogyny, the sexism, the abuse, the fears, the threats, the intimidation equals the CFMEU and the Labor Party. I want to thank the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra because they were at the centre of Labor's youth crime crisis and a decade of decline under the Labor Party. North Queensland was the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis. It should send shivers down the spines of the electors of Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville that the Leader of the Opposition—the Labor leader—has not committed to keeping Adult Crime, Adult Time in this state if he is elected in 2028. That is a dangerous policy position, because in only 12 months we have seen a 6½ per cent reduction in victim numbers in this state. That will all be unwound if the Labor leader is re-elected as premier.

As the Premier referred to this morning, there have been news articles with headlines such as 'Steven Miles not drawn on whether future Labor government would keep adult crime, adult time laws'. I table a copy of that article.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media articles relating to adult crime, adult time laws and the former member for Pumicestone, Ms Ali King.

Another headline refers to the fact that Anthony Albanese backs Jacinta Allan's tough youth crime crackdown amid unease from left-wing Labor. Even the commie government in Victoria is supporting the LNP's tough stance on Adult Crime, Adult Time. I read an article in George Street Beat recently and it got my attention, not because the headline was 'Return of the King', which I am obviously interested in, but I got my Kings mixed up: this is the return of Ali King, the left-wing warrior who was beaten by Ariana Doolan.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Hear, hear! We know she is up on level 9 drafting the left-wing policies of a future Labor government. The article states—

GSB hears Ms King is laying the foundation for a tilt at Morayfield, a safe Labor seat held by former police minister Mark Ryan. Mark Ryan, the former minister, is quoted as saying—

... he was in it for the long haul and would run in ... 2028, 2032, 2036 and 2040 ...

He is the Opposition Whip and this is because the Leader of the Opposition has such a rabble in his fraternity. The member for Morayfield is quoted in the article—

'If Ali King is looking for a seat, she should look elsewhere,' he said.

How does the Opposition Whip deal with the policy when he cannot even get along with the opposition staff? Then of course we have Ali King in the *Australian* saying that she represented Mr Miles at the PCC, the Policy Coordination Council, where they said, 'We don't want to touch anything to do with youth justice.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That is a good idea, Mr Speaker, because when Labor touches youth justice crime goes up!

*(Time expired)*

### Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The finance minister slugged taxpayers for medicine, milk and a heat pack because she had a crook back on an overseas trip, and I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 18 November 2025, titled 'Bates milking perks of travel'.

For the benefit of all regional Queenslanders with crook backs who are forced to travel, will the minister immediately raise Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme payments?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When it comes to having a crook back, we have old Jelly Back over there having a crack at us.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, we will use correct titles in this House, please.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that the personal insult is unparliamentary and that the minister should—

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is up to the member to take personal offence if he wishes, not you. Did you rise there?

**Mr HEALY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am happy to withdraw, of course. In 2025-26, the Crisafulli LNP government made the largest contribution to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme in its history. We included an additional \$5 million boost to the PTSS and it will now stand at around \$123½ million. In 2024-25, eligible claims for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme totalled over 310,000 claims. We continue to support hospital and health services, including in the Cairns electorate, with additional funding for those patients who fall outside the strict eligibility criteria but still need support. We do that so that not only can they get there and get home again but also they can bring people with them—not just one extra person but often other members of their family—so that they can access that scheme. We continue to do that. There has been a lot of talk about the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and I have in fact commissioned Queensland Health—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** After a decade where nothing was done to simplify the process, I have commissioned Queensland Health to investigate how an app-based solution can be implemented to drive an easier experience for those people who need to access the Queensland Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. Over a decade, those opposite failed to change the system to make it easier. It still required reams of paperwork, referrals and cross-checking, taking up both clinician and patient time and administrative staff time. In fact, it got so bad that those opposite commissioned a \$700,000 report.

**Mr Stevens:** Where is it?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** 'Where is it?' you might say. It disappeared—never heard of. It was \$700,000 and two consultants for no report. They commissioned it, they paid the bill but they got no report. That is what those opposite did. The member for Miller knows, because he asked me a question on notice about it and I answered the question on notice. He should talk to the member for Cairns and tell him exactly what is going on. That is, after a decade of decline, Labor were failing rural and regional Queenslanders. It is only the Crisafulli LNP government that is making the investment to deliver easier access to health services no matter where you live, especially for rural and regional patients in Queensland.

### North Queensland, Infrastructure

**Mr JAMES:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the infrastructure that North Queenslanders deserve, and how does this differ to the approaches seen under a decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the member for Mulgrave for the question—the member who has delivered the Mount Peter PDA within 12 months of the Crisafulli government. It had not been approved under the former Labor government because they could not make decisions on housing and get housing out of the ground. This member, with his advocacy, has done it within 12 months. I want to thank all of the Far North Queensland members who joined me last week as we launched the Far North Queensland

Regional Plan. Again, something that Labor could not do over 10 years of decline we have done with the councils within a year.

Not only are the Far North Queensland members delivering for the people of Queensland; so is Wayde Chiesa for North Queensland. The Premier and I travelled recently to Hinchinbrook, where we stood with Wayde Chiesa and declared a provisional priority developmental area—the first in Queensland’s history—over Port Hinchinbrook. We will sort it out: bring economic benefit, value, tourism, hospitality opportunities and revitalisation of the small and medium family businesses in Cardwell and at the port of Hinchinbrook. The community loved it. I was shocked to see on the news that night the great announcement by the opposition leader, who went up there the same day. I have here a picture of the opposition leader.

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

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He said to the media, ‘North Queensland locals shouldn’t have to wait for a by-election to do something about that big concern.’ I agree. That is why the Crisafulli government have done it in a year. When he was the minister for state development he did not do anything about Port Hinchinbrook. He could have done it. There was 10 years of decline. He was in a senior leadership position in the Labor Party. If anyone was going to fix Port Hinchinbrook in 10 years, it would be the member for Murrumba. If he did not have the authority or the skill to do it when he was a minister, he certainly had it when he was the premier and he still did not do it. He did not use any lever possible. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘Port Hinchinbrook—7 New 10 November 2025’, depicting the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles MP.

The people of Hinchinbrook will not be fooled by Labor’s Katter candidate they have running up there. They have done a deal. I have looked at the how-to-vote cards that the Treasurer showed yesterday, with the dodgy deal between the Katter party and the Labor Party whereby Labor are preferencing the Katters. I have here the registered how-to-vote card on the ECQ website, with the big smiley face and the folded arms of the opposition leader. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘How to Vote Labor’ regarding the Hinchinbrook by-election, including a photograph of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles MP.

On the Labor Party website, they have taken the opposition leader off their how-to-vote card. I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘How to Vote Labor’ regarding the Hinchinbrook by-election.

What do they know in the Labor Party? The ECQ how-to-vote card would have to be pre-lodged, but now they have taken him off. What does Labor HQ know that no-one else knows? We know you are goneski!

*(Time expired)*

### **Banana Industry, Biosecurity**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Primary Industries. Australia is one of the few countries in the world free from major banana diseases. With imports from the Philippines being considered, this could jeopardise the \$1.3 billion banana industry and endanger 18,000 regional jobs. What action has the minister taken to protect the banana industry in Queensland against foreign imports?

**Mr PERRETT:** I thank the member for Hill for the question. The member for Hill knows the importance of the banana industry to this state, particularly to North Queensland and his electorate of Hill. The member also knows about Panama TR4 disease—the challenges that has presented the banana industry for a long period of time and the management that is required by banana growers to keep their fields as free from disease as they possibly can, to keep the bananas that we all love on our supermarket shelves. The member is right: this \$1.3 billion industry is extremely important. Over 90 per cent of bananas in Australia come from Queensland and support 18,000 local regional jobs.

The question around biosecurity and what we are doing is critical. I have made the importance of biosecurity to this government abundantly clear in this House. We will be backing in additional biosecurity officers across this state. Also critical is the work that the federal government do. This issue is in the remit of the federal government, as the member probably knows, in terms of import restrictions and disease control. Soon after federal Minister Collins announced that she would review the restrictions that sit around that, I immediately wrote to her. It is a fairly lengthy letter that I will table for the House’s benefit.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 September 2025, from the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Tony Perrett, to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Hon. Julie Collins, regarding the review of quarantine arrangements to allow the importation of bananas.

I went into great detail about why we need to be extremely cautious in and around the consideration of importing bananas into this country, particularly from countries like the Philippines and others that can create further risk to our important industry.

When I was in Canberra on 8 October I met with Minister Collins and raised with her the importance of protecting bananas. She was certainly aware of it. The Australian banana growers association had written to her and raised the issue, as you would expect. They have also written to me seeking a meeting. I have agreed to that meeting with Australian banana growers. I absolutely commit to this House and to the member for Hill that we are doing everything as a state not only to make certain the federal government are fully aware of the concern that is being raised but, more importantly, to make certain we do not put at risk an important horticultural crop in this state.

### **North Queensland, Road Infrastructure**

**Mrs POOLE:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government making our North Queensland roads safer and how does this compare to the previous decade of decline?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Mundingburra for her question. She is one of our hardworking members in the north, along with the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Burdekin. They are a hardworking team, united to deliver for North Queensland. We are delivering on our commitment to upgrading the roundabout at Angus Smith Drive in the electorate of the member for Mundingburra. I look forward to working with the new mayor of Townsville, Nick Dametto, on delivering that important upgrade for the entire Townsville community. It is that team that has delivered a \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway—the largest single investment in the Bruce Highway ever—delivered by the Crisafulli government on an 80-20 funding split, something those opposite said they were unable to do. They walked away. They went with a 50-50 split. They rolled over for Canberra. We delivered it within the first three months of coming into office and we are getting on with the job of delivering that work.

We have already started work up and down the Bruce Highway, with considerable work in the north. We have works at the Bootooloo Road area in the Burdekin electorate, pavement strengthening at Alligator Creek, pavement strengthening in Toomulla and Hencamp Creek—the Premier went there a number of months ago to inspect that work—and we have white centre line treatments at Dean Road and near Tully High School in the Hinchinbrook electorate. These are important works that will make the Bruce Highway safer and it is because of the advocacy of hardworking government members like the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa.

Yesterday the Treasurer announced that work will be commenced in relation to a \$10 million package of work.

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take the interjection from the former transport minister, who oversaw \$6.7 billion of overruns. That is the record of those opposite. They signed up to 50-50 funding on the Bruce Highway. They did not do a thing. He does not even know the Bruce Highway extends north of Noosa. We know the Bruce Highway goes north of Noosa. We know that the Bruce Highway needs money spent on it and needs to be upgraded from the goat track that we inherited from the Labor Party. Wayne Cheesa, the candidate for Hinchinbrook, knows that the Bruce Highway needs investment and knows that important stretches of road, like Woolcock Street, need to be upgraded. It is because of his advocacy and the advocacy of the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa that we are getting on with the job of delivering those important upgrades.

The people of Hinchinbrook have a choice when they go to the polls—and pre-polling has opened: they can vote for a pseudo-Labor candidate in the Katter member, Mark Molachino, a man who describes himself as having Labor values, a centre-left man who will do Labor's bidding here in Brisbane, or a hardworking, local fighter in Wayne Chiesa who is already delivering for the people of Hinchinbrook and for all North Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

### **Children, Hormone Therapy**

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Transcend Australia, supported by LNP elder Warren Entsch, has collected nearly 15½ thousand signatures after the minister banned new transgender health care in public hospitals. I table a copy of that petition on behalf of the transgender community.

*Tabled paper:* Non-conforming petition regarding reinstating healthcare for trans young people in Queensland.

Will the minister meet with representatives from Transcend Australia today to hear their concerns about the minister's ban firsthand?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for McConnel for her question and I acknowledge her longstanding interest in this matter. I am aware of the petition and that it was to be presented today. As members know, the government has taken action in what it believes to be the best interests of the protection of children following the revelations that were discovered in Cairns regarding the apparent unauthorised and unsupported delivery of gender services through the Cairns Sexual Health Service as part of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service. The investigations, which are ongoing in terms of the part 9 investigation, revealed at that early stage that children as young as 12 had been accessing prescription drugs—puberty blockers and hormone therapies—without adequate supervision. One of the reports, concerning, involved a child lining up at a pharmacy to receive those drugs.

When we received those reports and that information we took immediate action. We also commissioned, as we said we would, a review of the gender services in Queensland to provide advice to the government to allow the government to consider that and to make a policy decision in relation to the ongoing supply of those drugs, the puberty blockers and the hormone—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to relevance. The members of the relevant community are in the gallery now. The question was whether or not there would be a meeting with them today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister is being responsive to the matter raised, as I hear it. He still has a minute and 22 seconds on the clock.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I said, I acknowledge the petition, I acknowledge that the petitioners were delivering it today. I know that they have sought to meet with me.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This is an issue where we have been completely upfront and have told everyone exactly what is going on as it has happened. Two weeks ago in this House we respected and reported on the decision of the Supreme Court in relation to the health directive issued by the director-general. I reported on that when it immediately happened. I then took steps—

**Mr Power:** Is the Premier holding you back?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** How rude! I am trying to answer the question that was asked and provide the information around it. I reported on the comments made by Justice Callaghan and that is—

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

*(Time expired)*

### North Queensland, Manufacturing and Jobs

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. What has the Crisafulli LNP government done to safeguard and boost North Queensland manufacturing and jobs and is the minister aware of any instances where this was in jeopardy during a decade of decline?

**Mr LAST:** I thank the member for the question and for his advocacy, along with the members for Mundingburra and Thuringowa, and for the work that they continue to do in the Townsville community. Last week I hosted a delegation from the European Union. They did not choose Townsville by mistake. They chose Townsville because they see opportunity in that community—they see opportunity in the north-west. The feedback from those delegates, from those ambassadors, was overwhelmingly positive: the best reception that they have received in Australia.

The opportunities that are going to flow from that going forward are unlimited. If one looks at what we are doing in that community—the \$1.3 billion Graphinex project that last week the Deputy Premier

declared a prescribed project; Vecco and the copper refinery—manufacturing is on the rise in that community and there are opportunities in that space. It underlines the work that has been done in that community over many years and, more importantly, the credentials of those people who have advocated for that manufacturing, people like the former CEO of the Townsville and North-West Queensland RDA. Who would that be? Wayde Chiesa! He has had many years of advocating on behalf of that community. He was instrumental in bringing RDAs across Queensland together with our manufacturing team to drive forward an agenda of the development in Queensland.

However, the image that is imprinted on my mind at the moment is one from yesterday when former Labor mayor Jenny Hill and her former deputy mayor Mark Molachino were standing side by side. The band is back together in the north. There they were. I always thought it was the case that in Queensland each political party could put up only one candidate in an election but not in Hinchinbrook where two Labor members are standing. There were two Labor members standing side by side. Who could forget Jenny Hill and Mark Molachino driving Townsville into the ground? I contrast that with Wayde Chiesa. He is a fighter. He knows what he wants. He will deliver for the electorate of Hinchinbrook. The people of Hinchinbrook have an opportunity to put someone into this parliament from this side of the House, in government.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Someone who can get things done.

**Mr LAST:** I take that interjection; he will get it done. He will deliver for that community. I say to the Hinchinbrook community: vote for Wayde Chiesa, for delivery.

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

### Hospitals, Ramping

**Ms BOURNE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that the way paramedics record and report patient deterioration on the ramp is being reviewed following the tragic death of Christine White?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am happy to take that question from the honourable member in relation to the work that is being undertaken by our hardworking paramedics. We are supporting our paramedics entirely in the work that they do. We have done that, of course, by resolving their enterprise bargaining agreement without any protracted industrial action or delay. I am pleased to advise the House that, in conjunction with the minister for digital services, we will be ensuring that they receive their pay on Christmas Eve. Their increased pay for the work that they do will be in place by Christmas Eve. We are also supporting our paramedics by investing over half a billion dollars, which has not been provided before in their capital program, to ensure that they have not only the training they need but also the vehicles and the stations they need in order to respond to growing need in the community.

As we expect all responsible services would do, under the lead of the commissioner, the Queensland Ambulance Service undertakes reviews of the processes after every incident that results in something not proceeding as it ought to. There is no great surprise in that. That is why they conduct video sessions and video training sessions. For all of those reasons, we are determined to make sure that we are providing the services, that the Ambulance Service learns from things that have been done in the past and that we will continue to do so.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Integrity

**Mr McDONALD:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government governing with integrity and is the Attorney aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I very much thank the member for Lockyer. He is someone with a huge amount of integrity, as is everyone on this side of the House. We are running in the by-election for Hinchinbrook and we have put up a mighty candidate, Wayde Chiesa, who stands for Adult Crime, Adult Time and strengthening bail laws. However, what do we have on the other side of the ticket? We have Labor preferencing the Katters and the Katters preferencing Labor. The Katter candidate is a member of the Labor Party. Today we learned that we also have an unholy alliance between the Greens, Labor and the Katters because even the Greens are preferencing the Katters. What would happen to Adult Crime, Adult Time if those opposite got in? We know that the Katter candidate is a Labor candidate. We know that Jenny Hill supports him. Now we even have an unholy alliance with the Greens supporting the Labor Party and the Katters.

(Time expired)

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

## HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 30 October (see p. 3558), on motion of Mr Mickelberg—

That the bill be now read a second time.



**Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (11.24 am): I rise to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. This bill implements recommendations from the National Transport Commission which were supported by transport ministers across Australia. The objectives of these amendments are to improve safety and productivity, reduce regulatory red tape, improve regulatory functions and simplify administration of the law. It will achieve this by moving a range of prescriptive details into regulations. This will make it easier for industry to understand and comply with their obligations. It will be more flexible. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a government that works for you. That is why we welcome changes that can help reduce red tape and provide a simpler system to boost productivity and innovation, all without comprising safety.

Truck drivers keep our state moving. As the committee noted, without truck drivers Australia stops. They drive hundreds and even thousands of kilometres across the state in a range of weather conditions, traffic conditions and road conditions. The very nature of their job means they carry an enormous responsibility to be fit and healthy and not tired.

With its strong focus on safety, this bill expands the duty not to drive while fatigued to include a duty not to drive when unfit. This duty covers all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. Previously, the duty applied only to drivers of what are called ‘fatigue regulated heavy vehicles’, which are those greater than 12 tonnes. The expanded use of being unfit covers when a driver feels unwell and not fit enough to drive a vehicle safely. It also includes when they are affected by alcohol or drugs. The regulator told the committee hearing that the expanded duty also allows a driver to say no when an employer asks them or they feel pressured to drive when they feel they are not up to it.

Agricultural stakeholders raised some concerns about what is covered by the term ‘being unfit’, record-keeping requirements and rest periods. Many of AgForce’s membership of primary producers are also owner-operators or have contracting businesses. AgForce is a strong advocate for farm safety and safety across rural and regional communities. While AgForce supports the expanded duty changes, it raised with the committee some concerns about the definition of the term ‘unfit’. In its submission it stated—

... this could have broad unintended consequences to an industry that is already suffering driver shortages, should the definition overstep its intent.

The committee acknowledged concerns about the subjective interpretation of what is ‘unfit’ and how it will be measured and assessed. I note it encourages the minister, along with national colleagues, to monitor implementation of the expanded duty to ensure it achieves its intended outcomes and is fit for purpose.

Canegrowers also supported changes to reduce red tape and remove duplication; however, it had concerns about record-keeping obligations being placed on growers. While it recognised the importance of ensuring drivers were fit to drive, it submitted—

... any additional written compliance obligations especially on tractor combinations that travel only short distances would place an unnecessary burden on businesses in our industry, with limited safety benefits.

Canegrowers also sought clarification on how rest is accounted for when determining compliance with fatigue rules. It pointed out that in the sugar industry work stoppages are common, with haul-out drivers often stopping work due to delays in bin deliveries or mill stoppages. During this period, haul-out drivers exit the vehicle and may rest for periods that could extend into hours. Growers and operators need certainty and clarity that they are operating within the law.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advised the committee that the new duty does not impose an additional reporting or record-keeping burden on operators. They can be reassured that TMR also confirmed there had been no change to record-keeping requirements for cane haul-out operators driving within 100 kilometres of their base.

This bill improves the way minor and administrative fatigue breaches are managed. These include changes to warnings about fatigue management record-keeping breaches, discretion to issue warnings instead of fines, making it easier to comply with work diary requirements and not being punished for minor clerical errors. It includes removing offences for failing to record the day of the week or total work and rest hours on the daily sheet in a work diary and establishing a default option of standard hours for solo drivers.

Transport is fundamental to supply chains and there are not many aspects of agriculture which do not overlap with the use of heavy vehicles. That is why the efficiency of the road network and how it is used is integral to the productivity of Queensland's agricultural sector. Ms Ruth Thompson, Grains Policy Director, AgForce Queensland Farmers Ltd, told the public hearing—

I know we are pushing for \$30 billion by 2030 for agricultural output in this state, and agriculture can definitely step up to the mantle and make that happen ... Our No. 1 constraint here is getting our goods to market at a reasonable cost.

AgForce's submission noted that road networks account for up to 40 per cent of agricultural operating costs. Whether it is transporting grains or livestock or carting fertiliser, it represents a significant portion of costs. It also underpins AgForce's advocacy for increases to heavy vehicle lengths, heights and general mass limits. It has calculated that a five per cent weight increase across the network for grains, cattle, sheep, goats and sugar cane would deliver a productivity improvement worth \$400 million to \$650 million per year, with a single best estimate of \$500 million a year. Ruth Thompson told the public hearing—

Height, weight and length increases all contribute to greater productivity. We are not just talking about safety; we are also talking about long-term sustainability and viability of the trucking industry. Agriculture gets squeezed on multiple fronts: input costs are significant, diesel costs are very high and freight costs are also very significant. We would love to have the opportunity to claw back some sort of cost-saving exercise within our freight and if we have the opportunity to do that with greater weights, higher trucks and potentially longer trucks, that makes commercial sense to us.

Queensland is the host state for this law. It is being implemented here first. This bill aims to not only improve safety for truck drivers but also improve productivity by reducing red tape, improving regulatory functions and simplifying administration of the law. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (11.31 am): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. In addressing these reforms, I think it is an important opportunity to recognise the crucial role that drivers and operators of heavy vehicles play in our state's and our nation's economy. We have heard the sayings that their work literally keeps our nation moving and without trucks the nation stops. We also recognise that it is difficult work and work that comes with risks. There are significant pressures and sacrifices on the individuals who do this important work across our state and our nation on our vast motorways and roads. They carry those burdens so that our economy remains strong. We thank them for that work.

Notwithstanding their acceptance of those challenges, every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of their shift out on the road. For heavy vehicle drivers, just as for every other worker, that right is not negotiable. Safer roads benefit all of us. They benefit motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists, pedestrians, families and, of course, truck drivers. When I look at the policy objectives of this bill, I am pleased that these reforms are clearly designed to make our communities safer. We will be voting in favour of these reforms.

The bill should make motorways, including the one that streams through the electorate that I represent—the M1—safer. The stretch of the M1 in my electorate has been recognised as one of Queensland's most dangerous and congested stretches. That section of the motorway has recorded 5.2 crashes per kilometre per year. That exceeds the M1 average of 3.4 crashes each year. Recent RACQ data shows that more than 31,000 Queenslanders have been killed or seriously injured on our roads; albeit, I am not suggesting that they all involve heavy vehicles. That comes with a social cost of over \$35.7 billion. Those figures are quite staggering. They show the costs of not acting to make our motorways and roads safer for truckies and all motorists. Incidentally, that is also why I have been calling on the Crisafulli government to finalise the business case for the Daisy Hill to Logan Motorway upgrade.

It is important to recognise that this legislation that has been brought into the House imposes further obligations and shared responsibilities on drivers and operators. I understand that these reforms shift some obligations onto drivers and operators to manage their fatigue and to be able to rely on their new duty to be fit to drive and not drive when fatigue has set in. It is also the responsibility of government to ensure that the workplaces in which truckies operate are up to scratch. That is why I am calling on the Crisafulli government to get on with the job and fix the lighting on the M1 between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway.

I acknowledge the progress made through the amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law over many years. As other speakers have indicated, the Queensland parliament is the parliament through which these national laws are progressed on behalf of the federation. I acknowledge that over time these reforms have worked to reduce unsafe pressure on drivers.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the efforts of the Transport Workers Union. They have led the charge for better pay, many of these enforceable standards and a reduction in the pressures that increase risk in the transport industry. I also reiterate the work of legislators from all political parties across the federation. Their continued focus on making our roads and motorways safer does matter. The bill before us represents a continuation of that bipartisan effort and partnership with industry, workers and their unions on nationally agreed reforms. It is part of a work program endorsed by all states and territories. There is strong stakeholder support for this bill. There is also significant feedback pointing to the need for a balanced approach to obligations, consistency and practicality.

I conclude by thanking the drivers and all those who work in Queensland's and Australia's transport industry. Whether you are in a warehouse, logistics, behind the wheel, repair engines and drive trains or wash down vehicles at the end of shifts, without you our state and its economy and our nation would not function. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I commit to continue to advocate to see projects like the M1 upgrade completed and the lighting repaired on that motorway to make it safer. We wish all of those who drive and operate heavy vehicles across our nation safe journeys and safe returns home.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Before I call the member for Redlands, I remind the following members that they are on a warning: Pine Rivers, Bundamba, Greenslopes, Mansfield, Miller and Aspley.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (11.39 am): I rise to support the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The heavy vehicle industry is the backbone of Australia's supply chains. It moves the food on our shelves, the steel in our buildings, the fuel in our vehicles and the materials that underpin every home, school, hospital and piece of infrastructure we rely on. In the Redlands, that backbone is visible every single day—on our construction sites, at our quarries, on our barge ramps and across our local industrial precincts.

Nearly a quarter of all registered businesses in Redland City are in the construction sector. Every load of aggregate delivered to a new development, every pallet of materials brought across to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and every shipment heading to support major infrastructure projects depends on the efficiency and professionalism of our heavy vehicle operators.

Local operators like Karreman Quarries, one of the region's most significant suppliers of quarry materials, keep our construction sector moving. Their trucks travel across South-East Queensland daily, delivering the raw materials needed for roads, homes, retaining walls and commercial builds. Their work is time-critical, safety-critical and central to the region's economic strength.

Operators like Bay Island Transport, a lifeline for Southern Moreton Bay Islands, quite literally keep communities supplied. Coordinating heavy vehicles, barge movements and time-sensitive deliveries, they ensure residents and local businesses on Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra islands receive building supplies, machinery, freight and essential goods. Without them construction would halt, renovations would not proceed and basic access to goods and services would be severely disrupted—longstanding operators who take enormous pride in doing things safely and professionally.

This bill is an important step in delivering national consistency, modernising our heavy vehicle safety framework and ensuring the continued productivity of one of our most vital industries. The bill implements key recommendations of the National Transport Commission's Heavy Vehicle National Law Review which has been years in the making and was endorsed by infrastructure and transport ministers across Australia. This has been a significant process, consulting widely with operators, drivers, peak bodies, enforcement agencies and regulators. Because Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the Heavy Vehicle National Law, this legislation must be passed here before it is applied in other participating states and territories. That makes this bill a critical milestone not only for Queensland but also for transport reform right across the nation. It means that what we do here will shape how freight moves across borders for years to come.

At its core, this bill simplifies the law. It shifts prescriptive, overly detailed requirements out of statute and into regulation, giving the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, NHVR, flexibility to respond quickly to emerging risks, technologies and industry needs. It modernises and clarifies terminology, reduces duplication and ensures the regulatory framework is easier to understand and easier to comply

with for drivers, schedulers and small and large operators alike. It strengthens the focus on safety by embedding modern safety management systems, SMSs, into the law. These systems are now considered global best practice. They give operators the ability to tailor their safety approach to their scale and type of work while meeting clear, auditable standards. Instead of a patchwork of prescriptive rules, operators can build systems that reflect the real risks of their operations, from quarry haulage to island freight to long-distance interstate movements.

The bill also introduces a new driver duty—the duty to not drive while unfit. This complements existing fatigue rules but goes further, recognising that fitness to drive is not only about hours of work but also about illness, medication, impairment or other factors that can affect driver performance. It places the responsibility on drivers but, importantly, also puts responsibility on operators and schedulers to support drivers to make the right call. This strengthens a culture where safety comes first and where drivers are empowered, not penalised, for prioritising wellbeing. Together these reforms strengthen accountability across the chain of responsibility. They encourage proactive, risk-based safety management rather than reactive compliance. They reduce the red tape that frustrates businesses while lifting the standard that truly matters.

Before entering parliament I ran an international freight business, importing and exporting specialised machinery across the world. I know firsthand what it is like to coordinate oversized loads, organise port movements and rely on the professionalism of our heavy vehicle operators to get freight where it needs to be safely and compliantly. I understand how important it is that our laws are practical, clear and reflective of the real world our operators work in, and it is why this reform matters. They are built around the day-to-day reality of drivers and operators who want to do the right thing, who want clear, consistent and fair rules when they cross state borders. Whether you are moving quarry loads from Mount Cotton, doing a barge timed run to Russell Island or running interstate between Redlands and Sydney, the rules should be the same and the expectations clear.

The enhanced code of practice under this bill will be developed and approved by the regulator with mandatory industry consultation. This ensures guidance remains practical, accessible and relevant—no more outdated documents sitting on a shelf but, instead, industry informed, regularly updated, operationally grounded tools that operators can rely on. The updated enforcement powers strike the right balance, ensuring regulators and police can target serious breaches while allowing minor administrative errors to be addressed with warnings or education. That is proportionate and fair.

The bill also modernises governance arrangements by expanding the NHVR board to include a broader mix of expertise. It introduces term limits and formally recognises the statement of expectations that outlines what ministers expect from the regulator. Importantly, the reforms in this bill are the product of extensive consultation with industry, drivers, unions, safety experts and government agencies. This bill reflects the voices of the people who drive the trucks, load them, schedule them, maintain them and share the roads with them. Our drivers do not stop at the Queensland border and neither should our safety and compliance frameworks.

For the drivers leaving Redland Bay before dawn, for the quarry trucks leaving Karreman Quarries with loads critical to our construction sector, for the island freight teams at Bay Island Transport who navigate tides, barge slots and community needs, and for every business in Redlands that relies on timely, safe and professional heavy vehicle movements, this bill delivers clearer rules, safer roads and stronger confidence in the industry that keeps our community supplied and connected.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (11.47 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. At the heart of this bill is updating the heavy vehicle regulatory framework, the Heavy Vehicle National Law. As we have heard from previous speakers, it has to be done here in Queensland first because Queensland is the host jurisdiction for this national law. I acknowledge that there are regular updates to the Heavy Vehicle National Law as a result of reforms over many years—reforms of previous governments but also reforms that only occur because of the collaboration and consensus of all jurisdictions across Australia—with the one intent: safer roads and safer conditions for those who are in heavy vehicle industries.

It is important that this law continues to get updated and updated regularly because, as we see with modern technology, changing business models and the impacts of safety incidents and experiences, the law needs to be agile. The effectiveness of this national law is the consistent framework across jurisdictions—a framework that is led by Queensland as the host jurisdiction—but also the collaboration by all jurisdictions across the nation.

It is important to have national consistency. There are many of us who remember the frameworks which existed before the national law. There were different arrangements even to the point of having

different registrations across jurisdictions. One of the very visible signs we see of streamlined regulation is the uniform numberplates on all the national heavy vehicle registered trucks. It is a small indicator of the effectiveness of streamlining regulation, which, in my view, also assists in moving freight and other goods across the nation.

This law also has a very big effect on the Morayfield state electorate. The Morayfield state electorate, by its very nature of being a growth corridor and a commuter corridor, has many interactions with heavy vehicles. I am very proud to have a good connection with heavy vehicle providers that are based in and around the Morayfield state electorate, particularly in the Moreton Bay region. They range, of course, from bus providers to heavy vehicle transport companies, to the quarry industry and also to the regulator. Having the Bruce Highway as one of the boundaries of the Morayfield state electorate means that there is a direct interface with the heavy vehicle sector.

I want to acknowledge some of the heavy vehicle providers directly connected to the Morayfield state electorate. Kangaroo Bus Lines and the Webster family have been providing bus services for almost 50 years. They are based at Burpengary. I have known them for a long time. They are community-driven people who not only employ locals but also provide services for locals. They are renowned for their charters across Queensland, particularly to the Birdsville Races.

Caboolture Bus Lines is another heavy vehicle provider. Grant and Janette have been providing bus services in the Moreton Bay region and the Caboolture region for almost 40 years. Again, they are providing a local service for local people and are employing locals. They are very good community-minded people who are committed to our community.

There are quarries based in and around the Morayfield state electorate. The Bracalba Quarry and the Narangba quarries provide essential materials for infrastructure projects to allow our state to continue to grow. Of course, they are very reliant on the heavy vehicle sector to move those quarry materials. There is always community interest in those quarry routes and how the heavy vehicle operators who are using those quarry routes are working collaboratively with the neighbours, with the community, and minimising their impacts.

Of course, we have the Bruce Highway corridor through which heavy vehicles in their thousands move goods to ports, depots, warehouses and communities across the state every single day. We have heavy vehicle truck sales, servicing and parts businesses. Brown and Hurley, which is based at Burpengary, is a well-regarded and well-known heavy vehicle sales, servicing and parts provider.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that one of the offices of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is based at Burpengary. They do not have many offices across Australia, but one of their offices is at Burpengary. I am proud of their efforts. They are committed to safety: the safety of people on roads and the safety of people who operate heavy vehicles. I am very impressed by their dedication. They are out and about every single day on our roads and in our communities providing education to people who operate heavy vehicles and making sure that they are complying with the law.

It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the new weighbridge on the Bruce Highway northbound at Burpengary. Some people might say it is just a weighbridge that weighs trucks to check that they are complying with regulation, but it is a real sign of enforcement and of safety. On behalf of the regulatory team, I want to advocate to the minister for some shade cover to be provided for the national heavy vehicle regulatory team at the weighbridge to ensure they can provide that essential safety service in a sun-safe way.

This bill continues to provide key reforms around the Heavy Vehicle National Law. It continues the work of modernising permits and regulation exemptions. Some people might see a layer of regulation as an inefficient step, but when it comes to streamlining processes across jurisdictions it is a very efficient way to do it. Also, a mechanism that improves safety and consistency across jurisdictions in a sector is well worth the regulatory step. We see the continued work around safety, managing fatigue, managing employer obligations and providing the regulators with the tools that they need for compliance. It is important to have those steps, those contributions.

Local members get out and about and meet with service providers. They meet with community members who are interested in particular sectors. I wanted to tell a story about a young lady who is a bus driver in the Caboolture-Morayfield area. Notwithstanding the fact she is operating a heavy vehicle, she is always worried about the interface with other heavy vehicles on narrow roads. She wants to have confidence that everyone is safe and that the rules are being followed. When it comes to a framework like this, we can provide the best possible safety arrangements because we have consistency across the nation. We can have regulations which are enforced by the regulator—the national heavy vehicle regulatory team—and we can have clear safety messages which apply across communities.

It is important to continue the journey of modernising the heavy vehicle regulatory framework. It is about safety. It is about community confidence in the framework. It is also about productivity. I will finish on this point: making something more efficient does not mean safety is being reduced. Efficiency and safety are not disconnected propositions. Both can be achieved by having considered frameworks and by having a consensus-building model. This amendment bill builds on the record of almost a decade of modernising the heavy vehicle regulatory framework and providing efficiency, consistency and safety across Australia. I commend the amendment bill to the House, and I encourage all members to support it.



**Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.57 am): Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr McDonald:** This should be a great contribution.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Lockyer. I am sure I will not disappoint you. I rise to make my contribution on behalf of the people I serve in the Southern Downs on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I have heard many members before me speak about the transport industries in their electorates and how the NHVR and this law affects those who operate trucks and trucking businesses. Southern Downs is no lesser a place for the trucking industry. We are absolutely dependent on road transport to get our products to market—the fruit and vegetables, the grains and the proteins we produce in the Southern Downs. Without trucks, Australia stops. That is true, and I have heard a number of members say that.

During the last sitting week, I heard a member make a very complimentary appraisal of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and speak at length in a very ingratiating way. You will not find me so. I acknowledge the NHVR is a necessary entity and has a job to do, and this bill will assist in making its work more effective and better for the industry, for safety and for efficiency.

I would like to concentrate particularly on the drivers and the small businesses that run transport in my electorate of Southern Downs. I will particularly talk about the penalties and the fines. One of the aspects of this bill which I support is the ability for authorised officers to provide formal warnings to drivers if they feel that the infraction was a relatively minor one. I think that is a particularly good innovation.

I was talking to a truckie at a service station in my electorate a week ago. I had my now-one-year-old son with me. He was looking at the truck, pointing and going, ‘Goo goo ga ga.’ He was having a great time because he loves trucks. We got talking to the driver. He said to me—and I have heard this from others—that regularly copping large fines, from \$200 to \$1,000, here and there is just part of the business. That is how he expressed it. He did not strike me as somebody who was blase about safety or compliance. He struck me as being somebody who understood and appreciated regulation and exercised best endeavours to comply. He pointed out to me that even minor typos in a logbook and those kinds of things can result in significant fines. He felt that the inspectors who were responsible for handing them out often agreed. The ability for certain offences to be the subject of a formal warning instead of a fine is a good thing. I am sure that those inspectors who see a lot of the trucking industry can tell the difference between someone who is putting one on and someone who is exercising their very best endeavours to comply.

The National Transport Commission reviewed the penalties in the national law using an objective assessment against set criteria. The review aimed to strike a balance between compliance, enforcement and taking a fair and reasonable approach towards minor, administrative and technical breaches. The review aimed to enhance road safety by ensuring penalty increases were proportionate to the nature of the offences and appropriate for deterrence. The most egregious offences are treated accordingly. The value of some offence penalties has risen and the value of some has fallen. The National Transport Commission consulted all participating state transport agencies, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, state policing agencies, major heavy vehicle transport associations and the industry.

A total of 349 offences were reviewed using a transport methodology known as the Heavy Vehicle National Law penalties assessment matrix. Following this assessment it is proposed that 50 penalties be increased for serious offences and 21 penalties be decreased for less serious offences, and I certainly support that. The new penalty changes will be monitored after commencement to ensure any unintended impacts on safety or compliance are identified and can be addressed. A further review and evaluation is also planned three years down the track to assess the program’s effectiveness. I wanted to get that on the record because I intend to give my speech to some of the trucking operators, truck drivers and farmers who operate trucks and so forth who are interested in this kind of thing.

When we talk about safety, one of the things I want to emphasise—and it is something that has been hammered home to me by the truck drivers and trucking operators in my electorate—is that

regulating for safety is one thing and is necessary, but there are a whole lot of things which impact safety for the industry which escape regulation and legislative reform. I am talking about the roads. In my electorate we have large national highways. There is the Cunningham Highway, the Gore Highway, the New England Highway, the Barwon Highway and part of the Moonie Highway. These roads have been neglected for a very long time. The industry are telling me stories that it is hard to comply with their expected stop position because they are going so slow because the roads are bad. That threatens the driver having to exceed their hours to reach a safe place to pull their truck over.

Trucking operators and drivers may be in a position, particularly coming and going between Stanthorpe and Brisbane, to go there and back twice in a day within their allocated hours. However, because they are having to drive so slowly due to the standard of the roads which were bequeathed to us by the last government after the decade of neglect they inflicted upon them, I have had bitter complaints from them that they cannot rely on being able to get back in time to accept a second shift. If you are looking for extra money or you are the operator of a family owned trucking business and you cannot roster a willing driver to take that extra load back, that costs the business, it costs the truckie and his family and it costs the economy because the inconvenience, the lack of transport capacity, is then inflicted on the growers—those who need to get produce to market, those who are picking their fresh fruit and vegetables that need to go straightaway because they simply will not wait. While I support the bill and its intentions, I do want to make the point which was made to me by a number of operators when I discussed this bill with them: ‘You need to go down there and tell all your mates that it is not just about regulation; it is about a whole lot of other things as well, like the roads.’

Another aspect of safety is the health of the drivers. I know that this legislation has some welcome innovations regarding fitness to drive and so forth; however, the bad roads inflict damage on the bodies of the truck drivers. I drive a blue Hilux. Members might have seen it. It has suspension that was built by the same firm that built Stonehenge and therefore is very unyielding. I feel that I can look the truckies in the eye as I drive over all of the bumpy roads in my electorate. Some of them are like a lunar landscape. I want to thank the minister, whom I see in the chamber, for his very gracious engagement with me since he has taken the position as minister and for the significant uptick in roadworks to correct problems I have complained about for many years. I thank the minister for that.

The minister might be superman, but he cannot change the world overnight. While we get around to fixing those roads after a decade of neglect, we are driving over some tough spots. It is hard on the trucks—it is hard on the suspension and it is hard on the wheels and tyres—and it is also hard on the loads. You can imagine how hard it is on the backs of the truck drivers. The House might remember that I had some time off—about two months—some months ago when I slipped a disc in my back. I want to thank everyone for their well wishes at the time. I know now what a really bad back is like. We need our truckies. We do not need them to be damaging their bodies while driving on these really bad roads.

The last thing I will say that the industry has said to me is that the produce they have to shift in some situations has to be loaded especially to account for the roads. If you have damageable fruit or sensitive machinery or equipment that has to be sent, they have to put extra packing around it. That means that fewer modules or units will fit on the truck. That is another direct impact they are experiencing.

While I support this bill—I welcome its intent and innovations—I want to put on the record on behalf of the people I serve as the member for Southern Downs that I feel for truck drivers. I experience what they do as I drive my ute with its rock hard suspension over all of the roads in my electorate. Long-term improvement of the roads, reducing the number of unsafe places, fixing the road surface and having more stopping rest bays for drivers, in addition to this necessary legislation, will improve safety for the hardworking people in the trucking industry in my electorate.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.07 pm): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I begin by acknowledging the hard work of all of the truckies and drivers, and the supply chain that enables those drivers to deliver their goods. The reason I find this of importance to my electorate is that I have the Port of Brisbane in my electorate. The Port of Brisbane has five million truck movements annually. This is projected to increase each year. Also, 97 to 98 per cent of all containers at the Port of Brisbane are moved by trucks. These contain goods that are either leaving Queensland or arriving into Queensland—goods such as grain, chickpeas, timber and cars. It is a really important part of my community. The port employs a significant number of people, not just truck drivers, so I acknowledge the importance of this piece of work.

The bill updates the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act to deliver reforms from the National Transport Commission's review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law, and it is endorsed by infrastructure and transport ministers across Australia. This bill aims to improve road safety, productivity and compliance efficiency in the vehicle sector. It will simplify complex provisions, reduce red tape and introduce a more flexible, risk-based regulatory framework for drivers, operators and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

The bill introduces mandatory safety management systems for accredited operators. Operators must identify and manage safety risks, meet an approved SMS standard and undergo independent audits. These audits may be used as evidence in court. The framework also allows for alternative compliance accreditation, giving operators more flexibility in how they meet fatigue and mass limit requirements.

The existing fatigue duty is broadened—which is great news—into a new duty to be fit to drive, applying to all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes and not just those over 12 tonnes. Drivers must proactively manage their health and fitness and stop driving if unfit. This expands shared responsibility for safety between drivers and operators. Fatigue management is vital for driver safety. My husband is a retired air traffic controller, and they had a significant fatigue management plan in place to ensure that all of their air traffic controllers were fit for duty. It is based on good science and good research.

Operational details such as fatigue management, permits and vehicle standards will move from the act to regulations, which will allow for easier updates and flexibility while retaining parliamentary scrutiny so that, if there are changes to the science around fatigue management, they can be easily addressed. Overall there is strong support for the bill from all stakeholders, particularly the introduction of a duty to be fit to drive and enhancements to the safety management system.

I would like to finish up by again thanking all of our truck drivers for the work they do. At great cost to themselves, they are often on the road for many hours at a time delivering important goods and items all across Queensland. That is why it is incredibly important that all drivers are given the opportunity to be protected so they can go home safely to their families at the end of the day. I echo the words of all those before me who acknowledged the great work of our truck drivers. I would also like to acknowledge the great work of the mighty Transport Workers Union, whom I represent in this House, and thank them for their continued advocacy and support of truck drivers across Australia—particularly in Queensland—to ensure that drivers are given a fair go, they are taken care of and they get home at the end of their shift each and every day.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.11 pm): Road safety is incredibly important to the people of Callide. Unfortunately, I see far too many accidents across my region. Nonetheless, we have fantastic heavy vehicle operators who go about their business often in a very safe way, but that is why it is important to have regulation and legislation that is fit for purpose.

These amendments focus on safety with a particular focus on making the Heavy Vehicle National Law simpler and more flexible. This bill includes a new duty for drivers of heavy vehicles to not drive while unfit; that is, not in sufficiently good health or fitness to drive a heavy vehicle and to not drive while fatigued. Therefore, a driver should not be driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, while feeling unwell, or where they believe they are not capable of driving a heavy vehicle safely. Importantly, this new duty applies to all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes whereas the previous duty only applied to drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles, which are vehicles over 12 tonnes.

There is no change to fatigue management work, rest limits and work diary requirements except for some minor administrative adjustments to make it easier for drivers to comply and not be punished for minor clerical errors; for example, removing the offence of failing to record the day of the week or total work and rest hours on the daily sheet in a work diary. In my travels around the electorate I often chat to transport operators who have shared their frustrations about fines for minor tasks similar to the one above. They comment that enforcement efforts should target those who are clearly not doing the right thing in the industry instead of 'wasting time like this'. That is exactly what these amendments deliver. They are sensible and they will ensure that people are not being punished for simple mistakes.

Enforcement will be undertaken jointly by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, authorised officers and police agencies in participating jurisdictions. Of course, the NHVR is now a federal body, but it is administered through partnership with various states as well. This legislation is not only important for Queensland but also all of Australia. Drivers who feel pressured by their employer to drive even though they are unfit to do so are encouraged to contact the regulator's Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Hotline, and the regulator will provide appropriate guidance to drivers and operators to support compliance with the new laws.

The National Transport Commission reviewed the penalties in the national law using an objective assessment against set criteria. The review aimed to strike a balance between compliance, enforcement and taking a fair and reasonable approach towards minor, administrative and technical breaches. It included consultation with all participating state transport agencies, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, state policing agencies and major heavy vehicle transport associations and industry. Following this assessment, it is proposed that 50 penalties be increased for serious offences and 21 penalties be decreased for less serious offences. These penalty changes will be monitored after commencement to ensure any unintended impacts on safety or compliance are identified and can be addressed. A further review and evaluation is planned in three years.

This bill also includes changes that will require the regulator to create and approve codes of practice and consult with industry during their development. The Crisafulli government is very clear in its approach to working with industry. We believe in genuine consultation with industry. Nonetheless, this will simplify the process that is currently in place and allow the regulator to better use its resources to focus on the development of new codes that are needed most in the industry. Overall, the changes in this bill will improve and modernise the operation of the regulator through changes to the composition and governance arrangements of its board. There are a few other changes with regard to qualification requirements and board size.

Without trucks, Australia stops. As a member of this House who has a multi-combination licence, for those who may not know that means I have a licence to drive road trains. I do come from a farming family whose enterprise relies heavily on the transport industry. I know too well the challenges they face. Unfortunately, I do not get to use that licence very often these days because I am often getting around the great electorate of Callide in my D-MAX rather than a heavy vehicle.

Thank you to the truckies who transport a lot of freight not only across Callide but also Queensland and Australia. Heavy vehicles are part of life in the bush. Not much happens in rural Queensland without a road train, B-double or, in some instances, of course, a single. I thank not only the drivers of those trucks but also the small and family business operators who are often behind them. Small and family business is often neglected by Labor governments because it does not often suit their agenda, but you can be assured that the Crisafulli government backs small and family business, including small and family business trucking operators.

In my time serving Callide I have made many representations to ministers about the condition of roads and the Heavy Vehicle National Law framework, including: the width to allow for heavy vehicles, overtaking lanes to allow traffic flow, and heavy vehicle rest areas. Legislation and frameworks with regard to NHVR and transport legislation more broadly are only part of the story, but it is important they function well.

There have been many processes in the transport industry that have let constituents down over the years, including the likes of Lee Crane Hire in Biloela, which for many years battled excessive application delays to get permits to take their cranes up a lot of roads they use regularly or to get single-trip permits. We saw delays in a lot of those processes that held up not only their business but also the government projects they were working on at the time, which in turn led to additional costs being charged to the taxpayer because equipment would be sitting onsite ready to install but they were not getting permits to take their cranes onsite et cetera. That is only one of many examples.

Heavy vehicle operators in the North Burnett have shared concerns with me regarding the decreasing availability of access to heavy vehicle inspections and the limited access to the region for heavy vehicles. As we improve the legislation that manages heavy vehicles, we can then improve the roads and access restrictions for heavy vehicle operators. Earlier this year there was some compliance and enforcement along the Gooroolba Biggenden Road near Degilbo with regard to B-double access. A lot of constituents come to me with this issue, and I did ask questions to ensure they were not being unfairly punished or there was not a policy change. Some thought they had previously been allowed to take B-doubles along that road, but it turns out that it might have been a circumstance where it had been treated as a B-double road for many years and never been enforced but all of a sudden the government started enforcing it so they raised questions and thought it was a policy change. If any of my constituents have evidence that it was a policy change and they had previously been issued permits for that route, I am more than happy to take that up with the minister once again, because I know how incredibly important it is that we have appropriate heavy vehicle access across Callide.

Another road that certainly needs widening and where it would be great to have road train access is the Mundubbera-Durong Road. I have campaigned heavily to see that this road gets widened to ensure we get heavy vehicle access into the North Burnett because the opportunities that would unlock

would be significant for that region. It is fantastic to see the changes that the transport minister has been making, as well as the housing minister, with regard to procurement more recently. We need to make sure that when we do upgrade roads we get value for money for taxpayers, and those procurement changes will go a long way to deliver value for money in road upgrades.

I mention enforcement with regard to hay sitting over the side of the truck. This has been in the media over the years and I had someone contact me recently about it. It has come up time and again over the years. I say on behalf of my constituents that I always hope that those who are enforcing widths of trucks consider the genuine risk to community rather than being so prescriptive about a little piece of straw hanging out the side of a hay bale and what it might actually do and the practical implications of enforcing such a thing.

We want to see more overtaking lanes on the Leichhardt Highway for oversize overmass vehicles as well as more pullover bays. The Chinchilla Wondai Road is deteriorating and needs significant widening. One thing that would take a lot of heavy vehicles off the road and be a great thing is the inland rail from Gundy to Gladstone. We need to get great projects like that built.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset I would like to congratulate the minister and his team for leading this legislation at the national level. I also thank the committee, which is ably led by the chair, the member for Lockyer, who is a good friend of mine. The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

This bill is about something pretty simple: keeping our roads safe, keeping our economy moving and making life easier for the men and women who drive our freight across Queensland every single day. For Townsville and North Queensland, trucking is not just another industry; it is essential for our economy. It is how food gets to our supermarket shelves, how our tools and supplies get to retailers, how our mining and defence gear gets to where it needs to go and how thousands of North Queenslanders earn a crust to put food on their table for their own family.

Last week I was out at the Bohle industrial precinct. I note that our candidate for Hinchinbrook, Wayne Chiesa, has done a body of work in advocating for some upgrades around the top of Shaw Road and Woolcock Road into Ingham Road, and I support him in that advocacy. It would mean a great deal to our electorate as well as the electorate of Hinchinbrook. I was also at the Port of Townsville last week. While I was at both locations, I witnessed many trucks coming in from out west and down south. A couple of weeks ago I visited the team from Sizer & Cogill at a grain-handling yard just south of the port which was involved in seeing the first bulk grain vessel depart from the Townsville port. All of the chickpeas in this instance were delivered to the facility by truck, stockpiled and then delivered to the port via more trucks.

Earlier this year we had a significant rain event up north and several roads were cut and impacted by the rain. We saw firsthand what happens when roads are cut and trucks stop. When trucks stop, North Queensland stops and the consequences for families, small businesses and communities in our region are immediate and pretty severe. I remember the vision shortly after the roads reopened of the trucks going through towns like Ingham and Cardwell and heading north to Cairns. It raised the spirits of the community, as those critical supplies were able to once again be delivered by road.

This bill modernises the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Queensland as the host jurisdiction has to lead the way, and that is exactly what the LNP government is doing. This bill improves safety, cuts red tape and makes our transport industry more productive and reliable. One of the most important reforms is the new duty to not drive while unfit. Some people hear that and think about how many notches on the belt buckle they might get or think it might be just about fatigue, but it is a broader and more realistic approach. It is about drivers making the call when they are unwell, when they are adversely affected by medication or when they just feel it would be unsafe for them to control a heavy vehicle.

This new duty covers all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4½ tonnes. The previous duty applied only to drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles, which are vehicles over 12 tonnes. This means better safety for every road user, be it a mum getting the children to school, a dad on his way to work, a daughter on her way to a sports program or a family during school holidays going on a road trip, as I hope to do later this year. It also offers more consistency for drivers and operators. Importantly, it gives drivers protection. If an employer pressures a driver to operate a vehicle when they know they are not fit to drive, the driver can report it to the heavy vehicle regulator's confidential reporting hotline.

The bill strengthens the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme by requiring operators who choose to participate to have a proper safety management system in place. This is not just paperwork; it is a scalable, practical system that identifies risks and puts controls in place. While I am

talking about safety, I want to acknowledge the changes to the enforcement of the fatigue management system. Anyone who has spoken to a truckie knows the frustration they experience when they try to do the right thing but forget to tick a box or write the day of the week in their work diary. This bill improves the way minor and administrative fatigue related breaches are managed. Minor errors that have no impact on safety can now be dealt with through warnings.

A number of requirements for work diaries have changed to make it easier for drivers to comply, including removing offences for failing to record the day of the week or total work and rest hours on the daily sheet in their work diary. In addition, a standard hours default option has been established so drivers are not penalised for forgetting to mark an hours option in their diary. If a lost written work diary turns up after it has been reported lost and a replacement issued, the lost diary does not have to be returned. This is the kind of practical, on-the-ground reform our transport industry has been calling for.

At the same time, this bill increases penalties for serious offences. I think this is a balanced approach. It certainly adds deterrents for genuinely dangerous behaviour, not just box-ticking mistakes. These changes were developed transparently with all participating state transport agencies, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, state policing agencies, major heavy vehicle transport associations and industry, with a further review and evaluation planned in three years to assess the program's effectiveness.

Earlier today I asked a question of the minister regarding manufacturing in Townsville. He highlighted some of the progress the industry in Townsville is making, but it is industries like manufacturing, mining, defence and agriculture that depend on reliable road freight. Every day dozens of road trains and semitrailers move in and out of Townsville, hauling everything from fuel to fresh produce, mining machinery and construction materials. If those trucks stop, supermarket shelves will empty, construction sites will grind to a halt, our port will lose productivity, small businesses will feel the pinch immediately and our communities will suffer shortages.

North Queensland relies on trucking more than almost any other part of the country. For locals working in the transport industry, these reforms matter. They reduce hassles and red tape. They make rules clearer. They reward operators who invest in safety and ensure those who cut corners are held accountable. There is a win for every truck driver, every freight business and every family in Townsville who depend on a strong and safe supply chain.

This bill ensures safer roads, better support for drivers, less red tape, modern regulation, stronger oversight and a productivity boost across the entire network. It gives the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator the flexibility it needs to evolve with industry while ensuring ministers keep strong oversight where public safety is at stake. This is a practical, commonsense reform that makes our freight sector do what it does best and continue to deliver for Queensland. I commend this bill to the House.



**Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (12.30 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise today to add a small contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I do not intend to repeat all of the technical elements that have been so well articulated, especially by my good friend the member for Townsville in his very succinct summary of a lot of the specific clauses within the bill. I do think it is important to give words to the need for this reform.

This national heavy vehicle national law reform has been long overdue. I commend the minister who has had the courage to grab the national system and say, 'We have to actually start to enact this reform.' Organisations such as the QTA, the Queensland livestock transport association and many others have been pleading for real reform in national heavy vehicle law for a number of years now. Whilst in some cases they would attest that this may not go as far as they would like to see it go, it is an important first step that they see a government pick this up and enact.

To the minister and his team I say thank you very much on behalf of the transport sector and also road users everywhere for introducing this. I also say thank you to the committee, very ably led by the member for Lockyer but also supported by the members for Mulgrave and Cook. I know the member for Cook has an avid interest in heavy vehicle law reform given the vast distances that heavy vehicles have to travel in his electorate but also the specific guidelines and permits around access due to the often inclement weather that is received in Far North Queensland. No doubt this is a bill that came before the committee that the member for Cook was extremely interested in. I thank them very much for their due diligence and perusal of this bill.

This is not about lowering safety. This bill actually strengthens the safety provisions for all road users especially heavy vehicle—truck—drivers. Through 20 or 21 specific clauses it is also pragmatic about infringements that were not linked to road safety, as the member for Townsville outlined very clearly earlier.

What we see right across Gregory—heavy vehicle operators such as Emerald Carrying Company; Curley Cattle Transport based in Cloncurry but with outlets and depots in Winton, Longreach and Blackall; Alpha Freight Lines, a very small but successful family owned business based in my home town of Alpha; and Gerard Johnson Transport in Tambo—is trucks sitting idle. There is a massive skill shortage and a massive problem with driver availability right throughout the heavy vehicle industry but it is especially prevalent in the livestock transport sector. Those combined outlets that I just mentioned have the capacity to cart more than 60,000 head of cattle—standard cattle units—every two days in the state of Queensland but that is not being realised because of the lack of drivers. There are trucks and trailers standing dormant and part of the reason is around the application of elements of the law that we are seeing reviewed. Should this bill pass the House today, it will mean less financial impost on drivers for simple mistakes that do not lower road safety outcomes. I do not think there should be any misreporting of this bill that it lowers road safety.

I do remember the comments of the member for Traeger during the last sitting week when we first commenced debate on this bill. He urged the minister to keep a close eye on NHVR. It has a job to do to enforce this law, to keep users of the roads safe but also to ensure a profitable and productive transport sector. These specific provisions are the commencement of that exact outcome that will allow a more pragmatic interpretation and application of punitive measures that are not linked directly to road safety. In terms of the critical capacity and skills shortage that we see in drivers and in all of the transport industry—but, as I say, especially the livestock industry in Gregory—hopefully this is but a start in paring back the deficiency that appears in that space and will directly be linked to this.

I will draw out a number of the specific policy objectives that I think are the most pertinent in this place, and I have already mentioned the amended penalty amounts, ministerial direction and approval powers that support changes to accreditation and code of practice frameworks and provide an appropriate balance of regulatory discretion and ministerial oversight. I accept that will come with pretty defined parameters. It will not allow transport ministers to make things up on the run, which is important. However, it does allow for flexibility around codes of practice and matters that do not need to come back for formal legislative review to see enhancement of heavy vehicle law application right across the state. I think that is an important provision that may actually play out in further reviews of heavy vehicle law to allow flexibility.

Of course, the principle here was the harmonisation of heavy vehicle law across the nation, and by and large we saw that. We have seen matters that are not fit for purpose for the tyranny of distance or the poor road standards in certain states. We have heard members on both sides talk about the importance of access to the Port of Brisbane. We also see this with access to feedlots and meatworks at places like Rockhampton—and the member for Rockhampton will be joining me for a tour of the JBS facilities next week alongside the members for Mirani and Keppel. It is important to understand the connectivity issues for vehicles into these places. These are critically important reforms that are just the first step.

I will make one further comment. The media reporting around the federal government's misguided regulatory impact review of the speed limit on unsigned rural roads plays directly to this piece of legislation. If we were to see this ridiculous concept supported where we would lower the speed limit on unsigned roads to 80 or less, we would play further into the problems around time to deliver product, and it does not need to be cattle. I am probably guilty of rabbiting on about livestock transport a bit too much. It can be hay, fodder in a drought, M8U or all sorts of things that people critically need in rural areas. We do not need to see an arbitrary lowering of the speed limit, which would place even more pressure on truck drivers who are trying to comply with very specific elements of heavy vehicle law not only for their own safety but for the safety of all road users and, indeed, the nature of their cargo.

I said my comments were going to be brief so I had better wrap up shortly. Once again, I say that the work that this transport minister has done in not only reviewing this legislation but also introducing programs to upgrade roads specifically to benefit the heavy vehicle sector, the maintenance guarantees that we will see uplift in places like the Bruce Highway but also Country Roads Connect plays to this. Yes, this is prescriptive—around 70-odd clauses of heavy vehicle law—but by improving the infrastructure on which our heavy vehicles need to transport daily, we may achieve this through a number of means. I say thank you to the minister and all of those people who have worked on this review. It is with pleasure that I support this on behalf of Gregory as a very good, positive and necessary first step.



**Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (12.38 pm): I rise today to speak on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will make the Heavy Vehicle National Law simpler and more flexible by shifting a range of prescriptive requirements into regulations. In doing so, it will make

it easier for the heavy vehicle industry to understand and comply with its obligations. These amendments will have a strong focus on safety. This bill includes a new duty for drivers to not drive while unfit and an enhanced accreditation scheme built on core safety management system requirements. These amendments enhance ministerial direction and approval powers. They also increase National Heavy Vehicle Regulator accountability for accreditation options, operational documents and codes of practice.

Rather than relying solely on prescriptive requirements fixed in the law, the amendments support a risk-based regulatory approach that gives the regulator greater discretion to respond to future challenges and industry needs, leading to improvements in productivity and road safety. These amendments strengthen compliance and enforcement measures to ensure adherence to safety standards and to deter breaches of the law. The penalty amounts have been updated following a comprehensive penalty review to ensure they are proportionate to risks. Extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including industry representatives and regulatory bodies, resulted in broad support for the proposed amendments.

A driver of a heavy vehicle is unfit to drive the heavy vehicle on a road if the driver is not of good health or fitness to drive the heavy vehicle safely. This bill expands the duty to not drive while fatigued to include a duty not to drive when unfit. Some examples of being unfit to drive include where a person is affected by alcohol or drugs or the driver feels unwell and believes they are incapable of driving the heavy vehicle safely. This new duty covers all drivers of heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes. The previous duty applied only to drivers of fatigue regulated heavy vehicles, which are vehicles over 12 tonnes. There will be no change to fatigue management work rest limits and work diary requirements. These continue to apply to drivers of vehicles over 12 tonnes.

These laws will be enforced jointly by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator through its authorised officers and by police agencies in participating jurisdictions. Any truck drivers who feel pressured to drive by their employer when they consider that they are unfit to drive can report this to the regulator's Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Line. The regulator will provide guidance to drivers and operators to support compliance and will ensure its officers are fully trained and capable of enforcing the duty.

The National Transport Commission reviewed the penalties in the national law using an objective assessment against set criteria. This review aims to strike a balance between compliance, enforcement and taking a fair and reasonable approach towards minor, administrative and technical breaches. The review aimed to enhance road safety by ensuring any penalty increases were proportionate to the nature of the offences and appropriate for deterrence. The National Transport Commission consulted with all participating state transport agencies, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, state policing agencies, major heavy vehicle transport associations and the industry.

Operators seeking accreditation must implement an SMS that identifies and addresses public risks associated with the operator's transport activities and specifies the controls to mitigate those risks. Alternative compliance options will provide flexible pathways for complying with prescribed operations requirements in the national law such as the fatigue management work and rest hours. An operator's SMS will need to demonstrate, through independent audit, that it complies with an SMS standard approved by ministers before the operator can be granted accreditation.

This bill will also allow for an audit of an accredited operator's SMS to be used as evidence by a court in a primary duty prosecution. Existing accreditations will continue until they expire or until the maximum transition period of three years concludes. The regulator must comply with these ministerial directions and will be required to publish any direction on its website and in its annual report. The new national audit standard will outline requirements for accreditation audits under the new general safety and alternative compliance accreditation and the independent auditors who conduct them.

My electorate of Maryborough is home to a significant number of businesses that rely heavily on the trucking industry—from Richers Transport, which provides transport services across Queensland, to Hyne Timber, which depends on logging trucks to move its products, and of course the sugar industry. All of these heavy vehicles play a vital role in connecting my community with key industries. These truck drivers work long and demanding hours because, as we all know, the trucking industry does not operate on a Monday-to-Friday, nine-to-five schedule. My electorate is situated along the Bruce Highway and heavy vehicles make constant use of this major transport corridor linking the south to the north of our state.

The Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 will be welcome news to the thousands of truck drivers who use our roads to keep our nation moving. The truck drivers within the Maryborough

electorate welcome any legislation that protects them and keeps them safe. They are part of one of the most essential industries in Queensland—an industry that must be supported and safeguarded if we are to keep our state running smoothly. I want to thank the honourable minister, his team and the Crisafulli LNP government for the work they are putting in with regard to this bill. I welcome the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 and commend it to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.46 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. I want to thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House and for Queensland leading the way on national heavy vehicle regulation. We are the host jurisdiction in making Queensland safer. These changes are important for the safety of our roads, the strength of our freight industry and the efficiency of our transport networks right across Queensland, and that is important to the people of Toowoomba. Toowoomba is a freight and logistics hub and this bill will make a real difference to the operation and the efficiency of that hub.

We know that there are trucks driving the entire south-west of Queensland and from Darwin all the way down to Melbourne. Whether it is the Warrego or the Gore, there will be trucks driving those roads and it is important that it is safe as well as efficiently and productively managed. There are some great operators who come up to Toowoomba such as Martins Stock Haulage, IOR bringing fuel out to the west to ensure everything keeps running, Hillmans Transport taking cotton and other products to the port, as well as Qube Logistics. We know that the wind farms are being fed by these vehicles bringing the blades and other products, so it is important to ensure we have good, strong, simple legislation that keeps it both productive and safe.

I should also mention InterLinkSQ and the InterLink intermodal terminal that aims to link rail, road, air and the port. Again, that will be an important part of Toowoomba's business model in logistics, and the key feature of that is the heavy vehicles. The new CEO of the Toowoomba Regional Council should be pretty much an expert in this area. Sal Petrocchio OAM was the CEO of the national heavy regulator before he came to run our council, so I am sure he will have great interest in this legislation and its effects on Toowoomba.

Locally, the minister came up last year. At our Toowoomba bus depot, Sam Davison was awarded the Queensland Regional Bus Driver of the Year and Allan Humphrey was awarded the 2024 School Bus Driver of the Year. There are a lot of people in Toowoomba who, in terms of both their income and business, find a great deal of importance in making sure that the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025 is fit for purpose and for what they do.

This law will better protect and simplify operations while keeping safety front and centre. Every day, vehicles move goods that keep our country and economy ticking over. It is vital that our laws support an efficient operation as we move goods up and down roads. It is also important to make sure that the laws have a more flexible and simple approach that is a bit less bureaucratic. Others have said ticking and flicking a box should not receive the same kind of penalty or infringement notice as something that is far more serious. We are interested in making sure that our roads are safe; not making sure someone has ticked and flicked every box in a logbook. We know from time to time logbooks will have little mistakes in them and that should not be causing as big a problem as it has for some of our drivers and people who are trying to keep goods moving.

Certainly, one of the most important changes is the new duty for drivers not to drive if they are unfit. We need to define that. As the member for Townsville said: this is not about belt buckles and running marathons; this is about if you are fit to be in charge of a vehicle. It is a methodology to make sure that if a driver feels unwell or in some way impaired that they are not punished for that. They should be encouraged to make sure that they are safe on our roads. Certainly if a driver is affected by alcohol, drugs or if they feel unwell or believe they cannot safely control the vehicle, they must not drive. What could be more sensible than putting that into legislation?

It is also really important, particularly as we see the growth in Amazon, home deliveries and smaller packages moving around and more vehicles that are below that 12-tonne capacity moving around our suburbs, streets and roads. Taking that down to 4.5 tonnes is also very sensible. It makes it very clear that the expectations are for safety and a safe workplace. It structures a support for drivers who sometimes might feel pressured to push through when they know they should not be on the road. I think that is really important.

There is a commercial reality for businesses but we all have to use these roads as we get around our electorates. As you go west, the roads get bumpier and narrower and they have more trucks on them. It is pretty important if I am cruising down one of those roads—or someone is driving down one

of those roads with their family in the backseat, they know when a truck is coming towards them at 100 kays that the driver is fit, is fully capable and was not pressured to be behind the wheel.

Our truck drivers do a fantastic job. They literally do keep everything moving. We know in Toowoomba we would not have not have food, we would not have fuel and we would not have much in the Grand Central Shopping Centre if the trucks were not coming up the Warrego and dropping those goods off. Knowing that those drivers have an expectation that if they do not feel safe they will not get on the Warrego, is a good thing. If a driver believes they are unfit to drive, they can report any pressure that they might get from an employer in a confidential way so that we can ensure their safety and our safety is protected. That is a really good amendment for them because they will know that their job is not at risk. That they can do that via a confidential hotline is really important.

Again, another feature of this—not to be confused—is to make sure we are not changing fatigue management rules and rest hours. They stay the same for drivers of vehicles over 12 tonnes. There has been no lessening of the safety requirements in terms of fatigue, just some additional things in terms of being unfit. Enforcement will now be able to be carried out by national heavy regulators and police, with officers being trained. People would have seen the new uniforms and the new vehicles out on the road as the earlier versions of this legislation were starting to roll out.

When it comes to penalties, 349 offences were looked at. It is important that serious offences will now pay higher penalties and the less serious administrative mistakes will see those penalties reduced. That is what I was talking about before. If I am driving down the highway and someone has not ticked a box in their logbook, I am not as worried about that as I would be if there was a serious breach somewhere along the line that puts the safety of all other road users in danger. The penalties should reflect that and make sure that the serious offences are being treated as serious offences. Drivers do a difficult job in difficult circumstances living away from home and operating out of their cab. If the pen does not work and they have missed a tick, they should not get a serious fine for that. They should have an opportunity to get that corrected. It is important, but it is not critical. It is critical that they are safe when they get behind the wheel and I think this legislation reflects that much better.

Overall, I would say the people of Toowoomba will be very happy to see this legislation come through. It is critically important for all of our businesses, and for all of our households and lives. The heavy freight industry literally does keep Australia moving and delivers all of our goods to make sure that we can live inland away from the port. I commend the bill and thank the minister for it.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.56 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I remember when the original bill was first tabled in this House back in 2012. It was a very comprehensive bill but there were certain concerns and a lot of those concerns are addressed in the bill which is now before the House. As many other members have done in this chamber, I want to thank all our truck drivers—the individuals who actually keep this country going. The trucking industry is certainly a very important cornerstone of our national economy. It is important to ensure the lives of truck drivers are safe; that their trips are safe and that all road users are safe on our road networks.

A big shout-out to a good friend of mine, Ken Wilkie, who has been a lifelong truck driver. Whilst Ken has now hung up his boots, you can never take the 'truckie' out of him. He has always been a passionate advocate for the truck driving industry and of making sure truck drivers get home safe. He would regularly ring me up to discuss matters that truck drivers would put forward when it comes to the heavy vehicle industry. He wanted to ensure safety was paramount and truck drivers were respected. This legislation highlights that it is so important to have a thriving heavy vehicle industry in this country and to have national regulation for the eastern states to ensure when you go from one regulation to the next, it is easier for the truck drivers to understand. Therefore, I certainly not only endorse the findings of the committee report but also what the minister has tried to achieve in this legislation. It creates a new flexibility for truck drivers and brings in the safety systems that are desperately needed.

To achieve these goals, the bill introduces several key measures. We will see the implementation of an enhanced accreditation framework that mandates operators to have a robust safety management system in place. That is critically important, especially with the massive road networks we have in the state of Queensland, the vast distances that we have to travel to go anywhere. If you put a map of Australia into Europe you can see what a huge country it is. Queensland has a massive road network. For instance, it is a 2,000-kilometre drive from Brisbane to Cairns. It is important that this legislation gets the stamp of approval to ensure that going forward we have a safer working environment for all road users and all truck drivers in this state.

Debate, on motion of Mr Boothman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Coal Royalties

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Right across Queensland, people tell me they are struggling: their rent is up, their rego is up—the cost of everything just keeps going up. Instead of using mining royalties to help Queenslanders with their cost of living, the Crisafulli LNP government has provided relief for Adani over Queenslanders. On this side of the House, we have always fought for our fair share from multinational mining companies. Those opposite have never supported it, and now we learn they are finding backdoor ways to let global mining companies off the hook.

The Premier, the Treasurer and the mining minister gave Adani a royalty holiday estimated to be worth \$500 million. In a secret deal this government actually boasted about, Queensland taxpayers could be left nearly a billion dollars out of pocket. Adani were so proud of their secret deal they actually paid for private jets to fly journalists to the announcement with the Premier. Under Labor, Adani were paying royalties for the coal they are exporting—royalties owed to the people of Queensland for the resources we own and Adani sell. They were paying royalties because Queensland Treasury said Adani were not holding up their end of the deferral arrangement—the deal with the people of Queensland. It is Queenslanders who own Queensland coal. It is not the Premier, it is not the Treasurer and it is not Adani; it is the people of Queensland.

Queensland Treasury advised the former government that Adani had not complied with the conditions of their contract with the government. Queensland Treasury said Adani's insurance arrangements would mean Queenslanders could be left hundreds of millions of dollars out of pocket—hundreds of millions of dollars out of pocket if Adani shut down, broke down or went broke. Treasury had tried to work cooperatively with Adani, who consistently rejected the most basic of securities arrangements. Put simply, Treasury was concerned Queenslanders would be left holding the can for this loan to Adani.

The Premier, the Treasurer and the mining minister did not stop there. As part of this secret deal, Treasury's lawsuit for tax evasion against Adani was cancelled. According to the Australia Institute, Treasury was suing Adani because they were ripping off Queenslanders. They said Adani were selling Queensland coal to Indian companies—possibly related entities—for \$100 a tonne when the market price was \$280 a tonne. That is a massive undersell. The Australia Institute estimates this cost Queenslanders a further \$400 million. I table that report for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article, dated October 2025, The Australia Institute, 'Adani royalty discrepancy'.

This means the Premier's secret deal with Adani could gift the company \$900 million. The people of Queensland would be creditors of a \$500 million loan carrying all of the risk and Queenslanders would miss out on \$400 million of royalties. This Premier did his secret deal with Adani anyway. Queenslanders can have no faith they will ever see this \$900 million because the Premier has not revealed the terms of this secret deal—short-changing Queenslanders in secret. He has not revealed why the lawsuit was cancelled. Queenslanders are supposed to trust the Premier because he calls himself a businessman. The fact is that the Premier is a failed businessman who did not pay his debts. Whether it was the ATO, the federal government, the Victorian government or Queensland mum-and-dad businesses, the Premier left all of those creditors in the lurch. For the benefit of the House I table a list of the creditors he left in the lurch.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Appendix A Creditor's list—Southern Edge Training Pty Ltd (In Liquidation.)'.

Has he apologised? No. The Premier did the opposite of apologise: he pretended he was an expert businessman. An article in the *Townsville Bulletin* describes the Premier and his now LNP candidate for Hinchinbrook as 'two born-and-bred business experts'. I table that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, undated, titled 'Action plan in motion to help redefine Ingham'.

The Premier has form for leaving creditors in the lurch. In fact, he was side by side with his best mate and business partner from Hinchinbrook. Now he has given a \$500 million royalty holiday and cancelled a \$400 million lawsuit. That is the equivalent of providing every Queensland household with a \$360 energy rebate. The \$900 million could fund almost two years of the housing investment pipeline. Imagine how many homes for Queenslanders that could unlock. It could almost be enough to build the

spinal injuries unit and the Mackay Hospital expansion. It is enough to pay for the PA Hospital expansion or the Prince Charles Hospital expansion—expansions that we heard this morning we should just sit tight for: wait for the cranes, with no timeline or delivery date for those cranes. The Premier promised to personally intervene to secure our world-class teachers a fair pay deal. Instead, they are marching in the streets next Tuesday after being short-changed under a dodgy deal from this government.

The Premier did not spend that \$900 million owed to Queenslanders on new hospital builds or universal cost-of-living relief; he gave it to a company that Treasury had serious concerns about. The Premier's secret deal risks leaving every Queenslanders in the lurch. It is no wonder international mining companies are licking their lips. We have a Premier who thinks he is a business expert, a Premier who has no problem leaving creditors in the lurch, a Premier who prefers to give money to multinational companies instead of helping people who are struggling through the cost-of-living crisis.

Queenslanders remember that the Premier promised them immediate cost-of-living relief if they were still struggling. Queenslanders are still struggling. This government's budget is void of any universal relief. The Premier has given everyday Queenslanders nothing to combat this crisis. That is not what the Premier has given Adani. I tell members this: the other miners are circling. They know they have a Premier who will buckle for the big end of town. They know they have a Premier who will throw Queenslanders under the bus. Those mining companies knew that before the election. The international mining companies saw the Premier coming a mile away. That is why they spent millions of dollars campaigning for him to become the Premier. That is why they gave money to Australians for Prosperity, a group that campaigned for the LNP, a group whose head—failed LNP member Julian Simmonds—has now landed a \$312,000 taxpayer-funded job—a job that was not advertised and there was no recruitment process for. The mining companies are turning the screws on this Premier, Treasurer and mining minister. They know they will not stand up for the people of Queensland. They saw it with this deal with Adani.

We are hearing that the mining minister is already telling the mining lobby that royalties will change after the next election. As everyone knows, 'Just make it through the next few years and we can talk about it later.' However, it is not what the Premier says; it is what he does. Instead of putting his money where his mouth is to ease the cost of living or get new hospital builds underway, this Premier has given a multinational mining company a massive handout. I compare that to this side of the House. We stand up for Queenslanders. We stand up for what they are owed and for a fair go. On this side of the House it is what we do.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Honourable members, I wish to advise that, as you may have noticed, this afternoon in the House television pool cameras will be filming during the matters of public interest debate.

### **Coal Royalties; CFMEU; Teachers, Industrial Action**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): I think the opposition leader is living in an unreal world. He is living in a parallel universe. On the one hand, during the election campaign he said that, if elected, the Liberal National Party would get rid of the progressive coal royalties, but that did not happen because of our election commitment. Now he is trying to say that we are somehow doing all these deals against the coal royalties. You can't have it both ways!

If they want to talk about secret deals, let's talk about the secret deal done between 2015 and 2017. Cameron Milner, a former state secretary of the Labor Party and former next-level Labor lobbyist, quit as a Labor lobbyist after he did an Adani deal in which he said they got everything that they wanted from the former Labor government. Those opposite should not lecture people on lobbying activities. What the opposition leader has actually just proven is that the left-wing ideologists of the Labor Party are in charge.

The Adani deal secures 500 new jobs for Queenslanders. We will back Queensland mining jobs. The Labor Party will attack mining jobs. Where have the blue-collar-worker Labor Party gone?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE**: I take the interjection: none of them have worked. Where is the Labor Party defending the workers? They should be celebrating the new 500 jobs at the Carmichael Mine, not condemning them as the opposition leader has just done. What an absolute basket case is his leadership.

Today, the CFMEU inquiry has commenced. This is important work to get to the bottom of what has happened with the misogyny and the aggressive and bullying tactics and behaviour of the CFMEU. We can already read some of the reports from the commission of inquiry. It is reported that Geoffrey Watson SC said—

Mr Ravbar and Mr Ingham had seen what happened in Victoria when they were trying to emulate it.

He goes on further—

If you negotiate with us, do not think for a second we will obey the law. We will act outside the law. Everybody knew. People like the AWU, or the contractors. If they were stopping a concrete pour today, they'd do it again tomorrow.

That was their behaviour. I look forward to the opportunities that we will see emerge through the CFMEU royal commission, which the Labor Party did not want. We want to shine sunlight on the CFMEU culture in Queensland. Through this royal commission we will get to the bottom of it and we find out who is responsible.

Today I also read media reports that the Queensland Teachers' Union confirmed proposed industrial action next week, which will impact senior exams particularly for year 11 students. That greatly concerns the government because of the impact it will have on the mental state and welfare of students across Queensland, particularly as they approach their year 11 exams. The government's primary concern is about student welfare.

I as industrial relations minister and the Crisafulli government have continued to negotiate in good faith with the Queensland Teachers' Union and we remain committed to properly finalising a new enterprise agreement for Queensland teachers. It is in this spirit that we seek the QTU's immediate support to consent to independent arbitration in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Regardless, the matter will proceed to forced arbitration at the end of the year so, for the sake of not interrupting senior exams next week, the Crisafulli government is ready to begin a fast-tracked arbitration process as soon as possible. We negotiated with the nurses in good faith, with the police in good faith, with the fires in good faith and with the Queensland Teachers' Union in good faith and those deals have been secured.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left. I listened to the member for Murrumba and he was heard largely in silence.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We have negotiated and will continue to negotiate with the unions and workers in good faith. Under our historic offer, every teacher in Queensland will be paid more than \$100,000 each year, by the end of the agreement. The offer included an accelerated pay scale for teachers; a new pay level of \$135,000 plus super and incentives; an average principal's salary of more than \$200,000 plus super; a new safety taskforce to improve working conditions and stamp out violence; \$1,000 attraction and retention payments in regional areas; \$400 payments for beginning teachers; and \$100 per night for teachers attending school camps.

I say to the Queensland Teachers' Union that, just as we conciliated a deal with the Queensland Teachers' Union in the QIRC, we can do it in arbitration. We are ready. We would like to go to arbitration as soon as possible. I call on the Queensland Teachers' Union to put the welfare of students ahead of any politics, join us in arbitration and let the independent arbitrator, the QIRC, decide this matter in haste.

### Coal Royalties



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): This afternoon I rise to speak on a matter of significant public interest. Today I put on the public record, for the first time, matters relevant to the decisions by the Crisafulli LNP government to defer coal royalties payable to Adani. Premier Crisafulli and Treasurer David Janetzki have both publicly invited me to provide details on what I know about this matter. Today, I do so for the first time.

The contours of this royalty deferral arrangement with Adani were struck in the first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government and were endorsed by cabinet in May 2017. Adani would pay royalties to the Queensland Revenue Office in the normal way. Adani would then subsequently receive a loan of equivalent funds managed through the commercial division of Queensland Treasury. Interest would be charged reflective of Queensland Treasury Corporation's bond rate, with a total amount being up to \$500 million. The repayment schedule provided that most of the repayment was not required until the 2040s.

Accordingly, given this repayment schedule, the security that Adani was to provide for the loan was absolutely essential. The security to be provided was the subject of significant and difficult negotiation. Ultimately, the only security that Adani was prepared or was able to offer was the Carmichael Mine itself. Given Adani had no other real assets in Australia, this was ultimately accepted by Queensland Treasury, subject to critical protections. Most importantly, the agreement specified that the security to be provided by Adani was to be adequately insured by an insurer that met a minimum credit rating. That requirement was no mere technicality. The insurance requirement was fundamental because, in the event that Adani did not make the repayments, the mine should be recoverable by the government in a saleable state for the benefit of Queensland taxpayers. This requirement was not unfairly imposed on Adani; it was freely agreed to by the company.

However, once the mine was built Adani would not hold up their end of the bargain. Adani was unwilling or unable to obtain insurance that met the minimum credit standard specified in the agreement. The Labor government's legal advice was crystal clear: the substandard insurance offered by Adani did not meet the terms of the agreement and, accordingly, the loan should not be made. Despite this, Queensland Treasury in good faith did its best to offer alternatives. This included offering to repurpose a bond of approximately \$100 million that Adani had previously lodged with the Queensland government. Adani consistently rejected this. Adani's inability to secure suitable insurance and its refusal to agree to reasonable alternative financial arrangements were red flags to Treasury officials. Adding to these concerns, the financial model Adani provided to Treasury showed that the local business would never be able to repay the loan unless it received a cash injection from its overseas parent.

In 2018, Adani significantly reduced the scope of the entire project. Adani cut the mine size by 80 per cent and the 400-kilometre standard-gauge rail line was downgraded to a 200-kilometre narrow-gauge branch line that was capacity constrained, meaning no wider benefits would be available to other leaseholders in the Galilee Basin.

All of these matters strengthened the Labor government's determination to stick to its guns. Adani's contractual failures and its emergent financial difficulties made it necessary, prudent and, in fact, critical that the state should not proceed. That is the approach Queensland Treasury took, with my full support as the then Queensland treasurer.

Premier Crisafulli has, of course, taken a different approach. It is obvious that the Premier has accepted substandard security arrangements. This is reflective of the Premier's approach to SET Solutions, the company he ran while it was insolvent. Once again, the Premier is taking it on trust that there will be a significant capital injection from an external party.

The only way any of this could have happened is if the Premier and his government set aside advice of Treasury officials and government lawyers. Today I call on the Premier to, at the earliest opportunity, explain his reasons for doing so, to ensure Queenslanders no longer remain in the dark about his government's actions and the significant benefits and financial windfall of at least \$500 million his government has delivered to Adani.

## CFMEU

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): During the decade of decline we saw under those opposites, we saw a shift in power from those duly elected by the people of Queensland to those unelected union thugs home at the CFMEU. It was the union, not the government, that was in control of worksites in Queensland. They set the policies. They said who could and could not work. They bullied and intimidated workplace health and safety officers until they got their way.

We have heard many times how this has impacted projects like the Centenary Bridge—70 days of delay or disruption due to CFMEU-led action. That action includes physical threats to workers and blocking deliveries to sites. It cost Queensland taxpayers. Things became so bad on that job that they had to employ additional security personnel and install CCTV systems. This was needed to protect staff from violent and bullying behaviour by the CFMEU. I have personally spoken to workers onsite who have described their reaction to being exposed to that conduct by the CFMEU. Then we have the Cross River Rail project and what we saw there.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the member for McConnel interjecting—the CFMEU cheerleader. There were more than 140 days lost onsite at Cross River Rail due to the CFMEU. We saw union thugs preventing workers from entering the site to earn a living to feed their families. Today we have heard

testimony describing the CFMEU's bullying and thuggery on Cross River Rail as stock standard CFMEU tactics. The barrage of abuse on job sites was stock standard CFMEU tactics, written and endorsed by those opposite—people like the member for McConnel. Labor forgot that the workers they claim to represent should have come first. They chose to side with unions like the CFMEU who put them in power rather than those workers they should have been representing. It was not just construction workers who were the victims of their political games.

I want to talk about the workers in my department, the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Let us not forget the CFMEU's shameful conduct in storming the offices of TMR at 61 Mary Street. Under those opposite, violent thugs barged into a QTRIP briefing with industry facilitated by Transport and Main Roads staff, leaving staff hiding in the building, concerned about their personal safety. We remember that the then premier made public declarations about not meeting with the CFMEU, but those who currently sit opposite maintained their open-door policy. People like the member for Aspley—the then minister for transport and main roads—met with the CFMEU regularly after that incident.

Imagine if you were a worker in TMR and you saw your minister welcome these thugs with open arms. What would you think? I know what I would think. It was not just the former minister for transport and main roads who did this. The former, former minister for transport and main roads also met with the CFMEU multiple times during his time as minister. We would describe it as foolish if it were not so serious.

Then we have the member for McConnel, the former minister supposedly responsible for industrial relations, who was 'as shocked as anybody' about the allegations of criminality within the CFMEU. The now Deputy Premier had been raising these exact issues for years and years, but it fell on deaf ears with those opposite because they did not want to listen. We even have members who still sit opposite—members such as the member for Bancroft—who are paid-up members of the CFMEU. That is why those opposite are here. This close relationship is how we ended up with BPIC—the CFMEU tax. Those opposite chose to side with the CFMEU rather than side with Queenslanders, and as a consequence we ended up with BPIC—the CFMEU tax—which drove up project costs by 25 per cent and created an economic cost for Queenslanders of more than \$17 billion.

Given that we know that those opposite have close connections with the CFMEU, I have to ask Queenslanders what would happen if those opposite were to return to the government benches. We would see a return to cost overruns and budget blowouts overseen by those opposite. We would see a return of the bullying, intimidation and thuggery writ large by the CFMEU day in and day out on Queensland job sites. Queenslanders deserve more than a government owned and bought by the CFMEU. We will fight for workers every single day.

## Health System



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.25 pm): Health has lurched from crisis to crisis since the last sittings under Minister Nicholls. I call on this secretive Crisafulli government to release in full the Prince Charles Hospital transplant service report. Patients who need a heart or lung transplant do not have the luxury of waiting, yet this government sat on a damning review of the Prince Charles Hospital's heart and lung transplant service for roughly a year after donor hearts were being rejected and successfully transplanted interstate and they performed about half the number of procedures expected.

That report makes 43 recommendations to address chronic understaffing and a service struggling to meet basic expectations. A redacted version was finally released—due to a media request and not the minister releasing it, mind you; so much for transparency—but Queenslanders still do not know the full story. So much information has been left out on so many redacted pages. It is not acceptable.

Why did Minister Nicholls sit on this full report and hide it? Why did he not release it? Doctors and transplant surgeons are calling for full transparency because they know that to fix these issues the government first needs to end the secrecy. Openness and transparency were a clear Crisafulli government election promise that they have broken on numerous occasions now. It is a pattern of this embattled health minister—secrecy, not transparency. The health sector well and truly knows it. I saw that on Saturday night.

Look also at the prevention of trans health care. A Supreme Court judge found the government's original statewide ban was issued unlawfully—rammed through with a 22-minute so-called phone hook-up, in fact a sham as found by the court, at exactly the same time it was being announced by the minister. When the court tore up that directive, the health minister used his powers to slap a new ban

on the same vulnerable kids that same afternoon, without proper advice from the clinicians who actually treat them.

Under Labor we trialled best practice pill testing at schoolies and through fixed clinics in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. The independent evaluation by the University of Queensland found what addiction specialists and physicians already knew: when young people learn what is actually in the drugs they have bought, roughly half of them reduce the dose or indeed choose not to take them at all. Those clinics also picked up dangerous synthetic drugs and often gave people their first contact with a health professional about their drug use or addiction.

What did Minister Nicholls do about that evidence? He cut the funding and shut the clinics. He sat on the Queensland university evaluation report for some time and then banned pill testing in Queensland altogether. The government prevented any debate on it. Publicly or privately funded clinics were all banned. We are back to the bad old days here in Queensland despite the AMA, the college of GPs, addiction specialists, emergency physicians and pharmacists all saying, 'This saves lives. This reduces emergency presentations. This is the best practice.' So much for putting doctors and nurses back in charge. This is another broken promise.

While this minister engages in right-wing ideological crusades, the health system gets worse on this minister's watch. There was record ramping in July under this minister, who botched the flu season response and the CHO appointment—all on this minister's watch. At the RBWH, neurosurgery patients who should be treated within 90 days, are waiting more than 400 days for brain surgery—more than 400—on this minister's watch. It is not just neurosurgery. The RBWH once had a world-class urogynaecology service, providing life-changing surgery for women with prolapse and incontinence. Today that unit is operating without a single properly trained urogynaecologist, with hundreds of women waiting and waiting, at times worse than during the pandemic, on this minister's watch.

In my own electorate, families were expecting a purpose-built child and youth mental health hub at Yeronga, as recommended by Queensland Health. The Crisafulli government has now axed it and shut the existing Yeronga clinic, shunting services to scattered leased offices. A forlorn empty building stands closed in Yeronga because they broke their 'no health cuts' promise.

What do we see with this Adani issue? It means less money for hospitals in this state. Now we know why the hospital expansions have been put off in Mackay, Townsville, Redcliffe and everywhere else. It is because they do not have the money for it. They are giving it to a company like Adani, rather than spending it on the patients of Queensland who deserve it. That is a disgrace! We see the members of Mackay, Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra are silent, mute for their communities, saying nothing while the government puts off indefinitely hospital expansions in this state. Shame!

### Building and Construction Industry



**Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.30 pm): After a decade of decline, the Crisafulli government has taken decisive action to restore productivity, fairness and value for money in Queensland's building and construction industry. One of the very first things we did upon our election was to pause BPICs and now we have ended the CFMEU's tax on Queenslanders for good. BPICs pushed up prices, they slowed down projects and they locked out more than 99 per cent of local subcontractors from government work. They were not best practice. They were CFMEU written and authorised tools to smash productivity and punish those who did not conform. Do not take my word for it. The independent Queensland Productivity Commission has found that BPICs blew out project costs by more than \$17 billion. Since 2018, the Productivity Commission has found that productivity losses under Labor meant 77,000 fewer homes were built at a time when Queenslanders needed housing more than ever. If BPICs had remained in place over the next five years, it would have cost Queensland taxpayers more than \$20.6 billion with project costs increasing by up to 25 per cent, 26,500 additional fewer homes would be built and rents would rise 8.3 per cent higher than they otherwise would.

The CEO of the Queensland Major Contractors Association, Andrew Chapman, recently highlighted independent analysis showing productivity on Queensland job sites had plunged to the lowest levels in the nation, with major contractors reporting productivity at less than 60 per cent under BPICs. Since BPICs were paused, I am pleased to advise the House that productivity has already lifted up to around 85 per cent.

We scrapped BPICs because Queenslanders need homes, not CFMEU-designed cost explosions and productivity declines. We ended BPICs because the construction industry should be open to every capable—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** There we go, the CFMEU's cheerleader, the member for McConnel—I am not taking your interjections. We ended BPICs because the construction industry should be open to every capable Queensland business, not just the CFMEU's chosen few. On top of that, we have rebuilt government procurement from the ground up. Our new approach welcomes back locals, small businesses and regional contractors. It prioritises opportunities for female-led enterprises, Indigenous businesses and veteran-owned businesses. Queensland now has a procurement system that is simpler, fairer, more transparent and one that puts Queenslanders first. We are going to incentivise good suppliers, not punish who the unions tell us to punish.

The contrast with the former Labor government could not be clearer. While we are restoring productivity and delivering better value for taxpayers, Labor is already leaving the door open to bringing back BPICs. Just last week, when asked directly, the opposition leader's spokesman refused to rule out reinstating BPICs if Labor were re-elected. They said, 'Labor would be closely watching the changes made by the government and evaluating them before taking a comprehensive range of commitments to the next election.' They have not ruled out bringing back BPICs.

Let me be absolutely clear: BPICs were negotiated to entrench CFMEU conditions. Treasury warned they would increase project costs by up to 25 per cent and yet Labor still will not rule out bringing them back. Their refusal to rule out reviving the very policy that helped create this productivity crisis shows that the Queensland Labor opposition are still siding with the CFMEU over Queenslanders. If they bring back BPICs, costs will go up, productivity will go backwards and Queenslanders will pay the price all over again.

Queenslanders are now seeing the full extent of CFMEU behaviour exposed before the inquiry the Crisafulli government has started. Across Australia, we have seen allegations of intimidation, lawlessness, corruption and systemic misconduct, and here in Queensland the CFMEU operated with impunity under Labor—financially, politically and industrially protected. They even put a CFMEU member on the board of Queensland's building regulator, the QBCC.

The inquiry into the CFMEU is long overdue, and on day one we have heard shocking evidence with a lot more to come. Queenslanders cannot afford a return to BPICs. They cannot afford to return to a CFMEU-designed construction system. It is why we are in this housing crisis. The Crisafulli government is turning things around.

### Teachers, Industrial Action



**Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.35 pm): Today the QTU announced that on 25 November, teachers will strike again for 24 hours. We are literally weeks away from the QTU having to enter into arbitration with the LNP government in Queensland, a process that could take two years. This strike is their last-ditch effort to get this LNP government to listen and to show them some respect, their last-ditch effort to get the Premier to keep his promises. The Deputy Premier can try with all his might to demonise the union, as he just tried to then, and imply that they are not willing to work with the government. But it is actually the teachers themselves who have said no. Almost 67 per cent—almost 70 per cent—of them voted no to the government's insulting offer. It was a resounding no because they have had enough.

I do not know if the Premier and the Minister for Education even know how rare it is for teachers to strike. Teachers do not strike. They just do not strike because they are thinking about their kids. However, these teachers are committing to strike for a second time in six months—our precious teachers. They are the people we hand over our kids to every single day. They are the Premier's employees—they work for him! They did their first strike in 16 years. They believe they are in such a dire situation that they have to go out and strike again on 25 November. This is what this Minister for Education has overseen. It was 16 years since the last strike and it has been nearly 30 years since teachers have gone out twice in a period of six months. This is what this minister has overseen.

You know what is really sticking in the gut of teachers? The Premier himself promised that he was going to fix this. I was actually at the QTU conference the day he made that promise. You know he had them spellbound. It was pitch-perfect. He talked about all the issues that concern them—the red tape, the bullying, the occupational violence. Because he had to override the minister who had been dragged kicking and screaming off a plane to Paris to even attend the conference, the Premier then said to them, 'I am mindful at the moment we have come at an important time with the EBA, and first and foremost you have my willingness to work on that.' He goes on to say, 'I am very confident that there are many things you can collectively work on, and in the process I am confident we can find a

way through.' Quick as a flash, he never met with them and still has not met with them since. There were teachers walking out of that room believing that you can believe what the Premier says. You know what? What we know is that what the Premier says is not what the Premier does, and teachers are hearing all about that now.

Do you know what else sticks in their guts? Nurses secured extra financial benefits through negotiation and the police secured extra payments and incentives. They were able to find the money for that, and we hear today that this government is giving Adani a \$500 million royalty holiday. We know that the former Labor government received advice from Treasury that this would never be agreed to because Adani did not have enough insurance coverage and Treasury were concerned that the loan would never be paid. They were concerned about fraud allegations. This Premier agreed to the deal with Adani.

Our teachers look after our kids every single day and we hear them talking about their issues—how hard it is for them in their classrooms. Then they talk about their kids and how proud they are of them and how much joy they get from seeing their kids thrive and grow up to be better people. This Premier does not hear that. He does not respect that. He does not value that. Every single thing that he says and does shows that he does not value our teachers. We say that if he can give money to Adani he can give money to our teachers. How long are they prepared to drag out the arbitration and punish hardworking teachers and school leaders for rejecting the paltry eight per cent offer that has not changed one bit throughout negotiations?

### CFMEU; Productivity



**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.40 pm): First witnesses are being called today to the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU and the misconduct in the construction sector. It is an important moment for those opposite because they have an opportunity to stand on the side of the CFMEU or stand on the side of Queenslanders. Where do they stand? Those opposite have a serious track record. We have the chief apologist for the CFMEU in the member for McConnel. We have a former member of the CFMEU in the member for Bancroft. We have thank-yous to the CFMEU from those opposite in their maiden speeches. We have an important test for those opposite: do they stand on the side of the CFMEU or do they stand on the side of Queenslanders and productivity putting downward pressure on production costs to get more things built sooner? Where do they stand?

Upon our forming government, Treasury released modelling to us that said BPICs were a drag on the Queensland economy. We knew it. They were a \$17 billion drag. There was a seven per cent increase in rents. They were driving down productivity across the Queensland economy. It was not just in those large-scale projects to which BPICs applied; the consequences were flowing throughout the economy.

We started our journey with the housing minister to build a million new homes by 2044, including 53½ thousand social and community houses. We had a significant construction task ahead of us because we were left with productivity challenges from those opposite. Then we established the Productivity Commission.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will come back to that a little later in my contribution. We set it up and the first referral to the Productivity Commission was a review into the construction sector in Queensland. What did the interim findings of that Productivity Commission report reveal? They revealed 77,000 fewer homes had been constructed since 2018 because of BPICs—77,000 fewer homes! We can imagine what those 77,000 homes would have meant for men, women and children across our state in the middle of a housing crisis, but those opposite did not care a jot about it.

We also had revealed in that interim report by the Productivity Commission that if BPICs remained on the books there would be an additional cost of up to \$20.6 billion by 2030. That is a significant drag when we have our target to build 53½ thousand social and community houses by 2034 in Queensland. That was the challenge we were left with.

Those opposite are happy to stand with the CFMEU and everything it meant for declines in productivity across this state. I recall that a Federal Court judge referred to the CFMEU as the worst recidivist in common law history. There were 2,600 order breaches over 20 years from the CFMEU across the country. That is the kind of culture that those opposite are backing in, let alone all of their personal endorsements of the CFMEU and their actions over a long period of time.

This matters because we have to get Queensland building ahead of the massive challenges we have. We are seeing initial changes, as the housing minister has detailed already. We are seeing green shoots in productivity. We have ended BPICs, as the housing minister announced last week. We are backing in productivity not only for what it means for large-scale projects across Queensland but also for the flow-through implications right across the economy. Under our government, productivity matters. We are not going to stand by and let recidivists—the worst offenders in common law history—run the construction sector in Queensland. It is not going to happen.

The commission of inquiry, which has called its first witnesses today, will unveil all of the challenges that the CFMEU have left the Queensland economy with. They will go into it chapter and verse to identify the productivity challenges and the misconduct of those opposite. We believe in productivity. Over there, they vote against it. Former treasurer Curtis Pitt introduced a productivity commission. Under the member for Woodridge, they got rid of it. They did not want to hear any of the independent thoughts. When we re-established the Productivity Commission earlier this year, what did those opposite do? They voted against it. They will always be on the side of the CFMEU and never on the side of productivity in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Coal Royalties

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.46 pm): It is truly tremendously disappointing that the Treasurer has not given us information about the secret deal that has been made between the Adani corporation and the Crisafulli government. The Treasurer has all of that information. The opposition leader and the member for Woodridge put forward that further expenditure could have been made in our hospitals and in education—on our doctors and our teachers—but none of it was addressed by this Treasurer. The Treasurer went out of his way to avoid these key things.

I want to speak from a different perspective. Our mining companies expect that there will not be favourable or special treatment for one company. Rules and regulations on royalties are important. They do not want to see special treatment and special deals from a Premier just for one company, but that is what we saw. On 19 August Premier Crisafulli did a deal with Adani that gives Adani a royalty holiday. The best estimate is that the Premier's hurried back-of-the-envelope deal could cost Queenslanders about \$500 million. That is significant investment that the LNP is cutting from regional hospitals, mining roads and building new schools or improving schools. The LNP has not been clear about where this spending will not happen. They are not even exactly clear how much this will hurt Queenslanders.

Other mining companies are asking the legitimate question—what I call the Shannon Noll question—‘What about me?’ Why are there special arrangements or royalty holidays for one company and nothing for others? The Treasurer did speak about productivity. It is clear what their message is. His message is: do not invest in mining for future efficiency and productivity; instead queue up outside the door of the Premier for special deals at the expense of Queenslanders. As costs of mining rise under the Crisafulli government and coal prices reduce, they are right to ask, ‘Why are there special arrangements for some and not others?’ This has a direct impact. An unstable and irregular policy like this, with a special deal only for some, raises significant risk and uncertainty when investment decisions are being made to keep a mine open.

We recognise that the Treasurer would have been advised that a series of conditions that had been put forward were not honoured by this company. Treasury had concerns about whether there was sufficient insurance coverage to protect Queenslanders from risk. That was the same advice that was given to this Treasurer, but he has ignored it. The lack of coverage meant Treasury were concerned that this \$500 million loan would never be paid. Premier Crisafulli was either oblivious to these concerns or ignored them and did the deal with Adani regardless. Frankly, I do not know which is worse.

Treasury has a responsibility, on behalf of Queenslanders who own the coal, to follow internal or related party sales of coal and the nature of those coal sales to ensure that all coalminers are treated the same. The claims that royalty payments have been reduced are contested by Adani, but they deserve to be tested in court. We do not want to send a message to any company that internal or related parties or cross-ownership can be used to minimise royalties, but that is what Crisafulli's hasty deal has done. Why was this separate case dropped seemingly at the direction of the Premier?

Look at the timeline. Premier Crisafulli announced his deal with Adani on 19 August. Almost a month later all of the other miners were up in arms, cutting jobs and demanding their own special treatment. The Resource Council launched its campaign immediately afterwards. Workers too were

asking questions. We have seen significant job losses, including 750 workers at Saraji South mine. This has happened post this royalty deal, as instability and uncertainty affects all miners.

Mining communities have a right to ask: what does this mean for regional investment? Mining communities, mine workers and companies are all asking: why did the Premier effectively give a \$900 million deal to Adani and, according to Treasury, Queenslanders are left holding all the risk?

(Time expired)

## Health System



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.51 pm): I would like to take the opportunity to address some matters of public interest including some matters raised by the member for Miller. The poor old member for Miller has not been doing too much work himself. All he does is wake up in the morning and say, 'What will I do today? I know. I'll read the *Courier-Mail* and the *Australian* to see if I can find a story that I have not done the work on but I'll pick up and repeat numerous times pretending it's my own,' handing in someone else's homework. That is exactly what the poor old lazy member for Miller does.

It is nothing more than that when he talks about Prince Charles Hospital. I say that because he was talking about the report into lung and heart transplant failures at Prince Charles Hospital. When did those failures occur? For a decade under Labor. When was the report done? At the end of last year. When was it handed in? In September 2024. Who was the government at the time? The Labor Party. Who sat on the report and did not release the report? The Labor Party. Who has taken the steps to fix it? The Crisafulli LNP government, with more money and faster times. Who is actually meeting the people there and talking to them? I am. Let me tell you what the consumer group said.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Members on my left, I have heard all speakers on my left this afternoon listened to largely in silence. Your interjections are not being taken. They are disorderly. Minister for Health, you have the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This is the email I got from the consumer group I met with. They state—

Thank you for extending the meeting time well beyond our original slot to ensure we felt heard. We're grateful for the way you both engaged, listening with compassion, understanding and speaking honestly and without defensiveness.

Then three days later when we told them that we would be releasing the information as they had requested, because we now had the information and we had gone through it to protect patient confidentiality, they said—

We thank the minister and you for these actions. We knew from the sincerity and openness with which the minister engaged and his subsequent strong public statements that he was committed to ensuring improvements.

Labor did nothing. We are fixing the problem.

Then the member for Miller said he saw it on Saturday night. I presume he is talking about his brief appearance at the Heart of Australia function that he jagged a little invitation to, despite the fact that Labor never funded the Heart of Australia. They did not give them a brass razoo. Not one of the former health ministers over there funded the Heart of Australia, but they were happy to turn up and sip the champagne and enjoy the company. Then he ducked out pretty early in the piece because no-one was talking to him. That was the story of the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those untrue comments from the minister and ask that they be withdrawn. If he wants to talk about Saturday night, I am happy to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, member for Miller. Resume your seat. Member for Miller, you are an experienced member. You know that it is not an opportunity to make a speech or an argument. I took your point of order. You are warned under the standing orders. Minister for Health, the member for Miller has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am happy to withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. Here we have the laziest and most ineffective shadow minister. We all know the member for Greenslopes is itching to get his teeth into it and get going. He is so lazy that when the story on Prince Charles broke, he was not around. On a Saturday afternoon when the media wanted him, it was the poor old member for Waterford who was sent out to do the work. The member for Miller was missing in action—

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again I take personal offence at that sledge from the minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister for Health, the member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Of course, I withdraw. The Labor Party is missing in action and lazy when it comes to standing up for Queenslanders like Denise Mcauley, whose daughter Liana was in the gallery today because the Labor federal government is not adequately funding aged-care accommodation. We remember them calling for a 50-50 split in 2022. Three months before the election they were all saying 50-50. Then what happened afterwards? Straight afterwards we got this from Mark Butler: 'Federal government won't increase its share of hospital funding despite state push for 50-50 split.'

Where were the Labor Party? They signed a craven agreement for 42½ per cent. Do you know what it has gone down to, Mr Deputy Speaker? It has gone down to 37 per cent. Where are the Labor Party? They are kowtowing to their comrades in Canberra like they always do, not standing up for delivering health services. We have not heard one of them say 50-50. They signed up to 42½ per cent by 2030 which is not being delivered. They then wanted to go to 45 per cent, which will never be delivered. That is the quality of the Labor Party in Queensland—not standing up for Queenslanders but kowtowing to their comrades in Canberra as Queenslanders wait, languishing in hospital beds when they should be in aged care. That is a shame that the Labor Party are going to wear every day that I am in this job. We are going to continue to push it. As the waiting lists that we are fixing up are being repaired, we are going to point out their failures each and every step of the way.

### Queensland Health, COVID Vaccination Mandate



**Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.57 pm): I rise today to express my anger and disgust on behalf of thousands of Queensland Health workers who remain stood down or terminated because of the COVID mandate. These workers continue to face discrimination, despite this government claiming Queensland has moved forward. From the moment the COVID mandate was first introduced, I have warned that the mandate violated fundamental principles of fairness and natural justice and destroyed careers and lives. We have already seen a significant court ruling declaring that the former police commissioner's mandate directive was unlawful. Queenslanders were punished under directives that never should have been introduced.

The Premier told this House on 12 June that barriers would be removed, that Queensland needed to move on and that those workers should be allowed back. However, the truth is very different. I wrote to the Premier on 26 August 2025, pleading for intervention, highlighting the cases of two dedicated former Queensland government workers. One of these, Melissa Plath, has more than 35 years of excellent service in Queensland Health. However, she has been denied reinstatement and rejected from roles two levels below the one she was terminated from.

The Premier assured me that these cases would be examined immediately. Well, three months have passed and both have informed me that nothing has happened. Since then, other affected workers have contacted my office. The Atherton Midwives and Mothers Alliance have highlighted their deep concern over staffing demands at the Atherton Maternity Unit. The unit is facing a staffing crisis and midwives are not being supported in their requests for assistance.

The kicker is that I know of one midwife in Atherton who was terminated because of the COVID mandate and cannot get her job back. If you think I sound angry, Mr Deputy Speaker, then you are dead right. While these workers are blacklisted, the *Courier-Mail* reports that Queensland needs another 46,000 health workers by 2032, including more than 21,000 nurses, just to keep the system functioning, yet highly trained, Queensland qualified nurses with decades of experience are being rejected because of disciplinary labels tied to mandates that no longer exist.

It is not just me saying this. Three days ago the *Courier-Mail* reported that experienced nurses are being locked out of jobs despite Queensland Health workforce shortages. Michelle, who had more than 20 years of experience as a critical care nurse before being stood down, claimed she still cannot get her job back with Queensland Health after she declined the COVID vaccine for medical and personal reasons. Michelle has since been rejected several times for Queensland Health positions and it has been a kick in the guts. The Nurses' Professional Association said it is ridiculous that Queensland Health is still blacklisting these workers, denying Queenslanders highly qualified care. I table both of those articles.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 17 November 2025, titled 'Queensland doctors "unfairly suspended" on full pay for speaking up for patients'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 15 November 2025, titled 'Experienced nurses locked out of jobs despite desperate Queensland Health workforce crisis'.

These workers are not asking for compensation or apologies; they are asking for the right to work in the careers they devoted their lives to, especially at a time when our health system is failing because of massive staff shortages. I call on the Premier and the Minister for Health to: make a public statement and immediately create a clear and transparent reinstatement pathway for all affected workers; remove the stain of disciplinary action from employment files tied to now revoked mandates; and direct Queensland Health to stop blocking re-employment and restore the dignity and livelihoods the former government's actions took away.

The LNP's blatantly dirty, deceitful and shameful campaign in Hinchinbrook highlights why the KAP's honourable candidate Mark Molachino, when elected, will be the right man to represent the electorate with dignity and fight for workers affected by the mandate to be reinstated by Queensland Health. These Queenslanders have suffered long enough. It is time for the false promises to be over.

## HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3605, on motion of Mr Mickelberg—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.01 pm), in reply: I thank members for their contributions to the debate of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I am pleased to see support for the bill from members across the House and recognition of the importance of improving road safety for all Queenslanders and productivity in the heavy vehicle industry, including from the Labor opposition, who, in a rare show of forthrightness—in the words of the member for Logan—accepted their failure to adequately maintain our road network over their decade in office.

As many have recognised, a key theme of our deliberations is that without trucks Australia stops. Make no mistake: those trucks would have stopped if Labor's neglect of Queensland roads had been allowed to continue any longer. In contrast, the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of repairing and rebuilding our road network and implementing commonsense measures like this bill to keep trucks moving. This bill matters not just to the industry and to business but to every Queenslanders who relies on freight for the things they need to feed their family and keep our economy moving.

During the debate a lot has been said about the duty to be fit to drive. Let me clear up any confusion. This is not about roadside officers making snap judgements based on how someone looks. It is about empowering drivers to make the right call for their own safety and the safety of others. If drivers are unwell, impaired by drugs or alcohol, or simply know that they cannot safely drive at that point in time, they have a duty to stop. This duty now applies to drivers of all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes, not just those over 12 tonnes. Importantly, however, what has not changed are fatigue management rules like work and rest limits, which still only apply to drivers of vehicles over 12 tonnes. We have heard concerns about pressure from employers; however, I want to make it very clear that drivers who feel pushed to drive when unfit can report that confidentially to the regulator's hotline and it will be taken seriously. That protection has been built into the framework to address that concern.

The member for Cooper was concerned about a potential unintended increase of regulatory burden on small operators. Many members on this side of the House come from a small business background, including the member for Redlands, who spoke about it in her contribution. We are determined to make things easier for small businesses to grow here in Queensland. The regulator will roll out targeted education, practical tools and clear communication to make sure that compliance is achievable, especially for small businesses and regional operators. I can assure the member for Cooper that the bill will deliver simpler, safer and fairer regulation of heavy vehicle operators.

Some members asked about the cost and complexity of accreditation. Accreditation is voluntary and the safety management system, SMS, requirement at the core of accreditation is scalable. A small business or owner-driver will have a much simpler, more streamlined SMS than a large, complex organisation. This means that every business, regardless of size, will have a clear and tailored plan for safety. Templates and guidance will be provided and the regulator will deliver education programs face to face where possible so that smaller operators are not left behind.

The member for Cooper also rightly said that heavy vehicle drivers can experience fatigue, tight schedules and isolation and that they require access to rest stops and shaded parking bays. A safe place for our hardworking heavy vehicle drivers to stop and rest is essential to keeping our roads safe. Queensland has around 470 rest areas across the state where heavy vehicle drivers can stop and rest. Some of those are shared with other motorists. As part of our \$9 billion Bruce Highway Targeted Safety Program, something that was secured by our government after the opposition surrendered the established 80-20 funding split, our government is delivering critical infrastructure to improve safety and support freight efficiency right across Queensland. Along with improvements for wide-centre-line treatment, narrow bridges, flood resistance and intersection upgrades, a key component of the program is the expansion and modernisation of multi-use and heavy vehicle rest areas that are essential for fatigue management and road safety.

The member for Callide was present at the last Bruce Highway Advisory Council meeting where we discussed that issue in detail, including the proposed design that has been rolled out for a new rest area at Curra, just north of Gympie, which will include capacity for 16 semi or B-double trucks. It will have disability access, toilet facilities and picnic shelters. It will be a significant step forward from what currently exists across the state. Intelligent transport systems are also being trialled at six rest areas to provide real-time parking availability which will help drivers plan their stops more effectively. These investments reflect our commitment to safer roads, stronger regional connectivity and a more resilient freight network.

The bill includes changes to improve the way minor and administrative fatigue related breaches are managed. Authorised officers will be able to use their discretion to issue a formal warning if they believe a person has contravened the law but think it is more appropriate to issue a caution instead of a fine. The bill makes it easier for drivers to comply through changes to work diary requirements. Drivers will not be excessively punished for minor clerical errors—something that many members have addressed in their contributions—like failing to record the day of the week or to add up their total work and rest hours in a work diary.

The member for Toohey noted that some submissions to the committee talked about the changes to penalties, with some penalties for fatigue related offences reducing to better align enforcement action with risk. Some penalties have increased. The National Transport Commission reviewed 349 offences using a transparent penalty assessment matrix. The result is that 50 penalties will go up for serious breaches and 21 penalties will go down for minor offences like clerical errors. Officers will also have discretion to issue warnings instead of fines for minor errors. That is a fairer and more practical approach, which is welcomed by industry.

The member for Cook shared stories from operators on corrugated dirt roads and spoke passionately about regional challenges. I hear his concerns and those of other members like the members for Gregory and Traeger. This bill does not fix all of the infrastructure problems that exist across the state, but it does create flexibility for heavy vehicle operators. Through alternative compliance accreditation and implementing an SMS, operators can work with the regulator to find practical solutions. I encourage regional operators to engage with the regulator to tailor approaches that work for their conditions and their business. Implementing a robust and effective safety framework for the entire industry with costs proportionate to the size, risk profile and complexity of each individual operator is a fantastic result.

The member for Traeger spoke about the realities of operating in a remote area, noting the enforcement blitzes in his electorate and the need for common sense. I agree that enforcement must be fair and proportionate. That is why this bill gives authorised officers greater discretion to issue warnings for minor breaches and removes outdated restrictions that previously limited flexibility. The intent of these reforms is not to create fear or drive people out of the industry—quite the opposite. It is to keep drivers and communities safe while recognising the unique challenges of heavy vehicle operators across the state and the country.

I also note and welcome the warm words and praise from the member for Bulimba and the member for Morayfield about the good work the regulator has been doing in their respective electorates. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has an important job to do, and I can assure the House that the regulator will bring this same dedication and care to the task of implementing the reforms in this bill and supporting industry to adjust to these changes.

What I cannot reconcile from the member for Bulimba's comments, along with those of the member for Gladstone, is the claim that Labor was focused on safety on our roads. The maintenance backlog which was left by the former Labor government—which my department estimates at

\$8.6 billion—suggests otherwise. The member for Gladstone pointed out the number of bridges in Central Queensland with weight limit restrictions. I can confirm for the member for Gladstone's benefit that there are many bridges with weight restrictions in place in Central Queensland because of a decade of decline and neglect under Labor.

Still, the member for Gladstone's contribution was more relevant than that of the member for Logan, who ignored these important reforms to the Heavy Vehicle National Law and instead substituted policy analysis with a local grievance to deflect from his party's appalling record on delivering safe, reliable and efficient roads that truckies depend on. Labor failed to progress major reforms in the industry and improvements to key corridors such as the Bruce Highway, Warrego Highway and Mount Lindesay Highway, which suffered chronic bottlenecks and outdated safety features.

With Labor, trucks would have stopped but the Crisafulli LNP government is righting that record through record investment in infrastructure and regulatory improvements like the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. The regulator plays a vital role in supporting industry compliance through education and guidance. As we implement the new obligations introduced in this bill, the regulator will ensure that operators and drivers are well informed and supported in meeting their responsibilities. Authorised officers will be fully trained to apply the new laws consistently and fairly.

Importantly, the regulator's education and guidance materials will continue to evolve, reflecting not only the changes introduced by this legislation but any improvements to address future challenges and support innovation and the adoption of new technology. This proactive approach will help ensure our regulatory framework remains responsive, practical and effective. As the member for Morayfield said, efficiency is not the enemy of safety, and the streamlined regulatory changes also improve safety.

The member for Cairns stated that the Heavy Vehicle National Law has always stood as a model of national cooperation. This bill is a testament to many hands working together. I would like to thank the interstate officers, the National Transport Commission, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, industry partners and the parliamentary committee in particular for their cooperation and willingness to progress these reforms.

As the member for Townsville pointed out, the heavy vehicle industry was an indispensable partner serving his electorate and many electorates in the north and far north after roads were closed following wet weather events earlier in the year. That demonstrates the strong relationship between industry and this government. That strong relationship, particularly with the Queensland Trucking Association, continues with the collaboration on this bill.

This is not the time to rest. As I said earlier, this bill is the result of seven years work on the Heavy Vehicle National Law reform. I am pleased that we have now reached this point, but these reforms are not the end of the journey; they are the foundation for ongoing improvement, working with our partners. The hard work will continue to make the Heavy Vehicle National Law fit-for-purpose, ready to meet future challenges and a world-leading regulatory framework for safe heavy vehicle operations.

We will continue to deliver for our hardworking truckies and for all Queenslanders for the road ahead. This bill is about safer roads, fairer compliance and improved productivity. It gives drivers the confidence to put safety first, it gives operators flexibility without sacrificing standards, and it gives the regulator the tools to respond to future challenges. Having noted the strong bipartisan support for these amendments, 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 154, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.14 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. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.14 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.

## TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (DISMANTLING ILLEGAL TRADE) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 September (see p. 2707).

### Second Reading



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.15 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to start by thanking the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee for its thorough consideration of the bill and all individuals and organisations who contributed to the inquiry. I note that the committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I welcome and appreciate the committee's support and note that there was no statement of reservation.

This bill is the Crisafulli government's latest escalation in its war against rogue tobacco and vape traders. Queenslanders expect a strong, coordinated response to illicit tobacco and vaping products, and the most recent enforcement results show clearly why these reforms are needed. In our first full year in office, we have seized nearly half a million vapes, over 57 million illicit cigarettes, more than seven tonnes of illicit loose tobacco and 405,000 nicotine pouches. We have issued more than \$72 million in fines, more than \$60 million of which relate just to illicit supply and possession.

This reflects both the tireless work of our enforcement teams—and I thank them for all of their hard work—and the impact of our nation-leading fines which were introduced earlier this year, which are 10 times higher than those that existed under Labor. These stronger penalties hit these rogue traders and illicit operators where it hurts: in the hip pocket.

This bill will empower Queensland Health to take even more decisive action to dismantle the business models that make illicit tobacco and vaping profitable. It brings together a comprehensive suite of financial disincentives, modern investigative tools and strengthened enforcement powers, including several that break new ground in Australia and beyond. Together, these nation-leading reforms will help us disrupt the financial incentives—the profit motive—fuelling these illicit markets, protect the health of Queenslanders, and restore safety and integrity to our retail environments. They will deliver on a core government commitment to deliver safety where you live.

Vaping has become a full-blown epidemic. This did not happen by accident and it did not happen overnight. It has been driven by a coordinated effort to seed demand among young people through colourful packaging, confectionary flavours, influencer campaigns and aggressive online placement. The strategy is clear: position vapes as harmless lifestyle accessories and saturate the environments where young people spend their time. The result has been an explosive growth in use among children and adolescents who, only a few years ago, had no meaningful exposure to nicotine.

These tactics are not new. They echo the same playbook used by the tobacco industry decades ago to hook entire generations of Australians on cigarettes. Slick imagery, youth oriented branding and manufactured claims of safety were once the tools used to normalise smoking. Today, we see the same methods repackaged for vapes. The products may look different, but the underlying aim is the same: grow a long-term customer base by capturing young people early.

The consequences are already emerging in the data: vaping is not simply increasing alongside smoking; it is helping to drive smoking back up. Young people who vape are substantially more likely to take up cigarettes, and we are now seeing clear signs of reversal in smoking prevalence after decades of steady decline. This is not a theoretical risk. It is a real and measurable erosion of Australia's world-leading tobacco control achievements.

The normalisation of these products also masks the reality that many are chemically unpredictable and fundamentally unsafe. Vapes are being sold containing toxic chemicals like antifreeze, volatile compounds found in paint and heavy-duty cleaners and even formaldehyde. More recently, some vapes have even been found to contain nitazenes, a synthetic opioid said to be 500 times more potent than heroin. Layered over these health risks is a serious criminal dimension. The illicit tobacco and vaping market has become a lucrative revenue stream for organised crime groups. These networks import vast quantities of unregulated products, launder the proceeds and use intimidation tactics against legitimate retailers. Communities are seeing the consequences in the form of firebombings, assaults and a growing disregard for the rule of law connected with the trade.

Enough is enough. The Crisafulli government will not stand idle while illegal products place Queenslanders, particularly our children, at risk. This government is drawing a hard line to dismantle this dangerous trade and to protect public health. The reforms in this bill are comprehensive and uncompromising. They strike directly at the drivers of this dangerous and illegal economy—the profits, the premises and the people behind it.

The importance of these new laws has been recognised by public health advocates. Matt Gardiner, the Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Council Queensland, said, 'These reforms are essential to safeguard decades of progress in tobacco control and ensure stronger protections for Queensland communities.' Laura Hunter, CEO of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, said—

... we strongly support this bill. It is an essential and long-overdue step to reduce the supply of illicit tobacco and vaping products across Queensland ...

It is no exaggeration to say that this bill is nation leading. Stakeholders have described it as such. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia's CEO, Angus Nardi, said, 'These laws will be a model for other jurisdictions.' As a case in point, just last week New South Wales, for the second time, introduced reforms that replicate measures in this bill. They are following our lead and it is further proof that Queensland is leading the nation. Even then, our approach goes further and remains nation leading in both its strength and its scope.

As Queensland sets the model for the other states and territories to follow, let's not forget that the Commonwealth government again needs to step up. State and territory governments are at the end of the conveyor belt, taking action against illicit and counterfeit goods successfully smuggled into this country. The Commonwealth needs to pull every available lever to stop these goods getting through the border and into the country in the first place.

I will now outline the key amendments proposed. The bill attacks the illicit trade from every angle: by cutting off profits, closing premises, exposing complicit landlords and removing the financial rewards that sustain this illegal industry. First, the bill introduces strong and decisive closure powers that will empower Queensland Health to slam the doors shut on illicit tobacco and vape shops for three months, not for a token three days. Labor's long weekends off for law-breakers will be no more. The bill also doubles the maximum duration of court ordered closure orders, from six months to 12 months. These extended closure powers strip offenders of their trading power and deliver a direct hit to their profit margins. If we are going to the effort of closing and penalising these perpetrators through the court system, as we have successfully done in Hervey Bay I might say, then we need to shut them down for longer.

To make these closure powers all the more effective and durable, it will become a criminal offence to open, trade or even work in a business and premises that is subject to a closure order. This ensures that when a business is ordered to shut down it stays shut—no backdoor trading, no processing online orders, no excuses. Closed means closed. By closing all of Labor's loopholes for continued operation, these reforms give our enforcement officers the authority they need to stamp out illicit tobacco and vape sales with confidence and with force. As the parliamentary committee heard, these new powers are a game changer in the fight against this illegal trade.

In addition to closing down premises, the bill targets the continued occupation of those premises by illicit traders. For the first time, it directly addresses the role of commercial landlords in dealing with tenants engaged in this illegal activity. The bill gives landlords a clear statutory power to terminate commercial leases where the leased premises are subject to closure orders. This ensures that criminal enterprises cannot continue to occupy retail spaces, while protecting landlords who do act responsibly. Evicted offenders will lose their premises, they will lose their bond and they will lose their ability to profit from illegal activity. This will make it harder for organised crime to find willing landlords or new shopfronts for their operations.

We know that most landlords are honest and want to comply with the law. While many landlords act swiftly and responsibly, there are no doubt some who knowingly profit from the illicit trade and enable these operations to continue. That is why the bill introduces a new offence and civil penalties to hold complicit landlords to account. A landlord who knowingly permits their premises to be used for the supply or possession of illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine products will face penalties of up to \$166,900, or one year's imprisonment, or over \$834,000 for corporations. Those who deliberately turn a blind eye to unlawful activity will face civil penalties of the same magnitude. This sends a clear message: ignorance is not a defence when it comes to organised crime.

However, we know that cracking down on premises and landlords means little unless illegal operations can be found and proven. That is why the bill also strengthens Queensland Health's detection and investigation powers. It expands warrantless entry into wholesale premises, enhances information-gathering powers and tightens checks on licence applications. Importantly, the bill introduces controlled purchase operations. Under the former Labor government's laws, enforcement officers lacked the tools to catch illegal retailers in the act. Under this bill, authorised Queensland Health officers will be able to supervise trained adult participants to attempt controlled purchases of illicit tobacco or vaping products. In effect, as was described in the committee, this is similar to the mystery shopper but with far greater consequences.

These operations are proven, proportionate and effective. They mirror frameworks used successfully in alcohol and tobacco enforcement across Australia. Each operation will be carefully approved, recorded and monitored, ensuring integrity and accountability. Controlled purchase operations will provide the kind of direct admissible evidence that leads to prosecutions—and to successful prosecutions. They will expose illegal operators who hide illicit products behind the counter or store vapes out the back or in hidden cupboards or cubicles and will send a strong deterrent message that compliance is not optional. For organised crime, this represents a real threat: consistent, proactive and impactful enforcement that makes illegal trading both high-risk and unprofitable.

Beyond detection, the bill ensures that those caught can no longer treat penalties as simply another cost of doing business. This includes changes to expose company directors who hide behind the legal fiction of their company, who hide behind what is known as the corporate veil, to avoid liability. Executive officers of companies that commit offences will be personally liable unless they can demonstrate they took reasonable steps to prevent the offence. This will streamline enforcement action against dodgy operators who think they can avoid personal liability by operating as a company.

The bill also tackles another tactic used by illicit traders: mixing lawful and unlawful stock to disguise their operations. Under the new compromised goods framework, authorised officers will be able to seize all legal smoking products, hookahs and related components when they are found in connection with illicit tobacco or vaping products. Not only will the illicit products be able to be seized but the legal tobacco products will be seized at the same time. The rationale is simple: goods that form part of, or help facilitate, an illegal business are themselves compromised. They are part of the criminal enterprise and activity. They should not be excluded. This approach dismantles the 'dual business' model that illicit traders rely upon, where legal products at the front of the shop conceal illegal trade carried on under or behind the counter. By removing both illicit and compromised lawful goods, the framework imposes immediate financial consequences on offenders and ensures that engaging in the illicit market is and becomes an unsustainable business decision.

Finally, to ensure all these powers can be used efficiently, the bill modernises enforcement processes. To enable more targeted enforcement, the bill introduces evidentiary certificates to simplify prosecutions, expands seizure powers and establishes new penalty infringement notice offences. These are practical measures that will reduce the administrative burden and ensure that enforcement is swift, consistent and effective.

Before I conclude, I advise the House that I will be moving amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail stage. Those amendments have been circulated. These amendments will respond to the rising scourge of nitrous oxide, or nangs as they are better known, and these products are increasingly sold using the same illicit networks that traffic illegal vapes and tobacco. The amendments will expand the bill's compromised goods framework so that authorised officers can seize these products when found alongside illicit tobacco or vapes, closing yet another loophole exploited for profit.

I want to acknowledge the member for Greenslopes, who wrote to me about nitrous oxide a few months ago and spoke in this place about it. In doing so, he shared with me a story about a family in his electorate who have experienced the challenges of nitrous oxide addiction firsthand. Their child has

suffered physical and mental health challenges as a result of nang abuse—nitrous oxide abuse—leading to social problems, antisocial behaviour and major challenges finishing school and transitioning into further study. These challenges highlight just how dangerous the misuse of nitrous oxide and the ready prevalence of these nangs really are.

I want to thank the member for Greenslopes for sharing this story with me and for being a constructive member of this place. He has been far more effective and constructive as the shadow assistant minister for health than his senior shadow minister, the member for Miller. The member for Greenslopes has been a constructive member of this place. I advised the member for Greenslopes at the time that we were actively looking at this problem and I am pleased that, with these amendments, enforcement officers will be able to remove nangs from illegal stores peddling these goods to kids and teenagers. However, there is more to be done on nitrous oxide because it is a legal product that has many legitimate uses in both medicine and dentistry and in various other areas of endeavour. We will continue to investigate how that can be safely regulated. These amendments in respect of nangs as circulated today continue the Crisafulli government's strong stance in protecting the health and safety of Queenslanders by ensuring our enforcement powers keep pace with the ever-increasing and evolving tactics of organised crime.

The illicit tobacco and vaping trade is not only a threat to public health; it is a lucrative enterprise that funds organised crime, exploits addiction and undermines Queensland's health and justice systems. The Crisafulli government is committed to protecting Queenslanders, especially our young people, from the harms of nicotine addiction and the reach of organised crime. These reforms give Queensland Health the vital tools to protect public health and keep dangerous products off our streets. With these reforms, we will hit rogue traders where it hurts—their hip pockets; we will seize the illicit and compromised stock to deprive them of generating a profit; we will shut them down for three months, not three days; and we will hit them with the nation-leading fines we introduced earlier this year. Importantly, if we find out that their landlord is enabling them in this illegal trade, then we will go after them as well.

This bill is a decisive step to safeguard our communities and protect the health of future generations. It sends a clear message that Queensland will not give up ground to organised crime or unscrupulous businesses that are willing to push dangerous and addictive products for financial gain. We will not sacrifice the hard-won public health gains of the last 50 years. Queensland is leading the nation in tackling this challenge head-on and I look forward to more jurisdictions following our lead. In doing so, I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (3.34 pm): I rise to lead the Miles Labor opposition's contribution to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and to offer our support for the bill. Labor supports this bill. We do so because, unlike the pill-testing ban and the gender services cessation to new patients in Queensland, this bill is actually grounded in public health evidence. It builds on the strong framework which Labor put in place when we were in government and it tackles a real and growing problem, and that is the illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products trade that is undermining what has been decades of hard-won progress in terms of tobacco control and putting Queenslanders, especially young Queenslanders, at risk.

I bring to the debate on this bill my own personal experience. As a teenager in Queensland, I had a father who was heavily addicted to cigarettes—three packets a day. He was a chain smoker who never got it under control in his lifetime and died at 60—a relatively young age—and I was always repulsed by smoking from a very young age as a result of it. One of my first activist actions, even before I joined the Labor Party, as a teenager was to join the nonsmokers movement for a period to lobby for reform in this area. At that time there was a 45 per cent level of smoking and now it is about 8½ per cent, so over 35 years there have been some very steady and hard-fought gains in the decline of smoking rates in this state and a lot of that has come through regulatory reform, often by Labor governments. It did not happen by accident; it came from persistent public health campaigns, from plain-packaging reforms, from price signals, from restrictions on advertising and from smoke-free spaces driven by reform by both the state and federal—usually Labor—governments and also by public debate. Obviously people are increasingly more aware of the issue. That certainly contributed to it as well.

Given the fact that tobacco kills and that the government has an obligation to act on behalf of and to protect public health and minimise the pressure, both short and long term, on our public and private hospital systems, this bill is a positive thing, and that is why the opposition supports it. However, that achievement is now being undermined by a booming black market in illicit cigarettes, in chop shops,

in nicotine vapes and other nicotine products that we often see sold at phoenix shops that reopen only three days later after closure. We know that, despite Queensland already having some of the toughest laws, highest on-the-spot fines and broadest enforcement powers in the nation, illegally imported cigarettes, loose-leaf tobacco and nicotine-filled vapes are still readily available in some tobacconists, in convenience stores and in other retailers across our state. The regulatory regime needs further updating to combat—and I say ‘combat’ advisedly—this quite evil trade.

There is no doubt that illicit tobacco and nicotine products are doing real damage to the health of Queenslanders. We have long known the harm from tobacco and it is still the leading cause of preventable death and disease here and in many other nations, driving higher rates of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and premature mortality while reducing people’s quality of life consistently, often on the way through to those terrible diseases and outcomes. Newer products, especially vapes, carry their own dangers—nicotine addiction, poisoning, lung injury and emerging evidence of cardiovascular harm.

There is a serious concern that vaping is likely to cause lung and oral cancers over time. On top of that, law enforcement agencies have warned that some illicit vape liquids have been contaminated with unexpected drugs, solvent residues and heavy metals. That impact on lung health is significant. I would like to acknowledge the contribution to public debate and the understanding of this issue by the Lung Foundation, which had a fantastic rally and march on Sunday at 5 pm. About 400 people turned up. For 5 pm on a Sunday, it was pretty impressive. I want to thank all of the Lung Foundation staff and leaders; all of the families and supporters; those people who are currently getting treatment for lung cancer who were there and shared their stories; and those who have come through their treatment and are now okay who also shared their stories. It was very powerful. That impact on lung health—what this bill is about—is important. It is often important for people to hear those messages from groups like the Lung Foundation rather than government. We can get our message across to some degree; sometimes third parties have a greater penetration and can offer assistance. Having partnerships with groups like the Lung Foundation is very important. I acknowledge their fantastic work in our community and look forward to continuing to work further with them.

For young people, the picture is very concerning. A recent study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* showed that the long-term decline in youth smoking has slowed since the vaping boom. If the pre-vaping trend had continued, only about 5.8 per cent of secondary students would have tried smoking by about 2022-23. In reality, that figure is now more than 13 per cent. In Queensland, the Chief Health Officer’s April 2025 report shows that vaping rates among high-schoolers has tripled in recent years. This is what public health experts have been warning about: vaping is not diverting kids away from smoking; in many cases, it is introducing a new generation of young people—

**Mr Ryan:** It is a pathway.

**Mr BAILEY:** I take that interjection from the member for Morayfield, who has young kids and who I know will be concerned about this. It is introducing a new generation to nicotine addiction and attempting to reverse decades of progress in terms of good public health policy.

That is the backdrop to and context of this bill. That is why a strong response to illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products is essential and why the regulatory framework requires strengthening in response to recent practices and trends emerging in this illicit tobacco sector, including organised crime, criminal activities, high levels of organisation and high levels of tactical strategy against enforcement.

The explanatory notes set out some of the objectives quite clearly: to protect public health by reducing the supply and possession of illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products; to strengthen existing offences and powers so that there is a genuine financial deterrent; to reduce the availability of commercial premises that can be used for the illegal trade; to hold lessors to account when they knowingly facilitate illicit supply; and to improve the efficiency of enforcement and investigations. In other words, this is about hitting the business model where it hurts—profit and access to premises—while tightening the net around those who enable these operations, whether they are frontline sellers, executives hiding behind complicated company structures or landlords who turn a blind eye—or worse—to what is happening on their property.

This is a sophisticated and lucrative illegal market. Profits often outweigh the risk of being caught under the existing regime. We have seen compliant and legal tobacconists threatened, firebombed and extorted by criminals. Those arson attacks and threats are the consequence of criminal syndicates fighting over a profitable black market that is trying to embed itself without sufficient challenge. That is totally unacceptable and we stand against that. Legitimate small businesses—compliant tobacconists and corner stores trying to do the right thing—are being undercut by operators selling untaxed, unregulated illicit tobacco products under the counter. Stakeholders report that some lawful retailers

are now seriously considering ceasing tobacco sales altogether because they cannot compete with those illegal prices. Without stronger enforcement, rogue traders are emboldened and compliant businesses operating within the law are in fact punished—an outcome we do not want to see. That is the reality of what we are dealing with and it is what the bill is trying to disrupt. The opposition supports that.

The first major change is to closure orders. Under the current law, the chief executive can issue a closure order for up to 72 hours where there is a reasonable suspicion of illicit tobacco, illicit nicotine supply or unlicensed sales. The experience of frontline officers is that 72 hours is effectively a slap on the wrist for operators, who are making a fortune. Currently, this is just a business cost for them. They treat it as downtime, as a period to restock. This bill expands the interim closure power introduced by the previous Labor government so that the chief executive can order a closure for up to three months, with an elevated threshold and a clearer decision-making framework. This is designed to deliver a meaningful financial and operational impact—enough to disrupt trading, not just briefly inconvenience it.

The existing long-term closure power—currently up to six months—is strengthened so that a magistrate can order closure for up to 12 months where the evidence supports it. This is a serious sanction, but it is subject to judicial oversight and used in response to serious repeated noncompliance. We have also seen some operators try to game closure orders by pretending that the business is shut for tobacco and vapes while continuing to trade in other goods. This bill makes it an offence to open to the public or supply any product or service while a closure order is in effect. Closed should mean closed—full stop.

We also need to be honest about the burden that closure orders can place on lessors—on landlords who in some cases may not be aware of the illegal conduct occurring on their property. Closure orders are necessary to hold illegal traders to account, but lessors could be stuck with a closed shop and no rent for months while the lease technically remained on foot and while they waited for a conviction before terminating. The bill fixes that by giving commercial lessors a clear statutory power to terminate a lease where a premises is subject to a closure order. That ensures they are not unfairly punished for a lessee's unlawful conduct and allows them to relet to a legitimate business. At the same time, the law makes it clear that the closure order ends once the lease ends, so the interference with a lessor's property rights is proportionate and time limited.

We also know that there are lessors who are not innocent bystanders—those who keep leasing to the same lessee despite repeated enforcement action and who happily rent to 'new' lessees who are clearly the same illegal operators with a fresh sign or the like above the door. That is why the bill creates a criminal offence for lessors knowingly permitting their premises to be used for illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine and a civil penalty scheme for situations where they deliberately turn a blind eye. Together, this dual enforcement framework reserves criminal penalties for serious, knowing facilitation and applies civil penalties where a lessor's wilful ignorance helps sustain the trade.

One of the consistent themes in tackling illicit tobacco has been the deliberate use of complex corporate structures to shield individuals from accountability: shell companies, phoenix operators and nominee directors. The bill introduces a type 2 executive liability provision so that, for certain serious offences, executive officers of corporations are deemed to have personally committed the offence, unless they can show that they did not know and could not reasonably have been expected to know about the conduct or that they took all reasonable steps to prevent it. In other words, if you are running the company you do not get to pretend you had no idea what was going on in the storeroom while the cash from the sale of illegal products rolled in.

Another important change relates to seizure powers. At present authorised officers can seize illicit products themselves, but operators have adapted. They minimise the amount of illicit stock onsite so that if they are raided the seizure is small and the financial impact minimised. Legal and illegal stock are intermingled on shelves and businesses can quickly restock and keep trading. This bill allows authorised persons, when they find illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine at a premises, to also seize compromised goods: legal smoking and tobacco products present at the same place. Once the illicit products are forfeited the compromised goods can also be forfeited and destroyed. That matters because it gives enforcement officers a way to impose an immediate, meaningful financial consequence. If you decide to dabble in the illicit trade you are putting all of your stock at risk, not just the illegal stock. That will deter otherwise legitimate retailers and wholesalers from having a go at selling illicit product on the side and it will bite those who are already deeply entrenched in the black market. These powers are narrowly defined and come with safeguards. Compromised goods can only be seized where illicit products are also seized. They only apply to products already regulated under the act and

authorised officers are guided by policies, including not targeting small quantities in personal belongings.

The bill also modernises enforcement by establishing a robust controlled purchase operation scheme. The chief executive will be able to appoint trained controlled purchase officers—adult public servants or health service employees—to conduct covert test purchases targeting serious offences: for instance, unlicensed sale of smoking products, commercial supply or possession of illicit tobacco and commercial supply or possession of illicit nicotine products. Controlled purchases are an enforcement tool already used in other states and territories, including South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT. They allow regulators to check compliance in the real world and gather solid evidence against those who knowingly flout the law, especially when dealing with minors or repeat offenders.

The bill also improves data collection and licensing integrity, requiring ABNs on license applications, keeping proper invoices and strengthening notification obligations where the location of outlets or lessor details change. These might sound technical, but they give Queensland Health better visibility of the market and they help identify patterns of noncompliance and phoenix behaviour. There is a \$12.7 million funding package in the bill over two years to support frontline enforcement of these new measures on top of recurrent funding for enforcement and nicotine dependence services. This investment must translate into more inspections, more seizures, more prosecutions and better support for smokers who want to quit.

These reforms do not come out of nowhere. They stand on a foundation built by the Labor Party. In 2023 Labor passed the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act. That law, creating a licensing scheme, ramped up penalties against the supply of illicit smoking products and strengthened enforcement powers. We initiated and supported the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry into vaping and the report on reducing e-cigarette use here in Queensland. We backed all recommendations and set in train a significant program of work. That included school-based programs and social media campaigns aimed specifically at young people, spelling out the real harm of vaping. We increased investment—\$22 million over five years—to expand enforcement capability with more authorised officers on the ground to monitor compliance and target rogue traders.

In 2024—just last year—Labor passed the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act that took strong action on the explosion in vaping, worked alongside Commonwealth reforms, enforced the ban on recreational vapes, strengthened advertising controls and created the very closure powers that this bill now extends. It also increased penalties for the commercial supply and possession of illicit tobacco.

When we support this bill we do so as the party that designed much of the existing architecture. This is a continuum of reform and we will support any move that is prepared to build on that foundation in a way that is genuinely directed at improving public health. It is positive that the Crisafulli government has seen the wisdom of Labor's reforms and has added to it after more than a year in power.

Unfortunately, what we are seeing today is that vaping risks becoming the new smoking for a younger generation and that must be prevented at all costs. We are seeing young people targeted with social media marketing and brightly coloured devices that deliver high doses of nicotine and other often unknown toxic chemicals, so it is a major public concern here in Queensland and Australia.

I am proud to say that we have led the world on antismoking measures here in this country, but we cannot afford to drift backwards because criminals have now found a new way to profit from nicotine addiction. When in office, Labor's campaign against vaping was pointed and successful in getting a lot of information out to young people for them to understand what it is and how it is that they are being manipulated and who, in fact, is doing it. Labor will always support reforms that put public health first, that listen to experts and are willing to take on organised crime.

There is a broader point here about the government's approach to expert advice. On this bill they have largely followed the evidence and brought forward measures that continue Labor's work based on the advice of experts. We welcome that. It is the right thing to do. It does beg the question why the Crisafulli government does not listen to experts on many other health issues in this state, such as pill testing being axed despite the advice of peak medical bodies such as the AMA and the RACGP, and why they played politics with gender health care for young people by cutting access to the gender service for new patients, only to see the puberty blocker ban torn up by the courts as unlawful because they failed to do even the most basic consultation with doctors and physicians. Time and again the government has shown disrespect and disregard for frontline health workers and expert medical bodies. They say they want more clinicians in charge, but then they ignore those clinicians when their advice is politically inconvenient and is contra to their political ideology. Health has become much worse over

the last year, but in the last few months we have seen a range of measures, which were outlined in debate earlier today, that have consistently happened, even since the last sitting. I will not go through them. They are not relevant to this bill. The Labor opposition will back this bill.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I am giving you a bit of mercy here. The Labor opposition will back this bill on illicit tobacco. If the government can accept expert advice on this they should be accepting expert medical advice on other matters. It is actually the same principle. I make that point very clearly. Supporting this bill is one thing, making it work is another. I want to put on record that Labor will be watching very closely to ensure that the promised enforcement funding translates into visible action on the ground: raids, seizures, prosecutions and closure orders that actually shut illegal operators; and nicotine dependence services that are properly funded and accessible so that we can crack down on supply but we can also help people to quit by giving them a level of support.

We do not want to see that education campaign not prioritised in the same way the government withdrew funds around skin cancer campaigns. In the skin cancer capital of the world we saw a slashing of commitment to education funding. People who are nicotine addicts need support. The government needs to commit to those education programs to help them. If it becomes clear that further legislative refinement is needed, such as to tighten loopholes to address unintended consequences, Labor will be constructive in pursuing that, as we have been throughout the evolution of this framework.

I pause there to comment on the amendments that have been dropped in our laps at the last minute. It seems to be quite a habit with this government. It is not exactly great parliamentary procedure.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I hear some whingeing from the other side. The amendments relate to nitrous oxide or nang abuse. The explanatory notes to the amendments state—

It is established that the long-term recreational misuse of nitrous oxide can lead to serious and potentially irreversible health consequences. Chronic exposure interferes with the body's ability to absorb vitamin B12, which is essential for nerve function. This deficiency can result in neurological damage such as memory loss, numbness, and even spinal cord injury. Users may also experience psychiatric symptoms including depression, anxiety, and psychosis. Physical effects like incontinence and impaired motor control have been reported, and in extreme cases, prolonged misuse can lead to brain damage or death.

As I quickly read through the amendments, that paragraph really leapt out at me and I wanted to emphasise it.

I pay full credit to and acknowledge the member for Greenslopes, who has led the debate on this. The Labor opposition are right behind the member for Greenslopes. As a nurse and a clinician, he is incredibly committed to health. I thank him for his contribution. It is that kind of leadership that has forced the government to bring in these amendments. The opposition will support these amendments. Nitrous oxide and nang abuse is horrific. It is terrible. We must do everything we can. I was shocked at the marketing of those brightly coloured three-litre tubs that are clearly targeted at children. That is absolutely offensive. I am glad that the government has responded to the campaign by the member for Greenslopes, supported by the Miles Labor opposition, and included these amendments in the bill before us today. I thank the member for Greenslopes. This is fantastic. Well done. We are seeing a good start and we will be able to look at it in further detail.

In conclusion, illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products, in their current form, present a difficult public health challenge. These issues sit at the intersection of public health, organised crime and community safety. Organised criminals are trying to hook a new generation onto nicotine, partly in a different way, by trying to reverse decades of progress, allowing criminal networks to embed in local shopping strips and punishing honest retailers and landlords who are complying with the law and trying to do the right thing. This bill will not solve every problem in this space, but it is a serious step forward and it deserves bipartisan support.

The bill strengthens closure powers so that 'closed' does in fact mean closed. It supports decent lessors while putting the heat on those who enable illegal trade on their premises; it pierces the corporate veil for executives who profit from this crime; it extends seizure powers so that dabbling in illicit stock jeopardises your whole business model; and it arms Queensland Health with modern enforcement tools like controlled purchase operations. It also continues the work that Labor began with the licensing scheme, vaping reforms, the inquiry into e-cigarettes, investment in enforcement and education campaigns, and funding for nicotine dependence services.

In this bill, we actually see some welcome continuity from the government. I only wish they would show that same respect for evidence and medical experts across the rest of the health system instead

of indulging in right-wing ideological culture wars in which we see services and expansions put back on the never-never. Labor will support this bill. We back strong targeted action to dismantle the illegal trade in tobacco and nicotine. We will continue to hold the government to account for delivering on the enforcement, the transparency and the broader public health agenda that Queenslanders deserve. The opposition will be supporting this bill.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (4.03 pm): Today I rise to speak in strong support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill delivers the next decisive step in the Crisafulli government's campaign to protect Queenslanders, particularly our young people, from dangerous illicit tobacco and the epidemic of vaping.

I rise to speak up for my community of Redcliffe, which is being affected like many others around the state and the nation. I also rise as a member of the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee that reviewed this legislation and heard from expert witnesses from Queensland Health, the Cancer Council Queensland, the Lung Foundation and others. We heard their strong evidence and support for this bill. Queensland has already introduced significant legislative reforms to combat illegally supplied illicit tobacco and vapes but, despite having some of the strongest penalties and enforcement powers in Australia, the black market continues to thrive. This is not just a local crisis; it is a national one. This bill explores the public health imperative and the criminal elements of the illicit sale of tobacco.

Sixty-six Australians a day die from smoking related diseases, and nowhere is this more evident than in communities such as mine. Redcliffe is a proud, family oriented community but, like many regions across Queensland, we have seen the infiltration of rogue traders, small shopfronts, convenience stores and even online sellers preying on our young people and stocking products containing toxins that have no place near our children. Local school principals, parents and police have told me that illegal vapes are being sold to teenagers in car parks and corner stores as well as on social media. These products are not harmless. They are directly designed to hook our children early, with bright packaging and sweet flavours masking toxic chemicals, antifreeze and volatile components found in paint and heavy-duty cleaners and even formaldehyde. More recently, we have seen reports of vapes containing nitazenes and other synthetic opioids said to be 500 times more potent than heroin. Parents in Redcliffe are frightened, and rightly so. Teachers and school counsellors tell me that the age at which vapes are first used is dropping, with primary school students increasingly exposed. All the while, criminal traders exploit our communities and young people. We cannot allow Redcliffe or any Queensland community to become a target market for illicit, dangerous and addictive products.

As a government we know that there is a public health imperative. In Queensland, tobacco is the No. 1 cause of cancer and it causes more than a dozen different types of cancer. The vaping crisis threatens to undo decades of public health progress. The epidemic of vaping is proving to be a gateway to get kids and teenagers hooked on tobacco. In Redcliffe, local clinicians at the hospital, community health workers and GPs are reporting higher dependency symptoms amongst teens and young adults. Therefore, this bill is about prevention. It is about stopping addiction before it starts. It is about taking away the supply that is deliberately targeted at children.

In the public committee hearings, Queensland Health enforcement officers presented very strong evidence that lengthy prosecutions and limited closure powers make it difficult to shut down known illegal operators. Shops will close briefly, for up to 72 hours, but then reopen the next week as if nothing had ever happened. The bill seeks to fix that. It does exactly what our community has been calling for. Changing short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months is a key component of this bill, as is extending the current interim closure order from 72 hours to three months. This will be a game changer. Three months is long enough to stop cash flow, break supply chains and send a clear message to rogue traders that their illegal business will not be tolerated. The bill also increases the maximum duration of court ordered long-term closure orders from six months to 12 months. This will give Queensland Health and the courts the power to permanently disrupt those who repeatedly target our communities.

Under this bill, it will be an offence to open a premises to the public for any reason during a closure order. This will stop the games that are currently happening—the backdoor trading, the sham reopenings and the deliberate defiance that we have seen too often. For the first time, Queensland landlords will have a statutory termination power to evict tenants engaged in illicit tobacco or vaping operations. This is in direct response to some landlords in Redcliffe who have told me that they want problem tenants gone but previously had no legal mechanism to act.

This bill goes further. It introduces a criminal offence for landlords who knowingly permit their premises to be used for illicit tobacco or nicotine supply, with a penalty of up to \$166,900 or one year

imprisonment. There will also be a civil penalty for landlords who are recklessly indifferent, with a penalty of \$834,500 for corporations. This bill will end the era of wilful blindness. This bill will also allow covert and undercover operations both online and in person. This is a critical part of the bill. Many residents report stores looking legitimate while selling behind-the-counter products. Mystery shopper style compliance checks give officers the power they need to obtain proof and shut these operations down.

This bill introduces compromised goods which are legal smoking products that will be seized alongside illicit stock. Officers will be able to seize everything used to facilitate the illegal trade. This ends the dual business model where front-of-shop legitimacy hides a back-of-shop criminal enterprise. Dodgy directors will no longer be able to hide behind company structures. This bill ensures company directors cannot use complicated corporate structures to avoid liability. If they profit from addiction they will be held personally accountable.

The Crisafulli LNP government is leading Australia in dismantling the illicit tobacco and vaping trade. We have already seized 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine pouches statewide, totalling more than \$75 million worth of dangerous goods off the streets. Crucially, we have acted where previous governments did not. By contrast, under Labor's weak laws vaping rates among Queensland high-schoolers tripled between 2017 and 2023. Officers could not even issue on-the-spot fines for stores caught selling vapes. Their penalties were merely a slap on the wrist. Illegal stores flourished and communities like mine in Redcliffe suffered the consequences. By contrast, our reforms are strong, modern and unambiguous. We are dismantling the black market piece by piece.

For families in Redcliffe, this bill will deliver fewer illegal vapes near schools, safer shopping precincts without rogue retailers, less exposure to criminal networks using our suburb as a foothold, strong support for parents and teachers trying to protect their children and a major reduction in cancer and addiction risks for future generations. Redcliffe deserves clean, safe, lawful retail environments, not storefronts that double as gateways to addiction.

In conclusion, this bill before the House is decisive, necessary and grounded in the lived experience of Queensland families. This is a health bill, a community safety bill, a child protection bill and for the people of Redcliffe and Queensland it is another step forward in ensuring our community remains a safe and healthy place to raise a family. I commend the bill to the House.



**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.12 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a bill that, despite the attempted narrative from this LNP government, builds on Labor's strong record of action to discourage smoking habits and combat instances of illegal trade. Thanks to the reforms of former Labor governments, Queensland already has some of the strongest laws, highest fines and most extensive enforcement powers in the country.

The Labor opposition will not be opposing this bill because any measure to increase the health and safety of Queenslanders and reduce our children's exposure to dangerous vapes is a welcome one. It is why Labor led a parliamentary inquiry into vaping in 2023 and why we made it possible in 2022 for community reporting on potential illegal activities with regard to tobacco and vaping products. It is why we invested heavily in health education campaigns and measures to tackle vaping at large and in schools, and why we introduced a mandatory tobacco product licensing scheme to give government robust oversight as to where and by whom these products were sold. It is why we made Queensland one of the strictest places in the nation when it comes to illegal tobacco and the vaping trade. It is why we introduced nation-leading reforms in 2016 which significantly increased enforceable smoke-free areas, particularly around areas where children congregate, when I was chair of the health committee.

I have been proud to stand in this House repeatedly and speak in support of many of the reforms we have made to reduce the impacts of tobacco and other smoking products, both illegal and illicit, because this is an issue that is and will always be close to my heart. I watched my grandmother, who never smoked a day in her life, die a painful death due to exposure to passive smoking. I have spoken often about the death of both of my parents at too young an age from non-preventable forms of cancer. I will never know or understand why people would choose this as a potential way for them to lose their life and many of the health concerns that go with it, even though I am, of course, sympathetic and understand how strong addiction can be.

For all of the smoking and tobacco reforms that successive Labor state governments have delivered in this state, we all know that vigilance in regard to this issue is ever key and there will always

be those who would seek to exploit any and every opportunity to benefit financially, regardless of whether it is at the expense of the wellbeing of others including children. The emergence of vapes are a clear example of this. After decades of success in reducing the smoking rate across this country we have seen the emergence of e-cigarettes or vapes. Designed to appeal to young people particularly, using colourful packaging and flavourings, too often marketed as lollies but far from it, and containing nicotine is leading to a new generation of nicotine addicted young people. It has been nothing short of unconscionable.

It is an issue that I have discussed at length over recent years with the different young people who come through my Nudgee Youth Advisory Council. They have always been very frank about how it is marketed to them, the behaviour they have seen with some of their peers and the struggles that have come from the use of these e-cigarettes.

It was conversations like those, that were led by young people in my Nudgee electorate, that led former education minister Grace Grace and our Labor government to invest heavily in health education campaigns and measures to tackle vaping at large and in schools and why we introduced the mandatory tobacco product licensing scheme to give government robust oversight as to where and by whom these products are sold. Those reforms have made a difference. I know because the young people in our schools have told me it has made a difference and teachers and principals have told me that it has made a difference. The work is not done and ongoing reform is required to stay ahead of those who would seek to undo the decade of progress we have seen.

The opposition recognises that the expanded closure powers in this bill give Queensland Health and the courts additional tools to disrupt illegal operators. Increasing both short- and long-term closure periods and ensuring closure orders prevent businesses from continuing to trade under the guise of selling unrelated goods are sensible reforms that target those who knowingly circumvent the strong laws that our Labor government fought to deliver.

Importantly, the bill also addresses the behaviour of lessors who permit illegal activity to continue on their premises. Allowing leases to be terminated following a closure order and introducing penalties for landlords who knowingly or with reckless indifference enable unlawful supply will help close off pathways through which illegal operators so often re-establish themselves.

We also note the strengthened accountability provisions for corporate executive officers and the expansion of seizure, forfeiture and entry powers. These reforms, coupled with the ability for authorised officers to undertake controlled covert purchases, reflect the growing sophistication of the illicit tobacco trade. We welcome these changes and note the need for continued reform as illegal practices evolve. Requiring wholesalers and retailers to retain proper records, updating licence application requirements and enabling the use of evidentiary aids is hoped will further support compliance and assist investigations.

None of these measures on their own provide a silver bullet, but taken together, and on top of the years of investment and reform of former Labor governments, they support longstanding, public health efforts to protect our young people, and to help restore a level playing field for law-abiding Queensland businesses. There will always be a need for continuous reform to protect the community. This was our approach when in government and it continues to be our approach now in opposition and, for the reasons cited earlier, the opposition will be supporting the bill.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, hereafter the TOSP. At the outset, I acknowledge the diligent work of the Hon. Tim Nicholls, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and my Health, Environment and Innovation Committee colleagues—the member for Southport as chair and other committee members—in bringing these substantive TOSP reforms to the House.

According to Cancer Council Queensland, smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Australia, claiming the lives of 66 Australians daily. Sadly, the Fraser Coast has been identified as a lung disease hotspot. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Fraser Coast has the highest rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as a proportion of our Fraser Coast population in Australia. I had my first cigarette at the age of 11 and by 14 was heavily addicted. Thankfully, I kicked the habit after several attempts, so I completely understand how hard it is to kick the nicotine habit.

Under Labor, vaping rates for Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. Labor's soft approach to the illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine trade resulted in public officers being unable to issue on-the-spot fines or seize these illicit products. Labor's soft approach to the illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine trade over a decade has undermined public health initiatives and emboldened organised

crime syndicates in Queensland. The Crisafulli government's strong record in just one year is in glaring contrast to a decade of Labor's faint-hearted approach to the illicit nicotine trade. We have taken Charles Dickens's advice to heart: never do tomorrow what you can do today. On this side of the House, we are steadily and methodically cleaning up Labor's mess.

In June 2025, the Hervey Bay Magistrates Court ordered six local stores involved in the sale of illicit tobacco to be shut down for up to six months as part of a crackdown on the illegal trade. The owner of five of these businesses, Mohammed Alfalahi, lived in Dubai and operated under a tenancy agreement. Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service seized 480,000 illicit cigarettes, 70 kilograms of loose tobacco and 176 vaping device from the Main Street Tobacconist. I table a copy of the relevant Wide Bay ABC media report.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC Wide Bay online, dated 25 July 2025, titled 'Queensland court orders illegal tobacco stores to close for six months under tough new laws'.

In the Wide Bay region between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025, there were 6,856,902 cigarettes, 1,193 kilograms of loose tobacco, 44,650 vapes and 31,349 nicotine pouches seized by Queensland Health.

The Australian Institute of Criminology has reported that organised crime in relation to illicit tobacco cost Australia \$4 billion in 2023-24, and that was a significant increase on previous years. The report *Illicit tobacco in Australia 2024* by FTI Consulting estimated that almost 40 per cent of all tobacco consumed in Australia is now illicit, up more than 10 per cent in a single year. This equated to around 3,400 tonnes of illegal product, with about 70 per cent of that being unbranded loose tobacco, or chop-chop.

Heather Cook, CEO of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, in a recent public address at the National Security College said—

Consider the story of Australia's illicit tobacco market. Since 2023, efforts by organised crime groups to control the illicit tobacco and vape market have led to over 200 fire bombings, at least 3 homicides—including an innocent civilian—and countless acts of intimidation and extortion.

Illicit tobacco trade is highly profitable, and organised crime is using the profits to fund other criminal activities. It would be grossly naive to think the illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine trade in Hervey Bay has no connection with organised crime.

The TOSP bill makes several substantive amendments including: expanding the duration of closure orders and ensuring businesses cannot operate under a closure order; introducing a new statutory lease termination power to allow lessors to terminate leases for premises subject to a closure order; introducing lessor criminal offence and lessor civil liabilities to hold lessors accountable for knowingly or recklessly permitting their premises to be used for illicit trade; introducing a type 2 executive liability offence; expanding entry powers to allow authorised officers to enter wholesale premises without a warrant or consent; introducing new powers that will allow authorised officers to seize and forfeit compromised goods which are lawful products found alongside illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine; introducing controlled purchase operations to assist authorised officers in gathering evidence to support prosecutions; introducing new powers to allow authorised officers to request certain information relevant to enforcement and compliance activities; and making minor and technical amendments to improve the operation of the act.

Minister Nicholls has already spoken in comprehensive detail to the technical aspects of TOSP. However, I briefly return to the Hervey Bay Magistrates Court case involving the six-month closure of five illicit tobacco stores. I am not aware of all of the facts of this case, yet how might some of the provisions in TOSP have applied to this case? I am not suggesting any wrongdoing on the part of the landlord as the relevant lessor. Mr Alfalahi, the owner of the unlicensed tobacco stores, was a tenant. The TOSP provides a new statutory lease termination power that would allow the landlord as the relevant lessor to terminate a commercial lease where the premises is subject to a closure order. The statutory termination is deemed a repudiation by the lessee and entitles the lessor to claim damages or recover a rental bond and dispose of chattels, fixtures and other property left behind on the premises.

In exercising this statutory termination power, it will mitigate the lessor's exposure to the new criminal lessor offence and civil liabilities. However, if the lessor has knowledge or turns a blind eye to the illicit activity, they may be criminally and civilly liable to the requisite standard. The maximum penalty for a criminal offence is one year imprisonment. The maximum penalty for an individual is \$166,900 and for a corporation is \$834,500. Under TOSP, any compromised goods which are legal smoking products alongside illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine at the premises are compromised goods subject to

seizure and forfeiture. Thus, any lawful goods located at Mr Alfalahi's stores could have been seized and forfeited.

New controlled purchasing powers under TOSP will allow certain staff to undertake covert and undercover operations to assess compliance with TOSP. The TOSP does not provide for an external oversight of controlled operations pursuant to chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2020 because there are appropriate controlled operation safeguards built into clause 22 of the TOSP.

In closing, the Crisafulli government is taking proactive, constructive and methodical steps to reform Queensland's tobacco legislation. There is an inextricable link between the illicit trade in cigarettes, loose tobacco and vapes and organised crime syndicates. Our tobacco legislative reform includes breaking up the business model of organised crime and promoting public health. The Crisafulli government's tobacco reforms stand in stark contrast to a decade of Labor's soft approach to the illicit trade in tobacco and, by implication, organised criminal activity. I commend the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.29 pm): I support the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Let me start by saying that Labor will always support evidence-based and expert endorsed reforms to improve the health of Queenslanders. Since starting work nearly four decades ago as a nurse, I have seen firsthand the damage that tobacco does in our community: people die in respiratory distress; people have strokes; the exacerbated circulatory impacts of diabetes mean people lose legs, kidneys and eyesight; people get so many different types of cancers; people finish work early due to macular degeneration; and children are damaged for life by the smoking habits of their parents, who are sadly addicted to these terrible drugs. Like most Australians, my own family has been hurt by tobacco. This Friday will mark one year since my mother-in-law, Nola Adams, died of COPD—chronic obstructive pulmonary disease—a disease directly related to smoking.

I give a big shout-out to all of the nurses, doctors and health workers who care for people who are impacted by smoking. I also want to talk about those people who work in research, prevention and public health trying to minimise the impacts of smoking. I particularly want to thank all of the groups who made submissions such as the Queensland Cancer Council, the Lung Foundation and the Australian Council on Smoking & Health, to name a few. As a young nurse, building an understanding of legislation designed to tackle smoking rates fuelled my interest in how we can use legislation to really change people's health for the long term, and I continue to be excited to be involved in these types of legislative exercises.

There has been a long history of legislative changes to respond to tobacco and other tobacco products, supported by all parties at all levels of government. Vaping and illegal tobacco is the latest challenge that governments and our public health teams have had to respond to. Lung Foundation CEO Mark Brooke and other witnesses confirmed that vaping and illegal tobacco have been a growing problem over the last five years. Mark advised that this is a national problem. Governments of all persuasions at all levels have been improving their responses to this insidious product over that period, which is why it is very disappointing that two other committee members have chosen to ignore that evidence given to the committee in an attempt to politicise this.

Queensland has been leading the nation in taking action on tobacco and vaping. The Australian Council on Smoking & Health—ACOSH—released their annual report card on progress to eliminate tobacco and vaping. Queensland was at the top of the list with South Australia. I will table that report card and media release for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Australian Council on Smoking & Health: Document titled 'National Scorecard 2025: State and Territory Progress on Tobacco and Vaping'; and Media Release, dated 30 May 2025, titled 'Failing the Smoke Test—National Scorecard Exposes States and Territories Falling Behind on Tobacco and Vape Reform'.

Why was this? Why were we at the top of this list? Perhaps it was because of the many reforms that were implemented about smoking and vaping by the former Labor government during the decade of creating jobs, rebuilding our schools, creating new industries, securing the Olympics and getting through COVID-19. That is in contrast to the 12 months of broken promises, slick slogans, slippery spin and, as we learned today in the MPI, dodgy deals by the Premier.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** Labor has done an enormous amount of reform in this area. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023, which included a licensing scheme, strong penalties against the supply of illicit smoking products and other enforcement measures, was commended by several submitters to this inquiry, if those opposite bothered to read any of the submissions.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** All of the recommendations in the health and environment committee's report *Vaping: an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland* were supported and a significant body of work was commenced. There were school-based programs and social media campaigns to target young people and provide education around the harms of vaping along with increased investment of over \$22 million over five years to enhance enforcement, including more authorised officers to monitor compliance and allow for increased enforcement activities.

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 took strong action on the uptake in vaping, worked with the Commonwealth government and enforced the ban on recreational vapes. It also created closure powers, which have now been extended; strengthened regulations on advertising tobacco; and increased penalties for the commercial supply and possession of illicit tobacco.

Unlike those who are interjecting over there, this is not something I have thought about for the last five minutes; I have followed this issue for the entirety of my career. The reforms in this bill are good reforms, and that is why we are supporting them. They are the latest in a long line of reforms that have been implemented in Queensland by governments of both persuasions.

The changes made in 2023 and 2024 were nation-leading and laid the platform for these reforms. I table a list of the legislative changes since 2012, for the benefit of the House, and I would encourage those who are interjecting to educate themselves just a little bit.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998—Legislative Amendments' (since 2012).

I had to get the research director to provide me with that information because Queensland Health gave what I considered to be a contemptuous answer when I asked for that very information on notice. These provisions will do a number of things. They will effectively interrupt the capacity of retail shopfronts to sell illegal vapes and tobacco. They will do this: by giving authorities the power to shut these businesses down for months and longer; by allowing authorities to confiscate both legal and illegal products, making it difficult for businesses to open again quickly and hide illegal products amongst legal products; by giving landlords the capacity to terminate leases if an illegal business is being operated; and by holding landlords criminally responsible for knowingly leasing premises to businesses that are engaged in the illegal sale of tobacco.

The reality is that the majority of this trade is being driven by organised crime, and the real work to combat this and all other forms of organised crime will be conducted by law enforcement agencies at the national and state level. I commend Tony Burke and the federal Albanese government for setting up the Illicit Tobacco National Disruption Group. These laws will mean that the easy access to vapes and illegal tobacco in our community will come to an end.

I would like to respond to the submission by Mr Theo Foukkare of the Australian Association of Convenience Stores. Mr Foukkare rightly supports measures to get rid of illegal tobacco and vapes. Unfortunately, he has also made many statements about the tobacco excise being a driver of illegal tobacco and vape sales. Sadly, these statements have been reported by reputable media outlets without any effort to seek a response from organisations like the Queensland Cancer Council, ACOSH or the Lung Foundation. The reality is that the tobacco excise has been effective in driving down smoking rates. When combined with plain packaging, restrictions on where people can smoke, education and all of the other measures, it is a very effective measure. The statements that Mr Foukkare made about the impacts of the tobacco excise on illegal tobacco and vape sales have been debunked by many credible researchers and were covered in submissions by several of the organisations I have mentioned.

Finally, I turn to the amendments which were circulated very late today. There would have been plenty of opportunities to brief me on these, as I had written to the health minister about this very issue. Putting aside the health minister's attempt to divide and conquer, I do want to thank him for the action on nitrous oxide addiction. These products have become another income stream for people who sell illegal vapes and tobacco—people whose business model is built on not giving a damn about the damage they do to people's health. The provisions in these amendments are an important step. There is probably more work to do to tackle home delivery businesses and online sales, but this is a good start. I have been working on this issue for well over 12 months.

A family shared their story with me about their experiences with N2O addiction in their family. The impacts were significant and, like a lot of addiction issues, there have been many ups and downs for the young man who has this addiction. While the ups and downs come and go, what does not

change is the fact that he has a family who cares deeply about him and are doing everything in their power to help him live a healthy life. They are also advocating to shut down this evil trade so other young people can avoid this terrible addiction.

An incredible amount of work has been undertaken since the first anti-smoking measures were rolled out in the early 1970s. This is another good step in that work. For any side of politics to try to politicise this and claim this is really quite disgraceful. There will inevitably need to be more reforms. We support these measures as being effective. I am personally extremely pleased to see the action on N2O addiction. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise today to offer my full support for the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill represents a decisive and necessary step to tackle the challenges posed by the illicit tobacco and vaping market in Queensland as well as to address the growing and deeply concerning misuse of nitrous oxide in our communities.

Queensland has long recognised the dangers posed by illegal tobacco and nicotine products. Our state has implemented some of the toughest penalties and enforcement powers in Australia. Despite these efforts, the black market for illicit tobacco, loose-leaf chop-chop and nicotine filled vapes remains entrenched. These products are still widely available in retail outlets, undermining legitimate businesses, eroding public trust and threatening the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The current enforcement regime is hindered by lengthy processes, resource-heavy investigations and insufficient powers to quickly shut down rogue retailers. Queensland Health, despite its commitment, is limited in its ability to respond swiftly and decisively. As a result, illegal traders continue to profit, damaging our economy and placing our communities at risk. This amendment bill seeks to disrupt the economic incentives driving the illicit tobacco trade and strengthen our ability to respond. By amending the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the bill aims to capture a wider range of those involved in the illegal supply of tobacco and nicotine products. It introduces new offences, expands enforcement powers and ensures clear consequences for those who choose to flout the law.

The bill extends the interim closure period for premises found with illicit tobacco or nicotine products, from 72 hours to three months. This gives authorities greater flexibility and time to investigate and disrupt illegal operations. Importantly, these orders now apply to both supply and commercial possession of illicit products. The maximum period for court ordered closures increases from six months to 12 months. These orders can now be issued for both supply and possession offences, ensuring that premises involved in illegal trade remain closed for a meaningful duration. Opening premises subject to a closure will be an offence, with a maximum penalty of 200 penalty points, or \$33,380. This is a robust deterrent for those tempted to ignore the law.

Landlords will now have the right to terminate commercial leases if their premises are subject to a closure order due to illegal conduct by tenants. This provision will reduce the availability of retail sites for illegal operators. The bill introduces penalties for landlords who knowingly allow their properties to be used for illegal tobacco and nicotine sales. Maximum penalties include up to 1,000 penalty units, or \$166,900, a year's imprisonment or both. Civil penalties for reckless indifference may reach 1,000 units for individuals and 5,000 for corporations—up to \$834,500. Legal smoking products found alongside illicit goods can now be seized, ensuring immediate financial consequences for those attempting to hide illegal products among lawful stock.

Company directors will be held accountable if their businesses commit offences, unless they can demonstrate they were unaware or took reasonable steps to prevent wrongdoing. The bill enables covert operations to test compliance, allowing authorities to catch illegal suppliers and gather evidence for prosecution. Licensing processes are improved and on-the-spot fines can now be issued for contravening closure orders or failing to keep proper invoices, making penalties faster and more effective.

The bill also addresses the alarming rise of the misuse of nitrous oxide, commonly known as nangs. While nitrous oxide serves legitimate purposes in medicine, dentistry and hospitality, its widespread availability in retail outlets, including tobacconists and convenience stores, has made it dangerously accessible for recreational use, especially among young Queenslanders. Let us be clear: recreational use of nangs is far from harmless. It can cause severe neurological, cardiovascular and psychiatric harm and in extreme cases lead to paralysis or death. Recent findings show that around 78 per cent of illicit tobacconists were stocking nitrous oxide products—an unacceptable situation that demands urgent attention.

The amendments empower authorised officers to seize and forfeit nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters as 'compromised goods' when found alongside illicit tobacco and nicotine products. This practical measure targets illegal retailers and makes it harder for them to profit from these dangerous substances. The bill also includes a regulation-making power ensuring we can respond rapidly as illicit operators shift to new harmful products.

These reforms have not been developed in isolation. Queensland Health undertook comprehensive public consultation between 22 May and 20 June 2025, engaging retailers, industry groups, government agencies, statutory bodies and the broader public. The response was overwhelmingly supportive, reflecting the community's urgent desire for action to curb the illicit tobacco trade and protect Queenslanders from the risks of nitrous oxide misuse.

It is important to note that the costs of implementing these measures will be managed within existing resources. The government is committed to ensuring these reforms deliver maximum impact without placing undue strain on the public purse.

In closing, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is a targeted, practical and forward-looking response to a complex issue. By strengthening enforcement, broadening accountability and introducing new penalties and investigative tools, we send a clear message: Queensland will not tolerate the illegal tobacco trade or the reckless sale of dangerous substances like nitrous oxide. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In doing so, I would like to speak on the critical public health challenge facing Queensland: the devastating impact of vaping and illicit tobacco in our communities, particularly our young people. Labor, both in government and now in opposition, have always looked after the health of Queenslanders, and our care has been guided by expert advice and scientific, evidence-based approaches when it comes to health. We have a commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders, and that principle has never been more important than it is today.

The harmful effects of smoking tobacco are well established. We know that nicotine in tobacco is highly addictive, with the release of dopamine making smokers crave more at regular intervals. Smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable disease and death in this state. It significantly reduces life expectancy and increases the risk of conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

In recent years, governments across the world have been confronted with a new and alarming threat: vaping and illicit nicotine products. According to the April 2025 report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland, vaping rates amongst Queensland high-schoolers have tripled in just six years. New research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* tells us that the decline in youth smoking rates has slowed since the widespread uptake of vaping. Evidence shows that vaping carries significant risks including nicotine addiction, seizures, poisoning and lung injury.

There is emerging evidence of adverse effects on cardiovascular health such as elevated blood pressure and heart rate. Alarmingly, there have also been reports of illicit vaping liquids being contaminated with dangerous substances including synthetic opioids such as nitazenes, which can be up to 10 times more potent than fentanyl. These products are deliberately designed to appeal to young people, with candy flavours, bright colours and sleek designs that mask the very real danger they pose. These dangerous and addictive products are causing severe harm to Queenslanders, especially our young people, whose health and futures are being put at risk.

Over the past year I have heard from many of my constituents who find the rise in tobacconists operating unlawfully alarming. I have heard from Nick in Deagon, who contacted me after three new tobacconists opened near his children's school. He noticed these stores had started selling lollies. This is a deliberate strategy to attract young consumers. When a new tobacconist opened near Sandgate District State High School, teacher Kaylene and parents reached out to me with concerns that this proximity created easier access for students to purchase cigarettes and vapes. They no longer trust that these stores uphold age restriction laws.

These are not isolated incidents. I know that teachers and parents across Queensland are facing this crisis and they are on the front line. They confiscate vapes from students, they have difficult conversations with young people about addiction and they support families that are dealing with the consequences. Our health professionals are equally stretched. They are treating young people with nicotine addiction, respiratory problems and the psychological impacts of substance abuse and

dependence. They are seeing cases of acute nicotine poisoning and providing cessation support to individuals who thought vaping was a safe alternative to smoking.

This is not just a health crisis; it is also a public safety issue. Organised crime groups are exploiting the profitability of illicit tobacco and nicotine products, embedding criminal activity in local communities. We have seen reports of retailers being threatened, firebombed and coerced into supplying products to generate profits for criminal networks. We heard some of that in the public hearing here at parliament. When we talk about illicit tobacco we are not just talking about tax avoidance; we are talking about products that bypass all quality controls—products that are being brought into our state through illegal means and then sold on the street corners of our communities, causing great harm to local kids and concern to parents.

When Labor was in government we took this seriously. We continue to do so. We listened to the expert health advice. That is why when we were in government we took decisive action and introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023, which included a comprehensive licensing scheme and strong penalties against the supply of illicit tobacco products. We invested in school-based programs and social media campaigns to target young people and provide education around these dangerous products. We also passed the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, working with the Commonwealth Government to enforce the ban on recreational vapes, create closure powers and strengthen regulations on advertising. This was comprehensive, expert backed reform that put Queenslanders' health first. That is why today the Labor opposition supports this bill.

This bill builds on the strong foundations we established. It extends closure orders from 72 hours to three months and from six months to 12 months for serious offenders. It ensures that stores remain closed and there are no loopholes on trading under the guise of those selling other goods. It also holds corporate executives personally accountable unless they can prove they had no knowledge of the illegal activities that had been taking place. These are sensible and proportionate measures that will help enforce more regular control over illegal tobacco use in our communities.

I hope there is more reform to come from this because this is becoming a huge issue in many of our communities. We need continued support for school-based educational programs. We also need to see that the consequences of these are upheld. We have seen the LNP government's lack of track record when it comes to listening to health experts. They ignored the advice of health experts on other policies, which is why I am pleased to see this is being taken further. We have seen this government break the promises they made to Queenslanders when it comes to access to health care, showing disrespect and utter disregard for health workers.

In September I wrote to the health minister to pass on my constituents' concerns specifically around proximity to schools and marketing to children. The minister could not be bothered to give me a response and instead had his adviser write a reply to me that in part was copied and pasted from another response. Unfortunately, the adviser did not know that in fact I am the member for Sandgate and the suburb I wrote about was not Teneriffe—it was in my electorate. They referred to 'constituents of Teneriffe' in a copy and pasted response. I would say to the Minister for Health that I would appreciate a response to my constituents' inquiry and their concerns, because they have children who go to a local school and they would like the government to take action on these things. I will yet again wait for a response from the minister.

I know that parents and teachers feel powerless against tobacco stores, particularly when businesses fail to uphold the laws that are designed to protect children. It is disappointing that the government only appears to be interested in attacking us when they have a real opportunity here to ensure these reforms can be implemented. This bill is a much needed crackdown on illegal activity in the tobacco industry and an important continuation of Labor's work. From a government that has consistently failed to listen to the experts when it comes to health in Queensland, it is a refreshing change to see them do so on this matter and continue Labor's progress. I welcome the changes but do acknowledge there is further work needed to increase protections against illicit tobacco, particularly for our children.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The government has already taken important steps to tackle the illegal supply of tobacco and vapes, yet despite our strong laws the black market continues to thrive, fuelled both by the addictive qualities of the product and the heavy-handed taxes that are applied by the federal government. It is really

disturbing to see the way these high taxes are driving people into the arms of the criminal gangs that run the illegal tobacco trade.

This is a really serious issue for three reasons. It is an economic issue first. It is the struggle of addicted people to afford the expense of legal cigarettes that drives people into the arms of the illegal trade. When a legal pack costs over \$50 and an illegal one is \$15 to \$25, it is no surprise that otherwise law-abiding people become tempted. It is a really serious crime issue because that is empowering a criminal industry that makes its mark on our communities with fires, violence and more.

When incidents involving illegal tobacco operators have occurred in the Redlands it has been devastating. The firebombings, extortion and organised crime turf wars that arise as a result are not something we should be prepared to accept. It is dangerous and good citizens can get caught in the crossfire. Law-abiding local businesses face the evaporation of their traditional trade and the ever-present risk that their businesses will also become burnt up as part of the collateral damage. These good businesses have no mechanism at present to stop such a shop from moving into their proximity. One shop in recent memory was firebombed three times in a six-month period.

Local businesses that are already under pressure from rising costs should not be forced to look over their shoulders as criminal gangs move in and fight for control of the illegal tobacco trade. These are serious criminals. One example from the Redlands involved raids on homes, storage facilities and two tobacco shops in Cleveland and Capalaba. In that case, Queensland Health, the police, the CCC and the ATO seized \$836,000 in cash, 3.69 tonnes of loose tobacco and 7.9 million cigarettes. The charges that were laid as a result involved more than 500 kilograms of tobacco and sales of \$6.649 million.

The person accused of those offences was stopped while driving a Lamborghini, had bought six properties with what were believed to be illegal profits, yet had neither filed tax returns nor been honest about the disability support pension he had been claiming. That is just one example but it is a snapshot of what we are dealing with. The dangers for innocent bystanders and other legitimate businesses that come when organised crime is invited into our suburbs are not something that I or this government will accept. In fact, in our first year of government the LNP has seized more than 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 illicit nicotine pouches with a total value of over \$75 million.

We are prepared to take the action our community needs, and this bill represents the very next step. It is a crucial step in our ongoing fight against illegal tobacco. It aims to dismantle the networks that profit from selling these substances. The bill will empower Queensland Health with enhanced enforcement tools. It allows for short-term closure orders of up to three months for those who are caught with these illicit products. At the moment, an interim closure order is limited to 72 hours. This means that, under this new bill, if illegal activity is detected we will be able to act swiftly to shut it down.

The bill also increases the maximum duration of court ordered long-term closure orders from six months to 12 months, and they can be ordered for both supply and possession offences. That is a considerable expansion of the scope that is available for enforcement. If there is a closure order in place, it ensures there is a clear offence available for situations where a person opens those premises for any reason, with increased fines of 200 penalty units, which at the moment amounts to over \$33,000.

The bill expands the liability of company directors for crimes of this kind so that corporate structures are not able to be used to avoid accountability for this kind of conduct, and it provides powers for enforcement officers to do covert and undercover operations to detect and investigate illegal conduct. The Redlands is a community that really cares for one another, so I hear from across the community—and from Cleveland and Wellington Point residents in particular—about sites that are engaging in illegal activity, including in locations that are far too accessible to school students. They are just not appropriate, and enforcement officers need these tools to be able to shut down those who are doing the wrong thing for good.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Stoker, adjourned.

## **GAMING MACHINE AMENDMENT REGULATION**

### **Disallowance of Statutory Instrument**



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.00 pm): I move—

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

I want to say at the outset that this is an extraordinarily short and simple piece of subordinate legislation. The proposal to disallow it is eminently justified and very simple, and it is one that every person in this House should get behind. Any person here who is concerned about both the current cost-of-living crisis and the toll that pokies continue to take in our communities across Queensland should support this disallowance motion.

I will briefly explain what the amendment regulation does. In broad terms, it cuts the tax on pokies operators—the tax they pay when they transfer an authority—by more than 50 per cent. It cuts it from 33 per cent of the transfer value of the authority to 15 per cent. In Queensland, there is a special authorised sale process for when any of the 19,500 pokies licences are transferred between licensees in Queensland. This process for the transfer of authorities and for the taxation under this regulation is facilitated by the Public Trustee.

The regulation sets a percentage of the sale price that is to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. This percentage is set at part 10B of the regulation and is set generally at 33 per cent. What we have seen in recent years, though, is a supposedly temporary change to this percentage. As of June 2022, Labor reduced it from 33 per cent to 15 per cent, and the proposal at that time was supposed to expire after 12 months. What we have seen since that point is that it has been twice extended.

We are now three years into this tax cut for pokies licence holders, and what is proposed in this regulation is an extension of the tax break for a further three years. The justification is that this extension could trial the effects on the authority transfer market by adjusting particular parameters over these three years. If we do not have a clear sense of what is going on with this tax cut for pokies licensees after three years, what are we going to learn through a further three years? This is quite clearly just a case of offering up a loophole and giving this tax cut to pokies owners.

The explanatory notes for this amendment regulation say that the impacts on revenue will be low. I do not know exactly how 'low' is gauged, but by the standard that I think most Queenslanders who are struggling with the cost of living and the cost of housing would accept this is not a small amount of money. At the last tender in May 2025, the sale of licences resulted in \$3.1 million being paid into the Consolidated Fund. At the base level, at the standard taxation rate that should have been about \$6.9 million.

We have a current example that we can contemplate too, because as it happens there is another tender that is currently open that will close tomorrow. Within that tender process there are conflicting figures on the OLGA website, but it adds up to 200 authorities that are for sale across the state. There is a minimum acceptable price for these licence transfers, and that is not to say that they will not sell for significantly more than that. Even if these 200 authorities sell for only the minimum acceptable price, Queenslanders will be short-changed by more than \$11 million.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Rubbish.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I hear the Attorney-General say 'rubbish'. This is not complex maths. There are 200 licences and the minimum acceptable price is set out on her own website, so you just do the multiplications and add it up. It is \$11 million that would be lost. If we were to keep that 33 per cent in place and this disallowance motion were passed by the House this evening, this transfer tomorrow would provide \$11 million more into Queensland's general revenue if all of those were to sell.

I understand that the revenue into the Consolidated Fund has increased since the change was first implemented in June 2022. It is important for the House to note, though, that the average sale price for authorities has quite dramatically increased over that time. That is not to suggest that we are getting a better deal because of the tax cut that the Labor government offered and the LNP is proposing to extend for a further three years. It is in fact just the case that the value of these licences and the transfers has gone up. What that means is that in the intervening three years we have missed out on more revenue for the things that Queenslanders need.

It is really important that every member of this House and every member of the general public in Queensland notes that apparently the only consultation undertaken on this regulation was with the Queensland Hotels Association and hotel licensees—the very people who we know will benefit from the continuation of this more than 50 per cent tax break. Another bit of context that might be useful is that just this year—back in April 2025—the LNP also increased the individual caps on the number of pokies that club operators with multiple venues can hold onto.

This is not a government that is operating with any concern for the wellbeing of people who are struggling with gambling addiction. It is not a government that has any interest in doing the right thing by regular people who are doing it tough—the families of people who are struggling with gambling

addiction. The government has this kind of farcical pretence behind all of these positions that says, 'Struggling pubs and clubs need these pokies because they can't stay open otherwise.' How about this for a suggestion? How about they get creative and find other ways to support small businesses? How about they consider things like payroll tax for small and medium enterprises? There are plenty of ways you could go about helping these pubs and clubs if they are struggling, but allowing them to just keep pumping into our communities more and more pokies that we know are harming people is not the way to go about it.

I will say that it is a shame that this motion on the disallowance of the amendment regulation does not allow us to touch on casinos, but at the very least it is a start. It is an important start for a country like Australia that as I understand it, as has been reported recently, is home to 18 per cent of the world's pokies. We routinely hear about what a tiny proportion of the global population we are—about one per cent of the population—yet our communities host 18 per cent of the pokies that exist around the planet. That is why we are seeing such extraordinary levels of gambling harm. That is why people are struggling with addiction at levels that we should not have to tolerate in our community.

I do not know if this is the case for anyone else in this chamber, but I know people who have lost their life through gambling addiction. I have a dear friend who lost her father through gambling addiction and, as it happens, I think this is someone who you yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker, knew in your former professional life. These are very real consequences for our communities. This is not a suggestion that should be taken lightly and it is one that both sides of the House should follow through with. If we zoom out just a little bit, we see that the scale of gambling losses in Queensland is extraordinary. When the Queensland Audit Office interrogated the 2022-23 financial year it reported back that \$6.1 billion of gambling losses came from Queenslanders during that year. That is an increase of 36 per cent from the 2018-19 financial year. It is a huge amount of money that is lost to gambling.

The QAO also made the observation that while the government receives taxes and levies from gambling activities, a disproportionately small amount is returned back to the department to fund the delivery of harm minimisation services. That amount is less than a per cent; 0.62 per cent of the gambling tax revenue that the government takes goes back into harm reduction efforts. Moreover, QAO reported that the existing programs—what can be funded through that 0.62 per cent—are not doing the job; they are not suitable for the services that are required, particularly in terms of culturally sensitive supports for First Nations and culturally diverse communities. It is clear that we are not doing the right thing by these communities. It is clear that whenever there is a contest in this place between ordinary taxpayers and the criminal casinos and political donors who both sides of the House, both Labor and the LNP, are tied up with—whenever there is a contest between our community and those gambling donors, the gambling donors win.

The amount of \$3.53 billion was spent on pokies alone, excluding casinos as I understand the data, in 2024. Think about where this extra revenue just from this amendment regulation could be spent. It could be spent on mental health care. It could be spent on those addiction support services that folks in the community so desperately need, but it is not. Again, we need to be clear-eyed about the fact that it is not going back into the community. We are not taxing the gambling industry appropriately because both major parties are receiving massive amounts in donations and cash-for-access meetings from the gambling industry. There was close to \$150,000 in reported donations to the two major parties from the Queensland Hotels Association. In 2023-24 in the lead-up to the federal election, alcohol and gambling companies donated \$2.474 million to the political parties to fill their advertising coffers so that irrespective of who got in, no matter who was in government, their bidding would be done. This is a classic case of state capture. When a harmful industry like the gambling industry or the fossil fuel industry can buy both sides, both alternative governments, they will get the outcomes they want and regular people lose. Who benefits from those political donations? It is the criminals running—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask that you bring the member back to the debate that is before the House, which is a disallowance motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): I will take some advice. Member, if you can demonstrate to the House how what you are talking about now is relevant to the disallowance motion then I am happy for you to continue.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. The disallowance motion, as I said, is very straightforward. It is a disallowance motion on a regulation that gives a greater than 50 per cent tax cut on the transfer of pokies authorities between the existing and the future licensee. This is the kind of tax break, this is the kind of favourable treatment, that those in the gambling industry get because the gambling lobby buys its way into the offices of the relevant ministers and attorneys-general, whether it

is a Labor or LNP government that is running the show here. It is that same access, that same political access, that is bought and sold by the gambling lobby that leads to outcomes like the criminals Chow Tai Fook Enterprises who are about to take over the Star casino. It goes to the fact that a project like that can even get up in the first place. They have fallen into financial difficulty almost immediately—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member himself has said the disallowance motion does not extend to casinos. The member is now talking about the development of a casino.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is a relevant point of order. Member for Maiwar, could you confine your contents to the aspects of this disallowance motion, please.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I said, it is a shame that within this disallowance motion we do not have the opportunity to take on the reality of the extraordinary number of pokies that sit in the Queen's Wharf casino and will soon be run by Chow Tai Fook, who have been found to have falsely and repeatedly claimed they have cut business ties with criminal syndicates. Obviously I cannot go any further down that line, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr Janetzki:** I think you've gone a fair way, Michael.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I will take the interjection. Those opposite know that these are companies that have been found to be unsuitable to hold a casino licence. They know the criminal ties. They know of the allegations against the Star casino.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to relevance to the disallowance motion. I would ask for guidance to be given.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, if you do not stick to this motion and you continue to refer to casinos, I will sit you down.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Certainly. Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

To put it flatly, giving a tax break for the transfer of pokies licensees while ordinary Queenslanders are struggling to keep food on their table and a roof over their head is frankly sickening. It reflects—and this is the point I was going to—the corrupting influence of political donations from the gambling lobby to both of the major parties. The LNP might want to quietly extend Labor's 50 per cent tax breaks, but the Greens are here today to say that enough is enough. While every ordinary Queenslander sucks it up and pays their tax, political donors like the Hotels Association and corrupt casino operators get a discount, and that is sickening. We clearly need more than this. We need betting limits, the phasing out of pokies from pubs and clubs altogether and the banning of political donations from the gambling lobby. Instead of extending tax handouts for pokies operators, the government should make them pay a fair share and focus on supporting Queenslanders who need health care, housing and schools.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.17 pm): As honourable members would be aware, for hotels to operate gaming machines in Queensland they need a licence and operating authorities for each gaming machine they hold. In 2022 the former Labor government introduced the electronic gaming machine operating authority transfer trial after it became very clear that the market for trading operating authorities was not working. It not only reduced the tax rate on the sale of an authority from 33 per cent to 15 per cent; it also introduced a floor price that created certainty for sellers.

Labor extended that trial on a yearly basis and ultimately scheduled it to end on 1 July 2025. That meant that, like other things we discovered when we came into government, the trial would have ceased if those opposite had been re-elected, and that is an important point. In the budget we made the decision to extend this trial for another three years. That gives the sector certainty that this trial will continue and it gives the government a chance to collect further data to inform future policy decisions and ensure the system is still working effectively. The decision to extend the trial for another three years was informed by an evaluation conducted by Queensland Treasury which found the trial was successful.

What has already become clear, both inside the House after the honourable member has spoken and outside of it, is that there are a range of misconceptions around this policy, this regulation and this motion moved by the member for Maiwar. Firstly and most importantly, the honourable member has argued that this regulation is costing the taxpayer. It is wrong and the data shows it. In the three financial years prior to the trial commencing, the total number of authorities traded was 271 and the total amount collected by government across those sales was \$9.7 million. That was the baseline from which the policy was formed. In a very stark contrast, in the three financial years after the trial commenced, the

total number of authorities traded was 637 and total revenue collected was \$28.7 million. That is close to \$20 million in additional revenue generated than was collected in the three years before the trial and almost tripling. These figures are all publicly available. Not only did the number of authorities traded increase by more than double but revenue collected increased, while at the same time ensuring those buying and selling authorities were able to make the investments into local communities. We know this because this is what the evaluation conducted by Treasury shows and what we heard from operators themselves.

That is closely related to another of the member for Maiwar's contentions—that the government did not consult widely on this decision. It is a contention that does not stack up. We consulted with both the QHA, the sector peak body, and individual operators, including those who had bought authorities, those who had sold authorities and those who did neither. That was done through the evaluation conducted by Queensland Treasury. Further, to be clear, this regulation only applies to gaming machine operating authorities for hotels. It does not apply for community clubs, nor does it apply to the Star casino or other casinos across Queensland that operate gaming machines under the appropriate licence. Clubs and casinos each operate under different regimes not captured under this regulation. It is for these reasons announced in my contribution that the government will be opposing the motion moved by the honourable member for Maiwar.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (5.21 pm): I will keep my contribution relatively short, but I did want to start responding to the disallowance motion moved by the member for Maiwar by just calling out some hypocrisy on this. I heard him talk about gambling donors. I think it is important that this House notes that the Greens political party have entered this debate to moralise on an issue on which they do not have a leg to stand on. So far in this year alone, the Greens political party in Queensland have received \$555,000 from a professional gambler. That is just this year alone, so over half a million dollars has flowed directly from people whose income is derived from gambling activity to the Greens political party. The Greens political party come in here and consistently position themselves as the moral compass on gambling reform, lecturing others about harm minimisation and influence, yet their own bank accounts tell a very different story. I should note for the purposes of the House that it is in this year alone that they received that \$550,000; there are other donations in other years.

Everyone in this chamber knows that harm reduction in the gambling space is absolutely vital. It is something that impacts families, communities and individuals right across our state, and that is exactly why I make it a priority to meet and speak with people on the ground who are implementing harm minimisation strategies every single day. Unlike the Attorney-General and the member for Maiwar, who both were not at the Relationships Australia launch of Gambling Harm Awareness Week, I actually rocked up and listened to Relationships Australia and all of those community organisations speak about the harm minimisation measures they are rolling out in their communities. If there is one thing we can all agree on it is that harm minimisation, both in this space and, frankly, in other spaces like pill testing and other areas, is incredibly important.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are here to debate a disallowance motion in relation to the tax. I ask the member to come back—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Thanks, Attorney-General. Member for Gaven, it is a valid point of order. We are here to debate a disallowance motion. If you could confine your contribution to that, it would be appreciated.

**Ms SCANLON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The disallowance motion is in relation to a regulation change to extend a trial which does create revenue and some of that revenue is used for harm minimisation measures, so I think that is relevant. I appreciate that the Attorney-General might not think it is relevant, particularly given she was not at that event, but I think it is relevant.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member knows clearly, because she was at the event, that I sent a videorecorded message because I was on leave, so I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Attorney-General. Personal offence has been taken. Member for Gaven, will you withdraw, please.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. I heard firsthand about the measures that local clubs and communities are implementing in my electorate and in other areas across the state.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms SCANLON:** I was not on leave, no; I was there.

**Mrs Frecklington:** No, no, I was in Mount Isa.

**Ms SCANLON:** Apologies.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Yes, thank you.

**Ms SCANLON:** Sorry, and I take the Attorney-General's interjection: she was not on leave, but she was not at that event. Either way, I was the only one at the event listening to clubs—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Given I sent a video message, it could be argued that she was the only one there—and that is not the feedback I heard about her attendance—but I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. I was the only member of parliament present at the event. I heard firsthand about the measures the local clubs and communities are implementing—practical, real-world strategies designed to reduce harm, to support vulnerable people and to ensure gambling environments are safer for Queenslanders. We heard from a number of people with lived experience as well, and I want to thank them for bravely sharing their stories—quite difficult stories to share with a group of people—in order to ensure they improve harm minimisation in Queensland.

While the Greens political party might choose to come in here with symbolic gestures, I think what we need is actual action and investment in harm reduction measures. That is something we all agree with. While the Greens might come in here and preach about integrity, transparency and the evils of gambling influence, their financial statements tell a story of contradiction and convenience—a story where the Greens' public-facing righteousness is funded by private gambling profits. Frankly, I think Queenslanders deserve honesty and consistency.

The Treasurer has outlined some of the analysis undertaken by Treasury, but I also think it is important to note that this is not increasing the number of authorities that are being provided. This is a trial and so we look forward to seeing the detail of that trial, but what I will not accept is the Greens political party coming in here and being superior over everyone else when in fact they are receiving political donations from people who benefit solely, effectively, from gambling themselves.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.26 pm), in reply: I rise to speak against the member for Maiwar's disallowance motion. Don't you love a bit of green on red in this House—or red on green? When we get into the watermelons, you have to love it!

I thank my colleague the Treasurer for summing up the government's position in relation to this regulation. It is interesting that the member for Maiwar is quick to come into this place and demand that our vital hotel and pub sector should pay more tax—a sector that employs thousands of Queenslanders not just here in Brisbane but also in Mount Isa, which I really enjoyed visiting. I went to Cloncurry as well. I had lunch with the local mayor in the pub. I went to the pub in Mount Isa before I went to the Cloncurry pub—I give a shout-out to those pubs—hence why I sent my video message to Relationships Australia's gambling harm event.

The pub sector—not just in Brisbane but across our state—is the lifeblood of remote and regional communities, where the local hotel brings together people in both good times and bad. What else should we expect when it comes to the Greens? They are always quick to criticise sectors all across this state. Whether it is the hoteliers, whether it is our farmers or whether it is our valuable mineworkers, the Greens—and sometimes Labor—love nothing more than to portray our valuable industries and sectors as the enemies. They are always quick to criticise but never develop any meaningful policies or alternatives. I take the contribution by the honourable shadow attorney-general when she talked about the donations to the Greens party. However, I was handed a note to say that they have received \$1.4 million from one donor alone. I would love to know what that is all about.

It is alright to come in here and abuse the major parties but when it comes to the donations of the Greens well, you have to ask who is donating, why they donate and seriously, after that contribution—I hope they have seen it—they may consider donating to parties that can actually make a difference in this great state. While the member may make many allegations that the government is bought and sold by the hotel sector let me be very clear: we are a government that supports sensible and considered policy decisions which are in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

This government, of course, will not be supporting the Greens disallowance motion. Firstly, I would like to comment on the timing of this motion because it is certainly interesting that it took the member for Maiwar almost three years to bring in this motion. It is only now, after the Crisafulli government has extended the very same trial that the previous government implemented, that the member for Maiwar has decided to move to disallow this regulation. Now we all know on this side of the chamber about the close connection between Labor and the Greens. We know that they all like to

swap their preferences. We know up in the beautiful electorate of Hinchinbrook where I know there are a heap of great pubs as well—if I could name a few of them, I would.

**Ms Marr:** Bushie beach!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Bushie beach pub, I am sure that is a fantastic pub. I might be heading up there next week, I should go and visit.

The Greens have decided to preference the Katter party straight after Labor. We know there is an unholy alliance between the Greens, the Katters and the Labor Party.

**Ms Grace:** How is this relevant?

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** South Brisbane—do you want me to start talking about South Brisbane?

I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel in relation to relevance, but, for the benefit of the House and Queenslanders, I would like to clarify exactly what the Crisafulli government has not done with this amendment regulation. We appreciate the hotel industry makes an important financial contribution to the state through gaming machine revenue taxes. Currently gaming machine revenues for hotels is taxed at 35 per cent, with some hoteliers also liable to pay an additional health services levy for gaming machine revenue above \$100,000. The amendment regulation does not impact on those taxes or levies. What we have done is extend the trial that started in 2022 to stimulate the transfer of hotel gaming machine operating authorities without increasing the statewide cap on gaming machines. The supply and reallocation of gaming machines for the hotel sector is regulated through an authorised sale process conducted by the Public Trustee. It is only after a hotel licensee receives approval from OLGR to operate a gaming machine that they can purchase the authority through another hotelier through this regulated sale process. That means if a licensee or operator has received approval from the OLGR to operate 20 machines but can only purchase 12 authorities, they can only operate 12 machines.

One of the features of this regulated sale process is the payment of a transfer fee for authorities by the seller. What the Crisafulli government has done via the amendment regulation is extend the trial of a reduction of the transfer fee that hotels pay from 33 per cent to 15 per cent until 30 June 2028. This reduction seeks to address a fundamental issue; namely, that when the transfer fee was higher the sales process was not working or viable for some hotel licensees and did not produce sufficient authorities to meet demand. The Crisafulli government, therefore, extended the trial because we recognise the value of a viable sale process as an important economic development mechanism. With a cap on authority numbers, a workable reallocation scheme for authorities is necessary to ensure there can be new entrants to the hotel industry and that new hospitality facilities can be provided, particularly in population growth areas. On that point, I note the huge population growth around the outer Ipswich areas and the Sunshine Coast areas in particular and, of course, the northern Gold Coast.

I reject the argument put forward by the member for Maiwar that the trial has been extended because of political influence or donations from industry. The decision to extend the trial was made in direct response to an evaluation of the trial conducted by Queensland Treasury which found the trial was effective and recommended its continuation. Again, for the member's benefit because he was simply confused in his statements to me, I confirm that this change only impacts the hotel sector—not casinos, not clubs. The member for Maiwar raises foregone benefits to the state and the consolidated fund because of the reduced transfer fee. Let me clarify: it is because of the trial that the consolidated fund has received almost three times the amount under these conditions when compared to a similar period in pre-trial conditions. In the three years prior to the trial only 271 authorities were sold, with \$9.7 million paid in transfer fees into the consolidated fund; however in the three years since the trial, 673 authorities have been sold, with \$28.7 million paid into the consolidated fund. That is three times the amount of money. This goes directly to supporting Queenslanders through government priorities such as housing, roads, schools, health care and, of course, the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

What reducing the transfer fees has done is stimulate the transfer of machines, resulting in more money being paid to the government coffers to fund its vital services. This supports the argument that the reduced transfer fee has reinvigorated the authority market and contributed more to the consolidated fund than what would have been received had the transfer fee not been reduced.

As the member for Maiwar should be aware, there are no benefits to be realised from a transfer fee if no authorities are being transferred. In fact, if this disallowance motion were to succeed, there is every likelihood that Queenslanders would be detrimentally impacted because of the significant foregone benefits to the consolidated fund. A properly working reallocation scheme for hotel gaming

machine operating authorities balances the needs of the state, the community and the hotel industry. Sales figures alone indicate the reduced transfer fee and other modifications to the authorised sale processes are achieving that balance.

It is important to note: these hotels and pubs employ people. They employ our children. I remember when my daughter was at university at Gatton ag college—it is not allowed to be called that anymore but the University of Queensland's ag college in Gatton—she worked for Porters Plainland in your electorate.

**Mr Stevens:** Great pub!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. They employed a university student so she could make her way through uni. That is what pubs and clubs do—they employ young people. Those young people contribute back to society. That is what they do: they pay their taxes, they make their way through university. Again, a big shout-out to Porters Plainland.

It was exactly like when I was at Joe's pub, the Grand, just the other day in Esk. The young girl who served me behind the counter was a university student who had just finished school. These kids are working and contributing to the community. These pubs are open because people invest, whether it is Queensland Hotels Association members or other publicans.

**Mr Bennett:** They are here.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I give a big shout-out to president Richard Deery and Bernie Hogan.

**Mr Mander:** It is magic they are here.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is amazing they are here. I digress. I want to thank that very important industry that I often talk about: the racing industry.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will get to relevance, member for McConnel. The relevance of the racing industry and the pub industry is often misunderstood when it comes to rural and regional Queensland. The former racing minister, now shadow racing minister, loves me talking about racing in this great state.

**Ms Grace:** Do I?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes, you do, member for McConnel. In conclusion—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I have 6½ minutes left and I have not spoken about the Kingaroy pubs or the Kilcoy Exchange. I do need to give a shout-out to Jim Davis at the Kilcoy Exchange. He is undertaking a massive development out the back with new hotel rooms. It will be fabulous. The steaks at the Kilcoy Exchange are amazing—I have to be careful because Joe at Esk will be upset—probably because of Kilcoy Pastoral. They employ so many people, as does the Kilcoy pub. It was great to catch up with Jim and see the development he is doing at the Exchange in Kilcoy. I would encourage any members heading out to the mighty electorate of Nanango—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We could go to the Woodford Hotel if you went via the D'Aguilar and then headed in to Kilcoy. It is in the electorate of the member for Glass House, which is why he is giving it a shout-out. Then you would head to Kilcoy and you would enjoy that. You could go to the Linville pub. I am going to miss a heap. I apologise that I have not got to Murgon, Goomeri, Kilkivan or any of those mighty places. I would also like to give a shout-out to someone who works really hard on behalf of the Queensland Hotels Association and that is Damian Steele. It is good to see Damian in the chamber here tonight as well. In conclusion, the member for Maiwar seeks—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Do you want me to continue? The Leader of the House is asking me to wind it up, as much as you would like to hear me ramble about my great pubs.

**Ms Grace:** I will have a drink with you, Deb.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Member for McConnel, there are too many pubs in my patch. We would need a driver. We would definitely need a bus. See how much joy pubs bring to everyone in this House? It is a community. I note the shadow attorney-general talked about gambling harm, and it is important that we note that. It is a very important issue. The whole House supports gambling harm minimisation.

It is incumbent upon me to give a massive shout-out to our hotel industry who do so much across this state.

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I have gone over that. Welcome to the team. Of course the member would want me to give a shout-out to those Currumbin pubs of hers as well. I have outlined, quite articulately I believe, the reasons behind the extension of the trial in the regulation. I believe that both the Treasurer and I have given the member for Maiwar enough guidance as to why we have extended the former government's trial. We know that it has stimulated the industry. We know that it has put more money back into Queensland coffers to enable schools in his area to function, to enable construction of those roads that his constituents want to drive on or the bike paths that his constituents want to ride on. The constituents in the electorate of Miller probably want to do that as well.

**Ms Leahy** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The local government minister would want me to start on the Warrego pubs. There are too many pubs in her patch, but I would note that my husband and I spent a lot of time in the Commonwealth pub in Roma in our early days—as we did at the Story Bridge, I might add.

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** For the favourite pub in Callide one cannot go past the Juandah in Wandoan. My mum and dad live in Wandoan. I give a big shout-out to my parents and everyone at Wandoan. They are not at the pub at the moment.

In conclusion, the member for Maiwar seeks to disallow an amendment regulation that has actually contributed to the revitalisation of the hotel gaming machine authority market and has resulted in greater payments to the Consolidated Fund through increased surrender of authorities into the authorised sale process. Please note this, member for Maiwar, because it is an important election commitment that we made: we have not increased the capped maximum number of gaming machines operable by Queensland hotels in any way and we have not reduced tax payable by the Queensland hotel industry on gaming machine revenue. We will provide a three-year window by which to determine whether the benefits are sustainable in the long-term. The disallowance motion of the member for Maiwar should therefore be strongly opposed.

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

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).

## TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (DISMANTLING ILLEGAL TRADE) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p.3637, on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.51 pm), continuing: I often hear from small business owners who are concerned about illegal tobacco shops that have opened up in close proximity to them. Under this bill, for the first time landlords will be held accountable if they knowingly allow their property to be used for illegal activities. This sends a really clear message that you cannot turn a blind eye to these crimes. We need to clean up our community and it is time for landlords to play their part. To help them do the right thing, the bill gives landlords a statutory power to terminate leases where a closure order is made because of the illegal sale of tobacco products. This is designed to reduce the availability of premises for illegal retailers.

I said that this bill is about three things and the third of those is public health. This is a public health issue because it is keeping people who are addicted to smoking away from the support they need to be able to give up the habit. If you are listening and you are a person who smokes, I cannot encourage you enough to reach out to your GP or call the Quitline on 137848 and get the support that you need to stop. There is no good that comes from it and you will have so much more money if you can kick the habit.

The misuse of nitrous oxide is serious and harmful. While nitrous oxide has legitimate medicinal and hospitality uses, its abuse is growing in our community. Misusing nitrous oxide can lead to really serious neurological, cardiovascular and psychiatric harm and in severe cases it can cause paralysis

and death. The amendments before the House enable the seizure and forfeiture of nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters, which I am told are commonly called nangs, when found alongside illicit tobacco or nicotine products. These products are often sold in the same illegal networks that traffic in illicit tobacco so it makes sense to deal with them as one. A recent inspection revealed that about 78 per cent of illicit tobacconists were also stocking nitrous oxide bulbs. This is clear evidence that action needs to be taken to protect our community from these dangerous substances and that is exactly what we are doing in this bill.

The amendments also introduce a regulation-making power so that additional products, called 'compromised goods', can be prescribed in the future if they pose a risk to public health when found with illicit tobacco or nicotine products. This will make sure that our laws are able to adapt to new challenges if and when illicit retailers shift to selling other harmful products.

In the past year, over 11 million illicit cigarettes have been seized from the Metro South region alone. That is the region in which our Redlands is located. That is an absolutely huge number that has been allowed to balloon through insufficient enforcement under the previous government, fuelled by high federal taxes. We are taking action now to combat the crime that it fuels and to provide support to smokers to quit for the benefit of their health and their pockets and for the safety of our community from crime. More than any other government before it, the Crisafulli LNP government has shown a commitment to combatting this issue. I fully support this bill as a vital step towards making our community in the Redlands safer.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.56 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate. I support the proposed amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. I do so with reference to several contributions that I have made over the past eight years that I have been in this place in similar debates on various other forms of legislation that we have passed, going back as far as the vaping inquiry that a number of members here contributed to.

As a state and a country, we have not been static or stagnant on this issue. We all acknowledge the health impacts of smoking. Smoking kills. That is not hyperbole. Those are medical facts. The committee heard that 66 Australians die every day from smoking related illnesses—66 Australians a day—and that is not even necessarily from a lifetime of smoking. We acknowledge what happened in times gone by. I remember back to the 1980s and the TV commercials featuring the Marlboro Man, the Winfield Cup and the role that smoking played in everyday aspects of Australian life. Those 66 Australian deaths are the consequence of a country that turned a blind eye to the evidence that was around back then. However, at some point we drew a line in the sand and we said, 'No more.'

For decades Australia has been leading the world in harm minimisation when it comes to smoking. We remember the education campaigns. I remember the television ad where a girl mixed all the chemicals that could be found in a cigarette, took a drink and then the smoke came out. Those were groundbreaking and world-leading campaigns. Those education campaigns combined with what was then world-leading plain-packaging legislation. Our federal governments fought the concerted weight of the tobacco companies and were able to uphold our plain packaging laws. There have been financial impacts as a series of levies were introduced to make sure that smoking is not a cheap and easy habit. I have worked in countries where you can buy a packet of smokes for \$1 or less and smoking is an everyday thing. It is seen as a hobby. In some countries, it is cheaper to go out and have a cigarette than it is to drink.

Another issue we have worked on and on which Queensland is considered nation leading relates to the limitations regarding areas where people can smoke and people can congregate to smoke. Smoking is now seen as antisocial. I remember from my time in the Army getting time for smoko, which is what it was called because smoking was endemic in the military. It was the ability to have a break. I never took up smoking in the Army but I certainly took up having coffee, so now we have our brew breaks instead.

All these measures had the desired effect. Australia was recording some of the lowest rates of smoking or the biggest decline in smoking rates. What we cannot escape now is that the number of people, particularly young people, smoking is rising. We have to look at that. We cannot be silent on this anymore. Part of this is around the new markets that have been created. There is vaping. We have done an inquiry on that. Work is ongoing into how we can deal with vaping at the state and national levels. Vapes are being imported and that is a trade that we need to disrupt.

Shopfronts for vapes are popping up everywhere. I remember in my early days of policing that illegal tobacco was a niche part of the market and made up only a very small percentage of the market.

As the committee heard, illegal tobacco, or chop-chop as it was once called, now makes up 50 per cent of smoking products purchased by consumers.

Where there is money there is organised crime. It is as simple as that. Wherever money goes, that is where organised crime goes. Organised crime is nimble, flexible and quick to respond. Unfortunately, we as governments are not so nimble and flexible. We have to look at all of the consequences of what we do.

The reforms that we introduce might seem piecemeal, but bit by bit they are making a difference and they need to be considered. We need to consider second- and third-order effects when we introduce legislation. Various pieces of legislation have been introduced over the last couple of years. We are happy to support this legislation. I have absolutely no doubt that in the next 18 months, two years or three years we will back to introduce more legislation because we will need to. With the way organised crime works and finds loopholes, it is incumbent upon us to respond and address those issues.

That is not necessarily seen as a failure, and I certainly do not see it as that. When we look at the way organised crime is operating, we try our best to react. It would be naive to think we can get ahead of organised crime in spaces like this, but where our law enforcement agencies require laws and powers to be able to enforce the intent of bills like this we should respond. As I have said, I have no doubt that we will back soon to add to the provisions in this bill because that will be what is needed to disrupt organised crime.

Illegal tobacco has an impact not only on health—as I have said, we are seeing smoking rates rise—but also on the revenue that is collected by the state and federal governments which could contribute to funding the cost of health care. There is also the impact on our legal businesses—the ones that are doing the right thing—our small businesses. They are being impacted because they are losing customers to the illegal set-ups down the road from them. They are prevalent. I think we have all seen this in our electorates. They are popping up everywhere.

I am not sure whether people are aware, but on Instagram and TikTok there is a trend where people can watch undercover agents, particularly from overseas agencies, go in and try to detect illegal tobacco. These are probably the least covert looking public servants I have seen. I note that the ability to have controlled operations is covered in this bill. My only concern with that is that these people are not necessarily law enforcement officers and are not necessarily trained in controlled operations. It is a very significant skill set to work undercover. In policing there is work done to make sure officers are not only trained in the law but also prepared mentally for being involved in controlled operations.

I note some submitters had concerns about the oversight of controlled operations. I know that the operations they are going to be involved in are not as significant as those which police might be involved in, but the reality is that we are asking our public health officials to go into places that they know are controlled and influenced by organised crime. That is no small risk. We need to ensure our public health officers involved in controlled operations have support and training but are also backed by our wonderful police like those involved in Taskforce Masher. That taskforce was established in July last year. All day I have been hearing of the amazing work that Taskforce Masher has been involved in. We continue to support that. We certainly need to make sure that organisations like Taskforce Masher have the funding and powers to be able to disrupt organised crime in this impactful area of not only public health but also community safety. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.05 pm): I certainly welcome the contribution by the member for Macalister. Her laser like focus on tackling organised crime I welcome. I hope that it applies equally when this House considers matters to do with the CFMEU.

As a city councillor I stood and watched my community be pulled apart by the scourge of vaping. Students at the City of Gold Coast Junior Council approached me, the mayor and other councillors to talk about a problem that had arrived in their classrooms and within their recreational areas—at the beach and at their sporting clubs. Many of these students looked on helplessly as their classmates became addicted to a substance that was enjoyable in their eyes but ultimately destructive to their health. These students were absolutely distraught. Through the mechanism of the junior council they ventilated those issues with us.

We made a commitment to advocate for change on behalf of young people across the Gold Coast. This took place in 2021. I took responsibility for championing the cause of those young people, even writing to the Lung Foundation Australia, which is headquartered in Brisbane, and later in support of the Gold Coast mayor when we wrote to then health minister Yvette D'Ath on 12 January 2022, essentially pleading on behalf of young people on the Gold Coast for the former Labor government to

do something in this space and not just drive an education program but deliver an urgent public health response to this scourge.

Of course, very little was achieved by the former Labor government in this space. We know that little was achieved because the rates of youth vaping tripled to 2023. I am very pleased that we now have a government that is prepared to not only drive a change in culture and attitude through education but also deliver a proper public health response to a scourge gripping our young people. We are doing that with a series of amendments to legislation that will provide authorised officers the ability to begin dismantling the trade of illegal tobacco and vaping products, not just with slaps on the wrist and not just with temporary closures but with decisive action to shut down the shopfronts of criminal enterprise.

Many people have talked about our targeted approach to landlords, and they have asked me, 'But, Hermann, why are you going after the landlords?' I explain to them we are not going after the landlords; we are giving them the capacity to remain landlords, not become crime lords. There are so many situations that I have heard of where landlords have found themselves complicit in the trade of illegal tobacco and vaping, but unable to exit that industry because of contractual and leasing arrangements, and this legislation will provide a powerful shield to those landlords to protect their private property rights to run these operators out of their private property and to ensure that there is a space made available for the next good small business, a small business that is there to generate revenue and create jobs and not sow misery into our community.

I say that our side of politics is delivering decisive action because we are. Already with the rules we have in place, we are issuing for more fines and closing more premises than the former government did. In fact, the former government issued \$200,000 worth of penalties over a 12-month period. That is the same amount of penalties that we are issuing every 30 hours. That is action, not words. I cannot help but feel that watching the former Labor government's approach to this issue was a bit like watching Cheech and Chong because there was a lot of smoke, a lot of haze, but ultimately a plot that went nowhere. I am so pleased that we now have a health minister working alongside his cabinet colleagues on good legislation that will empower those on the front line to shut down illegal trade, to deliver better health outcomes by taking illegal products out of the hands of young people.

On the Gold Coast, we are already feeling the benefits of this government's approach. Between 1 November 2024 and 31 October 2025, we have removed 7.9 million illegal cigarettes from circulation, 523 kilograms of loose tobacco and, what I am most proud of, 62,000 vapes. That is a figure we can be proud of because we know how addictive these products can be. I wonder how many first-time users we have prevented by taking 62,000 vapes out of circulation—how many lives we have already changed, and I reflect on how many lives we will change when this legislation passes the House.

Another thing that we need to do, when responding to public health concerns, is to make sure we not only tackle the problem at our level of government but also we hold others to account where they have a part to play. As our health minister reflected on today, the state government finds itself at the end of the conveyor belt. We must redouble our efforts to make sure that the Labor government in Canberra commits more resources to shutting down this trade at the border before these products find themselves through the supply chain in stores, in our retail fronts.

I will add that there is another level of government that should take some responsibility as well. I wrote to the CEO of Gold Coast City council, Mr Tim Baker, on 23 September 2025, calling on the council to reform or amend its advertising devices local law, to prohibit the display of advertising material advertising illegal products. I find it incredible that the state would legislate to make something illegal but it be lawful for a criminal enterprise to erect signage in our various retail shopfronts advertising illegal goods. That loophole must be closed. I am encouraged that the Gold Coast City council recently resolved to look into those amendments should the House pass this legislation.

In conclusion, I say that I have fought a year-long campaign against vaping on behalf of young people across the Gold Coast, but in particular the community I represent. I am so glad that we now have a government prepared to respond not just with words but with action, a government that is prepared to bring legislation before this House to continually refine our approach and back those on the coalface to shut down this trade. I am also pleased that, as a community, we are taking ownership on this issue. There are young people in my electorate calling out just how unhealthy vaping is, to drive the cultural change that will mean in the long term we will defeat the scourge as we nearly did with smoking so many decades ago. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.15 pm): In my time in parliament, I have been privileged to speak numerous times about bills on smoking or vaping, so I wanted to make the following observations up-front. Firstly, we should always treat issues of drug abuse, whether that drug is illegal

or legal, and addiction as health issues. Addiction is a serious health issue. Those who are battling with it, whether it is smoking, vaping or anything else, deserve our respect, our help and our support, not our judgement and our shame. We lose 66 Australians a day to smoking, according to evidence heard by the committee, so our community is already paying a heavy price for these addictions.

Like every member of this House, I have a personal story around smoking. I am incredibly proud of my mum who managed to give up smoking in the early nineties when cigarettes hit a whopping \$3 a packet and she was horrified, but I am also really proud of Queensland as a state, because our smoking rates, thanks to decades of concerted education and health campaigns around the dangers of smoking, are now some of the lowest in the nation. That is something we can all collectively be very proud of. Of course, the work does not stop there. I know that our current governor is very fastidious in her dedication to continue to see smoking rates in Queensland drop because it is so important.

My message to people who have not yet been able to quit smoking is do not quit on quitting. You can do this. You have got it in you. Just keep trying and think of all the things that you are going to get back. I have heard it said by smokers that it is the hardest thing you will ever do in your life, and that is what my mum said to me after she managed to kick the habit. My message to people who have not yet managed to kick it is: please persist, you have so much to gain.

Likewise, vaping and its surrounding issues are something that I care about deeply now with two teenagers in my house. It is also something we talk about every single week. I was reflecting on vaping last night—the product and what it is and what it does. It occurred to me, as I was also reflecting on the campaign run by the federal government around advertising and all of the plain packaging, that if you were seeking to build a product that took all the lessons learnt from the highly successful and groundbreaking national federal campaign against cigarettes with their ugly cigarette packaging and disturbing imagery, if you were seeking to build a product to counteract all of that, you would create vaping.

Cigarettes have a terrible smell that come from the product. Vaping fixes that. Now it smells like bubble gum, mango or watermelon. The smell of smoke no longer clings to your clothing and hair until you wash it again. In fact, if there is a lingering smell, it is a pleasant one. It is the kind of fragrance that many teenage girls love to douse themselves in.

The physical symptoms and cues like discoloured teeth, smelly breath and skin changes have largely vanished with vapes. Even the more minor inconveniences, like needing to light a product, have disappeared with vapes. They are small and easy to conceal. We have not yet had the opportunity to see the long-term effects of vaping on someone who has vaped for all of their adult life and lived a long life, as we have with smoking. We cannot yet say what the long-term health impacts will be of vaping the way we can with smoking. What we do know is that this is not the safe alternative that people were originally promised.

The worst part is the real victims in all of this are our kids. These products are tailor-made to be attractive to children and teenagers. They smell sweet. If you walk into a room where someone has been vaping, it smells like they have been chewing bubblegum. They are not an acquired taste; they taste delicious. They smell enticing. Even a toddler would love the smell of a vape.

I want to take a moment now to touch on the parts of the bill that allow lessors to take a stronger and more immediate approach to tenants who are illegal tobaccoconists. While lessors can currently terminate a lease for illegal activity, they have to wait until the lessee is convicted of the offence before termination can occur. The changes in this bill will allow the lessor to terminate a contract so they can relet the property and it is not sitting vacant. Importantly, there are also penalties for landlords who turn a blind eye to the nefarious activities of their tenants. These illegal activities, as we in this House know from speaking with our communities, cause significant distress amongst parents and schools. All too often we hear that everybody in the community is very aware of exactly what is happening in these venues.

I am also happy to hear that amendments that incorporate nitrous oxide, also known as nangs, will be moved. I pay tribute to the member for Greenslopes for his work and his ongoing advocacy on this issue. He should rightly feel very proud today of his work on this issue. We know that vapes and nangs are attractive to young people, and I have outlined all of the ways they are quite literally tailor-made to overcome many of the obstacles that cigarettes face. Historically, we have seen high rates of cigarette addiction in our community. As people became informed and aware, they moved away from smoking cigarettes in large numbers. It is almost like the vape industry stepped right into that space. They overcame the hurdles that cigarettes had and they were able to put forward a new product that was incredibly enticing to young people. It is concerning to think that vapes may have been quite literally

tailor-made and created just to attract young people. With the flavourings, that is certainly what they have done.

It is fantastic that we can clearly see the strong evidence base around this bill. As I said, I am happy to see the work that is being done there, and I am keen to read about nangs in more detail. It is an excellent start, and the health minister has said that he wants to build on that further. I believe I heard that in his speech. I would like to see the LNP take a more consistent approach in this regard. I would like to see them take this evidence-based approach to issues like pill testing, which is another health issue.

**Mr DILLON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance as to whether the last contribution from the member opposite is relevant to the long title of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Mount Ommaney, please make sure you are sticking to the long title of the bill. Thank you.

**Ms PUGH:** As I was saying, the evidence base of the bill is very strong and I would like to see the LNP take a consistent approach in that regard. When the committee report was tabled, we heard about the evidence that was received from submitters like the Cancer Council. In the work they have done they have identified that we are losing 66 Australian lives a day to smoking related illnesses. That is a horrible statistic. People who are taking pills that they do not necessarily need to take are also losing their lives, and in my mind there are strong parallels. As we have heard in the debate on this bill, we know that if people were simply inspired to give up their addiction, if they would just stop smoking because we asked them to, if people could just say no, nobody would—

**Mr Mander:** It's the same with drug taking. Stop taking drugs—that's what they have to do.

**Ms PUGH:** That is the point I am making. People cannot just give up. Addictions are so much stronger than that. That is exactly the parallel I am drawing. Addictions do not respond to logic. They can be physical. They are emotional. There are so many factors at play. That is why we always need to have a health response to all of these matters. Whether the issue is smoking or vaping, we always need to have a health response. In my mind, pill testing should be no different. If we could just convince people not to smoke, not to drink—

**Mr DILLON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order again: relevance to the long title.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mount Ommaney, that is a valid point of order. Please confine your contribution to the long title of the bill and the amendments.

**Ms PUGH:** I apologise. I was responding to the interjections from those opposite and drawing the parallels between the issues we are discussing here in the bill today and the need for consistency around responses to health issues.

We on this side of the House are incredibly pleased. We cannot pick and choose which Queenslanders get a proper health-led response. It is the legal drugs in our community that continue to have the heaviest health impacts. This is a good bill because it is backed by evidence, and that is why we support it. We need to see that approach taken with all health legislation, and that includes pill testing. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (6.26 pm): The health of our community is measured in the wellbeing of our children, and the health of our main street is measured in the success of our small businesses. I rise tonight to speak in strong support of this bill for the small businesses in my seat of Keppel and for young Queenslanders. Too many young Queenslanders are being exposed to rogue traders who are peddling dangerous tobacco and vapes to our kids and teenagers. Most disturbingly, they are seeking to exploit our teenagers.

They are selling these vapes alongside lollies. With their bright colours, cartoon graphics and candy flavours, they are designed to look and taste like lollies. These devices have hidden toxins. They are filled with some of the most toxic chemicals imaginable including antifreeze, paint solvents, heavy-duty cleaners and formaldehyde. This is not a harmless trend; this is a deliberate manipulation of our children for profit. We also know that the epidemic of vaping is hooking a new generation on nicotine. It is marketed as a safer alternative when the claim could not be further from the truth.

Across Queensland, small businesses do it tough. They do the right thing, they follow the rules, they pay their staff and they contribute to the fabric of our local communities. For far too long they have been forced to compete with illegal tobacco operators who trade in cash, who operate in the shadows and who profit from the addiction of Queenslanders. These rogue traders are not locals. They are not

invested in our communities. They are, as the health minister said today, criminal enterprises that are masquerading as small businesses. They are hurting everyday Queensland mums and dads.

As an example I offer the small business TSG Tobacco Station in Yeppoon. Co-owner Debbie is a hardworking Keppel constituent who has worked all her life to raise the money so she and her husband could have their own successful business. They tested the market and decided that what was missing in the community was a legal tobacconist. They opened their first business 15 years ago. There was a need and there was a want, and seven years ago they opened a second tobacconist shop. However, because of the black market tobacco and the growth in the vape industry, their trade has diminished dramatically. Debbie and her husband have had to lay off the people who work for them because they simply do not earn enough each day selling the papers to go with the illegal tobacco that was bought elsewhere.

Recently, officers from the Central Queensland Public Health Unit, along with our men and women in blue, the Queensland Police Service, seized 224,900 cigarettes, 26.9 kilograms of loose tobacco, 6,609 vaping devices, 231 bongs, 1,074 bong components, 95 bottles of nitrate and a further 165 cannabis products. This was the stockpile of a criminal market operating in our community. I thought those figures were pretty high, but since coming to government across Central Queensland there have been more than 4,161,000 cigarettes, 615 kilograms of loose tobacco, 24,000 vapes and 65,000 nicotine patches taken off the streets.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



**Mr HUTTON:** This bill protects our community, attacking the very business model which makes illicit tobacco and vaping profitable. This bill introduces three-month administrative closures, with court ordered closures extended up to 12 months. Queensland Health officers will be empowered to undertake controlled purchase operations, including mystery-shopper style operations that deliver the direct evidence needed for prosecutions. Authorised officers will be able to seize legitimate products when they are found alongside illicit goods. If the front of the shop is being used to conceal a crime backroom operation then the entire operation is compromised.

These reforms matter because behind every illegal vape and every illicit packet of tobacco is another Queensland youngster being targeted or, as I was speaking about earlier, a small business who is being undercut and a community health system that is left carrying the burden of the health concerns it causes. We cannot allow a new generation of Queenslanders to become hooked on nicotine before they even reach adulthood. Nor, if we are honest, should we allow our small businesses, the backbone of our community, to be pushed out by criminal enterprises, making our main streets abandoned. We cannot allow decades of hard work to be eroded. That is why I support this bill and I commend it to the House.



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (7.32 pm): I rise to contribute to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As a child I was surrounded by smokers—back when smoking in the car, on public transport, at the shops or at the movies was the norm. My dad said he started smoking not long after he finished school when he was around 12 years old. My mum gave up smoking when I was a teenager. It took her a few goes, but she got there. Dad gave up the same day he was diagnosed with lung cancer two weeks before he was due to retire. It took him within 10 months.

Thankfully I have never been a smoker but I know how hard it is to give it away once it becomes a habit and I know what it can do to people and their families. That is why I have always supported measures to strengthen our approaches to tackling tobacco use and why I stand with the opposition in supporting this bill.

This bill strengthens a range of measures under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act including expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months; expanding the existing long-term closure power from six months to 12 months; preventing businesses from opening or the sale of any goods or services if subjected to a closure order so that 'closed' means closed; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; and improvements to enforcement activities including controlled operations, to name a few. At its core, this bill aims to prevent the exposure, sale and use of illegal tobacco to improve public health and ultimately create safer communities. Beyond health, illegal tobacco undermines Queensland's economy and public safety. Its profitability can fuel organised crime, bringing unsafe and illegal activities into our communities and increasing exposure to vulnerable people.

Stopping the sale of illegal tobacco protects our families, supports public health and ensures that law-abiding, legitimate tobacconists and communities are not disadvantaged. In my own electorate of

Alger, I have witnessed the impacts of crime associated with the sale of illegal tobacco and smoking products. This year in May a Browns Plains tobacconist was targeted and destroyed by arson. Two people were injured in the building at the time of the attack. It also had a devastating impact on the surrounding small businesses. Neighbouring hospitality and retail businesses suffered economic loss from the impact of the fire including loss of stock and products as well as losing employees who opted to secure alternative work. This same tobacconist was targeted again just three months later, and once more innocent neighbouring businesses were affected. Some of those neighbouring small businesses reported that insurance companies were denying cover and rejecting claims.

To the north of my Alger electorate in Acacia Ridge, a tobacconist at the Elizabeth Street shopping complex was targeted last year after being broken into using an angle grinder and a sledge hammer before a gas bottle was used to accelerate the fire. The business was destroyed and neighbouring small businesses in the well-loved shopping complex were also damaged. Members of the Acacia Ridge community reached out to my office voicing their fears that a tobacco trade war could break out in their community after police reported that they believed the attack could be linked to a larger conflict involving the sale of illicit tobacco.

Events like these rightfully lead to concerns that where there is the sale of illicit nicotine and other products there is the potential for the influence and presence of organised crime. Large profits associated with the sale of illicit nicotine and illicit tobacco, usually via cash-only transactions, have opened the door for organised crime. That is why it is important to disrupt the sale of illicit nicotine products, not only for Queenslanders' health but also for public safety. That is why the Labor opposition is pleased to see a continuum of work we commenced whilst in government to ensure that there are strong deterrents to the sale of illicit tobacco and smoking products.

Labor introduced closure orders to hold illegal tobacco and nicotine traders to account and we understand that this has an impact on the lessor. That is why we support the bill to allow lessors to terminate a lease where an illegal tobacconist is subject to a closure order. The availability of illicit nicotine also unfairly impacts legitimate licensed tobacconists and their sales which is why action on this illegal trade is so important. Labor's record on the sale of illicit tobacco and other products included a licensing scheme, strong penalties against the supply of the illicit products and other enforcement measures aimed to combat the illicit supply. These expanded measures will continue the important work the previous Labor government commenced to disrupt illegal activity.

Further, the bill provides enhancements to the strong foundation Labor set for Queensland's public health response to illicit tobacco and vaping, putting Queenslanders' health first and foremost. Labor's record on the prevention of illicit tobacco sale and vaping included important measures such as the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry and report *Vaping: an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*, of which all recommendations were supported and a significant body of work was commenced. Labor also introduced school-based programs and social media campaigns to target young people and provide education around the harms of vaping. These programs were targeted to young people as many vapes and e-cigarette products were marketed to attract that demographic—from the bright colours, fruity flavours and designs that are sleek and discreet, a subject of which many in this House have already described.

To combat recreational vaping and further reduce illegal tobacco sales, Labor increased investment of \$22 million over five years to enhance enforcement including more authorised officers to monitor compliance and allow for increased enforcement activity. Labor also worked closely with the Commonwealth government to enforce the ban on certain recreational vapes. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 created closure powers, strengthened regulations on advertising of tobacco and increased penalties for the commercial supply and possession of illicit tobacco.

Experts have raised the alarm that the sale of illicit tobacco and other products is undermining the significant progress that we have made in past years to reduce smoking rates, particularly amongst young people. While vaping is often marketed as a safer alternative, the reality is that it carries significant health risks. Many vape liquids contain nicotine, which is highly addictive and can harm brain development in young people. Even nicotine-free vapes can expose users to harmful chemicals that irritate the lungs, increase inflammation and may contribute to long-term respiratory problems that our hospitals and health systems simply cannot endure. The same can be said for e-cigarettes, which are often marketed as a cheaper alternative to tobacco but present similar health concerns and can contribute to the sale of illicit tobacco and products.

The Labor opposition welcomes the changes of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 as it strengthens a range of measures under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act, but it does beg the question why the LNP have refused to listen to the experts on all other health matters, cherry-picking advice to suit their political agenda. The bill before the House provides enhancements to the strong foundation Labor set for Queensland's public health response to illicit tobacco and vaping, putting Queenslanders' health first and foremost. That is why the opposition supports the measures introduced in this bill. That is why I personally support the measures in this bill.

My father, after smoking for almost 60 years, was diagnosed with lung cancer literally two weeks before he was due to retire. We lost him 10 months later. There were times when he apologised to all of the family for not giving up when Mum did when we were much younger. He had great regret about not having the power to overcome his smoking addiction. I do not want to see more Queenslanders potentially put in that position because they have been enticed into smoking or forming that addiction to nicotine. Suffering from lung cancer is a terrible way to end your life. For my father and our family it was a dreadful 10 months of great regret and terrible pain. I support this bill and I do commend it to the House. Along with the opposition, I support the intent of this bill.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (7.41 pm): I acknowledge the pain that the previous speaker, the member for Algeester, went through when her father passed away.

I rise to speak in strong support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill represents the next escalation in the Crisafulli government's war on rogue traders who continue to peddle illicit tobacco and dangerous vapes across Queensland. Queensland already has some of the toughest tobacco and vaping laws in the country, but despite that the black market continues to thrive. Illicit cigarettes, chop-chop, tobacco and nicotine filled vapes are still being sold in plain sight, often in the very same shops in our suburbs and regional towns where families go to buy everyday essentials.

We know the harm these products cause. Tobacco remains the No. 1 cause of cancer in Queensland, responsible for more than a dozen forms of the disease. Now we are facing the next wave: a vaping epidemic that is hooking kids and teenagers into addiction before they even reach adulthood. These vapes are not harmless. They contain toxic chemicals including antifreeze agents, volatile cleaning compounds and formaldehyde. Some of them even contain drugs such as nitazenes, which are synthetic opioids up to 500 times more potent than heroin. These products are being deliberately designed and marketed to children. With bright colours, cartoon logos and sweet flavours, it is nothing short of predatory.

For years rogue traders and organised crime gangs were able to operate with impunity. Under the former government fines were merely the cost of doing business. Illegal vape stores popped up in communities across Queensland because Labor refused to give enforcement officers the tools they needed. Under their soft approach, public health officers could not even issue on-the-spot fines for selling vapes or seize highly addictive nicotine patches—all while vaping rates among high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023.

This government has changed that. Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has taken the toughest stance in Australia against illicit tobacco and vaping. In our first year we have seized 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine pouches. Over \$75 million worth of dangerous products have been taken off the streets. We have issued 219 interim closure orders, forcing illegal shops to shut their doors for 657 days collectively. Under the stronger powers in this bill, that would have equated to more than 19,000 days of closures.

In April we introduced the nation's highest on-the-spot fines that actually hurt criminals' bottom line. More than 1,800 penalty infringement notices have been issued, totalling \$60 million. This crackdown is happening right across Queensland including in my region, Mackay. From 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025, Mackay authorities seized 3.85 million cigarettes, 403 kilograms of loose tobacco, 26,974 illicit vapes and 30,056 nicotine pouches. In the same period, 67 penalty infringement notices were issued for the supply and possession of illicit tobacco and nicotine products in the Mackay region alone. These results reflect the determination of our frontline officers. Their numbers will only grow with our government's \$12.7 million investment to boost enforcement capacity by 25 per cent, adding 41 new frontline officers on the ground.

The black market continues to adapt, and so must we. That is why this bill is so significant. Right now illegal stores can only be shut down for 72 hours without a court order. For many rogue traders it is a long weekend off. This bill changes that. Under these reforms, Queensland Health will be able to

impose three-month closure orders without needing to go to court. It also doubles the maximum court ordered closure period, from six months to 12 months. Importantly, it becomes a criminal offence to reopen or trade during a closure. Closed means closed.

For the first time, Queensland will directly target commercial landlords who knowingly turn a blind eye or, worse, actively profit from the illicit trade. Many landlords have been crying out for powers to evict dodgy tenants. This bill finally gives them that power, allowing statutory termination of commercial leases where illegal activity has occurred. For landlords who knowingly rent out to rogue traders the free ride is over. They will now face criminal offences and civil penalties of up to \$166,900 for individuals and \$834,500 for corporations. We are sending a clear message: ignorance is not a defence when your premises are facilitating organised crime.

The bill introduces controlled purchased operations—mystery shopper style investigations that will give officers the evidence they need to secure successful prosecutions. It also allows officers to seize compromised goods, the legal stock that is used to conceal illegal activity. Importantly, it introduces executive officer liability, ensuring company directors cannot hide behind complex corporate structures to avoid responsibility.

Amendments to this act include the nitrous oxide nangs we have heard about. Over the last 16 years they have appeared on the dance floor at schoolies. When youngsters take these nangs, which are about two centimetres long, it suddenly puts them into a state of euphoria and the responsible people who are looking after those schoolies—the police, Red Frogs and volunteers—have to deal with those people. It is a very difficult situation.

This bill dismantles the business model that makes illicit tobacco and vaping profitable. It cuts criminals off at the source—their premises, their leases, their finances and their supply chains. It gives Queensland Health the legal authority, the investigative tools and the enforcement powers required to finally put an end to this black market and protect our young people from addiction and harm. This is what community safety looks like, this is what real public health action looks like and this is what leadership looks like. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.49 pm): For decades, determined and combined efforts by the community, government, health, law enforcement and retail sectors have dramatically reduced smoking rates, and I want to congratulate everyone who gave up smoking, including myself, because it was really hard. However, the introduction and rapid rise of illegal vapes and other illegal tobacco and nicotine products, particularly amongst our young people, has led to a devastating reversal of this trend. What is particularly disturbing is that it could have been prevented. Ever since the mention of vaping as a smoking cessation product in 2020, medical experts—including voices from the AMA, the TGA and the AHPPC—were clear that these should only be available by prescription. No-one listened. The lack of preventive action demonstrates the many failings in our systems and politics.

Let's be brutal. Smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable death and disease. It increases the risk of cancer, heart disease and diabetes, as well as having a crippling effect on our public health system. One in eight Australians currently smoke or vape. Children as young as six—just think about that; they are six years old—have been caught using vapes which are toxic, addictive and now illegal. Research indicates they cause seizures, poisoning, lung damage, increases to blood pressure, higher heart rates, and lung and oral cancer. For our 12- to 13-year-olds, one in three have already tried vaping and evidence suggests they are 29 times more likely to take up smoking tobacco—which is what we fought against for years—than their peers.

Cancer Council research shows that 87 per cent of children aged 14 to 17 found it easy to access illegal vapes. Even though the 2024 legislation restricted vape sales to pharmacies, online illegal purchasing—where not even evidence of age is required—is still rife. I actually tested this tonight before I came to the chamber. This is unbelievable. What is truly frightening is the emergence of so-called supercharged vapes laced with nitazene, which is a substance that is 500 times stronger than heroin, where even a tiny grain can be deadly. I really want parents to think about this and what is occurring.

What does this legislation do to address all of this? Basically, it targets the business model and the economic incentives driving this illegal industry, with new and improved enforcement measures for Queensland Health. I want to congratulate the minister and the department for this. The bill covers four key areas: first, to reduce the availability of commercial premises used for illegal trade; second, to hold lessors who permit the supply and possession of illicit products accountable via civil penalties; third, to improve enforcement and investigation efficiencies; and, fourth, to strengthen existing powers and offences to ensure they provide an appropriate financial deterrent. Of note, my committee heard that across Australia there are over 40,000 outlets to service the eight per cent of the population who smoke;

by contrast, there are 7,000 petrol stations to service the 70 per cent of us who drive cars. Tobacco is more readily available than fuel.

This legislation will also give Queensland the strongest laws in Australia against illegal operators, such as expanding interim closures from three days to three months and doubling long-term closures, as well as enabling the cancellation of leases. Our committee heard evidence that more than half of all tobacco and nicotine products are now illegally sourced. This highly profitable illicit market is increasingly sophisticated, and it is worsening with organised crime syndicates that are targeting our kids at local shopping centres, with reports of attacks on businesses, ram raids, firebombings and rising violence. In my own community we have experienced tobacco shop fires, and these often have devastating impacts on surrounding businesses for many months.

There were 45 submissions from various sectors, including retail representatives, small business owners, and health councils and foundations. The majority were highly supportive. Some concern was expressed that, with increased legislation, supply could go further underground, increasing black market trade. Environmental Health Australia also stressed the importance of prioritising our regions, with the Queensland Law Society raising the substantial shift in responsibility and risk allocation between lessors and lessees. Our committee noted there may be merit in Queensland Health considering providing notice to landlords of enforcement action to help them meet their obligations. We also noted that all those impacted by these changes should be well informed, and we need to tackle that densification.

Ultimately, stopping the flow and access to these illegal products that is targeted at our kids is paramount, including online. I want to again thank the minister and those who made submissions, my fellow committee members, our chair and secretariat, our health workers, the police and the many law-abiding store owners and operators for their endeavours every day. This bill, as most have submitted, is a step in the right direction. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (7.55 pm): I rise to make a contribution and speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Earlier this year I spoke in this place about the decisive action the Crisafulli government is taking to crack down on illegal vapes and illicit tobacco. The previous bill strengthened the ability to seize, store and destroy unlawful products, and it held offenders financially responsible for the damage they cause. Despite those actions and with Queensland now having some of the strongest penalties and enforcement powers in Australia, the black market continues to thrive. Illegally imported cigarettes, loose-leaf tobacco and nicotine filled vapes remain readily available in a range of retailers across Queensland.

This bill takes the fight against illegal tobacco products to the next level and sends one very clear message to rogue operators who target our kids and undermine public health: their illegal business will not be tolerated. This bill is another major step in dismantling the supply chains and business models that allow these criminals to profit. More importantly, it is about protecting our young people and restoring safety in our communities, especially communities like mine in Townsville.

In Townsville, families are fed up with seeing smoke shops pop up on busy corners, trading late and selling highly addictive products to kids in school uniforms. Products like vapes are marketed to our children with bright colours, flavours like candy and watermelon, and packaging designed to look harmless, but the reality is far from harmless. These devices are packed with nicotine. They are highly addictive, highly damaging and highly effective at hooking young people. They contain toxic chemicals like antifreeze, volatile compounds found in paint and heavy-duty cleaners, and even formaldehyde. More recently, some vapes have been found to contain nitazene, which is a synthetic opioid that several members have already referred to that is 500 times more potent than heroin.

Vaping rates among Queensland high-schoolers tripled between 2017 and 2023. I hear stories from teachers, parents and school students about vapes and their use at schools. We have seen reports where kids as young as six are caught vaping in school toilets and teenagers are sneaking behind teachers' backs during class. The cause for concern is even greater when bodies like the Cancer Council advise that children who vape are 29 times more likely to take up cigarettes. If this is not addressed now, the health impacts in our community will continue to get worse.

Since the Crisafulli government came into office we have taken more illegal product off the streets in one year than Labor managed in a decade. Across Queensland we have seized 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine pouches. That is more than \$75 million worth of illegal and dangerous goods seized, stopped and prevented from

reaching our kids. More than 1,800 penalty infringement notices have been issued—the toughest in the nation.

In Townsville alone, Queensland Health has seized 675,000 cigarettes, 267 kilograms of loose tobacco, 12,753 vapes and 2,411 nicotine pouches. However, seizing the products alone is not enough to curb the behaviour of these illegal product traders. Currently, enforcement officers can only shut down stores for three days, effectively a long weekend off for the illegal traders. For a closure order of any longer than that, a court order is required. This bill introduces much stronger closure powers, allowing Queensland Health to shut illegal stores for three months without requiring a court order. Similarly, the bill also doubles the maximum duration of court ordered closure orders, from six months to 12 months. These extended closure powers strip offenders of their trading power and deliver a direct hit to their profit margins. It will also become a criminal offence to open, trade or even work from a business subject to a closure order. Under these powers, when we say closed it means closed.

In addition, for the first time Queensland will directly address the role of commercial landlords in this black market. We know that many of the landlords are not complicit in this illegal trade and they have been crying out for powers to evict their tenants if they are carrying out this illegal business in their building. The bill gives landlords a clear statutory power to terminate commercial leases where the leased premises are subject to closure orders. This ensures the criminal enterprise cannot continue to occupy retail spaces while protecting landlords who act responsibly. Evicted offenders will lose their premises, their bond and their ability to profit from the illegal activity. This will make it harder for rogue traders to find willing landlords or new shopfronts for their operations.

We also know that some landlords knowingly profit from the illicit trade and enable these operations to continue. Those landlords who deliberately turn a blind eye to unlawful activity in pursuit of their own financial gain and to the detriment of our communities will now be subject to a new criminal offence and civil penalties to hold them to account. Under this bill, a landlord who knowingly permits their premises to be used for the supply or possession of illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine products will face penalties of up to \$166,000 or one year's imprisonment, or more than \$800,000 for corporations.

Further, this bill enables authorised Queensland Health officers to undertake controlled purchase operations, equipping enforcement officers with the powers and tools they need to catch illegal retailers in the act, enabling mystery shopper style operations to provide the direct admissible evidence that leads to prosecutions. These operations are proportionate and effective and mirror frameworks used successfully already in alcohol and tobacco enforcement across Australia.

This bill also allows authorised officers to seize all legal smoking products and related components when they are found in connection with illicit tobacco or vaping products. This approach dismantles the dual business model that illicit traders sometimes rely upon where they mask their real intention at the front of the shop in order to conceal the illicit trade behind the counter.

This bill is about protecting our kids, backing our frontline officers and shutting down the criminals who have taken advantage of weak laws for far too long. The Crisafulli government is restoring order, restoring accountability and putting community health ahead of criminal profits. These reforms hit illegal operators where it hurts: in their wallets, their business model and the ability to target young people in places like Townsville. This legislation keeps our children safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (8.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Like many in this House, I grew up where many smoked. My grandfather courageously gave up smoking the day that I, as his first grandchild, was born. Sadly, my brother took up smoking during his university years, like many young people of this era. Thankfully, this was not a habit that I was attracted to. Having uncles who smoked, I witnessed the terrible ill health that they experienced as relatively young men, losing their life also as young men.

As a society, we have made tremendous progress to address smoking and tobacco use against a very sophisticated campaign that ran for many years. Much acknowledgement should be directed to Dr Jeannette Young for her efforts to ensure smoke-free environments through her advocacy for tough antismoking laws, including supporting smoke-free public spaces like hospitals, schools and workplaces. We can all remember the times when smoking occurred in all of those places. She also made free nicotine replacement therapy available to vulnerable populations. During her tenure as Queensland's Chief Health Officer, she championed comprehensive antismoking initiatives that contributed to a reduced smoking rate in the state.

This bill will strengthen the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and will assist in efforts to further decrease rates of smoking in Queensland and, of course, the number of preventable

deaths and disease from smoking. The Labor opposition supports such measures, especially when we have experts backing reforms to improve Queenslanders' health. This bill delivers a slate of measures, including: expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months and long-term closure orders from six months to 12 months; preventing businesses subject to a closure order from opening or selling goods or services; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; creating a lessor offence for lessors who knowingly permit a premise to be used for the supply of illicit tobacco as well as civil penalty provisions; holding executive officers of corporations to account as having personally committed certain offences if they were committed by their corporation unless they can prove they did not know or could not have known about these illegal activities; improving enforcement activities, including controlled operations; and, finally, increasing information that is to be collected to improve operation of the act and other minor or technical amendments.

These measures assist in tackling public health impacts of illicit tobacco and nicotine product sales; organised crime and public safety concerns around the sale of these products; the impacts of illicit tobacco sales on lessors; and the impacts of these sales on lawful businesses. Like so many other communities around the state, my community has suffered the effect of illicit tobacco and vaping sales. Neighbouring shops have been broken into more than once to access the vape and illicit tobacco premise. Local neighbourhoods have been kept awake at night as a result of illicit tobacco crime and our young people have been coerced by a clever vaping campaign. Many vape shops and illicit tobacco shops have popped up close to our schools, terrorising parents as they try to protect their children from addiction.

During our time in government, Labor took action to make substantial changes to the sale of illicit tobacco and the use of e-cigarettes. We introduced a licensing scheme, strong penalties for the supply of illicit smoking products and other enforcement measures via the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023. Labor supported all of the recommendations of the Health and Environment Committee's inquiry report *Vaping: an inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*. During our time in government we actioned a significant body of work to address the scourge in vaping. We also initiated school-based programs and social media campaigns to educate young people on the harms of vaping, increased funding of \$22 million over five years to enhance enforcement activities and introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 to tackle the issues of vaping and illicit tobacco.

As a Labor opposition, we are proud of our contribution to the strong public health response that has seen a steady decline in smoking rates over the last 25 years. The Labor opposition will always back the continuity of this positive work, which is why we will support the bill. This especially applies to health measures backed by the experts in the field. We will always support the experts in the field. However, this does beg the question: why is the government not listening to experts in all of the other health related policy work? They have ignored experts on pill testing. They have ignored them on health care for young Queenslanders, playing politics with their lives—a decision which proved unlawful and was dismissed by the court.

**Mr VORSTER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During the course of this debate points of order have been raised on relevance where speakers have strayed—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): So your point of order is relevance, is it?

**Mr VORSTER:** That is right, from the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, if you could just direct your comments to the bill in front of us.

**Ms McMILLAN:** The Labor opposition will always listen to experts. We will always listen to the health experts particularly around what is impactful to our population health and our community health. What I was drawing conclusions about was the fact that in this instance the LNP is prepared to listen to experts, but there are other examples where the LNP is not and I plead with the LNP to be consistent around its messaging and to be consistent around its policy work so that all Queenslanders are shown dignity, respect and integrity. That is what they deserve. Regardless of their background and regardless of the choices they make, all Queenslanders—no matter where they live and what they choose to do, whether it be vaping, the use of illicit tobacco, tobacco, pill testing—

**Mr VORSTER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and consistency.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, I ask if you could keep your comments to the bill in front of us. Thank you.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Every Queenslanders requires the dignity and the respect from government around their health issues and their health concerns. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to first thank the health minister, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, for this bill because it incorporates some things which I think have long been necessary but which the previous government failed to implement. I would agree with what members on all sides of the House have said about the scourge of the illegal tobacco trade. Like every other member in this House, in my electorate I have examples of unlawful tobacco sales going on and a great growth in the number of outlets in recent years. We know that this has a negative impact on legitimate businesses—businesses that fund the compliance regime that they are subjected to, pay licensing and so forth and are subjected to inspections—while organised crime was able to undercut them, and it seemed that very little has been done up until this point.

I wrote to the Federal Police commissioner in 2022 and pointed out to him that it seemed that the local police at the time were unable to do much and urged him to take action on the illegal tobacco sales that were occurring in my electorate. At that time I pointed out that there were two tobacco outlets that I alleged to be illegal, and in the intervening time I think we are up to nine. Given the two bills that the Labor Party passed in 2023 and 2024, the problem has grown and grown and grown. We get the usual tawdry talk from Labor about how it has done this and that and spent this much and listened to these experts but nothing about outcomes. Given the member opposite was talking about people being affected by politicians and not listening to experts, I do not know what experts those opposite were listening to when they formulated their policy because this bill describes what is needed to combat the scourge of unlawful tobacco sales and the organised crime that happens around it.

We have a crisis of impact on young people. They are acquiring vapes at these places, they are acquiring tobacco and lord knows what else—other drugs as well that have been talked about here—in these places. I am quite certain that the consumption of tobacco has grown enormously as a result of the cheap tobacco that is available at these shops and it is clear, at least to me, that the cost of tobacco was a major restraint on its consumption by people—the very people we want to stop smoking such as people of lower socio-economic status who ruin their health and shorten their lives by doing so.

The organised crime which thrives on and runs these businesses is not just bad because of what we see at the shop; they are vicious, lawless organisations. The astonishing profits that can be reaped from these businesses are available to organised crime to continue in and extend their wrongdoing and to invest in and protect other illegal enterprises, and I am talking about sex slavery, illegal prostitution, extortion, loan sharking, illegal drugs and lots of other things associated with criminal organisations and motorcycle gangs and so forth. These are all issues that I put to the previous Labor government and to the federal government initially and found that no-one was listening. The legislation that came through was deficient in the very thing which this bill provides—that is, it provides for landlords who are culpably involved in this business by renting their premises no doubt for cash or for superior terms and allowing businesses to flourish which do wrong to the community and disadvantage other small business operators who are engaged in the lawful sale of tobacco, and I am talking about mum and dad service station operators and I am talking about tobacconists in the main street.

One tobacconist complained bitterly to me—and I quite understand why—that they were given the third degree by health inspectors who came in in around about 2023, I think it was, because there had been an anonymous allegation that they were selling vapes. The proprietress walked outside and said, ‘No, no, you mean that illegal tobacco shop 20 metres across the street?’ and the haughty, dusty reply that she got was, ‘No, no, don’t tell us our job. They’re not in the system. We don’t regulate them. We’re here to regulate you.’ That would be such a cartoonish, absurd thing if it were not so serious and I am very sad to say that that particular business no longer exists because they were unable to continue with their market being undercut by crime across the street.

I wrote to former health minister Shannon Fentiman and pointed out to her that it is necessary to prosecute landlords to discourage the trade, because those involved in organised crime are unable to own the title to property. It is too exposed and they must rent, and they are prepared to pay a great deal to do so. I should imagine that once vigorous prosecution has occurred with a systematic campaign of prosecution to culpably involved landlords they will very quickly get the idea that you do not rent to these guys, and that will be the most severe impact on the trade. That is a practical action. That is not talking about \$20 million here and this and that and what we are going to be doing while we see the trade double or quadruple or more in the intervening period. This is a change that is going to have a real effect and it is really going to hurt the trade. I have heard a number of members talk about landlords

turning a blind eye. I would suggest to the House that any landlord or renter's agent who has seen the property in recent times could possibly be unaware of the purposes for which it is being used.

**Mr Dalton** interjected.

**Mr LISTER:** Yes, I take that interjection from my honourable friend the member for Mackay. It would be funny, wouldn't it, if we did not have to say this? I have said this so many times to the former government that I might as well have been talking to the wind. With regard to this idea that you cannot prosecute landlords who are in a different area, that must have been their reasoning because they were not prepared to go with it before. For the benefit of the House I want to table correspondence which I sent to former health minister Shannon Fentiman on 13 June 2023 when I said—

In my opinion, these shops must be operating with the complicity of their premises' landlords. I consider it unlikely that landlords who have seen the properties in question could be unaware of their use as unlawful tobacco outlets. I suggest that the systematic prosecution of culpably involved landlords may, in future, assist in frustrating the establishment and re-opening of 'chop chop shops'.

Of course it would, and I remember saying to her in the House face to face, 'You have to go after the landlords,' but absolutely nothing happened. That tabling also has a copy of the letter I wrote to the Federal Police commissioner at the time.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 13 June 2023, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to the former Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, regarding unlawful sale of tobacco products.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 November 2022, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to the former Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Mr Reece Kershaw APM, regarding unlawful sale of tobacco products.

This is the message I want to give to landlords: you are in business and you have other small business operators who are suffering because of what you are doing, so do not rent to these guys. Quite apart from the possibility of criminal or civil action being taken against you if this bill passes—and I am sure it will—there is also the coercion and the extortion by those involved in organised crime where they go in and say, 'Hello, I'm Chopper. You're not paying tax so you can pay me tax and if you don't I'll fire-bomb your shop,' and in Stanthorpe we have had a place which was twice fire bombed and devastated the neighbour's property. That is another example of the sort of stuff that is happening.

I commend the health minister for introducing that particular thing, quite apart from all of the other meritorious aspects of this bill. This is getting serious and it is attacking the centre of gravity for organised crime which—

**Mrs Poole:** Community safety.

**Mr LISTER:** I take that interjection from the honourable member for Mundingburra, who knows about these things as a former commissioned police officer. I commend the bill to the House and I say to those in my electorate that we are alert to the corrosive effect that these outlets have had on our society and on our kids. We, rather than just talk, are doing something about it.



**Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.20 pm): There are a number of very serious issues that this bill seeks to address that relate to the public health response that is required when it comes to combating and responding to the sale of illegal and illicit nicotine products. These are issues like the public and community impacts of the sale of illicit tobacco and nicotine and the impacts of organised crime and the public safety concerns that stem from that. Many speakers throughout the course of this debate have given examples of everything from firebombing to repeated break-ins when it comes to illegal vape and tobacco stores. Then there is the impact of illicit tobacco sales on lessors and, importantly, the impact that the illegal tobacco trade has on lawful, legal businesses that are trying to do the right thing.

The Labor opposition will always support good, considered reforms that are based on evidence, that are backed by sensible expert advice and that are designed to practically improve the health of Queenslanders. That means continuing to reduce smoking rates and the number of preventable deaths and disease that we see in our community from smoking and tobacco products. Thankfully, over the past 2½ decades we have seen a steady downward trend in smoking. That is part of the public health response that has been mobilised to date. While it is good to see that progress, there is much more to do. We cannot rest on our laurels and we need to be ever vigilant. The presence of illegal tobacco and vaping products is an excellent example of why we must always be committed to improving the public health response that we have for illegal tobacco.

This bill goes to a number of reforms that will help such as expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months; expanding the existing long-term closure powers from six months to 12 months; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; a number of other reforms around lessors and the

offences that this bill creates; improvements in enforcement activities; and increasing the information that is to be collected to improve the operational impacts that arise from this legislation.

I was a little disappointed to hear some contributions from LNP members who criticised the then Labor government's actions and reforms when it comes to vaping and illegal tobacco products. I want to acknowledge the very authentic personal contributions and stories that have been shared by members from all sides of the chamber when it comes to this reform. That is why I found it a little bit disappointing to hear some of the partisan comments that have been made, particularly in relation to Labor's record. I think any objective assessment of the previous Labor government will show that there is—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Order, please.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I was not going to do this, Deputy Speaker, but since there are so many speakers from the government who want to play politics with this issue—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I was going to say that maybe we could have had a little bit of sensible bipartisanship when it comes to stopping the illegal vaping trade, but what would you expect from the party that took \$44,000 from the vaping lobby? An expose from ABC's *Four Corners* a couple of years ago showed that there were donations from the director of Legalise Vaping Australia. I will table the article that shows a nice picture of a bunch of federal LNP politicians, one of whom is Senator Matt Canavan, one of the colleagues of those opposite.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC online, dated 28 June 2022, titled "Personal' donations to the Liberal Party came from vaping lobby during debate over policy'.

They can come in here all they want and they can talk—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** Somebody is a little lively tonight! It is good to see. While we welcome these changes, it begs the question, as other speakers have raised, of why the LNP have now suddenly decided to listen to the advice of experts and undertake a bunch of reform processes, including a parliamentary inquiry that was undertaken in this parliament and under a Labor government—

**Mr Crandon:** Why didn't you do something about it?

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. I was just about to say that the parliament passed two laws—not one law but two—under the Labor government as well as held the parliamentary inquiry. I did not hear the member for Coomera say, 'Give back the \$44,000 in donations from the vaping lobby.' No. Where are the members from the LNP now saying, 'No, we should absolutely give back that \$44,000 in donations? It would be utterly hypercritical of us to stand here in this chamber and not give those donations back.' I challenge them to pick the charity that they will donate \$44,000 to tomorrow. If they have any authenticity about them, that is what they will do.

I want to reflect on the contribution of the member for Southern Downs, in particular when he was intimating that the reforms that Labor enacted were ineffectual. Let that be the test for this bill. The member for Southern Downs is one of those who spoke very confidently about the effect the reforms in this bill will have. Time will tell. Tonight we have seen government speaker after government speaker stand up and say that this will work. We will hold them to account if these reforms do not work.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (8.28 pm): I rise tonight in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I welcome this bill as the latest escalation in the Crisafulli government's war on rogue traders peddling dangerous tobacco and vapes to kids and teenagers. This is a bill about public health, it is a bill about community safety and, importantly for my community, it is a bill about protecting Redlands businesses and restoring confidence for local operators who have been left to weather rising crime for far too long.

For years illicit tobacco traders have operated in the shadows and, in far too many cases, in plain sight. They sell addictive, unregulated products with zero concern for the law and zero concern for the people they hurt. Queensland's business community has felt the brunt of criminal activity. In Redlands we have seen legitimate small businesses targeted by arson, break-ins, property damage and intimidation as these illegal traders have operated in our community. This bill aligns strongly with my Secure Redlands campaign, a campaign focused on supporting local businesses that have been impacted by crime, assisting them to install CCTV, better lighting, better fencing and other safety

measures to protect their livelihoods. We are backing the businesses that follow the rules, not the criminals who profit from breaking them.

We also cannot ignore the public health emergency being fuelled by this black market. Tobacco remains the number one cause of cancer in Queensland. It has been conclusively proven to cause more than a dozen types of cancer and now we are facing a new generation exposed to a new threat: the epidemic of vaping. Vaping has become a gateway for kids and teenagers to be hooked on nicotine. These devices are intentionally designed to look harmless, with bright colours, sweet flavours and packaging that mimics confectionary. The truth is far more sinister. These vapes are filled with highly addictive nicotine. They also contain toxic chemicals like antifreeze found in paint and heavy-duty cleaners, even formaldehyde. More recently we have seen vapes containing nitazenes, a synthetic opioid reported to be 500 more times potent than heroin. These are not harmless products. These are dangerous chemicals being pushed on our kids for profit. Decades of work to reduce smoking rates is being undone by these criminal traders. This bill helps to stop that slide.

Since coming to office the Crisafulli government has cracked down on this trade harder than any government before it—harder than any government anywhere in Australia. In our first full year we have seized millions of dollars worth of illicit tobacco, vapes and related products—that is more than \$75 million in illegal goods taken off the streets. The results are clear in my own community. In metro south, including Redlands, enforcement officers have seized 11.7 million cigarettes, 542 kilograms of loose tobacco, 131,646 vapes and 37,066 nicotine pouches and they have issued 183 penalties for supply and possession—penalties that simply did not exist under the former government. This is just the start. With our \$12.7 million investment for 41 new frontline officers—a 25 per cent increase in enforcement capacity—we are strengthening the frontline and giving our public health officers the tools they need.

This stands in stark contrast to the former government's soft stance. Under Labor hundreds of illegal stores popped up across Queensland. Rogue operators knew they were untouchable. Public health officers could not issue on-the-spot fines for selling vapes, they could not seize nicotine pouches and the fines that did exist were so small they were simply written off as a cost to do business. Under Labor vaping rates among Queensland high school students tripled between 2017 and 2023. As a mum of teenagers I see firsthand how quickly and quietly this industry targets our kids. Their phones, their social media feeds, their school bags—none of it is off limits to people pushing these products. Parents are doing everything they can, but we cannot compete with an industry that has billions of dollars and zero conscience.

I want my own children, and every young person in Redlands and in Queensland, to grow up without being preyed on by criminals who dress up addiction as something colourful and harmless. This bill gives Queensland Health the strongest enforcement powers in the country to shut down illicit tobacco and vape markets. It delivers real closure powers, replacing the current three-day shutdown, with the ability to close illegal shops for up to three months without going to court, and doubling court ordered closures to 12 months. It also ensures that closed means closed by making it a criminal offence to trade from a shut business.

For the first time landlords will have a clear legal pathway to terminate leases on premises engaged in illegal trading, while those who knowingly enable this activity will face serious criminal and civil penalties. Company directors will no longer be able to hide behind corporate structures as they will be personally liable unless they can prove they took reasonable steps to prevent offending. The bill also modernises frontline enforcement, giving officers the ability to conduct controlled purchase operations and to seize all smoking related stock when it is linked to illegal activity, shutting down the dual store set ups that have allowed illegal products to be concealed behind legal ones.

In short, this bill closes loopholes, strengthens accountability and puts real consequence behind Queensland's crackdown on the illicit vape and tobacco trade. Furthermore, the amendments introduced today also tackle the rising scourge of nitrous oxide, or nangs. A father whose son attends the same school as my own, recently raised with me a local convenience store in Victoria Point that is not only selling vapes, drug paraphernalia, illicit tobacco and nangs but also ice-cream and lollies; a shopfront that looks harmless to kids, but is anything but. He said many young people in our community are buying these nangs because they think it is cheap and harmless. It is not. Nangs cause serious and lasting harm. These amendments will allow officers to seize and forfeit nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters as compromised goods under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 when they are found alongside illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine products. This is another important step in shutting down the dangerous products being pushed towards our kids.

Under our government's Secure Communities Partnership Program we are supporting local businesses impacted by break-ins, arson and property damage to apply for grants to install safety improvements, alarm systems, surveillance, lighting, access control and more. We are ensuring businesses have the support they need to stay safe and to stay open. This bill completes that work. It attacks the source of the problem, the criminal networks that profit from illegal tobacco and vapes, while we support the victims and strengthen community safety. This bill is tough, it is long overdue and it is necessary to protect Queenslanders, especially our young people, from dangerous products and criminal operations. It empowers enforcement officers, it holds landlords accountable, it shuts down rogue traders and it will help protect communities like Redlands from the damage caused by illicit tobacco.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (8.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I too want to extend my vote of thanks to the committee that worked on this bill. I welcome this reform. Unlike some of the government members who have spoken here tonight, I am not naive in thinking that these bills are enough in themselves to solve this problem. It is set against a backdrop of iterative change. This bill will continue to build on that.

The Labor opposition will always back expert-based reforms that improve the health of Queenslanders. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death in our state and it is responsible for thousands of hospitalisations every year. Over the past 25 years, we have seen a welcome, steady and consistent decline in smoking rates but that decline has not happened by accident. It has happened because governments, in particular Labor governments, have listened to the experts. We have invested in public health and acted decisively to disrupt harmful industries.

**A government member:** It didn't work.

**Ms BUSH:** I take the interjection from the member opposite. I truly hope that this bill solves everything, but I will not hold my breath because no one thing will stop what we are seeing on our streets. It will take iterative change across a number of realms. If it does not improve things and these shops continue to open and operate in my community, member, I will look forward to coming in here and reminding you that the promise that you made here tonight that this bill will solve everything—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member, address the chair, please.

**Ms BUSH:** That same expert-led approach is now needed more than ever. The rise of illicit tobacco, the explosion of illegal nicotine products and the targeting of young people through vapes is a real risk and a serious threat to the progress that Queensland has made. These products are absolutely everywhere and they are deliberately marketed towards young people.

In my community, we are seeing these shops pop up at an alarming rate, often overnight, often in small retail precincts and overwhelmingly located within close proximity to young people. Throughout the past year parents have contacted me to stress that vape shops have opened next to their child's dance studio, across the road from a high school, on the walk home from school or across from a bus stop. The businesses are setting up in the pathways where young people congregate and they are doing it intentionally. That is why stronger enforcement powers are required and it is why the opposition supports the bill.

This bill strengthens a wide range of measures to address illegal activity and protect public health. It will expand short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months, extend long-term closure orders from six to 12 months, ensure that when a business is closed down it does actually close and that no reopening under the guise of selling can occur. It will expand seizure and forfeiture powers for illegal tobacco products, create a lesser offence for property owners who knowingly allow their premises to be used for illegal tobacco supply and introduce a civil penalty provision. These changes close loopholes, create deterrence and send a really strong message that if you are profiting from harming Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders, then there will be consequences.

A strong public health response to the sale of illegal nicotine products is essential. The bill will address several major concerns: the public health impacts of illegal tobacco and vaping products, the role of organised crime in the illegal nicotine market, the financial and safety risks for lessors who are caught up in illegal activity and the unfair disadvantage that is placed on lawful and compliant small businesses. Stakeholders have been clear that the sale of illicit products undermines the enormous progress we have made in reducing smoking rates, particularly among young people. We know that where there is easy access young people are more likely to try these products and that where the product is illicit the level of chemical harm is much greater.

We also know that organised crime has infiltrated the illegal tobacco market because of the enormous profits that are there to be made so it is no longer simply a health issue; it is a public safety issue. In my community I often speak out about vaping. When I do, I have been accused of attacking small business. I will be clear on the record that small businesses do not want these stores opening up because they are dangerous and they bring unlawful, illegal and harmful activity into their lawful business area. They are the first ones to speak up to me and say they want these things banned.

The bill is a continuation of the important work that the former Labor government commenced and it strengthens the foundations that we built to protect Queenslanders from the harms of illegal tobacco and vaping products. Our commitment to public health is proven. We introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act in 2023, which created a licensing scheme and delivered stronger penalties for the supply of illicit tobacco products. We initiated a comprehensive inquiry into vaping in an expert-led process and supported every recommendation. We delivered school-based education programs and targeted social media campaigns. We increased investment to \$22 million over five years for enforcement and compliance officers and expanded inspection powers.

In 2024, we delivered the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act, taking strong action to curb the uptake of vaping amongst young people. We worked closely with the Commonwealth government on empowering officers to enforce the ban on recreational vapes. The LNP opposed those expert-based measures. It is interesting that they dismissed the experts then and they dismiss the experts now.

While we support this bill I would like to see it go further because enforcement alone is not going to fix the problem; prevention matters too. In my own community, vape and tobacco shops have been opening right near schools. I have raised those concerns repeatedly. We need exclusion zones to prevent these stores from operating near schools and in close proximity to primary and secondary children. I started a petition calling for that reform and hundreds of locals pledged their support. Parents are absolutely crying out for stronger reforms and exclusion zones around schools and areas that children frequent. They want to know why, in 2025, it is still legal to open a vape shop 50 metres from a school entrance. Quite frankly, they have a right to be frustrated. The response from the Brisbane City Council was a blatant refusal to even consider the reform.

Reducing vaping harms is not the responsibility of one level of government alone. The federal government has been and is continuing to act and the state government is acting. It is time that local governments step up and act also. Strong enforcement powers are necessary but so are strong planning laws. We need councils to play their part because if we are serious about reducing the exposure of young people to harmful products then preventing targeted proximity to schools should be the baseline.

Queensland has led the nation in reducing smoking rates and that progress has been driven by strong public health policy, expert advice and decisive action. This bill does continue that legacy, but we have to keep pushing. We have to strengthen enforcement, protect legitimate businesses, support landlords, disrupt organised crime and prevent young people from ever accessing these products in the first place. The Labor opposition supports this bill but I urge the government and all levels of government to go further and to protect young lives.

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (8.45 pm): I rise to speak to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. From the outset, I commend the Minister for Health, his team, the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee and, indeed, the department who have all worked together to bring this bill to parliament.

**A government member:** Best health minister in 10 years.

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** He is the best health minister in 10 years. This bill will send a strong message to all illegal tobacco traders and all complicit enablers that this criminal activity is not welcome in Queensland. My community has been crying out for intervention—intervention that, until the Crisafulli government, has been greatly lacking in terms of delivering results. Make no mistake: this is organised crime reaching into our communities and targeting our local business districts, our vulnerable families and, most appallingly, our children. The unashamed fancy packaging and pretty aroma additives mask the underlying toxic contents, some of which have been found to contain opioids 500 times more powerful than heroin. This shameful illegal trade is drawing in our children by the score.

The measures within this bill should have been introduced years ago but alas the previous government's soft-on-crime approach allowed the illegal tobacco industry to grow exponentially, subject only to the equivalent of a mere slap on the wrist. It has taken the Crisafulli government to provide the legislative firm action that our Queensland communities have been demanding. Those are communities

such as my electorate of Rockhampton and Gracemere. Our regional community, often considered less vulnerable to the infiltration of organised crime, unfortunately has been targeted by those illegal profiteers, with multiple tobacco shops having set up in the area over the last 10 years. Across our business districts, the illegal tobacco shops are easily identified by the loitering of customers who spill out over the footpaths adjacent to their open doors, which invite patrons to enter and experience what can only be described as the spider's web. It is an invitation that will hold customers hostage and, ultimately, lead to addictions that literally take lives.

For over 15 years I have worked alongside an incredible group of local community, volunteering and raising money each year for cancer research and investment through the Cancer Council Queensland. Recently, Cancer Council Queensland CEO, Matt Gardiner, visited Rockhampton to congratulate and honour some of these community volunteers—volunteers who are mostly motivated by personal intersection with the insidiousness of cancer, including cancers caused by tobacco and like substances. Cancer Council Queensland have been a part of the fight against cigarette and tobacco use over the decades with their advocacy, and Queensland had seen a significant decline in the prevalence of smoking over that time. That is until the era of vapes and the emergence of this illegal tobacco trade. Matt Gardiner, the Cancer Council Queensland CEO, commended the government's introduction of this nation-leading bill as a vital step to protecting public health, helping prevent cancer and other chronic diseases.

In my hometown of Rockhampton, parents are devastated when they discover that their child has fallen victim to the vaping trend. In 2023, in a school incident, 35 students were expelled from a local school in Rockhampton after they had fallen for the attractive packaging and social trends. The incident alerted residents to the extent to which this illegal trading had infiltrated our community.

Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has cracked down on rogue traders harder than any government before it or elsewhere in Australia. In our first full year in office, we have seized more than 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 470,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine pouches. That is more than \$75 million worth of dangerous goods off the streets. We have issued 219 total interim closers for 72 hours. That is a total of 657 days of closures across the state. Under our new interim closure powers, this would have been more than 19,000 days of closures.

In April we introduced the nation's highest penalty infringement notices, including for vapes and nicotine pouches which did not exist under those opposite. We have issued more than 1,800 penalty infringement notices. In Central Queensland, illicit seizures included four million cigarettes, 615 kilograms of loose tobacco, 24,382 vapes, 65,797 nicotine pouches and a total of 160 penalty infringement notices. Overall, the state has seen more than \$60 million in fines hitting illegal traders where it hits most—their hip pocket. Just this week, media reported how a Central Queensland tobacconist has been fined almost \$1.5 million plus and just shy of \$6,500 in costs for charges related to the sale of illegal tobacco and related products. Raids were conducted throughout August as part of Operation Backburn.

Now, we take that crackdown on illegal tobacco and other smoking products to the next level to ensure even stronger protections for public health and safety, answering the call from families and businesses across Queensland to please do something. The Commonwealth government also has a role to play in this rise in the illegal tobacco trade in our communities and it is time they also introduced reforms and protections to stop the illegal products from entering our country in the first place.

Business owners have also reached out to me calling for these stronger laws as they are suffering with increases in petty crime and vagrancy directly related to the areas where these tobacco shops have set up their trade. To these businesses in Rockhampton and Gracemere, know that this bill gets serious on the criminal activities of the illegal tobacco and smoking products trade that you have been witnessing.

Under the current laws introduced by Labor, authorities can only impose a temporary store shut down lasting three days. This bill proposes significantly tougher measures, granting Queensland Health the authority to close down illegal businesses for up to three months without the need for court approval. It also increases the potential length of court mandated closures, doubling the maximum from six months to a full year. These enhanced powers aim to disrupt illegal operations by cutting off their ability to trade and directly impacting their financial gains. Furthermore, it becomes a criminal offence to reopen and conduct business or even work at a location under a closure order, reinforcing the principle that a closed business must remain closed.

I will briefly address the amendments to this bill foreshadowed today that look to provide clear mechanisms to reduce access to nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters for recreational use. While

responsible retailers have taken action to implement measures that make it more difficult for our children to access gas canisters commonly used for inhalation, these illegal retailers of tobacco and other smoking products are now also selling the nitrous oxide for recreational use. This is outrageous.

The organised crime groups, complicit retailers, complicit landlords and company fronts that pedal this illegal rubbish to our communities are predators that now, thanks to this bill, will receive the message that their chop-chop shops are about to get the chop. I welcome this bill. I look forward to seeing our communities rid of this insidious trade. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (8.54 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—legislation that is necessary, overdue and absolutely critical to protecting Queenslanders from an illegal trade that is spiralling out of control. Let me be clear from the outset: the Labor opposition supports expert-backed reforms that protect public health. We always have and we always will. For the more 25 years, Queensland has achieved a steady reduction in smoking rates because governments—Labor governments—listened to experts, acted early and acted decisively. It is why we are prepared to support the changes put forward in this bill today.

While the harms of tobacco have been known for decades, an emerging crisis in illicit tobacco and vaping products is growing faster, hitting harder and reaching younger Queenslanders than ever before. Unlike the government, Labor is not prepared to sit back and allow criminal syndicates, black market operators and opportunistic cowboys to destroy decades of progress in public health.

This is not a theoretical problem. This is not something happening on the margins. This is a real, dangerous and well organised criminal industry operating openly in our communities. Illegal tobacco is now estimated to be a \$3.4 million national market—billions siphoned out of public revenue and funnelled into the pockets of criminal networks; billions not supporting hospitals, not supporting schools and not supporting frontline services but instead fuelling intimidation, violence, fire bombings and threats against legitimate small business owners. It is the innocent who suffer—parents, teachers and local shop owners.

Young people are being targeted with addictive, unregulated nicotine products and communities are left to deal with disorder and danger that follows organised crime. When we talk about dismantling the illicit tobacco trade, let me be crystal clear: this is a health issue, a safety issue and a law and order issue. The days of treating illegal nicotine products as a nuisance or a side issue must be over. The scale of harm demands firm action and it demands it now.

The bill strengthens the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 by closing loopholes and tightening enforcement powers. It delivers: short-term closure orders extended from 72 hours to three months; long-term closure orders expanded from six months to 12 months; a clear hard rule that closed means closed—no exceptions; stronger seizure and forfeiture powers; a new offence for lessors who knowingly allow their premises to be used for illegal tobacco activity; personal liability for executive officers who allow corporate offending; expanded enforcement tools, including controlled operations; and additional data collection to support better oversight and compliance. These are meaningful changes and they are needed because Queensland's current framework has been exploited aggressively by organised crime.

Health organisations told the committee that children as young as 12 are now accessing illegal nicotine vapes. Schools are installing vape detectors. Doctors are reporting a spike in youth nicotine dependency—something we worked for decades to eliminate. These are the consequences of a government that has been too slow, too complacent and at times too distracted by its own political mess to take this seriously.

The illegal tobacco market has become so lucrative that criminals are now openly threatening retailers who refuse to break the law. Some have been assaulted, some have had their stores firebombed, and the government cannot pretend it did not see this coming. Labor warned years ago that without strong regulation and enforcement, the market would explode, and it has. The illegal trade does not just hurt public health, it punishes law-abiding businesses. Legitimate retailers are losing customers and revenue because illegal operators are allowed to undercut them without consequence. The landlords have been left to carry the burden when their premises are locked up under closure orders due to a tenant's criminal activity. Labor supports giving lessors the right to terminate leases where illegal tobacco activity has triggered a closure order. It is entirely unreasonable for a landlord to lose income or be prevented from reletting a property because a tenant chose to engage in criminal activity. The government should have acted sooner, but Labor will support these protections now. The Opposition supports strong enforcement powers.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Kurwongbah Electorate, Crime



**Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise tonight to wholeheartedly thank the legendary members of our Queensland Police Service who have become a regular and welcome presence around our Narangba Valley shops. I am proud to have supported the recent Coffee with a Cop events at Stellarossa Narangba and Valley Coffee, where many conversations have been struck up with locals and an eye kept on the students from the nearby high school where many kids are stranded waiting for buses on Wednesdays when they finish early. I know that those hardworking QPS members are keen for Translink to come to the party with new bus times to transport these students home, as are school staff, parents and Kangaroos Bus Lines. I will come back to that in a minute.

Since the election of the LNP government over a year ago, my office has received more complaints about crime—not just youth crime, though it is definitely in the mix—than in any other year I can recall during my time as a member of this place. I am sure the Premier is desperately hoping that it is the sole result of population growth and, to be fair, there is a lot of that in my patch. As I have mentioned before in this place, I have seen for myself that it is not a reflection of the local police, who have always worked hard and continue to do so, so it begs the question: why has Premier Crisafulli not fixed the crime problem as he promised to do over a year ago? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be crime? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be parents who could and should keep a better eye on their children? Is it because, no matter how hard the police work, there will always be people with substance abuse issues, with difficult behavioural diagnoses or with not a lot of hope in their lives?

Labor values favour early intervention and prevention programs, and crime rates were coming down in the majority of areas under our former government—and we counted all of the categories. The LNP talked a big talk: they were going to get so many more police officers and they were going to sort out the kids at risk of offending behaviours with specialist schools and camps. But not everyone wants to be a police officer, and we know that the LNP is not big on immigration. We might be lucky to hold on to all of the teachers we have in schools now if the LNP can negotiate with the QTU for a positive outcome through a pay rise and the EBA. I have put forward the argument that in my electorate we would have a little less crime and a little less intimidation in our Narangba Valley community if the high school bus issue could get sorted out. That is just one meaningful thing we could do. I reckon it would be a lot cheaper than locking up a kid who falls into a life of crime just because they could not get home after school.

The ball is in the court of the transport minister. He knows the issue. Instead of politically charged responses, he could just sort out the problem. In my community, Kangaroo Bus Lines—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr KING:** This issue, for whoever said that, has only been going for about six months. Kangaroo Bus Lines, Narangba Valley State High School, local businesses and all of the community want this to happen. It just seems to be Translink and the minister who runs Translink that is holding up the issue.

### Redlands Electorate, Year 12 Graduates



**Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.03 pm): Some people might not believe this, but I graduated in 1998. It feels like it was only yesterday that I was walking out of the Lingo Lin centre at Ormiston College, the year 1s forming a guard of honour and buzzing with excitement. I think that excitement—

**Mr McDonald:** You are a good sort!

**Mrs YOUNG:** Thank you, Jim; I take that interjection—is the same mix of nerves and joy our year 12s in the Redlands are feeling right now as they head into their final week. On Monday I joined Victoria Point State High School for their annual Vikings Sports Awards, complete with their Viking mascot moonwalking across the stage. I was honoured to present the Sportspersons of the Year awards alongside Principal Susan Taylor. Congratulations to Sophie MacDiarmid and Ellis Beasley, whose achievements are genuinely outstanding and deserving of recognition in this House tonight. Their

academic awards are being held tonight and their formal is tomorrow. While I cannot be there, I know that the school community will make both of these events unforgettable. I will be there on Friday morning for graduation, and I am really looking forward to sharing that milestone with them.

All year 12 students in the Redlands deserve a massive shout-out and congratulations on their important milestone. I do want to acknowledge two exceptional students, though. Matthew De Castro is a school captain and founder of the Redlands Youth Project. Over the past year he has brought young people together through barbecues, supported the Capalaba PCYC with weekly sport drop-in sessions and shown real leadership. Congratulations on your early offer to university, Matthew. To your parents, Liza and Matthew Hodge: this week is yours too. To Dawnn Nepomuceno, when I heard you sing and speak at the leadership badge ceremony, your confidence and presence stood out. Dawnn, you are destined for something really special, and I have loved being a part of your final year.

To every year 12 student across the Redlands: Team Redlands—Amanda, Russell and me—wish you all of the very best. To my own daughter, Chelsea Young, who is finishing her high school journey: I cannot wait to stand beside you this week as your new chapter begins.

### Teachers, Industrial Action

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.06 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, it is nearly Christmas. I do not know about you, but I am working hard to check items off my to-do list before I start on my naughty and nice list. Sadly, it looks like this government is not doing the same thing when it comes to reaching an agreement with our hardworking teachers, who have announced they will go on strike again on Tuesday, 25 November. The last thing our hardworking teachers want to do is go on strike right before Christmas. I am sure they would much rather be wrapping up their to-do lists for the year, and that list is long indeed.

They have no other choice. They are simply seeking the nation-leading wages and conditions they were promised prior to the election. I have met with my Teachers' Union delegates, both formally and informally, many times. They have told me that, in many cases, the jobs they have today are not the jobs they signed up for. Occupational violence is a real and ever-present threat for our teachers, and it is really scary. Teaching is still a female-dominated profession, and our teachers are increasingly experiencing assault in the workplace. I should not need to say this, but this is not okay. It is just one of the many issues they are raising over and over again in these discussions.

If the government think they cannot afford to pay our teachers the nation-leading wages they promised, wait until they have to try to attract new teachers because our teachers have quit. This is one of the other issues that teachers have raised. Queensland has been unashamed about recruiting public servants from other states and, in fact, from other countries when those countries were not paying good enough wages. I am sure that those other states and countries, like New Zealand, will be only too happy to do the same thing to us if we do not pay our teachers what they are worth.

At last week's rally I saw so many amazing teachers from my Mount Ommaney community. I am really proud to have one of the highest numbers of teachers residing in my electorate in all of the state of Queensland. One of the many teachers at the rally last week was the prep teacher who taught my 16-year-old daughter and my 13-year-old son. I had Elyse, my youngest, with me and she was chuffed to say hello to the woman she hopes will be her prep teacher as well. This woman is a brilliant practitioner. She is, and all of our teachers are, so dedicated to ensuring our kids get the best start.

Our state school kids desperately need our LNP government to come back to our teachers with a better offer—one that reflects the work of this invaluable profession. In the time I have left, I would like to remind parents and carers of state school students that the best way they can support our hardworking teachers next week during the strike is to keep their kids home if they can. We back our teachers.

### Burleigh Electorate, Schools

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.09 pm): As the year draws to a close I have had the opportunity, as have many other members, to spend time at my schools and see all of the fantastic work unfolding across many campuses. Students are rightfully excited that the year is coming to a conclusion because they also have had an opportunity to see what they have learned and how they have grown. They wait with eager anticipation, I am sure, for the return of school next year.

Although we are ending the school year, it does not mean that good things are not happening on campuses across the Burleigh electorate. I want to single out a few kids doing some brilliant things who

I think deserve praise and to have their names entered into the public record. The first is young Charlotte Brown. She contacted me as a passionate member of the Palm Beach community desperately worried over the health of Tallebudgera Creek. Not just to complain but in order to prompt action, she asked whether something could be done. I was so inspired by Charlotte's plea that I worked with Charlotte and her teacher, Mrs Hughes, to host a clean-up of Tallebudgera Creek this last weekend. Charlotte did a great job of collecting her classmates with the promise of cookies, her teacher and even school principal Mr Scott Anderson to a great clean-up event.

We were joined by Dr Sally Gregory, who is an icon of Tallebudgera Creek, who has committed not only her academic life but also her whole physical being to environmental causes. She is in that creek day in and day out with her diving gear collecting debris from that lake to restore it to pristine condition. What Sally was able to do with those kids was demonstrate what real environmental action looked like, to inspire Charlotte and her classmates to real action. We collected litter along the whole stretch of Tallebudgera Creek through Kevin Gates Park to Echo Beach. Then we returned, of course, for our cookies. Charlotte represented the best of the power of one translating into the action of many.

I also want to single out Tilly Brierley from Hillcrest Christian College. Although this school is not in my electorate, Tilly is a local constituent who organised her own beach clean-up of beautiful Burleigh Beach. To Charlotte and Tilly: thank you so much.

In closing, I want to shine a light on Mr Kerry Sutton, a year 4 teacher at Caningeraba State School, who encouraged all students in his class to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Mr Sutton is a treasure of the Burleigh community and he has made a real impact on those young lives.

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



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.12 pm): I rise to speak to the impact of the Crisafulli LNP government's agenda of cuts and chaos. Queenslanders know that when the LNP is cutting costs and cutting corners the repercussions can be devastating. Not a week goes by without someone in my community asking me why the LNP cut rego relief or the electricity rebates or cost-of-living measures, because they are struggling. It is not just the financials they are worried about; they are worried about the services the government is meant to provide too such as health services.

In my electorate alone, the LNP have cut the hours for the nurse-led clinic—the same clinic that is meant to take pressure off our major hospitals which somehow is not a priority—all in the name of apparently saving a bit of money. We already know that the LNP do not prioritise Queenslanders' health. We know that because the LNP banned pill testing and banned gender-affirming care for young trans people, while ramping has increased at our hospitals and waiting lists for specialists are getting longer. When the LNP refuse to listen to the experts and cut access to quality health services, it is Queenslanders who pay for it.

Some of our most vulnerable young people are also paying for this government's cost-cutting agenda because, as we know, this is a government that admitted to prioritising cash before kids when they made the decision to roll out the Unify IT system despite known concerns. The government admits that 16,000 kids have been put at risk.

The Deloitte report will be handed to the minister soon and I await its release. While she has promised to make it public, we know it will not answer all of the questions Queenslanders are asking. Was it worth it? How much money did the Crisafulli LNP government expect to save that was worth more than the wellbeing of those 16,000 children? The estimated savings figure has to be somewhere, because when the director-general fell on their sword that dollar figure—the ongoing cost—was a key consideration to go live with that system despite the known functionality risks that Together union delegates flagged in January; the risks that PeakCare, the peak body, flagged in February; and the risks that service providers flagged in March. These risks were all cast aside and ignored in order to save money.

The Crisafulli LNP government's priorities are all wrong. I do not think you will find a clearer example of the chaos of their cuts agenda. The time lines simply do not add up. We know the minister knew about the Unify problem. We know she made sure Unify went live even knowing there were risks to young people.

### **Thuringowa Electorate, Schools**



**Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (9.15 pm): In just weeks school bells will ring for the final time this year across Thuringowa. For our year 6 and year 12 students that bell will mark the end of an

extraordinary chapter—one that began in the heart of a global pandemic. These young people learned resilience before they ever opened a textbook on it.

I am privileged to represent 13 remarkable schools in my electorate. From flipping pancakes at breakfasts, handing out awards at assemblies, reading stories in libraries and wiping tears at farewells, I have been welcomed like family. These have been some of the greatest privileges of this job and I am deeply grateful. In recent weeks I have attended Clontarf awards, Ryan Catholic College's graduation ceremony, Heatley primary's premier challenge awards, and last night a very special evening at Thuringowa State High School—their first awards night in their multipurpose hall, now with air conditioning delivered this month by the LNP Crisafulli government. I hear from the principal they are very proud they are the first and only state school in Queensland with the privilege of an air-conditioned multipurpose hall.

This class of 2025 has been through everything together. They have had teachers who believed in them when they did not believe in themselves, friends who became family and parents who never stopped showing up. As they step into what is next, whether it is university, a trade, the Defence Force, a gap year or still figuring it out, I want every one of them to hear this: Thuringowa could not be more proud of you. We are proud of your resilience, your kindness and the way you looked after each other when the world felt uncertain when you began. Your schools are your foundation. Your teachers, families and friends will always be your biggest fans, and I am right there behind them. There are some senior leaders whom I have grown to adore and love like they were my own children. I will miss you. My door is always open; do not lose touch. I want to celebrate your wins and put the jug on when you need a cuppa after a tough day.

To our year 6 and year 12 graduates of 2025, on behalf of a very grateful Thuringowa: congratulations! Go and show the world what Thuringowa kids are made of, because we already know. You are made of courage, heart and unbreakable spirit. Thank you for letting me be part of your journey.

### Youth Mental Health Services

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.17 pm): I stand here today because I have seen what happens when governments fail our young people. When mental health services are dismantled lives are put at risk. Before entering this parliament I worked at the Barrett Adolescent Centre. I was there as it was winding down. I remember young people being told their safety, their treatment and their hope was gone, and staff, knowing the LNP's decision was reckless and rushed, trying to soften the blow. The LNP was warned: we warned them; families warned them; specialists warned them. They did not listen.

I remember holding a young person who knew they would not survive the closure and, tragically, holding the parents after they did not. The consequences were devastating. Families carry those losses every day. Staff still carry the weight. So do I. It was what brought me to this place and it continues to drive me. That tragedy taught us a hard lesson: when you dismantle mental health services, the consequences are real and lasting. That is why the decision to shut down the child and mental health clinic location at Yeronga concerns me so deeply.

We have heard the excuses—realignment, relocation and efficiencies—but we know what that means in practice. A service that was meant to be unified and accessible is being carved up and scattered across different sites. That is a step backwards and it places young people at risk of falling through the cracks. In youth mental health, predictability matters; a single point of access matters. Families in crisis should not be sent across town because redesign requires relocation. We have been down this road before and Queenslanders remember where it led.

Queenslanders learned from Barrett that you cannot trust the LNP with child and youth mental health. Many sitting on that side of the chamber were part of that government and part of that decision. This decision at Yeronga feels uncomfortably familiar: planning that shifts halfway through, promises that are scaled down and a community that is left confused. Where was the consultation with local families who rely on this clinic at Yeronga? This is exactly the pattern that occurred with the Barrett disaster. While the circumstances are different, the human risk is real.

When you close mental health clinics, you do not just shut the door to a building; you shut the door to access and hope. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the Newman government. We cannot pretend that these decisions are harmless. We cannot push services into leased offices scattered across the city and call it equivalent to purpose-built hubs. As the member for Inala and someone who stood in the Barrett centre, I will not let this issue pass without challenge. I will speak out for the children, the young people and their parents who every day are fighting a battle against mental ill health. I require

the government to do more. Instead of spending money on Adani, spend money on children's mental health.

### **Morrissey, Mrs M; Year 12 Graduates; Charity**

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.20 pm): Each semester as new classes begin their first geography lesson and they are trying to understand why geography is so important and why it is worthy of their time when they have lessons in hospitality and the arts available to them, a famous quote is shared in classrooms in Yeppoon: 'All history is geography. Our past, our present and our future are intrinsically linked to our place here on earth.' These wise words that I shared on my blackboard, my whiteboard and even my digital television in my last years as a teacher come from an absolute legend who changed the lives of so many in my community.

I was informed earlier tonight that Mrs Michelle Morrissey, my favourite history teacher from when I was a student at Yeppoon High, has sadly passed away in the last 24 hours from lung cancer. She had only been diagnosed in February this year. On behalf of the generations of students whom she made to love history and to understand why geography is important, I want to say vale, Michelle Morrissey. May you have peace and plenty of time to read some Beard that you loved so much and maybe even revisit Gibbon's *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

In coming days, graduates from schools across Keppel will walk out the door for the final time after 12 years of learning. To the stellar graduates of Yeppoon State High School, St Brendan's College, St Ursula's College Yeppoon and Carinity, I offer my sincerest congratulations to each of you on this milestone. May your lessons last a lifetime and your learning never end.

Finally, as we race through the final quarter of 2025, this is a time for fellowship, for food and for fun. I ask Central Queenslanders to share in the spirit of the season and think about those who are less fortunate who live in our communities and who require help. An act of charity never goes astray and always gives a hand up to someone who needs it most. To the people of Keppel: thank you for your charity this year and, please, give what you can.

### **Olympic and Paralympic Games**

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.23 pm): Seven billion bucks—it is a very big number. That is what the LNP and Labor have already committed to spending on the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics. I want to be clear: I love watching the Olympics as much as the next person. The pole vault and the high jump is what I really love. I was never the sportiest kid, but I have a pretty mean Fosbury flop—enough at least to get me a ribbon at my senior athletics carnival at Toowoomba State High School. When you see the real athletes performing, it is extraordinary. It is genuinely unbelievable what these people can do and we should be able to celebrate this. However, we have to be real, too. For those folks who are not such big fans of the Olympics, the question is: when the government is going to spend \$7 billion on it, when developers are going to make billions of dollars out of this event, what is it that we as everyday, regular residents of Brisbane can expect to get out of it?

**Mr Stevens:** You get to watch it.

**Mr BERKMAN:** We get to watch it? Okay.

**Mr Stevens:** It's a good thing.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Sure, but we have better examples. The member for Mermaid Beach might get enough out of watching it, but look to Montreal; they built 20 kilometres of Metro—real Metro, light rail—before they hosted in 1976. Just last year the Paris Olympics left them with 50 kilometres of new cycle lanes in Paris. They called them the 'Olympilanes'. I could take or leave that name, but what an incredible legacy for Parisian cyclists to have that infrastructure forever more. Barcelona is another great example; they cleaned up some industrial sites. They decontaminated sea water. They left the city with a new marina and created new beaches.

What about Brisbane? What have we had committed so far? For the \$7 billion investment that has been committed so far we have a commitment to an extraordinary program of privatisation and fear of skyrocketing rents. Quite frankly, it is time for us all to demand a better deal. That can look like a whole bunch of different outcomes. It can look like cheap tickets so that locals can actually go and take their family to see some of the Olympic events. It can look like better public transport, new busways or bringing the Airtrain back into public hands and making it 50 cents no less. It could look like environmental regeneration. Can we clean up the Brisbane River? Can it be swimmable again? What about public housing or affordable housing? All we have seen from the LNP on this front is canning

affordable housing requirements in the Gabba. What about community facilities such as parks and pools? Ariarne Titmus grew up on the inner west side. It boggles the mind that we do not even have a public pool anywhere on the inner west. Instead, we are seeing the benefits flowing to developers, not residents; bulldozing Victoria Park for a new stadium; and selling off the Visy site that was supposed to be public parkland. The Olympics is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for us. It is time for us to make Brisbane better and fairer, and the major parties risk wasting that opportunity.

*(Time expired)*

### **Toowoomba North Electorate, Education**

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.27 pm): It is a fantastic time for education infrastructure in Toowoomba. We had the pleasure of welcoming John-Paul Langbroek, the Minister for Education, to Toowoomba to open the Toowoomba North State School hall. This is over \$8 million worth of investment in a project for which I have been fighting along with the P&C for some time. I would very much like to thank Dianne Dryden, the current P&C President, and Carlie Stockwell, the previous president. I would also like to mention the Principal, Tim Loughland, who made us feel most welcome. There were a couple of hundred kids there who were very excited about having this fantastic facility. Former principal Kaarin Littleton came back. She worked really hard to get this project up and running. Richard Gibson, a former principal, put together the original structure that we built onto. It was a fantastic day for the kids of Toowoomba North State School.

During the visit we went out to Highfields State Secondary College. This was a full circle moment for the education minister and me because in a previous government this was one of the schools that we built. We paid for it; it was fully funded. We were told by the other side that we did not need it. It has been at capacity for a number of years now. It is a fantastic school that is doing a great job for the Highfields community. Unfortunately, during its development under Labor, there were a few things missing. When stage 2 was constructed they did not put a hard court outside. We had the real pleasure of the Principal, Scott Rowan, and the P&C President, Lisa Brogan, taking us for a walk around the school, showing us where the hard stand would go, talking about cricket nets, tennis, basketball and netball and how it would be really useful for the school to have that hard stand and to potentially share it with the community as well.

There is another project I would like to thank the minister for. It was one that we did not get a chance to go and visit. Over at Wilsonton State School they have had a lot of issues with people walking through the school and trouble around the school.

**Mr Stevens:** Fence it.

**Mr WATTS:** I thank the member; he is a genius. Nobody thought of that! It has actually been funded by the minister. We now have that funding in place. It has been a long road. The Principal, Charlie Moncada, and the P&C President, Kylie Hopkin, have been working hard on this project for a long time. They have had to keep a lot of records for the education department to see that the funding was worth while. With a shopping centre including a bottle shop on one side and a whole bunch of housing on the other side, it is a greatly needed facility to secure the environment for the kids. I would like to thank the minister very much for that funding as I am sure will all the residents of Wilsonton.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.29 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, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, 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, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young