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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

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WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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



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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Personal Explanations, Procedures



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, today I want to talk about standards in the House and address what I see as a campaign to disrupt proceedings and, in doing so, ignoring the rules and standards of the House. Speaker's rulings have long held that personal explanations are an opportunity for a member to explain their position, not to attack other members or debate issues. Yesterday, four members used the cover of personal explanations to attack others and in doing so were disorderly, despite numerous warnings. In reviewing yesterday's proceedings, it is clear to me that this was a coordinated effort to disrupt proceedings.

The issue at the crux of the complaint yesterday was a belief by members that other members referring to members not speaking in debate was a breach of the rules or conventions. Let me be very clear: It has never been a rule or convention members cannot refer to the fact that another member has not spoken to a matter or is not on the list to speak about a matter. It is not an extension of the rule about commenting on the absence of a member in the House. Indeed, in a ruling recently by Deputy Speaker O'Shea on 14 March 2025 it was made very clear that there is no convention regarding the mention of the lack of a member's contribution to a debate. Whether there should be such a rule is a matter for discussion for the relevant committee, but it is artifice to argue that such a rule exists.

My review of recent debates suggests that some members are being deliberately provocative and irrelevant in their contributions to debate in an attempt to provoke action by the Speaker in the chair. For example, last sitting week one member was extremely provocative and absolutely irrelevant in debate and sat themselves down twice, claiming they had been silenced when they clearly had not. Other members regularly use points of order to debate issues or restate questions where all that is required is to state the point of order. My patience with such conduct is at an end. I have instructed all deputy speakers to have less tolerance for such behaviours.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 26 September 2025, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Woodridge deliberately misled the House on 17 September 2025. I note that the Deputy Premier raised this matter in the House on 18 September 2025 during preliminary business and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition rose immediately afterwards and apologised. Given the immediate apology, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Woodridge.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 3 October 2025, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 26 August 2025. I consider this matter is arguably a political dispute about knowledge of an issue that may arise in the future and what, if any, action could have been taken. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier were in disagreement as to what action could or should have been taken when Bega announced its strategic review and there was reporting that the Peanut Company of Australia, or PCA, could be sold. It is my understanding that the Deputy Premier did not say that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition knew that the PCA operations would be closing. He has stated that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did not disclose whether he knew it would close and what he would do about such closing. Accordingly, I consider the matter trivial and will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana.

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 3 October 2025, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 26 August 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Deputy Premier during consideration-in-detail for the cognate debate of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation Bill 2025.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier stated:

'...I said—I was alarmed to find out that the former Treasurer and AWU Member Cameron Dick failed to disclose whether he knew in 2024 about the closure and as Treasurer what did he do about it. It appears nothing.'

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition argued that this was false because the Bega Group announced a review in 2024 but did not announce that the Peanut Company of Australia's (PCA) Kingaroy and Tolga operations would cease until 2025. He confirmed with the Director-General of the Deputy Premier's portfolio in Estimates Hearings this year that workers were about to be made redundant, rather than being made redundant earlier, which would have evidenced an earlier decision.

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

In his submission, the Deputy Premier provided an article from the Courier Mail dated 6 June 2024, when the review was announced, that states the likely outcome is expected to be the sale of PCA to slim down Bega's manufacturing base.

The Deputy Premier alleges that it is reasonable to assume the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would have been aware of this reporting as he was directly responsible for the Queensland economy as Treasurer at that time, and that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition took no steps at that time to accommodate workers would be impacted by the closure of facilities in Kingaroy or Tolga.

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

It is my understanding that the Deputy Premier did not say that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition knew that PCA's operations would be closing, he has stated that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did not disclose whether he knew it would close, and what he would do about such a closure.

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

In this matter, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier are in disagreement as to what action should have been taken when Bega announced its strategic review and there was reporting that the Kingaroy and Tolga sites would be sold. It is essentially a political dispute on policy and how to best deal with an issue that may arise in the future.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is arguing that no decision had been made at the time when he was Treasurer for him to take any action, whereas the Deputy Premier is arguing that proactive action should have been taken based on reporting in the media.

Accordingly, I consider the matter is trivial in nature.

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

Finally, I note that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition also took issue with a tabled paper that essentially repeated the same words as were spoken by the Deputy Premier in the House. Due to my ruling that the matter is trivial, I will not be taking any action with respect to that tabled paper.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members on 3 October 2025, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 26 August 2025. In this matter, the Deputy Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have relied on different terminology from within a suite of battery policies contained in a broader strategy to argue about whether funding was or was not provided by the former government. Accordingly, I consider it is trivial. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana.

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

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 3 October 2025, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 26 August 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the Deputy Premier during consideration-in-detail for the cognate debate of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation Bill 2025.

Specifically, the Deputy Premier stated:

'This was their battery industry strategy. Guess what it says down the bottom in fine print: 'subject to investment decisions'. I table that document.'

'They had never put a dollar into the battery industry development fund, and it was subject to investment decisions. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition came into estimates and wanted everyone to believe this was a fully funded strategy. It was not. It was a crock. It was not proceeding.'

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition argued that this was false and provided evidence in the form of budget papers and media releases confirming the former government had invested in the Queensland Battery Industry Strategy, including new funding. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also noted that the tabled paper showed that the funding that was subject to investment decisions was the funding to be provided by the Australian Government, not the funding put forward by the former government.

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

In his submission, the Deputy Premier stated that he was referring to the Australian Battery Industrialisation Centre (ABIC) when stating that no funding had been forthcoming and that funding was subject to investment decisions. Because no funding was forthcoming from the Australian Government, the former government did not contribute any funding and ABIC did not proceed.

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

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition provided me with evidence that the former government did have a Battery Industry Strategy which had funding attributed to it. However, the Deputy Premier stated that he was referring to the ABIC policy, one element of that strategy, which was reliant on Australian Government funding that the former government would match. The Australian Government funding did not eventuate, and therefore the former government did not contribute funding to ABIC.

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

In this matter, the Deputy Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have relied on different terminology describing elements of a battery strategy to argue about whether funding was or was not provided by the former government. It is a dispute about funding using different expressions to form opposing viewpoints.

Accordingly, I consider the matter is trivial in nature.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery by Councillor Teresa Harding, mayor of the Ipswich City Council.

Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this afternoon by senior school leaders and teachers from: Birkdale State School; Birkdale South State School; Alexandra Hills State School; Vienna Woods State School; Hilliard State School; and Capalaba State College in the electorate of Capalaba.

TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls)—

Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. Nicholls), to a paper petition (4311-25), presented by the member for Callide, Mr Head, from 119 petitioners, requesting the House to restore and maintain the old Many Peaks Hospital building in the Upper Boyne Valley and to take other actions

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Federal Labor Government, Aged Care



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): For the past year, our government has been working hard to heal Labor's health crisis. A decade of underinvestment by Labor left our health services on life support. Our population—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnell who once said making up stories about health patients who are suffering in the most tragic times—

Ms GRACE: I never said a word. I take offence and I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. Our population is growing and aging and our health system must keep up after a decade of decline. We have delivered the biggest drop to the elective surgery waitlist in a decade but there is more to do. Right now, there are over 1,100 Queenslanders stranded in hospitals across the state. They need care but do not belong in a hospital bed. Instead, they need dedicated facilities like age care.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for McConnell.

Ms Grace: You didn't say that in opposition.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for McConnell. As a state, it is our job to invest in our hospitals and our health services. We are doing our part to give health workers more support and resources to give Queenslanders the health services they need. We accept our responsibility to heal Queensland Labor's health crisis. Our government is delivering the biggest investment in health infrastructure in Queensland's history but aged care and disability services are the responsibility of the federal government and, without appropriate investment and more facilities, our most vulnerable are stranded in hospitals.

It is costing us much needed hospital beds. It is costing families peace of mind. It is costing vulnerable Australians their dignity. Queensland is one of the worst affected, but it is not a problem unique to Queensland; it is a challenge being faced by Australians in every part of the country. We cannot fix this problem on our own. This morning the leaders of every state and territory came together to discuss this issue. We are united in our bid to rescue these stranded Australians. We have agreed to take negotiations forward across the country. It is a national issue. It requires a national solution. The states and territories are uniting to rescue these stranded Australians. We need to ensure Queenslanders are getting the right care in the right place. We will keep working to heal Labor's health crisis and we will keep fighting to see Canberra play its part.

Central Queensland, Development



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.10 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for regional Queensland—in particular Central Queensland—thanks to the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Mirani. I can advise the House that Her Excellency the Governor has approved a land transfer of more than 130 hectares of land to Economic Development Queensland, the Rockhampton Regional Council and CQ University to transform into a unique education, sporting and housing precinct in the heart of Central Queensland. This deal will see the construction of 200 new homes, stage 1 of the new Rockhampton Sports Precinct and a TAFE centre of excellence, unlocking the vast potential of these parcels of land and representing the continuation of a strong and continuous partnership between the state government and the Central Queensland University.

The former Labor government sat on its hands for 10 years with respect to this project, leaving the land, which sits under a Central Queensland University Rockhampton PDA, to languish for over a decade with no activity. It is no surprise this is another PDA declared by the former Labor government without any activation on it. We are creating, under the sports minister, the Rockhampton Sports Precinct; under the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, a new TAFE precinct of excellence right at CQ University; and under my portfolio and the Minister for Housing over 200 homes. The reason we can do it now is because we have transferred the land to Rocky council, EDQ and also the Central Queensland University for their TAFE campus. It is freehold title which has now been transferred.

For the last few days I have had the pleasure of being in Central Queensland and in Rockhampton where I rowed the mighty Fitzroy River. That is the Olympic and Paralympic venue for 2032. 'Row, row, row your boat gently down the Fitzroy!' A few weeks ago in this place I said I have had a rule in public life for 17 years: the legs of politicians should never be seen. I broke that rule and my legs were on display in the mighty Fitzroy River with LNP Crocs on, LNP board shorts and an LNP towel. We rowed with the Rockhampton Fitzroy Rowing Club because we back it. We backed it at the start in the 2032 Delivery Plan and we continue to back it.

I am still waiting on what the alternative government's view is on our 2032 Delivery Plan. Along will come 2032 and I am not sure if the Labor Party will even have its plan released. Does it back rowing in Rocky or not? Does it back Central Queensland? The LNP backs regional Queensland. We back rowing on the mighty Fitzroy River. The question is what is the position of the Labor Party?

Federal Labor Government, Aged Care



Hon. DC JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.13 pm): In failing to fairly fund our health system the Albanese government is leaving older Queenslanders stuck in hospitals while waiting for aged-care packages. While the Prime Minister might want Queensland to shut its emergency room doors, a report commissioned by the Board of Treasurers—all state and territory treasurers—and conducted by Stephen Duckett, is clear about the financial realities of our health system. The Albanese government's failure to save stranded patients is one of the main drivers of increased costs and is, to quote the report, impairing the productivity of public hospitals to deliver core acute services. Canberra must turn up with a deal that lives up to their national cabinet commitment and gets older Queenslanders into the care they deserve.

Health funding is not the only way Canberra is short-changing Queenslanders, however. As reported in the *Australian* today, the Queensland Productivity Commission will do what the federal Productivity Commission review will not. It will examine the broader implications of the GST carve-up on the government's ability to deliver services across our decentralised state. We need our fair share of the GST to support the delivery of services as we deliver cost-of-living relief to support Queenslanders.

The Crisafulli government is committed to targeted and timely, recurrent and responsible cost-of-living support. The concession package we included as part of our first budget was the single largest recurrent investment into cost-of-living support in our state's history. Our initiatives are fully funded and permanently delivered: \$62 million for the Play on! sports vouchers program every year for the next four years. Under Labor it would have stopped on 1 July. We have lifted Labor's indexation freeze on the vulnerable household electricity rebate. Then there is the Crisafulli government's permanent 50-cent fares. Those opposite never planned to extend it beyond six months but we have locked it in permanently. The proof is in print. It is not in a social media post the opposition leader can take down an hour later; it is in the budget papers forever. The proof is in the print: page 179 of *Budget Paper No. 4* from 2024-25—

Public Transport Temporary Fare Reduction.

The government is implementing a temporary fare reduction across the South East Queensland public transport network and on contracted regional bus services for 6 months.

That was their language in their budget. It is the same story for the former Labor government's \$1,000 energy rebates and their 20 per cent temporary car rego discount. Their budget papers put the future of their measures in black and white and I will quote it again: in their budget papers it states the new and expanded cost-of-living measures are temporary. Read all about it on page 132 of *Budget Paper No. 2*. That is their record and it was always their intention. No matter how many times they try to rewrite history, their own budget papers are timeless and reveal the reality behind their consistent mistruths.

Our cost-of-living support is real and targeted: \$1.6 billion in the Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, Labor's patients tax gone and let us not forget the \$100 Back to School Boost for the new school year. That is our record: targeted and timely, recurrent and responsible and, above all, permanent.

Right Skills Strategy



Hon. RM BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.18 pm): After a decade of decline under Labor we are taking action to secure a pipeline of skilled workers to build Queensland's future. We are reforming Queensland's training system to generate opportunities for all workers. I was pleased to recently launch the Right Skills Strategy 2025-28 delivering a significant milestone for Queensland's employment and training sector. The Right Skills Strategy is part of the Crisafulli government's plan to deliver a better lifestyle through a stronger economy after Labor's decade of decline where Queensland's training system was neglected, campuses were underutilised and opportunities were lost. The strategy will help create the highly skilled workforce needed to strengthen our economy, boost productivity and unlock 430,000 new job opportunities for Queenslanders by 2028.

This is yet another example of the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland. Labor presided over a skills shortage, allowing the skills gap to widen while demand for housing, for infrastructure and for skilled workers soared. By contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government wants to see more carpenters, electricians, plumbers, nurses and aged-care workers. Put simply, we want to see more people in the essential jobs that are the backbone of our communities. From the cape to Coolangatta, under the Crisafulli LNP government Queenslanders will be able to access the training they need to secure the jobs which will underpin a better lifestyle through a sombre economy.

Over the next four years our strategy will deliver more than \$201.1 million for four new centres of excellence in Caloundra, Moreton Bay, Southern Moreton Bay Islands and Rockhampton; \$50 million to expand apprenticeships in housing, health care and construction; free and low-cost training for Queenslanders starting out, upskilling or returning to work, including young Queenslanders, women and veterans; a proudly regional focus recognising those in our remote, rural and regional areas have fewer options when it comes to training; and \$2 million to recruit the next generation of TAFE teachers to deliver high-quality training across Queensland.

We are leveraging funding from the federal government through the National Skills Agreement, establishing centres of excellence in priority areas, strengthening the capability of the VET workforce and putting in place tangible actions to close the gap. This investment comes at a critical time. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon and demand growing across health care, housing, construction and manufacturing, this strategy reflects the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to securing the pipeline of skilled workers that Queensland needs. We will continue to work with industries to strengthen Queensland's vocational education and training, support completions and job outcomes, and enhance access for all Queenslanders.

Unlike Labor, this government is focused on delivering free and subsidised training in the critical skills areas required. The Crisafulli LNP government is not about box ticking or funding courses for the sake of it. We are basing funding decisions on data and research, ensuring the training we deliver is directly targeted at critical industries where shortages exist. Our Right Skills Strategy will deliver real outcomes for all Queenslanders, ensuring they are ready to embrace opportunities, secure good jobs and drive the prosperity of our state. The Crisafulli LNP government's investment in training, from the Right Skills Strategy to the \$201.1 million investment in centres of excellence, is another way we are delivering on our commitment for a fresh start for Queensland and a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

Resources Industries, Safety



Hon. DR LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.20 pm): The Crisafulli government was elected on a plan to deliver and a plan to rebuild trust and make Queensland safer for all Queenslanders. Safety in the resources sector is my highest priority. My mantra that safety must come before production is as strong today as it was when I was first elected to the parliament. That is why in June I commissioned a comprehensive and independent review of Queensland's resources safety and health regulatory model. Queenslanders expect a regulator that is strong, independent and effective. After five years operating under the current model, it was time to take stock and make sure that the regulatory systems that keep our workers safe are working as intended.

The review was led by Professor Susan Johnston, who has decades of experience here in Australia and overseas in improving mine safety outcomes. It was conducted under broad terms of reference and examined the current regulatory framework for resources safety in Queensland, including the structure of RSHQ, its advisory committees and the role of the commissioner. More than 150 individuals from industry, unions, government and RSHQ contributed to this process. Today I table Professor Johnston's report.

Tabled paper: University of Queensland, Leading for High Reliability Centre report, dated 30 September 2025, titled 'Review of the Queensland Resources Safety and Health Regulatory Model'.

I want to be clear about the version of the report that I have tabled. In the interests of protecting the identities and privacy of participants, personal particulars including those of RSHQ staff and contributors have been redacted. That confidentiality was critical to ensure open and honest engagement with the review process. However, transparency is just as important so that Queenslanders can see the review findings and understand the actions we are taking in response, because the findings from this review are sobering and the need for reform is clear. The independent review found that the model created in 2020 is not delivering what Queensland workers deserve. It found weaknesses in governance, confusion around roles and a lack of clear accountability. It identified issues with investigations and enforcement. It also found that the advisory committees have become less influential and less connected to strategic decision-making than they should be.

The Crisafulli government will act swiftly. As a priority, we will establish a new governing board to provide real independent oversight of RSHQ. This board will bring together expertise from across the sector and will be responsible for lifting performance and strengthening accountability across the regulator. The new board will report directly to me as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. We will streamline the operation of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee to improve efficiencies and coordination. The new board and my department will work with RSHQ to improve internal governance, performance and risk management systems to lead organisational and operational improvements. To remove duplication and confusion, the role of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health will be discontinued. The commissioner's advisory and oversight functions will be transferred to the new governing board. This will create a single modern and accountable structure with clear lines of responsibility and will ensure that expert tripartite advice to me as minister continues through the board and its subcommittees.

I want Queensland to lead not just the nation but also the world in safety. Every family deserves certainty that the system protecting their loved ones is robust, independent and focused on the risks that matter. Over the coming weeks and months, we will deliver a modern and accountable framework that puts workers first.

Teachers, Industrial Action



Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education and the Arts) (2.25 pm): I want to reiterate and reassert the Crisafulli government's commitment to state school teachers receiving fair treatment, good working conditions and nationally competitive wages. That is what we are attempting to deliver. The EB11 offer that was rejected by the QTU was historic and nation leading in many ways. It was directly informed and developed by the voices representing educators of this state.

I am disappointed in the decision that the QTU has made this week to proceed with a strike on Tuesday. The disruption this will cause to students, parents and school administrators is not acceptable, especially during exams, some of which are very important exams, especially for our incoming senior students. Some exam pieces are worth 25 per cent of the grade 12 summative assessment. It is difficult to move those exams, as has been suggested by some, when school finishes for year 11 next week and school camps, graduations and celebrations are continuing.

Whilst we respect the right of the union to take industrial action, the consequences of this on the wellbeing and education outcomes of students and families should be taken into critical consideration. Throughout this process we have negotiated in good faith with the QTU and we will continue to do so. I respect the democratic process that has been chosen by the QTU and it will inevitably lead to arbitration. In this attitude of cooperation and a common goal, I strongly urge the QTU to consent to immediate arbitration in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. This is in the best interests of students' wellbeing and education outcomes as well as the stability of the education sector.

As education minister, I would like to share some other sentiments. The QTU knew that rejecting the offer would inevitably lead to arbitration, yet now they call for renegotiations that were not on the table. Their delay in consenting to arbitration will obstruct delivering certainty for teachers. Arbitration has the potential to only deliver an outcome in 2027, a condition that the QTU was aware of when they declined to recommend the offer to their members. I urge those opposite who keep agitating and influencing the QTU to behave in this way to take a good look at themselves.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr LANGBROEK: This is not about them. This is about our educators, who play a vital role in this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I called for order. I expect to be taken notice of when I call for order.

Mr LANGBROEK: I take those interjections from those opposite. This is about our educators, who play a vital role in this state. This is about our children, the next generation of Queenslanders.

Swanbank Public Health Inquiry

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.28 pm): For many years, the residents of Ipswich have been raising health concerns about odours emanating from the Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas. This includes complaints about nausea, headaches, coughing and wheezing, skin irritations, sleep disturbances and stress, as well as concerns about other more serious conditions. These are serious health concerns that Labor ignored during their decade of decline. It is why before the election we committed to conducting a public health inquiry to give the Ipswich community an opportunity to tell their story and have their voices heard by their government.

As close as possible to the start of my tenure as health minister, in January this year I commissioned the Swanbank public health inquiry to examine the health impacts of the odour. Today, I am pleased to table the final report and the government's response—delivering on another Crisafulli government election commitment to the people of Ipswich.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Queensland Health—Public Health Inquiry: Odour issues at the Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas', June 2025.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Government response: Public Health Inquiry—odour issues at Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas'.

This independent inquiry was led by Queensland's former chief health officer, Dr John Gerrard, who was tasked with fully examining the health impacts of the Swanbank odour. The inquiry engaged extensively with the community. The inquiry team hosted two shopping centre pop-up displays at Redbank Plaza and Ripley Town Centre. Local schools, kindergartens, childcare centres, medical centres and medical specialists were also invited to contribute. In total, around 500 people contributed to the inquiry.

I also want to acknowledge the advocacy of Mayor Teresa Harding, who joins us in the gallery today, who has fought for her residents. The government has briefed Mayor Harding during the course of the inquiry. I am informed that today the Chief Health Officer met with the community representative group, together with Mayor Harding, to go through the report. I also want to thank Dr Gerrard who has now delivered a comprehensive report to the government that contains detailed findings and recommendations.

Importantly, the public health inquiry did not find any evidence of an increased risk of cancer in the exposed population or that the odour is toxic. I think that is important for the residents of that region. However, the report makes clear that odorous chemicals in the air do not need to be at toxic levels to impact human health. The findings reveal what the people of Ipswich have known for many years—odour from the industrial areas is highly offensive and is affecting the health and wellbeing of impacted

residents. The most common conditions attributed to the odour include respiratory, ear, nose and throat, neurological, skin, gastrointestinal and mental health.

The inquiry makes recommendations to provide relief from the odour, to further audit odour producers, to strengthen air monitoring and to maintain buffer distances. The government supports all recommendations and will establish a dedicated interdepartmental committee to oversee their implementation and maintain ongoing engagement with the community, industry and the local authority. Queensland Health will also commence a dedicated Swanbank health hotline. If needed, impacted community members can contact this service for health advice from a registered nurse. This can be accessed by calling 13HEALTH.

While there is still work ahead to remedy the odour issues at Swanbank, the Crisafulli government is up to the task. Far from ignoring the people of Ipswich, as Labor did for a decade, this public health inquiry gives the Ipswich community the answers they deserve.

Swanbank Public Health Inquiry



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.32 pm): I rise to support the actions taken by the Minister for Health. For too long the people of Ipswich have lived with noxious odours from the Swanbank and New Chum industrial areas invading their homes, their schools and their lives. This is not new. Residents raised the alarm for years. They wrote letters, made calls and pleaded for action. For too long their concerns were ignored.

Queenslanders were front of mind when the member for Mudgeeraba made the commitment that a Crisafulli government would pursue this public health inquiry. Those opposite refused. Our government has delivered. When Queenslanders voted for a fresh start last year they did not just vote for a new government; they voted for a new way of doing things. They voted for a government that listens, that acts and that puts people first. That is why Minister Nicholls promptly kicked off this inquiry after we took office last year.

Today, I welcome the inquiry's findings, report and recommendations. At long last it validates what this community has been experiencing. It gives them the validation that the symptoms they have experienced are real. Thankfully, there is no evidence to suggest that these odours are toxic or a cancer risk. This was an important step that had to be taken to ensure public safety. I recognise and acknowledge how challenging that has been for residents and the frustration and distress this has caused. That era of struggling alone is over.

As the state's environmental regulator, the department is responsible for ensuring that waste is processed without causing unlawful environmental harm. My department has implemented a comprehensive and coordinated strategy within the Swanbank precinct, focused on compliance and enforcement while also working with the local community to encourage odour reporting and enhance air quality monitoring. There are already tangible results: successful court outcomes, updated licence conditions for composters and a range of interim site management improvements. Through the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, we will continue to enforce court-ordered restraint and stricter licence conditions to provide a long-term transition to best practice odour management. We are committed to continuing the momentum.

Importantly, there is a transition plan in place for the composting industry to adopt best practice odour management. We have already seen significant reductions in reports of odour and our focus remains on continually improving outcomes for the community. That is why this transition plan is so important. By September 2026 composting operators must construct in-vessel or enclosed facilities or they will no longer be permitted to compost highly odorous feedstocks. We recognise there is still work that can be done during this transition period to address the concerns of residents.

The Crisafulli government accepts the recommendations of this report and my department will lead an interdepartmental committee on this issue to deliver further improvements and provide the necessary support to the Ipswich community. Delivering these recommendations will complement much of the work already underway. Actions will be carefully considered, delivered in practical ways for operators and the community and grounded in science with the environment and local community at their heart. We will continue to engage closely with the community, waste operators and the Ipswich City Council. I too acknowledge the mayor in the gallery today. After a decade of being ignored under Labor, the people of Ipswich can be reassured that they matter and that the Crisafulli government is listening to them.

Leavers, Mr I; Police Service, Personnel

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.36 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of Ian Leavers—a champion for police and community safety. He was a son, a father and a mate to many. His reach was wide, but it was his police family that was equally as close to his heart. Even as Cross-Border Commissioner, he never stopped fighting for police and community safety. Last week was the first ever cross-border commissioners' forum in Sydney. Leavo was instrumental in coordinating this meeting and driving the agenda. There was one thing we all agreed on: that Leavo's work will continue.

Today, I can announce that we are seeing the strongest signs in years that our police are rebuilding. Unplanned attrition in the QPS has dropped to 2.8—the lowest it has been in three years. That means more officers are staying, morale is strengthening and Queenslanders are seeing a Queensland Police Service that is growing stronger not shrinking.

This is happening because we are backing our police with the resources and the tools they deserve after Labor's decade of decline. In just 12 months, the Crisafulli government has delivered an extra 476 officers—more than 2½ times the 174 Labor managed in their last four years. More police, better resources and stronger laws are starting to drive down crime. Adult Crime, Adult Time is reducing the number of victims, the number of homes being broken into, the number of cars being stolen and is ensuring young offenders face real consequences, and those consequences are acting as a real deterrent.

That is why I note with interest the Victorian Labor government's new Adult Time for Violent Crime legislation. The new laws target juveniles committing serious offences, allowing for greater penalties. Does that sound familiar? The Victorian government has seen the results of Adult Crime, Adult Time in Queensland. That is why it is disappointing to see the federal Labor government wants to take Queensland back to 2015 when those opposite proudly watered down the laws and removed detention as a last resort, which created a revolving door of youth justice and a generation of untouchables.

The Crisafulli government is not going to take a backward step. We will continue to back our police and back those who serve on the front line to protect Queenslanders in their time of need.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Net Zero

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.39 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House expresses its support for net zero emissions by 2050.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 3.39 pm.

Toowoomba Hospital, Construction

 **Mr MILES** (2.39 pm): My first question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that taxpayers footed a \$10 million-a-month bill for managing contractor fees and overheads at the new Toowoomba Hospital while no construction was taking place?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. He is one of three failed health ministers and rapidly becoming one of I do not know how many failed opposition leaders, but it is all coming—

Mr Dick: You'd know!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: I think that interjection came from the member for Woodridge—I am not sure—but he is someone who will never get the opportunity to be a failed one. The member for Waterford and the member for Gaven both have the numbers over the member for Woodridge. They are all battling

around down there, but it is early days yet. No-one can tell what will happen over there, including those over there.

What do we know about the Toowoomba Hospital? We know that the Toowoomba Hospital has continued to be built under the LNP government. I have been there. The members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South have been there. The member for Toowoomba South and I visited on a particularly cloudy day, if I recall correctly, while the fourth crane was being erected on the Toowoomba Hospital. It is being built as we speak. The battered banks are being built and the works are being done. The reality of it is—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr NICHOLLS: What about the Toowoomba Hospital? Work has continued under a contract at that hospital. There will be a transit lounge, which had not been called for by those over there. There will be cardiac services, which had not been planned by those over there. There will be extra operating theatres—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier and member for McConnel, the quarrelling across the chamber will cease. I cannot hear the minister. The minister is being relevant to the question. I cannot hear his response. I doubt if anybody can hear the response.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will be particularly careful to adhere to your ruling earlier today. I will not restate the question. My point of order is on relevance. The question was about a specific period of time, not other periods of time.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 26 seconds left.

Mr NICHOLLS: Let me be clear about it: the Crisafulli LNP government will pay people what they are owed under their contracts, when they are owed, as they are owed it—something that might be foreign to those on that side of the House.

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly, as it is to the Labor Party generally across this country. You only have to look at Labor in Victoria, where they cancelled the Commonwealth Games and had to pay out for that. Talk about honouring contracts. We are paying people what they are due.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Construction

Mr MILES: My question is to Minister for Health. The Crisafulli LNP government has paused construction at the Townsville, Mackay, Cairns, Redcliffe, Coomera and Bundaberg hospitals. How much are taxpayers paying per month for managing contractor fees and overheads while these construction sites sit empty?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask whether the Leader of the Opposition can authenticate the basis of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will just have a look at the question. I will have order while I do this.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Did you hear, member for Greenslopes? I take your point of order, Leader of the House. I will allow a little latitude in the response. It was around the construction of those hospitals, so I will allow the minister to respond.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Could you clarify for the benefit of the House and the member for Murrumba, who has asked the question, that the point of order is upheld or otherwise, because the question was about managing contractor fees—

Mr SPEAKER: I have allowed the question. The question was a bit vague. Authenticating it would have been a bit interesting. I have allowed the question, and I expect the minister to talk about those projects that you mentioned in your question. Minister, if you would talk about those projects—

Mr NICHOLLS: Sure, Mr Speaker. What we have seen over the last—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are now warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: What we are seeing over the last sitting week and this sitting week is the continued reliance by the laziest opposition that I have ever seen in this place—and the most well resourced—on a stolen, outdated briefing document. That is what it is. We know where it came from. We know who took it and we know what they are using it for. They had no questions until they received a stolen, outdated parliamentary briefing document.

I am happy to talk about our Hospital Rescue Plan. What does our Hospital Rescue Plan involve? Are we spending more money? You bet we are. We are spending \$18.5 billion on 2,600 new beds across the state. We are putting in another \$3 billion to revive the timely investment in infrastructure maintenance program, replacing the failed sustaining capital program. We remember what the Auditor-General said about that—the total failure, the total lack of investment in infrastructure. We are putting more money into the Building Rural and Remote Health Program—\$335 million. We are putting \$146 million into the Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery Program, underfunded by those over there. We are putting \$550 million into the Queensland Ambulance Service to deliver more ambulances and more stations.

We are putting in another \$5.592 billion as part of that \$18.5 billion to fund our Hospital Rescue Plan, and we are building across the state. Whether it is at Toowoomba, in Cairns, in Townsville or in Rockhampton, we are delivering more hospital beds sooner because Labor's plan, as the independent report indicated, was both undeliverable on time and on money and, as Infrastructure Australia said, was nothing more than a mirage of mirrors and had no substance behind it. It was a false claim that they would have been able to deliver any of it. They know it, we know it and we know they know it.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about managing contractor fees.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 35 seconds left to talk about those specific hospitals.

Mr NICHOLLS: We will be managing contractor fees to make sure we get 2,600 beds for the prices that we said—unlike those over there, who had an undeliverable program for the money that they had allocated. They had not even allocated enough for what they said they were going to do. Yes, we are spending money making sure that contracts are being honoured, that hospitals are being delivered and that Queenslanders are getting easier access to health services closer to home, exactly as we promised. We will also deliver 200 more beds than those over there were considering.

Community Safety

Mr HUNT: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government leading the nation regarding community safety, and is the Premier aware of any policies in other jurisdictions that would not keep Queensland communities safe?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for Nicklin for the question. I always love receiving questions from him. They are well researched, articulate and coherent, which are good traits when someone is asking a question. The other day I was with the member for Nicklin and we were in Nambour. We were there with Christine, who has fought for two decades for a police beat for that proud part of the Sunshine Coast. It has taken the member for Nicklin's getting in and rolling up his sleeves for it to be delivered. It was great to be there with the police minister—he has had a big win. CCTV is also being rolled out.

There was a feeling on the ground in Nambour that it is a community on the way up. There was a great sense of pride there. I thank the local member for how much he loves it and how much he believes in the community. I pay tribute to him today.

The member asked about laws. I say this clearly: Adult Crime, Adult Time will remain in this state for as long as we are in office, and it is at risk from those opposite. Here is a newsflash for those opposite: as we promised before the election, the Making Queensland Safer Laws will continue to strengthen laws in this state. Every change we make—and there will be more changes coming—will be about strengthening, not watering down.

I will tell you why. I have gone through and found some old comments about breach of bail. I want to read them to the House today because they show that the guilty party is those opposite. Many of the architects of the youth crime crisis are still there. The member for Morayfield said—

That proposal doesn't make sense. It doesn't work. When it was around, it didn't have an impact on reducing offending.

The member for Waterford said—

The LNP are calling for a return of offence for breach of bail, but I want to be very clear with all of you Queenslanders it was not a disincentive, it did not stop young people from reoffending.

The member for Waterford also said—

We know what does not work when it comes to young people, and that is called the breach of bail offence.

The member for Nudgee said—

We don't want something that didn't work, that the court couldn't use.

The member for Murrumba said—

Youth justice bail laws have been recently reviewed and amended. The Palaszczuk government—

remember that one? They tried to erase it—

has no intention of implementing so-called breach of bail laws.

I will tell the House why that is: their heart is not in it. When a left-wing government like Victoria is prepared to adopt stronger laws but those opposite cannot even commit to the ones we have which have driven down youth crime victims by 6.5 per cent and cannot say that what we are doing in early intervention is working or that rehabilitation is turning the tide, we have a long way to go. Finally, after a decade of decline, victim numbers are starting to head in the right direction. The only risk we face is a return to a weak government led by this weak opposition leader, who is hanging by a thread.

(Time expired)

E-mobility Safety

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Health. Some 6,342 injured Queenslanders presented to our emergency departments due to e-scooter incidents between April 2024 and March 2025. That comes at a devastating personal cost and at a cost, as Queensland Health estimates, of \$15 million to the health system. Has the minister advocated for the committee report into e-scooters and e-bikes to be expedited, given the serious impacts on our health system?

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance, given the matter is before a parliamentary committee for inquiry. Are there any implications in relation to the question as asked?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Woodridge for his question, considering he was part of a government that did nothing about e-scooters from the moment they arrived. There was no suggestion whatsoever about the increasing cost or advocating for anything to be done. It is this government that has taken steps to deal with e-scooters to address the presentations to hospitals, and it is this government that is taking action to cure the health crisis left behind by the three worst health ministers that Queensland has ever seen, who are still sitting over there.

I am happy to advocate for Queensland Health on many issues. I have been advocating with respect to the failure by the Albanese Labor government to properly fund long-stay older patients and long-stay younger patients, who are collectively called stranded patients. These patients have been left for too long in hospital beds because the Albanese government refuses to ensure either NDIS payments are made on time or there are sufficient residential aged-care facilities. The contrast could not be clearer between the advocacy that we have raised and the advocacy of those over there when it comes to stranded patients.

As I said yesterday, when it came to advocating for stranded patients what did we hear from the opposition? Crickets—absolutely nothing. Have they said anything about it? Has any one of them stood up and said in the last 12 months, 'Come on, federal Labor, pay your fair share!' They have said not one thing.

Yesterday we had the example of Denise Mcauley, whose daughter Liana was up in the gallery, who had been in Logan Hospital—in the heart of the federal Treasurer's electorate—because there were no aged-care places available for her. That is what we heard about. That is what we are advocating for. We are advocating for our fair share under the National Health Reform Agreement. We remember those on that side saying, 'We want fifty-fifty,' but they signed up to 42½ per cent.

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

Mr NICHOLLS: That is what those on that side advocated for.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We have a point of order.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was the about the committee inquiry and advocacy around its reporting date.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was about the implications on health and the minister is being responsive to the question as asked in relation to the impacts on health.

Mr SPEAKER: The question was around e-scooter accidents. The minister will not talk to the inquiry, only to injuries or health. Minister, you have 50 seconds left.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am getting a lot of assistance. I say to everyone who is offering it that I appreciate it, but only one thing at a time. What do we know about the presentation of e-scooters? E-scooters add to the burden on emergency departments, the same emergency departments that experienced the worst ramping ever on a quarterly basis under those opposite. Under those opposite it climbed to 45.5 per cent. All three of them are over there. What did they inherit? They inherited a rate of 15 per cent. What was the worst it got to? It got to 45.5 per cent. They hid the numbers. They did not report the monthly numbers. They washed them. Remember, they were going to wash the numbers and report them. Yes, we advocate. We advocate for safer things all of the time. We certainly do a better job than those over there.

(Time expired)

Victims of Crime

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government putting the rights of victims above offenders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during the decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: At the outset I thank the member for Mermaid Beach for that question. The member for Mermaid Beach represents a proud Gold Coast community. For a very long time the member for Mermaid Beach had to fight a weak-on-crime Labor government that failed to deliver strong laws to protect his community. He was one of the members in this chamber who fought for Adult Crime, Adult Time. He supported it and now his community is seeing the benefit of it.

Queenslanders voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what we are delivering with our strong new laws. After a decade of a Labor government weakening our crime laws and putting the rights of offenders before the rights of victims, we finally have a Crisafulli government that is delivering strong new laws.

Let's reflect on what the previous Labor government actually did when it came to our youth justice laws. Labor removed breach of bail as an offence. They made detention a last resort. They even went further than that. They removed breach of bail as an offence for young offenders, meaning that when a youth committed an offence while on bail and breached their conditions of bail—conditions that were designed to protect our community and victims—that youth faced no consequences under the Labor government.

Labor went even further. In their weak laws they made it easier for youth offenders to be granted bail, they reinforced detention as a last resort and they introduced a presumption that youth should be granted bail. Why did they do this? They did it because Labor put the rights of offenders first. They did it because they do not believe in strong bail laws. In fact, they railed against our tough bail laws.

The Leader of the Opposition himself said when they were in government that their government had 'no intention of implementing so-called breach of bail laws'. The member for Waterford stood up and said, 'Breach of bail doesn't work. We don't believe it.' The member for Nudgee stood up and said, 'We don't want something that doesn't work.' The member for Morayfield called breach of bail a 'nonsense'.

It proves that those opposite will always philosophically object to having strong laws. They will continue to weaken our laws and they do not support any strong laws in relation to bail. We know they do not support our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. Labor will continue to make bail laws weaker. What is more, if they have their way and Labor's Katter candidate in Hinchinbrook gets elected, that is one more Labor vote in this chamber against strong bail laws. They do not believe in it. Only the Crisafulli government can be trusted to continue to strengthen our laws because that is what Queenslanders asked us to do.

(Time expired)

E-mobility Safety

Mr MARTIN: My question is to the Minister for Health. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, who have called for legislative change, say e-mobility devices are impacting our emergency departments' ability to give timely care. Is the minister ignoring our medical professionals when it comes to e-bike and e-scooter reform?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for the question in relation to these matters. As I indicated, those on that side had a decade to do something about e-bikes and e-scooters. Since their emergence, what have we heard? Nothing but crickets.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: It took this government to have the initiative to refer the matter off for investigation, and they are doing a thorough investigation. I do take the opportunity to engage with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. As members might expect, they are an important body that engage with Queensland Health. In fact, recently I had the fortune to read some correspondence the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons sent to me. They wrote—

Dear Minister

Clarification regarding recent media reporting

I am writing on behalf of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons regarding recent media coverage that gave the impression the college was critical of the Queensland government and Queensland Health. Please allow me to clarify.

To be clear, we commend the Crisafulli government's success in stabilising the elective surgery waitlist two months ahead of schedule and the delivery of more than 142,000 surgeries since taking office. The fact that the elective surgery waitlist has fallen by nearly 3,500 patients—a five per cent reduction and the first decrease in a decade—is a substantial achievement.

We also acknowledge the foresight shown through the \$1.75 billion expansion of the Surgery Connect program anticipated to deliver a further 30,000 surgeries.

Our members across the state have a deep appreciation for the improvement being achieved, and we are committed to supporting your efforts to build on this progress.

We do listen to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. We work with our surgeons. That is why, in doing so, we have also released our workforce gap analysis to help us understand the failings of a decade of decline by Labor, ensuring that particularly in our regions and in our rural and remote areas we have enough of the surgeons, the specialists, the nurses and the administrators that we need. We know that that report showed that 11 per cent of the gaps, the positions vacant, were vacant for more than a year—for more than a year.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This has nothing to do with e-mobility devices. That was what the question was about.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I cannot hear the point of order.

Dr ROWAN: My point of order relates to the fact that the member for Stretton's question referred to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and surgical aspects. The minister is addressing correspondence from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no doubt. The question did ask about that body and it also asked about e-scooters. Minister, you have 30 seconds left to round out your answer for the member.

Mr NICHOLLS: I understood the question to talk about the expertise of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. As I indicated, we listen to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons could not be clearer. They say they 'have a deep appreciation for the improvement being achieved, and we are committed to supporting your efforts'. We look forward to working with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in all their capacities. Sometimes we will agree and sometimes we will disagree, but we are always working with them to deliver for Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Community Safety

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I cannot hear you, member for Scenic Rim. Start again.

Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Attorney-General working across government to keep Queensland communities safe, and is the Attorney-General aware of any risks to the safety of Queenslanders?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Scenic Rim, and what a hardworking local member he is. Mr Speaker, if you can indulge me just for a couple of seconds, I would like to acknowledge Mayor Bruce Simpson from Cherbourg, who is in the gallery.

Mr Nicholls: He knows about the youth crime crisis.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He definitely knows about the youth crime crisis left to us by Labor. We had a good discussion about that just recently, including with the Premier. I also want to give a massive shout-out to four incredible young women from Cherbourg in my electorate: Mia, Sienna, Katie and Jennakye—all university students down here getting to see question time. I did apologise to the girls. I did say that if they wanted to leave before question time that would be fine, but it is wonderful to see these incredible young women here in parliament.

I am asked about what we are doing about the decade of decline and the increase in the youth crime crisis across the state because of those opposite. We are working together across government and with local councils to ensure that our communities are kept safer. What they say to me is that they want Adult Crime, Adult Time kept because we have to send a message to these juveniles who think it is okay to break into our homes and steal our cars—and we say no. That is exactly what we were talking about with Mayor Bruce Simpson earlier today. I also thank Minister Fiona Simpson for having that meeting with us.

I am asked what the risks are. For the answer we only need to look at those opposite. Their heads are down because they know their Victorian counterparts are pushing strong to get tough on crime. Where is the Labor opposition here in Queensland? We know that they do not believe it. We also know that there is a big block happening. A 'big blocker' was in the parliament yesterday. Who is smiling today? We know that the shadow attorney-general was there with 'Blocker'. We know that last night the shadow attorney-general—

Mr Crisafulli: Wouldn't leave.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I know. They were all huddled up. It was interesting because the member for Murrumba was still there. I did not see the member for Woodridge because I am pretty sure he was not invited.

We know who is blocking Adult Crime, Adult Time in this state: the Labor opposition. We know you cannot trust them. They are trying to wind back the bail laws. They are trying to wind them back to make sure these kids are given free rein again. Who is trying to lead it? Whether it is the member for Murrumba or the member for Gaven, only 'Blocker' knows.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Specialist Outpatient Waiting List

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Health. The number of people waiting for a specialist appointment in Townsville is up 22.3 per cent compared to September last year. What does the minister say to the more than 22,000 people waiting for treatment?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Toohey for his question with respect to specialist outpatients. I want to say, member for Toohey, that you should be thanking the member for Sandgate for telegraphing the question time tactics of the opposition. I think she posted on Twitter that she was going to be asking questions about specialist outpatients today.

A government member: She put the strategy on Facebook.

Mr NICHOLLS: Was it Facebook? She put the chat up on Facebook.

Mr Crisafulli: It's questions on notice.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, exactly right. Then we had the rocket scientist, the member for Miller, who reposted it and then we had the other rocket scientist, the doctor from Murrumba, who also reposted it. So the three of them were all there—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, this is not relevant. I would ask you to come back to the question and use correct titles when referring to other members.

Mr NICHOLLS: I withdraw 'rocket scientist'; do not worry, Mr Speaker. Does he want me to withdraw 'doctor'? I am not sure whether that was right or not.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it would help if you would come back to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Which hospital did you ask about, member for Toohey?

Mr Russo: Townsville.

Mr NICHOLLS: In relation to Townsville and specialist outpatients, in July 2015 when Labor came to office they inherited a specialist outpatient list of 10,000. What did they leave it at? That is the question. After a decade of decline what impact had the three failed Labor health ministers had? It went from 10,000 to 18,000—a 40 per cent increase in specialist outpatients in Townsville. That is the legacy of those over there.

We can have a look at a couple of others. Gold Coast University Hospital: 21,000 to 32,000. Let's have a look at Ipswich: 5,700 to 13,500. It was all done under a decade of decline under those over there. They inherited a list of 200,000, and by the time we got to the end of those over there it had gone to 295,000. There was a 43 per cent increase in specialist outpatients while elective surgery went from 35,000 to 64,000 and ambulance ramping went from 15 per cent to 45.5 per cent.

I say to the member for Toohey: do not take another question from these people down the front here, mate. They are going to set you up time and time again because they cannot remember, but we know their failures.

Police Resources

Mr LEE: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government ensuring our laws provide support to hardworking police on the front line, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the member for the question. The member, as we know, is committed to restoring community safety and supporting the police in his electorate of Hervey Bay, not only before this job when he was a councillor but also when he was a lawyer before that. He was in Hervey Bay back in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and he saw what happened when those opposite proudly watered down the laws.

As the Minister for Youth Justice articulated earlier, they proudly watered down the laws. They reinstated detention as a last resort, they removed the breach of bail offence, and they did so proudly. When you look back now at the dire consequences resulting from those amendments it is like watching an episode of *Seconds from Disaster*, because we know what happened in Hervey Bay and the broader Wide Bay policing district. From 2015 to 2024 the number of homes and businesses broken into in that division increased by 53 per cent. That is hundreds and hundreds of extra homes and businesses that were broken into thanks to those opposite watering down the laws and taking those powers away from the police.

Today I am happy to announce to the parliament and the member what we have seen in the first 10 months of this year compared to the 10 months of the previous year. With Adult Crime, Adult Crime, tougher bail laws, more police and more resources, we have been able to drive down the number of break-ins of homes and businesses in the Wide Bay district by 24 per cent. That is hundreds and hundreds of fewer homes and businesses being broken into. We all know there is more work to do. We will continue to give our police back the laws that were taken off them. We know that places like Hervey Bay were at the heart of Labor's youth crime crisis. We cannot afford to take a backwards step. We will keep moving forward.

What we saw last week was awfully disappointing, and I thank the Premier and Attorney-General for calling out the Labor federal government, which was essentially calling for what those opposite did a decade ago. It is the same language. They proudly watered down the law. They supported rehabilitation in communities. They were proudly soft on crime. There are still frontbenchers over there who are in *Hansard* saying that. We do not agree with that. We are taking a totally different approach because we know that if we take a backwards step history will repeat itself. We cannot afford to have history repeat itself.

That brings me to something the Attorney-General just said. It was interesting last night when I saw 'Blocker' with the member for Gaven and others huddled around in a tight circle, plotting. It reminded me of the exact same event two years ago at the president's Christmas party when 'Blocker' was there with the member for Murrumba in the same huddle. Do you know what happened? Nine days after the president's Christmas reception at parliament 'Blocker' pulled the pin on Palaszczuk and you were in the huddle. You were not in the huddle last night, but the member for Gaven was and—

(Time expired)

Health Workforce

Dr O'SHEA: My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister's health workforce gap report shows that Queensland will need—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, there was noise. I could not hear the question. Could you start again please, member for South Brisbane.

Dr O'SHEA: My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister's health workforce gap report shows that Queensland will need 22,298 additional nurses and midwives by 2032 but the LNP's election commitment falls 3,500 short. Will the minister guarantee that he will hire the additional 3,500 nurses and midwives by 2032 to meet demand?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to allow the question. The member does speak slowly. She is not as quick as some other questioners.

Mr NICHOLLS: I will speak slowly and perhaps I might get five minutes. Mr Speaker, I look forward to your indulgence in that regard. We are doing what Labor failed to do—

Ms Boyd: Still couldn't answer the question in five minutes.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has the call, not you, member for Pine Rivers.

Mr NICHOLLS: You did not answer anything in 10 years so I do not know that you have much to talk about.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The five-minute minister. We have done what those over there have not done. We have conducted an extensive workforce gap analysis. There it is. We have done the workforce gap analysis. We have gone through it and we have identified the failings—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnell!

Mr NICHOLLS: We have identified the failings of the former government. We are resolutely committed to delivering on our election commitment in relation to 46,000 extra staff in Queensland Health. We are resolutely focused on delivering the extra workforce that is going to be needed over the next eight years to meet the needs of Queenslanders.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller!

Mr NICHOLLS: We are picking up the slack left behind by those on the other side. They never undertook a workforce gap analysis but came out at the end of the day with a botched workforce plan to 2032 that, for example, did not include paramedics. They had a health workforce plan that did not include paramedics. They left the QAS off to go and do their own piece of work. They had to go and do a separate piece of work rather than be considered holistically in the entire delivery of health services.

The other thing we have done is take that gap analysis and provide it to all of the people who are likely to have an interest and want to put something into it. That can be our industrial partners, like the QNMU. They have obviously worked with us to finalise the enterprise bargaining agreement, and their members will all be being paid the new rates before Christmas—as we have done with the paramedics, who will all be being paid before Christmas, and as we have done with the salaried medical officers, who will all be being paid what they are entitled to as well. That includes retention allowances, rural and remote allowances, allowances for shiftwork and, for the first time in Australia, double time for overtime for nurses in our hospitals. That is what we are doing in relation to workforce and dealing with the workforce gap analysis—something those over there were unable to achieve in a decade. We are also dealing with the fact—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In the time provided to the minister, he still has not been able to provide the answer. In that case, I move—

That the minister be further heard.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The motion was that the minister be heard. I cannot hear the minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is the opportunity I have been waiting for to talk about our achievements with the workforce. Not only have we done a workforce gap analysis, not only are we working with the unions, not only are we working with the colleges like the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, who want to work with us, and not only are we working with the AMAQ, who support our workforce gap analysis, we are actually getting on and employing people. We have engaged another 5,400 staff in the year that we have been in office. That includes 880 new doctors who are getting their training at our hospitals throughout the state. That includes another 1,800 nurses who are getting their training at hospitals across the state—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, I am going to warn you. The minister is being directly relevant.

Mr NICHOLLS: We are employing more paramedics, and we will be employing more this year and more each and every year over the next three years as well. We have a workforce that know they have the backing of the Crisafulli LNP government and are happy to work with us and are happy to deliver the outcomes that were never achievable by those opposite. I get that every time I walk into a hospital. Wherever I go they say, 'What a breath of fresh air. We finally have someone who is actually going to visit the hospitals. We've got someone who'll come into the wards.' I heard this in the mental health unit at Prince Charles Hospital. I visited the psychiatrists at the mental health unit and they said, 'Minister, it's great to see you. You're the first health minister we've seen in over a decade.' Not one of the three former health ministers over there made it to one of our busiest psychiatric and mental health wards. We are delivering where Labor failed and we will continue to do so.

(Time expired)

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, you are now warned.

Bribie Island, Erosion

Ms MORTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Residents of Golden Beach have been concerned about the breakthroughs on northern Bribie Island. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of works on northern Bribie Island to give my community certainty about their future, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. This morning the member for Caloundra and I took the first steps on the new Bribie Island that we built back: one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind in Caloundra. We have rebuilt Bribie Island, the barrier island. In a decade of decline the Labor Party could not do it, but we have done it within six months and we are still doing more. We announced a further \$25 million and the release of the final report, part 4, for the long-term solutions. We are starting the planning and we are starting the community consultation.

I want to thank the member for Caloundra for her advocacy in doing that. If she had not got up in her community and said to me, 'Dredge, baby, dredge,' nothing would have happened—and, by God, we dredged. We saw it in action today. It is 24/7, with four D6 bulldozers filling it in. We are rebuilding an island. It is something the member for Aspley said could not be done. He took a photo from 40,000 feet and said that it could not be done.

We are also dredging Port Hinchinbrook, which is something the Labor Party said could not be done. They could not do it in a decade of decline. We are doing it because of Wayne Chiesa, our candidate and our advocate on the ground. We have declared it a PPDA and we are getting on with the job. We are going to work with the community. We are going to bring tourists back and we are going to bring accommodation back to Port Hinchinbrook. Talking of housing in Port Hinchinbrook, I must say that I was quite surprised when I saw a Facebook post from the Leader of the Opposition where he said, 'Every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home.' I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government website, undated, titled 'A place to call home'.

I wondered where I had read 'a place to call home', and then I went onto the Queensland government housing website and saw it: 'A place to call home'. I table a copy of that for the honourable opposition leader's benefit.

Tabled paper: Photograph of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Steven Miles, depicting a quotation relating to building more homes.

He is not only bereft of ideas on policy to take to the election; he now has to copy the LNP's great ideas. Finally, last night we saw at the QHA function that daddy Blocker is back in town. The member for Murrumba's daddy Blocker is back in town, but it was not the member for Murrumba corralling Blocker; it was the member for Gaven. It was not only the member for Gaven who was stuck like velcro to Blocker; it was also the member for Bundaberg. That is the leadership team. That is the Christmas coup: Gaven and Bundaberg. All of the LNP's Christmases have come at once if that is the coup. I say, 'Bring it on,' because they would be better than Murrumba. Bring that Christmas present to us on a basket.

(Time expired)

Reproductive Health Services

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Abortion is legal in Queensland, yet recent reports show that women requiring an abortion or miscarriage treatment are refused care at publicly funded Mater hospitals. I table two relevant reports.

Tabled paper: Article from the ABC online, dated 23 July 2025, titled 'Mater Hospital's religious abortion ban couple feeling 'abandoned''.

Tabled paper: Article from the ABC online, dated 23 September 2025, titled 'The public hospital patients who ended up paying abortion clinics for miscarriage care'.

Will the minister ensure that every taxpayer-funded hospital, regardless of religion, offers all reproductive health services available under Queensland law?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. I have observed those articles. We expect all facilities to honour the agreements they have with the department. The Mater Hospital continues to honour the agreement it has with the department. There is no reason to doubt that it is not honouring that agreement. In fact, I was at the Mater Hospital just this morning after I visited the Children's Hospital. We have just unveiled a new \$6.8 million MRI machine at the Queensland Children's Hospital for children, including a MiniTom so that kids do not get frightened when they go through an MRI machine. There is one new MRI and two upgrades to existing MRIs being delivered at the Queensland Children's Hospital courtesy of the Crisafulli LNP government. I popped next door to the Mater to have a chat with some of the clinicians there, and I want to thank the people at the Mater for seeing me today. The short answer to the question is: the contracts are being honoured. We continue to monitor those contracts to ensure compliance.

Government, Integrity

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Can the Attorney outline the importance of integrity and accountability in government and is the Attorney aware of any differing views?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Burnett, a man who has the highest level of integrity not just here in this chamber but in the whole of Bundaberg—I was going to call him Mr Integrity. The region of Bundaberg, Childers, Burnett and Wide Bay does so much better because of the advocacy of the member for Burnett in that region. It is such a shame that there is another member of this parliament who has probably one of the lowest levels of integrity. Of course, that would be the incoming—if I take the Deputy Premier's submission that the member for Bundaberg is going to be the new deputy leader. I cannot imagine anything worse.

Mr Bleijie: No, he won't be the leader. He wants the deputy.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I apologise to the member for Gaven. No, we cannot do it! Member for Bundaberg!

Mrs Gerber: He's accepted the job.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He has already accepted the job because that is how vain he is. I would say at least the member for Burnett knows which party he stands for. We do not know what the member for Bundaberg stands for at all, apart from ripping down dam walls. Let's remember what is happening right now in Queensland. We have Wayne Chiesa of Hinchinbrook taking up the good fight supporting the people. He knows where he is standing. He believes in integrity in government. He believes in what he is standing for, and that is for the tough-on-crime approach thanks to the Crisafulli government. We know that the Katter-Labor candidate who is running, Mr Mark Molachino, has probably been brought

in by the Labor Party—probably by the member for Bundaberg and the member for Murrumba—because ‘there’s not a sniff of any new ideas about youth crime’, and the member for Murrumba is going to wield the conference with an iron fist. We have to ask: why are we talking about the Katter candidate and the Labor Party conference?

Ms Mullen: She’s giving it a red hot go.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Here is one who always wanted to be the deputy leader and is never going to get a chance, the member for Jordan. She had to interject because—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is true, no. She had to interject because—

Mr Nicholls: She is an acolyte of the member for Woodridge.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—she is an acolyte of the member for Woodridge. I do not know that, but I know she is a wannabe and will never be. That is because we have discovered that Mark Molachino, the Katter-Labor candidate, is a member, was a member—he was actually the secretary of the Railway Estate branch of the Labor Party in Townsville with Jenny Hill; he was in the same branch.

(Time expired)

Drugs, Testing

Mr WHITING: My question is to the health minister. CheQpoint has applied to expand pill-testing services to Southport, Capalaba, Maroochydore and Townsville. Can the minister advise if pill testing was cut because of plans to expand into the LNP’s electorates?

Mr SPEAKER: There is a bit of an imputation there, but I will allow the minister to respond.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit to you that the question should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can you authenticate the basis of your question?

Mr WHITING: I can rephrase the question if you like, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: No, can you—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. To address that question, it is a matter of fact that there has been an application by that organisation to expand those services to those electorates. The question is whether or not the cancellation of them was for that reason. There was no imputation, I submit to you, Mr Speaker. We are asking—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is an imputation. It is a hypothetical question, as you provided direction, as to whether there is any authentication in relation to the question. I submit to you that the question should be ruled out of order.

Speaker’s Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: I agreed that there was an imputation. I will rule that out of order and we will move to the next question.

North Queensland, Housing

Mr HEAD: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering a place to call home, particularly for North Queenslanders, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

Mr O’CONNOR: I thank the member for Callide for the question. I thank him as he is the second youngest member of the government, is a passionate advocate for housing outcomes, particularly in regional Queensland communities, and is a member who can actually ask a question. That is apparently a rare thing in this House.

After a decade of decline where we saw rents up 66 per cent, where we saw social housing underinvestment resulting in only 509 homes delivered on average each year, where we saw lot approvals down 29 per cent and a productivity crisis on construction sites that led to 77,000 fewer homes being built since 2018, we are turning things around. Since 1 November 2024 alone the Crisafulli government has contracted 3,242 social and community homes to deliver in every corner of our state. We have our big, beautiful blue banners up on construction sites across Queensland including 210 sites

across North Queensland where we are delivering social and community housing. We are turning things around. As the deputy would say, it is build, baby, build.

Mr Crandon: He got you to say it!

Mr O'CONNOR: I am going to withdraw that, Mr Speaker. That is not right. The deputy has delivered the Residential Activation Fund, which has unlocked 1,600 flood resilient homes in the northern end of Townsville with a \$14.7 million investment.

I happened to visit some of the new homes in the Hinchinbrook electorate. I was wandering around the north and I was with Wayde Chiesa, our candidate in Hinchinbrook. We caught up with Nonna Betty, one of our newest tenants of homes that were delivered by the Crisafulli government, six new community homes run by the outstanding Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre with more community homes to come in that community. I met Tayla as well, a recipient of our Stronger Homes grants. It is not just about building new homes; it is about making the homes in these communities more resilient. She is a local hairdresser who received \$10,000 to upgrade her house, one of 67 people in the Hinchinbrook electorate who have applied. We want to see more investment like this. That is why we are calling for the community of Hinchinbrook to deliver, for the first time in a generation, a seat at the government table. That is why we are urging them to vote 1 LNP next weekend and in the pre-poll over the next couple of weeks.

(Time expired)

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Urogynaecology Services

Ms PUGH: My question is to the health minister. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital has been without a specialist urogynaecologist for seven months, leaving hundreds of women on a waitlist without the care they need. Will the minister take responsibility for failing to prioritise the recruitment of this specialist doctor?

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.39 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the time allocated for debate on government business notice of motion No. 1, revocation and dedication of protected areas, standing in the name of the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, be a maximum of 30 minutes before the question is put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Revocation and Dedication of Protected Areas



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.40 pm) I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:

- (a) revoke by regulation under section 30 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of one State forest;
- (b) dedicate by regulation under section 29 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* the revoked area of the one aforementioned State forest as one new national park (scientific);
- (c) revoke by regulation under section 32 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* the dedication of the entirety of one national park, part of four national parks, and part of one conservation park;

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

Description of areas to be revoked

Powrunna State Forest	An area of about 2,737 hectares, described as lot 13 on SP352347, for dedication as the new Dhuny Yumba (Home of the Wombat) National Park (scientific), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Black Mountain National Park	An area of about 2,977 hectares, described as lot 1 on SP309118, as illustrated on the attached sketch.

Burrum Coast National Park	An area of about 9.329 hectares, described as part of lot 25 on plan NPW642 (to be described as lot 26 on SP355148), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Main Range National Park	An area of about 0.0615 hectares, described as part of lot 1 on AP23636 (to be described as lot 2 on SP353107), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Ngalba Bulal National Park	An area of about 3.139 hectares, described as lot 21 on SP154458, as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Tewantin National Park	An area of about 1.002 hectares, described as part of lot 7 on AP23639 (to be described as lot 517 on SP346210), as illustrated on the attached sketch.
Eumundi Conservation Park	An area of about 0.7358 hectares, described as part of lot 351 on plan NPW791 (to be described as lot 1 on SP339677), as illustrated on the attached sketch.

2. That the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation for submission to the Governor in Council.

Queensland boasts some of the most biodiverse landscapes on the planet. Our iconic environment is part of our world-renowned reputation and it is this government's privilege to protect it. Anyone who needs proof of our commitment to safeguard our natural assets need only look at what the Crisafulli government has delivered this year alone. We have committed to increasing Queensland's public protected areas by as much in this term of government as those opposite did in three. It is welcome relief after a decade of empty promises from those opposite, who failed to fulfil their pledge to protect 17 per cent of Queensland.

The Crisafulli government is also boosting the number of rangers by 150 across both the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Indigenous land and sea ranger cohort, with \$84.6 million funding over five years as well as \$29.6 million ongoing funding that has been put forward for the More Rangers, Better Neighbours program. This program will see additional ranger positions focused on controlling invasive species and fire to enhance management of our natural environments and increase support for neighbouring properties. Importantly, this includes saving the 40 fire ranger positions that were going to be axed by those opposite.

Part of my department's role is the responsible management of protected areas in the face of competing land interests. Responsible management of an estate that exceeds 13 million hectares means that sometimes necessary actions must be taken to promote balanced outcomes for the estates and the people of Queensland.

I stand before the House today to bring forward six revocation proposals and one tenure upgrade proposal affecting the protected area and forestry estates, all of which are considered necessary to improve management of the estates and to protect our threatened species. For all revocations that seek to impact the protected area and forestry estates, appropriate consideration is given to ensure all are in the interests of Queenslanders and that, where appropriate, compensation has been negotiated, in accordance with departmental policy. The six conventional revocation proposals are to correct historic issues and consolidate boundary management, and the upgrade proposal is to protect one of Queensland's threatened faunal species in perpetuity. I will first speak to the six revocation proposals and then move to the upgrade proposal.

The first two revocation proposals seek to formalise road tenure over misaligned road corridors just south of Cooktown. The first proposal is to revoke an area from Black Mountain National Park, to be described as lot 1 on SP309118 and containing about 2.977 hectares. This revocation will facilitate realignment of a section of the Mulligan Highway and also contains the Black Mountain lookout. The second proposal is to revoke an area from Ngalba-bulal National Park, to be described as lot 21 on SP154458 and containing about 3.139 hectares. This national park revocation is to facilitate realignment of the Mount Amos Road corridor, a road which has been in use for many years and provides access for 11 nearby properties. For both road actions, consent was authorised for the future acts through the Eastern Kuku Yalanji 2021 National Parks Land Transfer Indigenous Land Use Agreement, otherwise known as the ILUA.

Revocation of these areas from national park tenure for conversion to road tenure will remove inappropriate infrastructure from the protected area estate and formalise management of the road corridors. Physical road areas have already been delineated by a survey plan to enable their transition

into road tenure. Consultation has occurred with all relevant stakeholders, and the ILUA identifying the proposals was authorised by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, the native title parties, the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the state. The agreement was also supported by Cape York Land Council, North Queensland Land Council and Cook Shire Council.

The third proposal today sees a revocation of about 9.329 hectares from Burrum Coast National Park, to be described as lot 26 on SP355148, about 19 kilometres south-east of Bundaberg, for freehold purposes. The proposed revocation is necessary to support the formalisation of an existing access route for Sunstate Sands Pty Ltd and Pacific Silica Pty Ltd to mining tenements on the adjoining unallocated state land parcel. The existing Palm Beach Road is the only access into the landlocked unallocated state land parcel, where Sunstate Sands holds 10 mining tenements and Pacific Silica holds one. The access route, which traverses Burrum Coast National Park, is registered as mining lease access by both of the operators. These mining leases and associated access authorisations have been in place since before national park tenure was established over the land in 1991. If revoked, the area would be converted to freehold tenure and be retained by the state and track maintenance responsibilities will be transferred to the mining lease holders.

The change in responsibility will reduce management burden and costs for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships and allow for the track to be maintained appropriately for the use and safety requirements associated with heavy vehicle usage. The revocation is expected to cause minimal impacts to the values of the national park as the revocation area already contains a well-established access track that is currently in use. Due to the landlocked nature of the parcel containing the mining leases, revoking the area is the only alternative to legitimatise traversing through the national park to access this land. Consultation with all parties affected by the revocation has occurred and there were no objections to the proposal.

The fourth proposal is to revoke about 615 square metres from Main Range National Park, to be described as lot 2 on SP353107, about 37 kilometres north-east of Warwick, for road purposes. The proposed revocation is to formalise a historical access agreement to the Stacey's at the Gap ecotourism facility located near Cunningham's Gap. The access track proposed for revocation is about 100 metres in length and has been in continuous use since 1956, before the facility initially opened as Camp Stacey in 1957. The Southern Downs Regional Council has provided support for opening the area as a road, if revoked, which will formalise use and maintenance of the corridor and remove the track from national park tenure. Other alternatives to the revocation of national park were considered unfeasible, as the existing track is already constructed and is located on the most practical topographic alignment. Again, all parties impacted by the revocation have been consulted and provided no objection.

The fifth proposal is to revoke about one hectare from Tewantin National Park about four kilometres west of Tewantin for freehold purposes. This will allow the land area containing the Black Mountain Rural Fire Station to be converted to freehold tenure and transferred to the Queensland Fire Department. The action will formalise continued use of the site for its primary purpose of protecting the local community from fire. Many other community rural fire brigade sites are located and managed on freehold tenure; therefore, this was considered the most appropriate tenure for the ongoing use and management of the site.

The sixth proposal is to revoke about 0.7358 square metres from Eumundi Conservation Park located about 10 kilometres south-west of Noosa for freehold purposes. This proposed revocation is to resolve a historical encroachment onto the conservation park by the adjacent freehold property, which existed before the conservation park was established. The Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation supports the proponent's application to revoke the area in exchange for compensation payable in accordance with departmental policy, noting the revocation area has been clear of vegetation for many years and contains negligible values for the protected area estate. Again, all parties affected by the revocation have been consulted and provided no objections to the proposal.

The final proposal is a vital step towards conserving one of Australia's most iconic animals, the northern hairy-nosed wombat, which is listed as a critically endangered species. This will see the revocation of the entirety of Powrunna State Forest to allow for the area to be upgraded to national park (scientific) tenure. It will become the 10th of its kind to be established in Queensland. The existing state forest of about 2,737 hectares is proposed to be dedicated as the new Dhuny Yumba (Home of the Wombat) National Park (scientific), about 43 kilometres north-west of St George. It is the traditional owners who have chosen that name, which means 'wombat's home'. Establishing the area as a national park (scientific) will allow my department to appropriately manage the threats that affect recovery efforts for the critically endangered northern hairy-nosed wombat, affording the highest level of protection available under the Nature Conservation Act.

In the 1980s, the northern hairy-nosed wombat species was near extinction, with just 35 left within the Epping Forest National Park (scientific)—we have now seen that grow to over 400 in that same location—and a second small reintroduction site at Richard Underwood Nature Refuge. This will become the third. The department leads the recovery program in partnership with key stakeholders including the Wombat Foundation, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Gunggari Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate, the Gunggari native title holders and also Glencore. To support the establishment of the site, DETSI purchased two additional properties adjacent to the site which will also be dedicated as part of the scientific national park. The properties will add about 1,476 hectares to the existing 2,737. It will create a third vital area to prevent the risk of extinction for the northern hairy-nosed wombat. I commend the proposals to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak to the revocation motion. I would like to say at the outset that the Labor opposition will not be opposing this motion. The matters contained in the substantive motion are largely administrative in nature. I take this opportunity to thank the minister for agreeing to my request for a briefing and deputy director-general Ben Klaassen for taking the time to provide that briefing along with Sam from the minister's office. As I mentioned, the motion is largely administrative in nature: realignment of an existing road corridor in Black Mountain National Park; formalising existing access to mining tenements on unallocated state land adjoining Burrum Coast National Park; formalising historical access to a tourism facility on private property adjacent to Main Range National Park; the excision of an existing road from Ngalba Bulal National Park to facilitate access for 11 properties; transfer of land containing Black Mountain Rural Fire Brigade in Tewantin National Park to the Queensland Fire Department; resolution of an historic encroachment by an adjacent private freehold property in Eumundi Conservation Park; and last but not least, and certainly not just administrative in nature, is the revocation of the setting apart and declaration of the entirety of Powrunna State Forest for dedication as the new Dhuny Yumba—meaning home of the wombat—National Park (Scientific).

Northern hairy-nosed wombats are one of the rarest land mammals in the world, but they are also a magnificent Queensland conservation story and one that the Labor opposition is very, very proud of. It is truly amazing to see how far we have come since the population of wombats at Epping Forest in inland Central Queensland dropped to around 35 in the 1980s. Now the population at Epping Forest is around 400. A second colony of northern hairy-nosed wombats was established in 2009 at Richard Underwood Nature Refuge at Yarran Downs near St George where about 18 wombats currently live. In June of last year I had the pleasure of announcing that the first northern hairy-nosed wombats had been released to explore their new and third home at Powrunna State Forest to create a self-sustaining population there. Why these three locations, you ask? As wombats dig vast burrows they require a specific ratio of land and clay in the soil to support their burrows and ensure they do not collapse. The environment at Powrunna State Forest has these unique soil characteristics.

A conservation story like this does not just happen. The translocation program has taken years of meticulous planning by the department of environment which not only installed predator-proof fencing around the forest, water infrastructure and remote cameras prior to their arrival, but also dug starter borrows to ensure the wombats could immediately find cover. A very warm shout-out to the department of environment, a department that knows well my enduring dedication and affection for them and their remit to conserve our great Queensland environment. I also want to acknowledge the Gunggari Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Gunggari native title holders, Glencore and the Wombat Foundation, who partnered in this recent translocation and who were so integral to bringing a species back from the brink of extinction. It is just one of the many environmental success stories that our former Labor government can lay claim to.

I welcome the opportunity to speak about Queensland's protected area estate because there are so many other important environmental achievements in respect to protected areas that the Labor opposition can lay claim to but, more importantly, remain incredibly dedicated to—like the 1.23 million hectares of additional protected area that we delivered or the historic \$262.5 million investment we committed to allow for the expansion of protected areas. We expanded the protected areas of the Great Sandy Marine Park by nine per cent, banned new oil and gas in the flood plains of the Lake Eyre Basin, moved to remove the use of gillnets in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and, of course, set our interim emissions reduction target of 75 per cent by 2035, climate change being the single greatest threat to our terrestrial and marine protected areas.

What we saw which was of concern was that there is no new or additional money in the budget to expand our protected areas, just an empty commitment to deliver more protected areas in one term under the new LNP government than our former government did in a decade—a commitment the

Treasurer made in the budget, the environment minister and Premier doubled down on and many LNP members included in their budget reply speech.

Given we delivered at least 1.23 million hectares of additional protected areas, those opposite will need to add at least 307,500 hectares each year this term. I will keep doing the maths for those opposite because they love to make grand claims but they simply do not back them up. We are now passed the one-year mark into this term. The government has added a grand total of less than 4,000 hectares to protected areas in Queensland. They claim in excess of 10,000 hectares. Some of us have very long memories. Of the nearly 9,000 hectares the LNP government announced to great fanfare by the Premier and environment minister on Queensland Environment Day that they were adding to national parks and nature refuges, 90 per cent of those additions were started under us: Labor's commitment to the environment, Labor's protected area expansion, Labor's homework.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Ms LINARD: That hit a nerve. Of the 8,700 hectares they claimed on that day, 2,000 are actually theirs and they have since announced around another 1,976. We are really talking about 4,000 hectares of additional protected area. We support those 4,000 hectares, we celebrate it, because every single hectare of additional protected area is incredibly important to Queensland's environment. Queensland is the most biodiverse state in the country, one of the most biodiverse in the world, and we need to protect it. It is not 1.23 million hectares as we did, but we know the LNP lack our ambition for the environment. We do not have any time left in this first year. Their one-year anniversary has passed. We do wish to see those additional 300,000 hectares they promised. They have already failed on that front. Our opposition will hold them to the commitments that they made to Queenslanders, to the Queensland environment. As I said at the outset, the Labor opposition will not oppose this revocation motion.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the proposed minor revocation and tenure change affecting around 9.3 hectares of the Burrum Coast National Park about 19 kilometres south-east of Bundaberg. This small adjustment will allow formalised access to adjoining mining tenements, while maintaining the integrity of one of our region's most important and beautiful natural assets. The Burrum Coast National Park is a true local treasure, spanning the Kinkuna, Woodgate, Burrum River and Buxton sections. It protects an incredible range of ecosystems—from coastal dunes and wallum to paperbark swamps, forests and wetlands. It is home to an extraordinary diversity of wildlife, including migratory shorebirds, wallabies and a variety of rare plant species that thrive in its unique mix of coastal and freshwater environments.

The Kinkuna section, in particular, is something special. It is a rugged, unspoilt stretch of coastline where the bush meets the sea. With its rolling dunes, quiet campsites and untouched beauty, it is a favourite getaway for locals and visitors alike. Families have been camping, fishing and exploring in this area for generations. Kinkuna offers a simple, self-reliant camping experience that is increasingly rare these days. There are no facilities, just the satisfaction of being off the beaten track. It is a place we are all proud to share and protect.

For many of us who call the Wide Bay home, places like Kinkuna are part of our lifestyle and identity. They remind us of the importance of balance between people and nature. While I am at it, a shout-out to anyone who is planning on visiting Coonarr over the busy Christmas break. Be sure to take care of each other, drive to the conditions and abide by the road and beach rules so we all stay safe. This is such a special spot for so many people across the state, so let us enjoy it, protect it, but be sensible and look out for one another. Remember to take all your rubbish home so we can preserve this magical spot for generations to come.

The proposal before us relates to a small parcel on the park's boundary to formalise existing access to mining tenements on neighbouring state land. That access supports the long-standing Sunstate Sands operation at Coonarr Creek. Sunstate Sands is a local company producing high-purity silica sand for the glass, foundry and construction industries. Sunstate Sands has operated responsibly for many years, providing local jobs and contributing to the Bundaberg economy. The quality of their product is world-class and their work supports industries right across Queensland. Sunstate Sands operates under a rigorous environmental authority that requires consultation, monitoring and community complaint processes. In their permit applications they have also committed to meeting environmental conditions and buffer requirements, demonstrating their intent to engage with regulatory and community expectations.

Importantly, this proposal does not create any new mining within the national park. It simply formalises an existing access route, ensuring it is properly managed and subject to clear environmental

conditions. This provides certainty for all parties—the park service, the community and the operator—and helps avoid the impacts that can come from informal or unmanaged vehicle use. We know there have been some access challenges in this area, particularly during wet weather when road conditions deteriorate. At times visitors and trucks have shared the same unsealed roads which has led to some safety and maintenance concerns. By formalising access we can improve road standards, have safer access and travel for everyone and protect the surrounding environment from unnecessary wear and tear.

This is a sensible and balanced outcome. It supports local industry, provides proper oversight and continues to protect the environmental and recreational values that make the Burrum Coast and Kinkuna so special. I thank the minister and departmental officers for progressing this practical solution. With strong safeguards in place and continued cooperation between stakeholders, this change will deliver lasting benefits for our region.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from 18 November (see p. 3666), on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (4.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Queensland's economy is supported by over 495,000 small and family businesses—about 97 per cent of all Queensland businesses—that employ more than one million Queenslanders and inject more than \$130 billion into our economy. The Crisafulli government recognises the immense value of small and family businesses, which is why we are putting them first.

During more than a decade of decline under Labor, small and family businesses faced a range of operating challenges and pressures, which included cost-of-living pressures and Labor's soft-on-crime approach. Over the past decade I have heard from genuine local small and family business owners who operate convenience stores or newsagencies countless stories about how they have lost money because they were having to compete against illegal operators and organised crime in the chop-chop industry. At best, they were being undercut and at worse they were being intimidated, threatened and subjected to property damage. For decades, small and family business operators who have been doing the right thing in their local communities were forced to operate under Labor's soft-on-crime approach and when action was taken it became a false hope. Legitimate business owners have watched as illegal operators were forced to close for just 72 hours only to open up a few days later, thumbing their nose at Labor's weak laws in this area.

Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has cracked down on rogue traders harder than any government before or elsewhere in Australia. In our first full year of office we have seized more than 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine products. That is more than \$75 million worth of dangerous goods off the streets. Now for the next step. This bill delivers a comprehensive suite of reforms that will equip Queensland Health with the powers to dismantle the business models that make illicit tobacco and vaping profitable, with new and stronger financial disincentives, modern investigative tools and strengthened enforcement powers including several that break new ground in Australia. These nation-leading reforms will help us disrupt the tobacco and vaping black market.

Currently, under Labor's laws, enforcement officers can shut down stores for only three days—effectively, a long weekend off for illegal traders. This bill introduces a much stronger closure power regime allowing Queensland Health to shut illegal stores for three months without requiring a court order. Similarly, the bill 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 because under these powers closed means closed.

Small and family businesses recognise that Queensland has already introduced significant legislative reforms to combat the illegal supply of illicit tobacco and vapes but they know there is more to do. We are continuing to focus on disrupting the supply of illegally imported cigarettes, loose-leaf tobacco, or chop-chop as it is referred to, and nicotine filled vapes. The bill will continue delivering our efforts to disrupt the economic incentives driving this illegal trade. Importantly, it will continue to give small and family retailers and newsagents who are committed to doing the right thing a chance to operate on a level playing field at last.

I note that an amendment to the bill will add nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters as a new category of compromised goods under the act. This will allow authorised persons to seize and forfeit these products when they are found with illicit tobacco and nicotine products. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 will amend, in turn, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to disrupt the economic incentives driving this illegal trade and having huge ramifications on small and family businesses throughout the state. In closing, this bill will capture a broader spectrum of players involved in facilitating the supply of illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products through strengthened enforcement powers and new offences. That is a good outcome for not just small and family business owners across Queensland; it is a great outcome for all Queenslanders.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In a surprising change of character, the LNP government have decided to take the advice of experts in health policy—advice that they would otherwise happily ignore when they would much rather play politics with Queensland lives. Therefore, it is welcome to see this government continue the good work of the previous Labor government in tackling illicit tobacco and nicotine products and reducing the number of preventable deaths and disease from smoking.

Mr Lister: What work? It got worse and worse under your watch.

Ms MULLEN: Wait. I have more to say. Many Queenslanders know of the crippling and destructive health impacts of smoking and may even know a family member or friend affected. Every day, 66 Australians lose their lives to tobacco use. As highlighted by the Lung Foundation—

... smoking remained one of the leading causes of preventable death across Australia and was identified as the second most significant risk factor contributing to the national burden of disease. Evidence indicates that up to 2 in 3 lifetime smokers will die of smoking related disease.

Over the last several years we have seen an evolving challenge in this space, with a rising illegal market that commodifies addiction and operates outside of the regulatory framework developed over decades to reduce smoking rates, protect young people and limit exposure to tobacco related harm. New research published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* shows that the decline in smoking rates across Australia has slowed. An estimated 5.8 per cent of students would have tried smoking by 2022-23, following the pre-vaping trend. That figure has now more than doubled, to 13.2 per cent.

Many submitters to the committee stressed how easily accessible these illicit products have become to children. As one submitter shared—

These stores continue to operate even though they do not hold a licence, sell illegal products not only to adults but to children as well. We now have 9, 10 and 11 year olds whom are in primary school vaping and getting their friends to do it also. Most of these kids go in and buy them by themselves.

Vaping products obtained from unregulated sources pose a significant risk to children as they often contain more toxic and dangerous contaminants, with the potential to lead to respiratory illness and lung injury.

As large profits can be made by the sale of illicit nicotine and illicit tobacco, the involvement of organised crime exploiting regulatory gaps in the market has also exacerbated the potential risks to public safety. The committee heard from the Crime and Corruption Commission, which stated—

The link between illicit tobacco and organised crime syndicates in Queensland and Australia is well established ... Evidence of small businesses across Australia being threatened or coerced into supplying the products and even having their business premises fire bombed is a major concern for the community ...

The widespread availability of these illicit products also has a significant impact on the operation of legitimate retailers. The committee heard from some lawful business owners how emerging illegal stores had created a 90 per cent decline in sales and a rise in threats to their personal safety. It is important that we continue to make improvements in this space.

Labor laid a strong foundation for Queensland's public health response to the mounting serious health and public safety impacts of this issue. In 2023, Labor commenced the inquiry and report into

vaping, which received considerable feedback from stakeholders that highlighted the serious health risks posed by e-cigarettes of which all recommendations were supported. This was followed by a significant body of work in 2024, alongside the Commonwealth government, to enforce the ban on recreational vapes and address the illegal supply and sale of illicit tobacco, nicotine and e-cigarette products.

We introduced increased penalties for persons who supply and possess illicit tobacco as part of a business activity and created the closure order powers to shut down illegal traders. As mentioned by the previous speaker, the member for Chatsworth, Queensland has some of the strongest offences and most extensive enforcement powers for illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products in Australia. This bill continues to build on this work by: expanding short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months; expanding long-term closure powers from six months to 12 months; preventing businesses from opening or the sale of any good or service if subjected to a closure order so that closed means closed; holding executive officers of corporations to have personally committed certain offences that were committed by their corporations unless they can satisfy that they did not know or could not have known about illegal activities; creating an offence for lessors who knowingly permit a premise to be used for the supply of illicit tobacco, as well as civil penalty provisions; expanding seizure and forfeiture powers; and improving enforcement activities. These measures are carefully targeted and are intended to disrupt businesses that profit from the illegal trade and make the commercial model of this illicit market less attractive to organised criminals.

The committee received a considerable number of submissions on the bill from a broad variety of stakeholders, with many outlining their support for the new reforms. The Australian Association of Convenience Stores shared how their members had reported repeated incidents where tobacconists who had been caught supplying illicit products were shut down for a 72-hour period, only to reopen almost immediately and resume selling illicit tobacco and vapes. In their submission they stated—

Extending interim closure powers to three months, and long-term closure powers from six to twelve months, will provide a far more effective deterrent and give enforcement agencies the tools they need to disrupt repeat offenders and protect law-abiding retailers ...

...

Removing unlawful traders from the market is critical to ensuring that legitimate businesses can reclaim certainty and stability.

I appreciate that this is a frustration that is being felt in my community—that is, when these businesses close and then you see them reopen a few days later. I acknowledge the legitimate businesses in my electorate that sell tobacco products and have been impacted by these illegal rogues.

The Cancer Council Queensland shared their endorsement for the reforms, stating—

The Bill's provisions, when implemented as a cohesive suite, will substantially reduce the profitability of illicit trade, disrupt organised criminal activity, and strengthen tobacco control efforts.

Dr Michelle Jongenelis, Principal Research Fellow, within the Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Melbourne, stated—

The proposed amendments represent a critical paradigm shift in the way the illegal tobacco and nicotine trade is addressed in ...

I note some submissions suggested that enforcement alone will not reverse the cultural normalisation of vaping and nicotine amongst young people. I think that is very important to call out. It is important that we have expanded investment in prevention and cessation programs for adolescents. School-based programs and social media campaigns to target young people and provide education around the harms of vaping were a key part of the measures the previous Labor government introduced in its term.

The Labor Opposition will always support expert backed reforms that improve Queenslanders' health and continue to aid in reducing smoking rates, especially among young Queenslanders. It is something we have always prioritised and we will not stop advocating for. Queenslanders deserve what is best for their health and wellbeing and we will hold the government to account.



Mr HUNT (Nicklin—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak in strong support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It is a bill that represents the latest and most decisive escalation in the Crisafulli government's war on rogue traders peddling dangerous tobacco and vapes to kids and teenagers.

At the risk of leading with my chin for those opposite, I have to admit that when I was 15 I did a silly thing. I had my first cigarette trying to be all grown up. What it really did was set me on a path to an addiction that stayed with me into my early 20s. The grip of tobacco is strong. By the time I was 23

I was well and truly hooked. Giving up was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. I met my now wife, a dedicated non-smoker, and with her support I finally quit around that age. That experience gave me a lifelong appreciation of just how addictive nicotine is and how easily young people can fall into the same trap.

My recent experience as a school-based police officer just showed how bad it was getting in terms of students at school vaping. Vaping was out of control. Teachers' drawers were full of vapes that they had had to confiscate from kids. It was getting out of control. For most, it starts with something harmless—a cigarette at a party or today a colourful vape marketed to look like a toy or a piece of candy. That is why for decades governments have tried to discourage smoking through public health campaigns, restrictions and taxes.

Now, in a cost-of-living crisis where tobacco products have become incredibly expensive, organised crime has stepped into the void. They are exploiting addiction and our government is coming down hard on them. We know that tobacco remains the No. 1 cause of cancer in Queensland, contributing to more than a dozen different types of cancer. That alone should justify decisive action.

We are now confronting a new and rapidly growing threat—vaping. Vapes are being marketed as a safer alternative when we know that is far from the truth. These products are filled with nicotine—often at levels far exceeding cigarettes—are highly addictive and are being deliberately marketed with eye-catching graphics and sweet flavours to lure in kids and teenagers. It gets worse with some vapes being sold on the black market that contain the dangerous toxic chemicals that other members have spoken about. These are products being sold to teenagers in our communities.

The rise of the illicit tobacco and vape market threatens decades of hard-won progress in public health. It risks creating a new generation of nicotine dependent Queenslanders, and we simply cannot allow that to happen. Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has cracked down on rogue traders harder than any government before or anywhere else in Australia. This is a government that backs its words with actions.

This bill delivers a comprehensive suite of reforms to dismantle the business models that make illicit tobacco and vaping profitable. It equips Queensland Health with modern investigative tools, stronger financial disincentives and nation-leading enforcement powers. It provides stronger closure powers as well. The bill also empowers enforcement officers to carry out covert mystery shopper style operations to catch illegal retailers in the act—something they could not do under the previous government.

When I think back to myself at 15—somewhat naive and impressionable doing something silly that turned into eight years of addiction—I cannot help but think of the kids today being targeted by organised crime. Kids are being handed brightly coloured vapes filled with toxic chemicals. These kids will struggle, as I did, to break free from addiction. This bill is about protecting them. It is about protecting communities. It is about dismantling the criminal enterprises that exploit addiction for profit.

The Crisafulli government has already shown it will act decisively. With this bill, we will take the next critical step. These reforms are tough, these reforms are necessary and these reforms are long overdue. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. As has been made clear already by speakers on this side of the House, we will be supporting this bill. I do not think there is anyone in this parliament who would not support this bill. In fact, I think probably most of the smokers we know would not—that reflects the addiction which many members here have referred to that captures people and enslaves them to something that they really do not want to be happening to them. I acknowledge the member for Nicklin and what he was saying about his own addiction. We know that the impact of tobacco on the health of Australians and people all over the world is absolutely horrific. The committee report outlined that 66 Australians a day lose their lives because of the effects of tobacco. This is something we simply must continue to be vigilant about.

The Labor government has taken action over a significant period of time, both at state and Commonwealth level. We need to take action in the space that this bill addresses—that is, the sale of illicit tobacco—in the health space and in the prevention space. Most significantly, we need to make sure our young people are protected from the significant funds that are directed their way to get them addicted to tobacco or other smoking products.

I do not think many of the people on the LNP side of this House have been willing to acknowledge the decades of sustained effort by Labor governments. We know that, due to our sustained efforts, we

have made an impact—our smoking rates are now some of the lowest in the nation—but we can never give up. There is very big money in the tobacco industry and, no matter what strategies we put in place, there is enough money in this for people to work out how to get around the new things we put in place.

I want to talk a little bit about some of the things the Labor government has done in recent years. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023 included a licensing scheme, strong penalties against the supply of illicit smoking products and other enforcement measures. The Health and Environment Committee conducted an inquiry and report into vaping. There was an inquiry into reducing the rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. All of the recommendations from that inquiry were supported, and a significant body of work occurred as a result of that. I mention my local youth advisory panel, a group of young people aged 16 to 23, who felt so strongly about vaping in Queensland and the need for the government to take action on it that they wrote a submission to that inquiry. I was very proud that two members of that panel, Maddie Sparks and Isabella Hollewand, came to speak to the committee. I know that the committee was really interested to hear a young person's point of view.

We had the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Vaping) and Other Legislation Amendment Act to take strong action on the uptake in vaping and work with the Commonwealth government in enforcing the ban on recreational vapes. We created closure powers, strengthened regulations on advertising of tobacco, and increased penalties for the commercial supply and possession of illicit tobacco. To mention some other young people from my electorate, Hannah Webb and Lily Greehan—then school captains of Lourdes Hill College—were able to speak at a press conference on that very bill, to give a young person's perspective on why it was so important and why they desperately felt that the government had to take action.

This was a reflection of some of the research the education department had put in place, under the guidance of the member for McConnel when she was education minister, to look at the elements we need to address in helping to protect our young people—their perceptions, the marketing, the messages they were getting and the myths they believed which led them to undertake risky behaviour. We heard things like they thought vaping was a healthy alternative to tobacco and that vaping helped overcome addiction to tobacco. We saw the effects of marketing, with beautiful packaging, delicious-sounding names and appealing aromas from those products. Just being aware of those things and directly addressing them in the awareness campaigns we were running in the education department was highly effective.

In fact, that led to the development of the Blurred Minds online modules, to which we allocated \$5 million to help schools and young people access the right information to address the issue of vaping. By the second term of the year in which it was introduced we had seen a reduction in suspensions of well over 60 per cent across all year levels associated with vaping at our state schools. It is so important that we are addressing this in a way that young people experience and understand it. I encourage the education minister to keep on top of the research about why young people are so vulnerable to these messages. We see a lot of public conversation about pouches, for instance. Young people are now using pouches in schools instead of vaping because it is a way of not looking too obvious when you are doing it. These things will keep evolving because the industry will keep on trying to find ways to get into young people's minds. We need to know that the education system is keeping on top of that. We also invested over \$22 million to enhance enforcement.

This bill builds on the work we have done already in terms of the supply of illicit smoking products and other enforcement measures. Many members have spoken about this. They have spoken about the impact of the illegal trade on upstanding small businesses that are trying to operate a commercially viable enterprise against what we know are strong criminal elements in the illicit trade. These orders, which will try to disrupt the activities of those illegal operators, must continue to evolve. We need to be coming back to this sort of legislation on a regular basis so that we can combat the significant money that is put into this very profitable business. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The really important part of this bill is the dismantling of the illegal trade. That is really what we are trying to address here. It is important, and it is a big step for the Crisafulli government in the fight against illegal tobacco and vapes. As requested by the member who just spoke, I will acknowledge that both sides of the House have been trying to deal with this issue, but now that this bill has finally got some teeth to it we can take some real action.

We have all seen these businesses get closed down, only to see them reopen and different things happen along the way. Certainly, I have seen a lot of kids in my electorate pick up vaping. They have been very tempted by the colours and the flavours. They have been taking in insane amounts of various chemicals that are not particularly good for them, thinking it was better than smoking. In fact, the quantities of some of the chemicals they are consuming are probably more dangerous.

Queensland having some of the strongest penalties in the country will start to address the black market. We have all seen illegal products in our electorates, and some of them have been sold quite openly. We only have to look at the rubbish bins around which smokers congregate to see packets that we know would be illegal in Australia. They have been brought in illegally. In a place like Toowoomba there is a bigger impact: it gives a foothold for illegal activities through various gangs and other people. They are using Toowoomba as a transport and logistics hub to move their products around, as lots of people do in legitimate business. It is attractive for them to do that in Toowoomba, and that has had an impact on our communities. Whilst we have seen some cheap cigarettes, dodgy vapes and a few gangs getting around, the damage it is doing to our kids is not truly being considered, and the element it is bringing in to our community and the other activities that come with it also play a big part.

Taking away the financial benefit that they can gain from running these businesses is really important. I will mention a couple of businesses in my town. Abdul from Store 309 in Bridge Street, Wilsonton has been particularly concerned about these illegal activities. He has seen a dramatic drop-off in his legitimate business. He has lots of people who literally go in, use his cash machine, take the cash and go to an illegal store close by to buy the illegal smokes. He will be very happy to see this legislation passed.

Deb from Blue Mountain in Harlaxton has been talking to me about this for a long time. She has been very frustrated when various pieces of legislation have come forward without enough teeth. One of my good friends Mohammed, who owns a couple of 7-Elevens, has also been complaining about it. What is really good for the honest retailers is that this will shut down the dodgy competitors. It will remove the illicit element and the temptation for those people to come into our community and start peddling other drugs and other things that they might have access to. These criminal gangs will not be able to get a foothold, will not be able to get contacts and will not be able to build a community around them who can help them distribute whatever else it is that they are dealing in which we know will harm our young people.

Being able to hold landlords to account and also give landlords a way out of a lease legally and legitimately if they want to make that move against someone who has a legitimate lease is important. Increasing the fines is really important as is streamlining licences. All of these are good measures.

Others have spoken about the public health measures and how important they are. I just wanted to talk about my local businesses, the impact it is having on their legitimate business and also the fact that it is bringing criminal gangs to have a look in Toowoomba to see what else they might be able to do if they can get an operational footprint. The quicker we can stamp them out, shut them down and get them out of our community the happier I will be both from a public health point of view and from a kids point of view as well as for our legitimate businesses.

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In addressing this bill, I would like to first acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee, the many community members and stakeholder organisations who provided contributions and the hard work of the secretariat in supporting the committee in its review of this proposed legislation.

This bill is about protecting the health of Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders. I grew up in an era when cigarette smoking was part of everyday life. The pubs were filled with smoke and overflowing ashtrays and when you went to the cinema, or even on a plane, there would be smoking and non-smoking seats, which seems ridiculous now as wherever you sat you would be surrounded by clouds of smoke. As a result, everyone knew someone whose life was cut short by lung cancer.

Since then, decades of hard work in the public health field have led to a dramatic reduction in smoking rates in this country; however, the proliferation of illicit tobacco and vaping products in our society threatens to undo all of that work. Despite all of those efforts, Queensland's smoking rate still sits above the national average at over 11 per cent, and tobacco continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in Australia, claiming more than 24,000 lives each year.

There is compelling evidence that vaping acts as a gateway to tobacco use, with research showing young people aged 12 to 17 years who have vaped are five times more likely to take up

smoking than their peers. With two in three smokers dying of a smoking related disease, we cannot allow a new generation of Queenslanders to join these statistics.

A number of members have spoken about the difficulties people encounter in trying to stop smoking, and I would reiterate how difficult it is. When I worked with heroin users, they would tell me it was easier to give up heroin than cigarettes. That is why, as lawmakers, we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to prevent our young people becoming addicted to nicotine in the first place. As the Cancer Council Queensland stated in their submission—

Without urgent and coordinated action, the unchecked growth of illicit tobacco and vaping products threatens to reverse smoking reduction gains, normalise nicotine use, and entrench a new generation of Queenslanders in addiction.

The previous Labor government responded to the growth of sales of illicit nicotine products by introducing strong penalties against commercial supply and closure powers for stores selling illegal tobacco and vapes. However, with the involvement of organised crime in the lucrative illegal nicotine market and the increased number of businesses selling vapes and illegal tobacco, stronger penalties and controls are required to tackle this illegal trade and protect the health of Queenslanders.

This issue is a matter of great concern to my community of South Brisbane. In recent years we have seen an explosion of businesses selling vapes and illegal tobacco in our community, including shops setting up in close proximity to schools. Queensland Health data reveals that between July last year and April this year businesses in West End in my electorate received among the highest number of fines in the state for supplying illicit nicotine products. My constituents have raised with me their frustration that, despite the hard work of Queensland Health public health officers in trying to stop these offenders, the illegal industry continues largely unaffected.

The evidence presented to our committee of the escalation of criminal activity in this illegal trade was stark. During the inquiry, many retailers reported harassment, intimidation, extortion and even firebombing for refusing to participate in the illegal nicotine market. Queensland police noted that the growing role of organised crime in the illegal tobacco trade has resulted in an increase in violent crime, stating—

The prevalence of violence associated with the illicit tobacco trade unfortunately represents a considerable threat to the community's safety.

Queensland Health described the challenges the department currently faces in curbing this illegal industry, stating—

... this is not a traditional regulatory problem. We have organised crime involved—deeply involved. We have enormous financial incentives for these illegal operators to continue to do what they are doing. They are showing outright contempt for the law.

Such disregard for the law cannot be ignored. Queenslanders need and deserve tangible action from government to disrupt and end this blatant criminal behaviour. I believe this bill goes to the heart of the community's frustration and will provide the necessary powers to enforcement agencies to close these rogue operators down for good. Currently, Queensland Health officers can close the premises of illegal traders for 72 hours; however, during the inquiry our committee heard that many illegal operators simply use this time to restock the seized illicit products and open again immediately after the closure period. The Australian Council on Smoking & Health told the committee—

... longer closure periods are among the most effective deterrents available to enforcement agencies.

This bill proposes expanding the short-term, three-day closure orders to three months and the long-term, six-month closure orders to 12 months. I believe this will make a real difference.

The bill also proposes to allow landlords to terminate leases where a premises has been subject to a closure order. This will give lessors the confidence to act when their properties are being used for illegal purposes. This measure is complemented by the introduction of a criminal offence and civil penalties for landlords who knowingly allow this criminal behaviour to continue. These provisions demand accountability from all parties in the supply chain.

The bill also allows for authorised staff to undertake covert operations to gather evidence against those suspected of participating in the illegal tobacco and nicotine trade. The Crime and Corruption Commission and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties both raised concerns about the risk of corruption or the misuse of these powers and suggested that the approval process required for police conducting covert operations under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, PPRA, be incorporated into this bill. They also recommended that the bill be amended to require a statutory review after two years to consider whether the provisions were working as intended.

In response, Queensland Health stressed that authorised persons would not be engaging in covert police activity and that the powers contained in this bill are very narrow. On balance, the committee concluded that the approval process for controlled operations in the PPRA was unnecessary in this legislation but suggested that Queensland Health report on controlled operations in its annual report to provide additional accountability. I believe that ongoing transparency in the use of controlled operations will be essential in maintaining community trust in this process.

I would like to thank Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service for their continued work in keeping our communities safe by tackling this illegal activity. The illegal nicotine market undermines public health and fuels organised crime. This bill will help dismantle that market, protect Queenslanders, particularly our young people, and safeguard the progress our state has made in reducing smoking rates. This bill is another step in the right direction on this issue and it has my support.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Over recent years the illegal tobacco and vaping market has grown rapidly in scale, sophistication and visibility. The Liberal National Party recognised this trend early. From the outset, our government took a stronger and more practical approach than the previous state government, whose framework and penalties proved to be inadequate. Under the former Labor state government, penalties were low, on-the-spot fines were not available and public health officers could not seize nicotine pouches or intervene effectively as illegal vape outlets multiplied. During that period, vaping rates among high school students tripled, with many retailers operating openly, confident that any penalties were just a manageable cost of business.

By contrast, the steps taken by the Crisafulli LNP state government since coming to office have been deliberate and substantial. In the first full year of the Crisafulli LNP state government, more than 57 million illicit cigarettes, 7.7 tonnes of loose tobacco, 475,000 illicit vapes and over 400,000 nicotine pouches were seized. Also, more than 1,800 penalty infringement notices were issued, totalling over \$60 million in fines. These early reforms have strengthened enforcement, increased penalties and given frontline officers the authority they have long needed. However, the scale of black market operations requires further reform, and that is what this legislation delivers. It represents the next stage in a clear timeline of action. While earlier measures targeted the sheer volume of illegal products entering Queensland, this legislation focuses on the structural and economic levers that have allowed the illicit market to persist.

Under this legislation, short-term closure orders will be extended, from 72 hours to three months, with expanded grounds that include commercial possession as well as supply. This closes a significant loophole and prevents illegal operators from stockpiling products while avoiding enforcement. Long-term closure orders will now be available for up to 12 months, doubling the existing maximum and providing a strong deterrent to repeat offenders. Premises subject to a closure order will be unable to open to the public for any purpose. A new statutory power will allow landlords to terminate commercial leases where premises are subject to a closure order. Many responsible landlords have been seeking this authority, and it will enable them to act promptly to remove tenants engaged in illegal activity. New criminal and civil penalties for landlords who knowingly allow their premises to be used for illegal tobacco activity further strengthen the supply chain.

Evidence gathering will be improved through the introduction of controlled purchase operations, allowing officers to test compliance across licensed and unlicensed premises, including online. Executive officer liability will ensure company directors are accountable unless they can demonstrate that reasonable steps were taken to prevent unlawful conduct.

Queenslanders expect timely and effective action in response to emerging public health risks. In my own electorate of Moggill, local constituents continue to raise their concerns with me about the growing prevalence of illegal tobacco and the increasing number of students being exposed to vaping. These concerns reinforce just how important it is that the government responds with strong, practical and sustained action. That is exactly what the Liberal National Party state government is providing. We have strengthened legislation, boosted enforcement and acted at every stage as the scale of the problem has evolved.

Illicit tobacco and vapes are not harmless. They can undermine decades of public health progress, introduce young people to nicotine addiction, often contain dangerous chemicals and support organised criminal activity. With respect to the legislation, we are talking about not only addressing health issues and those emergent health issues particularly in relation to vapes but also disrupting criminal activity when it comes to the illicit tobacco market and what we have seen in many communities right across Queensland. As such, stronger measures are essential to protecting our communities.

As we strengthen enforcement around illicit tobacco and vaping, it is also appropriate to consider these approaches as they align with the broader health priorities of this government. The Crisafulli LNP state government remains committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders. This includes supporting prevention, strengthening primary care and working with our medical and health sector partners.

Last weekend it was terrific to attend the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' GP25 Conference as the Assistant Minister to the Premier and Leader of the House in the Queensland parliament. I was delighted to attend the keynote speech delivered by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and I commend him for his leadership and for outlining the importance of accessible and patient centred care across Queensland. I attended with a number of other health colleagues there.

There were many topics of discussion. I can certainly tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that there was significant discussion about not only vapes but what is happening with respect to smoking and illegal tobacco supply as well and that all governments across various state jurisdictions around Australia need to be doing more not just from a health perspective but also in relation to the criminal activity that can come with illegal tobacco and some of the other issues that we are seeing in various communities.

I would like to acknowledge those health professionals and their continued advocacy and expertise because they play an important role in improving health outcomes for communities across our state, particularly those general practitioners and other health professionals who contribute to primary care. I would particularly like to acknowledge Dr Cath Hester, who is an outstanding local resident of the electorate of Moggill and has made a significant contribution to our community through the Colleges Crossing Family Practice, which she co-founded with Dr Tony Bayliss.

In relation to this matter, I certainly commend the bill to the House because it is extremely important not only from a health perspective but also in addressing some of the aspects as I have mentioned with respect to illegal activity that has been occurring in communities right across Queensland.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak on this bill. We are going to support it. I think it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure we remove illicit tobacco and vapes from our community as much as we can. It is a journey we are all going on. I think we all have to work together—particularly the federal government and the state and territory governments—to address what has become a systemic and serious issue.

As an aside, it was great today to attend the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College's graduation of the first students who walked through the door six years ago. One of those students is Ellis Loodewijk, who was on my ministerial student advisory council when I was education minister. I mention Ellis because she was part of that group when we started to talk with students about vaping and cigarette smoking in schools. It was this that started the journey. What did we need to do to get the message through to students about how to stop vaping? It became clear that a lot of students—and I refer to the submission of the member for Bulimba—thought vaping was safer than smoking cigarettes, particularly when they were marketed with different flavours and brands. Some of the flavours I heard about were bubblegum and watermelon. We needed an education program. We needed to inform teachers and students about the dangers of this because obviously this was where it was starting and it was a concern.

As our first step, we took a very dim view of people smoking anywhere near school premises, so we brought in legislation and regulations that restricted smoking. You could not smoke within five metres of any school boundary. I think a lot of members in this House would know that. They also used to smoke in car parks, and we recently passed legislation to ban that as well. Wherever the school perimeter was, you could not go within five metres. Following that, around August 2023 we also invested \$5 million to tackle vaping in schools. This is a journey we have all been on. It was part of a longer committee inquiry into vaping that was happening at the same time. I know some members of this House were on that inquiry.

Through a \$5 million investment, both government and non-government Queensland secondary schools would gain access to the innovative school and drug education program Blurred Minds Academy. This was developed by Griffith University in conjunction with the University of Queensland's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research. The tools they brought out go directly into schools. I thought that was an excellent program. It had been in for probably 12 months before we went to the election and already teachers and students were saying they were gaining insight into vapes, e-cigarettes and illicit tobacco they had not had before, with many teachers saying it equipped them to

do their job better in educating students. I am very proud of that program. It was one that really started to show some good benefits as a result of bringing that education into our schools. I think now we are seeing the level of vaping in schools slowly reducing down, which I definitely think is a step in the right direction.

This bill has a number of things that are expanding the legislation as it currently stands. I know a lot of members have been quoting figures in relation to what has been seized, and that has all been done under the current legislation. With any legislation, even the legislation the government will bring in, we can improve and enhance it. For example, in relation to expanding the short-term closure, I think the recommendation at the time was 72 hours. We are now extending that to three months. I have been speaking to businesses in my area and people that I respect in the smaller, family-run supermarket chains. They are saying, 'Grace, I don't even think three months is going to be enough.' I was speaking to someone yesterday who said, 'I hope that it does work.'

A government member: You gave it three days.

Ms GRACE: That was from a recommendation. I will take that interjection. We are supporting three months. We can do it better. We will do it better. This is not a political argument. This is an issue where we all want the same outcome. Let's not get too worked up about it. We are all on the same page. You do not have any moral standing in relation to this. We are all about trying to get the best that we can. It came out of a recommendation. Alright, it is not enough. What I am saying is that already some proprietors are saying to me they do not know whether three months will work. I hope it does. It is better; there is no doubt about that.

We are extending long-term closures to 12 months. Remember, you could close these businesses for six months; it was just a matter of a magistrate ordering it. They are now extending that to 12 months. Let's hope that is a great deterrent, as well as preventing businesses from opening, the sale of goods, expanding seizures. Obviously lessors now cannot hide their heads in the sand. They can't say, 'I know nothing.' They cannot do a Sergeant Schultz on us and say, 'I know nothing.' If they are aware these illegal products are being sold, they can go after the lessor as well. I think that is a step in the right direction. My constituents have raised issues in relation to this. They brought it to the attention of a particular chain of shops and very little has been done. I think that is a step in the right direction as well.

We have also been working on this for quite some time. We brought in a number of changes and legislation to ensure that we addressed these issues. Like anything that is entrenched in the community, you cannot do it alone. You need to work with partners. In about July and October 2024 it was very good when the federal government finally banned these products and stepped up to the plate. Nothing was done before those laws were brought in in 2024. There is only one way these products are coming into Australia and Queensland: over our borders. They are coming from nowhere else. As Queenslanders, we cannot do this alone. We need the federal government. I have one of their fact sheets about changes to vaping in Australia from 1 October 2024. That was 12 months ago when we were in election mode. We were in caretaker period from that date, and the banning of vapes and only being sold in pharmacies came in during caretaker mode. This has not been around for a long time. We need to work together on this. We had the inquiry. We brought in a licensing scheme. We had an inquiry into that and all of the recommendations were supported. A significant body of work was commenced. We had school-based programs and social media programs. Do members remember There's Nothing Sweet About Vapes? That was something.

As someone who has never smoked or vaped—which I am very proud of, I might add—I find it difficult to understand why people would take up such a habit. My father was a chain smoker, and there is no doubt my mother suffered asthma because he smoked continually in our lounge room. I never thought I would see the day my father went outside to have a cigarette, but he got into that cultural change. We had to bring that around in the workplace and in our restaurants. I never thought I would see it in casinos, but we do now have smoke-free casinos and places where people congregate. I think that is a cultural step in the right direction, but it took a lot of years and a lot of working together to bring that about. This is similar. These things are entrenched. I hope that what we do today will work. Obviously, if we need to go further it is a sensible step and we should all work together.

No-one has the high moral ground on this issue. I know some of my own family members currently smoke and vape. I am onto them all the time to the point where I do not think they want to hear from me anymore. We have to stop the illicit sales. We have to stop something that has been banned. I welcome the legislation. It is an extension of what Labor has done. Now that the LNP is in government, we are taking further recommendations and improving on that. That is a step in the right

direction. I support the federal government. There is only one way they are coming in here, and that is over our borders. Let's all work together. Let's address these issues. I support the amendments in this bill. I hope that we can stop the scourge of vaping and illicit tobacco.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.58 pm): I will start my contribution by reflecting on an earlier contribution I made in this place in 2023, when I spoke about the impact the illicit tobacco trade has in our communities, in particular regional communities like Kingaroy. Back then I said—

The Nanango electorate is one of the many regions in Queensland in which you find these shops selling illegal tobacco products. Last year, several local businesses in Kingaroy contacted me regarding their concerns about the ... shops that ... are selling illegal tobacco ...

One business owner wrote, 'We are discount tobacconists. Cigarettes represent a fair part of our income. We cannot believe that an illegal tobacconists could open up blatantly in Kingaroy affecting other legitimate retailers.' Another retailer met with me to explain her frustration at the situation. In her submission she said that ... These stores are selling chop-chop and nicotine vapes to anyone who wants to buy them, including children in school uniforms.'

Further, a local real estate agent has spoken with me about all of these illegal vape shops and chop-chop shops. She said that, disappointingly, the No. 1 growing industry in Kingaroy is chop-chop shops and these illegal shops. That is terrible.

The Labor members opposite have spent much time in this debate patting themselves on the back and claiming they did a great job. However, we know that that simply is not the case, because Labor failed to protect our children and our community. If they wanted to do this, they would have taken strong action in that decade of decline. In stark contrast, the LNP is taking calculated, decisive and deliberate action to make sure these illegal operators and criminal organisations are stopped in their tracks. Since coming to office, the Crisafulli government has cracked down on rogue traders harder than any government before 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, 475,000 illicit vapes and 405,000 nicotine pouches. That has taken more than \$75 million worth of dangerous goods off our streets.

Under Labor's three-day interim closures, we have seen just 657 days of closures this year for shops dealing in these illicit products. Under our new toughened laws, the interim closures will be extended to three months. This would have resulted in more than 19,000 days of closures instead of only a measly 657.

In April we introduced the nation's highest penalty infringement notices, including for vapes and nicotine pouches. These did not exist under the former Labor government. We have issued more than 1,800 penalty infringement notices. That is more than \$60 million in fines, hitting illegal traders where it hurts—their hip pockets. I was very pleased to work with the Minister for Health to implement these important changes as one of our first steps to fight these illegal activities. Under Labor's soft laws, public health officers could not even issue an on-the-spot fine for stores caught selling illegal cigarettes or vapes, and they could not seize illegal and addictive nicotine pouches.

On that note, I want to give a shout-out to the member for Maryborough. The member for Maryborough took me in to one of his local legal shops. The business owner was doing everything she could to support her family by running this perfectly legal shop. My heart goes out to her. I think of her quite often and the impact that illicit trade, chop-chop shops and illegal vapes are having on her business. It is not just her business but business in general in Maryborough. The demographics in Maryborough are very similar to those in Kingaroy and we have that same problem in Kingaroy. We will now be able to shut the shops for three months and crack down with these fines. It is not just a measly three days that they will have to shut their shop for and a tiny fine; this is hard stuff that will stop that illicit trade. I am really pleased to see it is working, and we know that more needs to be done.

We know that tobacco is the No. 1 cause of cancer in Queensland. It has been proven to cause more than a dozen different types of cancer. I have spoken in this House so many times about the epidemic that is vaping. Who knows what illicit poisons are in those vapes? We need to put an end to this. There is one government that is doing that, and it is the Crisafulli government. I want to thank the Minister for Health for his hard work and thank the public health officials who are working tirelessly each and every day in an effort to improve the health and safety of our communities.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.03 pm): My father and mother were both serious smokers. They both died, with my father dying of emphysema—

A government member interjected.

Ms PEASE: I am pleased you find that funny over there, whoever laughed at that. I certainly do not.

Government members interjected.

Ms PEASE: Perhaps I will start again so I can give you all the opportunity to put your silly, rude remarks away.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Address your comments through the chair, member for Lytton.

Ms PEASE: My father, Jack Pease, passed away from emphysema. My mother died of a chronic airway disease. My mother-in-law died of 5 separate tobacco related cancers. They were all primary cancers and they were all related to smoking.

I am proud of the great work that we have done in Queensland to be the world leader in reducing the use of tobacco. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done in the past. I would like to particularly acknowledge Governor Jeannette Young for the great work she has done in that space, because it was her driving force that led Queensland to the great position we are in.

I am delighted to be standing here in support of this bill because, as everyone else in this chamber has been saying, it is an important piece of work that goes towards protecting the health of all Queenslanders. It was disappointing when the member for Nanango got up and was virtue signalling that they are the only government that does anything. I was actually on the initial inquiry that we did into vaping, and the LNP members and the Labor members all worked collaboratively together and supported the initial tranche of changes that we introduced.

I went into a vape shop, along with all of my parliamentary colleagues who were on that committee, and bought illegal vapes just to see what was happening. I was terrified that my mother was going to come out of her grave and smack me on the bottom for buying illegal vapes. Those vapes were all tested and they were all found to have nicotine and significant other toxic chemicals. Each and every member of that committee worked in a bipartisan way to bring about significant changes. That was the beginning of the work in this important scenario, and we have continued to work. We supported the previous piece of legislation that the government brought in and we will continue to support this because we believe in protecting all Queenslanders.

I want to make it clear that the Labor opposition will support all expert backed reforms that put the health and safety of Queenslanders first. That has always been our record and it remains our commitment today. For more than two decades, Queensland has been the world leader in the reduction of smoking rates, and we must not allow this illegal trade in tobacco and nicotine products to undermine that progress. This bill builds on important work. It strengthens the enforcement mechanisms that Labor introduced—the closure orders, seizure powers, tougher penalties and crackdowns on organised crime infiltrating the illicit nicotine market. Today the opposition supports those measures because they are the right public health response for Queenslanders.

Queensland stakeholders—the public health organisations, frontline enforcement officers, community health advocates and retail industry bodies—all shared a consistent message to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee: the illicit tobacco and vaping market is harming our communities, undermining decades of public health progress and exposing young people to dangerous products. They raised serious concerns about unregulated nicotine concentrations, unsafe packaging and the normalisation of vaping among school-age children. Several stakeholders also told the committee that illicit traders are increasingly tied to criminal activity, exploiting high profits and low detection risk.

The committee also heard from legitimate small businesses—and I heard from them as well—including licensed tobacconists who are being undercut by illegal operators selling illicit products at a fraction of the lawful price. Many said their livelihoods were being compromised by operators who faced minimal consequences. Likewise, property lessors expressed frustration that existing laws left them powerless. Under current provisions, a landlord often cannot terminate a lease until a criminal conviction is secured, even though a business is already closed by a lawful order.

As the report highlights, this traps lessors in an untenable situation and causes significant financial loss. I am pleased that this bill has addressed those concerns by creating a clear pathway for a lease to be terminated when a closure order is issued. The opposition supports those protections because they ensure that innocent property owners and local small businesses are no longer collateral damage in the fight against illicit tobacco.

The bill expands short-term closure orders from 72 hours to three months and long-term orders from six months to a year. It strengthens forfeiture powers, ensures that closed means closed and introduces new obligations for corporate officers who turn a blind eye to illegal operators. Labor introduced the licensing scheme, the first wave of closure powers and the enforcement upgrades in 2023 and 2024, and I worked on the committee that did that. We also expanded school-based education programs, funded social media harm reduction campaigns and invested \$22 million in enforcement capacity. These reforms continue that trajectory and that is why I support them.

Whilst the opposition supports this bill, we must also acknowledge a pattern of hypocrisy from the LNP government. Time and time again we have seen them ignore experts in other critical areas of health policy. They ignored experts when they banned pill testing. They ignored experts with the health minister playing politics with vulnerable Queenslanders.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, there is a point of order. I suspect it is about relevance and it will have some relevance.

Mr DILLON: Mr Deputy Speaker, it is about relevance to the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There have been some clear instructions about this, member for Lytton. If you could confine your contribution to the long title of the bill and the amendments, that would be appreciated.

Ms PEASE: It is always a delight when I touch a nerve with the LNP. They obviously do not want to hear the truth. Ignoring health experts and playing politics is something that Queenslanders do not want. The LNP continue to dismiss advice from frontline workers who are sounding the alarm about hospital capacity. The Premier has promised accountability.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Ms PEASE: That is right. It is a disgrace. Queenslanders are still waiting. I will say it again. The Premier promised accountability. Queenslanders are still waiting. They are still waiting to hear from him with regards to accountability and full disclosure. Whilst today's bill is a step forward, it does not erase the government's broader failures to back expert advice in the health system.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.12 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. It is a critical step in dismantling the organised black market in illegal tobacco, vaping products and now nitrous oxide across Queensland and one that delivers enormous protections for communities like Pumicestone. Illegal tobacco is not just a nuisance. It is traded in a sophisticated, profitable and harmful black market that undermines public health, cheats taxpayers, exploits vulnerable people and places local small businesses at an unfair disadvantage.

In communities like mine, small retailers are doing the right thing: complying with regulations, checking IDs and paying their fair share. However, for years now, retailers from Bribie Island to Beachmere have been raising the alarm about illegal tobacco being sold through unregulated pop-up shops and covert operations. Bongaree shop owners have reported suspicious behaviour. Convenience stores in Ningi and Sandstone Point have seen customers being approached by illegal sellers. It is real and it is growing. Small business owners should not have to compete with criminals selling dangerous, unregulated products out of car boots, back rooms or under-the-counter networks. I have even met with landlords who have seen their insurance premiums skyrocket merely because their premises are leased to legitimate tobacconists, forcing them to evict good tenants. Enough is enough.

Queensland already had some of the toughest penalties in the nation, but the illegal market continues to evolve. Enforcement efforts have been hindered by lengthy prosecutions, resource-intensive investigations and limited powers to shut down illegal operators and keep them shut. This bill changes that. Currently, under Labor's old laws, illegal traders could only be shut down for 72 hours, effectively a long weekend off. Under this bill, interim closure orders will expand to three months, giving Queensland Health the ability to shut down rogue traders immediately and for long enough to hit them where it hurts: their profits. Long-term closure orders will double from six months to 12 months and it will be a criminal offence for anyone to open, trade or even work from a business subject to a closure order. Closed means closed. For the first time, Queensland will directly address the role of commercial landlords who knowingly profit from the black market. Landlords who knowingly permit illegal tobacco or vaping activity will face penalties of up to \$166,900, or one year's imprisonment, and over \$834,000 for corporations. Those who turn a blind eye will face similarly significant civil penalties.

This bill also gives responsible landlords what they have been begging for: a statutory power to terminate leases when premises are subject to a closure order. This means criminal enterprises can be evicted and prevented from re-establishing shopfronts. This is a massive win for landlords in Pumicestone, who have told me firsthand how trapped they felt under the previous system. A key strength of this bill is the introduction of compromised goods, legal smoking products found alongside illicit tobacco or nicotine products. These goods will now be seized immediately. This dismantles the 'dual business model' where criminals hide illegal trade behind seemingly legitimate front-of-shop stock.

Queensland Health officers will finally have the power to run covert 'mystery shopper' operations to catch illegal retailers red-handed. This aligns us with proven enforcement models used in alcohol and tobacco compliance across Australia. The bill introduces executive officer liability, ensuring company directors cannot hide behind complex business structures to avoid prosecution. If the company is guilty, directors are deemed to be guilty unless they can prove they took reasonable steps to prevent the conduct.

I particularly welcome the minister's amendments to address the rising scourge of nitrous oxide misuse. Nitrous oxide has legitimate medical and hospitality uses, but recreational misuse is dangerous. Young people mistakenly believe nangs are safe because they are cheap and accessible. In reality, they can cause severe neurological, cardiovascular and psychiatric harm and, in extreme cases, paralysis or even death. A recent sample of inspections found around 78 per cent of illicit tobacconists stocking nangs, often right alongside illegal vapes and tobacco. Families in my electorate have raised serious concerns about the easy availability of nangs in our community. These retailers—gift stores, convenience shops and illicit tobacconists—have no legitimate reason to stock them. The amendment will classify nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters as compromised goods, allowing them to be seized when found with illicit tobacco or nicotine products. It also introduces a regulation-making power so that other emerging harmful products can be rapidly added in the future. Criminals adapt and now Queensland will be able to adapt just as quickly.

This bill is fundamentally about protecting Queenslanders. Tobacco remains the No. 1 cause of cancer in Queensland. Meanwhile, vapes are hooking young people into lifelong nicotine addiction with products laced with toxic chemicals, antifreeze, industrial solvents and even nitazenes, a synthetic opioid 500 times more potent than heroin. Illegal tobacco and vaping products threaten to undo decades of public health progress. The people of Bribie Island, Toorbul and Caboolture want safer communities where their children are protected, not targeted by criminal networks. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.17 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will strengthen enforcement measures under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to help reduce the impacts on public health from the sale of illicit tobacco and nicotine products. It will also boost efforts to dismantle organised crime networks selling illegal tobacco and enhance public safety.

Unlike the member for McConnel, I did smoke myself. I was probably born addicted. My mother was a chain-smoker all of our life and as soon as I was 15 or 16 I was smoking as well. I am pleased to say I did learn the error of my ways at an early age. My mum, sadly, died of lung cancer and she was just a few years older than I am now when she died. It is a horrible disease. I have seen what it does to people. My sister is a social worker in a respiratory ward at the Sunshine Coast hospital. She deals with the effects of these types of things every day. It is really alarming.

We did a lot of work to reduce smoking federally and in the state over many years and it was really quite successful. It has just been horrific to see children walking around taking up vaping. The Labor opposition will always support expert backed measures that improve Queenslanders' health and reduce smoking rates. As I have said, we have made considerable gains over the last few decades to reduce the rates of cigarette smoking, but it is being undermined by the sale of illicit tobacco and vaping products.

Over the last five years, illicit tobacco and vaping products have caused the loss of \$6.7 billion in national excise revenue and generated about \$10 billion in revenue for organised crime networks. Consumption of illicit tobacco now represents over 50 per cent of total consumption in Australia. A significant proportion of that consumption is made up of young people taking up vaping. The *Medical Journal of Australia* has shown that the decline in youth smoking rates across Australia has slowed since the widespread uptake of vaping. If the pre-vaping trend continued, only 5.8 per cent of students would have tried smoking by 2022-23 but, unfortunately, that figure has more than doubled, to 13 per cent. A 2025 report by the Chief Health Officer in Queensland found that vaping rates amongst

Queensland high-schoolers tripled between 2017 and 2023. We need to do everything we can to disrupt the uptake of smoking or vaping in young people to protect their long-term health.

The dangerous role organised crime plays in the sale of illicit tobacco and vaping products is a major public safety concern for Queensland communities. Almost every other week we hear in the news about a tobacco shop being firebombed or ramraided. The profits that criminals make from the sale of illicit tobacco and vaping products often outweigh the risks of them being caught. They are also using sophisticated tactics to avoid detection and shield owners from financial and legal accountability. The number of arson attacks on tobacco shops over the past several years, alongside the violence associated with the illicit tobacco trade, presents a serious threat to public safety. Adjoining businesses are being impacted as well. The *Australian* reported last month that small businesses located near tobacconists are facing insurance premium hikes of more than 50 per cent due to the increased risk of firebombings, ramraids and other gang related violence.

The Labor opposition is pleased to see that the work we commenced while we were in government is continuing. We laid a foundation of strong measures that disrupted the illicit tobacco trade and prioritised the health of Queenslanders. Queensland's laws on illicit tobacco and vaping products are the toughest in the nation thanks to Labor's reforms. We introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Act 2023, which commenced a licensing scheme for wholesale and retail sellers of smoking products. We introduced tougher penalties for the supply of illicit smoking products. I want to give a shout-out to the committee that travelled—the member for Lytton spoke on that earlier. They did some fantastic work and heard some pretty alarming stories. We expanded smoke-free public spaces; we banned children from supplying smoking products to others; we held the parliamentary inquiry that I just mentioned into vaping; and we introduced school-based programs and social media campaigns to educate young people about the harms of vaping. A lot of my principals and teachers have reported that that has made a huge difference already. We increased investment of \$22 million over five years to enhance enforcement activities to crack down on the sale of illicit smoking products.

In 2024, Queensland Health's flying squad of enforcement officers seized 17 million illicit cigarettes, 5.4 tonnes of loose tobacco and 117,500 vaping products, worth more than \$22 million. Those 17 million illicit cigarettes lined up end to end would stretch from Brisbane to Airlie Beach. This pales in comparison to the more than 32 million illicit cigarettes and around 201,000 vaping products which were seized between January and May this year. While it is great that these products are not ending up in the hands of Queenslanders, the significant increase in the amount of goods seized by Queensland Health in the last two years shows the vast scale of what we are dealing with.

I commend Queensland Health's enforcement officers for the important and sometimes dangerous work they do disrupting the sale of illicit tobacco and nicotine products, but they have a daunting task ahead of them. The growth in the tobacco and vape black market shows that these amendments are desperately needed to support their compliance and enforcement activities. The organised crime gangs that have created the vast network of illicit trade do not care about the health of Queenslanders, they do not care about the impact their trade is having on legitimate businesses operating nearby and they certainly do not care about the thousands of young people who are getting hooked on illegal vaping products. The University of Sydney and Cancer Council NSW, together with the Daffodil Centre, led a national study earlier this year that showed two-thirds of Queenslanders aged between 14 and 17 said it was easy or very easy to buy vapes. These laws are urgently needed to make it a lot harder for young Queenslanders to purchase vaping products.

Australians' addiction to smoking and vaping costs our nation more than \$136 billion annually in medical treatment and lost productivity. It is still the leading cause of preventable death in Australia and claims the lives of 66 Australians daily. We cannot sit back and do nothing. We welcome the amendments outlined in this bill. Labor always prioritises doing what is best for Queensland's health and safety. We listen to the health experts. I, for one, commend the LNP government for listening to the health experts when it comes to this bill. It is so incredibly important that all governments do so. Thankfully, the LNP saw the sense to not get ideological about this drug that harms people's health and leads to addiction. Nicotine is one of the most dangerous drugs out there. I am pleased that this bill will reduce harm and save lives by stamping out the illicit tobacco and vape trade. Organised crime networks should not be profiting off the harm they are doing to Queenslanders and they should not be making our suburbs less safe through violence, ramraids and firebombings. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr FIELD (Capalaba—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Both my parents have

died. My mother died at 55. She used to smoke a packet of cigarettes a day. Dad died of lung cancer at 75. I know the effect smoking in general has on people. Strangely enough, none of our family have smoked since those early days.

This bill is an important step in further protecting the health of Queenslanders. It takes a firm stand against the growing threat of illicit tobacco and other illicit nicotine products. It builds on existing offences, on-the-spot fines and enforcement powers under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act which are some of the strongest in the nation. The Crisafulli government is making it clear that it will not tolerate this dangerous illegal trade. This bill was referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee for consideration earlier this year. I acknowledge the departmental staff and the stakeholders who contributed to the process. After hearing from witnesses and reviewing written submissions, the committee made a single recommendation: that the bill be passed.

We have seen how quickly this illegal trade has expanded. Across Queensland, retailers have been caught selling chop-chop and illicit vapes—many of them high in nicotine and targeted towards young people. This is not a victimless crime; it undermines legitimate businesses, exposes children to addictive substances and weakens the progress Australia has made in public health over the past few decades. Many of these dodgy products are imported through supply chains that have links to broader criminal activity. Their profits have been funding organised crime at the expense of the health of Queenslanders so we are ensuring those operations can be investigated and dismantled more effectively. As an example, under Labor's laws the closure order provisions allowed a shutdown period of only three days without a court order, effectively giving illegal traders just a long weekend off. We are strengthening these closure order powers to allow Queensland Health to shut illegal stores for three months without requiring a court order and up to 12 months once a court order has been obtained.

We are also directly addressing the role that commercial landlords can play in the black market, giving them clear powers to evict dodgy tenants when premises are subject to a closure order. While many landlords act responsibly, there are always some who knowingly profit from illicit trade and enable these operations to continue. These dishonest landlords will now be subject to new criminal and civil penalties that hold them to account. The Crisafulli government is sending a clear message with these changes that ignorance is not a defence when it comes to organised crime.

The concept of compromised goods being introduced with this bill can include legal smoking products and related components when they are found where illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine products are seized. Compromised goods form part of and help facilitate those illegal operations by masking their real intention at the shopfront and concealing the illegal trade behind the counter. By seizing these as well, it provides yet another financial consequence for those seeking to break the law. Alongside this, loopholes used by retailers to avoid liability by hiding behind complicated corporate structures are being closed. Under these amendments, a director is taken to have committed the offence unless they can demonstrate that they were unaware of the conduct or could not reasonably have known about or taken steps to prevent it. This will streamline enforcement against dodgy operators who think they can avoid personal liability by operating as a company.

This bill is backing local shop owners who do the right thing. They have watched as illegal sellers undercut them with unregulated products, often sold cheaply and without age checks. There have been reports of vaping liquids contaminated with dangerous synthetic opioids and antifreeze, putting the health of consumers massively at risk. We are taking strong action towards the sale of illegal products and in doing so are incentivising traders to follow the law and only sell regulated products.

Debate, on motion of Mr Field, adjourned.

MOTION

Net Zero



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.31 pm): I move—

That this House expresses its support for net zero emissions by 2050.

I will start by saying it very clearly for the benefit of those opposite: I and all of my team support net zero emissions by 2050. This motion provides the opportunity for all MPs to signal that the net zero emissions target retains bipartisan support in Queensland. I have always been passionate about Queensland's environment. It is what we are famous for: our beaches, rainforests, animals and, of course, the Great Barrier Reef. It is these natural wonders that we have a duty to protect and maintain.

We cannot do that without being real about the very clear risks that come with sitting on our hands and doing nothing.

Labor will always listen to the experts because we are serious about taking climate action. It is why we legislated emissions reduction targets and had a plan to reach them—net zero by 2050. It is federally agreed, even globally agreed: a global treaty signed by former prime minister Scott Morrison. Being clear about that target was driving investment into Queensland: into wind, solar and battery technologies, critical minerals, processing and refinement, all of which rely on clean energy and supply chains to meet international market demands—technologies those opposite are ideologically opposed to.

We have seen federal LNP members from here in Queensland tearing their party apart to oppose the net zero target—at least they are honest about their views—like Senator Matt Canavan and members of parliament Michelle Landry and Colin Boyce. This Premier says he supports net zero because he wants to look normal. His backbench is not united though. The member for Mirani celebrated when the LNP state convention overwhelmingly voted to ditch net zero. I table the member's Facebook post.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 22 August, from the Facebook page of the member for Mirani, Mr Glen Kelly MP, in relation to net zero.

I trust he will post on Facebook when he votes to support net zero tonight. The federal LNP's ideological decision to cut net zero will ultimately take our state and country backwards and put Queensland directly in the firing line for even more floods, cyclones and fires. But at least they have the guts to say it.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask you to withdraw that.

Mr MILES: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I withdraw. This motion is an opportunity for this LNP government to distance themselves from their federal colleagues and their state convention—a chance to look normal, a chance to say the words 'we support net zero', because supporting net zero means supporting Queensland jobs. It is about driving investment into the Queensland economy. It is about protecting the Great Barrier Reef, which is just months away from yet another mass bleaching event which is a major risk to its World Heritage status and to the \$9 billion that it contributes to the economy annually, not to mention the 77,000 Queensland jobs.

It is not hard to understand: we must deliver cleaner, cheaper energy to create jobs and drive growth. We must reduce emissions to give our kids and their kids a future they can be proud of. To ignore that fact is to turn your back on every young person who has grown up hearing that every summer will be the hottest on record. It is not good enough for the Premier to be ruled by the far right ideology of the LNP at the expense of our future or to sit on the fence by saying their Energy Roadmap emphasises and expands on commitments made during the election.

In a question on notice about the government's commitment to net zero the Treasurer could not bring himself to use the words once. So, Treasurer, be very clear: do you or do you not support net zero? Does the member for Mirani support net zero, or the members for Callide, Gregory, Mackay or Maryborough? Now is their chance, with this motion, to show their support.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Toowoomba South, I remind of those members who are on warnings: the members for Logan, McConnel and Miller. The warnings still stand.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (5.35 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'1. supports the Queensland government's Energy Roadmap.'

This is another example of the Leader of the Opposition bringing Canberra's debate into this House. It is like he has been spending too much time at the Australia Institute and he is just going to bring their talking points in here. Instead of wasting time, the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition should pay attention—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition was heard in silence.

Mr JANETZKI: Those opposite should pay attention. We committed to net zero by 2050 before the election and we keep our commitments. The Energy Roadmap says it. The Energy Roadmap shows it. We keep our commitments.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One person has the call—just one.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier!

Mr JANETZKI: Mr Speaker, those opposite are wasting our time. From here on in, for the rest of this debate, and we have an hour to go, it is, in fact, a test of the opposition because they have some choices to make. I want those opposite to confirm whether they still believe in the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and the pumped hydro projects at Borumba and Pioneer Burdekin. That is their first test tonight. The pumped hydro project at Pioneer Burdekin went from \$7 billion to \$12 billion to \$18 billion to \$36.8 billion. It failed to gain any public or community support in that region. They forecast that the project would have first energy by 2032 and be a vital part of their emissions reduction plan. It was a pipedream. It was a hoax. Their emissions plan was a hoax on that basis alone. Then we have Borumba that went from \$14 billion to \$18 billion and had challenges with community support.

Do those opposite still support those two projects? Pioneer-Burdekin was more than double the size of Snowy Hydro—1.4 gig larger than any pumped hydro system across the world. Do those opposite still support that and the tens of billions of dollars in blowouts that they had already overseen? Not forgetting Snowy Hydro went from \$2 billion to \$20 billion—a magnitude of 10 times that blowout—what lie ahead for Pioneer-Burdekin and Borumba? Do they still support it—that is their choice—or do they support the Queensland Energy Roadmap that contains Powerlink modelling, is Treasury supported and has QTC oversight? Do they support our Energy Roadmap, with \$1,035 less in additional costs than they would have had under their plan? That is the test for them. Will they support the Energy Roadmap or back in their Pioneer-Burdekin plan?

We have been clear about our Energy Roadmap. Our Energy Roadmap improves what we have while we build what we need for the future. That is our plan. That is our Energy Roadmap and we have made it clear. Just the other day the member for Mirani and I visited Stanwell, where 324 Tesla Megapack units were being delivered while the coal generator was running. That is the perfect example of our plan for coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables and storage. We will improve what we have while we build what we need for the future.

What will they decide tonight? What will they support? What choice will they make? It is their test. Do they have the ticker to support our Energy Roadmap—coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into storage and renewables, with \$1,035 less in system costs—or will they back in higher costs, hope projects, pipeline hydrogen plans and a discredited Queensland energy and jobs plan? It is their choice.

(Time expired)



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): Where you do start when it comes to the Treasurer and Minister for Energy? The portfolio was jammed on him. They ripped it from the member for Bonney and had to find someone—anyone—to be the energy minister. Who did they pick? They picked the Treasurer, of all people, to defend a coherent energy policy in Queensland, but we have heard none of that from the Treasurer since he became the energy minister in Queensland.

We have heard some inane and ridiculous interjections from the Premier, who comes in here, sits in that seat and debases the office of Premier by the way he acts, with his puerile and inane interjections, speaking over his entire parliamentary party. He is unable to regulate and control himself in the parliament. No premier in history has behaved the way the Premier has. Tonight he looked over at the opposition and said—

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I do not know how the Premier's character has anything to do with this motion.

Mr SPEAKER: I thank you for your point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Lytton, you are warned. I called for order three times. Member for Woodridge, I am sure you are keen to speak to your motion.

Mr DICK: I am happy to take the own-goal interjection from the member for Scenic Rim because of an interjection that the Premier made in this debate. He said to the Labor opposition, 'You failed spectacularly.' I say to the Premier: here is a chance for you to be normal and support your policy in the House by saying you support net zero emissions. That is the policy of the LNP. He says that we have failed spectacularly. Imagine being the leader of a parliamentary party who has to exhort its members to be normal, which he has done time and time again because they are not normal. They are not normal about energy. We know that. We know there is not one member in the rank and file of the LNP who supports net zero. Why? Because we have seen their argument against net zero writ large in Canberra.

Not only do they oppose net zero as a parliamentary party; they weaponise the issue. In the LNP they weaponise the climate action policy but dare not speak its name. They weaponised it to destroy the leadership of Sussan Ley. That is what they have done. They have weaponised it. Who has led the charge against net zero in Canberra? Every member of the Queensland LNP! They boast about it. The federal member in the Treasurer's own electorate, Garth Hamilton, is revelling in the destruction of net zero in Canberra. When he was interviewed by the ABC, he refused to support the federal opposition leader. He said he would not publicly support Sussan Ley.

Do not look at what they say in this House; look at what they do out in the public, out in the community and in Canberra. Garth Hamilton; Henry Pike; David Littleproud; Matt Canavan; Susan McDonald; Colin Boyce; Ted O'Brien, the great evangelist of nuclear energy who is now destroying net zero; and his right-wing brother by another mother, Llew O'Brien—they are all opposed to net zero. Malcolm Roberts—I am sorry; wrong party but right group on the Senate paper—is opposed to net zero. Aren't they all gnashing their teeth on the other side of the House? Not one of them—not the member for Mirani, not the member for Rockhampton, not the member for Callide—wants to vote for net zero because if they even say the words they will be on bended knee tomorrow: 'Oh, the leader made me do it. He was just trying to make us normal. That is why I had to say it. I had to say it because we wanted to be normal and try to get normal Queenslanders to vote for us.'

We know the truth about the LNP. The Labor Party knows the truth about the LNP because our party is not afraid of saying the words 'net zero emissions'. When we say those words we align ourselves with the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders and Australians who want real action on climate change. What we see from the LNP is a party that is ossified and disconnected from the broad central view of Australians and, in particular, young Australians. This is a party that is abandoning young people in this state. They are abandoning everyone in this state who is aged under 30. The No. 1 issue for young people in Queensland is real action on climate change. The only party that will deliver that for Queensland and for Australia is the Australian Labor Party. We know that and Queenslanders know that because we are not afraid to say what we believe. Tonight we should hear from members opposite about what they believe. They do not believe in net zero and they should speak the truth just for once.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (5.46 pm): If that contribution from the member for Woodridge proves anything it is that he has realised that he ran for the wrong level of government. He wishes he was in the federal parliament. He wishes he was his brother. He is sitting there rattling off all the LNP members of the federal parliament as if he is sitting across the chamber from them and throwing barbs. They are not here, member for Woodridge. They are in Canberra. I say to the member for Woodridge: this is the Queensland parliament.

We know the real reason for this motion before us tonight. This motion is a desperate attempt by the member for Murrumba to show he can still bring some value to his team. Why? As another member who was at the QHA function last night, it was very clear that Blocker was in the house and the member for Gaven was chummying up to Blocker, along with the posse. The Christmas coup is on. There are nine days to go. In his contribution, the member for Woodridge was talking to no-one other than his own colleagues. The audition is on. He realised he missed an opportunity last night. He should have been with Blocker but was not. The member for Gaven got the jump so he had to do an audition here in the chamber today.

This is a demonstration that members on that side are all words and no action. I am proud to support the amendment put forward by the Treasurer and to support the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap. Unlike Labor, when we say we are going to do something on one side of an election then

we do it on the other side of the election too. Members will remember, 'There will be no increased or new taxes.' How many taxes did we end up with under the member for Woodridge? When we say we are going to do something then we do it. Our Energy Roadmap puts ideology aside and common sense first, which is something that Labor could never do.

Under their plan, they failed to maintain Queensland's critical energy assets. Callide went offline for over 1,000 days and energy prices went up three times the national average. Their emissions plan was built on a hoax—a hoax called Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro. As the Treasurer just pointed out, that started at \$7 billion, went to \$12 billion, then went to \$18 billion and ended up at \$36.8 billion.

While I was in Mackay with my cabinet colleagues for community cabinet a couple of weeks ago, I took five deputations. Four of them were from residents of the Pioneer Valley and the Eungella area. They are petrified. They have heard those opposites running around the community of Mackay saying that if they get back into government Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro will be back on the books. Queenslanders get ready: your energy bills will go up under their plan because you will be stumping up \$36.8 billion, not to mention destroying a fantastic environmental corridor that offers so much tourism potential, as the member for Mirani says.

Labor cannot be trusted. Their leader is a failed environment minister, he is a failed health minister, he is a failed Olympic and Paralympic Games minister, he is a failed deputy premier and he is a failed premier. Basically, everything he touched went to custard. He is soon to be a failed opposition leader when the member for Gaven, the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge or maybe even the member for Bundaberg—the stalking horse coming through—challenge him.

The Treasurer's plan—the Energy Roadmap—ensures there is an energy mix that is affordable, reliable and sustainable. That was the commitment we gave to the people of Queensland before the election. It is pragmatic. It is realistic. It improves the energy assets that we have. It builds what we need for the future.

Guess what? It was endorsed by organisations like Windlab which called it a 'measured direction for the state's energy future'. Windlab is a renewable energy operator. Even Kelly Veale said it was 'a realistic energy mix while we work hard for regional communities to deliver renewable energy projects responsibly'. Kelly Veale was endorsing our Energy Roadmap. We also heard from the Queensland Renewable Energy Council that they welcomed the release of the Queensland government's Energy Roadmap, describing it as 'a pragmatic and important milestone in delivering a cleaner, more secure and affordable energy future for the state'. I back our road map.

(Time expired)

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.51 pm): There we have it! The LNP environment minister cannot even bring himself to say net zero in a debate on a motion about supporting net zero. That tells Queenslanders everything they need to know about this government. Queenslanders rightly expect to know where their elected members stand on important issues like net zero. The Premier gave a commitment to Queensland that his government was committed to net zero by 2050. This is a very timely issue given what we have seen with the federal coalition tearing themselves apart over it.

However, the people in the communities of Callide, Mirani or Rockhampton might hear a lot of anti-renewable and anti-net-zero talk from their MPs when they are at home. Down here in Brisbane they lose their voice. Take the member for Callide who likes to run the usual lazy, discredited anti-renewable lines. The member for Rockhampton does not support state-of-the-art battery facilities. Then of course there is 'Mr Net Zero' himself, the member for Mirani. If someone so much as whispers renewable energy anywhere between Rockhampton and Mackay the member for Mirani will be there as quick as a flash to talk down jobs and investment. He was in such a muck lather of excitement when the Queensland LNP voted to ditch net zero at their conference in August that he jumped onto social media to post about it. He posted—

#breaking—the QLD LNP State Convention just overwhelming voted to DITCH Net Zero.

That was followed by a 'clap' emoji. I will table that post.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 22 August, from the Facebook page of the member for Mirani, Mr Glen Kelly MP, in relation to net zero.

It is not just him. The member for Oodgeroo, in an opinion piece that ran in a national newspaper in 2023 titled 'The high cost of climate alarmists', stated—

The trade-offs required to achieve Australia's plan to reach net zero are substantial. They could only be accepted by a government so captured by the narrative of imminent crisis that it believes such an extreme response cannot be avoided.

That did not date very well for the member for Oodgeroo because now she is part of a government that has a net zero by 2050 target.

It is clear that there are anti-net-zero ideologues in the LNP. Net zero by 2050 is their government's target. That is why the anti-renewable and anti-net-zero MPs are silent when they are here in Brisbane. We have a Minister for Youth who is on the record as saying—

Around 92 per cent of the world's GDP is covered by commitments to net zero ... Queensland is in a fierce competition locally and internationally to secure as much of that investment as we can.

The anti-net-zero ideologues are silent. The energy minister was on the record as recently as July saying—

We are committed to net zero by 2050. That is our commitment. This is where the energy road map plays an important first step in that.

A government member interjected.

Mr McCALLUM: Wait for it; it is coming. Some caucus colleagues will not stand up to the energy minister and say that they do not support net zero. As the LNP progresses their energy plan, which includes more renewables and moving towards net zero, including through this parliament, it is the members for Mirani, Callide and Oodgeroo who will vote for it.

Finally, there is the Premier who has said on the public record—

Our primary target, the biggest focus, is net zero by 2050.

He feverishly papers over the enormous divisions within his own government, aided by weak MPs who will not stand up for what they really believe in.

The people of Central Queensland, the Redlands and the Greater Whitsunday region deserve members who actually stand up and deliver for them. At the moment they have members of parliament who will not even stand up for themselves. The time for hiding and the time for silence has come to an end. It is time to either vote in support of their own net zero by 2050 target or grow a spine and vote against it if that is what they truly believe.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.56 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Treasurer. I am very pleased to speak in support of the Crisafulli LNP government's Energy Roadmap. I do not know what road map those opposite are travelling down, but it is actually in the minister's statement. It says in the statement that it will 'ensure longer term sustainability to net zero by 2050'. Read the road map.

There is one word that I can say that those opposite could not say. That is the word 'coal'—coal, coal and more coal. We are not afraid to say it. We are a proud coal state. It is our biggest export. Why can they not say it?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield, I was bringing the House to order.

Ms BATES: In stark contrast to those opposite, our Energy Roadmap is a sensible and pragmatic plan to meet Queensland's energy needs, unlike the undeliverable timeframes, the poorly scoped projects and the tens of billions of dollars in cost blowouts under the former Labor government. We are putting downward pressure on energy prices, restoring respect for taxpayers' funds and improving energy assets while we build what we need for the future. Ultimately, we are focused on delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy in Queensland.

If the opposition wants to talk about renewables, I am very happy to talk about renewables and the way the Crisafulli LNP government is encouraging all kinds of investments in Queensland now that Queensland is open for business. In fact, I have been speaking so much about renewables that I have been given the moniker of 'Renewable Ros' by the fourth estate. They state, 'Ms Bates's travel report mentions "renewable" energy 30 times.' I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Renewable Ros'.

I have met with organisations like Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners, the Octopus Group, Acconia, Gransolar Group, EDP Renewables, X-Elio, Grupo Cobra, EPSA, Iberdrola, RWE Renewables, HD Renewable Energy, Taiwan solar photovoltaic industry sustainable development association, Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security, Marubeni, Eneos, Yanmar Power

Technology, Posco International, Korea Zinc, Samsung C&T, Renewable Energy Partners, QUT, Idemitsu, Mitsubishi Corporation, Rio Tinto, the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council and the Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners.

I will keep talking to all stakeholders who are interested in investing in Queensland, including major banks, major superannuation funds and all who are excited about the new opportunities to invest in Queensland now that there is a level playing field for renewables and mines under the Crisafulli LNP government.

Let me be clear: we have seen what changes happen to the energy sector when those opposite are in charge. Who could forget Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, which blew out from \$7 billion to \$12 billion to \$18 billion to \$36.8 billion? Then we had Labor's Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, which blew out to \$18 billion, despite an independent report finding that there was less than one per cent chance of power being provided by the 2030 date Labor promised. Ultimately, Queensland households would have paid an additional \$1,035 a year under Labor's so-called plan.

In contrast, the Crisafulli LNP government's Energy Roadmap reduces energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion, meaning taxpayers will not need to pay Labor's \$1,035-a-year bill. When those opposite were not generating pie-in-the-sky media headlines, they were wasting hard-earned taxpayer funds. A decade of decline under those opposite saw \$38 million of taxpayers' money wasted to cover up the causes of the May 2021 Callide C4 incident and keep the Brady report a secret, and that is without even mentioning that it took Labor over three years to actually release the Brady report.

A government member: It went kaboom!

Ms BATES: It did go kaboom—I will take that interjection. The Crisafulli LNP government has been open and transparent with Queenslanders, ensuring no taxpayers' money is being wasted on keeping reports secret and implementing an Electricity Maintenance Guarantee for our state owned generators, underpinning our investment of \$1.6 billion over the next five years to 2029-30.

We saw the path that Labor put us on: unfunded critical services in every portfolio, public servants without ongoing job security, infrastructure project blowouts across the state, and no plan to deliver for Queensland. Those opposite deliberately hid budget black holes and blowouts from Queenslanders. Instead of worrying about a motion in this House to shore up his standing in the Labor Party party room, the Leader of the Opposition should have actually read the Crisafulli LNP government's road map.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.02 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the minister for milk and junkets. Just like someone with bad back pain, the LNP is paralysed by the words 'net zero'. They do not want to use the words 'net zero'. The Treasurer accidentally mentioned it, but no-one else will on their side. Just like abortion and just like pill testing, the Premier does not want to give it any air time. This was a simply worded motion—half a sentence—and they could not do it. Like on so many issues, the Premier tries to have it both ways. Where on the spectrum of anti net zero does the Premier stand? Federally, he has some great company in Queensland, as we know. The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Ted O'Brien, based here in Queensland, recently changed his mind and voted to scrap net zero. The members from Mirani and Maryborough said no in the chamber here before they heard their first contribution and then pulled their heads in. The Leader of the Nationals federally, of course, voted to scrap net zero. In fact, almost every single federal LNP MP voted against it, including all outside of South-East Queensland.

How can we trust the Premier to bring down emissions and commit to net zero when his colleagues have turned their back on this once bipartisan issue? This is yet another issue on which the Premier wants to take different positions depending on who he talks to. Ask him in Brisbane and he is a suave moderate, commending corporations for taking ESG principles on board and schmoozing his way around the South-East. Ask him in Townsville or Toowoomba and he will bang on about coal. Ask him in his party room and he will probably say something else entirely.

An opposition member: Be normal.

Mr MELLISH: 'Be normal. Be normal.' That is what the Premier says. Speaking of 'be normal', just ask the Deputy Premier and you will get some sort of weird dress-up version impersonation of Trump. This is the Deputy Premier, of course, who scrapped a billion dollar wind farm on the basis of fake submissions written using AI. As the *Courier-Mail* reported on 12 November, Rainforest Reserves Australia's submission in the state government's review cited a report by the Queensland Environment Protection Agency, an organisation that does not exist, and referred to an Oakey wind farm contamination report, despite there being no wind farm anywhere near the town. In fact, Rainforest

Reserves Australia gathered around 380 of the 470 individual submissions opposing the wind farm. In fact, the *Guardian* wrote on this in October, and when the journalist suspected the responses they were getting from this group were written using AI, the astroturf group admitted that, yes, they were. The article in the *Guardian* states—

When the *Guardian* asked RRA if the responses to its questions had been generated using AI, Smith responded “Yes” in an email, and added that it was “the most efficient way to review everything properly ...

Mr Bleijie: I don't read the *Guardian*.

Mr MELLISH: I can go back to the *Courier-Mail* article if the Deputy Premier prefers.

So we have AI submissions and AI responses to a journalist and what looks clearly like an AI response to the journalist calling you out on the use of AI written by AI. I suppose at least the dodgy group was using some intelligence, unlike the government. Truly, this must call into question the validity of that rejection from the Deputy Premier. He was either in cahoots with the fake AI group or he was clearly fooled by them. Which is it?

Perhaps even more galling than that is that we have heard that the energy minister did not even know about the decision to scrap Moonlight Range until he read about it in the paper. His own team does not support his Energy Roadmap. In his contribution before the Treasurer listed the people who supported his road map. He said Treasury support his road map. Well done, Treasurer, on getting your own department to not oppose your plan that you have just released. That is an astonishingly low bar.

I know that the Deputy Premier has been moonlighting as the transport minister—scrapping rail to Maroochydore, killing light rail, generally freelancing the portfolio—but now we see the Deputy Premier also riding roughshod over his own Treasurer. Not only does this show how weak the Treasurer is; it shows how weak the Premier is. We know that the Treasurer is the Premier's counterbalance to the Deputy Premier's influence on his government, but, sadly, the Premier will not stand up for him. We know that the Premier hates it when the deputy gets a bigger cheer in question time. We know it grinds his ego, and we also know that the Premier is powerless to protect his Treasurer when all of the big calls on energy, all of the board appointments in his portfolio and all of the staffing in his GOCs are being run by the Deputy Premier. What a weak Premier and what a weak Treasurer.

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

Mr MELLISH: Sure. I am happy to talk more about the climate deniers over on that side.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Withdraw. I asked you to withdraw that comment about the Premier.

Mr MELLISH: I am sorry, Mr Speaker; I withdraw.

Just do not ask the energy minister. We know that he is not really in charge of his portfolio. Adding to the climate deniers over there, Lawrence Springborg, the immediate past president of the LNP, said while he was in opposition that climate change was caused by volcanos in the oceans; David Littleproud demanded that all carbon taxes and restrictions should be removed; and the member for Glass House said that he believes the climate is changing but he is still to be convinced of the degree to which we are influencing. When asked recently, he said that he stands by those comments. This government is a joke when it comes to net zero.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before you resume your seat, member for Aspley, I would also ask you to withdraw comments you made about the member for Mudgeeraba at the beginning of your contribution.

Mr MELLISH: Did the member take offence?

Mr SPEAKER: No, you made a comment that was unparliamentary to the member for Mudgeeraba.

Mr MELLISH: I withdraw.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (6.07 pm): It is an enormous pleasure to follow that former minister, who was the worst transport minister this House has ever seen. That is saying something, given that we have the former minister sitting right there. I think I have seen and heard it all in this House—a pitch for the Deputy Premier of the state, a member of the Liberal National Party, from a Labor member. He is so confused he cannot even find anyone on his side to vote for, he decides to take a pitch for JB over here. Seriously! They are that devoid of talent in the Labor Party. We saw Bundamba give it a red-hot go. Bundamba—the guy from Ipswich, or is it Melbourne? The guy from Ipswich, who refuses to understand that his community is based on coal—

Mr SPEAKER: Use correct titles, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am sorry; the member for Bundamba. What did I call him? Ipswich? No, I am talking about Ipswich. The member for Bundamba's constituency includes Ipswich, a town built on coal.

A government member: Coalminer's daughter.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Coalminer's daughter, exactly. Anyhow, we did not hear about coal at all, but—

Ms Mullen: You really don't understand Ipswich anymore.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. I was just told by the member for Jordan that I do not understand Ipswich, a town that I went to school in for five years, and I was criticised by the former member for Inala for going to the supposed 'posh school'. Yes, I went from a little one-teacher school—Guluguba State School—with 28 kids to Ipswich Girls Grammar and I am proud of it. My aunt and uncle still live there. All of my cousins still live in Ipswich.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I did take her interjection. I am very proud of the coal town that is Ipswich and of the Energy Roadmap that the honourable the Treasurer has put forward. It just so happens I have a copy of the Energy Roadmap, delivering for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Do not use it as a prop.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, I will not. It states—

Improving our energy assets while building what we need for the future.

I rise to proudly support this document not only for Ipswich but also for Kingaroy, for Yarraman, for Tarong, for Wondai, for Murgon, for Maidenwell—in fact, for the whole electorate. Those opposite have no understanding of rural and regional Queensland, and we have seen that time and again. Page 17 of the honourable Treasurer's Energy Roadmap, delivering for Queensland, states—

Coal—

and the member for Mudgeeraba is very proud to say 'coal'—

supplies over 60 per cent of Queensland's electricity consumption needs.

In this Energy Roadmap we also talk about gas. I note that there has been much stakeholder feedback about the importance of gas in this industry as well. I think it was Australian Energy Producers which stated that the road map recognises—

... the critical role of natural gas in delivering reliable and affordable energy for Queensland homes and businesses.

I also like this stakeholder feedback about the Energy Roadmap. Tony Wood from the Grattan Institute said—

Mr Janetzki: What did Tony say?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. Tony Wood said that the road map was 'about pragmatism, not ideology'. We know that those over there run the show on ideology. It is calm. It is considered. It is methodical. It is saving towns like Kingaroy, regions like the South Burnett and the mighty Tarong Power Station. In the member for Callide's electorate as well—

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the Labor member who wants to sell it. No. Who sold the assets? Labor sold the assets. Come in spinner! In actual fact, it is in the Energy Roadmap that we will keep our assets in our hands, unlike Labor who sold all of our assets.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.12 pm): It is a pleasure to follow another LNP member in the House who did not mention net zero once in a motion on net zero. Queenslanders rightfully expect and deserve leadership, certainty and a plan for our shared future. They expect the political leadership to understand the economic direction of our state and nation. They expect the government to be prepared to act to secure our long-term prosperity. Instead, we are seeing a federal coalition that has walked away from Australia's net zero commitment and a state government that is pretending not to.

The federal LNP have torn up years of bipartisan agreements and turned their backs on global science, global markets and global expectations. It is a complete retreat from responsibility at the very

moment when every major economy is accelerating with renewable forms of energy. This is not a minor tweak or shift in climate policy. The ideological opposition to net zero has consequences for investment, for certainty, for regional jobs and for our national credibility.

We know the Queensland LNP government are no different. David Crisafulli and the LNP would love Queenslanders to believe that they are free from the turmoil of festering internal politics and of competing ideologies and beliefs on net zero, but we know the truth. We in the Labor opposition want to see the track changes version of the energy plan—the one that did include actual firm closure dates for coal generators, the one that now has the fingerprints of the mining minister on it because their cabinet is completely divided on Queensland's energy future.

We know that their rank-and-file members are desperate to see the Queensland LNP abandon net zero. We know that there are those who sit opposite who still even doubt the science. The member for Moggill has previously implied that anthropogenic climate change was still in scientific dispute. The LNP's former member for Callide called renewable energy a fantasy. The member for Maryborough has confirmed for us tonight that he does not support it. At least he is honest. The most baffling in my books is the Minister for the Environment, who has previously told this House that he stands by his 2012 statement that he is unconvinced of a human role in climate.

While some may have tried to walk their statements back since, it is now the Labor opposition who are wholly unconvinced about their statements. We know that those opposite say one thing but they mean something totally different. We know that those opposite said anything that they thought they needed to say to get elected, but they did not mean it. Those opposite will say anything to stay in government, but they actually believe something totally different. This LNP can try all they like to distance themselves from their federal counterparts, but we do not believe a word out of their mouths, and neither should Queenslanders.

If a political movement denies the science, it cannot build the solution. If it rejects global reality, it cannot deliver investor certainty. If it surrenders to climate denial, it cannot be trusted to protect and create jobs. That is the plan that we had when in government, and now we see a plan for a plan that will never be delivered anyway.

The LNP cannot claim to support a clean energy future while scrapping Queensland's renewable energy targets and marching behind the federal coalition that has abandoned net zero altogether. The Labor opposition moved this motion because we are so interested to see if those opposite can even utter the words 'net zero', and we have heard none of them speak up. The truth is that the only difference between the Queensland LNP and the coalition is that at least the coalition are being honest with Queenslanders that they absolutely do not support net zero. We have seen no practical action from those opposite to get there. They are selling Queenslanders an absolute lie.

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language, please.

Ms LINARD: I withdraw.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.17 pm): This is the worst opposition in the history of oppositions. They cannot even get their own wedge right. The member for Murrumba stood up and said, 'We know that they don't support net zero,' and then the member for Bundamba got up and said, 'We know that their plan says they're committed to net zero by 2050.' They cannot even get their own wedge right.

For the benefit of this chamber, let me turn to page 5 of the Energy Roadmap. I will read out the whole paragraph. It says—

The Queensland Energy Roadmap 2025 is a fresh start for Queensland. It delivers what Queenslanders need with a pragmatic focus on the affordability and reliability of our State's energy system to enhance quality of life—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, you still have that book open and are using it as a prop.

Mrs GERBER: I am reading from the book, Mr Speaker. It continues—

... fuel economic growth and—

wait for it—

ensure longer-term sustainability to net zero by 2050.

It is in the road map, yet here they are wasting time with a motion on what is already in our road map. Our support for net zero is already in the road map. Those opposite have a test: will they support the Energy Roadmap? Will they support affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queensland

households? Our five-year Energy Roadmap sets out a clear and credible path to achieve this for Queenslanders.

What Queenslanders truly need is a road map that is informed by infrastructure costs and delivery timeframes, and that is what our road map does. Access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy is what underpins the stability and security of households and robust industries that drive our state's economy. Its importance cannot be underestimated.

We need more supply to meet future demand and put downward pressure on power prices because for the last 10 years Queenslanders have felt the pain of Labor's failed energy policies. Unlike those opposite, our plan will deliver \$26 billion in reduced energy system costs. This is a \$26 billion saving for our state. It is about respecting taxpayers' money. It means that our communities will pay less. Labor's failed energy plan would have seen Queenslanders pay \$1,035 more on their power bills. Under our Energy Roadmap, Queenslanders will see reduced power costs and they are going to see that through their household energy bills.

In my electorate I have met with families and spoken to them about Labor's failed energy plan including Labor's unhinged Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax, which blew out from \$7 billion to \$12 billion to \$18 billion and then to \$36.8 billion. Let's not forget the Borumba pumped hydro project, which blew out to \$18 billion. What is more, an independent report found there was less than a one per cent chance of power being provided by the 2030 date that Labor promised.

Elected representatives stand in this House and debate legislation. I want to put on the record my support for an Energy Roadmap that means something to Queenslanders, that is going to deliver sustainable, affordable and reliable energy—an Energy Roadmap that Tony Wood said was pragmatic, not ideological. This is in direct contrast to Labor's energy plan, which failed to put Queenslanders first, was unrealistic, was captured by ideology and was fundamentally dishonest.

After a decade of decline under those opposite, Queenslanders finally have an Energy Roadmap they can rely on because we are a government that cares about Queenslanders. We care about whether our communities can afford to turn the lights on. We know that Queenslanders have some of the highest quality wind and solar resources in the nation. Our road map plans for those renewables. It plans for renewables across our state to support the growth in demand.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member's contribution to this debate is significantly straying into matters that conflict with the rule of anticipation.

Mr SPEAKER: Your point of order is on anticipation?

Mr de BRENNI: Yes. She is describing matters of infrastructure.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I would ask you not to anticipate any legislation that is before the House.

Mrs GERBER: I am very grateful for your guidance, Mr Speaker. The Queensland Energy Roadmap is a fresh start for Queensland and delivers what Queenslanders need. It is a pragmatic focus on affordable, reliable and sustainable energy that Queensland families need in order to see lower power bills in this state.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (6.22 pm): Well, the cat is out of the bag. They all know it now. Those on the back bench—the members for Mirani, Callide and the rest—all now know, thanks to a Gold Coast located MP, that the road map has net zero emissions by 2050. I bet they had no idea it was in the document. The interesting thing in this debate is that you can see the body language from those in the regions. They are looking around: 'Is it in the road map? Is it really?' Well, yes, because they just read it out and told you. When you come into this House and we debate the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, you now know that you are going to be voting for the motion that we moved in this House tonight. They will be actually voting for net zero by 2050.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for McConnel is intentionally being provocative of members and not putting her comments through the chair. She is intentionally trying—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs GERBER: She should put her comments through the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on one second. There is no point of order on that matter, but you will address your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: Of course. Yes, Mr Speaker. I am happy to address my comments through the chair. When it comes to faux pas you cannot go past the member for Currumbin, but the best one was the member for Mudgeeraba. As soon as that minister got up to speak they fled like flies. We saw the member for Bonney go back to his seat. We saw the member for Kawana get up and walk around.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are warned.

Ms GRACE: I think I even saw the Treasurer go for a bit of a wander around the House. The major contribution we got from the member for Mudgeeraba was 'coalminer's daughter'. That was the best contribution.

I had the absolute pleasure today to go to the graduation ceremony for the inaugural students of Fortitude Valley State Secondary College. They are normal students. When you go and speak to students—normal students with normal parents—they all talk about the reality of climate change. They all accept that we cannot continue the way we are. People in my electorate, and in many other electorates, vote with their feet, because the biggest renewable energy farm that we have in this state is the solar panels on everybody's houses. Why are they putting them in? They believe in the science of climate change denied by those opposite. They believe that they have to transition. They also believe that in the long run it saves money—unlike an Energy Roadmap that the Treasurer has brought before this place which is all about increasing prices because we cannot continue to flog our coal-fired power stations without the cost of maintaining them. Ask any worker in one of those power stations who maintains those plants about the cost of doing business. The costs are going to increase.

It is not just direct costs and their effect on prices. If we do not accept the science of climate change, if we do not move towards the vision of global emissions being reduced by 2050 to net zero—I will say it again: net zero—what is the cost to the planet? What is the cost to us as humans? We see what is happening around Queensland. We are getting more wild weather more often. That is climate change. They are paying the price. Members opposite come into this House and say, 'We stand up for regional Queensland,' yet commit to having more and more climate induced weather in those parts. Queensland has a tropical climate. We cannot continue the way we are.

Those opposite also come in here and say we are wasting time—that we are talking about a federal issue. This is an issue for everyone. The Great Barrier Reef is affected by this. You do not get to net zero by cancelling billion dollar wind farms on bogus AI generated fake news and then double down and say, 'Guess what? I'd even do it again.' That is the government of the day being absolutely deleterious. We need to protect Queenslanders from climate change. On this side of the House, we know where we stand. We are united; they are divided. We support net zero by 2050!

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.29 pm): The honourable member for McConnel wants to talk about unity. You cannot get more unified than the energy road map that has been produced. There was a sellout crowd when the Treasurer announced it. Not as many as for my Olympic and Paralympic update, but nearly.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, we are not using that as a prop.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What concerns me, and would confuse honourable members in the chamber today, is that half of the speakers who spoke for the Labor Party endorsed and supported recommendations in the energy road map and the other half opposed it. It begs the question how they are going to vote on the amended motion because half of them endorse it. In fact, the member for Bundamba was quoting the energy road map and saying what was in the energy road map, as in his support for particular provisions of the energy road map. So is he going to vote for it? If he votes against the amended motion tonight then they are effectively voting against net zero. If they vote against the energy road map they are voting against what they claim is their moral high ground today.

Now, here is another thing. A few of the Labor members say that we struggle to utter the words 'net zero'. It rolls off my tongue quite easily because there is net zero chance the member for Murrumba is leading the Labor Party to the 2028 election and there is net zero chance the member for Woodridge is going to take over.

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

Mr SPEAKER: While these can be a bit broad ranging, I will bring you back to the motion, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. They do not want to talk about net zero. I am offering an alternative to the debate tonight and it goes to leadership, because leadership is important in this space. That is why we have the energy road map. I believe that our Premier and our energy minister have provided the leadership that Queenslanders need. In contrast, I do not believe the opposition is providing the leadership Queenslanders need. They come in here and try these little wedge motions, which is fine, but join us and support the energy road map. There is so much hot air coming out of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's mouth that he could run a power station himself just on his five-minute speech tonight.

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

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Interestingly, in the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's speech tonight he talked about puerile debate and personal attacks and then proceeded to conduct five minutes of personal attacks on the Liberal National Party.

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

Mr SPEAKER: He has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I would say that I agree with union commentary years ago that the member for Woodridge is nothing more than a gormless show pony. Chomp on that!

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw. I might be a show pony, but I am not gormless.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I will ask you to speak to the motion so we can go to dinner.

Mr BLEIJIE: Queenslanders need leadership, and that is what the Crisafulli government has given through our energy road map. The other point is that, if the Labor Party vote against the amended motion tonight, they are voting against coal jobs in regional Queensland. They are voting against the mining and resource sector in regional Queensland like they attacked the 500 new jobs at Carmichael mine this government secured and like they attacked them yesterday.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: So if you were elected as premier you would sack the 500 coalminers at the Carmichael mine? Is that what they are saying, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Deputy Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: Is the Leader of Opposition saying that if he becomes premier in 2028 he will stop the Carmichael deal?

Mr SPEAKER: We have one minute to go.

Mr BLEIJIE: Someone give me an extension of time.

Mr SPEAKER: No. You have the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition attacked the Carmichael mine and the 500 additional jobs. The other thing we did was put regional and rural Queensland first with our new planning laws for renewable energy in this sector. Now they are equal: if you want to build a mine, if you want a windfarm or if you want a solar farm, it is equal. There are equal planning laws that apply to the agriculture sector, the resources sector and the renewable energy sector, giving local communities in regional and rural Queensland a voice. Our members do speak up. They are the voice of regional and rural Queensland, something the Labor Party neglected. There were 10 years of decline under the Labor Party not giving regional and rural Queensland a voice. I never thought I would see the day a Labor opposition leader in Queensland attacked coalmining jobs. They are not the Labor Party of the past. They are not the Labor Party of the resource sector. They are a left wing, fruit job, nut case—

(Time expired)

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those last words may not have been parliamentary either.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It was a collective fruit job, nut case; it was not individually pointed at anyone. I did it for all the Labor Party—all nut cases!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier, I will ask you to withdraw that. It is the tone of what is said; it is not exactly what was said.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

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

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 30—Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 51:

LNP, 51—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, Frecklington, Gerber, Head, Hutton, Hunt, B. James, T. James, Janetzki, G. Kelly, Kempton, Kirkland, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, McDonald, Mickelberg, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stoker, Watts, Vorster, Young.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 30—Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, O'Shea, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House

1. supports the Queensland government's Energy Roadmap.

Sitting suspended from 6.43 pm to 7.45 pm.

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

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3713, on motion of Mr Nicholls—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr FIELD (Capalaba—LNP) (7.45 pm), continuing: My own electorate of Capalaba is not immune to the antisocial behaviour that surrounds the trade of illicit tobacco products. Violent criminal activity is unacceptable in our communities, and this government is committed to stamping it out. I have also heard from local parents who are worried about the rapid rise in youth vaping and teachers who are

seeing the same thing in their schools. What starts as a curiosity can quickly become addictive. The bright packaging and sweet flavours of vapes are designed to entice children, not adults.

Research has shown that the widespread use of vapes has caused an uptick in youth smoking rates across Australia, more than doubling from the predicted rate. Unfortunately, the availability of vapes, particularly among young people, is reversing decades of work in tobacco control and endangering public health. This bill will protect public health, level the playing field for law-abiding retailers and also deliver a direct hit to the profit margins of illegal traders. We are acting decisively to halt this growing threat to the safety of kids across the state, and that is something I will always be proud to stand behind. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.46 pm): I rise to make my brief contribution on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill will expand closure periods for businesses caught selling illegal tobacco and vapes, with interim closure orders expanding from 72 hours to three months and long-term closure orders from six months to 12 months. Queensland Health will also be able to seize legal products, including nitrous oxide cartridges, alongside any illegal products. This bill also establishes a means for lessors to terminate a lease agreement in the wake of a closure order and to be held responsible for permitting, either knowingly or recklessly, the use of their premises for the supply or possession of illicit tobacco or illicit nicotine products.

These changes represent real and substantial consequences that cannot simply be incorporated into the cost of doing business. I hope that they act both as a general deterrent and as a means of ending repeat offending. I do want to put on the record my fears that, once again, the LNP's sledgehammer approach—following in the footsteps of the longstanding and consistently failed war on drugs and prohibition era policies—will not work.

Of course, like everyone else here, I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of black market tobacco and vapes in recent years. The impacts can be felt throughout our communities—with increased crime associated with the supply of illegal products, adverse impacts on local businesses, less tax revenue from legal sales, increasing numbers of children reporting regular use of vapes and all of the associated flow-on effects to our health systems. However, I myself and many experts in the area of harm reduction have concerns about the pattern of increasing regulation, restriction and reliance on law enforcement in relation to tobacco and vapes.

This bill will significantly expand the powers available to Queensland Health and its enforcement officers. Specifically, officers will be able to enter wholesale premises without a warrant and without consent, they will be able to conduct covert operations and they will be empowered to require information from any person for the purpose of monitoring and enforcement actions. These are significant powers, and in that respect I want to draw specific attention to the submission of the Crime and Corruption Commission, which raised concerns about the oversight of those powers and the potential for misuse.

There is absolutely no doubt that the government has a role to play in curtailing the use of tobacco and vapes and in addressing the harms that these products cause, but we have seen the sledgehammer approach time and again and I cannot be convinced that it will be effective, and certainly not without adequate investment in healthcare centred interventions and harm reduction. In their submission on the bill, the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies raised the difficulties their member services have in providing access to nicotine replacement therapies, which are too expensive both for service providers and for their clients individually. In their view, increasing access to these therapies would be far more effective at curtailing use.

Lung Foundation Australia also calls for all smoking cessation products to be made freely available. Recent analysis of Australia's approach to nicotine policy in the *Harm Reduction Journal* drew attention to the way in which hardline policies have incentivised the growth in black market sales by limiting legal supply and making products prohibitively expensive for consumers. In turn, those consumers who are vilified in government messaging struggle to access affordable cessation services and products or lower risk nicotine products.

In some respects it is a perfect storm of overregulation both driving the black market and causing difficulty in accessing the services that this health-based approach, a sensible evidence-based approach, tells us will be more effective. The government can keep trying to plug the holes, but until our focus and resources are funnelled into evidence-based demand and harm reduction strategies, black markets will continue to find a foothold. I would love to say that I thought this bill was going to

address the problem in a substantial and comprehensive way, but it is really difficult, on the evidence we have, to be convinced of that.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (7.51 pm): I am pleased to rise on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is something that has been a great concern for me for a long period. I realise from my previous occupation as a police officer that once there is money attached to an item and there are profits, it is not long before criminal gangs are associated with it in one form or another, and that has happened with the illicit tobacco market. We hear about fire bombings and places being set on fire. That is the work of criminal gangs to make sure that the people who are selling these products are buying it from their supply, they are manipulating that supply or they are getting money from those people.

Make no mistake, this is a very important aspect of crime that is happening right across Queensland. I feel for those who are addicted to cigarettes and who go and buy cheap \$10 cigarettes because they think it is a good thing. You have that conversation in the community and they do not want governments to be a part of the restriction of that. However, what is happening is these gangs are buying cigarette packets for \$1. They are landing them in Australia for \$1 and then the gangs are selling them for a minimum of \$10 or \$15. That is an enormous cash opportunity for them and that is why it is so lucrative. They can afford to be shut down a number of times. That is why I commend the minister for his continual response and the number of changes that have been made to put in place, firstly, penalty infringement notices and now the extra enforcement to see these businesses closed. It is something that I have raised, as you are aware, Mr Deputy Speaker, in the PCCC in the public forum to see what extra efforts are happening regarding organised crime that is involved in this. It is personal for me because some shops in Fernvale in my electorate were burnt and were the subject of this.

Again, I commend the minister for the efforts he has made to give the opportunity to commercial property owners of an out without having to wait for a conviction at court; they are able to take action to see those tenants released from that. We have also put in place long-term closure orders. Those long-term closure orders are up to 12 months now and I really appreciate that. The biggest impact on this is the first one, which is the short-term closure, which is going from 72 hours to three months. Just this week a couple of businesses in my electorate reached out to me and identified another 12 shops that are now selling these products and we have reported that to the necessary authorities.

Once again, I applaud the minister on the efforts he is making to ensure there are consequences for action in this respect. We are doing what we can to support landlords in removing these people and getting those criminal gangs and those who sell these products out of the market so we can let the good businesses out there who sell tobacco products legitimately do business in a normal fashion.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (7.55 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The opposition has expressed its support for this bill. It builds on an important foundation, which is around harm minimisation and evidence-based approaches to reducing smoking. It also takes an approach against illicit product supply and in this case illicit tobacco and vape supply, which is not only supporting criminal enterprise across Queensland and Australia, but is actually undermining the public health strategies which have been put in place over decades in respect of harm minimisation when it comes to smoking and other related products. It is important to highlight that foundation.

Governments for many years—in fact, over decades—have set to put in place harm minimisation to incentivise and divert people away from a terrible addiction, which is tobacco addiction, which causes great harm, great personal and community harm. We have heard some very touching stories from members of parliament in respect of this debate about loved ones they have lost as a result of exposure to the effects of tobacco use. Additionally, this builds on a foundation of steps that governments have taken over those years. It was a Labor government in Queensland that introduced smoke-free areas, smoke-free pubs and clubs which have now been expanded to other areas in the communities: to parks, to public buildings and to schools. It was a Labor government federally—in fact, I acknowledge that you, Mr Deputy Speaker, would have had some touchpoints in respect of plain packaging when it comes to that important reform, a world-leading reform. All of these foundations have led to a reduction in smoking across communities.

With the presence of illicit tobacco and vape retailers—those enterprises that seek to profit from the sale of those illicit products—we see that there is a risk that a lot of that work is being undone, particularly when it comes to young people being exposed to vapes. It is important to make this point as well. There is a legitimate place for vapes as a transition for people to stop smoking, to reduce their reliance on smoking, on tobacco use. When it is used in reverse, it is actually a pathway to causing

harm, a pathway to lifelong impacts on a person's own health. Particularly when it comes to the illicit vapes we see that the chemicals they contain can have, in some instances, immediate and in other instances lifelong impacts on a person's health. The opposition supports this bill because it does take the next step when it comes to responding to the challenge around illicit tobacco and vape sales in Queensland. It is multifaceted because there are, in many instances, criminal enterprises that are seeking to make great profits from participating in the sale of illicit products like illicit tobacco and vapes.

Every community has these retailers operating unlawfully. They are not only competing with lawful retailers but also undermining the great public health messaging and the frameworks that are in place to protect vulnerable members of our community including our young people. There have been numerous contributions around the impact of the illicit sellers on lawful retailers of these products. I acknowledge that there has been significant advocacy by stakeholder groups connected to newsagents, small grocers and other retailers in respect of the impact on their business. It is quite a reasonable point for them to raise, that this unlawful activity undermines their lawful business activities.

One thing that is missing from that conversation is that often the illicit sellers of these illicit products are not complying entirely with the framework around harm minimisation. They are selling these products to children and young people and without warning labels. They are not promoting the public health messaging around tobacco addiction and the impact of smoking on someone's health. They are also not complying with the display requirements. All of these things contribute to the impact on the individual and the community. This bill is important because it takes the next step when it comes to responding to that complex challenge around illicit retailers.

This bill addresses a number of additional measures to strengthen the framework in Queensland. It expands the short- and long-term closure orders, prevents businesses from opening or selling any goods when they are subject to a closure order and expands the powers of enforcement agencies around seizure and forfeit. There is also an impact on lessors. They will have some obligations in respect of supporting this action, in the interests of public health and the interests of individual health, around restricting the opportunity of those who are participating in the illicit market to lease premises that are often close by to lawful retailers. There will obviously be a question mark around how these illicit retailers adapt their model. I suspect that many of them will go out and seek to buy freehold. I suspect many of them may transition to mobile models or to further black market opportunities. Nonetheless, this closes one avenue for those illicit retailers to be conducting illicit activities.

I want to highlight that this goes hand in glove with other actions of other levels of government. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure its actions are directed towards addressing the supply and demand challenges associated with illicit tobacco and illicit vapes. The Australian Federal Police, the Australian Border Force and the Australian Taxation Office have enforcement activities and conduct investigations, but they also need to address the demand side. It would be very useful for the federal government to perhaps commission the Productivity Commission to look at how the current arrangements may, or may not, be disincentivising demand for illicit tobacco and vaping products.

The only other challenge is in respect of storage of the seized products. I know that this is something enforcement agencies turn their minds to: when they seize or forfeit the illicit product, how do they store and then dispose of those products, particularly when it comes to vape products, which have batteries and other aspects that may require additional consideration? This is an important step for the parliament to enhance and expand the approach that has been built over many decades in respect of harm minimisation. It is a challenge in the community. Smoking is bad. Vaping is bad. For criminal enterprises to participate in illicit activities which deliberately and intentionally go against the harm minimisation approach that governments and communities have had for many decades is concerning. I support the bill, and I encourage all members to do so.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (8.05 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill aims to reduce the supply and possession of illicit tobacco and nicotine products. Criminal traders and networks use these operations to fund more nefarious activities. The Crime and Corruption Commission advised the committee—

The link between illicit tobacco and organised crime syndicates in Queensland and Australia is well established, using profits from the illegal trade to bankroll other criminal activities.

Constituents and businesses frequently raise with me their concerns about vaping shops, under-age users, the black market in products and its attraction to criminal activities. Two years ago, a tobacco and vaping shop in Gympie's main street was firebombed. The fire gutted the shop and the nearby chiropractor's office, and a fast-food restaurant was damaged. The problems have not

disappeared. Gympie CBD Action Alliance represents Mary Street traders. Its chairman Tony Goodman wrote to me. He said—

While not all vape retailers engage in illegal practices, the current situation in Mary Street appears to involve illicit nicotine products being sold, drawing a clientele associated with substance misuse. This undermines the safety, wellbeing, and confidence of the wider community.

Lorraine Broadley of Toyworld Gympie and Twiga Books said that the tone of the street had denigrated following the presence of the vape shops. She wrote to me saying—

Foul language, customers and staff being accosted and abused, increased shoplifting and outright vandalism of property is becoming the norm.

Ian Partington from Elders Real Estate wrote—

I have mentioned before about having a vape and illicit tobacco store beside me, they seem to not be deterred in the slightest with the new fines ... opening up exactly 3 days after the last 3 day closures in February and May.

Tamara Perissinotto from another nearby business wrote to me saying—

Our shop Blush Beauty and another building was vandalised by a person wearing a balaclava and using a full-sized sledge hammer. Our staff downstairs went to their vehicles in our car park on Friday afternoon to see eight people doing what was clearly a drug deal and advised me that she was terrified to even approach her car. Between us, Elders and Blush Beauty we have around 15 employees all of whom are becoming frightened to even come to work until others are present.

Gympie Chamber of Commerce supports this bill. The president, Martin Muller, wrote to me saying—

The significant negative impacts on our main street ascetic, aspect, community safety are real and potentially dangerous to these businesses ... these pop ups: which at first fill a vacant building, but like a blow flies to a carcass, society's worst appear, linger, and now effect the livelihood of our small businesses ... As the region who gave us the Slouch Hat we call on the Crisafulli Government to stand strong on illegal trade of any kind and support the town that saved Queensland.

The Crisafulli government has cracked down on rogue traders harder than any other government before or elsewhere in Australia. In April we introduced the nation's highest penalty infringement notices and ramped up enforcement. On-the-spot fines have increased tenfold. In the Wide Bay region, since last November to the end of October 2025 almost seven million cigarettes, 1,193 kilograms of loose tobacco, 44,650 vapes and 31,349 nicotine pouches have been seized.

This bill equips Queensland Health with the powers to dismantle the business models that make illicit tobacco and vaping profitable. It delivers new, stronger financial disincentives, modern investigative tools and strengthened enforcement powers, including several that break new ground in Australia. I support the bill and the minister's amendments to also crack down on nitrous oxide, known as nangs.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (8.10 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli LNP government has done more in the last 12 months to address the illegal supply of illicit tobacco and vapes than the previous Labor government did in 10 years. We know, however, that more needs to be done. Hence this legislation which introduces the strongest penalties and enforcement powers in Australia. This bill will capture a broad spectrum of players involved in facilitating the supply of illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products. These include closure powers, landlord termination powers, criminal offence and civil penalties, controlled purchase operations and also executive officer liability.

The illicit tobacco trade is not just a metropolitan problem. Regional areas, in particular the legal tobacco businesses run by family and small businesses, have been bearing the brunt of this illicit trade under Labor. I have no doubt that organised crime is aiding and abetting this illegal trade. Under the 10 years of Labor decline the vape shops were popping up in every town. Under Labor these stores were operating in broad daylight and even if they were raided, the next day they were back in business fully stocked. They knew that they were untouchable and Labor's fines were no deterrent to them.

Under Labor's soft laws the public health officers could not even issue on-the-spot fines for stores selling vapes. Labor issued on average \$2,000 per week in penalty infringement notices. Contrast that with the Crisafulli LNP government which is issuing \$200,000 in fines every 30 hours—on average \$1.15 million per week. That is \$200,000 per week under Labor and \$200,000 in 30 hours under the LNP government. Labor's penalty infringement notices for the commercial supply of illicit tobacco were just \$3,226 for an individual. The Crisafulli LNP government has increased that tenfold to \$32,000 for an individual. It is a stark contrast to 10 years of Labor decline.

The illicit tobacco and illegal vape shops are having a detrimental impact in my electorate and also neighbouring electorates such as Callide. Sadly, after 10 years of decline and inaction under Labor,

many legitimate licensed tobacco stores owned by family and small business owners have either shut their doors or suffered extensive losses in their businesses. The Cignall in Dalby has now closed and there are other legitimate businesses that have cut staff and are telling me that they are seriously considering closing their shops because they do not know how they will survive. The IGA in Tara has also seen a significant drop in tobacco sales after a vape shop opened in that town.

It is also a problem for the federal government. It is estimated by intelligence organisations that \$4 billion per annum is foregone in illicit tobacco stores evading taxes and duties. That \$4 billion would easily seal a two-lane road from Brisbane to Cairns. I welcome this bill, which is the latest escalation in the Crisafulli government's war on rogue traders peddling dangerous tobacco and vapes to kids and teenagers.

Smoking is one of the major causes of cancer and has proven to cause a dozen different types of cancer. It is also highly addictive and a real challenge for those who want to kick the habit. Sadly, the epidemic of vaping is proving to be a gateway to get kids and teenagers hooked on tobacco. Vapes are very misleadingly positioned. These criminal traders exploit our young people. They sell dangerous vapes that are explicitly marketed with eye-catching graphics, colours and flavours and some just look like a highlighter pen. Vapes are filled with addictive nicotine. They are being sold containing toxic chemicals like antifreeze, volatile compounds that are found in paint and heavy-duty cleaners and even formaldehyde.

Since coming to office the Crisafulli government has cracked down on the rogue traders harder than any other government before 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, 475,000 illicit vapes, 405,000 nicotine pouches and more than \$75 million worth of dangerous goods off the streets. In the Darling Downs region over 1.1 million cigarettes have been seized, 325 kilograms of loose tobacco, 19,738 vapes and 6,214 nicotine pouches. The community can expect to see these numbers increase as this legislation comes into effect. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.15 pm): The real travesty of this problem is that legitimate small business owners who are licensed to operate in this state and across the nation—because this is certainly a national problem—who have set their lives up in an enterprise now, through the excessive rollout of these illicit stores, are now having their livelihoods threatened and taken away from them. As a member of this parliament who supports small and family business to the full extent this is a real travesty and that is why we need to make sure that we address this problem for them.

We could compare it to what Uber did to the taxi industry in the sense that there was a heavily regulated industry in existence and the government allowed another industry to come in and essentially take away what was a regulated industry and in turn destroy many livelihoods. That is exactly what is happening here in Queensland. That is what is happening to the Maeykes who run the Mundubbera Newsagency. I talk to them regularly about this problem, about their lost trade and the challenges a store selling illicit tobacco across the road from them has caused. It is also a problem for the Gayndah Newsagency. Mrs Geissler and her son Darren have certainly felt the consequences of this, as has the Chinchilla Tobacconist run by Helen Patterson who I speak to regularly. In the community of Miles, John Chaplain and his family, his daughter and son-in-law, Blake and Caprice, at the IGA have also felt the consequences. These are some of the many small business owners who have been bearing the brunt of this problem.

The sad reality is that while they have lost trade and it has impacted their livelihoods, it has not been to the benefit of the health of Queenslanders. You might think a tobacconist losing trade, or someone who sells tobacco losing trade, is a good thing but in this instance that money is instead going to enterprises that are not legitimate. Something I heard that was incredibly concerning was that not too long ago someone was pulled up and they had nearly a million dollars in cold hard cash in the back of their car. It was in a garbage bag. When the police started asking questions they did not know where it came from. He said he was doing a job for his boss and then he did not know who his boss was, he just got told to pick it up and take it somewhere else. It was linked to the illicit tobacco trade which shows this is an incredibly lucrative industry likely with organised crime behind it.

The reality is that the federal government has created this problem. They let these products in the country. They reap the rewards of the excise, which is one of the contributors to this overall problem of the creation of a black market, and they fail to resource the states or give us the tools to address the problem or address the problem themselves. It is a crying shame that giving access to cheap cigarettes and vapes is likely increasing nicotine addiction in our communities. This is a great step in the right direction and I thank the Minister for Health, Tim Nicholls, and the Crisafulli government more broadly

for working hard to fix this problem. I know we will not stop until it is fixed. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.19 pm), in reply: I thank members for their contributions to the debate on this bill over the past two days. It has been an encouraging debate and I appreciate the support for the government's bill from all sides of the chamber. It is genuinely pleasing to see bipartisan support for the urgent and decisive action that this bill delivers. It is clear that the parliament is indeed united in its determination to protect Queenslanders from the significant harm caused by illicit tobacco and vapes. This unity matters because it sends a clear message to those who profit from this illegal trade that Queensland's parliament stands together to put public health and community safety first.

These reforms will not only protect Queenslanders; they will also—and I know some people will find this hard—benefit our neighbours in New South Wales, where the illicit market has caused widespread concern. The New South Wales health minister has already copied and pasted key elements of the Crisafulli government's nation-leading approach, rushing through two rounds of legislation after we released our public consultation paper and later our bill. In fact, New South Wales Premier Chris Minns has even publicly acknowledged that, without action, illicit operators would simply cross the border to avoid Queensland's strengthened laws. That is a clear signal of the power of the new laws we are delivering tonight. The message is obvious: the Crisafulli government is leading the nation with a modern, tough and effective enforcement framework and other states are scrambling to keep up. When Queensland sets the standard, others follow because they know our approach is working.

That said, some interesting contributions were made throughout the debate over the past two days. I want to respond to several of the points raised by members. At the very outset, it must be observed that those opposite are engaged in a striking contradiction. On the one hand, they rightly acknowledge the scourge of the illicit tobacco trade and what it represents for Queensland. On the other hand, they take great pride in proclaiming the effectiveness of Labor's reforms. However, it cannot be both. Either the problem is as severe as they admit or their reforms were as successful as they claim. The two positions are irreconcilable and I think we all know where it has landed.

The opposition has suggested that this bill is simply an extension of the framework they introduced in 2023 and 2024. With respect, that is simply not accurate. While the former government eventually got around to legislating some initial controls on vapes and illicit tobacco, those measures were too little and too late. By the time they passed their legislative framework, which they now want to claim credit for, it was already clear that it would not match the scale and trajectory of the problem. The illicit market had evolved far beyond anything the former government bothered to contemplate. The truth is that the reforms introduced by Labor in 2023 and 2024 were never strong enough to disrupt a market that was already sophisticated, well organised and expanding rapidly.

It is worth recalling what those opposite said when they passed the powers in the 2024 bill. The member for Waterford, as the former health minister, called the 72-hour closure orders a 'game changer' that would stop offenders treating fines as a business cost and that 'cuts off their operations completely'. The reality has proven the falsity of that claim. She also praised the Labor government's tough stance. The reality was very different. Offenders treated the 72-hour closure orders as a long weekend off, reopening as soon as time expired. New outlets kept appearing, firebombings continued and legitimate retailers report that the orders deterred no-one. The truth is simple: 72-hour closure orders were unfit for purpose. In his speech yesterday, the member for Miller described the member for Waterford's game-changer closures as nothing more than a 'slap on the wrist'. How things change when you are on the other side of the chamber.

The contrast in enforcement outcomes is stark as well. The member for Miller said that he 'will hold the government to account for delivering on the enforcement'. Frankly, I welcome that. However, it is a shame that the member for Miller did not hold his own government to account on enforcement because in the final two months of the former Labor government, fewer than 40,000 vapes—in fact, 39,903—were seized across the entire state. That was fewer than 40,000 vapes in two whole months across the entire state. By contrast, in March this year, in one single operation, Operation Appaloosa, across just five HHSs more than 76,000 vapes, 19 million cigarettes and 3.6 tonnes of loose tobacco were seized under the Crisafulli LNP government.

When introducing the laws last year, the member for Waterford bragged about issuing 475 penalty infringement notices or on-the-spot fines in the year since they came into effect. That is a far cry from the almost 4,000 penalty infringement notices issued in our first year, including 1,809 notices

for the supply and possession of illicit tobacco and vapes alone. Even during their last seven months in office, after finally putting some resources towards enforcement, Labor issued, on average, about \$200,000 per week in penalty infringement notices. The Crisafulli government is issuing \$200,000 in fines each day, which is an average of \$1.4 million per week.

A government member: Well done, Treasurer.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, you are welcome, Treasurer. I will be coming for some return on that investment. The bill before the House goes far beyond anything the former government ever contemplated. It introduces a suite of novel, groundbreaking reforms that are so effective that, as I said, other jurisdictions, including their Labor colleagues in New South Wales, have already replicated aspects of Queensland's model.

For the first time, Queensland will have a compromised goods framework that removes the lawful stock illicit traders use to disguise their operations. For the first time, Queensland will allow controlled purchase operations for Queensland Health's enforcement officers to confirm illegal supply. For the first time, we are introducing a criminal offence for landlords who knowingly lease to illicit operators and a civil offence for those who deliberately turn a blind eye. For the first time, Queensland will have a clear statutory lease termination power, empowering responsible landlords to act swiftly against offending tenants. This measure is long overdue and one that the Shopping Centre Council of Australia requested from those opposite back in 2024. The Labor government had the chance to act but they failed to do so. We are delivering where those opposite did not.

Taken together, these measures close the enforcement gaps that were left unaddressed under the former government. They make certain that landlords who enable this trade, whether through deliberate action or wilful neglect, are held accountable. They protect the landlords who are doing the right thing from dodgy tenants. They provide our enforcement officers with the powers and resources required to confront the public health crisis before us. However, as I said in my second reading speech yesterday, it is also up to the Commonwealth to step up to the plate and stop these illicit products from getting into the country and into the hands of our children. The measures in this bill are not just significant; they set the benchmark for others to follow.

I note that the member for Nudgee referenced Labor's so-called 'highest fines', but let's set the record straight. Under the previous Labor government, there were no penalty infringement notices for the supply or possession of vaping products. There was a fine of \$3,226 for illicit tobacco offences. That is an amount that barely registered for illegal operators and was simply absorbed as a routine business expense. In contrast, the Crisafulli government has implemented genuinely nation-leading on-the-spot fines of up to \$33,380 for individuals and \$166,900 for corporations involved in the supply or possession of vaping goods and illicit tobacco. These are not symbolic figures. They represent a serious and effective deterrent, far surpassing the \$3,226 fines lauded by the member for Nudgee. The opposition may claim they want to hold us to account on enforcement or claim credit for recent progress, but Queenslanders deserve honesty. Labor's framework fell short. This bill fixes those shortcomings, closes Labor's loopholes and delivers the nation's most innovative and robust enforcement powers for public health units.

Having corrected some of the record from those opposite and leaving aside a couple of the more bizarre contributions, like those from the member for Bundamba, I would like to reiterate the importance of the bipartisan support for this bill. That collective commitment strengthens the impact of this bill and sends a clear message to Queensland communities that parliament stands together on this issue.

I also want to acknowledge the many stakeholders who have engaged openly and constructively throughout this process. These are people who care deeply about their communities—public health experts, legitimate retailers, landlords and advocacy groups. Their insights, concerns and experience have shaped this bill in a meaningful and practical way.

I particularly want to recognise the public health organisations that have urged these reforms. The Cancer Council Queensland has been tireless in highlighting the dangers of nicotine addiction and the growing risks posed by the illicit market. They described the bill as a 'critical reform which sends an unequivocal message that tobacco and nicotine products are dangerous and lethal', and their advocacy has been instrumental in ensuring these reforms meet the scale of the challenge. The Lung Foundation Australia and the Stroke Foundation Australia have also played a crucial role in educating parents, schools and communities about the respiratory and cardiovascular harms linked to vaping, particularly among young people, and have been strong supporters of tighter retail and enforcement controls.

We also heard from respected clinicians and academics, including one who said—

... the Queensland Government deserves significant praise for its commitment to strengthening its current Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act, and I offer my endorsement of all of the proposed legislative changes.

This endorsement, and others like it, speaks strongly to the importance and necessity of the reforms before the House.

Alongside these health experts, the retail and business sector has also been clear and vocal in its support. The Shopping Centre Council of Australia has been a staunch supporter of this bill and the Master Grocers Association stated that 'Queensland is poised to become a leader in Australia in fighting illicit tobacco'. The support of these stakeholders, and of all who provided feedback on the bill and continue to advocate for stronger action, has been instrumental and deeply valued. I thank them sincerely for their commitment and for the important role they have played in shaping these reforms.

In closing, this bill delivers the strong, modern and practical enforcement framework that Queensland needs to confront the illicit tobacco and vaping crisis head on. It creates the most unfavourable operating environment possible for illicit traders. It strikes directly at the profit motives that fuel this market and makes it far easier for enforcement officers to identify, disrupt and shut down rogue operators.

This bill places Queensland at the forefront of public health protection. It is nation leading and continues the Crisafulli government's track record of pioneering bold and effective responses to emerging health risks. We are setting the benchmark for other jurisdictions to follow. I look forward to the full support of the House in supporting this bill.

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 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—



Mr NICHOLLS (8.33 pm): I move amendments Nos. 1 to 6 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 10, line 24, before 'In'—

insert—

(1)

2 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 10, line 25, 'either'—

omit, insert—

any

3 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 11, line 1, 'in a'—

omit, insert—

at a

4 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 11, line 5, '.'—

omit, insert—

;

5 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 11, after line 5—

insert—

(c) a receptacle that contains nitrous oxide;

(d) another thing, that may be detrimental to the health of members of the public, prescribed by regulation.

6 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 194A)

Page 11, after line 5—

insert—

(2) For subsection (1), definition *compromised goods*, paragraph (c), a receptacle contains

nitrous oxide if the receptacle—

- (a) actually contains nitrous oxide; or
- (b) is labelled as containing nitrous oxide; or
- (c) is claimed to contain nitrous oxide; or
- (d) is reasonably believed or commonly understood to contain nitrous oxide.

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

Tabled paper: Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon Tim Nicholls's amendments.

Tabled paper: Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Dismantling Illegal Trade) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon Tim Nicholls's amendments.

The recreational use of nitrous oxide, commonly known as nangs, is becoming increasingly widespread and dangerous. Traditionally used for legitimate medical and culinary purposes, we are seeing the recreational misuse of nangs for its intoxicating effects, putting people's health and safety at risk. We cannot allow another dangerous product to become normalised and spread through our communities unchecked.

The harms of nangs should not be in question. Inhaling large volumes of nitrous oxide can cause nerve damage, paralysis and, in severe cases, death. Yet a recent 2025 Australian survey published in the Emerald insights journal found that many young people still see nangs as a harmless way to experiment at parties. That could not be further from the truth. The same research revealed that accessibility is the key factor driving their popularity. People are using these products simply because they are easy to buy.

That accessibility is not accidental. Nangs are increasingly found in the same shops peddling illicit tobacco and vapes. Just as we have seen with vapes, these unscrupulous operators are deliberately marketing nangs in ways that attract children and young people, using bright packaging, trendy branding and even social media promotions. I note the member for Greenslopes, with permission, brought one of those products into the House a few months ago.

These operators are preying on the vulnerability and curiosity of young people purely for profit, showing a blatant disregard for the serious risks and long-term health consequences these products pose. A recent sample of Queensland Health enforcement inspections of tobacconists found that 78 per cent were stocking nangs. These are not legitimate retailers or hospitality businesses; they are repeat offenders flouting our current laws.

These amendments directly tackle this problem in two ways. Firstly, they add nitrous oxide bulbs and canisters as an additional category of 'compromised goods' in the bill. This means that when illicit tobacco and illicit nicotine products are seized, enforcement officers can also remove nitrous oxide products found at the same premises. By treating nangs as compromised goods, we can take immediate steps to remove these harmful products from shelves, reducing their availability and reversing the increasing normalisation and use of nitrous oxide for recreational purposes.

Secondly, the amendments create a regulation-making power to prescribe new categories of 'compromised goods' in the future. This gives Queensland Health the ability to respond quickly as other harmful products emerge, including the next generation of dangerous substances designed to attract young people and evade regulation.

Finally, the amendments make a minor drafting correction to clause 15 of the bill to replace the phrase 'in a place' with 'at a place'.

The widespread availability of nitrous oxide from corner stores and tobacconists presents an immediate risk to community safety. These amendments will limit the spread of these products, ensure they are removed from retail shelves and protect Queenslanders from future harms. As I have said, the department continues to work on the more nuanced policy situation regarding the ongoing supply of nitrous oxide, which is currently classified as an S4 poison.

Mr J KELLY: I acknowledge that this is a very good start in dealing with this issue. I think it will go a long way towards cutting supply for the bricks and mortar suppliers of this terrible product. Given the statistic that the minister has just noted—that is, that 78 per cent of tobacconists are stocking this—I think this will make a significant difference to the ease of access.

The explanatory notes to the amendments state that the belief is that this will have an impact on reducing online and home delivery services. I would like to have a bit more of an understanding from the minister about how that will work. Many of the online and home delivery businesses claim they are

supplying products for legitimate use by hospitality businesses. I think there is probably further work that we need to do to work out how we separate legitimate hospitality use of this product and the misuse of it by young people in our community.

I have written to Mark Butler about this issue because I think we need a nationwide approach to this. I would ask the minister to put that on the agenda for discussion with state health ministers. I know South Australia and Western Australia have taken slightly different approaches to regulation. I think it would be good to have a uniform approach. Clearly, there are importation issues and I acknowledge that that would sit with the federal government.

It is a much bigger problem in Europe than it is here in Australia, but we have an opportunity to avoid going down the path that they have gone down in Europe. I thank a friend of mine who is a mental health nurse who sent me an article today. I was aware of this article but I had not read it in-depth. It weighs up various public policy options in relation to this. I will table that article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Lancet*, dated March 2025, 'Tackling the growing burden of nitrous oxide-induced public health harms'.

I had not heard this term before. The disease that comes as a result of this is nitrous oxide induced myeloneuropathy. There is a new one for everyone to be worried about.

Finally, no matter how successful we are at shutting down bricks and mortar and online sales, we know there will inevitably be a black market and there will still be some people addicted to this terrible product when it is misused, so we still need to have public health responses, we still need education and we still need to help those people who are addicted, but I think this is a good start. I am pleased to see, on behalf of the people in my community who have raised this issue that this issue is being taken seriously.

Mr NICHOLLS: In response, I acknowledge the member for Greenslopes' commitment to raising this issue and bringing it to the House—I think that is fair enough—as I do to the Public Health Unit officers who also have raised this with us. With respect to the online sale of nangs, the amendments apply to both retail and wholesale premises. They do not expressly apply to online sales. Online sales being regulated is a much more complex area of regulation, obviously, involving interplay between state and federal jurisdictions. However, it does apply to both retail and wholesale premises. Where products sold online are found at a wholesale premises, the stored stock can be seized if illicit products are also sold there. Not everything is in a retail shop, and a number of the raids, including Operation Appaloosa, involved raids on warehouses where the information became available that there were supplies of illicit tobacco and illegal vapes. That is how we can break into that field, where those places are used, if you like, as the repository, and then sold out or moved out from there. Disrupting wholesalers is expected to weaken the online market because many of the rapid delivery and e-commerce sellers source their products from the same wholesale channels. That is part and parcel of it.

As I indicated, we are exploring broader options to address the sale and distribution of nangs. It is complex because there are all those legitimate uses—for medical, dental, industrial and food. That is the reason behind that.

With respect to the health ministers' meeting, I am certainly happy to raise this. I have raised a number of contentious issues. Medicinal cannabis prescribing and cosmetic injectables have already been raised by the Queensland government in respect to that, so I am happy to discuss that at the next health ministers' meeting. I look forward to the member for Greenslopes' support as we go and ask the federal Commonwealth government to fund their fair share of our aged-care housing that we need as well.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17—



Mr NICHOLLS (8:42 pm): I move amendment No. 7 circulated in my name—

7 Clause 17 (Amendment of s 197 (Seizing evidence at a place that may be entered without consent or a warrant))

Page 11, line 14, 'in'—

omit, insert—

at

This is a purely technical amendment. It corrects the same minor drafting issue I mentioned in connection with clause 15 of the bill which also appears in clause 17, so it repeats that and is very straightforward.

Before I resume my seat, there is one shout-out I must make and that is to the people who helped draft what is effectively nation-leading legislation, and that is the team in the Legislation Policy Unit and the Prevention Strategy Branch. I know they will be embarrassed, and I know if I miss one of their names I will be even more embarrassed, but I am going to give it a shot anyway. Members will bear with me. From the Legislation Policy Unit—Karson, Kate, Amy, Riaza and Bianca. Some of them are with me tonight and I think will be very happy to see this legislation go through; they have been pushing for it for a long time. In the Prevention Strategy Branch, the policy owners, if you like, who have worked with the government, myself and the Legislation Policy Unit to come up with these novel and new ideas—Mark, Rebecca and Elizabeth. We often forget to thank those people who do a lot of the hard work behind the scenes, particularly on new and novel legislation, and I think it is important that the *Hansard* does record their contribution to what is nation-leading legislation to crack down on illicit tobacco, illegal vapes and nangs.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 18 to 39, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.45 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (8.45 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.

QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 27 June (see p. 2228).

Second Reading

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (8.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is all about making it easier and safer to build in Queensland. This bill is the next step in our Building Reg Reno—our commonsense overhaul of construction regulations in this state. It is about modernising the system, reducing red tape and helping our building regulator, the QBCC, to be more customer-focused and fit for purpose.

I want to thank the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for their work on this bill under the outstanding leadership of the member for Lockyer. Their report contained one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I also thank the stakeholders who made submissions and gave evidence to the committee. Their feedback helps us get this right for industry and for all Queenslanders.

This bill implements tranche 3 of our Building Reg Reno reforms, part of the Crisafulli government's plan to make it easier to build in Queensland and to lift productivity across our construction sector. After a decade of decline where industry was ignored, there is a lot of work to do to improve the building and construction industry in our state. It has never been more important to get the settings of the sector right so that it is working as best as it possibly can.

The scale of what Queenslanders require for both now and in the future is enormous—new homes, better transport infrastructure, the energy transition, not to mention the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our record build program means we need to repair the decade of damage inflicted by the former Labor government on our construction industry. That is why we re-established the independent Queensland Productivity Commission. They have already delivered their interim and final reports on the building and construction industry productivity. We will be responding by the end of January, but this bill shows we are not waiting to drive the change industry has long wanted to see.

The reform in this bill focuses on two changes: bringing the QBCC into the digital age and improving workplace safety reporting so it is simpler and faster. Let's start with the digital components. Anyone who has interacted with the QBCC knows how out of date this organisation can be. In many cases that is not their fault. It is because the legislation they are bound by has not been modernised. We have builders still sending in passport photos and waiting for paper licence cards like it is 1995, not 2025. This bill fixes that. It clears the way for the QBCC to deliver more services electronically and to move fully into the digital era. We have already made big changes at the QBCC this year, appointing a new board chair in Greg Chemello and a new commissioner, Angelo Lambrinos, to lead a full-scale transformation of this essential regulator. They are doing a fantastic job. This bill supports that work and builds on the efforts that are already underway.

Recently, we launched QBCC licences through the Queensland Digital Licence app—the very same one that Queenslanders have already used for some years for their driver's licence or their boat licence. It now has a wallet which tradies can add their QBCC credentials to. Importantly, it is—

Mr Bennett: I have added mine.

Mr O'CONNOR: I take the interjection from the member for Burnett, who has added his licence to his wallet. Well done, member for Burnett. Member for Townsville, you are next!

Importantly, it is optional. If licensees want or need to keep a physical card, they can. If they prefer to go digital, they can do that too. This is about choice, not compulsion. Queenslanders should be able to deal with government in a way that suits them, whether that is through an app, via email, over the phone or face to face at a QBCC office—the choice remains theirs. We have already had 7,000 licensees sign up to the digital licence, which is a great indication that tradies wanted to see this change.

We are also removing outdated requirements like the need to attach two passport-sized photos to a licence application or the QBCC having to issue a card every time, regardless of an individual's preference. Those are things that made sense decades ago, but they only slow things down today. Now the QBCC can determine how photos are submitted, so it can keep up with technology as it evolves.

The bill also makes it easier to communicate electronically. The QBCC will be able to serve documents by email, but only where a licensee has provided their email address. Again, it is optional. If someone prefers to receive things by post, they will still be able to. It is all about choice. We want the QBCC to have the right contact details, so licensees will be required to update key personal information, like an email address, within 14 days of it changing. A small penalty will apply if they do not—just enough of a deterrent to make sure communications stay smooth and up to date.

People will now be able to comply with attendance requirements online, where appropriate, reflecting how people actually work in 2025. These are all practical, commonsense changes. They will make life easier for licensees and allow the QBCC to operate more efficiently. It is all about getting rid of unnecessary paperwork so builders can focus on building homes, training apprentices and growing their businesses. Queenslanders expect to have a building regulator that works with them and not against them, and this bill will help make that happen.

The second major part of this bill streamlines how serious safety incidents on building sites are reported. Back in 2017 new laws were introduced to make sure the QBCC was aware of serious safety incidents and could act when needed. These were made in response to the tragic death of Jason Garrels. I would like to acknowledge the passionate advocacy of his family on this issue. Our proposed changes have been carefully considered to not only protect but strengthen this legacy.

To ensure both regulators were informed, licensees have had to report the same incident twice—once to the Office of Industrial Relations and again to the QBCC. This duplication is no longer needed because automated systems now exist. Having this duplication does not make anyone safer, as filling out two different reports takes more time. This change is all about the speed with which our regulators are notified. The responsibility remains with the licensee in exactly the same way it works right now.

Under the changes, if a licensee reports a serious safety incident to the OIR, they will not have to file another separate report to the QBCC. The QBCC will get the same information automatically through secure, thoroughly well-tested, data-sharing arrangements that are already in place between the regulators. For everyone else, all reports will now go directly to the OIR. There will be a single notification point: one report will be sent to one regulator and it will be securely shared on a daily basis between both agencies with even more frequent communication, as needed. It is a smarter, easier and more user friendly way to ensure the right parts of government have the right information at the right time.

This does not weaken safety obligations; it strengthens them. The QBCC will still be able to take the same tough disciplinary action when needed. In fact, over the past five years the QBCC have acted on all of the 1,100 serious safety notifications provided to them and investigated over 1,600 licensees. They have worked with almost 900 licensees to understand and improve their safety systems. Where warranted, serious disciplinary action has been taken, including reprimands, conditions on licences and licence cancellations. That work continues and the bill will change none of it.

The bill does increase the penalty for licensees who fail to report a serious safety matter from 80 to 100 penalty units. That sends a clear message: safety reporting is not optional. We want everyone who steps onto a building site to come home safe. These amendments make the process faster. Regulators will be working together and able to respond as required when something goes wrong. As the information-sharing systems between the OIR and the QBCC are already established and working well, this will be able to happen quickly with no loss of accountability or transparency. The government has also committed to a review of how these new arrangements are working after two years. We will make sure that they are delivering what is intended—regulators will continue to get the information they need in a more user friendly and streamlined way.

The committee report on the bill includes a statement of reservation from the Labor members of the committee, raising concerns about the safety reporting amendments. Let me be clear: these changes do not weaken safety; they strengthen them. The expert evidence provided to the committee clearly showed that. We need a modern system that ensures the right regulator gets the right information when something goes wrong. Under these amendments, the requirement to report serious safety incidents remains unchanged. Again, the penalty for failing to report is increasing.

What is changing is how regulators communicate, not what must be reported. The OIR and the QBCC will now receive the same information through these tried and tested automated data-sharing arrangements, meaning there is no duplication and no risk of miscommunication. The suggestion that information will be lost or ignored is simply wrong. These data-sharing systems have been operating successfully between regulators for some time, and they will now be reviewed and updated as part of this reform.

In addition, the memorandum of understanding between these agencies, which Labor themselves last re-executed in 2021, is being refreshed to ensure it remains fully contemporary and robust. It will be tested again through a three-month operational review after commencement, and there will be a two-year formal review to ensure these arrangements are delivering as intended.

I do not credit Labor very often, but in this case I will. They had already started working on these safety notifications. As Ainslie Barron, the Assistant Director-General Building Policy, stated to the committee on 9 July during the inquiry—

The QBCC and OIR have been committed to improving outcomes relating to safety notifications for some while. Mr Varghese's QBCC governance review, which occurred in 2022, did include a recommendation which went to this very point, within the context of talking about the importance of the QBCC having a very solid reputation for consistent and transparent decision-making.

Given Mr Varghese's recommendation and the fact that the former government did respond to that review with a 90-day action plan, that response was published in mid-2022. There are publicly available implementation progress reports on the governance review recommendations in both December 2023 and December 2024 which went to providing progress updates on information-sharing arrangements between the two regulators including effective integration of the QBCC's requirements into the platform that OIR, I understand, has been developing for four years at this point.

This is a smarter, modernised model which the previous government had begun work on—backed by data-sharing technology—not a rollback of safety standards. Again, it was in the

implementation reports of the QBCC's governance review. The opposition's statement of reservation argument would have Queenslanders believe that duplicating paperwork somehow makes worksites safer. That just does not stack up. What keeps people safe is timely, accurate information getting to the right regulators as quickly as possible. That is exactly what this bill delivers.

The department confirmed that they began this work under Labor. We are implementing what they started, but they are now criticising it for some reason. What was not underway, however, was the QBCC's digital transformation, which those opposite conveniently ignored in their statement of reservation. It was their own independent QBCC review that recommended this work, and now we are getting it done.

In conclusion, this bill delivers practical reform. It cuts duplication, modernises outdated processes and sets the QBCC up to be the customer focused, 21st century regulator that Queenslanders deserve. For too long our builders and tradies have had to navigate clunky systems and overlapping rules that have added cost without adding value. This bill is part of our plan to turn that around, to build better systems so Queensland can build more homes more efficiently. It is part of our broader reform agenda to get the basics right, strengthen accountability and lift productivity. We have already delivered tranches 1 and 2 of the Building Reg Reno. This is tranche 3, and work on tranche 4 is well underway. Once the Productivity Commission's recommendations are fully considered, we will move even further, tackling the structural issues that have held back Queensland's construction industry for too long. When the building sector is strong, Queensland is strong.

This bill supports safer worksites, delivers more responsive regulation and helps modernise one of the most important industries in our state. It is another example of the Crisafulli government getting on with the job, delivering the practical, commonsense reforms that Queenslanders expect. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr O'Connor, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.59 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Nudgee Electorate, Social Housing



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (8.59 pm): My electorate, like many across the state, is experiencing housing insecurity, skyrocketing rental prices and an increasing number of people sleeping rough in our local villages and streets, chief among them Nundah. Daily, people from across my local community and beyond are calling or walking into my office telling me or my team that they have come to us as their final hope that they and too often their young children will sleep with a roof over their head that night.

Homelessness services are oversubscribed. The public housing waitlist is getting longer and private rentals are getting less and less affordable every day. In September Micah Projects published that homelessness in Brisbane has tripled over the past 18 months—tripled! While our former Labor government acted, what have we seen from those opposite? We see a government that talks big on housing but delivers very little—a government that has promised Queenslanders relief, promised families certainty and promised that it has the right plan to fix housing, when the reality is very different.

What we see from the Crisafulli LNP government is a pattern of decisions that are making housing harder for those who are already finding it hard enough. Scrapping affordable and social housing targets and quotas in key development areas is just one example of making it harder for vulnerable Queenslanders. These targets were not symbolic; they were the mechanism that guaranteed a supply of affordable housing for people who need homes and where they need them most.

Removing these targets is not reform; it is retreat—retreat from Queenslanders who need government advocacy and assistance the most. QCROSS Chief Executive Officer Aimee said it best when she said, 'Including social and affordable housing targets in PDAs is not red tape; it's good planning.' The Deputy Premier essentially labelling these requirements as 'unmarketable' speaks volumes about this government's priorities. It sends a signal to the market and to vulnerable Queenslanders that increasing affordable housing supply is optional, secondary and negotiable. Meanwhile, demand is soaring and communities are begging for urgent action.

For Queenslanders already on the edge—rough sleepers and families in motels—this government has not offered a lifeline; it has offered penalties. It has introduced a regime that tightens emergency housing eligibility, speeds up evictions and can ban people for two years. That is not a pathway out of homelessness. Experts have said it themselves: that is a guarantee that people will stay homeless. Queenslanders were promised a plan for one million homes. What they got instead was a Premier and a housing minister who have axed affordable housing projects, cancelled targets and changed emergency housing rules leading to more Queenslanders sleeping on the street every night. Every Queenslanders deserves better.

Everton Electorate, Small Business Awards



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.02 pm): I rise tonight to speak about a fabulous thing that has happened in my electorate over the last couple of months: the Everton Small Business Awards. I have never done this before, in 14 years of being a local member. We have always focused on volunteers, but we tried the small business awards for the first time. I was absolutely blown away by the response. We had 1,089 votes for 129 small businesses in three categories. It was great to see how people really engaged in this, knowing how much they valued our small businesses and how much those small businesses mean in building our community.

The three categories were hospitality, services and retail. The main hospitality award went to the Little Gossip Cafe at Everton Hills. Sadie and the girls—not just the girls but everyone in that team—do a fabulous job at Everton Hills. There were some great comments about them and their award was very well deserved. The runner-up in that category was the White Horse Ranch cafe, with Robert Ives and Anna Cooke, at Albany Creek. They have done a great job as well.

In the services category, Peter Michael Mens Hairdresser won the main award. Peter is a legend in our area. He has been operating for about 30 years. He has had a few difficulties lately with regard to tenancy, but he is back up and running and going really well, and people really appreciate him. The runner-up was the Hot Tribe Yoga & Pilates Studio and Kaz Cumming. Again, they are very much appreciated. She is based at Albany Creek.

The retail award went to Rock A Buy Baby, which is a second-hand baby clothes store just coincidentally right underneath my office. Those guys have done a fabulous job and they were very heavily supported. The Complete Car Sound guys down at Enoggera, with Craig and Nicole Dwyer, received the runner-up. The much coveted people's choice award went to Smokin' Joe's Cafe, again coincidentally opposite my office. Matt and the girls, Crystal and Mel, are just legends. Like all good coffee shops, they know everybody's order—a bit like Andrew here when you are lining up and he makes you a cup of coffee. These guys are fantastic, the coffee is fantastic, and Matt and the girls are very well received in the community.

I do want to thank my office staff, who went to a lot of effort with this: Ali, who is listening right now—hi, Ali—Tarryn and Lacey. I really appreciate their efforts. I was blown away by how popular this was. We will end up doing it every second year. The alternate year will be the volunteer of the year award. Well done.

Ipswich Electorate



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (9.05 pm): Over the past few weeks we have seen the LNP government proudly announce the opening of new health facilities in Ipswich: a residential rehabilitation and withdrawal service in Raceview and a brand new 90-bed specialised inpatient services facility at the Ripley Satellite Health Centre. Of course, these are important projects. Ipswich welcomes and deserves every single health service we can get. What the government will not tell you—what they hope you will not notice—is that these facilities were initiated, funded and largely delivered under Labor. These were not LNP ideas, they were not LNP priorities and they certainly were not LNP investments. These projects exist because of Labor. Labor governments take care of Ipswich.

Under Labor we saw the biggest investment in health in the history of our city, with new wards, more beds, expanded services, a new satellite health centre and a brand new ambulance station. It is also worth mentioning that Labor provided all of the planning and capital funding to make these centres possible, so when you see a government minister standing in front of cameras patting themselves on the back, just remember this: they are standing on foundations that Labor built—foundations built because we understood Ipswich's needs and we backed Ipswich with real money, real planning and real delivery. It is not just health.

Government members interjected.

Ms HOWARD: They do not like hearing the truth. This week we also saw the very first bus service connecting the Ipswich CBD directly to Springfield: the new 501 route, a service people have been crying out for for years. That service did not appear out of thin air. It did not happen because the LNP suddenly discovered public transport. It happened because Labor funded the Ipswich Mobility Study, which identified the need, created the plan and provided \$36.3 million to roll out new buses and new routes across the Ipswich LGA.

The current government is turning up at the finish line and pretending it ran the race. Ipswich knows better. We know who actually delivered record health investment. We know who built the rehab facility at Raceview and who funded the 90 new beds in South Ripley. We know who put the first ever Ipswich CBD to Springfield bus service on the map, and we know who actually listens to the community. It is not the LNP. If this government wants to take victory laps on projects it did not start, did not fund and did not deliver, that is its choice. Ipswich people deserve honesty. They deserve credit going where credit is due, and they deserve a government that shows up not just for the photo op but for the hard work beforehand. Labor has always done that for Ipswich. I have always done that for Ipswich and we always will.

Upton, Ms T

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (9.08 pm): Tonight I would like to do a little bit of a shout-out to yet another incredible CQ legend, Tamika Upton. Tamika Upton is the co-captain of the Queensland Maroons and Brisbane Broncos. She became the first NRLW player to win the Dally M Medal for a second time and she was the driving force behind the Broncos—under the leadership of Minister Mander—winning their first NRLW grand final in five years. Tamika scored a whopping 19 tries in 12 games. She is acknowledged as the No. 1 female player in the world and is favourite to be named the 2025 Golden Boot winner.

Did members know that Tamika is a proud Rockyite, having been born in Rockhampton in 1997? She first played rugby league as a child in Blackwater and then grounded herself in touch football before transitioning to rugby league. Former clubs that Tamika played for include Newcastle Knights, CQ Capras and Burleigh Bears.

Tamika was named 2025 fullback of the year and crowned 2025 NRLW player of the year. Her 2025 stats are outstanding: 14 try assists, 53 tackle breaks and 20 line breaks, and she averaged almost 140 run metres per game. I must confess that some of that went over my head, but it is written and worth acknowledging. Tamika was also awarded the players' player, best back and play of the year for her four-try haul in round 9 versus the Bulldogs.

She holds a 100 per cent win record in first grade rugby league—her achievements go on—and she now holds two NRLW premierships with the Broncos, plus two State of Origin titles for Queensland. It has been said that Tamika brings star power, spectacle and explosive attack every season. This is my opportunity to extend the state's congratulations to Tamika Upton. May she continue to inspire young sports stars for many years to come. We breed them tough in Rockhampton. One could say that these players, along with her colleagues, are why the CQ Rams should be the next NRL team.

Stretton State College, Traffic

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.11 pm): Tonight I rise to express the growing frustration of my community on an issue that affects thousands: the pick-up and drop-off nightmare at Stretton State College. Over many years I have advocated strongly for Stretton State College. Under the former Labor government we achieved millions of dollars in additional funding for new classrooms, science labs, a performing arts centre and the recently expanded sports hall. Sadly, since the LNP Crisafulli government was elected Stretton State College has received no additional funding for infrastructure. This is appalling, particularly given the additional support that is required to address the parking and drop-off situation at the school.

This Monday the *Courier-Mail* reported that parents at Stretton State College are fed up with parking fines, road rage and fights at drop-off and pick-up times, with some fearing a child may be injured or killed amidst the chaos. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 17 November 2025, titled 'Stretton State College: Parents fined, fears for kids in drop-off'.

This has also led to the farcical situation where recently more than 20 parents were fined \$333 by the Brisbane City Council, despite being directed by teachers to stop near a two-minute zone and wait for their children.

Stretton State College now enrolls around 3,500 students across two campuses separated by Gowan Road. It is one of the largest and fastest growing schools in Queensland, but the council roads around the school have not kept pace with that growth and the result is clear: chronic traffic congestion with queues that stretch hundreds of metres, unsafe crossings and near misses during peak periods that occur far too often. The LNP council have been happy to approve developments in the catchment area and pocket DA fees and rates but have not spent any of that on their streets or their car park.

Earlier this year I wrote to the Minister for Education requesting a comprehensive assessment of major upgrades around the school, including: a pedestrian overpass across Gowan Road, similar to Brisbane State High School and Mabel Park which were both built by the Queensland government, as Stretton State College is one of only a few P-12 schools with a busy road right down the middle of it; a ring-road around the junior campus; and expanded parking and drop-off capacity across both campuses. Unfortunately, the response I received largely blamed the Brisbane City Council. Equally, when Councillor Emily Kim, councillor for Calamvale, raised the issue with the council, the council blamed the state government, so it is very disappointing.

The parents and families of Stretton State College are disappointed with the blame game. We want to end the blame game. We need the council and the state government to sit down and come up with solutions to improve the safety of the Stretton State College pick-up and drop-off zones. That is something my community deserves.

Bonney Electorate, Community Awards



Hon. ST O'CONNOR (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (9.14 pm): Today I want to acknowledge the outstanding people and organisations we recognised at my 2025 Local Legends Community Awards, our annual celebration of what makes our part of the Gold Coast so special. Now in its sixth year, the awards are my chance as a local MP to shine a light on the people who give their time, their talent and their compassion without ever seeking recognition.

Our three remarkable young leaders were Angelina Stokes, a disability advocate and support coordinator who uses her lived experience to push for better mental health awareness at Bravehearts; Damon Walker, a former youth foyer resident who is now a successful real estate agent who has turned his adversity into purpose, becoming a powerful voice on reducing youth homelessness; and this year's winner Kalepo Tus, a First Nations cultural facilitator from Coombabah who mentors young people, shows leadership and shares stories in my parts of our community.

Our Volunteer of the Year finalists were Yvette Donner, who as secretary of the Labrador Community Garden has helped grow their membership and run many successful open days; and Ella Carlyne, who supports young people through her weekly charity baking program. This year's winner was Phyllis Hobbs, or her Scout name Raksha, who this year has served an extraordinary 50 years at the Labrador Scouts mentoring generations of young people in our area.

In our school staff category our finalists were Georgia Tzioras from Labrador State School, a cancer survivor who raises money and is an inspiration to her students; and Nat Kent, who brings great energy and innovation as the digital technologies teacher at Musgrave Hill State School. This year's winner, Sarah Thorburn, leads an exceptional music program at Arundel State School, with her students recently named the most outstanding school choir. She also taught all three of the kids of the education minister, the member for Surfers Paradise.

Hussain Baba at the Multicultural Social Network, who feeds more than 200 people a week and steps up during extreme weather events, was a finalist for Community Club or Organisation of the Year, as was Enabled Futures from Labrador, who help people with disability get the support they need. Our winner this year was Youth Outreach from Arundel, who do a great job for young people experiencing homelessness.

Finally, for Small Business of the Year we had Kindy House Early Learning Centre in Labrador, an exceptional early learning centre renowned for their nurturing culture and their deep connection with families; and Chirn Park's iconic Moss N Stone, who give so generously to many causes and are the go-to for all sons ahead of Mother's Day. Our winner was Fratello Italian from Labrador, a much loved local restaurant. These finalists and winners show the very best of our community. To all our local legends I say thank you for everything you do to contribute to our part of the Gold Coast.

Bundamba Electorate, Bus Services

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.17 pm): Monday this week marked the beginning of the stage 1 rollout of the Ipswich bus improvement package, which will make a big difference in our area. This bus improvement package was funded under the previous Labor government in last year's budget.

We got four new bus routes: the 501, which will go from Springfield into the Ipswich CBD, into Bell Street, through Redbank Plains, Blackstone and Silkstone; the 520, which will go from Goodna station up to Eden's Crossing in Redbank Plains through Bellbird Park; route 522, which will go from Springfield to Augustine Heights to Redbank station; and the 523, which will go from Springfield through Augustine Heights to Redbank Plains. That will go through up around Keidges Road and end up at Mountview Shopping Centre. These routes are going through massive growth areas in our local community and they will better connect our local residents through different public transport modes, seeing as most of the bus routes will connect with local train stations.

It will be great to see more locals jumping on a bus with 50-cent fares, provided and funded by the previous Labor government. This is only stage 1 of three stages. Unfortunately, the government had to be dragged kicking and screaming to roll out this first stage. It did not go out to tender until earlier this year after there was advocacy from local Labor MPs. I acknowledge the members for Jordan, Ipswich and Ipswich West. There should be 15-minute intervals in peak times. That is not happening at the moment. We will keep advocating for that. We are calling on the government to be very clear and up-front with our community about when the rollout of stage 2 will happen, because there are other suburbs that are growing rapidly—White Rock, Ripley, South Ripley. We need to get those services up and running there as soon as possible.

Finally, I hope all members will join with me in wishing year 5 Riverview State School student Darius Smith all the best when he heads to Canberra to represent Queensland in the national championships at the end of this month in shot-put—a great achievement!

Global Grooves

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (9.20 pm): Travel the world in a single afternoon and celebrate diverse cultural communities that together make Mackay proud. I rise to speak about a wonderful celebration we recently enjoyed in my community—the Global Grooves festival, which was held in Queens Park on 25 October. Global Grooves is one of those events that reminds you of exactly why regional Queensland is such a special place. For one afternoon and evening, stunning Queens Park was transformed into a vibrant hub of music, colour and culture—families on picnic rugs, kids dancing, the smell of incredible food from all over the world and performers sharing their heritage on stage. There were dancers from Scotland, Philippines, Indonesia, Columbia, Thailand—Australians were represented by Torres Strait Islander dancers—Brazil, China, Zimbabwe and, of course, Ireland. Maybe next year Greece?

I was proud to have a stall at this year's event. Our team set up to meet locals, listen to their ideas and concerns and simply be part of the community we are so fortunate to represent. All afternoon we had people dropping in: parents talking about schools and the cost of living; small business owners sharing their experiences; young people talking about jobs and housing; and many new Australians who just wanted to chat about how they were settling into Mackay. Events like Global Grooves do not just showcase culture; they build social cohesion. They help a new family from overseas feel at home and they give long-term locals a chance to learn something about new neighbours in their area. They show our kids that in Mackay it does not matter where you were born, what language you speak at home or what food you grew up with—you belong.

I want to place on record my thanks to the Mackay Regional Council and the Mackay festival team for their work in putting Global Grooves together, as well as the many community organisations, cultural groups, performers et cetera. In regional communities we sometimes talk a lot about the challenges—the cost of living, housing, health and infrastructure. These issues are real and I speak about them often, but it is also important that we stop and recognise the strengths that make our communities resilient: our volunteers, our multicultural communities, our artists, our performers and our local families who show up rain, hail or shine to support local events. Global Grooves is a shining example of this spirit. Once we had travelled the world in an afternoon, we all left feeling incredibly proud of Mackay, excited about our future and determined to keep doing everything we can to support a community that is inclusive, welcoming and full of opportunity for everyone.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, By-Election

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (9.24 pm): I wish to offer some reflections on the Hinchinbrook by-election so far. It is fair to say that the people of regional Queensland tossed out Labor and the LNP won through the regions. Now we have the by-election, all eyes in Queensland are watching to see what the government is going to leverage off. What would they showcase to tell us what we need to vote for? Perhaps they were looking for a change in water allocations or in how we build dams and use our water assets. Maybe they were wondering how we going to ignite biofuels. Is there going to be an ethanol mandate finally, after 20 years of asking? Are we going to dump net zero to get electricity prices down? We found that out today. Are we going to allow uranium mining? That has been halted for years. It is a latent wealth that is there. Are we going to manage crocodiles? No, we are not going to do that. Are we going to turn around the regressive social policy contagion that has been hammering Australia for so many years? No, we are not doing any of that. Are we going to get CopperString right through to Mount Isa? No, we are just going to give politicians promises on these things.

We did not get any of that. All we got was a descent into bagging and smearing a fine candidate, a war veteran, Mark Molachino. The government actually approached him a week before we did. Ben Riley, LNP state secretary, rang him up. It is on the record, but it had nothing to do with asking him to run for you! You just approached him to run for you. You do not want to admit it now. You are dirty about that. That is all you are offering to the people of regional Queensland. Shame on you. It is pathetic.

We have gone out there and offered some policy. If you do not like it that is fine, but let us argue on that—not these silly posters that you put up or the flying squad you fly up from Brisbane to help because you cannot get enough volunteers on the ground. You get some young people up from Brisbane to hustle everyone at the polling booths. What a disappointment. You are the government of Queensland. Stand up and tell them what you think. Give them something to vote for. We will give them something to vote for—you can vote for castle law. There were 113,000 people who said they want it, that they think it is a good idea to turn crime around—but let's not talk about that!

We have stayed away from any of the mud we could have thrown at your candidate. I know that the member for Cook would hop into that. He is all for that sort of business, but we are not. We stay on policy. We have tried to take the high road, but you keep coming at our candidate, putting him down. It is turning against you. People came up to me at the polling booth and said, 'I was going to vote for the LNP but I'm not because they keep throwing mud.' People in North Queensland do not like that. They do not like you coming up and playing the silly games you play down here and politics. They want real policy and real answers. You keep parading around that we cannot do anything. We have these announcements now. It would not be happening if you were not trying to take the seat off us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before you resume your seat, member for Traeger, I think you may have used an unparliamentary word in the course of your contribution. Would you please withdraw.

Mr KATTER: I am not sure what it was, but I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.27 pm): Last weekend I was honoured to attend the 2025 Legacy Gala dinner, not only as the assistant minister to the Premier and Leader of the House in the Queensland parliament but also as a legatee. It was a pleasure to be part of an evening that brought together veterans, supporters, corporate partners and distinguished guests for an important night of connection, remembrance and impact. I attended together with Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young AC, PSM, the Governor of Queensland, and also Lieutenant General Simon Stuart AO, DSC, the Chief of Army. I also want to acknowledge Brendan Cox, CEO of Legacy Brisbane, for his leadership and ongoing commitment to the families of Australian service men and women, veterans and those who have given so much in the service of our nation. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, over \$400,000 was raised to support the families of veterans, ensuring Legacy's core purpose continues for generations to come.

I also take this opportunity tonight to recognise an outstanding and inspirational local resident of the electorate of Moggill, Dr Rolf Gomes, founder of the Heart of Australia program. When I was the executive director of medical services at St Andrews War Memorial Hospital and later as president of AMA Queensland, I was pleased to secure establishment funding for Dr Rolf Gomes and his innovative vision for Heart of Australia. It has been truly inspirational to see Heart of Australia develop over the past decade into a transformational health service that delivers specialist medical care to rural and remote communities. Last week Dr Gomes was named the Queensland Australian of the Year, a

well-deserved honour that reflects his hard work, dedication and impact, and it was certainly a pleasure to attend the official celebratory event along with the Premier of Queensland and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services.

This week on Monday it was terrific to attend the 2025 Kenmore State High School Premier Awards evening. I again want to offer my congratulations to all student leaders and students on another remarkable year of academic, sporting, cultural and environmental achievement. I was delighted to again support the awarding of the school dux honours, with the junior dux awarded to Lavina Ahmed and the senior dux awarded to Naomi Preissler.

Finally, as we approach the end of the year it is important to acknowledge that the last 12 months have been a terrific period of delivery by the Crisafulli LNP state government for residents and community groups across the electorate of Moggill. I continue to work to secure further support and investment for local organisations, including the exceptional work undertaken by Reason to Thrive, as well as additional financial resources for our valued community and sporting clubs, including cricket, AFL and football. I wish all students the very best for the final weeks of this term and I extend my warmest wishes to all families across the western suburbs of Brisbane for a safe and happy Christmas and restful holiday season.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Honourable members, I have ordered the clerks at the table to hold the document tabled by the member for Stretton for review given an ineffectual redaction. The member may provide a replacement document with an effective redaction. I understand that is to be provided to the Table Office.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young