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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 10 December 2025

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WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 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

Absence of Clerk of the Parliament



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to inform the House of the unavoidable absence of the Clerk for today.

REPORT

Office of the Information Commissioner



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Information Commissioner *Report 1: 2025-26 Prioritising privacy to keep victims safe: a review of the disclosure of domestic and family violence victims' addresses to offenders by the Queensland Police Service*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 1: 2025-26—Prioritising privacy to keep victims safe: A review of the disclosure of domestic and family violence victims' addresses to offenders by the Queensland Police Service [1976].

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Use of Unparliamentary Language



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday in ministerial statements the Deputy Premier used a term which was brought to my attention as potentially unparliamentary. The term, which is a more polite substitution for a profanity, has previously been found to be unparliamentary in previous Speaker's rulings. I have reviewed the transcript and I can see an argument that the context in which the Deputy Premier used the term could be distinguished from the previous use of the term. However, in my view, it remains in the interest of the dignity of the House for the use of the term to be withdrawn. Accordingly, I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: On 13 November 2025 the member for Algeester wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 16 October 2025. The matter involved was in answer to a question on notice. The member submitted that because a former premier had provided a more detailed answer to a similar question and a 2014 Information Commissioner decision in a right-to-information matter allowed the release of staff names and classifications, the Premier had misled the House when he cited privacy reasons for not providing information at the level requested. I considered the question was answered consistently with answers of former governments to similar questions and with Speakers' rulings. There is no matter of privilege. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater [1977].

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 13 November 2025, the member for Algeester wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 16 October 2025.

The matter relates to an answer by the Premier to a Question on Notice. The question asked by the member for Algeester on 16 September 2025 was:

Will the Premier advise the headcount and FTE members for staff employed in media, public relations, social media and visual media related functions (reported separately by function, employment position, role and responsibilities and salary level) for (a) the Department of Premier and Cabinet (report separately by division) and (b) Ministerial Offices (reported separately by office)?

The Premier answered:

I am advised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Public Sector Commission (PSC) as follows.

The PSC, on behalf of the Queensland Government, is responsible for the collection and maintenance of public service workforce information as part of the Government approved Minimum Obligatory Human Resource Information (MOHRI) process.

From 2014 to 2025, the proportion of employees working in communication, media and marketing roles has remained stable.

As outlined in the PSC's report, State of the Sector 2025, there were 1260.69 FTE across the public sector working in corporate service roles relating to communication, media and marketing, in line with the previous year's figure. This report counts all roles that undertake communication, media and marketing services for an agency, including media management, online and digital communication, graphic design, event management, communication governance and policy.

Individual staff perform a range of media-related activities, and as such, it is not possible to attribute staff to any of the identified sub-categories.

The total allocation of ministerial staff is unchanged from the previous government. As I have previously advised in answers to other questions on notice, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of ministerial staff by pay classification and office due to privacy reasons.

The member for Algeester argued that the statement was misleading in two ways. First, a former Premier had answered a similar question and provided more detail, therefore this answer was misleading because more information could have been provided. And second, the privacy concerns that the Premier notes do not align with a decision of the Information Commissioner about information which could be released as part of a Right to Information request—*Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and The Premier; Mulherin, MP (Third Party)* [2014] QICmr of 23 October 2014 from the Information Commissioner.

The member also references a ruling by Speaker Pitt in 2021 where he stated with respect to Questions on Notice 'if data is available it should generally be provided'.

I sought further information from the Premier about the allegations of deliberately misleading the House that have been made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Premier stated that he stands by his position in relation to staff privacy being a reason not to provide the information at the level requested.

He also provided examples of answers given to similar questions by ministers in previous governments, arguing that they provide the same or less information.

I have reviewed answers to similar questions from former governments and am of the belief that the level of detail that was provided by the Premier is similar to those. For reference, some of those answers can be found here:

<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2017/376-2017.pdf>

<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2017/468-2017.pdf>

<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2015/113-2015.pdf>

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.

An adequate explanation has been made. There is no matter of privilege.

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

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 November 2025 the member for Inala wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 16 October 2025. The matter involved an answer to a question on notice. The member submitted that an alleged deliberate omission of information that could have been provided, on allegedly invalid grounds, amounted to a deliberate

misleading of the House. Consistent with Speaker's rulings, the Premier explained his reason for not providing all of the information requested. I consider the question was answered consistently with answers to similar questions from former governments. There is no matter of privilege. 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 Premier and Minister for Veterans and member for Broadwater [1978].

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 13 November 2025, the member for Inala wrote to me alleging that the Premier deliberately misled the House on 16 October 2025.

The matter relates to an answer by the Premier to a Question on Notice. The question asked by the member for Inala on 16 September 2025 was:

With reference to ministerial staff who have ceased employment or had their employment terminated since 5 November 2024—Will the Premier advise (a) the total number of ministerial staff who have received a termination payout, (b) the total cost of termination payments and (c) a breakdown of (a) by ministerial office.

The Premier answered:

It is not appropriate to provide a breakdown of ministerial staff terminated by ministerial office due to privacy reasons.

The member for Inala provided an answer to a question given by a Director-General during this year's Estimates Hearings that provided a more fulsome answer to a question similar to that which was asked of the Premier, arguing this meant that the information could be provided by the Premier; and that a deliberate omission of information amounts to deliberately misleading the House. The member also references a ruling by former Speaker Pitt in 2022 where he stated with respect to Questions on Notice 'if data is available it should generally be provided'.

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

The Premier confirmed his position on privacy as stated in the answer. He also submitted that an answer given by the director-general to a different question, in the context of an estimates hearing question without notice, is not the same as answering this question on notice.

The Premier also submitted that he had complied with the Speaker's Ruling referenced by the member for Inala, noting that after the quoted passage the Ruling went on to state that:

Ministers should explain why an answer cannot be provided in the terms posed in the Question. If ministers provide a reasonable explanation I will rule the question answered.

I have reviewed answers to similar questions from former governments and am of the belief that the level of detail that was provided by the Premier is similar to those. For reference, some of those answers can be found here:

<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2017/376-2017.pdf>

<https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tableoffice/questionsanswers/2017/468-2017.pdf>

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

An adequate explanation has been made. There is no matter of privilege.

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

SPEAKER'S RULING

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have considered the application of the same question rule to the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. An unusual feature of these bills is that amendments are predominantly organised by commencement rather than sequentially as the provisions appear in the primary act. As such, multiple clauses in the bill revisit provisions of the act which will have already been considered and amended by earlier clauses of the amending bill. This is contrary to standing order 87 and therefore enlivens the same question rule.

The same question rule is enlivened by clauses 35, 42, 43, 48, 49, 80, 86, 87, 93 and 94 of the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, contrary to standing order 87.

The same question rule is enlivened by clauses 13, 18, 22, 35, 37, 39, 43, 120, 123 and schedule 1, part 2, amendment 1 of the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, contrary to standing order 87.

The non-sequential amendments in the bills are also contrary to standing order 96 as they would have the effect of going backwards in consideration of the bill that is to a point in the bill which is before the latest decision of the House. As such, a motion to suspend standing orders 87 and 96 would be required for these clauses and schedules of the bills to be considered. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLS

I have considered the application of the same question rule to two bills—the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

The Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (the Environment Bill) was introduced on 20 November 2025. It seeks to amend a number of Acts including the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The sections of the principal Acts which the Bill seeks to amend have not been previously amended in the 58th session of Parliament. However, an unusual feature of the Bill is that amendments are grouped by commencement rather than sequentially—that is, based on whether the amendments commence on assent or on proclamation.

One issue that arises is whether the same question rule is offended. Multiple clauses in the Environment Bill revisit provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 which will have already been considered and amended by earlier clauses of the Environment Bill. This is contrary to Standing Order 87 and therefore offends the same question rule.

Standing Order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, Standing Order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a Bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form (Speaker Reynolds, Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2008, p. 2559).

Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by clauses 35, 42, 43, 48, 49, 80, 86, 87, 93 and 94 of the Environment Bill, contrary to Standing Order 87.

A further issue arises under Standing Order 96. Standing Orders are designed with a number of principles of bill-making assumed. The primary principle is that an amending bill—that is, a bill amending an existing act—will make amendments in the primary act sequentially. Another principle is that amendments are dealt with sequentially in the order in which they occur by clause or schedule. It is not possible to go backwards in consideration of a bill—that is, to a point in the bill which is before the latest decision of the House. The Environment Bill offends this principle by grouping amendments by commencement rather than sequentially.

The amendments in the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (Local Government Bill) are also predominantly organised by commencement rather than sequentially. As such, multiple clauses in the Local Government Bill revisit provisions of the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012 and the Local Government Regulation 2012 which will have already been considered and amended by earlier clauses of the Local Government Bill.

The same question rule is enlivened by clauses 13, 18, 22, 35, 37, 39, 43, 120, 123 and Schedule 1, Part 2, amendment 1 of the Local Government Bill, contrary to Standing Order 87.

A motion to suspend Standing Orders 87 and 96 would be required for the offending clauses and Schedules of the Environment Bill and the Local Government Bill to be considered.

PETITION

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

Logan City, Hooning

Hon. Enoch, from 2,228 petitioners, requesting the House to install anti-hooning cameras equipped with automatic numberplate and facial recognition technology across Logan City [\[1973\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

SPEAKER'S PAPER

The following Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Weir)—

[1974](#) Oath of Allegiance and of Office: Member for Hinchinbrook (Mr Chiesa)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

[1975](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Annual Report 2024-25

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Crime

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.07 pm): Our government is committed to prioritising victims and putting their rights first. We inherited a crime crisis, a decade in the making: weaker laws, fewer police, detention as a last resort, breach of bail removed as an offence—we all remember that. Labor's legacy is a spiralling youth crime crisis and a generation of serious repeat offenders.


Our government is determined to turn the tide on crime in this state. We promised to restore consequences for actions, and that is exactly what we have been delivering. It was almost exactly one year ago that Adult Time, Adult Crime became law. Passing the Making Queensland Safer Laws was one of our very first acts as a government. Since then, we have expanded the laws to cover more offences. We have said there will be more—and there will be. We have put more police on the beat and we have equipped them with the tools they need on the front line. We have passed Daniel's Law and Jack's Law has been made permanent, both named in honour of tragic losses that will now leave a legacy of positive change and make our communities safer. We made significant changes to domestic violence legislation to increase protections for victims and ensure victims are prioritised during the sentencing of sexual offences.

Later today, we will introduce new laws to strengthen youth bail monitoring. We will make electronic monitoring permanent. The bill will remove Labor's limitations and give courts the power to impose a GPS device on any eligible youth aged 10 to 17 years old, including first-time youth offenders. Electronic monitoring devices have been found to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by 24 per cent.

We want serious offenders to be brought to justice, but we also hope they will be reformed. That is why we have invested in early intervention and rehabilitation programs. Our new Regional Reset program has launched in seven regions across the state, to help young people at risk of turning to crime. Staying on Track offers up to 12 months of rehabilitation for youths exiting detention to stop them falling back into the cycle of crime. Under the former government, young people leaving detention were given only 72 hours of support after release.

Importantly, at the heart of our approach has been putting victims first. We inherited a system that did not prioritise victims. Victims must come first. Victim numbers are moving in the right direction after a decade of decline. These are early signs of success, but there is more to do. We will continue to send a strong message that there are consequences for actions. Every Queenslanders deserves to feel safe in their home. We are just getting started, and I promise Queenslanders that the work will continue.

Youth Crime, Bail

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.10 pm): It has been a year since the Crisafulli government made Adult Crime, Adult Time law. In December last year we passed the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which put the rights of victims back at the centre of the justice system; removed detention as a last resort for youth offenders; ensured a youth's full criminal history can be considered at sentence; and delivered consequences for actions for youth offenders. Today I can update the House on the impact of our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws on serious repeat offenders.

In the first nine months of the Making Queensland Safer Laws the number of serious repeat offenders has dropped 16 per cent. Contrast that with those opposite. Under the previous Labor government the number of serious repeat offenders increased 64 per cent. For Queenslanders, this means that under the Crisafulli government there are fewer victims of crime. In fact, in the first nine months of this year victim numbers are down 6.5 per cent. We know that there is a long way to go because we are coming off such a high bar.

We promised Queenslanders that we would continue to strengthen youth crime laws after a decade of the previous Labor government weakening them. Today I can also announce that I will be introducing a bill to deliver on that commitment to strengthen our youth crime laws. Today we are introducing strong new youth bail monitoring laws. Our bill will give courts the power to impose electronic monitoring on any youth offender given bail. Not only that, we are making it permanent and statewide. Any youth aged 10 to 17 who appears before the court and is granted bail can also have an electronic monitoring device fitted. These devices will reduce reoffending and ensure youth on bail are held accountable for their actions. These youth will now think twice before committing crimes because police will be watching.

Let's be clear: if a youth offender poses an unacceptable risk to community safety, they should be remanded in custody. Where courts have made a decision to grant that youth bail, our bill will allow the courts to also order that youth to wear an electronic monitoring device. This is a tool to monitor youth who have been given bail by the courts to protect Queenslanders and deter reoffending. This is another measure that will protect Queenslanders and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state. We always said that we would continue to strengthen youth crime laws, and that is exactly what we are doing after a decade of decline under the previous Labor government.

Youth Crime



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.13 pm): Today I am pleased to update the House on the progress we are making to make Queensland safer. For the first time in years we are seeing crime trending down, and less crime means fewer victims. Across the first nine months of this year victim numbers are down 6.5 per cent compared to the same period last year. That means that 6½ thousand fewer Queenslanders are waking up to break-ins at their homes and businesses and almost 2,000 fewer families are dealing with their car being stolen.

This improvement has not happened by accident; it is the result of decisive action and stronger laws. Adult Crime, Adult Time is working. We are turning the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis by giving police the laws and resources they need after a decade of decline. Just this morning I was joined by the Premier and the Minister for Youth Justice to announce that the first shipment of more than 2½ thousand Taser 10s has arrived. Queensland is the first jurisdiction outside of the US to give every single frontline officer access to this state-of-the-art equipment. These tasers will save lives and help protect our police and the community.

We cannot talk about progress without acknowledging why strong action is needed. Under the former government, too many Queenslanders lost their lives because violent juvenile offenders were given bail, were repeatedly breaching it and were still allowed back into the community. As we head into Christmas, every Queenslanders remembers Emma Lovell, murdered on Boxing Day at her own front door by an offender who had been granted bail that morning. We remember Jack Beasley, stabbed at Surfers Paradise by a group of teenagers—one had been released from jail that very day.

We remember the horrific home invasion that nearly killed Wallabies legend Toutai Kefu and his family, committed by offenders who, again, were on bail. We remember 14-year-old Angus Beaumont, stabbed to death by two teenagers who were both already on bail. The community will never forget the crash that killed Michale Chandler, Kelsie Davies and Sheree Robertson, caused by a 13-year-old driving a stolen Mercedes at more than 200 kilometres an hour who, again, was on bail. Of course, we remember the tragedies of Kate Leadbetter, Matthew Field and baby Miles, struck down on Australia Day by a teenager who had been before the Childrens Court seven times on more than 100 charges.

These are not isolated cases; they are proof that the Labor way failed victims, failed families and failed frontline police, who had to keep arresting the same young offenders over and over again while having to deliver death messages to the loved ones of innocent victims in Queensland. The days of serious repeat offenders cycling through the system of endless bail need to end. The Crisafulli government is rebuilding our police and restoring community safety in Queensland. We will continue to drive down crime, improve police capability and, most importantly, shut the revolving door of serious repeat offenders. We know that there is still a long way to go and we cannot afford to take a backward step after a decade of inaction.

Housing Supply



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.16 pm): The Crisafulli government is squarely focused on delivering a place to call home for Queenslanders after a decade of decline under Labor. Queenslanders know that, under Labor: housing lot approvals went backwards; overbearing red and green tape stifled the delivery of housing developments; and the centrepiece of their housing plan—the \$2 billion Housing Investment Fund—failed to deliver a single new home before they were booted from office. Labor's record on housing is one on failure, and Queenslanders struggling to get into a home today still suffer the consequences of that failure. While the Palaszczuk and Miles governments did not prioritise the supply of new homes, the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering them so that all Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders, can aspire to get into and own their first home.

I have spoken in this House about the government's \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, which will unlock more than 98,000 new homes across the state in round 1 alone, with 50 per cent of the fund being made available in the regions. This fund complements the work a refocused Economic Development Queensland is doing across the state in unlocking new housing opportunities within priority development areas, including the new and revised PDAs delivered by the Crisafulli government.

I am pleased to advise the House that in the year to date there has been a 29 per cent increase in development applications being lodged in PDAs as EDQ receives more development applications. As well, there has been a 45 per cent increase in approved applications, cutting through the backlog we inherited from Labor. Since the LNP government implemented its KPI framework, there has been a major improvement in new applications being approved. It has gone from a low of 36 per cent under Labor to 93 per cent under the LNP government—93 per cent in a year!

The Southern Thornlands PDA, declared under this government, in the Redlands electorate has already had its first development application approval granted, paving the way for new homes to be delivered in that region, with the delivery of road and intersection upgrades beginning in January. Labor were paralysed by inaction and indecision, with a backlog of 41 existing applications that had not been decided dating back to 2023, preventing the potential approval and construction of more than 8,000 homes.

The Crisafulli government will continue to work and unlock land and deliver housing across the state. That is why today I am pleased to announce that we are releasing to market a development-ready 5,200-square-metre site on Turbot Street in Brisbane's CBD to unlock new housing and hotel opportunities. This rare opportunity has the potential to deliver significant housing, tourism or business activity through a market-led process, breathing new life into the CBD of our capital city ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This site will be complemented by the restoration of the heritage Brisbane Dental Hospital site, which will find new life after sitting idle under Labor for a number of years. The Crisafulli government will transform this prime real estate, which had fallen by the wayside after Labor failed to meet their commitment of restoring it, by creating a vibrant precinct in the inner city, allowing us to put our best foot forward when the world comes to Queensland in 2032 for the games.

People may ask, 'Where have we heard this before?' Let's look at a press release issued in December 2020 by the Hon. Dr Steven Miles. I quote the member for Murrumba when he was deputy premier in 2020—five years ago. The press release is titled 'Brisbane CBD set for billion-dollar boost' and states—

Two redevelopments worth almost \$3 billion collectively and set to transform Brisbane city have reached significant milestones today.

The Queensland Government has secured a conditional agreement with property group Mirvac for the proposed ... redevelopment of ... Turbot Street.

...

Member for McConnel Grace Grace said both projects were a major win for Brisbane's CBD.

Five years later—nothing. Under this LNP government, expressions of interest are open now for a market-led proposal. It is this LNP government that will deliver 'Turbo' Street, not the former Labor government.

Mrs Gerber: We're turbocharging Turbot Street!


Mr BLEIJIE: We are turbocharging Turbot Street! We are turbocharging the delivery of housing. Proponents who are looking for this turbocharged housing delivery option and are looking forward to partnering with the Crisafulli government to transform the CBD site are now able to register their interest on the EDQ website until 5 March.

In conclusion, this is a complete failure by Labor because they believe that blocks of land and announcements were delivering—which it was not. We have always said that delivery under Labor was just announcements and glossy brochures. I also note the Leader of the Opposition's new video that he has released today, with spelling errors I might add—again. The Leader of the Opposition said he understands the cost-of-living pressure and the housing pressure as he is going into his \$83 protein powder and filling his cup up—but he says he understands the cost-of-living pressure on Queenslanders. He is so out of touch. It is the LNP government which delivering for Queenslanders without the \$83 protein shakes.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (2.22 pm): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Just before the Deputy Premier rose to deliver his ministerial statement, he made a number of comments to me—words to the effect of 'I will get you'—while pointing at me.

Mr Bleijie: I did not. I said, 'Don't bully me.' I am not bullying you. That is not true.

Ms GRACE: I believe this is not parliamentary behaviour. I feel like I was threatened in relation to that.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me.

Ms GRACE: I ask that you rule on the disorderly conduct.

Mr SPEAKER: You can write to me on that matter, if you so wish, member for McConnel.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, it happened just before and I ask: is it possible that you rule on that disorderly conduct?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at what the member has said. I asked the member to stop bullying me. I take personal offence at what she has said.

Ms Grace: You did not.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There will be no arguing across the chamber.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take personal offence at what the member has just said. I ask her to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: There are two issues there. Member for McConnel, like I say, I did not hear it but we will have a look at the tapes. We will review the tapes. Secondly, the Deputy Premier has taken personal offence and it is tradition that you withdraw.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. I take personal offence at what was said and ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Like I said, I did not hear it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the member for Kawana, he has vigorously denied saying anything. I understand the courtesies and the processes and standing orders related to the parliament. However, I ask you to consider that matter as well in relation to the broad matter that has been referenced.

Mr SPEAKER: As I said, I will be reviewing the tape on this matter. There is nowhere further I can take it until I review the tape.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw to your attention the repeated utterances of threats by the Deputy Premier to members of the opposition.

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, I have already stated I will be reviewing the tape.


Mr de BRENNI: I am drawing to your attention circumstances and instances of this on a repeated basis in addition to the one raised by the member for McConnel. Mr Speaker, I refer you to standing order 251, which prohibits members from speaking or making utterances whilst other members are speaking. The Deputy Premier continues to engage in this behaviour. I submit to you it is disorderly and I would ask that you rule on his disorderly behaviour.

Mr SPEAKER: I have already said I am going to review the tape of this incident, and that is where we are going to rest things at the moment.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resumed from p. 3978.

Gas Supply

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.26 pm): Queensland has for many years done the heavy lifting when it comes to ensuring a steady supply of gas for eastern states. Not only do we have abundant natural gas reserves but government policies have enabled industry to explore and develop those reserves into productive operations. In turn, Queenslanders have benefited from billions of dollars in investment, jobs and royalties—forming the backbone of our economy.

Under the Crisafulli government, these royalties go towards the critical infrastructure and frontline services Queenslanders need—employing teachers, nurses and police officers. Unfortunately, some states have chosen not to do the same with their own gas resources and they are attempting to turn their problem into Queensland's problem. I will be travelling to Canberra next week for a meeting of the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council where the issue of east coast gas supply will be discussed.

While we remain committed to work constructively, any reforms to Australia's gas market settings must acknowledge Queensland's substantial and ongoing contribution to domestic demand, regional trade and the national economy. By 2027 Queensland will be responsible for nearly 90 per cent of all east coast gas production. In 2024 Queensland produced almost \$27 billion worth of gas, making it our second biggest export market behind coal and contributing around \$1.7 billion in royalties that fund essential services and directly support 9,000 regional jobs.

While Queensland has continuously supported gas development, southern states have not. The Crisafulli government is focused on creating an environment that supports the private sector to invest in expanding production. That is why we have made available nine new areas for tender across the Cooper-Eromanga and Bowen-Surat basins. This is in stark contrast to New South Wales, which produces no natural gas and where we have seen efforts to develop the Narrabri gas field appear to stall.

Mr Power interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! We have had enough for one day.

Mr JANETZKI: Meanwhile, Victoria's many years of ideological warfare on gas, whether it be household use or commercial production, has come to a head as the sheer weight of reality has forced them into reconsidering damaging rhetoric that demonised the industry and stalled development. Perversely, this has been misinterpreted as limiting their ability to raise gas royalties, yet they are rewarded with a greater share of GST. Unfortunately, southern states want to force Queensland to fix their self-made problem to the detriment of Queensland taxpayers. Instead of waiting for reforms from the ongoing federal gas market review, there are moves afoot to give extra powers to the Australian Energy Market Operator to intervene in the east coast gas market, including emergency powers to direct investment to protect identified supply shortfalls. Ultimately, costs would be borne by consumers.

When I head to Canberra next week I will continue to advocate for industry and Queensland's interests. At a recent gas industry round table I heard loudly and clearly that the federal government's patchwork quilt of regulations has been a heavy anchor on investment. This is concerning, given that the answer to the southern states' woes is new domestic gas to increase supply. Industry expressed concerns that subsidising uneconomic infrastructure projects, including LNG import terminals, will distort the market and undermine the investment case for domestic gas development, but that is exactly what is being proposed for public consultation.

I will not accept other jurisdictions trying to rush through heavy-handed market interventions that unfairly impact Queensland. Queensland will continue to do the heavy lifting on gas supply amid this growing southern shortfall, which is driven entirely by southern states' own policy decisions. We will not accept inequity. Whether it is supporting our gas industry or fighting for our fair share of GST revenue, on this side of the House we will always stand up to Canberra for Queensland's interests. The truth is that without Queensland there is no domestic gas market.

Lehmann, Mr C; Health System, Workforce

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.30 pm): I wish to acknowledge the passing of former TAFE Queensland board member Mr Chris Lehmann this past weekend. Chris was a loving husband, proud father and tireless advocate for the construction industry. My thoughts are with Chris's family and friends at this difficult time. Vale, Christopher Lehmann.

After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government has been working tirelessly to secure a pipeline of skilled workers to build Queensland's future. This week I was pleased to join the member for Coomera at Southport TAFE as we announced 2,000 free Diploma of Nursing Queensland training places for Queensland students in 2026. It is all part of our plan to heal Labor's health crisis and deliver a better lifestyle for Queenslanders through a stronger economy after Labor presided over a skill shortage during their decade of decline.

As a former nurse, I know just how important nurses are to delivering the health care Queenslanders need and deserve, particularly given our growing state. It is worth noting that, despite the fact that one in six new Queensland jobs are expected to be in the healthcare and social assistance sectors by 2028-29, those opposite dropped the ball in this space. The former Labor government let their federal Labor colleagues off the hook when it came to funding free nursing. They did not fight to continue funding for Queensland's Diploma of Nursing, and federal funding for this critical qualification dried up. Recognising the importance of the course to the healthcare and aged-care sectors, the Crisafulli LNP government is proudly funding 100 per cent of students' free access to this critical pathway. Not only are we subsidising fees for Diploma of Nursing students across TAFE, the Mater and CQU, we are also meeting the cost of their clinical placements, making it easier for students to earn while they learn. Trainee nurses can now complete their mandatory prac placements—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba.

Ms BATES:—and become qualified while still being able to pay their rent, buy their groceries and support their families.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Bulimba and member for Logan.


Ms BATES: While those opposite were happy to let the federal government walk away, the Crisafulli LNP government has invested in providing access to these subsidised clinical placements because students have told us this helps them complete their diploma. Of course, any time the federal government wishes to chip in to support trainee nurses it is more than welcome. With 20 per cent of Queensland's registered health workforce at or approaching retirement age—

Ms Farmer interjected.

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

Ms BATES:—this training is critical to see our students graduate job ready, skilled up and able to jump straight in to join our healthcare and aged-care workforce. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering a pipeline of skilled workers and a fresh start for Queensland's health workforce.

Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.34 pm): When Queenslanders voted for an LNP government in October last year, they voted for a government that could get major transport infrastructure projects back on track after a decade of decline. They voted for a government to get on with the job of delivering the generational road and rail upgrades they have deserved for a long time. In the last few weeks we have seen plenty of milestones across key projects, each of which is significant to so many different Queenslanders and all of which show that we are living up to the standard they set us.

On Sunday, 30 November I joined the Centenary Bridge upgrade team to celebrate the opening of a new bridge across the Brisbane River at Jindalee. This milestone marks a significant step towards a better connected, higher capacity Centenary Motorway. The river crossing was widened from two lanes to four lanes in the 1980s, but there has been no major upgrade since then. With the new bridge now operational, the project will shift focus to rehabilitating and repurposing the existing bridge. Our government stepped in to save the project, which was spiralling out of control after significant cost blowouts presided over by incompetent Labor ministers. There were \$55 million in cost blowouts on that one job and significant onsite disruption as a consequence of the same CFMEU those opposite sided with over the rights of Queenslanders. The inaction of the former Labor state government cost Queenslanders \$55 million on that job alone. That project is now running to schedule. At the end of construction, motorists will enjoy a three-lane northbound bridge and a three-lane southbound bridge with longer and safer entry and exit ramps.

Last Tuesday saw the opening of the Coomera Connector Stage 1 North, a four-kilometre section of the 16-kilometre Coomera Connector Stage 1. This section, known as the M9, is a critical piece of infrastructure for the northern Gold Coast. It will improve travel times for local motorists, bike riders and pedestrians between Shipper Drive and Helensvale Road. The M9 also provides a vital new crossing over the Coomera River, addressing a longstanding barrier to alternatives to the Pacific Motorway. As the preferred route for local trips, the Coomera Connector will help keep the M1 primarily for freight, tourism and commuter travel.

I want to acknowledge the advocacy of Gold Coast members in this House, particularly the members for Coomera, Theodore, Bonney and Broadwater, all of whom have advocated for the Coomera Connector for many years. In fact, those members took that to the election in 2017 and 2020, and it is an LNP government that is responsible for delivering the Coomera Connector after a decade of decline by those opposite.


Earlier this year our government also announced the Wave, a public transport initiative on the Sunshine Coast. We know that delivering reliable, integrated transport infrastructure requires a comprehensive approach, and that is why the Wave is being delivered alongside the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade—something those opposite cut. The Mooloolah River Interchange is critical to the success of the Wave, but perhaps more importantly it addresses the longstanding issue of congestion and safety on the Sunshine Motorway and provides improved road connectivity on the Sunshine Coast. After those opposite cut the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrades, stopped work and rolled over to the federal government, early works on that site are already underway. We have site preparation, clearing, service relocations and geotechnical investigations underway right now. To ensure both projects are delivered efficiently, effectively and to the highest standard—

Mr Mellish interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear the member for Aspley interjecting over there. I think he is the same bloke who rolled over when the federal government pulled their funding for that very project. In fact, it may well have been his first act in the short period he was the transport minister. He rolled over for Queenslanders and sided with Canberra on the Mooloolah River Interchange. That is his record.

We will deliver these projects efficiently, effectively and to the highest standard. We have established a program alliance to oversee the delivery of both the Wave stage 3 and the Mooloolah River Interchange upgrade. That program alliance will allow us to work hand in hand with industry to deliver these projects in one integrated program. The program alliance will be established by late next year, and both projects are on track to be operational in time for the 2032 games. As we look towards the end of this year, I am encouraged by all of these milestones. I am looking forward to continuing to deliver for Queenslanders, working hand in glove with industry to deliver the generational transport infrastructure that Queenslanders have needed for so many years.

Housing Supply

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.40 pm): Over the past year, the Crisafulli government has delivered the most significant reset of Queensland's housing system in decades. Queensland's housing crisis was years in the making, but we have moved swiftly to accelerate supply and get more homes delivered. In our first budget we delivered a record \$5.6 billion over this four-year period alone—Queensland's largest ever investment in social and community housing delivery. We have also locked in \$500 million per year from 2029-30 onwards as a permanent baseline. This nation-leading funding certainty gives our community housing partners the confidence they need to plan, invest and scale up the homes that Queenslanders deserve.

Since coming to government we have contracted 3,343 social and affordable homes, including 1,746 to be delivered with a community housing provider. These are the homes that we count. They are not hypothetical houses like Labor talk about constantly. We did not just put these homes in a press release and say, 'Job done.' They are real; they are happening.

To deliver these homes, we have to make Queensland the best place in the nation to build. That is why we are reforming the QBCC to become a more customer-friendly regulator. We have delivered the first three of our four tranches of the Building Reg Reno reforms to make it easier for tradies in every corner of our state. We have also fixed our procurement system, covering policies of around \$35 billion of spending a year, through our new Queensland Procurement Policy 2026. We know that BPIC documents circulated by the former government were not just written by the CFMEU; they in fact still had the CFMEU's watermark embedded on them. I can inform the House that those opposite are clearly not surprised by that. The procurement policy was outsourced to the CFMEU under the Labor Party and it would be again if they ever got back in. The CFMEU are not writing procurement policies in Queensland anymore.

As well as investing in more homes after a decade of decline, we are also properly managing the social housing that we have on our books. We have reinstated rent and tenancy reviews after Labor allowed 45 per cent of social housing tenants to go unchecked for over five years. Without these checks, high-income earners and even property owners were living in taxpayer-funded social homes while vulnerable Queenslanders waited.

Since July, our work to address underoccupancy has so far also seen 121 tenancies choose to downsize to more suitably sized properties which has freed up almost 200 new rooms across our portfolio. In July we also introduced a new antisocial behaviour policy for public housing to empower our housing officers to take action on the small minority of tenants who do the wrong thing. These reforms are restoring fairness and integrity across the entire system.

We inherited a homelessness system where too many people were left without a pathway to long-term housing. We have taken big steps to fix that this year. Through the expanded role of our housing outreach teams, we are now proactively supporting households in motel/hotel accommodation to transition to stable long-term housing. This includes 408 long-stay households, with 264 completing housing pathway plans and 144 already successfully transitioning into longer term housing outcomes. That means fewer Queenslanders stuck in motel rooms and more people living in stable, secure homes.

After a decade of decline under Labor, 2025 has been a big year of delivery across the housing portfolio—record funding, thousands more homes contracted and under construction, a fairer system and a homelessness response focused on achieving outcomes for our most vulnerable. Every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home, and the Crisafulli government is doing the work to turn around the housing crisis created by Labor.

Tourism Industry



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.45 pm): The Crisafulli government's Connecting Queensland Fund is making it easier for tourists to travel to and around Queensland. The fund is bringing new flights online, opening new doors for visitors and creating new opportunities for Queensland communities. After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli government is delivering a fresh start for tourism. We are restoring confidence, rebuilding connections and making sure we take full advantage of the green and gold runway in the lead-up to 2032.

Tourism is the heartbeat of so many Queensland communities. It creates jobs. It powers small businesses. It puts money in the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders. When tourism thrives, Queensland thrives. That is why when we launched Destination 2045 we made a bold commitment: lock in strategic aviation routes, bring visitors to Queensland and double visitor spending by 2045. One of the six key pillars of Destination 2045 is connectivity—because we know that aviation attraction is critical to achieving our goal of doubling total visitor expenditure.

I am proud to say that we are delivering on that commitment. On Monday, the member for Barron River and Assistant Minister for Tourism announced that the Connecting Queensland Fund had secured a new Qantas service between Auckland and the Gold Coast. Taking off on 26 June next year, this route is expected to contribute \$28 million annually to our tourism economy. Over its first three years, it will deliver up to 154,239 inbound seats—that is \$85.05 million in economic benefit and 340 new jobs.

What else has happened under this government? Using residual funds in the former aviation attraction program, we have restored the Malaysia Airlines service from Brisbane to Kuala Lumpur. This is 75,000 inbound seats every year which will deliver a \$54 million boost to the Queensland economy in its first year alone. Virgin announced its Brisbane to Doha route in partnership with Qatar Airways. This two-year deal will add 29,000 inbound seats annually and inject more than \$90 million in overnight visitor expenditure. The Cairns to Nadi route on Fiji Airways, which also connects on to the United States, will see 53,000 seats annually in a major win for tourism operators and businesses in the Far North.

Last night—just one day after our Connecting Queensland Fund announcement—the member for Cairns stood in this House and said—

... there is not a single new aviation agreement or even an announcement—not one—since they came to power

Mr Speaker, the question is: is the member for Cairns really that out of his depth? Is he seriously not across his brief, or has he deliberately tried to mislead the House to distract from Labor's diabolical funding cut to tourism? I invite the member for Cairns to withdraw and set the record straight; otherwise, I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker. Queenslanders deserve better than spin. They deserve results, and that is what we are delivering.

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

Mr POWELL: The Crisafulli government is making it easier for people to travel to and around Queensland so every corner of this state gets its chance to shine.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think you have made it clear to this parliament that members who wish to allege contempt of the House need to do that through the procedures that you have outlined. They do not ventilate those in the parliament and they certainly do not misuse ministerial statements to ventilate those matters. I would ask you to ensure the minister's statement is in accordance with your rulings.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you know the process: if you have a complaint, you write to me. There is no need to broadcast it in the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.49 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. acknowledges the third-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare.
2. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to urgently implement the State Coroner's recommendations into the Wieambilla incident.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time today will conclude at 3.49 pm.

Health System, Workforce



Mr MILES (2.49 pm): My question is to the Minister for Health. Nurses and midwives have told the opposition there has been a reduction in the number of nursing and midwifery graduate positions for the 2026 intake. Is it the case that the health minister is slashing the number of new graduate nursing and midwifery positions whilst the health workforce gap analysis shows Queensland needs another 22,300 by 2032?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question in relation to workforce. Of course, this year Queensland Health employed the largest number of new graduate doctors in its history: 880 new doctors were employed. We employed 1,800 new nurses, again a very significant number of new nurses, throughout the state. I visited many of the hospitals in the state to welcome those new nurses. I think I was at Hervey Bay where I met them with the member for Hervey Bay. We have also employed over 5,500, if memory serves me correctly, new employees in the health department this year alone and we have budgeted for an additional 4½ thousand over the next 12 months, for 2025-26. That number is in the budget as well, and I thank the Treasurer for that. I am not sure where the Leader of the Opposition is getting his numbers from—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Miller, I have already cautioned you three or four times this morning. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr NICHOLLS:—but those are the numbers that are the reality in terms of those we have employed and those we will continue to employ. The graduate numbers for 2026 will be determined by the number of graduates and we are still waiting on those numbers to come through. We have to actually get the graduate doctors; we have to have the graduate nurses. In this respect I want to acknowledge the great work that the member for Mudgeeraba has done as training minister to ensure there are 2,000 more people being trained as nurses who the mates of those opposite in Canberra—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you will have your chance.

Mr NICHOLLS:—were not going to fund. That is why we have done a gap analysis. I note the member for Murrumba announced the gap analysis that we have done—a piece of work that was not done by those opposite and which identified a number of particular failures in respect of the planning for the future workforce that Queensland will need in its health service. That is why the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to employing more than 46,000 employees over the next decade to deliver the staff who are going to be needed.

When it comes to making clear and obvious decisions about the growth in the Queensland Health workforce, we could not have been more transparent. We have been out. We have done a survey. We have been out with our workforce gap analysis. We have released the gap analysis to the public, and the public consultation closes tonight, 10 December, at 11.59 pm. If the member or any of those opposite wish to make a decision, they are more than welcome to do so. We have engaged with the QNMU, we have engaged with the AMA, we have engaged with the colleges, we have engaged with the unions, we have engaged with our own workforce and we will be delivering on our commitment in relation to the health workforce.

(Time expired)

Health System, Workforce

Ms FENTIMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Nursing and midwifery graduates have told the opposition that those lucky enough to be offered graduate positions with Queensland Health are only being offered one to three days a week of work. Can the minister confirm whether this practice is occurring and, if it is, advise how graduate nurses and midwives are supposed to make ends meet during a cost-of-living crisis?

Mr NICHOLLS: I think I very clearly answered the question in relation to workforce, workforce growth, the consultation that we are doing around the gap analysis to ensure we have enough workforce and the employment activities that are being undertaken by Queensland Health to date, including the employment of 1,800 graduates at the beginning of the year from the nursing discipline and the employment of 880 new doctors in clinical positions the length and breadth of the state. I have indicated very strongly through our deal with the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union and the AWU what our employment prospects are going to be in the future including, for the first time in an enterprise bargaining agreement for nurses and midwives in Queensland, double time for overtime—something that was never able to be delivered by those opposite. That is being funded—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: We have delivered an enterprise bargaining agreement that includes things that the nurses and midwives had been seeking for a decade and that those on that side were unable or unwilling to deliver. We have done that by working constructively. We have done that by working constructively with the union movement and with their representatives and employees. Contrast that to what happened when I came to office and found there was inadequate funding in the budget for workforce growth. The 2023-24 budget did not have enough money in it to actually pay the nurses and midwives what they were due. It did not have enough money in it to actually fund the midwife ratios that were mandated by legislation. We had to go in and fund that gap. The workforce trajectory that I inherited from the former government had accounted for cutting 1,700 jobs from the Queensland Health workforce over the 2025-26 financial year.

Ms Fentiman: If everything is okay, why are they coming to us?

Mr NICHOLLS: Go and look at your own budget.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have 15 seconds left to respond to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: They had not funded the midwife nursing ratios and they had attrition rates reaching all-time highs of over 4,000 full-time-equivalent staff who left Queensland Health in 2023-24. We are delivering; they cut.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime, Bail

Mr CHIESA: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. The people of Hinchinbrook have spoken loud and clear. They want to see further action on crime. Will the Crisafulli LNP government strengthen youth bail laws to make my community safer, and is the Premier aware of any policies that saw crime rates soar during a decade of decline?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have order. Questions will be heard in silence.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the honourable member for his question. I congratulate him on his election. The people of Hinchinbrook did speak loudly and clearly and they voted for a seat at the table. The member should be commended for the vigour with which he delivered his opening speech. I see that those opposite are laughing. I say to the honourable member that we will listen to the residents of Hinchinbrook—every one of them, including the one in 12 who voted for the Labor Party; we will respect them as well. Overwhelmingly, people in this state are urging us to keep going when it comes to dealing with the youth crime crisis.

The honourable member asks about bail laws, and I listened intently to his push during the campaign. I commend him on it. The honourable member will continue to take that case forward, as we are today. I want to acknowledge that what we are doing today is the next step forward in strengthening bail laws. It is important. I will continue to say that it is one piece of a jigsaw puzzle, but it is a broad puzzle, in order to make sure we can meet our metric, which is fewer victim numbers.

I say to those opposite that that involves things like early intervention—something which those opposite spoke about but never invested in. That involves rehabilitation. When I see stories of young people leaving detention without any support, I wonder, 'What on earth were they expecting them to do?' We are changing that. We are going to put more police on the beat—and that is happening—and we are dealing with the attrition rate, and we are fundamentally about making sure this commitment is met. Every change we make to legislation will be about stronger laws, not weaker laws. Every change we make will be about more police, not fewer police. Every change we make will be about more investment in early intervention, not broken promises like the Labor Party.

I say this to the honourable member: I understand how passionate you are about this and how much it means to your community. To those opposite I make this point: we are going to make sure that we roll out electronic monitoring right across the board so that every court has the ability to impose that. Already those opposite are saying, 'Should this apply to different ages?' We have heard that fitting a device on a younger person is cumbersome, it is uncomfortable, it is embarrassing. Well, I have good news: there is a way around it—do not offend! If you do not offend, you will be able to avoid wearing one.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I have cautioned you already today. You are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I can hear the interjections. I know what is going to happen, because those opposite do not have their heart in it, they do not believe in stronger laws, they do not believe in more police, they do not believe in early intervention and we are healing their youth crime crisis.

(Time expired)

Hospital Rescue Plan

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Health. Regional LNP MPs were sighted filming on the green today with what appeared to be the Hospital Rescue Plan brochure. If the timeline for delivering the hospital beds that Queenslanders need is available today, will the minister table it today?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Bancroft for one of the great questions that I am sure I will get today because it yet again allows me to reference 'Labor's Hospital Failures' booklet, which I keep with me all the time and I am almost at the stage of being able to recite it verbatim page for page. What we know is that under Labor its so-called capacity expansion program was undeliverable in time, undeliverable in scope and undeliverable within the budget that had been allocated to it. We know that to be the case because we have the words of the former health minister in terms of a letter—

Mr O'Connor: Which one?

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, there are three of them I know—the most recent failed Labor health minister who said—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Both sides, order!

Mr NICHOLLS: I refer to the most recent failed health minister who said—

As a result of this funding context, the SCP budget—

the sustaining capital budget—another budget—

is fully committed in 2024-25 with no ability to respond to emergent issues that may have a safety or clinical service delivery impact.

This is a letter to the Hon. Cameron Dick at the time. It continues—

I seek your and the Premier's approval to allocate \$150 million from the capacity expansion program—

the hospital build program—

contingency to the SCP on an interim basis. The funding will need to be returned if we want to build the capacity expansion program.

The only problem was it never happened.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was whether or not that information about the hospital beds is available today and, if so, whether he will table it.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is relevance and I take the point of order. Minister, you heard the question regarding regional health beds and hospital plans.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed; thank you, Mr Speaker. The letter continues—and I think this is important to understand—

The capacity expansion cost gap as of January 2024 was estimated at a potential unmitigated high—

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the minister's wilful refusal to adhere to your ruling for him to be relevant. He is being deliberately irrelevant. The question was about—

Mr SPEAKER: Relevance; okay.

Mr de BRENNI:—the Hospital Rescue Plan, not any other plan.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the question was around the hospital plan. You have 46 seconds left to respond to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Hospital Rescue Plan, referenced by the member, was necessary because of the failed capacity expansion program. It is a rescue plan.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I want to hear the minister.

Mr NICHOLLS: The letter continues—

... was estimated at a potential unmitigated high of \$2.8 billion due to the levels of unquantified risk and assumptions being priced up-front.

That is why we have a Hospital Rescue Plan. Those opposite knew in January 2024 that it was \$2.8 billion in the red, so we will be announcing even more good news out of the Hospital Rescue Plan. Just wait and see, member for Bancroft.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr G KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering stronger consequences for actions, and is the minister aware of any approaches that fail to protect victims during a decade of decline?

Mrs GERBER: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. He is a fierce advocate for his community and has seen the effects of Labor's youth crime crisis in his own community. In fact, communities right across Queensland saw the devastating effects of the decade of decline and a decade of the previous Labor government weakening our youth justice laws, making detention a last resort, removing breach of bail as an offence, closing our Childrens Court to victims' families and the media.

In the year since the election of the Crisafulli government we have passed Adult Crime, Adult Time. After one year of the Making Queensland Safer Laws being enforced, I am pleased to update the House that we are seeing a reduction in serious repeat offenders—serious repeat offenders which under those opposite rose 64 per cent. Under Adult Crime, Adult Time, there is a 16 per cent reduction in serious repeat offenders. We are seeing small effects from that reduction such as a reduction in victims of crime of 6.5 per cent.

Today we will introduce new tough bail laws—laws that will allow our courts to put a monitoring device on every single youth who comes before them, if it is appropriate, no matter the age. Labor had parameters around its electronic monitoring trial—a trial that in the first year only saw four youth offenders fitted with an electronic monitoring device: four—that was it. It put parameters around it which meant that the youth had to have committed a serious indictable offence and be before the court for another serious indictable offence before the court could even consider putting an electronic monitoring device on that youth. We have removed all of those constraints on the court. The court can now put an electronic monitoring device on any youth that they grant bail to if it sees fit to do so, and that includes youths aged 10 to 17.

We know that those opposite do not support that for youths that age. We know that those opposite had a secret plan to increase the age of criminal responsibility, so the question is: will those opposite support our strong bail laws that mean 10-year-olds can have an electronic monitoring device fitted to them if it is appropriate? We know that at the Labor state conference there was a motion that Labor would increase the age of criminal responsibility from 10 years to 14 years. How will those opposite vote on these laws when at their state conference they proposed to increase the age of criminal responsibility when these strong laws from the Crisafulli government propose that 10- to 17-year-olds can be eligible for electronic monitoring devices? In fact, the former attorney-general said that they were working towards a proposal to increase the age of criminal responsibility, so how will they vote on these strong new laws?

(Time expired)

Health System, Data Reporting

Mr BAILEY: My question is to the Minister for Health. Patients waiting for surgery and outpatient appointments are reporting that they have been removed from the waitlist and sent back to their specialists or GPs for more information, and I table an example of this.

Tabled paper: Letter from Metro South Health, undated, regarding a referral requesting an outpatient appointment at an ophthalmology clinic [1979].

Is the minister directing Queensland Health to remove patients from waitlists to make the LNP's health data look better?

Mr NICHOLLS: As always, it pays to check with respect to the member for Miller. The letter states—

Metro South Health has received a referral from your doctor requesting an outpatient appointment for you to be seen at a Ophthalmology clinic.

We have reviewed the referral and need additional information to progress your referral. We have contacted ... requesting this information ...

Due to this you are currently not on a waitlist ...

That is because there is not enough information to get on the waitlist.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister is responding to the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am sure that the patient will go and get the additional information that is necessary, and that additional information will allow the clinic to say where that person should be placed; whether they are category 1, 2 or 3; what it is they are actually presenting for; and how they need to be seen to deal with whatever their ophthalmology claim is. That is a perfectly normal letter for anyone seeking any appointment anywhere: 'Please provide us with the requisite information in order for us to be able to make an appointment for you, and when you provide us with the information we will put you on the waitlist.' That is exactly what that letter says. That document is no smoking gun. The only thing the member for Miller is good at is bubble guns. That is all he deals with.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Obviously, I take personal offence and ask that the minister withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, the member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, we do not need your assistance. Minister, the member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course I withdraw. I am happy to do that. For the benefit of the House and for Queenslanders who, I think, want to know how well our investment in elective surgery is going and what we are doing in relation to the waitlist—remember, it blew out under those opposite to a total—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, this is the last time I will caution you.

Ms Fentiman: It was on the way down.

Mr NICHOLLS: Did I hear the member for Waterford say it was on the way down? I cannot remember another time that I have seen a number go from 58,000 to 66,000 and be on the way down. That is what it was—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Waterford, you are warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am compelled to remind the House: it was the member for Waterford who said that she was going to get ramping down to 28 per cent within 12 months and it got up to 45.5 per cent. It is a number burned in my mind.

(Time expired)

Youth Crime

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. How is the Crisafulli LNP government holding perpetrators accountable, and is the Attorney aware of any policies that saw perpetrators subject to weakened laws during a decade of decline?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I thank the member for Toowoomba North for that very important question. I thought the opposition's question time yesterday was bad. It is a case of rinse and repeat today, honestly. The member for Toowoomba North asks a very important question. After a decade of decline—after all the weak laws and a weak government—the Crisafulli government is doing everything it can to ensure communities are kept safe. There is no greater example of weak government—apart from probably the *In plain sight* report—than their flip-flopping over the breach-of-bail laws and the juvenile justice laws. Back in 2016, when so many of those opposite were sitting around the cabinet table, then premier Palaszczuk decided to wind back the juvenile justice laws to make sure—

Mr Crisafulli: They boasted about it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the honourable Premier; they did boast about it. I remember that back then we all said, 'You cannot weaken the laws; otherwise, crime will go up.' Crime spiralled out of control. We saw hardcore repeat juvenile offenders laughing in the face of the government. Former ministers said things like they wanted to rule out a breach-of-bail offence. For example, the member for Nudgee said, 'We don't want something that did not work.' The member for Morayfield, who was then the police minister—no wonder they laughed at that government and continued to offend—rejected a breach-of-bail offence as 'nonsense' and called it 'unworkable'. Then the member for Waterford—of course, front and centre always—invested in weakening our laws by telling parliament that breach of bail did nothing to reduce crime.

The Crisafulli government is not going to take that attitude. That is why 12 months ago we introduced Adult Crime, Adult Time and that is why today the youth justice minister will introduce even tougher bail laws in this great state. It is quite incredible to think the former government still refuses to admit there is a crime problem in this state. They go to their state Labor conference and say, 'How about we give these kids even more time to commit offences by raising the age of criminal responsibility?' That is abhorrent. It is a disgrace. Those opposite obviously do not believe that our communities should be kept safe.

(Time expired)

Health System, Data Reporting

Mr MILES: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the second page of the patient correspondence tabled earlier, and I re-table it for the minister's benefit.

Tabled paper: Extract of letter from Metro South Health, undated, regarding a referral requesting an outpatient appointment at an ophthalmology clinic [1980].

This shows that the patient had been on the category 2 waitlist for three months before being taken off the waitlist. Would the minister like to read the document properly and revise his earlier answer?

Mr NICHOLLS: It does not get any better. The letter states—

... your updated outpatient referral at the PAH ... clinic has been assessed and remains as category 2. ... the appointment should be made within 90 days.

The timing of the appointment may change if there is an increase in the number of patients requiring this specialty.

There is no smoking gun here. This is exactly what goes on and has been going on in the administration of patients into the hospital on a regular basis. Every outpatient department in the state administers their outpatients list to prioritise category 1, because they are the people who need it most. They then require information to be provided in relation to that matter. It goes on to say—

If you no longer need this appointment, please let us know ...

There is no smoking gun. There is no maladministration. What we have here is a desperate Labor opposition lacking leadership, lacking policies and lacking any alternative to try to improve Queensland's healthcare system.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to hear the minister. There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr NICHOLLS: They had no policy when it came to addressing ramping. They had no policy when it came to elective surgery lists because they were afraid of tackling a problem that they thought was too hard and that they had seen grow under their decade of decline. In contrast, what are we doing? Under our Hospital Rescue Plan we are implementing some of the biggest changes that have been seen in Queensland.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Our Hospital Rescue Plan is seeing tens of millions of dollars being invested into new transit lounges.

Mr SPEAKER: Just stop, Minister. Member for Miller, you are on a warning. You can leave for a period of one hour, please.

Whereupon the honourable member for Miller withdrew from the chamber at 3.19 pm.

Mr NICHOLLS: In the first 100 days we put transparent real-time data up on the web. People can go online and look at it. Something that those opposite were not able to do in 10 years, we were able to do in 100 days.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan!

Mr NICHOLLS: They criticised it because they could never do it themselves.

Ms Mullen interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Jordan, I just cautioned you.

Mr NICHOLLS: We publish data on a monthly basis. Those opposite washed the data and only put it up on a quarterly basis. We axed Labor's patients tax so people can go and see the GP without paying more. We have also changed the name of the two satellite health centres and we are offering doctors in acute admission units improved conditions. I have already mentioned the \$80 million going into the transit lounges, the \$276 million into CT and MRI. We are delivering where they failed.

(Time expired)

Police Resources

Mr LISTER: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government giving our police the resources they need to keep our Queenslanders safe and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to adequately resource our police during a decade of decline?

Mr PURDIE: I thank the honourable member for his question. It was great being out in his electorate the other week when we cut the ribbon on the brand new \$21 million Warwick Police Station. That was a project the member had fought for for a long time. It was great to be with him, his community and our police to cut the ribbon. We also announced on that day that we have been able to increase the number of police in the Darling Downs police district by 50 in the last 12 months. When you have more police armed with tougher laws, better facilities and better kit it means you can drive down crime.

I am happy to let the member know that in his Darling Downs district in the last 12 months the number of cars stolen is down 10.4 per cent and the number of break-ins is down 17.4 per cent, which goes to show that the Crisafulli government is giving our police everything they need to restore community safety.

We know there is a lot more work to do. We will continue to ensure that we deliver more police right across the state and that they continue to be armed with tougher laws and resources like the brand new Taser 10s that were delivered this morning. They will be rolled out right across the state. We know what does not work.

Unfortunately it was about a year ago to the day that we were in this chamber when those opposite tore themselves apart. As crime exploded those opposite imploded. It has been reported, and none of those opposite have corrected the record, that in this week a year ago they voted 16 to 15 at the first caucus meeting to not support our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. After the intervention of the leader, who is still the leader, and no doubt a few calls to Blocker and Ravbar and others to pull their people in line, another vote was called and even then eight of those opposite refused to support our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. The shadow Attorney-General failed to support the laws and was dragged in here by her union masters and the opposition leader. The shadow health minister was one of the eight who refused to support our laws. They came in here and supported them through gritted teeth. There were senior shadow ministers and former ministers opposite who supported the laws through gritted teeth. They were confident it would not work. They were adamant it would not work. They were so confident that the number of victims would continue to go up they were praying for the number of victims to go up. But we are seeing that our tough-on-crime policies are working.

The question today, a year on from when those opposite tore themselves apart and had to be dragged in here kicking and screaming to enact Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, is: are they going to apologise to the people of Queensland; are they going to apologise to the 289,000 victims in Queensland? With the soft-on-crime Labor way they got it wrong. I am calling on every single one of them: do they commit today to support our tough reforms moving forward?

Health System, Workforce

Mr DICK: My question is to the Minister for Health. Funding for specialist lung cancer nurses in Toowoomba, Cairns, Ipswich, Hervey Bay and Bundaberg is due to end on 31 December. Will the health minister commit today to continue funding for these critical specialist cancer positions?

Mr NICHOLLS: I think that the member and all the people in those health and hospital services can be reassured that the Crisafulli LNP government remains committed to delivering easier access to health care closer to home. That is why, as I have explained in previous answers relating to the workforce, we have carried out the workforce gap analysis, that is why we have employed the additional staff and that is why we continue to engage people.

I know that in relation to some earlier questions regarding nursing staff some allegations were being made, and I can only assume that those allegations are being made in relation to a misreading of some correspondence that has been sent to me earlier today by the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. I want to thank them for writing to me because in doing so they welcome the continuation of the fee-free diploma of nursing program. As you would expect them to, they say, 'We maintain that other investment is also required to support nursing and midwifery education,' and they talk about fee-free university Bachelor of Nursing and Midwifery programs—perhaps something that those opposite could take up with their colleagues in Canberra. My understanding is that that is funded by the Commonwealth government; pick up the phone. They talk about scholarships to support the transition of enrolled nurses to RNs and scholarships to ensure First Nations students undertake undergraduate nursing and midwifery roles.

In response to some of those issues regarding the staffing levels, I can advise the House and those opposite that we are, in fact, significantly increasing the size of our nursing and midwifery workforce and, in fact, that is why vacancy rates are temporarily increasing, not decreasing, because we are looking for more people. When you look for more people guess what you have? More vacancy rates! We all know that there is a competition not only in Queensland and throughout Australia but also world-wide for clinical medical staff: doctors, nurses, therapists and others. We continue to advertise. In fact, we are advertising in the UK. I just signed off on an advertising package over in that part of the world to find staff. There are more than 600 nursing and midwifery roles currently being advertised to meet the growing demand on the health system. We have employed more than 2,100 full-time equivalent nurses and midwives since November 2024, including the additional midwives we funded in the budget this year to meet nurse-to-patient ratios.

When it comes to having a comprehensive plan to employ nurses and midwives and to fund those nurses and midwives, the Crisafulli government is continuing to do that. We will continue to deliver care, including cancer care, closer to home for Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Workplaces, Crime

Mr KEMPTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. How is the Crisafulli LNP government cracking down on violent crime on Queensland's worksites and is the Deputy Premier aware of any approaches that allowed violent crime to flourish on worksites in Queensland during a decade of decline?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Cook for the question. The easier answer is that we are cracking down on crime, particularly on construction sites, dealing with the CFMEU. We have done more in 12 months than the former Labor government did in their decade of decline—particularly the former industrial relations minister, who had every legislative lever at her disposal to go after the misogyny, the bullying, the intimidation, the fear, the threats and the sexual assaults on construction sites in Queensland and did nothing. She remained silent and protected the CFMEU.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: She protected the CFMEU. Day in and day out, she protected the CFMEU.

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

Ms GRACE: I take offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The question is: if it was not just the former minister for industrial relations who was protecting the CFMEU, who else in the Labor government knew and what did they do? One need only look at the Wood commission of inquiry into the CFMEU. I will read some testimony into *Hansard*. The AWU secretary said—

I reached out to then premier Palaszczuk's deputy chief of staff. I know Mr Persley very well, to communicate my concerns to him regarding ... BPIC ...

That is one example. The ministerial office of the premier at the time did know about it. Further, in reference to a meeting she had with former minister de Brenni and former minister Bailey, she said—

The purpose of that meeting was to discuss the upcoming Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 project and how the government intended to retrofit some specific arrangements for ... that project in relation to the BPIC ...

The commissioner assisting asked—

And this discussion with the ministers focussed on stage 3?

Ms Schinnerl said, 'Correct.' He went further—

Now, both ministers told you that they're going to retrofit, using those words, the BPIC—

Ms Schinnerl said, 'Yes.' Mr Wheelahan said, '—to this stage 3 of the project.' He then asked—

And you expressed a view to the ministers that you describe as a warning to them?

She replied, 'Yes.' It was a warning to those ministers. The commissioner asked—

So your concerns were two-fold, were they? One was the fact that this particular retrofitting of this BPIC for the ... Light Rail project would have the effect of expanding the industrial footprint or coverage of the CFMEU beyond its rules?

Her response was, 'Yes.' They knew about it. Further in the inquiry, Ms Schinnerl referred to Mr Scales, the former director-general, resigning from the department. She said—

I have been told that the CFMEU leadership claim responsibility ... for Mr Scales leaving the department.

Mr Wheelahan quoted, 'Among with other public servants.' Ms Schinnerl said, 'Yes.' Which other public servants were sacked by the Labor ministers and the Labor government because of the CFMEU? These are the questions that this inquiry is exposing in terms of the industrial political policy.

For 10 years, workers on construction sites were told that there was nothing the Labor government could do about the CFMEU. In only week 2, the commission of inquiry is exposing the mistruth of that. Ministers could do something. In fact, it is being alleged that ministers had public servants sacked for the CFMEU. I am looking forward to the former ministers' responses at the Wood commission of inquiry—lots of answers to explain.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: There were too many microphones on. I have a list here. The member for Noosa was trying to get the call but her microphone would not turn on so I am going to call the member for Noosa.

Queensland Parliament, Upper House

Ms BOLTON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Given the lack of the requested review and needed reform of the committee and estimates system, as a special Christmas gift will the Premier support an inquiry into the reintroduction of an upper house for Queensland or a suitable alternative so that Queenslanders can have their say?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I thank the member for the question. I acknowledge her sincerity in asking the question. She is somebody who believes in that. I have spoken to her personally about it before. I will say to the honourable member that when I speak to Queenslanders about what is front and centre in their minds at the moment that is not their top priority. It is not what they are talking to me about. I will tell the House why.

For 10 years they saw the rate of crime going up. They want us to keep going on driving those stronger laws and more police numbers because they want to see victim numbers fall. What they have seen in the last 10 years is the number of people on the elective surgery waiting list almost double. It reached over 66,600. We promised that we would stabilise it by this Christmas and we have done a little better than that. I keep saying that there are still so many people who want to see loved ones get surgery. They want us to keep going on that. People talk to me about how they wonder if their kids are ever going to be able to own a home. I think of the work we have done delivering infrastructure and the Deputy Premier's Residential Activation Fund, which has delivered another 98,000 opportunities. They want us to keep going on that.

I think about the cost of living and the big challenges there. For a decade we had a government that did not respect money. It never placed any value on it and projects blew out, which meant that people paid more. Assets were not maintained, and that is why power prices rose by 19.9 per cent—three times the average—in the last full year. They want us to keep going on that. They want us to make sure we bed in the cost-of-living opportunities by driving down prices for them.

I say to the honourable member: I understand the importance of good governance, and that is why we have undertaken the reforms to estimates that we promised. I am committed to doing that because I want to see ministers held accountable. I want this place to work and to operate. I do not want to see what I saw from those opposite. I do not want to see the protection racket. I do not want to see chairs who—

Opposition members: Oh!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for McConnel. It has been a day of overreach from that particular member, but I will take it.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

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

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw. I say to those opposite—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes. To the transport minister's point, I have seen the reflection from impartial people who said that they value the fact that the estimates process is working better than it was.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I think the Speaker did a fine job. The irony that the member for Logan is interjecting is not lost on me. I say to the honourable member: thank you for the question.

(Time expired)

Road and Rail Projects, Crime

Mr CRANDON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Crisafulli LNP government taking strong action against criminal behaviour on major road and rail projects, and is the minister aware of any previous policies that saw this type of behaviour spiral out of control on worksites?

Mr MICKELBERG: I thank the member for Coomera for his question. I think it is his birthday today. Happy birthday, member for Coomera. The member for Coomera is a tireless advocate for his community. I think all members of this House know that he has worked to get the exits in his part of the world upgraded. For example, he has worked tirelessly to get exit 45 upgraded. As a consequence of his advocacy, we are getting on with the job of fixing exit 45. We are doing the planning work on exit 54 as a consequence of the advocacy of the member for Coomera. However, it is not just the big things. Sometimes it is the little things that mean just as much to communities. We were really pleased to be at Halcyon Greens, where we delivered a new bus stop for that community. That is a testament to the member's advocacy.

It is an interesting exercise to compare and contrast that approach with that of the former government on some of the major infrastructure projects we have across the state. At Centenary Bridge, we saw the government aid and abet the actions of the CFMEU. CFMEU thugs were following workers home from that job site, intimidating them over the fence and abusing them to the point where the contractor, paid for by the state government, had to spend tens of millions of dollars in extra security such as security fencing, security guards and CCTV because of the actions of the CFMEU—criminal behaviour of the CFMEU, aided and abetted by Labor government ministers such as the members for Springwood, Miller and Aspley and as a consequence of weak leadership from people like the now opposition leader.

We can look at the images at Cross River Rail. We had CFMEU thugs brawling and fighting in the flow of traffic. We saw 140 days of industrial action on that site under Labor. As a consequence, the project blew out considerably. Lives were put at risk through that sort of behaviour. At the commission of inquiry, an AWU official gave testimony about being shown a weapon on that particular job, having their tyres let down and being threatened in relation to their ability to leave the site. That is the behaviour we saw under those opposite, and it was aided and abetted by government ministers such as the members for Miller, Springwood and Aspley but overseen by the member for McConnel in her capacity as the then minister for industrial relations. It was her actions that aided and abetted the CFMEU.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. The CFMEU used their control of Labor ministers to run a fear campaign over public servants and to destroy productivity on Queensland job sites. They were aided and abetted by Labor government ministers who were owned by the CFMEU and incapable of fighting for Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Social Housing

Ms SCANLON: My question is of the Minister for Housing. Eighty-one-year-old pensioner Stephen Scale from Bundall is facing homelessness and does not qualify for social housing because his age pension is above the eligibility threshold. Will the housing minister increase the threshold for social housing so that a couple on an age pension is eligible?

Mr O'CONNOR: I thank the member for Gaven for the question and I thank Stephen from Bundall for raising these issues. Stephen is one of too many Queenslanders who are experiencing housing insecurity as a result of the decade of decline we have seen under Labor. I can confirm that RentConnect officers from my department will be meeting with Stephen tomorrow to see what private market support is available. We have many private market options.

From the comments I have seen in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* from the member for Gaven, the member for Gaven wants to get Stephen into a motel. We want to keep him in the private market home. We want to keep him and his family housed in a private market home.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gaven! Member for Mudgeeraba!

Mr O'CONNOR: This is something we see from the member for Gaven frequently—scare campaigns around—

Mr Smith interjected.

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

Mr O'CONNOR: We hear scare campaigns around the housing assistance we have available—constantly running mistruths around the support that is available for Queenslanders. We are getting great success in helping Queenslanders into private market support. I sincerely hope that there are options available for Stephen and his family.

In terms of the eligibility that the member for Gaven raises, I can confirm again—unlike the comments we heard from the opposition leader yesterday that eligibility has changed, which are not correct—there have been no changes to social housing eligibility. We are working hard to turn around the waitlist we inherited from those opposite which grew 81 per cent—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gaven and Premier, there will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr O'CONNOR: I will take the interjections from the member for Gaven on the immediate housing response. The member for Gaven has made many comments around the eligibility for that program. Under the member for Gaven, that program had no parameters around it. We had examples where social housing tenants go into—

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: That is the last time I caution you, member for Gaven.

Mr O'CONNOR: We had one who lived inland and drove two hours to a coastal community, said they were homeless and were given motel accommodation. They left an empty social housing property in a regional community while they were getting a taxpayer funded motel room in a coastal community. It was completely ridiculous. The guidelines only exclude people who have been exited from social housing because of behavioural issues. The guidelines specifically say that if there has been an instance where somebody has been exited from social housing because of rent arrears or some other distress like that they will still be eligible for IHR.

I urge the member for Gaven to stop misrepresenting our guidelines. As a former housing minister she should know better. It is impacting the ability for vulnerable Queenslanders to get support. There is help available. I urge people to reach out.

(Time expired)

Small and Family Business, Crime

Mr BAROUNIS: My question is to the Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business. What action is the Crisafulli LNP government taking to protect small and family businesses from the impacts of crime, and is the minister aware of any approaches that put local businesses at risk?

Mr MINNIKIN: I thank the member for Maryborough for the question. He has been fantastic to work with because, unlike those opposite, he and his family have a proud track record of working in small and family business. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending a town hall meeting—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for McConnel! Member for Woodridge!

Mr MINNIKIN: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. Members will recall that we released our Small and Family Business First Action Statement in May this year during Small Business Month. That is a \$130 million suite of programs over four years to look at ways we can safeguard small and family businesses from the scourge of crime.

I reiterate that we talk with conviction about the impact that crime has had on families and residents but it has also affected small and family businesses. Members on this side of the chamber will note plenty of local examples where shopkeepers have had to call upon their plate glass insurance time and time again because of the scourge of crime on small and family businesses.

To try to overcome some of that, one of the programs that I was very proud we launched was the Secure Communities Partnership Program. For round 1 there was \$9.6 million that has now gone out the door. It has proven to be an extremely successful program.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I note the interjection from the member for Lytton. I praise the member for Lytton because she got on board with it. It was interesting from her Facebook commentary in relation to round 2 of the Secure Communities Partnership Program that she, along with colleagues on that side of chamber, bought into that program. Maybe finally they are seeing the benefits of tackling crime as it affects small and family business.

I also want to acknowledge the member for Redcliffe. I recently joined the member for Redcliffe at the famous Dolphins stadium for a forum with the Master Electricians and Master Plumbers' Association. They say that sometimes you cannot mix water and electricity, but they did on that occasion. It was a really good forum. The thing that came through time and time again at the forum with the Master Plumbers' Association and the Master Electricians was the fact that they are absolutely delighted with the steps that we are taking in relation to the CFMEU. They said to me repeatedly that they look forward to the Christmas break and then coming back next year knowing that they will not have the same industrial relations troubles on site because of the CFMEU.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Ramping

Ms McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Health. Queensland is experiencing record ramping under the LNP, with reports that Queenslanders are waiting a whole work day on stretchers to be transferred into an ED. I table an article on that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Waiting 8 hours for an ED bed' [\[1981\]](#).

Can the health minister table today the LNP's ambulance ramping road map with the clear year-on-year targets?

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

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for the question in relation to eight-hour wait times and the article in the *Courier-Mail* that she refers to. It also notes—

While there was little change between the 2024 and 2025 data, it is still below the historic high of 2023 where the worst-impacted patients were waiting more than 10 hours—

for a hospital bed. When I saw that I thought I would check the veracity of that. There it was: 'Waiting up to 10 hours: Desperate ambos' plea on ambulance epidemic'.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, table that and do not wave it around.

Mr NICHOLLS: Who was in government at that time? The three failed former health ministers sitting over there. The wait time was up to 10 hours at that time.

I thought that we would have a bit more of a look and see what the story is in relation to those hours. I am partial to some figures. The PA Hospital, which was referenced, was 480 minutes. That is still too long, and that is why we are investing in the new hospital and why we are investing in transit lounges. I opened the new PET/CT scanner over there. In June 2024 the wait time was 727 minutes. It seems very quiet over there. Labor inherited 17½ per cent and left it at 42 per cent.


Then they turned their mind to Ipswich. It was 472 minutes at Ipswich. We certainly know that Ipswich has its problems. We have identified those problems and that is why we are doubling the size of the transit lounge at Ipswich. In June 2024 the wait time at Ipswich was 694 minutes—a whole four hours worse. Hypocrisy is ALP.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Regulation 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Education, Arts and Communities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025 [\[1982\]](#).

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [\[1983\]](#).

Tabled paper: Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1984\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill represents a further step in the Crisafulli government's unwavering commitment to restoring safety where Queenslanders live, putting the rights of victims first and delivering the consequences and accountability Queenslanders expect from our youth justice system.

Today the Crisafulli government is introducing some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. We always said that we would continue to strengthen Queensland's youth crime laws and that there would be further changes to the Youth Justice Act, and that is exactly what we are delivering. This is about reducing reoffending and making Queensland safer.

This bill will give courts the power to order an electronic monitoring device on any youth given bail. It removes Labor's legislative limitations that hamstrung the courts and meant only a small cohort of youth offenders were able to be electronically monitored, and it makes electronic monitoring permanent and statewide. We are giving courts the power they need to impose a GPS monitoring device on any youth given bail—that is, any youth aged 10 to 17 years old—including first-time youth offenders who are released on bail by the courts. Let me be very clear: if a youth offender poses an unacceptable risk to community safety, they should be remanded in custody. Where the courts have made the decision to grant a youth bail, this bill allows the courts to also order that that youth wear an electronic monitoring device, where appropriate.

These changes are guided by our government's commitment to fewer victims of crime, safer communities and a youth justice system that delivers consequences for actions. We are a government that listens to Queenslanders, and Queenslanders have been very clear with us: they want stronger protections from youth criminals, they want offenders to be held accountable and they want a justice system that puts victims first. We are listening to Queenslanders, and that is why we are delivering these tough new youth bail monitoring laws.

To understand the significance of the reforms we are introducing today, it is important to acknowledge the system we inherited. For almost a decade, Labor systematically weakened our youth crime laws, made detention a last resort, abolished breach of bail as an offence, and closed the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. The decisions Labor made had real-world consequences. They meant courts were constrained, consequences for actions were missing from the youth justice system and victims and their families were left feeling unseen and unprotected.

The consequences of Labor's weak-on-crime laws and soft approach to youth offenders were brought into devastating clarity time and time again. Queenslanders will never forget the tragic loss of Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son, Miles, on 26 January 2021. They were killed by a youth offender with an extensive rap sheet in a stolen car while he was on bail. Labor's weak bail laws allowed this. That tragedy shook Queensland, and in the weeks and months that followed Queenslanders called for stronger laws to ensure there were real consequences for actions for youth who continued to offend, real protections for communities and real action to prevent repeat offenders.

Labor's response was a heavily constrained trial of electronic monitoring for youth on bail, with a framework they designed to be so narrow and so restrictive that hardly any youth were ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device. In fact, in the first year of Labor's electronic monitoring trial only four youth offenders in the entire state were made to wear a GPS tracker. There were two in Townsville, one in Brisbane North and one in Logan—that was it. Labor's own interim evaluation in 2022 called out this failure, labelling the trial 'limited' and 'restrictive' and, because of this, failed to confirm the effectiveness of electronic monitoring because so few youth were ordered to wear one. This has been reiterated in the *Evaluation of the electronic monitoring trial: final report*, and I table that report.

Tabled paper: Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support: Report titled 'Evaluation of the Electronic Monitoring Trial: Final Report', 9 October 2025 [1985].

The independent evaluation described Labor's trial as deliberately narrow in design and found that when Labor's trial was commenced there was a 'lack of appropriate training and resources' and that Youth Justice staff 'received insufficient information about breaches and alerts'. The 2025 evaluation report also identified that Labor's trial was so rushed that it did not allow for the time needed to 'identify many workflows or processes' or work through issues to make it work.

The previous Labor government set electronic monitoring up to fail. In four years, Labor tinkered around the edges of the legislation with no meaningful intention to make it work, and they never made it permanent. Labor do not believe in strong youth crime laws and they do not believe in electronic monitoring. Even as community concern intensified, and even as frontline police publicly called for electronic monitoring reform, labelling it a 'very, very powerful tool' for supervising youth on bail, Labor still did not fix the underlying issues. Instead, Queenslanders were left with legislation that was kept in trial mode and never set up to succeed.

The Crisafulli government will always put victims first, and our strong youth bail monitoring laws will do exactly that. The evaluation report found that the majority of youth on electronic monitoring successfully completed the conditions of their bail. That means these youths did not have their bail revoked and their electronic monitoring condition only ended because they were sentenced, had their charges dismissed or had their bail conditions varied. This is a critical finding. It demonstrates that when electronic monitoring is used and supported by services and programs youth are more likely to comply with the conditions set by the court. It also demonstrates the value of electronic monitoring in reducing reoffending. The evaluation found that reoffending rates were lower for youths on electronic monitoring when compared to youths who were not. In fact, it said that youth with an electronic monitoring device on were 24 per cent less likely to reoffend.

The evaluation also captured the views of some of the youth on electronic monitoring conditions. They said that they changed their behaviour because they knew that if they offended they would be detected immediately, that wearing the device reduced their contact with peers who encouraged or facilitated their offending and that the device served as a reminder of their bail conditions and the consequences of breaching them.

One youth offender from Brisbane with a long history of reoffending and multiple failed interventions spent four months on electronic monitoring. During that time they committed no further offences, breached no conditions of their bail and engaged more consistently with Youth Justice than they had in years. A 15-year-old on the Gold Coast who had repeatedly cycled through detention and continuous community orders showed the same pattern. While monitored on electronic monitoring they did not reoffend, they did not breach bail and they displayed remarkably improved engagement with support services. In Logan, a youth with a history of property, vehicle, domestic violence and violent offences complied fully during their period of electronic monitoring and committed no new offences, despite facing 14 charges at the time. These stories reflect the benefits electronic monitoring can have for community safety and to prevent youth from reoffending.

The evaluation also showed that when breaches occurred the GPS devices sent an alert to the authorities. However, because of the way Labor set up their trial, the report uncovered that these alerts were sometimes missed, duplicated or delayed. Under Labor, no-one knew what was going on, and community safety suffered.

Putting to one side the fact that the evaluation report is critical of the operation of the electronic monitoring trial under Labor, the report clearly shows that electronic monitoring as a community safety tool when done properly does work. In fact, the evaluation is unequivocal in its finding that electronic monitoring can improve compliance with bail conditions, better inform operational responses to breaches and reduce reoffending, especially when partnered with wraparound supports—and that is exactly what this bill will do.

Firstly, the bill amends section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act, making electronic monitoring permanent by removing the expiry provision. Secondly, the bill removes the limitations set out under section 52AA and allows for the use of electronic monitoring for any youth offender right across the state. Under the previous Labor government's trial, courts were only able to order electronic monitoring in specific and restricted locations, but under this bill courts will be able to consider it as a condition of bail statewide.

To give effect to this, the bill amends the Youth Justice Regulation 2016 to remove part 2A—the geographical areas for monitoring device condition; and schedule 1AA—the geographical area for a child to live in. Instead, clause 4 of the bill inserts a new subsection which requires the youth justice chief executive to advise the court that there are: services necessary to support the effective operation of the device—that is, suitable network coverage where the youth lives; services suitable to support the youth's compliance with the condition—that is, bail support services; and services suitable to support the monitoring of the youth.

Thirdly, the bill removes the restrictive eligibility criteria that require the youth to be at least 15 years of age, to be charged with a prescribed indictable offence and to have been previously charged with a prescribed indictable offence or found guilty of an indictable offence. This bill removes that criteria and empowers the courts to make an electronic monitoring order for any youth, so long as they live in a location where it is feasible. This brings electronic monitoring in line with other bail conditions.

Finally, the bill simplifies the matters which a court must consider when determining whether an electronic monitoring device condition is appropriate. Currently, the courts must consider a range of matters, including: the youth's capacity to understand the condition; whether the youth is likely to comply with the condition; and if anyone has indicated a willingness to support the youth and notify the court of any changes in circumstances or breaches of the conditions. The bill removes these requirements and replaces them so that the courts will only have to consider the suitability assessment report prepared by the youth justice chief executive. As with other bail conditions, the court retains the power to consider any other matter that the court deems relevant.

This bill delivers tough, new youth bail monitoring laws. It is a further step in the Crisafulli government's unwavering commitment to restoring safety where Queenslanders live, putting the rights of victims first and delivering the consequences and accountability Queenslanders expect from our youth justice system. These reforms will give Queenslanders some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country, and they are all part of our plan to reduce reoffending and return safety to Queensland communities. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LJ GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Education, Arts and Communities Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.


ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 9 December (see p. 3962), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.02 pm), continuing: Picking up where I left off yesterday, I asked if it was correct that coal generators could be closed much earlier if the decision matrix dictates it. The response was, 'Through the decision matrix and the advice, that would be a matter for

government consideration.’ The LNP’s decision matrix policy may in fact provide advice to ministers to close coal generators earlier than planned—so much for providing workers and communities with certainty.

The explanatory notes outline that this bill inserts a new objective of the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity in Queensland. This is emissions reduction in the ordinary context of action against climate change. The government does not want to spook the climate deniers in its caucus, so it is using the term ‘greenhouse gases’ instead. On this point, the overwhelming evidence provided to the committee was that this road map is entirely inadequate in delivering the emissions reductions the Premier promised Queenslanders he was committed to before the election, including a 75 per cent reduction by 2025 and net-zero emissions by 2050. The Queensland Conservation Council said—

It is vital to note, however, that Queensland will not achieve this emissions reduction target if the announced scenario of the Energy Roadmap is realised ...

The Queensland Renewable Energy Council stated—


... neither the bill nor the Energy Roadmap expressly reference climate change, despite Queensland’s still legislated net zero by 2050 commitment. A credible energy transition cannot be disconnected from the broader climate context.

Indeed, when asked whether they would like to see sectoral emissions reduction plans, the gas industry peak association Australian Energy Producers said—

Absolutely. Both the state and federal levels are really interested in those sector plans and understanding decarbonisation. Like I said, as an association we support net zero by 2050.

I will briefly touch on the fact that this bill cuts away the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate—an independent statutory office that was established to provide advice on economic opportunities for jobs and economic development from the energy transition. We are talking about supply chains, workforce skills and economic diversification. The LNP’s decision to cut the Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate will cost jobs. It is as simple as that.

Consultation on this bill has had a severely truncated timeframe, and the Energy Roadmap policy itself was not widely consulted and was developed over a very short period of time. The lack of consultation was certainly a common theme from submitters and during the inquiry. Indeed, that lack of ventilation of people’s ideas and feedback continues through this debate. When we take away my time and that of the minister, there will only be about two hours left for the 72 members of this House who are on the speaking list to contribute to this cognate debate. That is terrible. This is a bad bill from a bad government. A vote for this bill is a vote to drive up power prices, a vote for privatisation and a vote to take Queenslanders backwards. I urge all members to vote against it.

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (4.07 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025. My contribution will focus on the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill, which I introduced into the House in August this year. I thank the Primary Industries and Resources Committee for its consideration of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025. I also thank those individuals and organisations that made submissions and engaged in the consultation process during the committee’s inquiry. I note that the committee tabled its report on 17 October 2025. In its report, the committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The committee also concluded that the bill was compatible with the Legislative Standards Act 1992 and the Human Rights Act 2019.

Of note, the committee was satisfied that the proposed transitional regulation-making power in the bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles. This is due to the technical nature of the water bore construction codes that converted bores will have to meet to be compliant with the amendments. The inclusion of the transitional regulation-making power provides for adaptability with regard to technical standards, including unforeseen issues that may arise during the decommissioning process. The committee also noted the support of affected individuals for the proposed amendments and that the regulations are limited in their retrospectivity and subject to a sunset provision.

This bill provides a clear, practical and safe pathway for CTSCo to decommission their six greenhouse gas wells located on former exploration permit EPQ10. Subject to passage through the Legislative Assembly, the bill requires CTSCo to either plug and abandon a GHG well under existing obligations or convert it into a water supply bore and transfer ownership to the landowner where the

bore is located. This ensures that CTSCo remains responsible for decommissioning the former EPQ10 site. The bill further provides that all decommissioning activities associated with these six GHG wells occur in a way that is technically sound, environmentally responsible and beneficial to the landowners.

In developing the bill, my department received strong stakeholder support for this approach. This support was further confirmed through the committee's inquiry and public submissions. Government agencies, industry groups, all affected landholders and CTSCo welcomed the certainty and the flexibility provided and are supportive of the bill. Landholders in particular expressed clear support for the opportunity to assume ownership of a converted bore. They see real value in gaining long-term access to a secure stock and domestic water supply—at no cost to them for the conversion. Importantly, the bill provides that conversion can only occur with a landowner's written consent and that CTSCo remains responsible for the wells unless and until the transfer of a converted water supply bore is completed. This ensures no landholder is compelled to accept infrastructure they do not want or are not prepared to manage.

In the public submissions received by the committee, industry groups representing the agriculture and resources sector also supported the objectives of the bill. They sought clarity on matters such as responsibility for costs, timeframes and safeguards for landholders. The bill addresses these issues by placing full responsibility for carrying out the decommissioning and its associated costs on CTSCo, specifying clear statutory timeframes for conversion and transfer, and ensuring water licences for stock purposes are granted to landowners within 60 business days after transfer.


Government agencies were consulted extensively in drafting the bill. Resources Safety & Health Queensland supported the development of the technical and safety requirements of both conversion and abandonment. The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers and the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning supported provisions that streamline approvals and water-licensing processes. Other agencies, including the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Queensland Treasury, the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, provided input throughout the drafting process and have no concerns with the bill. To those agencies which have supported my department in preparing this bill I offer my thanks.

We have also consulted with the agriculture sector and with the five landholders directly impacted. They all support this bill, which will deliver long-term water security for their operations. It is important to remember that the reason this bill is necessary stems from the former Labor government's lack of consultation with landholders and industry when it ended CTSCo's exploration permit. As the law currently stands, these wells would have to be plugged and abandoned, and those landholders would have missed out on a valuable water asset.

These amendments are deliberately targeted in scope. They apply only to CTSCo's greenhouse gas wells on the former EPQ10 permit area. They do not establish a broader framework for any future greenhouse gas storage wells under the act.

The bill also helps to minimise long-term state liability by ensuring CTSCo remains responsible until a well is either safely plugged and abandoned or converted and transferred to a landholder. Conversions must be undertaken by a licensed water board driller, in line with an approved conversion plan and the water bore construction codes, ensuring the integrity and safety of the bores.

In summary, this bill delivers a practical and mutually beneficial outcome. It is a win-win for all concerned. It supports the responsible decommissioning of greenhouse gas wells, strengthens rural water access, addresses future liability for the state and provides certainty to landholders and industry.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.13 pm): I rise to speak on the government's Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, but I want to be clear: the only road this bill drives us towards is off a cliff. It will send families who are struggling to pay their power bills plummeting into bill stress and condemns our state to be a laggard on climate action. The LNP road map walks away from serious climate action and abandons cheaper electricity through renewable energy. It pushes up both prices and emissions. It fails to provide dates, provide targets and provide a credible plan. If Queensland could be powered by slick slogans and sales tactics then perhaps the road map would get us somewhere, but instead it takes our state backwards.

Just today the Australian Energy Market Operator released its draft integrated system plan for our country's National Electricity Market. In it, it says that the delay of critical renewable energy connections to the grid jeopardises hitting national emissions reduction targets and renewable energy targets and that keeping coal-fired generators online beyond their closure date increases the risk of

households and businesses paying more on their power bills. That is because coal-fired power plants will break down more often with no notice, leaving massive gaps in supply and plunging regions into blackouts. AEMO expects that these generators will only be operational about 75 per cent of the time. That sounds pretty intermittent to me. Already this year, 131 unplanned outages were reported. This will only increase if we do not get real about renewable energy and storage—a transition that this LNP government seemingly wants to push off into the never-never, when it will be even more expensive, all because they are so ideologically opposed to cheap renewable energy.

Tearing up renewable energy targets sends a clear message to industry that there is no interest from this government in seriously progressing renewable energy in this state. Industry called the road map 'part of a deliberate strategy to undermine renewable energy development in Queensland' and 'not driven by science, economics or technology but by politics'. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council said—

... there are a number of developers who are reviewing their future pipelines in Queensland, citing the mixed messages from government and inconsistency across approval processes.

When Queensland needs to add supply to the grid to bring prices down, this government is shooing that supply away. Investors see renewable energy targets repealed and the Deputy Premier cancelling wind farms after considering submissions generated by AI, with fake sources citing fake government agencies. They are given less information around coal generation phase-out dates and are expected to base their investment decisions on it. At the same time, the decision matrix in the road map offers filler rather than a genuine framework. This LNP government seems set on driving those in the energy sector to build in the southern states rather than in Queensland, and we can already see New South Wales and Western Australia lapping up that investment.

According to the Clean Energy Investor Group, Queensland lost its mantle as the most attractive destination for renewable investment to New South Wales this year. However, it is not just renewable energy investors who are relying on a clear plan. Businesses in industries across Queensland have developed their own plans for decarbonisation. That planning involves how much renewable energy they can count on coming into the grid. They now have no guidance on when that energy will be available—only that it will be much slower than before. The result is that every business across Queensland will pay the price of higher electricity prices delivered by this bill.

While industry hangs in limbo, so do the workers who power those industries and every piece of the manufacturing and supply chain puzzle, too. The Mining and Energy Union, representing workers in coal-fired power stations, said—

There is also no indication that there will be any transparency around the closure decisions reached by the Minister.

It was not that long ago the Premier placed a heavy importance on transparency and accountability, but workers in our government owned corporations are now finding that yet again the Premier's words mean very little. Cost of living continues to bite for Queensland families. Everything is more expensive than it was a year ago. Despite his assurances that if Queenslanders were struggling there would be universal cost-of-living relief, the Premier ended it.

When you rip away a lifeline that families rely on, they are stretched thin. Data from the Australian Energy Regulator confirms that the number of customers in hardship has skyrocketed by 66 per cent. That is an extra 12,000 families doing it tough. The Premier promised structural cost-of-living relief, but with this bill he has signed Queenslanders up for more expensive power. The Australian Energy Market Operator, the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency all agree that renewables are the cheapest form of power, yet this bill and this road map discourage investment in the supply of renewable energy.


Modelling submitted to the committee shows that delaying the rollout of renewables, as this government is doing, will increase wholesale costs by \$115 billion. That cost then gets passed on to every Queensland family and every Queensland business. But make no mistake: the effect of this bill and the LNP's Energy Roadmap is that this government is walking away from net zero. They have followed their federal colleagues in abandoning serious climate action. Analysis by the Queensland Conservation Council finds that under the announcement scenario in the Energy Roadmap Queensland will fall drastically short of the 75 per cent emissions reduction target that remains legislated.

The electricity sector remains the greatest source of emissions in Queensland. The Premier and Treasurer continue to pay lip-service to net zero, but this bill is the product of the climate deniers in their party room. They could not bring themselves to have a straight up-and-down vote on net zero last sitting week, but the worst part about the LNP committing to nothing—and providing industry and workers with nothing—is the motivation behind it. It is purely political calculation. By trying to placate everyone in

their party room, they have instead provided nothing. All they have offered is a roadblock that disrupts Queensland's path to cleaner, cheaper electricity. It fails industry, it fails workers, it provides no detail, and it helps no-one except the extremists in their party room.

The Energy Roadmap says that corporatisation allows the state to maintain control over essential assets while driving commercial discipline and delivering public value, yet that same road map will direct Queensland to abandon that very control over the assets it deems essential. As the QCU said, it is the gradual abandonment of public ownership and privatisation by stealth. Public ownership has been a great strength of Queensland's energy system, yet this government is giving it up. The privatisation of the Brigalow gas peaker is an example of this government's approach. It is saving a dollar now to give up long-term returns and stability.

Queensland has an enormous opportunity to make the most of the potential of renewable energy. Queenslanders lead the world in the uptake of rooftop solar. We have wind that blows at night and sunshine almost all year round. Global markets are demanding clean supply chains. Investors are backing renewables, but we need a government that is not terrified of upsetting its base to achieve it. We deserve a government that looks forward, not one that drags us back; one that believes in science, not ideology.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.23 pm): I will predominantly talk about the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. I acknowledge all of the stakeholders and those who supplied submissions to the committee's inquiry. There was strong support for the bill's primary objective: to repurpose wells within the former EPQ10 area for agricultural use, particularly stock and domestic bores. This reform presents a practical and constructive solution to transform legacy infrastructure into a long-term asset for landholders.

The proposed amendments follow a decision by the previous Queensland government to permanently ban greenhouse gas storage activities in the Great Artesian Basin. The ban was given effect under the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024—the MEROLA Act. To be clear, the bill does not affect the existing ban on gas storage in the Great Artesian Basin. As part of the MEROLA Act amendments EPQ10 was legislatively ended, and CTSCo is required to decommission the GHG wells on the site within two years or a later date fixed by the minister. Currently, the GGS Act only provides for CTSCo to decommission the GHG wells through plugging and abandonment.

Some submitters who are supportive of the bill's provisions regarding EPQ10 wells did suggest future investigations to look at all other legacy greenhouse gas exploration wells across Queensland. There is a suggestion that a statewide policy would provide protection for all landholders. This bill effectively addresses wells in the former EPQ10 area, which includes six wells, including one injection well and multiple monitoring wells. There are calls for a clear plan for the many other GHG exploration wells. Unfortunately, because of the MEROLA Act there are no other greenhouse gas wells in Queensland that have not already been decommissioned through plugging and abandonment. The only GHG wells in Queensland that are currently not plugged and abandoned are those located on the former EPQ10.

The Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025 amends the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009. I note in particular chapter 8, part 8. This amendment provides an important legislative pathway to address legacy gas wells and offers a mechanism for their rehabilitation and potential repurposing for community benefit. The amendments strengthen the accountability of operators while also recognising opportunities for productive landholder outcomes.

Water is a critical and finite resource for Queensland's agricultural enterprises. The conversion of rehabilitated wells into water supply bores offers an innovative and constructive use of infrastructure that would otherwise be decommissioned. This outcome supports resource security and delivers tangible benefits to rural and regional communities.


The GGS Bill contains a Henry VIII clause, which would provide that a transitional regulation may make provision about another matter. It did stir our committee up for a little while until many on the other side got to understand it. The explanatory notes talk about the justification for the Henry VIII clause. We are glad we got to the bottom of that, considering it was in the previous government's bill. The transitional regulation-making power provides flexibility to respond to unforeseen issues that may arise during implementation and enables immediate action to support the intended policy outcome.

The Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill represents a positive step in addressing legacy wells. The bill's intent is to provide a beneficial outcome and appropriate protections for landholders in the EPQ10 area. After years of indecision and no action, this is a starting point. This is sensible and responsible action for the long-term benefit of Queensland's agricultural sector.

The Energy Roadmap is great legislation. This is a great outcome. After 10 years of decline we finally have an Energy Roadmap that will reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion to 2035, preventing the average Queensland household from paying the extra \$1,035 a year they would have paid under Labor. The Energy Roadmap is a pragmatic and sensible plan. It opens the door for private sector investment and a market-led approach to drive our state's energy future—coal for longer, more gas, and more private sector investment into renewables and storage.

The bill strengthens public ownership, streamlines infrastructure and governance frameworks and provides a legislative framework to deliver CopperString. The Energy Roadmap is already in action, with state owned energy corporation CS Energy entering into a joint development agreement with APA Group to deliver the Brigalow Peaking Power Plant in the Western Downs last week. We know that the 400-megawatt gas peaking plant will be capable of reaching full output within five minutes. This is great technology and a great outcome.

In conclusion, there is more gas supply needed for Central Queensland. We know that the Gladstone hub is full. We need more gas in the north-south gas line that services our port, Maryborough and the Bundaberg community. We look forward to more action. This government is getting on with the job and delivering what we promised. More importantly, we are providing a sensible solution to a renewables future and an energy future that Queenslanders can afford.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.27 pm): I rise to address my contribution to the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. I will begin by echoing what has already been said by our speakers: this bill allows the privatisation of our energy system. It not only opens it up to privatisation; it makes it inevitable. The Treasurer said yesterday that having private operators in the system was the 'Queensland way'. It is not the Queensland way; it is the New South Wales and Victorian way. They have partially or fully privatised their systems. Private operators in New South Wales and Victoria get the dividends and not the people of New South Wales or Victoria. This is the kind of privatisation we are facing under this road map. The Brigalow peaker is 80 per cent sold, so for 25 years we will have to buy back the energy produced by a plant that we once owned. I would point out that Labor's plan was always to keep it in public ownership. The LNP said it was in our plan, but since when does 'partnership' mean selling off your assets to the highest bidder? That is not a partnership; that is a sellout.

We heard from submitters that with this bill the door is open to construct, build and operate transmission lines in Queensland. That would be a first. That is shameful, but do not take my word for it because it is in the committee report. The report states—

In effect, the state will be required to retain the generation assets it already owns, but it will not be required to invest in new ones. Queensland Treasury advised the committee that this change is motivated by a concern that 'the existing target could potentially crowd out private sector investment and place pressure on the state's fiscal position.'

Treasury also advised the committee that—

... the government expects relevant Government Owned Corporations to 'focus on existing assets and core business to supply ... energy—

They said 'focus on existing assets and core business', and we know what these weasel words mean from the LNP. It is a sneaky way to say, 'Get out of the way of private owners. Let the private owners in.' It is very clear that the field is being cleared to abandon that public ownership of our system. Once again, do not take my word for it; let's look at the committee report. It states—

... for the benefits of public ownership to be realised, it must be maintained only in relation to the right assets, and in the right circumstances.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members for Theodore and Pine Rivers, cease your quarrelling.

Mr Lee interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, I can hear you up there.

Mr WHITING: I repeat the quote—

... for the benefits of public ownership to be realised, it must be maintained only in relation to the right assets, and in the right circumstances.

What a caveat. They will only keep public ownership in the right circumstances, and who gets to decide what are the right circumstances? It is the LNP. They think public ownership is a rigid approach that will deter the private sector from investing. Once again, the field is being cleared for private sector ownership. The dividends will go to the private sector; they will not go to the citizens of Queensland. If we look back in a generation we will see that the day this bill passed is the day the ownership of our electricity system started to slip away from the people of Queensland.

We also heard that the bill will lead to higher electricity prices. Let me make this clear to the climate change deniers on the other side: renewables are the cheapest form of energy. I repeat: they are the cheapest form of energy. They should think about that every time the Deputy Premier cancels a wind farm project.

As an aside, can I say that cancelling renewable projects and wind farms is a trope in right-wing politics. It is sending up an ideological flare to your supporters in a so-called cultural war. What we see here is the member for Kawana following the example of Donald Trump, and I will read these headlines: 'How Trump is targeting wind and solar energy—and delighting big oil' and 'Trump halts construction of big wind farm off New York coast'. I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles regarding Donald Trump and renewable energy projects [1986].

I think the member for Kawana is channelling Donald Trump. It explains a lot about what he has been saying; it also explains his new hairstyle.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This cannot be relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): That is not really a point of order. I would remind members to maintain decorum and use correct titles when they refer to other members.

Mr WHITING: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The Treasurer said something yesterday that I do not think anyone else will say. He said that the government stand by their commitment to net zero by 2050. I am predicting that no-one else over there will lay claim to that statement; only the Treasurer will say that. When the Treasurer was talking yesterday he actually sounded reasonable during some parts of his speech, but let's face it: we know that he is not in control of this and that someone else is pulling the string on government policy in this area.

Let me make it clear to the climate change deniers and the cooks on the other side. Extending the lives of the coal-fired generators beyond their life puts pressure on electricity prices. It means increased costs and increased unreliability. We heard the opposition leader talking about that earlier.

This bill tears down energy targets and the frameworks and swaps them for an uncertain plan. Other speakers will talk about this. It undermines investment confidence in the sector. The lack of detail in the Energy Roadmap will not lead to good decision-making. No-one is sure how this decision matrix will work, and we heard from submitters about that. The bill gets rid of targets which drives investment. I cannot believe we are seeing a modern government in Australia getting rid of renewable energy targets. That is absolutely unbelievable.

What we have here is the LNP's ideological obsession about climate change and renewables. They do not believe that climate change is real. They do not want to believe that climate change is real and that we need renewable energy. I want to refer to a quote I found recently from the author Upton Sinclair which I think is very relevant. He said—

It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it.

We could actually change that slightly: 'It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his donations depend on his not understanding it.' It is clear that the LNP oppose renewable energy because they deny climate change. It has been the core of their belief for 20-odd years and repealing these targets sends a terrible signal.

I want to finish by saying that the LNP have shown a complete disregard for accountability in relation to this bill. Under the LNP-led committee, no hearings were held on this bill after the submissions closed—no hearings—and only four of 41 submitters had a chance to be heard on this. We went nowhere; we heard from barely anyone on this bill. In the hearings we asked for modelling but we were told that it was not available or it was in the road map, but all there was were assumptions and parameters; we did not get to see the modelling on this. The examination of this bill is a new low in how the LNP treats the committees in Queensland, in this unicameral system. Under the LNP, our questions were shut down or not taken and motions were ignored. This can all be seen on the public record. Under the LNP we have no accountability again and the committee system has become a hollow sham. It is just a rubber stamp to pass the bills as they are waved through our committees.



Mr HEAD (Callide—LNP) (4.36 pm): I love coal and I love the great benefits that it brings the communities across Callide and rural and regional Queensland. Coal delivers many jobs and it delivers baseload power for the state of Queensland to power our manufacturing sector, to power our heavy industries and to underpin the economic prosperity of our state. I am not ashamed to mention that word and back in that important material that we use in our power stations across Queensland. We also export a lot of it for not only power but also steelmaking.

This is a fantastic energy bill. It removes the market intervention that those opposite were determined to enforce upon Queensland. They get up here with all of these platitudes saying how cheap renewable energy is. If renewable energy is that cheap, you do not need the government to force it upon the state; you can let it happen through private investment, which is what sensible governments do. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP government is allowing. We are ensuring we take a measured approach. We have the appropriate planning framework in place so that communities are involved.

Those opposite took an ideological position that was steamrolling communities across rural and regional Queensland to enforce their agenda. Alongside that, they were also stripping away jobs from communities like Biloela with the premature closure of the Callide Power Station. We have scrapped that and we have extended its life. We are spending about \$1.6 billion on our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee here in Queensland, and that is a great thing for communities like Biloela and Chinchilla that I represent. I am happy to stand up for those jobs in those communities.

If those opposite vote against this bill tonight, they are voting against the \$150 million energy workers job security fund. They are voting against a fund for those workers to make sure we have the skills into the future that we need. They are also voting against allowing the market to operate as it was intended. They are voting against 100 per cent ownership of the Callide B units and the Kogan Creek Power Station as well as the other government owned coal-fired power stations we have in the state. They try to talk about us wanting to sell assets and everything like that. If they vote against this, that is showing their position into the future which would suggest that they would be up for selling the Kogan Creek or Callide power stations that are currently publicly owned and should stay that way. We have a great workforce in those communities.

The great thing is that, amongst all this, not only are we ensuring jobs for these communities for a lot longer but we have many other things happening in these communities such as building the Brigalow peaker, a great investment for the Western Downs that will provide the baseload power that we need in the electricity system. I am excited about what is to come for that community. We have a great public-private partnership to advance that asset and those opposite are trying to say it is some evil investment that we pursued. The irony of that statement is that their own QEJP had outlined a public-private partnership for the same asset. The difference is we have actually advanced it, we have saved it and we are making sure that that project will go ahead.


As far as the 400 megawatts that we need in Central Queensland is concerned, I say to industry if there are people listening who want to invest in Queensland for that 400-megawatt unit, there is a great town called Biloela that would happily work with them to see that peaker built. I am calling on the industry for that private gas peaker to be built in Biloela. There is a great opportunity that was outlined in the Energy Roadmap by the Crisafulli government, by the Treasurer, for that peaker to be built in Central Queensland. We have the community; we have the skills. On behalf of our community, I am happy to work with anyone to make sure we snag that.

Those opposite are also talking about cheap power. The reality is what we are doing in the electricity system will deliver over a thousand dollars cheaper power per household in terms of overall costs in the energy system than we inherited from those opposite. They will get up here and scream black and blue that we have abandoned the cheaper system. We are removing market intervention, which in turn will help put downward pressure on power prices. Also the system we are progressing will be over a thousand dollars cheaper per household than what they were determined to force upon Queensland. This is a great bill, a great Energy Roadmap from the Treasurer.

Mr Kempton: A fresh start.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. It is certainly a fresh start for Queensland. It is a fantastic bill.

Finally, I reiterate the comments made by the member for Burnett and, of course, the minister for resources about the CTSCo bill to ensure those boreholes can be repurposed for water use for agriculture. It is a sensible piece of legislation that will deliver great things for the constituents of the member for Warrego in that part of the world. Whenever it comes to these matters it is important that we rely on facts and data and have conversations around ensuring we take on board the correct advice and adhere to best practice along the way. I commend both bills to the House.

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. Before I address the substance of the bill, I want to acknowledge the parliamentary staff and Hansard for their support to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee throughout this process and over the year.

Let's be clear about what this Energy Roadmap is going to do for Queensland. This is going to be bad for Queensland: bad for its economy, bad for Queensland families, bad for business. It is going to lead to an increase in power prices when we know families are already doing it tough. Yesterday in his speech, the Treasurer said that the committee had a 'detailed, consideration process'. That is a stretch. The truth is that the committee had one public hearing. We had 41 submissions to this bill, we had one 90-minute public hearing, which was actually held before submissions had even closed, and we got to hear from four submitters. Anyone else who wanted to give evidence to the committee was not given the opportunity to do so. What I would say is not only is the government trying to gag debate on policies that matter to people, they are also gagging public hearings. They are not allowing stakeholders to have due consideration when it comes to policies; they just want to push through their agenda because they want to push through their ideology, which is that they do not believe in climate change.

We know there were submitters who wanted to appear before the committee because they put that in their submission. The Australian Institute for Progress wrote in their submission letter—

We would be very interested in giving evidence to the committee in any hearings it may undertake.

Unfortunately, they were denied this opportunity as were many others. There is so much to say about transparency. Every time this government comes into this chamber all they do is talk rhetoric about transparency and accountability, but then we see them do things like guillotining debates to try to get bills through without having considered debates on the matter.

It is no secret that Queensland families are hurting right now. I hear it every day, as I am sure all members of this House do. I know that one of the biggest things impacting families is the increase in electricity costs. According to ABS data, since October 2024 under this LNP government electricity costs have increased by up to 486 per cent and according to the Australian Energy Regulator, the number of Queensland households in hardship has increased by 66 per cent over the past six months. That is over 12,000 Queensland families who are doing it incredibly tough.

In my local community I have heard directly from constituents struggling with these rising costs. Lenice from Brighton, who needs to charge her daughter's electric wheelchair regularly, says she is barely keeping up. Labor's energy rebates had helped but now they have gone, her bills have risen significantly and she can no longer afford to pay her upcoming bill. I have heard from Chris from Taigum, who has taken every step to reduce his household electricity use, yet he is paying more than ever under the LNP. Peter from Brighton is worried about his grandchildren and their futures. He wonders whether they will be able to experience the beauty of the Great Barrier Reef and whether they will face the increasing impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.

Like Lenice, Chris and Peter, there are thousands of Queenslanders who want this government to hear their concerns. They want confidence that energy prices will come down and that this government will stick with net zero by 2050. We know that that will not be the case because how can they deliver something that they fundamentally do not believe in, when they do not believe in science and they do not believe in climate change? I know this government refuses to talk about it, but we cannot talk about scrapping renewable targets without talking about what it means for climate change and what it means for our environment and Queensland's ecosystem.

Regarding climate change, the member for Glass House and now environment minister said—

Am I 100 per cent convinced of the human population's role in that? No I'm not.

In September, the *Courier-Mail* reported that coal closure dates would be included in the Energy Roadmap, and by October it was published that those dates had disappeared, scrubbed out by pressure from the party room. Instead, we got a 'decision matrix' with no quantitative metrics, no transparency and no accountability. The member for Mirani celebrated when the LNP convention voted to ditch net zero and the member for Kawana cancelled wind farm projects using AI submissions. You actually cannot make this up. Are they kidding?

The Queensland Conservation Council analysis found that under this bill Queensland will likely only reach 50 per cent emissions reductions by 2035, a staggering 25 per cent less than the legislated target. Multiple submissions confirmed this road map makes meeting those targets impossible. The Smart Energy Council put it pretty bluntly, saying—

This approach is not driven by science, economics, or technology, but by politics.

The government's claim that the Energy Roadmap is going to save households over a thousand dollars is untrue. Analysis by Jacobs commissioned by the Clean Energy Council actually found that delaying the shift to renewable energy could cost Queenslanders between \$568 and \$729 more. Why? It is because renewable energy is the cheapest form of electricity generation. That is not an ideology; that is fact. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council confirmed this at our hearing. The CSIRO's report confirms it. The International Energy Agency confirms it. The only people who are not willing to listen to science are the LNP government. When asked directly in the hearing, 'Is this the cheapest form of energy?', the answer from the experts was: yes. This government just wants to extend the life of coal-fired power stations, some of which according to their own Energy Roadmap rank amongst the lowest in terms of availability.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis has warned of heightened risk for price volatility and reliability risks from this approach. Both the Queensland Conservation Council and Whitsunday Conservation Council have raised concerns that the forecasts contained in the Energy Roadmap will actually make sure there is no investment in renewable energy projects and would lead to the loss of 1,500 construction jobs which will now go to other states. That means other states like New South Wales and Victoria are going to benefit from the fact that the LNP wants to give investors no confidence. That is like telling our investors, 'Do not come here. We don't want your business.' So much for their slogan of Queensland is open for business. It is not. That is what they are telling investors in renewable energy.

Government members interjected.

Mr Whiting: Every day is a good day to have a go at a woman, isn't it?

Ms ASIF: Yes. You are children if you are mimicking me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Order! Member, direct your comments through the chair, please.

An honourable member interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I just called the House to order. I would ask that members cease quarrelling across the chamber and cease interjections.

Ms ASIF: This bill also puts the World Heritage status of the Great Barrier Reef at risk. I was fortunate to meet some of the operators on the reef in Cairns who work hard to support local jobs, and they have rung alarm bells when it comes to this legislation. They say it is bad for the environment, it is bad for the economy and it is bad for their local jobs.

The LNP has already begun its privatisation. The Brigalow peaker was earmarked for full public ownership under Labor and the LNP has now sold off 80 per cent, with CS Energy to buy back the power for at least 25 years. The government's own modelling shows that under this new framework generation and storage will fall to less than 40 per cent. We are losing the promise of affordable power. We are losing any credible path to meeting our emissions targets.

This bill delivers higher electricity bills for families. The government is playing political games while Queenslanders like Chris, Lenice, Peter and thousands more continue to struggle. They struggle with the cost of living and they struggle with the rising cost of power. This is what happens when a party that spends years arguing about renewables and the climate is suddenly found in charge of running the government and trying to bring Queensland forward. All it is doing is dragging it backwards. Queenslanders deserve a government that looks to the future, not drags it back—one that looks at evidence when it comes to energy policy, not late-night negotiations between its conservative factions.

Queensland should be leading Australia's clean energy transformation. We have everything we need. We have the resources, we have the skilled workforce, we have people ready to build Queensland's future—ready to build a cleaner energy future and strong public ownership of energy assets. We have everything except a government that is willing to deliver. Instead, it wants to put its climate-denying ideology ahead of Queensland's future.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, which was scrutinised by the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee in its report No. 16. The Crisafulli government has a plan to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill facilitates delivery of the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap, which will reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion to 2035, preventing the average Queensland household paying an extra \$1,035 a year that they would have paid under Labor.

The Energy Roadmap is a pragmatic and sensible plan. It opens the door for private sector investment and a market-led approach to drive our state's energy future. The bill strengthens public ownership, streamlines infrastructure and government frameworks, and provides a legislative framework to deliver CopperString. In short, we are improving what we have while we build what we need for the future.

The bill delivers on the government's election commitment to repeal Labor's unrealistic and undeliverable renewable energy targets and replaces Labor's supergrid infrastructure blueprint with a more sensible Energy System Outlook. These changes will allow system planning to adapt to market conditions, reflecting a more pragmatic and flexible approach. The bill also introduces regional energy hubs into a legislated framework to coordinate new energy investments for renewables and gas, with the bill also strengthening public ownership, bolstering public ownership from Labor's 54 per cent of generation to 100 per cent of our existing state owned power plants. Only the LNP will protect public ownership and, in so doing, save jobs in our coalmining communities like Chinchilla, Biloela, Nanango and Rockhampton, to name just a few.

The Crisafulli government could not be clearer about its commitment to public ownership of existing energy infrastructure. It is the same reason we have \$1.6 billion invested in our Electricity Maintenance Guarantee over the next five years. The 100 per cent public ownership of both transmission and deep storage infrastructure will also be maintained, contrary to Labor's baseless claims. The bill retains the legislated priority transmission infrastructure framework and streamlines it to ensure our transmission infrastructure keeps pace and continues to bring Queenslanders reliable power to their homes and businesses.


The bill replaces renewable energy zones with regional energy hubs. It will be a legislated framework to coordinate new energy investments of all kinds in regions across Queensland. That means it will not only be renewables that can benefit from coordinated transmission infrastructure; gas can too. Despite the revelation that CopperString had blown out under Labor from \$1.8 billion to \$13.9 billion, the Crisafulli government has committed to saving this vital project. Following the record \$2.4 billion commitment to the project in the government's first budget, the bill establishes the mechanism for the responsible minister to facilitate and support the delivery of the CopperString project. Oversight on the project is being transferred to QIC, the state owned investment manager.

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, of which I am chair, received 41 submissions, many of which were very detailed, to its inquiry from a wide range of stakeholders. The committee held a public hearing attended by the Electrical Trades Union, the Queensland Renewable Energy Council, the Australian Energy Producers and the Queensland Resources Council. I am sure members will agree that this is a very good cross-section of stakeholders. The committee recommended the bill be passed. Having said that, the ETU raised some concerns about the Crisafulli government's \$1.6 billion Electricity Maintenance Guarantee, arguing it does not account for refurbishments beyond the forward estimates. As the Treasurer intimated in his contribution, the \$1.6 billion covers every overhaul required within the current four-year forward estimates, because that is how budgets work. A four-year budget is not a 10-year maintenance cycle and the guarantee is perpetual. It will continue to fund maintenance in future budgets as required.

Another concern raised related to the retention of public ownership of CopperString. As I said earlier, the Energy Roadmap moves delivery of the project from Powerlink to QIC—from one government owned corporation to another. The Queensland Farmers' Federation submission supported a more flexible approach to achieving net zero by 2050, recognising that predictable and cost-conscious policy is essential for agricultural competitiveness and on-farm innovation. The Western Downs Regional Council welcomed the bill's objective to deliver cost-effective, safe, secure and reliable energy. It stated that, by working together, significant economic opportunities can be unlocked. The Queensland Resources Council welcomed the Energy Roadmap's flexible investment framework and the Queensland Renewable Energy Council backs the public ownership retention approach alongside private capital attraction, applauding the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund and Investor Gateway. Renewable energy developer Windlab, as well as Coexistence Queensland, strongly supports the shift to regional energy hubs, citing streamlined delivery, improved flexibility and better regional engagement.

I want to thank the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership for his foresight in bringing the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025 to the House and I thank the departmental officers for their work in such a complex area. Thank you, too, to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee secretariat for its work in developing the committee's report for this important bill. As I said at the outset, the Crisafulli government has a plan to deliver affordable, reliable and

sustainable power for Queenslanders. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill facilitates delivery of the Crisafulli government's Energy Roadmap—one that will reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion to 2035, preventing the average Queensland household paying an extra \$1,035 a year that they would have paid under those opposite. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KING** (Kurbongbah—ALP) (4.58 pm): This evening I rise to speak on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. I do not think it is a surprise to anyone here that I love talking about energy. As an electrician with a long history in the power supply industry and a proud member of the mighty Electrical Trades Union, I am keen to throw in my two cents' worth on this bad, backwards bill. What does this bill do? Firstly, it repeals a few things like renewable energy targets, the Energy Industries Council, the Queensland Energy System Advisory Board and the Queensland Renewable Energy Jobs Advocate. Those opposite obviously could not find any mates to put on this board, but luckily the LNP has let us know that scrapping the advisory board, the industries council and the jobs advocate will not impair the government's ability to consult experts on energy matters. Of course, it cannot consult the Queensland government consulting agency that the Treasurer promised at the election because it has not been set up yet. It has only had a year but has been too busy getting rid of energy rebates and putting up car rego.

Secondly, this bill streamlines parts of Queensland's energy policy by reducing input from Powerlink on Priority Transmission Investment decisions with a more flexible consultation process. Funny, Powerlink builds powerlines but they do not have it anymore. The third thing this bill does is rename the renewable energy zone framework, the *Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint* and the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024. I would like to think that means the LNP is taking ownership of something. The whole 'Labor did it' act is getting a bit old after a year into the term but a cynic might suggest renaming something good is a first step to making it disappear altogether, hoping Queenslanders will not notice. Finally, this bill redefines public ownership targets, weakens public ownership protections and opens the door to the privatisation of our energy sector.

I reckon most Queenslanders are pretty keen on renewable energy. That has certainly been my experience in my electorate and across the energy industry. You only have to look at the uptake of rooftop solar. It is more than one in every three Queensland households in Queensland—the highest rate of any Australian state or territory. I know there is significant interest from my constituents in federal Labor's community batteries and cheaper home batteries programs because Queenslanders know renewable energy is the future.

I am not anti-coal. We need to coal to make steel—we do. The reality is I think most Queenslanders recognise that coal-fired power stations are unsustainable into the future. They have done a great job over many years, but our current power demands require our system to ramp up quickly with demand and the old tech stations struggle with this and it is not good for them to do it. It is pretty simple: you burn coal in a boiler, it heats up the steam, ramps up the turbine and that takes time. It takes time to ramp up and with current demand, renewables—including pumped hydro and, yes, gas—are quick to respond to this load and what we will need for the future, just not the privatised gas we have just sneakily been signed up for.

Renewables after the initial investment cost little to run. For those opposite: coal does cost money; the sun and wind do not. This bill will cost jobs in the renewable sector and the Deputy Premier's cancellation of renewable projects has already cost jobs. This bill will cost Queensland families when we pay our energy bills.


I remind members that it was pumped hydro that saved our grid when Callide C failed. Wivenhoe pumped hydro is 40 years old now. Who would have thought Joh could be so progressive? I do not agree with much of what Joh did, but I agree with him on pumped hydro and I wish some of this current mob were as progressive. He would be ashamed of them dumping over his pumped hydro dream.

Instead of driving a renewable energy future, the bill before us repeals, reframes and renames important energy frameworks and policy. This bill continues the LNP's plan to remove the word 'renewable' from our energy dialogue and is reflective of their head-in-the-sand ideology on climate change.

The bill diminishes government accountability on energy policy, decreases our chances of returning energy dividends to Queenslanders and dumps all over our progress on net zero. We should not be surprised because the LNP government has form. They made renewable energy projects harder to approve and undermined investor and business confidence in renewables through rushed legislation earlier this year. They scrapped the Burdekin pumped hydro project the minute they were elected along with the thousands of jobs it would have created. Joh would be so ashamed. They told us we would


have dates for closing down coal in this road map and then backflipped on that. They are scaling back CopperString, hoping their mates in the private sector will step in. Just like the hospital builds and major infrastructure projects Labor invested in, the LNP have inflated the costings to justify their cuts.

At the federal level we have seen the Liberal Party taking their orders from the Nationals when it comes to scrapping climate targets. It looks like the Queensland LNP are following hot on their heels. They promise transparency, then they muddy the waters every chance they get. This bill is just one more example of buzzwords and spin. We heard the message loud and clear from stakeholders during the parliamentary committee inquiry. This bill removes clarity around electricity generation goals and emission targets in Queensland, jeopardising our state's ability to attract investment. Labor had a strong plan for jobs and energy in Queensland. We had a clear plan to bring down the cost of energy and shore up our energy supply. In contrast, this LNP government has a plan to privatise by stealth. Their anti-renewables, coal-dependent agenda will cost Queenslanders jobs and rewind us to the Dark Ages. This bill delivers the opposite of a fresh start for Queenslanders.

 **Mr DALTON** (Mackay—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025 and the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025—two bills that develop practical reform to protect our regions, safeguard our resources and ensure reliable, affordable energy for Queensland families, farmers and businesses. The bill amends the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 to give CTSCo a clear pathway to meet its decommissioning obligations for its former permit in the Great Artesian Basin. Parliament was right to ban greenhouse gas storage in the basin last year, protecting one of Queensland's most critical water resources. When the EPQ10 ended, CTSCo was required to plug several wells. This bill provides a better option, allowing these wells to be converted into water bores and transferred to landholders. Instead of sealing wells and leaving no lasting benefit, landholders receive new, high-quality water infrastructure that can support drought resilience, stop watering and improve productivity.

The bill sets out a strong framework: wells may be converted or plugged depending on suitability with certified plans, written landholder consent and compliance with strict national and Queensland standards. It also streamlines water licensing and makes conversion accepted development under the Planning Act, reducing unnecessary red tape. Rehabilitation obligations remain unchanged. CTSCo must still meet all environmental requirements and retain a limited right of entry only to complete these obligations. This delivers certainty for the industry and real benefits to regional Queensland.

Moving to the Energy Roadmap, the amendment bill resets Queensland's energy policy in a more realistic and market-led direction. Queenslanders want reliable power, manageable bills and secure jobs, not ideological targets. This bill replaces the rigid former model with a flexible energy system outlook driven by real-world investment, not political timelines. Renewable energy zones are replaced with regional energy hubs, recognising the need for a balanced mix of renewables, gas and firming capacity to maintain reliability. The bill also provides the legislative backbone to deliver CopperString, a transformational project that will unlock critical minerals and drive growth across the north-west. These bills deliver practical solutions, stronger regional outcomes and a clear, balanced plan for Queensland's energy future. The first turns redundant wells into valuable water assets. The second replaces ideological clutter with a system that works. I commend this cognate bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.07 pm): Queenslanders want a clear, ambitious and secure plan for their energy future. They want certainty for industry, stability for households and leadership that recognises how rapidly the global energy landscape is changing. This bill does not provide that certainty or confidence. It avoids any meaningful discussion of climate change and it removes Queensland's renewable energy targets that were central to guiding our energy transition. Removing these renewable energy targets matter. The renewable targets that we legislated of 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035 created clear expectations about where the state was heading for consumers and investors alike. They signalled to investors that Queensland supported long-term energy planning. They helped drive billions of dollars in renewable energy projects across regional Queensland. Without them, industry faces uncertainty at a time when global competition for clean energy investment has never been stronger.

While those opposite try to sell their Energy Roadmap as a sensible transition for all Queenslanders, this is not a road map to prosperity or lower power prices, nor sustainable and reliable power sources. This is a detour to higher emissions and energy insecurity for Queensland families, businesses and industries. The chief executive of Nexa Advisory put it best when she described the road map as 'nothing more than a cul-de-sac'. That is exactly what this is—a dead end for Queenslanders, a dead end for a genuine and orderly energy transition.

A government member interjected.

Ms LINARD: I am sure she would really appreciate your feedback on her comment. With this state government we now have an energy policy that extends coal-fired power well into the 2040s without firm closure dates, all while stagnating investment in renewables. That is not progress; that is regression.

While this regressive shift is taking place in Queensland, the federal coalition has stepped away from Australia's commitment to net zero by 2050—years of bipartisan agreement abandoned. The writing is on the wall: there are those economies that are investing in new technologies and clean energy to futureproof their economies and there are those that risk being left behind, facing increasing instability from continued reliance on aging, increasingly costly fossil fuels. That is where this bill places our state. That is where the LNP's Energy Roadmap is leading our state. While those opposite will no doubt ignore what we are saying as mere ideology, it is the LNP's anti-renewable ideology that is being discussed in industry boardrooms. I do not believe for a second that the Treasurer is not aware of that investor concern. The conversations are not at a whisper level and they are happening here, in Canberra and internationally. It is a total embarrassment for our state that this bill only serves to further fuel.

While those opposite say our emissions reduction targets are not next on the chopping block, alongside renewable energy targets that are being chopped by this bill, the LNP government has already cut them by stealth because you cannot achieve net zero without a credible path to get there. The concerns raised by stakeholders during consultation on this bill make the picture even more troubling. The Electrical Trades Union has warned that the LNP's plan risks shifting Queensland's energy system from a strong publicly owned model to what they describe as a privatised free-for-all. The government promises \$1.6 billion in maintenance for the state's coal fleet, while a cost analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis applied to the eight Queensland coal-fired power stations to run past their economic life would require at least \$4.8 billion. That is a shortfall of \$3.2 billion.

Mr Power: \$4.8 billion!

Ms LINARD: I take the interjection. At a time when Queenslanders are struggling with unrelenting cost-of-living pressures and a state government that is trying its very best to ignore it, they deserve honest answers about what this means for electricity prices. Extending the life of aging coal stations comes with higher fuel costs, higher maintenance requirements and lower efficiency. Those pressures do not create cheaper power for Queensland households and businesses. Instead, this bill leaves us standing still while others move ahead.

There is also an environmental reality that cannot be separated from the economic one. Reducing emissions and expanding renewable energy are essential to protecting Queensland's natural assets, including the Great Barrier Reef. The reef supports tens of thousands of jobs and is central to Queensland's global identity. The world is watching how governments like ours respond to climate change. Refusing to plan for a renewable future puts our environment and our economy at risk.

Queenslanders are entitled to ask important questions such as: how can a government build a credible long-term energy plan when it removes the renewable targets that provide the direction required; how can it attract global investment when it moves away from the standards international markets expect; how can it support regional jobs when the global shift to clean energy is already driving new industries elsewhere; and how can Queenslanders have confidence that public ownership of generation assets will continue under this bill and this government? The answer is that it cannot. This government cannot build a credible long-term energy plan, attract global renewable investment or support more regional jobs with this bill and their current anti-renewables, ideologically-driven approach. Their approach limits Queensland's opportunities and it weakens the certainty that businesses and communities rely on.


On this side of the House we believe that Queensland can lead the nation in clean energy. We support a planned and science aligned transition. We support policies that keep energy affordable, reliable and sustainable for Queenslanders. We believe that regional Queensland and regional jobs should be at the centre of this transformation, not left behind. This bill does not meet this objective. It is not a pathway to long-term security or prosperity; it is a road map to nowhere.

In the time I have remaining I would like to speak briefly on the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. It was the former Labor government that acted decisively in 2024 to ban greenhouse gas storage, specifically within the Great Artesian Basin. This decision safeguarded one of Queensland's most valuable natural assets and reflected Labor's commitment to listening to

Queenslanders who were concerned about the risks carbon capture posed to this region. The Great Artesian Basin is more than a water source; it sustains communities, agriculture, ecosystems and industries across inland Queensland. Our reforms made clear that its agricultural, environmental, economic and cultural significance is worth protecting. Labor welcomes the amendments proposed in this bill as a continuation of that legacy.

The amendments allow the Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation, the former holder of the greenhouse gas exploration permit EPQ10, to convert existing greenhouse gas wells into water supply bores and transfer ownership to the respective landholders. This is a practical step forward that restores autonomy to farmers and landholders. It allows them to decide whether to plug the wells or convert them for productive use. For many that will mean improved access to water for daily operations. For others it will simply return control over their own property. However, as always the detail matters, and I note that stakeholders including AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Association of Mining Exploration Companies have raised valid concerns that must not be overlooked and must be addressed, including a call for clear assurances that the financial responsibility for conversion and rehabilitation rests entirely with CTSCo and also that farmers should not be left with unexpected liabilities for infrastructure they did not create. Labor therefore urges the government to guarantee departmental support and advice for all affected landholders, ensuring they understand any long-term obligations before agreeing to conversion.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation also noted that, while this bill addresses six wells within the Great Artesian Basin, other greenhouse gas exploration wells remain across Queensland, including in the Surat and Denison regions and south of Emerald. Those landholders deserve clarity about whether similar arrangements will apply to them. Labor's position is clear: coexistence must be genuine, transparent and fair; it must protect the interests of landholders, uphold environmental standards and ensure our shared natural assets are responsibly managed for future generations. The opposition will not oppose this element of the bill, but we do so with the expectation that the government acts with diligence, transparency and respect for the regional communities most affected.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise today to support the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. It was a great honour to be on the committee that considered this bill. Congratulations to the minister and also the chair of our committee, the member for Coomera, for leading us in such an insightful and exciting time for Queensland. This is legislation that delivers what Queenslanders have been asking for: a practical, affordable and reliable plan for our state's energy future. The Crisafulli government has been clear from day one: Queensland families and businesses deserve energy policy grounded in engineering and economics, not ideology. This bill lays out a responsible road map. For communities like Caloundra, those savings matter. With families feeling cost-of-living pressures and local businesses working hard to stay competitive, affordable and dependable power is not a luxury; it is essential.

This bill strengthens public ownership of our existing state owned power plants, moving from Labor's 54 per cent to the full 100 per cent. That is something only the LNP has committed to and is delivering. It means greater protection for Queensland jobs, greater energy security and greater confidence for industry right across our regions. This also includes 100 per cent ownership of transmission and deep storage infrastructure, despite what the former government would have people believe.

Crucially, we are keeping coal in the mix for longer, which is what Queenslanders want—until at least 2046—while supporting sensible growth in renewables and more gas-fired generation to firm the system. This is how you keep the lights on, this is how you keep bills down and this is how you ensure Queensland is not forced into blackouts because of unrealistic timelines and undeliverable targets.


For the Sunshine Coast and Caloundra communities, this kind of balanced, steady approach gives confidence that supply will remain stable even as our region grows—and we are growing. Families are moving to the coast in record numbers. New homes, new businesses, new precincts—all of it depends on a strong, stable energy backbone. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill also introduces regional energy hubs, which are far more practical and adaptive than the flawed renewable energy zones. The hubs will help coordinate investment in renewables and gas, ensuring the infrastructure built in regional Queensland is planned, efficient and supported by the community.

Of course, the bill provides the legislative mechanism to save and deliver CopperString, the biggest nation-building project in North and North-West Queensland in a generation. Under Labor the costs blew out from \$1.8 billion to almost \$14 billion. Under the Crisafulli government we have already identified more than \$2 billion in savings and returned the project to an affordable and deliverable state.

This bill is about honesty and accountability. It replaces empty promises with achievable timelines. It replaces ideological targets with strong investment signals and it protects Queensland taxpayers from the cost blowouts and careless planning that became a trademark of the former government. Most importantly, it supports communities like mine.

In Caloundra, people want certainty. They want energy that is affordable, reliable and sustainable without risking supply, without destroying jobs and without saddling families with spiralling bills. The people of Queensland want an energy road map that is balanced and sustainable, as the average household cannot afford the increased costs that come with ideology without practicality. When I speak to people in Caloundra about the Energy Roadmap, it seems everyone is happy. Coal, gas, more opportunity for private sector investment for renewable projects and storage are all factors that will keep costs blowing out for Queenslanders. It leverages what we already have, it builds what we genuinely need and it opens the door to private sector investment that will support Queensland's growth for decades to come.

I would like to thank those individual organisations and industry bodies that made thorough submissions to the committee, allowing us to carefully consider a range of information. Your effort is much appreciated. This is a pragmatic bill, a responsible bill and a bill that puts Queenslanders first.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise to support the opposition's Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill 2025. Firstly, I want to express my real disappointment that debate on this bill and discussion on carbon capture and storage has been cut short by the government—and not only is it cut short but also, as it is joined to the debate on the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, it becomes part of the guillotine. A record guillotine of four bills has been overseen by the government. That has never been seen in this parliament except under this government.

Not all members of parliament will be able to speak on this bill. Some members may have to prioritise speaking to the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill over the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill, which rightly deserves its own consideration and debate. Although the bill is about a specific set of wells drilled for the purpose of greenhouse gas storage and monitoring, the principles and the future of carbon capture and storage are things that all members would have wanted to discuss, so I am very disappointed.

I recognise the work of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee, especially the members from this side. No doubt they would have wanted a full inquiry into the benefits and roles of carbon capture and storage, but that is not what happened on the committee. Instead, there were no hearings whatsoever. This also matches the other bill, which I will get to later, where there was a hearing but it was held before all of the submissions were put in and only four of the thousands of Queenslanders who want to see a renewable energy future were able to put their views to the committee.

This government does not want to listen to complex ideas on carbon capture and storage, it does not want to listen when it comes to renewable energy and it does not want to listen to this parliament. Mr Deputy Speaker, you may have noticed that even though we are debating two bills, all members on the other side have been instructed to cut their speeches on the future of our transition to renewable energy to five minutes. They have five minutes to talk about the complex issues of carbon capture and storage.

Returning to carbon capture and storage, I note there were submissions from the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the Curtis family, the Grays, AgForce Queensland Farmers and AMEC that talked about a whole variety of issues to do with mineral exploration and I thank them for that. The bill would amend the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act and allow Carbon Transport and Storage Corporation, CTSCo, to convert existing greenhouse gas exploration wells, specifically those on the now expired permit EPQ10, to water supply bores. Under this bill, the ownership of the wells would transfer to the landowner with, of course, their permission and understanding. The bill would streamline that approvals process, lowering the regulatory burden for conversion works and water licensing for landowners. That is a reasonable path for the conversion of those wells. Converting wells to water bores provides some benefits for landholders that simply capping them off would not provide. Importantly, CTSCo will bear the cost of the decommissioning either via conversion to bores or a final plugging of the wells to finalise them. Neither the landholders nor the state will incur that liability.

The Gorgon Project, which is on the North West Shelf and has extensive carbon capture and storage, reminds the government and proponents that it is not only geology that you need. Of course, the geology needs to be right but we also need to build community support. This is a social and community issue, not just an engineering one. I note the comments of the member for Nudgee about community and consultation. The Labor opposition supports that legislation.

I turn to the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025. Again, disappointingly, the debate on these bills has been cognated but, when compared to the four-bill guillotine put forward, the action of cognating these bills is minor in comparison. I reflect that everyone in this House—and I mean everyone, including those on the other side—thinks that the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill is not very good. Some of them are pretending. For instance, the Treasurer put out a release in which he said he wanted to attract investment in renewables by having an absolutely clear timeline where he knew the economic life of coal-fired power stations, including the high cost of maintenance and including the lack of economic life. He wanted to put out a clear timeline. He actually put it to the newspapers to try, in a way, to head off other ministers but, of course, they are hopelessly divided. Immediately, Minister Last had to run around and try to squash that because he cannot tell the truth to his community. He cannot explain to them what the problems and the economic life of those systems will be. He wants to increase the price of electricity by not giving a clear timeline for investment in gas, renewables or other forms of supply and at any time he wants to kill it.

I do not need to speak to the economists who have written all of the reports. I do not need to speak to experts in renewable energy. All I need to do is speak to those on the ground at the coal-fired power stations. The engineers and the workers tell me that the power stations are struggling. They know that the maintenance costs are going to go up and up. Everyone on the front bench knows it, but they do not have the guts to tell the truth to the people of Queensland. Instead, they will undermine, for their own case, the economy of Queensland. Further, last week in this place we saw members such as the member for Callide and the member for Mirani vote for net zero. You can take me to the Ethics Committee if you think I am not telling the truth. They were too embarrassed to confront that. Both the member for Callide and the member for Mirani are the net zero kings.

What did we see the next day? We saw cosplay construction worker Canavan appear to try to read the riot act. There was net zero one day and the cosplayer the next day. He had to come in and try to stomp them down and remind them that they had gone to conference and all voted against net zero. They came into this place and voted for net zero. There is a pile of confusion on the other side. One thing you will not find in this is any statement that they will build a new coal-fired power station, but will they be honest with coal communities or will they continue with Matt 'Cosplay' Canavan's mistruths and misleading information?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you used unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWER: I apologise and withdraw.

Debate, on motion of Mr Power, adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the following members that they are on warnings: Bulimba, Miller, Logan and Waterford.

MOTION

Wieambilla, Deaths



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

That this House:

1. acknowledges the third-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare.
2. calls on the Crisafulli LNP government to urgently implement the State Coroner's recommendations into the Wieambilla incident.

This Friday we remember the most tragic and significant loss of police lives in the line of duty. I clearly remember where I was when I heard the news and the gut-wrenching feeling of fear for both Queenslanders and our frontline police officers. I remember my sadness for the families and friends of Constable Matthew Arnold, Constable Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare. It is a day no Queenslanders will forget. Sadly, it is a day we might be faced with again because recommendations to improve gun safety in the wake of the Wieambilla incident that were handed down by the Coroner are sitting on the police minister's desk—the same police minister who on Saturday was asked no fewer than six times if he supported action to protect our police and our communities from gun crime and he could not answer.

Ten recommendations were made and have been supported in principle by the Police Commissioner. Some are as easy as additional training for triple 0 call takers and better information sharing. Others, like mental health checks, could be what stops more indoctrinated extremists from

committing another deadly attack on our police. What is clear to me and to this side of the House is that the LNP have no desire to act quickly on gun reform because they do not support it. Compare that to the haste with which the pill testing and gender-affirming care bans were made.

With this motion those opposite have an opportunity to prove me wrong. They can support the motion and signal to police, the families and the community that they will put their safety ahead of the extremists in their party room and their gun lobby donors. If they do not, it will be proof that the problem is not the complexity of the recommendations but rather the deep divide that fractures the LNP party room—a divide deepened by the Treasurer's apparent gung-ho commitment to net zero and the gag on abortion repeal, which we hear has been promised next term.

This is a government obsessed with attacking the opposition to distract from its own divisions. They have to keep reminding their own party room to be normal. Now they are doing deals with the gun lobby on behalf of their cooker backbench and their sovereign citizen fringe, compromising police safety for the sake of political donations.

Instead of ideology, let's look at the facts. This year weapon offences are up 17 per cent. Within that, unlawful possession of a concealable firearm offences are up almost 30 per cent. As our deputy leader raised yesterday, two people have been shot dead in Logan in the last week—two. Yesterday, a venue in Banyo was fired at. Those offenders escaped on e-scooters—another area where the Crisafulli LNP government is dragging its feet. You would think if shots were fired in the Premier's backyard there would be some serious and immediate action taken. But wait, there was! That was in Paradise Point on Monday. It was just the wrong backyard now that he has bailed from the Gold Coast to Bulimba.

This is a government that preaches about being tough on crime and that says it is tough on knives but that is actually soft on guns. You cannot be tough on crime when you are not tough on guns. It rushed through its signature Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, and we have seen a patchwork of fixes to its failing laws time and time again, including again today.

Queenslanders do not feel any safer than they did a year ago, and when they look to the Premier for action he says, 'You don't have to worry, you won't get stabbed here'—but you might get shot. It is time for the Premier to stand up to his backbench and do what is right—to take urgent action to implement the Coroner's recommendations and protect our communities from escalating gun violence and protect our police from harm.



Hon. DG PURDIE (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (5.35 pm): Firstly, as we approach the third anniversary of that dark day in Queensland's history, I pay tribute to the two fine young police officers who lost their lives. Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow died alongside good Samaritan Alan Dare. I would also like to acknowledge the pain and suffering of their families, friends and colleagues, some of whom were there on that day.

The State Coroner's report is harrowing. The findings were handed down on Friday, 21 November, just 2½ weeks ago. It was difficult to read, but it is incredibly important. In his findings, State Coroner Terry Ryan detailed the crime that shocked a nation. He writes—

On the afternoon of 12 December 2022, four Constables from the Tara and Chinchilla police stations: Matthew Arnold, Rachel McCrow, Randall Kirk and Keely Brough, attended an apparently routine missing persons job at ... Wains Road, Wieambilla ...

The officers were seeking to locate Nathaniel Train, a former school principal, who had been formally registered as a missing person by the New South Wales Police Force ...

Less than two minutes after entering the property, and without warning, the officers came under fire from the Trains, resulting in the tragic deaths of Constable Matthew Arnold and Constable Rachel McCrow. Shortly after, concerned neighbour Alan Dare, investigating smoke emitting from the Trains' property, was also shot and killed. The findings continue—

At around 4:48pm, Constable Kirk tactically withdrew from the property ... was subjected to heavy gun fire as he fled, sustaining an injury to the hip and torso ...

Constable Brough remained trapped on the property, hidden in bushland, for a period of around two hours.

As a result of the shootings, a tactical police operation commenced, along with attempts to negotiate. Shortly after 10.30 pm, Gareth, Stacey and Nathaniel Train were shot and killed by SERT.

We will not politicise their deaths. The Labor opposition should hang their heads in shame. Those opposite would not know what it is like to stare down the barrel of a gun pointed at them by someone in anger.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members!

Mr PURDIE: They would not know what it is like to draw a weapon—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned.

Mr PURDIE:—in the line of duty to protect yourself, your partner and the community while in fear for your life.

In this confronting report, State Coroner Terry Ryan has asked the government to prepare a response to his 10 recommendations over the next six months. This process will not be rushed. It is important we get it right after Labor's decade of neglect. We are about to hear from a long list of former police officers—some of whom have children on the front line at the moment. The next contributors to the debate from the other side should think about that.

We will give the Coroner's report and recommendations the time and thorough consideration they deserve. That will be done in a calm and methodical way. Rushed decision-making is fraught with danger and it risks not achieving the outcomes that would protect police and protect Queenslanders. Our government is not going to rush dealing with a truly horrific and tragic incident like this. This government backs our police. We will keep working to deliver the resources they need and the laws to keep Queenslanders safe.

Ms Pease interjected.

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

Mr PURDIE: Those opposite had their chance. They are grandstanding on this issue, but they are not grandstanding on solid ground because back in 2015, while those opposite were focused on watering down youth justice laws, they forgot that they signed up to an agreement, formally endorsed by every Commonwealth, state and territory attorney-general and police minister—an agreement which stated every state needed to sign up to a firearms prohibition order scheme.


Before I continue, I move the following amendment to the motion moved by the opposition—

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

- '1. acknowledges the third-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare.
2. calls on the government to calmly and methodically consider the State Coroner's recommendations in response to the Wieambilla murders.'

In 2015, those opposite signed up to a national scheme that every police minister and attorney-general endorsed—an organised crime response scheme to implement a nationally significant and consistent firearm prohibition order scheme, to take account of those people moving interstate. Other states played their part. Those opposite did nothing. In 2019, we introduced a private member's bill to do that, and they did not support it. They are not on solid ground when it comes to giving our police what they need to crack down on dangerous people with guns.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.41 pm): I am pleased to support the motion moved in the House this evening by the Leader of the Opposition. Let me start by saying something that the LNP and even the police minister will be able to understand: you cannot be tough on crime if you are soft on guns. Let me say it again for every member of the LNP to understand: you cannot be tough on crime if you are soft on guns.

What about that contribution, by someone who is meant to be protecting Queenslanders as the police minister, talking about politicising crime when he answered that awful Dixer in the House today. He is not worried about people being shot to death in Woodridge or shot to death in Logan. He is not worried about gun crime which is out of control in this state. He talked about politics. That is all he is good for. He is the man who could not even be bothered reading the commission of inquiry report on the Police Service—the man who said his job as a shadow minister for police was to win more seats in parliament off the back of victims of crime. I will give the police minister his due: he spoke the truth that day. He spoke the truth because that is the—

An opposition member: A disgrace.

Mr DICK: I will take that interjection. It is a disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace that the then shadow police minister and member for Ninderry said that. That is what the LNP believe. The LNP believe crime is to be used as a tool for political advantage. We have seen it every day under the

leadership of this Premier—every single day. You cannot be a real premier in this state if you do not have the ticker to be a real leader. A real leader in this state would immediately implement the recommendations of the coronial inquiry. That is what a real leader would do.

What happened on that day in Wieambilla was absolute evil—evil people filled with evil intent did evil and bad things to good Queenslanders. Innocent people, good Queenslanders, lost their lives.

What did we hear from the police minister tonight speaking for the leader who will not speak in this debate? What we heard were excuses and a manifest failure of leadership. That is what we heard tonight. The coroner has recommended actions that will make sure that lethal weapons do not fall into the hands of the wrong people. We should all be working towards that. I think about the position the government has taken on this. We saw the police minister unable or unwilling, mute and absurd at the press conference on the weekend, unable to take action to protect Queenslanders. As we saw tonight, when the word came in from the Premier, he is waiting for direction from the Premier. He will not make a decision to protect Queenslanders. Just listen to the Queensland Police Service, the Police Commissioner and the Queensland Police Union and if you do not want to listen to them, listen to the families of people who have been gunned down in Queensland who want action to ensure the same thing does not happen to other good Queensland families.

These issues reveal the Premier's willingness to put the interests of certain members of the LNP and his base above the interests of the broader community. We know the Premier is soft. He is soft on vaccination—we know that. He is soft on the racist elements who marched in the streets of Queensland who should have been condemned. I will condemn and the Labor opposition will condemn every single day those who take those vile thoughts and words into the streets of Queensland. Where was the Premier that day? Where was the tough Premier that day? Where was the tough-on-crime Premier that day? He was mute, absurd and silent.


We will stand up for Queenslanders. We will ensure they are protected. We will ensure every single day that we speak up for Queenslanders who want to be protected, who want to be safe in their homes, who do not want to be shot to death in Logan because gun crime is out of control in this state. They have had 14 months of four-word slogans and it has delivered worse crime in my community. I will speak up every single day.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DICK: I hear them yelling out because they are weak on guns. That is what they are. They cannot defend themselves. We will stand up for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are now warned. Member for Ninderry, you are also warned.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.46 pm): The date 12 December 2022, for police officers and their families particularly, is one of those days when you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing. At the time, I was a serving police officer and was on a day off, spending it with some police mates, actually, having a steak at the Brekky Creek Hotel. I recall there were some senior police officers at a table nearby. As we do, we exchanged hellos and continued with our group get-together.

I remember the mood of the senior police, at the table near us, change as they looked at their phones and looked at each other with horrified looks. What was a jovial atmosphere began to look very dark. One of them came over to our table—word was coming in that two police officers had been shot and were reported dead. That immediate sinking feeling is something that, unfortunately, every police officer knows if they have had at least a few years service. Over the years, far too many times news filters down on the loss of another officer, but this one was the worst. As news came in, none of us felt much like eating anymore as we tried to find out more. Do I know them? Are the other police safe? Is it still ongoing?

This turned out to be one of if not the darkest day in Queensland Police history. Two young officers—Constable Rachel McCrow and Constable Matthew Arnold—had been gunned down in cold blood on what they likely thought was a fairly routine inquiry. A civilian, Alan Dare, who went to assist was also killed without mercy.

This incident was different for me. You see, at the time, my daughter, a similar age to Rachel, was training at the academy to become a police officer. Every time I see a photo of Rachel, I think of my daughter, and I think of Rachel's parents and what they must be going through, taking nothing away from the pain and anguish of the families of Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare. I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to the families.

Attending the funerals of the officers at the BEC with police in their hundreds to support the families and support each other in the blue family is a feeling that only police really understand—a feeling of deep sadness, coupled with a feeling of pride looking around at the hundreds of supporting officers. Being a part of that team is something that keeps police going. It keeps them showing up for each other and it motivates them to make things safer into the future. Of course, I came away from that and other incidents over the years wanting to keep police safer.

The politicisation of this issue is not surprising, but it is disappointing. I will not justify whatever it is the Labor members are going to suggest or their motivation in bringing this motion to the House, but I will address the families of those involved. Rest assured, there are six former police officers in the current government who will do everything they can to ensure the safety of our brave officers who run towards danger daily.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield!

Mr HUNT: We will do everything we can. The minister has already indicated that the Coroner's findings will be examined within the timeframes the Coroner suggested. I am proud to be a member of the same political party as the great John Howard, who took the brave decision to strengthen Australia's gun laws, which no doubt has saved hundreds of lives in the years since.

On Monday I took a walk through the botanic gardens across the road. Each time I go there I visit our police memorial and have a moment of silence to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, particularly Rachel and Matthew—and I think of their families as they remember that awful day three years ago.


To my daughter and the other proud serving officers of the Queensland Police Service: I know that you know that we have your back. We are giving you the laws, equipment and training to help you do your job safely and effectively. I could not be prouder—

An opposition member: That's not what they tell me.

Mr HUNT: I take that interjection: 'That's not what they tell me.' It is what they tell me, and I speak to them regularly. They voted in droves to kick you mob out. I could not be prouder to stand in this parliament and continue to advocate for the Queensland Police Service.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, I will not caution you again.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I thank the member for Nicklin for that contribution. All of us in this place are thinking about the families of Constable Matthew Arnold, Constable Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare. I think we need to think about what the families have to say about what was a very extensive coronial inquest.

I have sat with many victims who have been through inquests. It is incredibly difficult for a family member to sit through a coronial inquest and hear the evidence. At the very end of that very lengthy process, they finally hear the findings and recommendations that are designed to ensure a tragedy like theirs never happens again. That is what we are talking about today. I completely agree with almost everything the member for Nicklin had to say: this really should be about the families and making sure no more families suffer this tragedy.

If we are going to think about the families, can I inform the House what Constable McCrow's mum has said about how important it would be for these recommendations to be implemented urgently? Judy—Constable McCrow's mum—said that she believes it is 'vitally important' that all of the Coroner's recommendations are immediately implemented. This Premier and this LNP government have shown in the year that they have been in government that they can do things urgently when they want to. They can do things urgently even if the experts do not support them.

The State Coroner, Terry Ryan—one of the state's most experienced coroners—has sat through an incredibly lengthy and detailed coronial inquest and has put 10 recommendations on the table. He found that these deaths could have been prevented, and his recommendations are what will prevent the next tragedy. So far the government are not interested in listening to the families of these brave constables, these victims of crime. They are not interested. As much as they talk about their experience—and in this place we all value people's experience and where they have come from—they are not listening to the experts. The Queensland Police Commissioner and the Police Union are advocating hard that these recommendations should be supported and implemented.

The question is: why? When this Premier and this government have a track record of being able to implement things very quickly when they want to, why after hearing the passion from the police minister and the member for Nicklin about how they have the backs of our police are they not doing this now to prevent another tragedy? The only possible explanation is that there are some in the LNP who do not support these recommendations, particularly the recommendations that relate to reviewing whether or not we need mental health checks for people in Queensland to have guns. Why else would they not do this quickly, urgently, immediately, as Judy has said should happen? They clearly are too reliant on the gun lobby and its donations. They clearly have some within their party who do not want to see these recommendations implemented, so they are putting them off.

I did not think there could be a worse contribution than the train wreck press conference of the police minister on the weekend on this issue, but I think his contribution today was worse. Do you know what, Minister for Police? We are not politicising this. We are actually here today backing up the families of those slain officers who want this work to be done immediately. If that is what they call politicising, I hope they can sit down with these families face to face and explain to them why they are not doing this urgently. They can do it, and they have done it in the past. Shame on every one of them for not supporting this motion.

(Time expired)



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (5.56 pm): It is an absolute honour to be able to stand here this afternoon to pay respect to those who lost their lives in the Wieambilla tragedy. I am just disappointed that we are coming at it from the wrong perspective because of a motion that puts politics before people. The date 12 December changed Australia forever. The Wieambilla tragedy changed Australia forever.

I am proud to stand here today with a background of 30-plus years as a police officer and with a son who is in the Police Service. He was on duty that day. When that call came in, I did not know that my mate was not there. I found out about 10 minutes later in a text reassuring me that he was not. I could breathe easy, but the lives of the families of Rachel, Matthew and Alan Dare, the neighbour, were changed forever. There were also other police who bravely attended there that day to rescue those who survived and who bore witness to the execution style murders that occurred on the Wieambilla property. It was a disgrace. Those people deserved their end.

I congratulate Coroner Ryan on his tremendous and detailed effort to examine all of the facts and all of the police recordings and videos which showed exactly what happened. Policing is a profession. We pride ourselves on going into risky situations day in and day out and managing those risky situations. From this tragedy there will be improvements. I commend Coroner Ryan on his 10 recommendations and the recommendation that the government take six months to consider the recommendations that were made 2½ weeks ago. This is a disgrace.

To the families of Rachel, Matthew and Alan I send my deepest sympathies. You should never have had to go through this. I can tell you that the decline in the resourcing and the support for police which happened over the last 10 years changed 12 months ago. We have taken action. We are properly—

Mrs Nightingale: Gun crimes have increased.

Mr McDONALD: I take that disgraceful interjection from the member for Inala. I commend Coroner Ryan on his findings and the efforts of this government. With six former police officers here, including five who are speaking tonight, we will not allow the Police Service to come off second best like they did in the last 10 years. We will continue to support our police and take action including the recommendations from this coronial inquest. I can assure—


Ms Scanlon: Do it now.

Mr McDONALD: As the Coroner rightly recommended, the government should take six months to consider this in a calm and methodical way, not rush things. There are complex things to consider. If you have not read the report, read the report and understand what is in there.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your remarks through the chair.

Mr McDONALD: I am proud to be part of this government that will continue to calmly and methodically govern Queensland because that is what they deserve. This is no different. We will continue to support our police and make sure they get the changes that are needed. We will do this in a calm and methodical way.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (6.01 pm): I rise in support of the amendment moved by our police minister, Dan Purdie. Every sworn Queensland police officer remembers where they were on that terrible day when they heard the devastating news of the deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and neighbour Mr Alan Dare. Every single police officer had the same thought: 'That could have been me. That could have been my partner.' They also had the same thought for those officers who bravely provided back-up: 'I will be there in a heartbeat to support you.'


It remains one of Queensland's darkest moments etched into the hearts of every member of the blue family and every Queenslanders who values service and sacrifice. This Friday marks the third anniversary of their murders. Queensland stands with their families, their loved ones, and their colleagues as we pause to honour three brave Queenslanders whose lives were taken in an act of pure evil.

As a former police officer and as someone who has supervised critical incidents throughout my career, I know the weight that sits on the shoulders of those who lead and those who serve. After every tragic event, every near miss and every situation that could have unfolded differently, you lie awake replaying the decisions that you have made—asking what you missed, what you could have done differently and whether another choice might have changed the outcome. That burden is quiet, it is constant and it is deeply felt, and it is why the loss of Rachel, Matthew and Alan cut so deeply into the policing community—but that is what true leadership is.

Their memories deserve more than political pointscore. They deserve honesty, respect and considered action. The State Coroner, who handed down his findings and 10 recommendations only 2½ weeks ago, also deserves respect for his true leadership. Each recommendation is significant and far-reaching, and we as a government will carefully and methodically examine each of those recommendations. This process will not be rushed. We will not repeat the mistakes of Labor's decade of decline when knee-jerk reactions were too often substituted for genuine reform. Rushed decision-making is fraught with danger. It risks unintended consequences. This government will give the Coroner's report and its recommendations the thorough time and consideration they deserve. We will do that in a calm, methodical and respectful way because that is how a responsible government operates and that is what Queenslanders expect.

The safety of our frontline officers is, and always will remain, an absolute priority for this government. Our government has already proven that we back our police officers with the resources, the support and the laws they need to do their jobs and to restore safety where Queenslanders live. Our message is clear: this government backs police always, and we will continue to deliver the tools, resources and legislative strength needed to keep Queenslanders safe.

Knee-jerk reactions like those I personally saw during Labor's decade in power are dangerous—dangerous to officer's safety, dangerous to community safety and dangerous to the lessons that we must learn from Wieambilla. This Friday Queensland will pause to remember those heroes. While those opposite will choose politics, this government chooses respect, responsibility and real reform. That is true leadership. We honour Rachel, Matthew and Alan, not with motions but with meaningful action—carefully thought through, properly implemented and driven by the seriousness their sacrifice deserves. Lest we forget.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. This motion is not controversial. This motion is not embarking upon any political grandstanding. This motion is acknowledging the three-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare. It calls on the LNP government, which has form in this place of coming in and urgently moving a number of amendments, bills and motions that it wants to move in a record period of time. Some of them are unprecedented in the history of this parliament such as a motion that bans any discussion with regard to abortion and women's reproductive rights. They did that almost immediately after they were elected.

Yet a motion that is basically saying that three years ago we had a coroner in Terry Ryan who handed down an incredible report 2½ weeks ago with 10 recommendations which are not controversial. If you read the recommendations, they are about training. Why would you delay that? Why would you not train those triple-0 operators in how to best deal with these tragic situations, if not for the officers who lost their lives then for their families and friends. All the stakeholders agree—the QPS, the union, the families and the friends. If you do not want to do it for us, do it for them.

We have had former police officers stand in here and I feel for them. I know how they must be feeling with regard to this. I am not a police officer and I never have been, but my nephew is. He graduated a few years ago. He is at the Southport Police Station. We talk often about his role and his job and how he is loving what we would say in the Aussie vernacular the mateship that goes on with police officers.

As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, time and time again the government comes in here accusing the Labor Party of being soft and politicising child safety laws. We have the toughest in the country. That was said in the report but not once did those opposite say that yesterday. They come in here and more or less blame us—the blame game continues—for anything that has occurred. It is insulting and it is absolutely unbelievable.

They had no problems with rushing through legislation to ban pill testing and gender-affirming care. They did not do it in a calm and methodical way. Even after the Supreme Court found it was unlawful, hours later they banned it again. They cannot support a simple motion to support the families and ensure tragedies like this never happen again. Let's not delay it. Let's urgently get to work.

We know why. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, you cannot be tough on crime if you are soft on guns. The issue over there is that they do not want to implement recommendation 2—mental health checks. I have no problem with people having guns. There are farmers, people who want them and people who are sporting shooters. I have no problem if that is what they want to do. What I do have a problem with, as we saw at Wieambilla, is people with mental health issues having access to guns and not being assessed.

I think every Queenslanders in the state would say that if you have a mental health problem you should not be able to go into a gun shop and buy a gun. You should be assessed. That is the issue over there: they do not like that. We owe it to the families to urgently review this. John Howard did it after the Port Arthur massacre. Real leaders take action. Real leaders assess the situation and take the necessary action. We have had people shot in Logan. We have had a rise in gun violence in the last 12 months. Take the urgent action needed.

(Time expired)



Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (6.11 pm): Queenslanders deserve a government that is able to walk the walk when it comes to dealing with community safety. This Friday marks three years since the horrific murder of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Mr Alan Dare. Their deaths were a national tragedy. Every police officer, every frontline worker and every family felt the devastating weight of that day—none more so than their devastated families and friends, whom our thoughts remain with, particularly during such a difficult week. Three years on, Queenslanders rightfully expect that the lessons of this tragedy have driven change—that they would have driven the government to act. Instead, we have a government that refuses to commit to the very recommendations designed to stop further tragedies of this nature.

The State Coroner's recommendations handed down in November were clear, they were practical and they were grounded in evidence: improvements to triple 0 training; stronger supervision of call takers; increased resources for the Queensland Fixated Threat Assessment Centre; and that the government consider mandatory mental health assessments for weapons licence applicants. These recommendations are not radical; they are measures designed to prevent dangerous weapons from getting into the wrong hands and leading to further tragedy.

Yet when the government was asked to respond, six times the minister refused to answer the question, instead dancing around the issue and bizarrely stating that he has 'runs on the board'. What runs are they? What achievements might those be? That weapons offences are up 17 per cent statewide? That there has been an almost 30 per cent increase in unlawful possession of concealable firearms? How about the shooting yesterday at a business in my community in Banyo? Patrons were terrified. Staff are being offered counselling. I table the police bulletin with regard to my community at Banyo and a recent one for Chermside and Bald Hills, just down the road.


Tabled paper: Bundle of local police news bulletins in relation to shots fired in Banyo, Chermside and Bald Hills [\[1987\]](#).

How about the shots fired in Nundah two months ago? Are they what the minister meant when he said this LNP government has 'runs on the board'? The LNP repeats their tough-on-crime mantra verbatim when it suits them, but when it does not they give Queenslanders nothing more than a political marketing con. The people of Nudgee are not interested in their slick slogans and platitudes. They were not interested at the election and they certainly are not interested now as they wake up to yet another shooting in our local community—as they wake to reports of two men discharging a firearm into the

doors of my local business and escaping on e-scooters, which is just another issue in my community that my constituents are concerned about and which this LNP government is doing absolutely nothing to address.

What are those opposite going to do about the rising number of weapons offences in this state? What are they going to do about the shootings in my local community, about the fear in my electorate and about the traumatised businesses, patrons and staff with regard to these events? How can my community have any confidence that this LNP government is going to act when it will not even answer a direct question posed six times about sensible gun control in Queensland? Every day that this LNP government delays acting on the Coroner's recommendation the risk grows. Every day they refuse to take recommendations like mental health assessments seriously they put police officers and the community—my community; all of our communities—at risk.

Nothing about this motion is unreasonable. It honours the third anniversary of one of the darkest days in Queensland's history. It asks the government to do the bare minimum and implement the recommendations of the coronial inquiry, not to dance around them. This LNP government must wake up to the reality being faced in many of our communities—certainly in my community. Wake up to the fact that what happens in this state is now their record. It is a record of avoidance, excuses and total inaction on this issue to date. You cannot be tough on crime when you are soft on guns in our community.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (6.16 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the Minister for Police. Mr Speaker, 12 December is a day that those of us who live and work in the Western Downs will never forget. I wish to pass on my deepest sympathy to Rachel's family and friends, especially Judy, Wayne, Samantha McCrow and Rachel's dog Archibald. My deepest sympathy is with Matthew's family and friends, especially his triplet brother James, sister Hayley and parents Terry and Sue. Similarly, my deepest sympathy is with Kerry Dare and her family Corey, Renee, Rose and their friends and extended family. It is incredibly tough on the Dare family, particularly on Kerry. They have lost their rock in Alan. Alan Dare lived in the Warrego electorate about halfway between Tara and Chinchilla. Rachel and Matthew were police officers stationed at the Tara police station and Dalby in my electorate. I do not think there are words that can express what each of the families goes through every December or, for that matter, every day. There is never closure for them. They will never forget and their loss can never be quantified.

I am very disappointed with the behaviour and the politicisation the Labor Party is going on with here tonight. It is disgraceful. These police officers were young, energetic, athletic and greatly respected in their local community. What Labor is doing is totally disrespecting them. Mr Speaker, 12 December is still emotionally raw and always will be for these families and the community, which is why we choose respect over politics. No report will ever be able to fully explain the horrific incidents that occurred west of Wieambilla on the afternoon of 12 December 2022 which left six people deceased. It touched the soul of the nation. Police officers Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and their neighbour Alan Dare all lost their lives that afternoon.

Locals do not expect those types of events on Wains Road in the quiet rural area in the Wieambilla locality. Despite this, there are many well-meaning people who live in the Tara district who are working very hard to help that community grow from the events and the disasters that have impacted that district.

I also want to mention constables Keely Brough and Randall Kirk, who escaped under fire. Randall suffered a gunshot wound to the leg and Keely was able to hide in nearby bushland. It is important we ensure that they too continue to receive support, because what they experienced was horrific and will be with them for the rest of their lives.

There are 15 other police officers from Miles, Chinchilla, Dalby and surrounding stations who led the extraction team on the property whilst under fire. They too should be remembered for their incredibly brave efforts on that day. Many of these officers are known personally to me, and I want to place on record my greatest appreciation for the difficult decisions they had to take that day. I know of their actions and I have read how they were described in the Coroner's report.

Following the release of the Coroner's report, our hearts remain with the families of Matthew, Rachel and Alan. The Coroner's findings are a step forward from this tragic event—a difficult one, but an important step—and the Crisafulli government will carefully consider those findings. We will not seek to politicise the deaths of two police officers and a good Samaritan, just like Labor have tried to do with this motion.


Mr Dick interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members for Woodridge and McConnel, you have both had your opportunity.

Ms LEAHY: The State Coroner handed down his findings and recommendations on 21 November. The safety of frontline officers remains an absolute priority. We will calmly and methodically consider the Coroner's recommendations as we work through the detail in the report. We will not be rushed. We will back our police. We will keep working to deliver the resources and laws that they need.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I want to respond to some comments that have been made by those opposite who have said that they need to take six months to respond to the Coroner's findings. That is not at all what this report says—in fact, page 253 of the report says 'within six months'. The government could do it within a shorter period than six months if they wanted to.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Attorney-General!

Ms SCANLON: We have seen those opposite act with lightning speed when they want to. We have seen them act with lightning speed when it suits their political ideology, but now we are expected to believe they have woken up and they want to act calmly and methodically on these recommendations. I am not sure where that calmness and methodical analysis of policy reform was when they came into this House on pill testing, on gender-affirming care, on gagging anyone in this parliament from talking about abortion—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I will not warn you again, Attorney-General.

Ms SCANLON:—despite the fact that all of those measures were backed by experts. However, now they expect us to believe that we need to wait for action to be taken.

I also acknowledge that there are people with lived experience on the front line here. I acknowledge every single former police officer in this parliament, including the member for Macalister, who those opposite frequently choose to leave out and ignore her distinguished experience. We acknowledge the deeply personal connections that many people have in this parliament. My dad was a police officer. He had retired by the time I was old enough to fully understand the job, but the stories, the risk and the fear that families carry lived in our home. I grew up hearing the quiet uncertainty in the way my mum spoke about those years. I think most families of frontline officers expect governments to act when there is a tragedy.

If those opposite were serious about supporting police officers, if they were supportive of the front line, then they would accept these recommendations and move quickly—not wait for six months. These are not radical reforms. In fact, some of them are in place in New South Wales and Western Australia, where we actually have leaders who have taken political courage—but I suspect they were not getting money from the gun lobby. The only people who evidently are wanting to delay these reforms are the government because we know they are lobby obsessed, whether it is gun lobbyists or any lobbyist for that matter. If you get in their ear and give this government money, then they will do whatever you want.


We had a police minister who ducked the same question six times. All of us on this side appreciate that law reform can take some time, but at the very least he could have just responded to the question asked and given an indication about whether the government supported some of these measures. We know it is not that he did not know what the recommendations in fact said; it is that he was terrified of upsetting the gun lobby because his government is beholden to the loudest fringe, not the safety of Queenslanders. This is the same government that loves the rhetoric of being tough on crime, yet the moment the gun-toting extremists appear in the story they evaporate. We had a drive-by shooting on the Gold Coast this week in the Premier's own electorate—not that he would know because he does not live there. A quiet suburban street was sprayed with bullets.

Government members interjected.

Ms SCANLON: Those opposite think it is funny. Kids were trying to sleep while a gunman literally tore through their street, but where is the Premier? He has gone to ground once again when it gets difficult, because this government cannot bring itself to confront the people it now takes cues from—the gun lobby, the antireform activists and the growing fringe that, frankly, wants Queensland politics to look more like Trump's America than modern Australia.

Speaker, you cannot keep communities safe if you do not stand up to the gun lobby. We have all heard the statistics. I was listening to the member for McConnel's contribution about the actual leadership that was taken by John Howard years ago on gun law reform. I do not agree with most of what John Howard actually stood for, but I do agree with what he brought in at that time. He acted within 12 days because he knew that action needed to be taken. We will not see that from this government because they are more interested in politics than outcomes.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (6.26 pm): I rise to support the amended motion as moved by the police minister. The deaths of constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow and neighbour Alan Dare are etched in Queensland's history as one of our darkest moments. There is no doubt about that. Friday is the third anniversary of their murders. Queensland stands with their families, their loved ones and their colleagues.

I attended Tara and Chinchilla two days after this incident. I spoke to those officers who put their lives on the line. I spoke to the SERT team who went in and retrieved the bodies of Matthew and Rachel. I saw the police vehicle with the bullet holes in it. I saw the look in the eyes of those officers and they will live with that for the rest of their lives. Nothing we say and do here today will bring Matthew, Rachel and Alan back, but we can certainly do everything we can to ensure that it never happens again, and we will.

Those opposite do not know what it is like to get that call on the radio to attend a job where shots have been fired, to attend an incident where someone is pointing a loaded gun at you, but go and talk to the members for Ninderry, Nicklin, Lockyer, Mundingburra and Mackay. Ask them what it was like to get that call.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! We are near dinnertime.

Mr LAST: The State Coroner handed down his findings and those 10 recommendations 2½ weeks ago. As we have said, each recommendation will be carefully and methodically considered by this government. Those opposite come in here and they have a very short memory. Let me remind this chamber that back in 2015—

Ms Grace: Oh, here we go.

Mr LAST: I hear the member for McConnel; she knows what is coming. While the former government were frantically watering down youth crime laws, they somehow forgot they had also signed on to the National Organised Crime Response Plan. This was not a vague communique; it was formally endorsed by every Commonwealth, state and territory Attorney-General and police minister at COAG, and that plan was crystal clear. Each jurisdiction implemented a firearms prohibition order scheme to confront the rising number of stolen guns, the growing use of illicit weapons by organised crime and the increasing harm being inflicted on communities across Australia. Of course, all the other states played their part.

The introduction of a nationally consistent firearms prohibition order scheme to target high-risk offenders who posed a risk to public safety and security would ensure it captured those crossing state borders and that they would be identified, and what did the former Queensland government do? They did nothing. It was up to this side of the House to introduce the private member's bill the Weapons and Other Legislation (Firearms Offences) Amendment Bill 2019. What happened? It got kicked out at committee level because those opposite used their numbers. They used their numbers to kick it out and it never saw the light of day.

Four years—there have been four long years of nothing, and they ought to hang their heads in shame. Then they come in here tonight and pretend they are holier than thou. They pretend that in two weeks somehow all of these recommendations will be implemented. However, we trust our police. We trust them to give us the advice and they have started this work. They have already started the work on these recommendations with the justice department and the health department. We will get it right. We

will get this right and the police minister has already had those discussions with the Queensland Police Service. We will take their advice and we will do this for Matthew, Rachel and Alan because it is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do for their families. It is the right thing to do for Queensland. The police minister will make sure of that.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for the debate has expired.

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

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 32:

ALP, 32—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. acknowledges the third-year anniversary this Friday of the tragic deaths of Constable Rachel McCrow, Constable Matthew Arnold and Alan Dare.
2. calls on the government to calmly and methodically consider the State Coroner's recommendations in response to the Wieambilla murders.

Comments by Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Earlier today I complied with your direction to absent myself from the chamber for an hour. During my absence the Minister for Transport and Main Roads made remarks about me specifically that I take great personal offence to. As I was not able to respond at that moment, I request now that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads withdraw those remarks.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, could you clarify for me when that comment was made? If you were not in the chamber then I am afraid that is not something you can take personal offence to.

Mr BAILEY: The comment was made in the second half of question time today, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Were you in the chamber or out of the chamber?

Mr BAILEY: I was out of the chamber and this is my first opportunity to address it.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, if you were not in the chamber it is not a matter of privilege.

Mr BAILEY: The comments were offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: The House will resume at 7.40 pm.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.40 pm.


ENERGY ROADMAP AMENDMENT BILL

GREENHOUSE GAS STORAGE AMENDMENT BILL


Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 4014, on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.40 pm), continuing: Our world is going through enormous economic change in the way we produce our energy. This is a huge change to the way we do things in both Australia and across the world, but what we need is a government that is prepared to be honest with us about these changes—and, unfortunately, this is especially true for coal country and especially true for those in the coal communities and those in coal generation areas—but that is not what those people have with this government. We have a dishonest government. None of those opposite believe in this document—from the net zero boys at the back who will not go back to their communities like Mirani and say that they voted for net zero in this parliament, to those at the front who know that they are going to close down coal-fired power stations—and I am talking to the Treasurer. They know that they are going to close down coal-fired power stations, but they cannot be honest about that. They cannot talk to these great communities that have powered us for so long and tell them the truth. The Treasurer will not say that, and that is going to hurt those communities when he does it.

These are very real market changes, but the worst of those on that side who do not believe in this document is the Premier, who conducts this entire little orchestra of deceit. He will not take a leadership position because he is too weak—torn between reality and those who want to win, like the member for Clayfield, and those who will not tell the truth to the communities that they represent that face these huge economic challenges. We need some honesty, but that is not what this government provides.

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (7.42 pm): It is amazing that I stand here tonight to speak on two important bills before the House—the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill and the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. The Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill is a straightforward, commonsense reform. It enables greenhouse gas wells on EPQ10 to be converted into water bores and handed directly back to landholders who work that land. Instead of being tied up in carbon storage schemes, these bores will now help improve water security, lift agricultural productivity and strengthen farm resilience right across these properties. This bill flows directly from the Crisafulli government's decision to ban carbon storage in Queensland's section of the Great Artesian Basin. It also shows what this government stands for—backing agriculture and supporting the people who feed and fuel our state.

This brings me to the main part of today's debate—the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. This bill delivers the framework for the Energy Roadmap, which is a practical and financially responsible plan that protects power prices, keeps the lights on and supports a sensible transition, not a reckless one. Under the road map, we reduce energy system costs for taxpayers by \$26 billion by 2035, we prevent Queensland households paying over \$1,000 more every year under Labor's approach, and we open the door to sensible private investment in renewables and storage.

Reliability matters. Industry relies on it, as do households, and this road map delivers both stability for today and the planning for tomorrow. I know this might be unpopular to some people in some circles, but it is simple and it is the truth: coal-fired power keeps the lights on in Queensland. Coal provides the baseload stability that our hospitals, manufacturers and families rely on. Under this road map, coal will continue to play a role for us as long as it is needed because reliability is not negotiable. In my own electorate at Stanwell Power Station where around 240 Queenslanders earn their living, our plan will keep those jobs going. We are investing in proper maintenance after years of neglect that contributed to disasters like the Callide explosion. The previous government took no responsibility as to what happened there, but you have to own it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Mirani, I will have you address your comments through the chair, thank you.

Mr G KELLY: By responsibly including gas, we ensure that when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow Queensland still has power.

Before we look forward, we must acknowledge the damage caused by Labor's reckless approach in the past. Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme was more than a policy mistake; it was a betrayal of the communities placed directly under threat. It was never planned properly, never practical, never approved and it destroyed confidence right across the Pioneer Valley and Eungella, let alone the people of regional Queensland who were thinking, 'What's next for us?' Family farms were put at risk, neighbours were divided and families lost sleep wondering if everything they worked for could be drowned by a dam that was never going to be built. The Palaszczuk government decided to make these decisions that would impact on the people of the Pioneer Valley, and where is Palaszczuk now? There are members on that side of the House who are still here. Someone has to own it, and they are right there.

Locals are still dealing with the fallout, including uncertainty around property values and the loss of financial stability. Many families have had no choice but to put their plans and their futures on hold while they continue cleaning up a mess they did not create. Even now families are asking me if the school in Eungella might close. The community hall struggles because so many people have left the town. They were driven out by a fear of uncertainty, yet Labor still refuses to rule out bringing that nightmare back. Let me say clearly: the Eungella State School will stay open. This government is restoring confidence, rebuilding trust and investing into the Pioneer Valley—that is so important when it comes to the people in those communities—not tearing it apart just for a headline, as we saw happen under the previous government.

Queensland deserves a plan that is achievable, affordable and reliable. The Energy Roadmap is exactly what Queensland needs. It is so important that common sense is being provided with the LNP Energy Roadmap. We are improving what we have while building what we need, and we are doing it the Queensland way—the right way—through the LNP government.



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.48 pm): I rise to speak in this cognate debate this evening and in particular to speak to the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill and the LNP's Energy Roadmap that it seeks to enshrine. The LNP's Energy Roadmap will put Queensland on a road to nowhere—or, more accurately, it will put Queensland on a road that will take us backwards. It will put Queensland in reverse. It is not just me or the Labor Party saying that. This is what former chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Rod Sims said in the *Australian* just last week—

Coal was the cheapest form of electricity generation in 2005, but new-build coal generation construction costs have increased by around 80 per cent in real terms in the past 20 years, and coal input prices have also increased. Those believing that coal provides the lowest-cost energy generation are 10-20 years out of date.

That is the key point. This bill and the LNP's Energy Roadmap will take Queensland backwards. This bill will end up driving up prices because it means more of the most expensive forms of energy—that is, coal-fired power generation—for longer. It is that simple. Extending aging coal-fired generators will only increase fuel, maintenance and lifetime costs.

According to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, the risks associated with keeping aging coal-fired generators operational include 'heightened risks for price volatility, reliability risks' and that it 'may lead to temporary increases in wholesale spot prices'. Compounding this 'back to the future' folly, the LNP have scrapped energy targets and protections for future public ownership. Under Labor, the clean energy targets for this state were locked into law: 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2034. This bill, of course, repeals those targets. The very real risk is that it will lead to less investment in Queensland and drive clean energy investment and jobs into other states like New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr Power: It is happening already.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the shadow minister for resources and member for Logan: it is happening already. The Clean Energy Investor Group found that Queensland is no longer the top state for clean energy potential, replaced by New South Wales. We know that the branding of everything in this government is blue, but why are they sending money south to New South Wales?

The government is on the one hand saying it supports clean energy generation, while on the other hand undercutting investment in very real and material ways: witness the Deputy Premier's axing of the Moonlight Range wind farm. I note the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Energy have all said that they want to take ideology out of the energy debate. It is positively Orwellian. Those members opposite talk about taking ideology out of everything when everything is infected by LNP


ideology. It is very clear that is not what the government wants to do at all. Given the evidence I have outlined, the Crisafulli LNP government's embrace of coal-fired electricity generation is clearly not based on evidence, science or economics; it is based on right-wing ideology.

I caution the Premier about going down these ideological rabbit holes in a desperate attempt to keep his support base in this state. Witness the unedifying spectacle of the federal coalition. It has wasted the last six months waging a huge public brawl over net zero. What did that deliver? Net zero is what it delivered—net zero benefit for the community and net zero benefit for the coalition. With this bill, the Crisafulli LNP government are following their federal LNP ideological colleagues in abandoning serious climate action and they are all deeply out of touch with everyday Queenslanders. This is a political organisation that is doing everything possible to run as far as it can from every Queenslanders who is aged 35 or younger. It is an act of political self-harm, but they cannot see it because the glasses of ideology on their eyes mean they are blind to it. What all of this means is higher electricity prices, fewer jobs and investment uncertainty. The reality is that clean energy offers the cheapest form of energy and a pathway to bringing down prices.

To underline exactly what this bill is about, the LNP government circulated amendments late last night to stop more clean energy generation. We know that the energy minister in this state, the member for Toowoomba South, is an energy minister without power. We know that. He is a man who is constantly monstered by the Premier and Deputy Premier to do their bidding. We see that in the amendments moved in the House to repeal the Forest Wind farm legislation that enables investment in Queensland. This is a company that has spent millions of dollars in this state, and the Minister for State Development, the Deputy Premier, does not have the intestinal fortitude to come in and do it himself. He has forced it on the energy minister to repeal this without talking to the proponent of this investment even once.

Since the Deputy Premier took that office, the member for Kawana has not spoken to the proponent of this investment once. This company has spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours investing in regional Queensland and he does not even have the courtesy to speak to the proponent once. I think that tells us everything we possibly need to know about the Deputy Premier and the pantomime and charade he performs as a political leader in this state. He does not have the time to respect an investor who has spent millions of dollars in this state. I think that says everything we need to know about the LNP—the false mantra that Queensland is open for business. What this government has done to Forest Wind says that Queensland is closed to investment and closed to clean energy investment in this state. That is everything you need to know about the LNP.

This legislation takes Queensland backwards. This bill is an outdated relic of the past. It is a bill stamped with a use-by date from the start of the 21st century. It is an Energy Roadmap that plots a course back in time to more expensive, less reliable and less sustainable power generation. The Energy Roadmap of the LNP puts Queensland on the road to somewhere that no-one in this state wants to go.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (7.56 pm): I rise to support the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill. Whilst this is a cognate debate, I intend to focus my contribution on the Crisafulli LNP government's Energy Roadmap. As we have said many times, this Energy Roadmap is a pragmatic and sensible approach to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queensland businesses and families. The road map paves the way for private sector investment and is a market-led approach to securing Queensland's energy future, rather than Labor's reckless ideological pipedream.

Labor's pie-in-the-sky fantasy had no credibility or basis in reality. Their energy and hydrogen jobs plan was little more than wishful thinking. We saw this play out accordingly. Labor's Pioneer-Burdekin hydro hoax blew out from an estimated \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion with no community consultation, no community support and no planning—the single greatest energy policy hoax ever perpetrated against Queensland taxpayers.

The chaos and crisis of the former Labor government goes even further, with allegations that drilling activities left groundwater contamination in one of the state's oldest farming communities. I table the article from the *Australian*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 5 December 2025, titled 'Failed \$200m hydro project allegedly contaminates Queensland valley's water supply' [1988].

What a legacy for those opposite. It has also been revealed that a cabinet minister in the former Labor government—who would not be named—said 'even the 5GW size of the Pioneer-Burdekin was a creation of the premier and her political confidantes'. 'Too big and undercooked' said the nameless former minister. 'Pioneer-Burdekin was too big and undercooked, but she was all about the

announcement, and she wanted a big announcement.' That is a pretty scathing assessment from the nameless former minister. Who needs enemies with friends like that in the Labor Party caucus? I wonder what the nameless former minister might say about the member for Murrumba's performance to date, because we know that the member for Murrumba loves a big announcement as much as his predecessor. Who can forget his \$1.4 billion plan for school sandwiches? Is this nameless former minister also agitating for the member for Murrumba's removal? Only time will tell.

With this legislation, those opposite now face a choice. Will they stand on the side of pragmatism, engineering, good economics and Queenslanders? Will they endorse an Energy Roadmap informed by experts and grounded in reality or will they desperately cling to their former Labor hoax of a plan like the member for Murrumba desperately clings to his leadership?


Any opposition member who is against this legislation is against the public ownership of our state owned power plants. The Crisafulli government's bill strengthens public ownership. Under our Energy Roadmap 100 per cent public ownership of transmission and deep storage infrastructure will be maintained, contrary to Labor's scare campaigns. Under Labor's plan only 54 per cent of our state owned power plants would be retained in public hands. Only the Crisafulli LNP government is protecting public ownership of power plants and in doing so saving jobs in our local coalmining communities like Chinchilla, Biloela, Nanango and Rockhampton. That is right, we are not afraid to say the word 'coal' on this side of the House—unlike those opposite.

This bill legislates a framework to coordinate new energy investments of all kinds in regional Queensland. It will not only be renewables benefitting from coordinated transmission infrastructure, gas will too. As a shareholding minister in Queensland's government owned corporations I am particularly pleased to see the road map already in action, with CS Energy entering a joint development with APA to deliver the Brigalow Peaking Power Plant in the Western Downs. This is the state's first gas-fired power station in more than a decade, helping deliver on our promise for affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders.

As a government we have a very clear mandate to refocus our government owned corporations on core business, to improve operation on financial performance for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Our Energy Roadmap backs in our government owned corporations to do just that: strengthening public ownership of Queensland assets, keeping existing coal-fired power generators online for longer and protecting the frontline workers who keep the lights on in this great state.

The Clean Energy Council has reported an investment pipeline in Queensland of more than 4.7 gigawatts of renewable generation capacity under construction or financially committed—the most of any jurisdiction in this country. The result is a ringing endorsement of the Crisafulli LNP government's sensible approach to energy in this state. The Queensland Resources Council has also welcomed the Energy Roadmap's flexible investment framework and I note the Queensland Renewable Energy Council has further backed our public ownership retention approach alongside private capital attraction and has applauded the \$400 million Queensland Energy Investment Fund and Investor Gateway. Renewable energy developers have strongly supported the shift to regional energy hubs, seeing streamlined delivery, improved flexibility and better regional engagement.

After a decade of decline under Labor we are getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland with a sensible and pragmatic plan to meet Queensland's energy needs. We are putting downward pressure on energy prices and restoring respect for taxpayers' funds, improving Queensland's current energy assets while building what we need for the future. Ultimately, we are laser focused on delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all Queenslanders and, accordingly, I commend the cognate bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (8.01 pm): I think we have just seen in that contribution how much members of the LNP do not understand what is actually in the Energy Roadmap. The member for Mudgeeraba, talking about public ownership targets, has just said that public ownership of energy generation in the state will be maintained. It will not be enshrined in legislation, it will not be protected, but will be maintained. The reason the member for Mudgeeraba cannot say the word 'enshrined' is because of the reading of the provision—

- (a) that 100% of public ownership of generation assets publicly owned and in operation on the commencement of this subsection, and that continue in operation, is maintained;

It is only those that are currently 100 per cent owned. It does not say anything about protecting future forms of investment in generation and ensuring that that is publicly owned. The member for Mudgeeraba has either deliberately misled the House or is deliberately misleading the backbench from the realities of what they are voting on here tonight. One of the things they are voting on is to get rid of


jobs in regional Queensland. The member for Maryborough will know this all too well as he has supported the loss of jobs in his community. The repeal of Forest Wind is a repeal of jobs. Not only does he get rid of jobs in train manufacturing facilities he also gets rid of jobs in renewable energy. That hurts the people in my community of Bundaberg because the opportunity to unlock the port of Bundaberg to bring in those turbines and then truck them down and establish them in Forest Wind would mean jobs along the entire transition line. Maybe the member for Maryborough just wants to see jobs in the south-east corner because he does not want to see investment in his community.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SMITH: Somehow—I do not know how—I hear the member for Callide mumbling through the chewing of his crayons, as he always does. I wonder which colour is his favourite flavour?

Mr Whiting: It's strawberry.

Mr SMITH: It is strawberry! I will take that interjection. What we know is that when the LNP say, 'No, coal, coal, coal; but, no, net zero, net zero, net zero; do not worry, we are going to get rid of renewables as well', they do not understand they are being set up to fail. The reason is that the Treasurer and Minister for Energy is the Treasurer and Minister for Energy in name only. He had a vision for what this Energy Roadmap would look like. He was so proud of it he gave it to the *Courier-Mail* without telling anyone else in the cabinet. It was published in the *Courier-Mail* and then he got rolled in less than 12 hours of providing that information to the *Courier-Mail*. This is not the minister's Energy Roadmap, it is the Deputy Premier's, it is the resources minister's and it is the Premier's. It is very clear this is anti-jobs and anti-cost-of-living support for everyday Queenslanders. Those opposite do not know what they are on about. As this will more than likely be my last contribution this week I will say to all members on that side—except for the member for Mirani—I hope you get more than coal in your stocking this year.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (8.05 pm): I rise to give my contribution on the so-called Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. I will say at the outset that this bill is clearly a great deal for fossil fuel execs but an incredibly bad deal for you and me and the rest of Queensland. The LNP is pitching their road map as pragmatism, but I am pretty sure pouring billions more taxpayer dollars into keeping aging coal-fired power stations open for longer while delaying the transition to renewable energy is not pragmatism; it is plain stupidity. I do not think this government is being honest with Queenslanders, either. To bring some transparency back into this place I will move amendments that will give them the opportunity to rename this bill accurately. This is not an energy road map; this is a plan to spend billions of Queensland taxpayer dollars propping up coal and delaying renewables, and we should call it just that.

This bill repeals Queensland's renewable energy targets. Do not get me wrong, I said when Labor set them they were not sufficiently ambitious and I retain that position. Under Labor's targets we would have at least achieved 80 per cent energy generation from renewables by 2035. Almost 30 per cent of Queensland's energy is already generated from renewable sources. One afternoon in August this year we set a new record of 77 per cent of our energy being generated by solar and wind. Yet the government wants us to believe that 80 per cent renewables in 10 years time is unrealistic. I call bollocks. Between 2017 and 2024 Queensland attracted around \$9.9 billion in investment in large-scale renewable energy projects and has over 10 gigawatts of installed renewable capacity. By 2030 we already expect a further 6.8 gigawatts of renewable capacity from committed projects. This just lays bare the incredibly unambitious proposal the LNP has put forward which forecasts precisely 6.8 gigawatts of new renewable generation by 2030. That is right: there is not a skerrick more in their Energy Roadmap than what is already committed in Queensland.

Any target is supposed to be moving towards where we want to be, not simply mapping out where we can already expect to get under current settings. Targets are not just a wish, they also create the right market conditions for investment by providing confidence and certainty. They encourage long-term planning by investors, businesses and communities. Our free-marketsteering LNP want us to say that government has no role to play in the way the market fills our energy needs, but in the same breath they are more than willing to hand out subsidies and royalty deals to fossil fuel companies like Adani. I am well past trying to convince the morally bankrupt LNP members why the transition to renewable energy is necessary to prevent climate change. Either they have rocks in their heads or they are too greedy to give up whatever lobbying job they have been promised after they leave this place. Hearing them claim that somehow this road map, so-called, is good for Queenslanders' hip pockets, I mean, give us a break. It is enough to make you want to walk into the sea—the measurably warming, objectively rising sea.

With this bill, the LNP consigns us all to higher insurance costs, more hail damaged cars, longer queues at the sandbag depot and anxious nights watching the BoM radar as ever more serious hailstorms roll through. The Treasurer's own electorate of Toowoomba South has the fourth most expensive home and contents insurance premiums in the state, averaging \$8,958. The fourth most expensive might not sound so bad but, when you consider that Queensland has the highest insurance premiums in the country, it works out to be more than three times the national average. There is some good news for him to take back up the hill to Toowoomba!

An alarming proportion of this bill is about changing a bunch of government terminology around the energy system, so this is what the government have ended up doing now they have finished their rebrand from maroon to blue. Navigating Labor and the LNP's minefield of buzzwords leaves the explanatory notes to this bill bordering on unreadable to anyone who is not an energy policy adviser. I have attempted a little bit of translating here.

The Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint is now going to be the Energy System Outlook. Instead of a plan, we have a prediction of what will happen if the market is left to its own devices under current policy settings. Renewable energy zones are now regional energy hubs. There are no surprises there at all: the LNP wants to continue propping up the fossil fuel industry, and I will get to that in a second. Can anyone help me with this one? It is extraordinary. Optimal infrastructure pathway objectives are now going to be strategic infrastructure path objectives. I think your guess is as good as mine on what that is supposed to actually achieve.

As I said, this bill is focused on coal and also renames existing legislation to the Energy (Infrastructure Facilitation) Act. We can translate that one very easily: instead of supporting Queensland communities to transition to renewables, the LNP plans to pour billions of taxpayer dollars into keeping Queensland's dirty, aging, unreliable coal-fired power stations open. It will cost Queensland taxpayers at least \$1.6 billion in maintenance costs over just the next five years, and lord knows how much more we will need to spend to keep those same plants open up to and beyond 2046. Queensland has eight coal-fired power generators ranging in age from 49 to 18 years old. As they age they become increasingly unreliable, requiring significant maintenance and upkeep costs.

I am sure we all remember in 2021 when an explosion and fire at the Callide power plant caused widespread power outages, hundreds of thousands of homes were without power and the spike in power prices lasted weeks. In 2022, a cooling tower collapsed and in April just this year its operation was impacted by another explosion. In the summer of 2024-25, on average, 25 per cent of Queensland's coal capacity was offline—and they want to crow about it keeping the lights on. What utter rot! Across Australia, coal-fired power plants experienced 145 outages between October 2024 and March 2025, causing flow-on effects to Queensland's power prices. Let us assume the LNP do not care about adding an extra 310 megatons of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere after 2050. Maybe they are not big fans of the Great Barrier Reef or the tourism industry and the income it brings into the state. However, they simply cannot say with a straight face that this bill is really about affordability.

Let us dispel some myths about renewable energy, for the government members who are here if nothing else. First, renewable energy is reliable—yes, even when the sun don't shine and the winds don't blow. It is not a matter of waiting for new technologies. We already have all of the technologies we need, a diverse range of renewables including solar, wind, hydro and biomass plus storage in the form of batteries, pumped hydro and heat storage. That is how you get clean, reliable energy.

Second, renewable energy is affordable. Yes, according to any credible source, it is cheaper than coal—just ask those Queenslanders who are saving big on their power bills through the combined benefits of home solar and battery systems and careful power usage. In July this year, research from the International Renewable Energy Agency found that 91 per cent of new renewable projects are now cheaper than fossil fuel alternatives.

Third, the market wants renewables. We might have got there quicker than everyone else but, no, it is not just the woke Greens saying this. Here in Queensland, Rio Tinto has been actively decreasing its reliance on fossil fuels for the operations of its smelter and refineries and it is contracting with renewables energy providers to remain globally competitive and continue operating in Australia. They think Rio have it wrong, that they are much smarter than that company—

Mr Vorster: We are.


Mr BERKMAN: The member for Burleigh is going to claim he is smarter. This clown! He does not care about facts—

Mr VORSTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that. I ask that the member withdraw. I am deeply offended.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Member for Maiwar, I will get you to withdraw that comment.

Mr BERKMAN: Withdrawn. Again, the LNP do not care about facts. Obviously, one way to keep prices stable and to support reliable, clean energy is to keep electricity in public hands. We have heard plenty already about how this bill fails to do that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): It being 8.15 pm, under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (8.15 pm), in reply: I thank those members who have provided their support to the bill. The bill will support the delivery of our government's balanced and pragmatic energy plan for Queensland. Together with the Energy Roadmap, it will provide certainty to investors, communities, workers and consumers. The bill will facilitate energy infrastructure investment to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for Queenslanders. It streamlines and simplifies the existing act by removing unnecessary prescriptions and processes to enhance the efficiency and operational flexibility of our legislative frameworks and it delivers on a key Queensland government election commitment to repeal renewable energy targets. Repealing those targets will enable a more realistic and market-driven approach to planning for Queensland's future energy system needs. It will support planning and investment that is grounded in the realities of consumer needs, infrastructure costs, deliverability and community values.

Amendments to create the Energy System Outlook will ensure that energy system planning is guided by our government's clear objectives of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, and those objectives are enshrined by the bill as the strategic infrastructure path objectives. The amendments to establish the Energy System Outlook create additional flexibility for future outlooks to be responsive to the needs of the market, in line with the approach taken with the Energy Roadmap.

The amendments strengthen Queensland's public ownership provisions and reinforce our government's commitment to maintain public ownership of our critical energy infrastructure. This is reflected in the revised generation target that provides that Queensland will retain 100 per cent public ownership of its existing operational generation assets as well as retention of targets to maintain transmission, distribution and deep storage. These provisions strike the right balance, reflecting the important role of ownership in Queensland's energy system while also acknowledging that Queensland is open for new investment in new generation.

Ms Grace: And what about that?

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to that, member for McConnel, don't you worry. I have a lot to say about the inconsistencies of your arguments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr JANETZKI: I have a few more comments to make before I turn to those opposite. Reforms to the priority transmission investment and regional energy hub frameworks will increase flexibility and support more efficient administration and investment.

We are also delivering on our commitment to CopperString through this bill, providing a framework to facilitate and support the connection of North and North-West Queensland to the National Electricity Market. The amendments establish a legislative framework to facilitate CopperString transmission network infrastructure through a staged approach. Importantly, this bill will retain the Job Security Guarantee in legislation, providing certainty to affected energy workers that they will have access to supports into the future.

The member for McConnel has raised one of the chief inconsistencies, and I now turn to the contributions from those opposite. We have said our Energy Roadmap and this bill will be grounded in economics and engineering, not ideology. In the past 24 hours we again saw why our pragmatic plan is so necessary as those opposite are so ideological and they sprayed ideological hyperbole across the House. We saw it. I am going to run through some of the illogical conclusions reached and some of the illogical statements made by those opposite, because holding them to account is long overdue.

I am going to start with the shadow energy minister. When he was the assistant energy minister he never brought himself to say Pioneer-Burdekin. He never said it while he was an assistant minister in this House. We know he was not one of the 14, but he was ashamed enough to never say Pioneer-

Burdekin because deep down he knew. I need to talk about this. I am thankful that the erstwhile treasurer is here as well because he was saying something similar. They are so confused about their position. On the one hand, they do not want private sector investment in renewables and say the Energy Roadmap will not allow it, but on the other hand they just do not want private investment. There is confusion across the chamber. They cannot decide whether they are for private sector investment or against it. Time and again, those opposite have not been able to make the case.

The shadow energy minister said there was a lack of consultation. Let's think about the lack of consultation—89 organisations, 113 people from those organisations, four round tables and thousands of conversations. Do they prefer that consultation or do they prefer the consultation where the people of the Pioneer Valley find out on the evening news that their lives are going to be turned upside down? Is that the kind of consultation they want? Is that the kind of consultation that those opposite want? Is that the kind of consultation that the 14 former cabinet ministers opposite really want? Is that the consultation that those opposite want?

The member for Bundamba was also confused when he called on me to provide on the record clarity around regional energy hubs. The member for Bundamba does not understand how they work nor how the renewable energy zones, under the previous legislation, worked. The transmission network service provider for a regional energy hub can only be Powerlink, which is a Queensland government owned corporation. Clause 47 inserts a new definition of 'establishment and operational costs' which are costs reasonably and prudently incurred by Powerlink for providing the hub transmission network. The new definition removes ambiguity regarding the incurred costs eligible for recovery by Powerlink in its capacity as the network service provider for the hub. Hubs are market-led as were REZs, renewable energy zones. There has been no change, and next time the member for Bundamba should do more homework.

I turn now to the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Murrumba. There were a number of assertions made by the member for Murrumba and a number of other speakers on that side of the House in relation to aspects of this bill and the Energy Roadmap. Firstly, there is the idea that renewable energy targets being abolished will not send the right message. I say to those opposite that right now Queensland has more renewable projects—wind and solar—financially committed to or under construction than any other jurisdiction in the country. That is not me saying that. That is the Clean Energy Council saying that. We have 4.7 gigs—more than a gig more than any other jurisdiction in the country. That is what the Clean Energy Council says. That is the message that is being sent to the investment community.

Again, I note the inconsistency from those opposite. They are saying Labor did that. Hang on, does that mean you are for private sector investment or against it? I am so confused. Those opposite have not been able to reach a conclusion. Are they for private sector investment or are they against it? We know the member for Bundamba loves it—17 sentences in an op-ed in the *Courier-Mail*; three of them mentioned private sector investment. We assume he likes it, but we are not quite sure.

I want to also reference the Leader of the Opposition's comments about AEMO and the integrated system plan. He cherry-picked a whole range of things but left out some key aspects of the AEMO ISP which said—

Coal generation is still needed in the National Electricity Market for generation and stability.

That is what the AEMO's ISP said. Funny that the leader of the opposition would conveniently—what an inconvenient truth—leave that out of his contribution.

It is not the only thing that he left out. He did not talk about the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. He spent plenty of time—as a range of speakers opposite did—talking about the Brigalow peaker at Kogan. I had given them 24-hours notice to get their act together, but they are still talking about it tonight. I went to the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—it is obvious that none of them have read it—and the Brigalow peaker is there. I do not know what page it is on as they were too busy putting five photos of fairy lights in this document. Did they expect us to take the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan seriously? There are 37 photos—five photos of fairy lights. What is wrong with you people? What is the go? Isn't this meant to be a serious plan for the future of the Queensland energy system? There are five photos of fairy lights in here. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan actually talks about the 200 megawatt gas peaking power plant at Kogan Creek with Iberdrola, a private sector joint venture. Again, what is it with those opposite? Are they for private sector investment or are they not? The member for Murrumba had plenty to say about that.

There is a choice for those opposite to make. As reported, Pioneer-Burdekin was to have its first energy by 2032 and Borumba was to have its first energy by 2030. Their entire emissions reduction plan and their entire energy system plan were built on two fanciful projects that would never have been built. They know it. They knew this document was a hoax and yet they went ahead with it. Tonight, will they recant? Will they say the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan was a hoax? Will they say those two projects were a hoax? That is what they were.

It was reported in the *Australian*—the announceable. There always had to be an announceable for them. The fairy lights were not enough. They had to have an announceable. It was not good enough to say up to five gig. For politics, they had to say it was five gig because it sounded better. That is how those opposite ran the energy system in Queensland and that is why the Energy Roadmap was so necessary. It was necessary because those opposite had spoken in fantasy.

There is the one cabinet minister, whoever they are—I actually reckon it is the member for Murrumba—who would not be named. Who is it? Who would not be named? There is something else about the Energy and Jobs Plan that they have also gone very quiet on, by my account. I did not hear a single person opposite tonight mention the word ‘hydrogen’—not a single person.

A government member: ‘Twiggy’.

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to Twiggy. They were a bit shadier about hydrogen in here a few years ago. There were 45 references to hydrogen in the Energy and Jobs Plan. The former treasurer, the member for Woodridge, made a sad attempt to appeal to the left faction—‘I can bash them up. Just give me a chance.’

Dr Rowan: It was like a wet lettuce leaf.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection. It was like a wet lettuce leaf. He is desperately trying to suck up to the left faction. Give me a chance. He is on the record talking about hydrogen a lot too. There was one thing the member for Murrumba was pretty quiet on tonight—in fact they all were—and that was of hydrogen. The member for Murrumba was pretty chatty back in 2021—

Sunday was a great day for Queensland. I joined the Premier, the Treasurer, the world’s first hydrogen minister—the member for Springwood—always loved to talk to him about the world’s first hydrogen minister; he was all in on it—

The member for Murrumba went on to say—

Dr Forrest will announce a partnership that will see Gladstone become a renewable energy and renewable hydrogen powerhouse. The facility will be up and running by early 2023.

Mr Powell: How’s that going?

Mr JANETZKI: How’s that going? I know the member for Murrumba loved Twiggy Forrest. He said—

Twiggy’s facility, when it starts producing electrolyzers in just over a year’s time, will be the world’s biggest, putting Queensland at the absolute centre of renewable energy jobs growth.

Mr O’Connor: He was on his boat.

Mr JANETZKI: He was on the boat, yes—I take the interjection. He was too busy on the boat, not focused on the actual job of putting downward pressure on power prices for Queenslanders. Those opposite misunderstand the difference between an energy system plan and their plan. Our plan delivers \$1,035 in avoided costs for Queenslanders per year, every year, than what those opposite would have delivered. That is the modelling. They talk about a lack of consultation. The modelling was led by Powerlink, done by Treasury, with oversight by QTC. That is consulting. That is modelling.

I will talk just a tiny bit more about hydrogen. They have gone awfully quiet on it tonight. I will take the words straight from the world’s first-ever historic minister for hydrogen.

Ms GRACE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The bill contains nothing on hydrogen.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Treasurer, I will get you to explain the relevance of your comments around hydrogen, thanks.

Mr JANETZKI: Without reflecting on the chair, I am making a contribution about the Energy Roadmap, which talks about all factors of the energy system.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Continue.

Mr JANETZKI: I will finish with one of my favourite comments from the member for Springwood. He said, 'Queensland's green hydrogen industry is not a pipedream; it is in the pipeline.' Oh, seriously! Member for Springwood, those words did not even last 12 months. Who can forget the rest of the hydrogen gang? There was the first assistant minister for hydrogen development, the member for Bundamba. Do you remember when Queensland had three hydrogen champions? The member for Redlands, the member for Mundingburra and, my favourite, the former member for Rockhampton. Wasn't he a champion! We loved him. We love Bazza.

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

Mr JANETZKI: Oh, here is the hydrogen champion!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, Minister! What is your point of order?

Mr McCALLUM: My point of order is that the minister has strayed far outside the long title of his own bill. He does not seem to want to talk about it. Hydrogen is not in the bill, but he keeps referring to hydrogen.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right. That is your point of order, thank you.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the bill and those matters that are covered with respect to the Energy Roadmap, the Treasurer and Minister for Energy is providing good context—broad context, historical context—around differing approaches and he is addressing all matters in relation to the Energy Roadmap bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the minister, but I will have you refer to the long title of the bill.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I will return to their confused positions in this debate. They are not happy about this. They do not want to be reminded about hydrogen. They do not want to be reminded about their fake projects—their promises to get first energy on by 2032 with the Pioneer-Burdekin, first energy at Borumba by 2030—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stop the clock. Take your seat. Now we have silence, I call the minister.

Mr JANETZKI: I want to call out a couple more things about those opposite when it comes to private sector investment because they are confused about it. I will go back to the member for Springwood. I will make this abundantly clear. When the member for Springwood was energy minister he said—

... Queensland is open for business—and we will continually be looking for ways we can work together with private investors to deliver the energy transformation ...

That sounds like they are for private sector, but they also said—

There are already private sector investments in storage, for example, the Bouldercombe and Wandoan batteries and the Kidston pumped hydro scheme.

So they love private sector investment—we know that the member for Bundamba loved private sector investment—but then on the other hand they do not love it. They are all over the shop. This is exactly why we needed a pragmatic, middle-of-the-road plan.

I will quickly turn to some other contributors to the debate. The member for Kurwongbah mistakenly said the QGCS was not set up. It was on 1 July 2025, and it is out there delivering good services to the Queensland Public Service. I also acknowledge him for acknowledging Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's construction of the Wivenhoe pumped hydro project. That is a pumped hydro project we can all be proud of. All of Queensland can be proud of that. I note that the honourable member said that he was not anti-coal. It takes a lot of ticker on that side of the House to say that. Good on you, member for Kurwongbah.

Other MPs on that side of the House—I will sum it up quickly—relied on discredited modelling, and they all referred to it. They failed to understand it is a system plan, not an emissions reduction plan. As we have repeatedly said, we are backing in the Job Security Guarantee, and we have confirmed that there are no changes to the Clean Economy Jobs Act. When we make our election commitments, we keep them. That is why net zero remains a commitment of the government. We could not be any clearer on that.

At the end of it all, those opposite have never recanted on Pioneer-Burdekin. They have never told the truth. They have never been honest about hydrogen. They have never come clean on their plan now. This is our pragmatic plan: coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables and storage. That is the Energy Roadmap. We have made it clear that we will continue to improve what we have while we build what we need for the future.

Division: Question put—That the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

AYES, 52:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill

Clause 1—



Mr BERKMAN (8.42 pm): I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 Clause 1 (Short title)

Page 8, lines 4 and 5, 'Energy Roadmap Amendment Act 2025'—

omit, insert—

Propping Up Coal and Delaying Renewables Amendment Act 2025

I table the explanatory note to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[1989\]](#).

This is a very straightforward amendment that I am proposing here. It is about honesty. It is about the kind of honesty that maybe we would have expected from the Treasurer before he stood up and tried to tell us that this bill is about economics, not ideology. These free marketeers over here want us to believe that it is about economics, not ideology, while the small government energy agnostics are pouring literally billions of dollars into propping up aging cold-fired power stations, keeping them on life support potentially beyond 2050. They are going to try to convince Queenslanders that they are still invested in the idea of net zero by 2050. What a crock! What an absolute pile of rubbish. Again, it is economics, not ideology. They are picking winners to the extent that they will legislate to undermine a single project. No-one could pick a winner and a loser more specifically than that. It is absolute tosh.

The Treasurer is telling us that it is not about ideology but it is about economics, but we know that it is absolute rot. This bill ditches renewable energy targets and funds the extension of coal power, which we know will be on its last legs by then. We know it will keep costing us more. Ultimately, this is Queenslanders' money. The government is hiding its abuse of power and the real consequences of this legislation behind a nice administrative name—the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. Apparently it is up to us here to try to translate for Queenslanders what that actually means.

The government need to take some responsibility for what they are doing. They need to show some respect for Queenslanders and Queenslanders' money. Billions of dollars will go to prop up coal into the latter half of this century. They need to tell Queenslanders honestly what they are doing with their taxpayer money. I call on the House to accept this amendment. It is really not that tough. They should just say it like it is: they are propping up coal-fired power and delaying renewables. That is what

the bill does. That is what they want it to do. We even had some members saying out loud today what I thought would be the quiet bit, but they do not even care. They make no bones about telling us that they have no concern for our climate future. They should call the bill for what it really is: the 'Propping Up Coal and Delaying Renewables Amendment Act'.

Mr SPEAKER: Before you resume your seat, member for Maiwar, you used a word that was unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BERKMAN: I am shocked that I would have done such a thing! I apologise, Mr Speaker. I withdraw.

Mr JANETZKI: We will be opposing the amendment. I will draw the attention of the member for Maiwar to a couple of things. I respect that he has a view, and he has put that point of view powerfully, as he always does. I would contrast that with those opposite, who cannot even read their own Energy and Jobs Plan and who do not do the work that the member for Maiwar does.

I did not get to speak to some of the public commentary in relation to the Energy Roadmap and how it was publicly received, and I heard some cherrypicking from those opposite during the debate. I wanted to reference a couple of comments from what the member for Maiwar may consider surprising quarters for the Energy Roadmap. Yes, it was grounded in pragmatism. It was based in economics and engineering, not ideology. That was acknowledged by a range of stakeholders. For instance, Tony Wood at the Grattan Institute said it was about pragmatism, not ideology. He said it was pretty pragmatic. He also said, 'I think Queensland is in a very strong position.' That is Tony Wood at the Grattan Institute. The Queensland Renewable Energy Council 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. Ms Mulder said—

This is a pivotal step forward for Queensland ... The Roadmap keeps the lights on today while accelerating the renewables, storage and transmission needed for tomorrow.

The Clean Energy Council stated—

Queensland has always been a resources state; wind and solar are the next resource that will support tens of thousands of well-paid jobs and bring billions of dollars of private investment—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JANETZKI: Those opposite cannot even decide if they are for private investment or against it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! If you want to be here for the next division, I suggest you listen when I call order.

Mr JANETZKI: The Clean Energy Council went on to say it 'looks forward to working with the Queensland Government ... on the implementation of the Energy Roadmap and the continued expansion of reliable, affordable and clean energy across the state'. That was the Clean Energy Council.

Ms McMillan: Pauline's calling.

Mr JANETZKI: There you go. Windlab—

Mr Crisafulli: Her preferences got you elected the first time. Do you remember that? Remember? I remember.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and I ask that that be withdrawn because it is absolutely incorrect.

Mr SPEAKER: Member—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I was speaking. Member for Mansfield, I did not hear your name identified, so you cannot take personal offence if you were not identified.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Speaker, the comment was directed at me. Be real!

Mr SPEAKER: No, no. You are warned and lucky to be still in the chamber.

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In relation to the member for Mansfield's comment, I would regard that as being grossly disorderly and disrespectful to the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: I have already made my call. I understand your point. That was grossly disorderly. As I have said, you are very lucky to be in the chamber.

Mr JANETZKI: What did Windlab have to say about the Energy Roadmap? They called it a 'measured direction for the state's energy future'. They said—

We welcome its focus on unlocking regional energy potential and strengthening the foundations of Queensland's energy system. It prioritises transmission upgrades enabling infrastructure like CopperString, incentives for private investment and deeper collaboration with industry.

That is Windlab. Our commitment to CopperString was made clear in the bill that is to be passed tonight as well as in the Energy Roadmap. What did Kate Peddle, Mayor of Flinders Shire Council, have to say? She said—

This announcement is exceptional. It supports the people who will build this State-shaping project, and more importantly, positions our community to grow alongside it.

We have always said the heart of CopperString is at Hughenden and Kate leads the Flinders Shire Council, which is headquartered at Hughenden. She is a proud advocate for her region, a proud proponent of renewables to the east of Hughenden and in the North West Minerals Province to the west. That is what Kate advocates for. She said—

This is a win for Flinders, a win for the corridor and a win for Queensland. Our kids' future in the west just jumped up a few knots, and I'm bloody grateful.

She said that.

Mr SPEAKER: No. You are going to have to withdraw that, Treasurer.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. What did Kelly Vea Vea in the Isaac region—

Mr BERKMAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just take a moment to question the relevance of the Treasurer's contribution to a proposed amendment to the short title of the bill.

Mr SPEAKER: You are looking to amend the name of the bill, so that makes it fairly broad, but I will listen closely.

Mr JANETZKI: What did Kelly say? She said—

... it does reflect Isaac Regional Council's long-held position of a realistic energy mix while we work hard in regional communities to deliver renewable projects responsibly.

That is the position of so many stakeholders. But, wait, there is more! Australian Energy Producers said—

The AEP has welcomed the Queensland government's five-year Energy Roadmap which recognises the critical role of natural gas in delivering reliable and affordable energy for Queensland homes and businesses.

Again, those opposite have been deeply confused. They did not read their own Energy and Jobs Plan. They did not understand that the 200-megawatt proposal for the Kogan gas peaker was in their Energy and Jobs Plan. They did not even know it and asked a series of questions. The good news is that it is a bigger project and we are delivering it. Those opposite never could. It was in their plan, along with all of their other announceables, along with their hoaxes and their pipedreams. There is one more contribution from the Queensland Farmers' Federation—

The Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) has welcomed the release of the Queensland Government's Energy Roadmap, which provides greater certainty for farmers ...

Opposition members interjected.

Mr O'Connor: They're laughing.

Mr JANETZKI: They are laughing at farmers. There we go. That is the Labor way.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer!

Mr JANETZKI: They said—

... which provides greater certainty for farmers, landholders and rural communities as Queensland further develops its energy system.

The Roadmap reflects a pragmatic approach, focused on leveraging state-owned assets, extending coal operations, investing in gas and renewables, and establishing frameworks for private sector investment.

I could go on. There is, in fact, more feedback on the Energy Roadmap and the bill tonight that supports it. I just wanted to finish this contribution by saying we have always been clear: coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables and storage. That is the plan. We are going to continue to improve what we have. The Electricity Maintenance Guarantee for our coal generators is fully disclosed in the budget—it is transparent. We have said \$1.6 billion in the budget: coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment in renewables and storage. We are going to continue to improve what we have while we build what we need for the future.

Mr HEAD: Mr Speaker—

Mr Stevens: You love coal.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. I do. Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. As a former coal geologist, I do appreciate the great value that it provides the great state of Queensland, not only in the jobs it creates for my own communities that I represent but, of course, the revenue that it generates for the state, the jobs that it provides across this great state and the electricity that it provides in keeping the lights on, including the lights on in this very chamber tonight.

The member for Maiwar has moved this amendment. As the Treasurer said, I commend the member for Maiwar for actually doing some work. I know those on the opposition benches do not know what that looks like a lot of the time. Nonetheless, thanks to the member for Maiwar we do have an amendment to our bill. His amendment is interesting. The changes that we are making through this bill replace the previous bill that the Labor government at the time introduced, which could have been called the 'Propping up renewables bill'. They come in here and talk about the need for government intervention but in the same sentence they also want the cheapest form of power. The beauty about our plan is that the cheapest form of power will ultimately win through the Energy Roadmap and this Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill. That is fantastic for Queensland. We had someone trying to criticise us for being 'free marketeers'. The beauty about a free market is that the cheapest and best value good always wins.

Mr McDonald: Hear, hear!

Mr HEAD: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. The customer, in this instance being a Queenslanders, always wins. The bill that this replaces could have also been called the 'Setting prices up and pushing us back to the Dark Ages bill' because that was the alternative that we had from the Labor Party. What we have had to rectify is significant to get this back on track. From the modelling that we have seen, Queenslanders are set to save over \$1,000 per household through our plan versus the alternative that we have inherited from those opposite.

We could also call this bill 'How good is the Callide Power Station and how good are the workers at the Callide Power Station bill'. This really emphasises the need for coal in Queensland and shows how important it is. Importantly, we are being sensible about it. We are not being idealistic like those opposite were. We have outlined a clear economic path through this. The Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill is not only a fantastic bill—and a lot of hard work by the Treasurer—but I dare say the title of this bill is very appropriate in being the legislation for the Energy Roadmap. I completely reject the amendment moved by the member for Maiwar.

(Time expired)

Mr VORSTER: Throughout this debate we have had a familiar pattern from the Greens—sweeping claims of urgency, dire warnings of delay and a steady refusal to engage with how infrastructure is actually planned, approved and built in the real world. We have heard a great deal of moral theatre too but very little in the way of engineering, economics or delivery. That brings me to a very brief excursion into physics. The second law of thermodynamics tells us that in any closed system entropy always tends to increase over time. Entropy, put simply for those opposite, is a measure of how spread out, how diluted and how ultimately unusable energy has become.

I make no claim to be a scientist, but even with my modest grasp of physics it appears that the member for Maiwar's contribution has reached a state of complete thermodynamic collapse—what one might fairly describe as absolute heat death. Their arguments are now so thoroughly dispersed they no longer resemble a coherent position, so hopelessly deluded that not a single clear policy signal can be detected and so entirely unusable that no meaningful work—legislative, economic or intellectual—can possibly be extracted from them. In physics, when entropy reaches its maximum all structure disappears and nothing of consequence can occur. That is not only a description of a dead universe; it is also, regrettably, a very accurate description of—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, resume your seat, please.

Mr de BRENNI: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to your ruling and your very clear guidance to this House about your expectations that members not put their microphones on and seek to get the call before another member has concluded their contribution. I submit to you that the member for Burleigh deliberately contravened your ruling and clear instructions. I would ask that you review that conduct and take appropriate action.

Mr SPEAKER: I will look after that.

Mr VORSTER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that accusation and ask that the member withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I will be looking at the behaviour of members with the microphones because I have noticed this has started to creep in in the last couple of days. I thought we had this in order, but I will be looking at it again.

Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now be putting all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate.

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

AYES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

NOES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negated.

Mr SPEAKER: The House will consider the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill first. I call the Treasurer to table the explanatory notes to his amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Mr JANETZKI: It has been circulated, but I table the amendments and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [1990].

Tabled paper: Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. David Janetzki's amendments [1991].

Mr SPEAKER: I note that the Treasurer's amendments Nos 1 and 2 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That the Treasurer's amendments be agreed to.

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments, as circulated—

1 After clause 72

Page 70, after line 23—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971

72A Act amended

This part amends the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

72B Amendment of pt 9, hdg (Transitional provisions)

Part 9, heading, 'Transitional'—

omit, insert—

Repeal, transitional and declaratory

72C Insertion of new pt 9, div 10

Part 9—

insert—

Division 10 Repeal, transitional and declaratory provisions for Energy Roadmap Amendment Act 2025**Subdivision 1 Repeal of Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020****204 Repeal**

The Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020, No. 28 is repealed.

Subdivision 2 Transitional and declaratory provisions**205 Definition for subdivision**

In this subdivision—

repealed Act means the repealed *Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020*.

206 Saving of operation of particular provision of repealed Act

The repealed Act, section 57 is declared to be a law to which the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, section 20A applies.

207 No compensation payable by State

- (1) No compensation is payable by or on behalf of the State to a person in relation to the repeal of the repealed Act.
- (2) This section applies despite anything to the contrary in another Act or law.

208 Transitional regulation-making power

- (1) A regulation (a **transitional regulation**) may make provision about a matter for which—
 - (a) it is necessary to make provision to allow or facilitate the doing of anything to achieve the transition from the operation of the repealed Act; and
 - (b) this subdivision does not provide or sufficiently provide.
- (2) A transitional regulation may have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than the day this section commences.
- (3) A transitional regulation must declare it is a transitional regulation.
- (4) This section and any transitional regulation expire on the day that is 1 year after the day this section commences.

2 Schedule 1 (Other amendments)

Page 77, after line 14—

insert—

Forestry Act 1959**1 Section 26(1A), notes—**

omit, insert—

Note—

See the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, section 437A(1) for the creation of an easement for a pipeline licence holder under that Act over land that is a State forest.

2 Section 32C(2)(c)—

omit.

3 Section 61RI(2)—

omit.

4 Section 73(1), from ‘, an access’ to ‘Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020,’—

omit.

5 Section 73B(2)(d)—

omit.

6 Section 73D(3)(b)(ii)—

omit.

7 Section 73D(3)(b)(iii) to (vi)—*renumber as section 73D(3)(b)(ii) to (v).***8 Section 73F(3)(b)—***omit.***9 Section 73F(3)(c) to (f)—***renumber as section 73F(3)(b) to (e).***10 Schedule 3, definitions *development agreement*, *project area A* and *proponent*—***omit.***Land Act 1994****1 Section 287(1), note—***omit.*

Division: Question put—That clauses 1 to 73 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 1 to 73 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Division: Question put—That the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, as amended, be read a third time.

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 3, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as circulated—

3 Long title

Long title, from 'and the'—

omit, insert—

, the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020

Division: Question put—That the long title of the Energy Roadmap Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

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

AYES, 53:

LNP, 52—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, 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.

KAP, 1—Knuth.

NOES, 34:

ALP, 31—Asif, Bailey, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Grace, Healy, Howard, J. Kelly, King, Linard, Martin, McCallum, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Nightingale, Pease, Power, Pugh, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Smith, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 2—Bolton, Sullivan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Question put—That the long title of the Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.22 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Conduct of Member for Mansfield, Apology; Child Protection



Ms McMILLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (9.22 pm): Mr Speaker, before I begin, I wish to unreservedly apologise for my behaviour and contribution after the point of order.

I rise to speak about the government's floundering in the child safety and prevention of domestic and family violence spaces. This year alone we have had the Unify mess where we have seen the Crisafulli government put cash before kids. There are still children unaccounted for because of the rollout of Unify, and the question remains: how much money did the government save in rolling out the Unify system in the way it did, thousands or millions? What dollar amount justifies the risk to children?


We know the leaked Deloitte report commissioned by the government should now be with the minister. She promised that Queenslanders would see it, so when will that happen? When will transparency be delivered for Queenslanders? Moreover, how much did this investigation cost and will the government pay attention to Deloitte's advice given that they paid for it?

The LNP have form for not listening to experts. Issues were flagged by PeakCare and the Together union prior to Unify going live. The Together union flagged their concerns in January of this year and PeakCare's CEO, Tom Allsop, told the *Courier-Mail* that the peak body had flagged their concerns in February, and that is not the only thing the government is not addressing.

I asked during estimates who was overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. Was it the independent implementation supervisor as per the recommendations of the taskforce? Wait, that is right; they sacked her. Those opposite fired Cathy Taylor and abolished the role in their first few months of power. This supervisor was to provide Queenslanders with confidence that the government was implementing the recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

We have seen this government break its promise on integrity multiple times this week alone, and the abolishment of the independent implementation supervisor is just another instance. According to the department's Director-General, Belinda Drew, the Reform Implementation Office was set up to replace the independent implementation supervisor. We should therefore be getting updates like the biannual report the supervisor was required to hand to the minister. The biannual report would give an update on the progress of the implementation of the taskforce recommendations and the achievement of the systemic outcomes, the adequacy of implementation and what further measures may be required to ensure the recommendations supported by the government are implemented fully within the specified timeframes. We have yet to see the report from the Reform Implementation Office; we are yet to see the Deloitte report. Release the reports and honour your promise to Queenslanders.


Mirani Electorate

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (9.25 pm): The electorate of Mirani would have to be one of the most diverse parts of Queensland. You can start in the old mining town of Mount Morgan, travel down the coast to the foothills of Central Queensland, head through the cattle country of the Marlborough Plains and end up in some of the richest canefields in the state around Mackay. It really is a snapshot of everything that makes regional Queensland great. Right at the very top of the Pioneer Valley sits one of the most stunning parts of our state—Eungella and the Mackay Highlands. For years this beautiful region was talked about for all the wrong reasons. The former government tried to force a pumped hydro project onto a small community right in the middle of pristine rainforest and some of Queensland's best nature. It would have ripped through country that should never have been touched. It divided neighbours, put pressure on families and businesses and left a cloud of uncertainty over a place which deserved so much better.

I am proud to be part of a government that is actually listening—listening to locals, listening to the common sense and stopping the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project—but the truth is that the damage it caused is still felt today and now this region needs something positive—something that gives people hope and opportunity again, and that opportunity is staring us in the face. As Queensland looks ahead through Destination 2045, we have been asked to identify the places that would define tourism and our state for decades to come. Eungella is one of those places. The views are world class, the wildlife is unique, the rainforest is ancient and the small communities up there have more heart than most cities will ever understand. Where else in Australia can you stand above the clouds at sunrise, walk through the rainforest and spot a platypus in the wild at any time of the day?

To get this right, we need to make sure the people who live there—the people who know the mountains better than anyone—are the ones shaping the future. So today I am calling for expressions of interest from locals, tourism operators, accommodation providers, conservation groups and anyone who cares about the Pioneer Valley. I am establishing a strategic advisory committee for Eungella and the Mackay Highlands to work directly with me on identifying ecotourism opportunities, improving visitor experiences and building a stronger local economy. This is the chance to build something real—something that creates jobs, strengthens small communities and protects the environment for generations to come. I encourage all Queenslanders to come and see the Pioneer Valley and Eungella for themselves to see the magic we nearly lost and help us build a brighter future for an incredible region.


Thrower, Ms T

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.28 pm): Today I rise to speak about a tragedy that should trouble every member of this House—the story of Tammie Thrower, a Wynnum woman who spent her final months fighting homelessness while dying of stage 4 bowel and brain cancer. Tammie was not just a statistic—she was a daughter, a mother, a friend and a neighbour—yet she was failed by a system that should have protected her. In June this year her mother, Coral Clarke, contacted my office in desperation. After six years in the same Wynnum home, Tammie was issued with a no-fault eviction notice while terminally ill. She had nowhere to go. My office worked urgently with Bayside Housing and referred the family to multiple services. The family was already working with the department of housing and Micah Projects and everyone was pursuing every possible lead.

Despite the compassion of our frontline workers, no home was secured—no stability, no dignity and, instead of resting, Tammie spent her final months searching for a place to die. This is not an isolated failure. Tammie's mum, Coral, wants everyone to know about Tammie and her battle. Micah Projects have advised that 21 people with terminal illness died while homeless in Queensland over the past 12 months alone and the youngest was just 27. QCROSS have advised that the figure of people on the Social Housing Register has exceeded 56,000 people—higher than the government's August figure of 53,874 people. That means there are over 56,000 vulnerable Queenslanders waiting for a roof—families, older women, people with disability and young people with nowhere to go.

Homelessness services are overwhelmed, electorate offices across the state are inundated. In my decade as a member of parliament and in the prior 10 years as electorate officer, I have never seen the crisis this dire. Tammie's story is not about bureaucracy; it is about humility and humanity. She did not need another referral; Tammie needed a home. This is not a moral failure—not just a policy failure, but of empathy. We urgently need a coordinated housing pathway for Queenslanders facing serious illness or disability. We need transparency in how Commonwealth housing funds are delivered and we need to build—not just announce—social and affordable houses, because no Queenslanders should ever spend their final days without the security of a place to call home.

Maryborough Electorate, High Schools

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (9.31 pm): I rise today to speak about the education that high school students are receiving within the Maryborough electorate. It has become very clear to me that regardless of whether our children attend state or private schools, great things are happening. I have visited and engaged with staff and students from our high schools and I am very proud of their remarkable achievements. Maryborough State High School has been awarded the title of Best Regional School in Australia in 2025. This honour reflects the dedication of the principal, Simon Done, the staff and the pride and commitment of the students. Also from the school, Georgia has been selected as one of only eight students across Queensland to receive the Premier's Anzac Prize, which includes a trip to Europe next year to experience firsthand the history and significance of Anzac Day.

Riverside Christian College has now been inducted into the Fraser Coast Business and Tourism Awards' Hall of Fame after winning Education Provider of the Year for three consecutive years. Riverside Christian College Distance Education is offering its most flexible program ever, giving families a three-tier choice in how the curriculum is delivered. This empowers families to educate their children in ways that best suit their lifestyle.

Aldridge State High School boasts an impressive music program where students write, perform and record music in their own school recording studio. This year they released six songs across major platforms including Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube. Students Aaliah and Regan were semifinalists in the national Tamworth Songwriters Association Awards with their 2025 entry. Aldridge State High School has also excelled in agriculture, receiving awards at the Brisbane Royal Queensland Show for their breeding program, which produced a supreme champion Square Meater female heifer.

St Mary's College has been named the national winner out of 110 schools across Australia in the 2025 National STEM MAD Showcase in Adelaide. Year 9 and 10 students Kashvi, Luka and Archer designed and presented Project Melatron, an AI-powered early detection and real-time UV exposure monitoring system for melanoma prevention. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and dedication. We are very proud of your achievements.

Energy Roadmap



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (9.34 pm): I rise tonight to speak about what we have heard in relation to the Energy Roadmap and to address the LNP government's energy policy. Queensland once led the charge towards a clean energy future: 50 per cent by 2030, 70 per cent by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Under Labor these targets were locked into law and the centrepiece of our Energy and Jobs Plan, a blueprint for leveraging our state's natural advantages and renewable revolution.

When Labor came to office in 2015 less than one per cent of Queensland's power came from large-scale renewables. By the second quarter of 2024 that figure had surged to over 22 per cent—a 22-fold increase in nine years, not counting our rooftop solar. That is our record and that is progress.

The LNP has slammed on the brakes. They are walking away from our renewable targets and walking away from Queenslanders. The Premier talks net zero by 2050, but actions speak louder than words. Keeping outdated coal plants limping on will not cut bills, it will hike them. We have already seen just how reliable coal really is. Back in August 2025 Callide unit C3 exploded and was offline for two months. Then in October 2025 units C4 and B2 were offline after storm damage within 24 hours of each other while they were in the middle of a planned overhaul of unit C3. That was then three units down as temperatures soared under extreme heatwave conditions. Is this really the energy security Queenslanders are supposed to count on?

Look at Yurika, established in 2016 as a key arm of Energy Queensland, delivering electrical infrastructure, renewable projects and telecom solutions. Under the Crisafulli LNP government Yurika has been gutted. This is what their energy plan really looks like: destroying hundreds of jobs and sabotaging our clean energy future. Queensland's remaining clean energy is heavily under threat from the Crisafulli government's so-called Energy Roadmap. The Queensland Treasury website says the following regarding the Energy Roadmap—

... the Roadmap resets operating timeframes for state-owned coal assets at least to technical lives, with options to further extend into the future.

The previous Labor government had set a closure horizon around 2035.

Mt Challenger Wind Farm; Proserpine Twilight Christmas Fair; Bruce Highway, Upgrades




Hon. AJ CAMM (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.37 pm): Recently I met with over 130 residents at the Kelsey Creek Hall around their concerns and the formation of the Whitsunday Wind Farm Action Group. I want to pay tribute and give a shout-out to Alysha Lee, who has led the charge on behalf of the community. I became aware, along with local community members, that the Mt Challenger Wind Farm, which originally had 30 wind turbines, was expanding to 49 wind turbines and a solar farm in the beautiful Kelsey Creek sugarcane growing area. I have now met with those community members. I have also met with the Deputy Premier and I have expressed our community's concerns around this wind farm development and in particular highlighted to the community the Crisafulli government's commitment to engage the community as part of the assessment process and the community benefit system under the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation that we passed in this House. I want to assure my community that I represent their views and have real concerns that this is not in the interests of our community and I will continue to stand up for them. I want to say thank you to the 380 participants in my Have Your Say survey and recognise we have had almost 4,000 sign a petition which I look forward to receiving in this House.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank every small business in the town of Proserpine, my home town, which will participate in the Proserpine Twilight Christmas Fair on Main Street. From 5 pm to 8 pm there will be over 40 stallholders, businesses will open, there will be performances by the Proserpine State School Choir, the Proserpine Citizens Band and Edge Dance. There will be face painting and kids' activities. It really is an event for the entire family. I want to thank all of the volunteers, particularly from my office, as well as from the Whitsunday Regional Council and the Whitsundays Chamber of Commerce and Industry and all who contributed sponsorship to make the event a fantastic community owned event. I look forward to supporting it each and every year from here on in.

Recently in Mackay we hosted the Brisbane Highway Advisory Council for the Greater Whitsunday region. I was very pleased that the transport minister announced Bruce Highway safety upgrades for my electorate, with pavement strengthening south of Glendaragh Road on the access north of Mackay as well as on Marian Hampden Road to Hudsons Road. Those projects combined are \$12.5 million worth of upgrades. The Hamilton Plains immunity project has commenced. I look forward to further announcements on the Goorganga Plains overtaking lanes in 2026.

Glenala State High School; Glenala Netball Academy


 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (9.40 pm): When the former Labor government's Go for Gold category 3 funding was announced in mid-2024, our community celebrated. Glenala State High School was one of the schools selected, recognised for its commitment to sport and student development. The high school is highly regarded and their netball excellence program produces outstanding athletes. I want to thank the principal, Michelle Snell, and the great teachers and coaches who support the talented students. The Glenala Netball Academy is a key part of how the school drives sporting excellence and keeps young people engaged, active and supported.

Over the past few weeks, I had the privilege of attending awards nights and several primary school graduations. I met students who have already been selected for next year's netball excellence program. Those students train hard and show talent and discipline. They were genuinely excited to start high school with brand new facilities ready for them. The students were promised a multisport facility and new covered courts—infrastructure funded by Labor that was meant to be completed by December this year. It was meant to be the home of the Netball Academy. Instead, those students and their families are facing delays with no clear sense of when the project will be finished. What should have been ready for the class of 2025 will now likely be delayed well into 2026 and may be ready for the class of 2027.

Students talked to me about their dream of seeing netball at the 2032 Olympics and about their plans to get there. However, well-laid plans will not help them get to the Olympics when the government has not even laid the court. The former Labor government provided funding but the LNP has failed to provide the follow-through. The whole purpose of the Go for Gold program is to get Queensland kids ready for 2032, to give them access to facilities to build confidence, skills and opportunity. Instead, we have a government delivering delays. This pattern is becoming all too familiar. It is a government that continues to misplace priorities. It is like the deputy leader, who is more interested in chasing the camera than helping children chase their dreams.

To the students I met at awards nights and graduations: I saw your excitement and I saw your talent. You were meant to be training on new courts next year, building skills, building confidence and building towards the future you want. You deserve better than being told to warm up for years while the government looks for its whistle. As the member for Inala, I will keep pushing for transparency, firm timelines and the delivery of every dollar promised. Our young people are ready, even if this government is not. It must make sure that this funding is delivered. Our children deserve it.

Pumicestone Electorate, Disaster Preparedness

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (9.43 pm): I begin by paying tribute to my community, which once again showed extraordinary resilience in the face of a severe weather event. Despite blistering heat and extensive damage across our electorate, with trees down and power cuts from Woorim to Moodlu, up to Donnybrook and down to Beachmere, our community rallied. I acknowledge the workers of Energex who worked tirelessly to restore electricity to thousands of homes across Pumicestone, the SES and our fire and emergency services workers and all agencies that stepped up without hesitation. I also recognise the everyday residents who helped their neighbours purely out of goodwill and being a good Queenslanders.


As we move into the peak of the 2025-26 disaster season, my message to the community is clear: get ready and make a plan. The government has excellent resources available at getready.qld.gov.au/plan. I encourage householders across Pumicestone to prepare their emergency kits and discuss their plans for the season ahead. The community of Beachmere has already started prepping. I acknowledge Yanni for bringing the community together to ensure that, during the next disaster season, we are self-reliant and ready to help our neighbours. I attended that meeting and it was wonderful to see so many people give their feedback and put up their hand to assist others.

I also want to address some deeply disappointing behaviour from those opposite, particularly the behaviour of the member for Pine Rivers and the member for Morayfield. While loudly proclaiming online that their own communities were devastated by the storm, they nevertheless choose to leave those very communities in their time of need. Instead, they travelled to Beachmere, unannounced, and created unnecessary anxiety in a community already vulnerable.

They visited Andrew Kunde, a respected local butcher and a friend of mine, who genuinely believed they were interested in how the storm had impacted his small business and the broader community. He spoke with them in good faith. Unfortunately, that good faith was not returned. Andrew later told me he had already been under immense stress that week. When he saw his small business being used for political point scoring on social media, he realised their visit had not been about supporting the community at all. The video they filmed was framed into an attack on the Crisafulli government. He was distressed by this and contacted the members requesting it be taken down. On social media those opposite continued to spread misrepresentations about how the state government responds to disasters—misinformation that was irresponsible, divisive and harmful to a community still recovering.

The members for Pine Rivers and Morayfield owe their communities an apology for abandoning them in their moment of need. They owe the people of Beachmere an apology for exploiting their vulnerability in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. For them to claim that their communities missed out when they themselves were not even on the ground working alongside their councillors, as every member of this House knows is essential for disaster funding recommendations, is nothing short of shameful.

Emergency Management Levy

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (9.46 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on an urgent issue affecting regional Queensland and particularly small miners—the deeply flawed emergency management levy. I met with the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers in August where assurances were made that the levy, as it applies to small miners, would be changed. Months later there has been silence. All this while businesses continue to struggle under a levy system that makes absolutely no sense for their industry.

The North Queensland Miners Association has been clear: this levy is unfair, inconsistent and putting livelihoods at risk. Their submission explains the ridiculous situation where land with no infrastructure and no mining activity—land that has not even been worked—is still categorised at a ridiculous high emergency management levy rate. They state plainly that these misclassifications are causing serious financial stress and that mining leases can even be cancelled for non-payment.

This is a structural flaw the previous government implemented which requires urgent attention. Meanwhile, the state of Victoria just this week introduced a two-year rate freeze on their emergency service levy as farmers demanded relief. I table that document.


Tabled paper: Article from ABC News, dated 5 December 2025, titled 'Victorian government defers increases to controversial emergency services levy in budget update' [\[1992\]](#).

Yet here in Queensland when rural industries and miners ask for the same fairness, the government refuses to take immediate action. Many mining operations in the north are made up of small operators who generate local jobs, local spending and regional wealth. They do not have the deep pockets and they do not have the ability to pass on these costs. They are already dealing with skyrocketing fuel, equipment, labour, insurance and compliance bills. Now they are taxed into the ground to fund the same services that many of them already volunteer for. The absurdity of this levy framework is summed up in the NQMA's own words—

The current incorrect categorisation is causing financial and business stress in our industry and we urge that quick action be taken to right this situation.

I call on the minister to take the same immediate action the state of Victoria has and freeze the levy right now on mining leases, agricultural land and low-risk regional tenures until changes are made to the flawed legislation.

Crisafulli LNP Government, Achievements; Capalaba Electorate

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.49 pm): Exactly one year ago today I gave my maiden speech, and I would like to congratulate our newest member, the member for Hinchinbrook, for giving his yesterday. It has been a year of many accomplishments and of working hard to repay the trust that Queenslanders have placed in the Crisafulli government. We all know the chaos and crisis that the previous Labor government left us across the four key areas—crime, health, housing and cost of

living—after their decade of decline. This government has listened to Queenslanders and we are getting on with the job. There is still a long way to go, but we remain laser focused on the task at hand, while those opposite seem to be interested in plotting another Christmas coup on their leader. One can only wonder who will wake up with the title ‘opposition leader’ in their Christmas stocking.

Closer to home, we saw a significant milestone last week when I was joined by the housing minister to officially open a new block of social housing units in Alexandra Hills. We had the opportunity to speak with some of the new residents who told us their stories of struggling to find housing and how much their new homes would help them. The Crisafulli government has almost 200 social and affordable homes in construction or under contract across the Redlands, and with the record funding outlined in the budget there will be many more.

While delivering more housing, it is vitally important I also note that there are many other families across the community who are struggling with the cost of living, particularly around Christmas time. That is why this year we decided to host a give-away competition of a \$300 Woolworths voucher to one lucky Capalaba family to help with the Christmas shopping. As part of the application, I asked for a few words about what Christmas really means to them. Their responses were really uplifting to read. The most common thing that submitters mentioned was spending time with their loved ones and coming together to celebrate the festive season. A special congratulations goes out to Gabrielle of Alexandra Hills, who won that draw, and a big thank you goes to all those who entered and shared their thoughts.

Finally, I would like to wish all the members and staff of the House and all the constituents across the state a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.52 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, de Brenni, Dick, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Field, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Grace, Head, Healy, Howard, Hunt, Hutton, James B, James T, Janetzki, 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, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Young