



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 11 February 2026

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## WEDNESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2026

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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 STATEMENTS

#### Photographs in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that I have approved for staff of the Parliamentary Service to take photographs in the chamber this afternoon during preliminary business for use in parliamentary social media and education promotions. Photographs will be taken from the gallery above and from the rear of the chamber.

#### Portrait of Former Premier

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is a longstanding tradition of the parliament to honour former premiers and former Speakers through portrait. The intention is to reflect Queensland's democratic history, ensuring that the state has a continuous collection of portraits of all who have served as Premier or Speaker. On Monday evening I hosted the unveiling event for the portrait of the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk AC, who was the 39th Premier of Queensland. First elected to parliament in September 2006, Ms Palaszczuk became Premier in 2015, serving in that role until 2023. The portrait was created by Brisbane-based photorealistic artist Bronwyn Hill and is joining those of former premiers in the Premiers' Hall in the Queensland Parliamentary Annexe. It is also available to view on the parliament's website as part of the Parliamentary Library's online heritage collection.

### PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 28 January 2026 the member for Ferny Grove wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House in answers to questions on notice tabled on 5 January 2026. The Deputy Premier's response was that to answer the question it was too burdensome to request that local governments conduct this work until development approvals have been issued. With respect to answer to question on notice 1245, the member alleges that, in making their application, local governments advise the department of the information sought. The member has referenced a number of disclosures made by the minister. However, the information sought by the question is different in scope to the information referenced by the member.

In respect of answer to question on notice 1283, the member alleges that the information provided by the minister publicly contradicts the claim that individual project funding agreements are subject to confidentiality agreements. Again, the information sought by the question is different in scope to the information referenced by the member.

I decided not to progress either complaint to the minister for response under standing order 269(5) because on the face of each complaint I can see that the member has failed to provide sufficient evidence of misleading and certainly no evidence of deliberate misleading. It appears to me that the member is simply wishing to appeal the answer to the question on notice through a matter of privilege. This approach is becoming a trend. I make it clear to all members that I will not allow the process of

matters of privilege to be a de facto appeal process against answers. Matters of privilege must have evidence of each element of the offence of which the complaint refers. I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Kawana [155].

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 12 December 2025 the member for Algester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism deliberately misled the House in an answer to a question on notice tabled on 14 November 2025. The member submitted that the minister would have had access to further information and should have included it in her answer. The member alleged this omission meant the minister had deliberately misled the House. I note the minister provided reasons why further information was not provided. I consider the minister has made an adequate explanation and tabled a compliant answer. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I again make it clear to all members that I will not allow the process of matters of privilege to be a de facto appeal process against answers. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism and member for Maroochydore [156].

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 12 December 2025, the member for Algester wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism deliberately misled the House.

The matter relates to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice No. 1195 of 2025 tabled on 14 November 2025.

The question asked by the member for Algester was:

*With reference to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee Estimates Hearing, when the Minister advised that both the Minister and their staff had completed cultural capabilities training—Will the Minister advise (a) the date the cultural capabilities training was completed, (b) the duration of the training and (c) the company the training was conducted through?*

The Minister's answer was:

*A date cannot be provided as cultural capability training is part of the onboarding process within my office and is completed on various dates. The program is self-guided online learning modules taking individuals different amounts of time to complete and is a consistent program provided by my department during the term of the former Labor government.*

The member for Algester argued that the statement was misleading because, at a minimum, the Minister would have knowledge of the date that she completed the training. No dates were provided for either the Minister or her staff. Essentially, she argued it was misleading by omission.

The member also provided answers to previous similar Questions on Notice that provided more detailed answers as evidence that more information could be provided.

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

The Minister submitted that the member conflated the response to the Question on Notice with a response she had provided earlier during the Estimates process where she was questioned about her own cultural competency training.

In her submission to me she clarified she completed training on 21 July 2025. The Minister also further clarified that the training was self-paced and part of the onboarding process for staff therefore the dates it was completed and the time it took varies.

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.

Speaker Pitt ruled on 17 March 2022 that, with respect to responses to Questions on Notice, a Minister should explain why an answer cannot be provided in the terms posed in the question.

I note the Minister provided reasons why further information was not provided in her answer and again in her submission to me.

Further, there is no factually or apparently incorrect statement identified by the member that could result in a contempt of deliberately misleading the House.

Accordingly, I find that the Minister has made an adequate explanation and tabled a compliant answer to the question. 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 20 November 2025 the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, member for Bancroft and member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 28 and 29 October 2025. In this matter, opposition members believe that there had been cuts to social housing while the Deputy Premier argues that there was no social housing to cut and the opposition members are referring to aspirational targets absent of any planning approval. Both sides have provided evidence to support their claims. This is clearly a political debate, with both sides holding differing views and opinions on social housing policies. Accordingly, I consider it is technical. 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 Leader of the Opposition and member for Murrumba, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Woodridge, the member for Bancroft and the member for Bundaberg [157].

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 20 November 2025, the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, member for Bancroft and member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 28 and 29 October 2025.

The matter relates to statements made by the members during Matters of Public Interest on 28 October and during debate on a housing motion on 29 October.

Specifically, on 28 October, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

*'At Kurilpa, 4800 affordable homes have been axed. At Woolloongabba, 3200 affordable homes have been cut. At the Visy site, 800 homes have been scrapped.'*

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition stated:

*'Here is another big ugly number: nearly 10,000. That is the number of social and affordable homes the Premier and his arrogant Deputy Premier and planning minister, Jarrod Bleijie, have cancelled so far.'*

The member for Bancroft stated:

*'Earlier we heard that 10,000 affordable and social homes have been cut under the government.'*

On 29 October, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

*'Since coming to office, the LNP have cut around 10,000 social and affordable homes.'*

And the member for Bundaberg stated:

*As the Leader of the Opposition outlined, they have cut around 10,000 social and affordable homes and put thousands more in their sights.'*

The Deputy Premier argued that these statements regarding 10,000 social houses being cut was incorrect because the Opposition used 'aspirational targets' in planning documents. He stated that it was not feasible or possible for the government to cut or cancel homes that had not been planned, gained approval, had contracts signed for or begun construction.

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

The members submitted that if a new government eliminates, removes or modifies the rule or the policy that creates approvals, such as housing affordability targets and similar or associated requirements, then the government of the day is, as a consequence, cutting, scrapping, or axing a pipeline that would have produced housing supply.

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.

I have considered the submissions put forward. In this matter, Opposition members believe there have been cuts to social housing, while the Deputy Premier argues there was no social housing to cut. Both have provided evidence and arguments to support their claims.

This is clearly a political debate with both sides holding differing views and opinions on social housing policies. It is of the kind originally described by Speaker Simpson on 16 October 2014 and expanded on by Speaker Pitt on 6 April 2022.

Accordingly, I consider the matter is technical in nature.

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

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 20 November 2025 the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence wrote to me in separate pieces of correspondence alleging that the members for Waterford, Nudgee, McConnel, Jordan, Lytton, Cooper and Bundamba deliberately misled the House. Standing order 269(3) requires a member to—

... formulate as precisely as possible the matter, and where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation.

I do not believe that the minister has identified precisely what words within the members' speeches were allegedly misleading or provided sufficient particulars. 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 members for Waterford, Nudgee, McConnel, Jordan, Lytton, Cooper and Bundamba [\[158\]](#).

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 20 November 2025, the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence wrote to me in separate pieces of correspondence alleging that the members for Waterford, Nudgee, McConnel, Jordan, Lytton, Cooper and Bundamba deliberately misled the House.

The matter relates to statements made by the members during debate on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's Report No. 16, 58th Parliament—Oversight of Queensland Family and Child Commission on 16 and 30 October 2025.

The member for Waterford stated on 16 October:

*'The QFCC's annual report has a strong focus on just how critical transparency and high-quality data are to keeping children safe. The Child Death Review Board, hosted by the QFCC, maintains Queensland's comprehensive child death register. The data collected through that process helps drive vital prevention work across agencies, from developing better risk indicators to information sharing with research partners and the Coroners Court. It is a powerful reminder that accurate, reliable data saves lives. Of course, the Minister for Child Safety's bungled Unify program puts systems that rely on that quality data at risk. Unify was meant to strengthen information sharing. Instead, it has put vulnerable children at risk. The QFCC relies on accurate data because child safety cannot run on guesswork.*

...

*At page 90, the QFCC 2023-24 annual report states—*

*An inability to source high-quality data outcomes—reduces our capacity to effectively monitor the impact of the child and family support system, restricting our ability to drive improvements and build a culture of accountability.*

*I would take that to mean that the Unify rollout has proved the QFCC right. Case records are missing and data feeds are broken*

The member for Nudgee stated on 16 October:

*'This commitment to data transparency is not just a technical exercise; it is imperative because quality data is what allows service providers in communities to understand what is working and what is not. Yet, as the QFCC's own risk management framework warns and as we have heard, poor quality or inaccessible data is one of the biggest strategic risks facing Queensland's child protection system.'*

And on 30 October:

*'Alarming, the commission's warning has now become a reality with the government's mishandled rollout of the Unify system, which has undermined the very data that frontline child safety officers, the QFCC and countless frontline agencies rely on. Case records are missing, reporting functions are broken and transparency has been eroded. The QFCC has been clear: without high-quality data, accountability suffers. Without accountability, children fall through the cracks.'*

The member for McConnel stated on 16 October:

*'On page 145 the QFCC annual report states—*

*The investment in Unify, a new case management system for child safety, should deliver increased capacity and capability for collaborative best practice.*

*I am quoting from page 145. It goes on—*

*Child Safety is finalising the update of its Integrated Client Management System and will continue the progressive roll-out of Unify, its new data system in 2024-2025. Unify is client-centric and will improve information sharing and collaboration across Queensland Government agencies.*

*Aren't they going to be disappointed! What an absolute catastrophe that is happening with Unify.'*

The member for Lytton stated on 16 October:

*'The LNP government's decision to go live on the Unify program has disrupted the very data systems that the QFCC relies on. Case records are missing, data feeds are broken and frontline workers are left without the information they need to keep our vulnerable children safe. The commission itself has warned us that poor quality data undermines accountability and erodes public confidence.*

*Let us examine the facts. The QFCC conducted major reviews on children absent from care and 'crossover' kids, that is, young people engaged with broken youth justice and child protection systems. A recurring theme was the barriers to information sharing that undermine coordinated service responses. In the report the commission warned that poor quality data erodes accountability and identified data access as a strategic risk.'*

The member for Cooper stated on 16 October:

*'I will finish my speech on the Unify system. It has been very disappointing to see the response from that. I will pick up on the point of order. It is actually covered in the annual report. The QFCC is mentioned in that report. It is directly relevant to this debate. To have the minister evade the questions this week on what has ...*

...

*The point that I want to make here is: it was an issue that was raised in the 2023-24 QFCC report on the importance of the implementation of the Unify rollout. There are serious questions that need to be answered by this minister and we need an independent inquiry.'*

The member for Bundamba stated on 16 October:

*'...It is of paramount importance that Queenslanders have confidence that the systems that are being used to protect the children who are in the youth justice system or the children who are in care are robust, are working and are going to deliver the outcomes these children need. That is why it is so concerning to see that there have been so many problems with the rollout*

*of the Unify system since it was switched on. I note that throughout the 2023-24 annual report the progressive rollout of Unify is mentioned multiple times.*

...

*'Data' is mentioned over 250 times in the annual report. Page 16 of the annual report states that it used data to improve the sector's understanding of risk factors and to support the development of new policies and practices to reduce harm to children and young people. When it comes to these oversight systems, the Queensland public needs absolute confidence in them.'*

And the member for Jordan stated on 30 October:

*'Every three months data on the child protection system was released. I have seen—and I just checked right now on the child safety website—that the last available data for child safety ended on 31 March 2025, so we are months behind on the release of data. I wonder about transparency when we have a system that has now been switched on. It means that we are now not getting reliable data as a result of the bungled Unify system that the LNP government has introduced. It is very concerning if we, and all stakeholders, do not have access to that data.'*

*The Minister provided evidence in the form of an extract from a letter to stakeholders from the former Director-General of the Department, dated June 2024 when the former government were in office. It stated that data from the (then) current corporate system would be delayed from June 2024 during the Unify rollout, and that corporate data from the new Unify system was expected to be available toward the end of 2024-25.*

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

In their submissions the members each noted that there was no specific aspect of their statements identified as being misleading by the minister. Regardless, they did seek to justify their statements, providing supporting documentation in the form of media articles and excerpts from relevant reports.

Standing Order 269(3) requires a member to 'formulate as precisely as possible the matter, and where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation'.

I do not believe that the minister has identified precisely what words within the members' speech were misleading or provided sufficient particulars.

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 1 December 2025 the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services wrote to me alleging that the member for Miller deliberately misled the House on 18 November 2025. The matter relates to a question asked by the member relating to the alleged closure of a mental health clinic in Yeronga. The minister advised me that the Child and Youth Mental Health Service had not ceased but was now operating out of Taringa and Mount Gravatt locations. The minister also provided this information in his response to the question in the House.

The member for Miller advised me that he was not referring to the service but rather the closure of the physical clinic at Yeronga. I note that at the time the minister refuted the member's question and put on the public record that the service in question remains operational and provided the reasons for not renovating or rebuilding the Yeronga clinic. Arguably, the matter was dealt with at the time. Regardless, I consider the member has made an adequate explanation and I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence relating to an alleged contempt and misleading of the House by the member for Miller [\[159\]](#).

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

Leave granted.

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

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

On 1 December 2025, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Minister) wrote to me alleging that the member for Miller deliberately misled the House on 18 November 2025.

The matter relates to a question asked of the Minister during Question Time.

Specifically, the member for Miller asked:

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

The Minister argued that by linking a question about the Barrett Adolescent Centre with the Yeronga clinic, the member was implying that the closure of the Yeronga clinic would lead to suicides. The Minister also advised that the service previously provided at the Yeronga clinic had not ceased, and was now being provided at Taringa and Mt Gravatt.

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

The member for Miller advised that he was referencing the physical Yeronga clinic and that he did not dispute the Minister's assertions that the Child and Youth Mental Health Service was continuing at other locations. He also said it was factually correct to link the Minister to the Barrett Adolescent Centre closure, because he was the Treasurer at the time the centre was closed and it was reportedly closed due to budget cuts.

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.

In this matter, the member for Miller used the term 'clinic' in his question, rather than referring to the 'service' that operated out of the Yeronga location. I do not believe it is factually incorrect to state that the clinic has closed.

I consider the member has made an adequate explanation.

Also, I note that at the time the Minister refuted the member's question and put on the public record that the service in question remains operational and provided the reasons for not renovating or rebuilding the Yeronga clinic. Arguably, the matter was dealt with at the time.

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

## PETITION

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

#### Southport, Bus Services

**Hon. Langbroek**, from 1,989 petitioners, requesting the House to extend the TransLink bus route from Sea World to the top of the Southport Spit [\[150\]](#) [\[151\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[152](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 169 (Acts to be numbered by the Clerk) and Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

#### **Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025**

Amendments made to Bill

##### **Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*

'Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025'

*Insert—*

'Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2026'

### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[153](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2024-25

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

[154](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Non-fatal strangulation: Section 315A review—Final Report, September 2025

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Housing

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.10 pm): Housing is one of the biggest pressures facing Queensland families. It is a problem that did not appear overnight. It is the product of years of inaction and delay. While our population surged, housing supply did not keep up. Under Labor housing lot approvals dropped by 29 per cent, new home approvals fell 36 per cent and Queensland's home ownership fell to the lowest in the country. Our government is committed to delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders. We took to the election a plan for one million new homes by 2044 and we have been hard at work delivering that plan.

Last month we released our response to the Queensland Productivity Commission's report into our state's construction industry. It exposes Queensland's Best Practice Industry Conditions—that is, Labor's CFMEU tax—as a major cause of our state's housing crisis. The report found that under Labor declining productivity led to 77,000 fewer homes being delivered—77,000 fewer homes that could have housed so many Queenslanders. In response, we have permanently axed Labor's BPICs, we have cut red tape and reformed procurement, but activating supply is at the heart of our approach. We have already established a \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund. Almost half of that fund is already allocated to projects right across the state. That funding will be used to deliver the critical infrastructure needed to unlock new homes sooner. The program has already allowed councils to get on with delivering over 98,000 new homes. Our nation-leading Land Activation Program will fast-track homes and address Labor's housing crisis. The program will identify vacant and underutilised land owned by the government that can be used to deliver more homes—land right across the state, some even under people's noses.

Priority development areas declared in the Southern Thornlands, Waraba, North Harbour and Mount Peter will unlock tens of thousands of homes. We are also supporting first home buyers to enter the market. We axed a tax. We got rid of a tax by abolishing stamp duty on new builds for first home buyers. Our Boost to Buy program offers a practical pathway into home ownership for Queenslanders who are locked out of the market despite working hard and doing everything right. It helps first home buyers bridge the deposit gap and get into a home sooner. It is about aspiration and opportunity.

More than 5,300 social and affordable homes are in construction or under contract across the state. We are working in genuine partnership with councils, community housing providers and the private sector. Queensland finally has a government serious about housing, serious about supply and serious about home ownership. When it comes to housing we are delivering for Queensland and we will keep working to give more Queenslanders a place to call home.

## Gollschewski, Mr S

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.13 pm): I would like to acknowledge Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski who has today announced his retirement. The commissioner has spent more than four decades working to keep Queenslanders safe. He is one of our longest serving current police officers and he has served our state on the front line as well as through major disasters, emergencies and critical reforms. He was appointed as commissioner in April 2024 and his courage and commitment to that role in the face of personal health challenges has been inspiring. On behalf of all Queenslanders I thank him for his dedicated service and leadership.

## Housing

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.14 pm): As the Premier has indicated, housing is a key priority for the Crisafulli LNP government. After a decade of decline we have a lot of work to do right across the state. That is why last week I was so pleased to announce the Land Activation Program or, as we know it on this side, the LAP. The LAP is being rolled out right across the state. Last week I unlocked 400 homes—

**A government member:** How many?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection—400 homes in Banyo. I then travelled to North Queensland where, with our hardworking members for North Queensland at the old TAFE Pimlico site, we announced another 150 homes to be released for North Queensland. This is making sure people have a place to call home right across the state—not only in South-East Queensland but also in regional Queensland where it matters as well.

This morning I travelled from Parliament House to Central station where I utilised the LNP's permanent 50-cent public transport fares.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Where did you go?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the honourable Premier. I took cash. They did not take the cash. I had to tap on, tap off. I know the shadow treasurer is so excited that it was the LNP government that locked in permanent 50-cent fares.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Mr Bailey:** There's nothing on cost of living! Nothing!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection of the honourable former minister Bailey who says, 'Nothing on cost of living'. Tell that to the thousands of Queenslanders who use public transport and are utilising the LNP's permanent 50-cent fares.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Anyway, where did you go?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Premier. This morning when I caught the train from Central station I travelled to Mango Hill in the electorate of Murrumba—the electorate of the honourable opposition leader. I walked off the train, I walked across the road and what did I find? I found another government owned vacant block of land. I thought, 'This block of land looks familiar. Where have I seen this block of land?' It reminded me of a picture the opposition leader posted on the same block of land when he announced he was going to build houses on it. I table that picture from 2024—two years ago.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 3 February 2024, from the Instagram account of the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Steven Miles MP, in relation to a parcel of land at Mango Hill [\[160\]](#).

As I walked east, west, north—all of this block of land—I was hoping I would run into this housing that the Leader of the Opposition had built. If he was going to be committed to housing as premier of the state I would have thought it would be in his own electorate at least.

**A government member:** He'd always wanted to do it!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. It was a childhood dream. He had always wanted to do it, just like he wanted the LNP to implement 50-cent fares. I am walking around this block of land looking for these houses that the Labor Party promised the people of Murrumba and it is the same sad story time and time again: all announcement by the Labor Party with no delivery. I am doing what I have had to do a lot in the last year and a half. I have had to pick up Labor's mess. I am going to fix it. We are going to build houses on it. I can announce today that the community housing sector and the private sector can go online to the EDQ website and register their expressions of interest today to build 250 homes at Mango Hill that the Leader of the Opposition promised and failed to deliver.

We are dealing with a decade of decline under the Labor Party. It is the LNP government that truly believes in housing. I say this: availability equals affordability. Supply, supply, supply. If we get more supply to the market it puts downward pressure on the cost to buy a home in Queensland. The member for Gaven has taken advantage of what our good LNP government is delivering for housing. She has taken advantage of taxation policies and housing policies and bought her own piece of Queensland. She is living the dream. We want all Queenslanders to aspire to what the member for Gaven aspired to. The LNP delivered and we are happy to do that.

**A government member:** You're welcome!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. She is very welcome. But there is a lot more to do. We are going to announce Land Activation Programs right across the state. We are going to announce Residential Activation Funds across the state. We are going to announce social and affordable housing under the Minister for Housing right across the state. We are building what Labor failed to build.

## Housing

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.19 pm): Queensland's housing crisis did not happen by accident; it happened because Labor mismanaged the system at every level. They backed the CFMEU over Queenslanders. They allowed productivity to decline on construction sites. They failed to build anywhere near enough social and affordable homes. They let property owners and high-income earners live in social homes that we did have. While they were entrenching union influence in government procurement, literally having the CFMEU write the state government's procurement policies, housing supply was collapsing across the board. Construction productivity in our state dropped by around nine per cent. Since 2018, 77,000 fewer homes were built across Queensland because of the policy settings the former government had in place. Just 509 social homes were delivered on average each year—barely one-third of the rate our population grew by over the same period. Almost half of our public housing tenants did not have basic eligibility checks done for over five years.

That is why our Crisafulli government is turning the housing crisis around. The CFMEU is no longer writing building and procurement policy in our state. Since coming to government we have had 2,020 social and affordable homes delivered. We have 3,477 social homes under contract and 5,970 in total under contract or construction. Those are the homes that we count, not hypothetical houses. They are not press release projections. They are real homes, actually funded and underway. Unlike those opposite, who have been posting and spreading misleading information about our Land Activation Program, we want to see homes built in well-located places such as near train stations—so the Deputy Premier can catch a train—or on major transport corridors. We have unlocked up to 400 homes on empty state land in Banyo. A community housing development will be included on that site to deliver affordable housing.

Today, I am proud to announce that the Crisafulli government has more housing coming to the Nudgee electorate. I can announce a fantastic 35-home social housing project in Nundah that went to public notification today. I will table the beautiful plans for that development, which has gone to public notification. It is part of our record \$5.6 billion investment in delivering social and community housing in every corner of Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Proposed public housing development—1369 Sandgate Rd, Nundah—Concept plans' [\[161\]](#).

I need to deal with another scare campaign that we have seen from those opposite, this time about the Social Housing Register. Labor have claimed we are removing people from the system. That is simply not true. There have been no changes to eligibility under this government and those opposite know that. The only change we made was to restart annual eligibility checks on 1 July last year—checks that Labor paused for over five years. If someone has been removed from the register it is because they are no longer eligible for social housing, they have secured some other form of housing, they have refused our offers of housing, they are uncontactable or they have moved interstate or out of the country. It is not because this government has changed the rules. In fact, I will refer to the number of applications that have come off the register in previous years.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** In 2024-25, 5,219 applications came off the register and in 2023-24—when the person interjecting was the housing minister—it was 5,022. There is barely a difference, despite all of the social media posts we have seen from those opposite. Labor think high-income earners and property owners should be living in social housing indefinitely. The Liberal National Party disagrees.

We are making sure that social housing is for our most vulnerable Queenslanders. So far through our checks of existing tenants we have discovered 164 households that were earning incomes of over \$100,000 a year. Every home taken up by someone who no longer qualifies is a home denied to a Queenslanders in genuine housing need. We will not apologise for restoring integrity and fairness to our social housing system. Every Queenslanders deserves a place to call home and we are getting on with the job of delivering them.

### Boost to Buy

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.24 pm): The Crisafulli government's nation-leading Boost to Buy home ownership scheme is reducing the deposit gap and helping Queenslanders enter the property market. Applications for the first 500 places opened in December and demand has been strong. All available South-East Queensland appointments have been exhausted and about 70 places currently remain for regional Queensland. The significant uptake justifies our decision in MYFER to double funding and available places, with up to 2,000 first home buyers to benefit over the next three years. I look forward to having a lot more to say about Boost to Buy and future rounds in the coming months.

Under Labor Queensland was at the bottom of the home ownership ladder, but the Crisafulli government is delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders through various measures. They include: the extension of the first home owner grant of \$30,000, which has already helped 2,270 people this financial year; the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers on new properties, which has benefited 1,900 Queenslanders since May; and increasing rental availability by lifting subletting restrictions to allow new home owners to rent out a room without losing grants or concessions. We know that part of the solution to the housing crisis is getting more homes built sooner, which is why we have introduced our key initiatives including the Land Activation Program, the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund and delivering one million homes, including 53½ thousand social and community homes, by 2044.

The work of the Queensland Productivity Commission and the evidence presented to the Wood commission of inquiry into the CFMEU have revealed the truth: Labor built the housing crisis. The QPC's definitive 458-page report into construction productivity outlines the productivity decline under Labor and the consequences for Queensland: higher rents, delays and cost blowouts on major projects, with 77,000 fewer homes constructed—all because, under Labor, construction productivity dropped nine per cent since 2018. The QPC found that if BPIC had continued it would have cost the Queensland community up to \$20.6 billion by the end of the decade. Just yesterday, evidence presented to the Wood inquiry showed that former Labor government ministers, including the members for Murrumba, Woodridge, Springwood and Miller, were all warned extensively by the industry that BPIC would damage competition, inflate costs and distort the market. The former Labor government was warned that BPIC was increasing the cost of building homes because of those distortions.

Turning around Labor's weak productivity and housing crisis will take time, but by implementing the key initiatives that Queenslanders voted for and thanks to the work of the QPC we know we are on the right track. Under Labor, productivity fell and the housing crisis was created, but we are turning things around and delivering more Queenslanders a place to call home.

### Gollschewski, Mr S

 **Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (2.27 pm): In 1980, when Malcolm Fraser was prime minister, Sir Joh was premier, news of a baby going missing at Ayers Rock was making headlines and Blondie was on the radio, a young man was taking an oath to serve and protect the people of Queensland, following in the footsteps of his father and older brother. At the time, he had lofty ambitions of maybe one day becoming a detective sergeant. Today that young constable retires as the 21st commissioner of the Queensland Police Service after 46 years of exemplary service. Only two other people in the history of Queensland have spent more time in the uniform. Today I stand in the House to pay tribute to Steve Gollschewski APM. 'Golly' dedicated his life to our police and our state and this morning he announced he is hanging up his hat.

In the 1980s, Golly served on the front line across Queensland. In the 1990s, when I first met him at Boondall CIB, he had already achieved his lofty goal of becoming a detective sergeant and I can confirm to the House that he had hair. Since then he has gone on to serve in senior positions in the Ethical Standards Command and State Crime Operations Command, where he was in charge of the State Intelligence Group and lead significant reforms in QPS intelligence. Following that he served as

the Chief Superintendent, Operations Coordinator in Rockhampton. In late 2010 he commenced as Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region and had overall command of the operational response to the major flood disaster in the region, particularly the emergency response in Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley and the subsequent major investigations into the tragic floods and loss of 24 lives.

In early 2012 he took command of the North Coast Region. In 2013 he took on the role of State Disaster Coordinator, leading the whole-of-government emergency responses to cyclones Ita, Marcia and Nathan. In 2015, Golly was appointed as Deputy Commissioner. During his service he was awarded the Australian Police Medal for distinguished policing service, in particular in the areas of intelligence, major investigations and integrity. It was in 2024 that Golly was appointed to the top job. As Police Commissioner he has been a steadfast leader. Since becoming minister, I have enjoyed a strong relationship built on mutual respect and a shared desire to ensure that the Queensland Police Service is focused on fighting crime and supporting our people on the front line.

Golly's recent health battles are well documented. His courage to beat cancer and return to work cannot be underestimated. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to thank him for his service and dedication to keeping Queenslanders safe. I am sure there are a few crooks who are happy he is retiring too.

Of all the roles Golly has taken on, husband, father and grandfather are his most treasured. I am sure I speak on behalf of the Crisafulli government and all members in this place today when I say: Golly, enjoy fishing and your family, mate.

### Griffith University, Mount Gravatt Campus



**Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (2.30 pm): Since being elected, the Crisafulli government has worked to secure the future of Griffith University's Mount Gravatt campus. This is in contrast to the former Labor government, including the member for Mansfield, that was made aware of Griffith University's intention to vacate the site as early as 2021. What did they do? They did absolutely nothing. Those opposite left the students, parents and teachers of Yarranlea Primary School in limbo. Instead of addressing the issue when they could, they kicked the problem down the road and have spent the past few months spreading fear in the school community and using their time in this chamber and on social media to share innuendo and misleading insinuations.

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, you are coming to my attention again.

**Mr LAST:** This morning, I was proud to meet with staff, students and the parents and friends committee at Yarranlea to deliver the news that Labor never delivered. The Crisafulli government is stepping in and giving security to those families by securing the long-term future of the Yarranlea Primary School and nearby community and sporting facilities. We are backing the families at Yarranlea.

**Ms McMillan** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mansfield, I cautioned you earlier. You are warned.

**Mr LAST:** Today, we have issued an expression of interest for a new occupant of the site, under strict conditions that Yarranlea Primary School and the community and sporting facilities remain operational. Importantly, the deal will also protect neighbouring high-value bushland areas for future generations.

In September last year the member for Toohey made a bizarre statement in this chamber. He told the chamber—

The former Miles Labor government stood firmly with Yarranlea.

Since 2021, the Yarranlea school community has lived with the uncertainty of not knowing whether their children could continue learning in the environment they love. The member for Toohey, like the member for Mansfield, knew about Griffith University's plans since 2021 yet they failed to come up with a plan during the dying days of Labor's decade of decline.

I will take this opportunity to quote from a letter from Donna-Maree, the President of the Yarranlea Primary School Parents and Friends Committee, who I met with this morning. I table a copy of that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 11 February 2026, from the President, P&F Committee, Yarranlea Primary School, Ms Donna-Maree Ware, to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development, Hon. Dale Last, regarding the school's future [\[162\]](#).

Donna-Maree told me—

For several years, our community lived with uncertainty ... parents worked tirelessly to secure long-term tenure, giving nights and weekends to working bees, BBQs and community events to sustain the school.

That was the impact of the uncertainty left by the former Labor government. The 60 students at Yarranlea Primary School were not a priority for those opposite, neither were the teachers, the parents and the volunteers at the heart of the Yarranlea school community. They are a priority on our side of the House. As Donna-Maree told me this morning—

Your support provides certainty for families and allows our community to plan confidently for the years ahead. Your commitment has made a lasting and meaningful difference to our children and our community.

We have said from the start that the school and the community—

**Mr J Kelly** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, you are on the list. You are warned.

**Mr LAST:**—are here to stay. The Crisafulli government knows how much this school means to those families and how important the sporting infrastructure is for the Mount Gravatt community.

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Mr LAST:** Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government is delivering a plan for Queensland's future with the right solution for the site's future and the continued operation of Yarranlea Primary School.

### Training and Skills



**Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.34 pm): After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, I am pleased to update this House on yet another way the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering for Queensland, and doing what we said we would do. Our government is delivering a stronger Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, ensuring participants are equipped with the skills they need to secure the jobs of today and the future.

Today, I am pleased to share that 182 projects have received funding under the Crisafulli LNP government's latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. It is a \$45 million investment supporting more than 5,400 Queenslanders to gain job ready skills and prepare for employment in priority sectors, including health, construction and community services.

This week, National Apprenticeship Week, reminds us of the importance of initiatives like Skilling Queenslanders for Work in helping secure a pipeline of skilled workers to build Queensland's future. National Apprenticeship Week allows us to shine a spotlight on the broad range of opportunities that exist in Queensland for young people starting their learning journeys, as well as the reskilling and upskilling of those Queenslanders already in the workforce. There is so much we need to do after a decade of decline under the former Labor government.

We know Queensland is facing an array of workforce shortages, including a 50,000 worker shortfall in the construction industry in 2026-27. These critical workforce shortages did not just fall out of the sky. They are the result of 10 years of a failed government, 10 years of underinvestment in TAFE and the employment and training portfolio, and 10 years of Labor decline. That is why we invested \$1.6 billion in employment and training last year.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, cease your interjections.

**Ms BATES:** It is why we are delivering a \$201.1 million package to deliver new TAFE centres of excellence right across Queensland. We are, of course, also ensuring that free training is widely available in priority industries and areas of critical workforce need, while making changes to long-running programs to deliver better job outcomes and enhanced productivity. This stands in stark contrast to the record of those opposite.

It has been quite disappointing—although perhaps not surprising—the continued disinterest from the member for Cairns, the so-called shadow minister for jobs and training, in the good work this government is doing to save TAFE. The member for Cairns is more interested in defending hate speech and spreading mistruths.

I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering for the construction industry. Today, as I speak, we have more than 9,000 sparkies, almost 7,000 chippies and more than 3,000 plumbers in training.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, you are on the list. You are warned.

**Ms BATES:** We are working with industry, rebuilding TAFE and ensuring that under the Crisafulli LNP government there will be a pipeline of skilled workers for the future.

### Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.38 pm): Queenslanders have faced severe storms, extreme flooding and a tropical cyclone this summer and they have done so with the determination and resilience that our state is known for. I can assure Queenslanders that the Crisafulli government has been working nonstop throughout the summer to help impacted Queenslanders get back on their feet. Let us be clear, it is no small task.

Already 46 of 77 local governments have had disaster recovery activations to deal with the impact of these weather events. Over 2,600 personal hardship assistance support packages have been provided so far to Queenslanders needing a hand up. Working with the Commonwealth government, we have delivered over \$66 million worth of DRFA funding for category C and D packages. This forms just part of the work that the QRA and other agencies are doing as we seek to help Queensland communities. Let us not forget also the work of local governments over the past couple of months. I acknowledge the many mayors, councillors and CEOs I have been in regular contact with and working with to ensure they get the support they need for their communities.

I have had the opportunity to visit many of these impacted communities. I have been on the ground with the people in Winton, Julia Creek, Mackay, Gargett, Finch Hatton, Eungella, Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Rockhampton, Normanton and Einasleigh. I give a shout-out to our local members who have been working hard for their communities, especially the members for Gregory, Mirani, Rockhampton and Keppel who have been there with me. I have been there to ensure people are getting the help they need because the Crisafulli government has the disaster impacted communities as a priority, unlike what we saw over a decade of decline under Labor. Only the Crisafulli LNP government will back these communities and walk alongside them on the road to recovery.

### Primary Industries, Weather Events

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (2.40 pm): Queensland is no stranger to unpredictable and severe weather events. This is the fourth time since becoming minister that I have risen to inform the House about the impact of severe weather events on our primary producers and the communities they support. Across North-West and Central Queensland, primary producers have been impacted by the monsoon trough and ex-Tropical Cyclone Koji. Crops have been destroyed, livestock lost, roads cut and infrastructure, including fences, destroyed. More than 94,000 livestock are reported deceased or missing. This figure will continue to grow as assessments come in.

My department has received 408 disaster impact surveys: 75 per cent for lost livestock, 19 per cent for cropping, three per cent for horticulture and 1.5 per cent for fisheries. They cover 21 local government areas. We are in continual contact with industry peak bodies to understand the impact on primary producers.

I was on the ground and saw firsthand the devastation to affected producers and landholders. I met Richmond Mayor John Wharton, Cloncurry Mayor Greg Campbell, McKinlay shire Mayor Janene Fegan, as well as local graziers, council officers, vets and first responders. I was there with Local Government Association President Matt Burnett. Just over a week later, I returned to Julia Creek with the Premier to meet Mayor Janene Fegan and travelled to local grazier David Heslin's property to see firsthand the heartbreaking impact on stock and infrastructure. There is an immense emotional toll as primary producers saw their livelihoods destroyed. I saw it on their faces and heard it in their voices. The regions and their small communities rely heavily on the success of their primary producers. We must give them hope.

In partnership with the federal government, we have rapidly mobilised financial assistance and support for primary producers. A \$7 million Coordinated Emergency Support Package was established to help feed isolated and stranded stock. Freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 per property to move essential materials including fodder, building and fencing materials, machinery and animals for

restocking are available. Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to help with the recovery. We have expanded this grant to include vet fees and carcass disposal costs. Eligible vet fees associated with the health and welfare of production livestock, including callout charges and disposal costs, will be covered.

This government knows that disasters like this increase biosecurity risk, whether from dead and dying livestock or from the increase in pests. Feral pigs carry disease and are a significant pest for primary producers. To help prevent an explosion in feral pig numbers, we have engaged experienced aerial shooters to reduce feral pig numbers and other pests across the north-west. \$26.6 million is provided for long-term recovery including repairing or replacing damaged equipment, farm buildings and livestock, and replanting, restoring or re-establishing areas affected by the disaster. An \$11.32 million Primary Producer Support Package will provide care, including access to financial and human counselling, feral pest and locust management, and industry recovery and resilience officers. We have also provided more relief by deferring leasehold rents for up to 12 months for primary producers recovering from the disaster.

One of the most important tasks following such events is to make our communities and industries robust. We need to help them get back on their feet and give them the tools to do what they do best. It is clear the impact will be felt for years. It takes many years after a natural disaster to repair, rebuild and restock. I want to reassure the producers and farmers that we have their back. The Crisafulli government is in this with them for the long haul.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Comments by Member for McConnel, Correction and Apology

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (2.45 pm): On 11 December 2025 in a matter of privilege suddenly arising I stated 'before the election'. I should have said 'before the decision was made by the current government'. I correct the record and apologise to the House for the inadvertent error.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.45 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the member for Whitsunday for their failures in their ministerial duties to protect vulnerable Queensland children, victims of domestic and family violence and Queenslanders recovering from natural disasters.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will cease today at 3.45 pm.

### CleanCo

 **Mr MILES** (2.45 pm): My question is to the Minister for Energy. I table a now deleted LinkedIn post from CleanCo announcing the appointment of a new Executive General Manager—Development and Sustainability in January this year.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from LinkedIn, undated, titled 'CleanCo Queensland's Post' [163].

Can the minister confirm the successful appointee was terminated weeks later after the minister became aware of their appointment?

**Mr JANETZKI:** Those matters are confidential between CleanCo and the relevant employee. I want to acknowledge CleanCo and the work they do. It is an important job that they have in delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable power. I was there just last week. I thank the honourable member for the question because it does give me an opportunity to speak about the important work they are doing and in particular the Swanbank battery that I was there opening last week as part of our Energy Roadmap which supports reliability and stability of the grid when we need it most.

I look at the work that was undertaken with the Energy Roadmap and the leadership at CleanCo under Chair Sue and CEO Tom. The work they are doing is supporting the Energy Roadmap. That is important work that needs to be done. What those opposite left behind for us was a mess. Let's face it, the energy system under those opposite saddled us with a little thing called Pioneer-Burdekin, which was going to be \$36.8 billion—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. In starting his answer, the minister announced he would be irrelevant and continued to be irrelevant. If he has nothing relevant, I submit to you he should conclude his answer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order was on relevance. Resume your seat. Before I go back to the Treasurer, these points of order are way too long. It was on relevance. You said that at the beginning and that was all I needed to know. I believe that the minister, at the beginning, talked about commercial-in-confidence. I will go back to the minister. You have heard the question. You have 1½ minutes left, so you answer it to your ability.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will repeat: those matters are a matter of confidentiality between CleanCo and the relevant employee. Obviously the question is answered.

**Mr Fumer** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Ferny Grove, you are warned.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I have a minute and a half left. They may not want to hear what I am about to say, but they are going to get it anyway. They are going to get another minute on the Energy Roadmap. CleanCo, Stanwell, CS Energy—all our generators, transmission and distribution participants: their entire job is to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim!

**Mr JANETZKI:** I look at the Energy Roadmap and what it means for Queenslanders. We in this House often talk about—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mr JANETZKI:**—the technical delivery, generation and emissions. We talk about those technical issues.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under standing order 118(b).

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the Manager of Opposition Business's point of order, the Treasurer has answered the question on two occasions and he is now providing additional context to the question as asked.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order is relevant. If you have nothing more to say about the appointment of that general manager, we will move on to the next question.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I would like to take my 41 seconds to answer the question. I have talked about the technical aspects, but—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** As I said, answer the question or we will go to the next question.

**Mr JANETZKI:** What does the Energy Roadmap mean for Queenslanders? It delivers \$1,035 in savings—that is what it means for Queenslanders.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is deliberately disregarding your ruling on relevance under standing order 118(b).

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will go to the next question.

### CleanCo

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. The executive general manager terminated from CleanCo was also terminated from CS Energy in August 2025 under the Crisafulli-Bleijie government. Can the minister advise the total cost to taxpayers—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Could you start your question again? We will have it without any interruption.

**Mr MILES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Energy. The executive general manager terminated from CleanCo was also terminated from CS Energy in August 2025 under the Crisafulli-Bleijie government. Can the minister advise the total cost to taxpayers for the CleanCo independent recruitment process and any payouts following their termination from both roles?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will answer in a couple of different ways. Firstly, the member for Murrumba has clearly identified what it is. He said it—independent. The member for Murrumba has said it is an independent process and, yes, it is an independent process. It is entirely between CS Energy and the relevant employee. It is entirely between CleanCo and the relevant employee.

In relation to the costs and the circumstances of any exit from any employment relationship, it is appropriate for those matters to be undertaken in an independent way. Maybe it actually betrays how they used to operate. Does it actually betray how those opposite used to operate, that they would step in to matters like this? Maybe that is how they used to operate when Jim Soorley was chair of CS Energy. Maybe that is what happened. Maybe Jim would pick up the phone—

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, you are now warned. I was on my feet for quite some time. Treasurer, keep to the question. The noise level needs to drop.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Maybe it betrays their thinking over there. The question was clear. It is an independent process and relevant employee relationships between executives are matters for the relevant leaders of CleanCo, whether it be the board or the CEO in relation to senior executives or executive leadership teams. It is a matter for them to determine those matters.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

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

**Mr JANETZKI:** I assume from the tone of the question, from the subtext of the question, that independence was not on display there when those opposite were in government. Clearly, they must have known in relation to those matters. If there are relevant disclosures to be made, they will be made through the annual report process, as is the case. Again, that is an independent process, but maybe it was not independent under them. Maybe it was not an independent process and they would come in here and ask questions of a confidential nature about what went on between a board, a CEO and a relevant employee. On this side of the House, that is not how we operate.

### Productivity

**Mr STEVENS:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. How is the Crisafulli LNP government restoring productivity to Queensland, while treating workers and their families with respect, and is the Premier aware of any instances where bullying, intimidation and blowouts dominated during a decade of decline?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Mermaid Beach for what is clearly the best question of the day, the most relevant question of the day. It is the issue that people are talking about at the moment. There is massive pressure right now on people having the ability to have a place to call home. Everything we on this side are doing is focused on activating that supply. We want to get people into their home, and a big part of that is productivity.

What we have heard in recent hours from the CFMEU inquiry will send a shiver up the spine of every person in this state who wants to own a home, who wants to be able to afford a home and who wants workers to go to work, be productive and be safe. It shows a culture where the former government was prepared to put their interests ahead of the interests of Queenslanders. They were all warned. They have all been named. We listened to the names—Miles, Dick, de Brenni, Grace and Bailey. They were all named in the inquiry. Even former premier Palaszczuk was in the frame too. See what I have done? I used this overlay opportunity.

They were warned. They were warned about BPIC and they chose to ignore it. They did the bidding of their union masters. They put their political interests ahead of the interests of Queenslanders. It was either corruption or treason—take your pick. It was one of the two. They knew what it was doing. They were warned multiple times and still they progressed with it. It resulted in 77,000 fewer homes and up to \$38.6 billion in costs because Queensland infrastructure was not delivered on time or on budget. They were prepared to sacrifice it all for their mates in the CFMEU. Can you believe it? We are seeing it unfold.

Let's think about it from the perspective of the young tradie who wants to go to work, be safe, be productive and know that the next job will be there because the benefit-cost ratio stacks up. Let's think about the public servants whom they allowed to be bullied, intimidated and harassed because they put the interests of their mates over the interests of the people who serve. That is the culture, where the person who was in charge of setting their standard—the Manager of Opposition Business—was waving

at them from the balcony. He was waving. He took their applause. He took their money. They took opportunities from Queenslanders. Every day we have to reverse that culture and get productivity back on sites. That is what Queenslanders need.

*(Time expired)*

### Moah Creek Wind Farm

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. Following the decision of the Crisafulli-Bleijie government to terminate the Moah Creek Wind Farm project, will the minister confirm that taxpayers will be required to pay \$5 million in termination fees?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier and member for Woodridge, stop quarrelling. You will both be warned if you keep that up.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question because it gives me another opportunity to speak to the Energy Roadmap. We have been very clear about that—coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables. That is entirely what has been achieved with the Moah Creek Wind Farm. It gives an opportunity for the private sector. If that project was to stack up then the private sector, if they go through with the development process and engage with the community at Moah Creek, as the member for Mirani constantly argues for—and I want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Mirani in this process. He is a dogged fighter for his community to make sure their voices are heard. That is exactly what the Deputy Premier has been doing with his changes, making sure that the community impact is assessed and that their voices are heard. CleanCo made that decision as part of their strategic portfolio obligations, as part of their commercial activities. They undertook that assessment and they are not proceeding with my direct equity interjection into Moah Creek, but that does not mean that project will not stack up if the private sector so chooses.

The direct question is in relation to any other fees that may be payable. That will firstly be a matter for CleanCo. I note that on the same day the Moah Creek decision was announced they took up an opportunity in Kennedy Energy Park in the Traeger electorate. They picked up an offtake for a 43-megawatt wind farm up there, to make sure that is done. If there are any payments to be made, they will be made in accordance with contractual obligations.

Mr Speaker, let me tell you about a particular contractual obligation that those opposite do not want to talk about.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the Premier—which one? Let's start with hydrogen, shall we?

**Mr Bleijie:** He signed it!

**Mr JANETZKI:** The documents that they signed and the money that they wasted—they owe at least \$60 million to Twiggy. They signed up everything—the member for Murrumba and the member for Woodridge. They signed everything over to Twiggy.

**Mr Crisafulli:** Take me on your yacht!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes. 'Take me on your yacht. Let me be swept away in the Twiggy dream of hydrogen. Let us be swept away and to hell with the Queensland taxpayer.' They have to pick up the tab for \$60 million.

### Moah Creek Wind Farm

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. As Queenslanders face record power prices, will the energy minister advise the returns for the over \$50 million in taxpayer funds that have been spent on development fees for the Moah Creek Wind Farm?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

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

**Mr JANETZKI:** It is surprising that the honourable member gets an opportunity for a question and he does not really get to the nub of the most important question, and that is: what are the costs to Queenslanders under their failed energy plan compared to ours? How do we go about delivering affordable, reliable, sustainable power for Queenslanders? The Energy Roadmap—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The standing orders are very clear at 118(a)—that the answer should not debate the subject of the matter which the question pertained to. The minister has said he will answer some other question. His obligation is to be relevant to the question and not debate the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Standing order 118(a), Mr Speaker.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A number of times you have made rulings in relation to the Manager of Opposition Business when he rises to his feet to make a point of order to be concise and not to provide an opportunity for broad statements and a speech. I ask you to consider that matter.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will consider that. Minister, I know you are early into the answer but you have heard the question.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The question for Queenslanders is most clear: which plan would deliver lower power bills? We have been clear about our plan. It will deliver \$1,035 in less cost for households over the period of the Energy Roadmap. We have been absolutely clear.

In respect of our approach to renewables, we have been very clear about that, too. We want private sector investment. I regularly meet with proponents of renewable projects encouraging them to come to Queensland.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

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

**Mr JANETZKI:** CleanCo, CS Energy and Stanwell are always engaging with proponents and potential developers of projects. They make their commercial decisions in accordance with their commercial parameters and in line with their strategic objectives. We have been very clear about the private sector component. We want to see renewables here in Queensland. We know that it is very successful. We have 4.7 gigawatts of renewable wind and solar under construction or financially committed in Queensland. That is a gig more than any other jurisdiction in the country. That shows the appetite that Queensland—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Now the minister is in defiance of standing order 118(b).

**Ms Bates:** Sit down—frivolous points of order.

**Mr de BRENNI:** The answer is not relevant to the question.

**Mr Bleijie:** Another speech.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on. I am going to get some advice here.

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

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Did you have a further point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Yes, I have another point of order, Mr Speaker. You have made it clear to this House that when members in this place have risen to address you on a point of order—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:**—it is your expectation that you will hear those points of order in silence. Consistently, members opposite interject.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, and I will look after the House. Just before we do go back to the minister—you have heard the question and it was around renewable energy—Minister Bates, you know that I hear points of order in silence. I did not need all of that interjecting, so I am going to warn you as well. Minister, do you have more to add?

**Mr JANETZKI:** If there are costs associated with any government owned corporation in relation to their commercial arrangements from exiting a process, exiting a contract, of course those costs will be made appropriately, in accordance with the contractual terms. Again, what are those opposite suggesting—that contracts aren't to be honoured through government owned corporations or otherwise?

Those opposite would know all about exit costs from contracts. I think about the Stanwell contract when I was asked to contribute an additional billion dollars towards a speculative hydrogen project in January last year. The decision was made not to proceed with that because we did not put the precious Queensland taxpayer dollar at risk. We had made the call that it was inappropriate to do so, and accordingly those costs were made.

### Productivity

**Ms MORTON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the Deputy Premier inform how the Crisafulli LNP government is restoring productivity on worksites and respect for taxpayers' money, and how does this contrast with the decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Caloundra for the question. I say to honourable colleagues that the member for Springwood seems a little touchy today. I wonder why the member for Springwood is feeling a bit touchy. I want to quote from the—

**Opposition members:** Prop!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Put it down or table it.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I wear contacts. I have terrible eyesight. I cannot read it if I put it down.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Put it down like that. That will do.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I quote: 'Inquiry told ALP ministers let CFMEU heavies crank up construction costs.'

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is still a prop. Lie it down out of sight.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Then it says, 'Labor's costly legacy.' When you look at the touchiness of the member for Springwood today—just be thankful, mate, that your photo is not as big as the member for Miller's which is in the paper—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There are a number of things. That was being used as a prop. We do not use props. We use correct titles as well, so use correct titles. If you could direct your comments through me instead of through the rest of the room that would be wonderful.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order, if I may. I suffer an eye condition. I wear contacts. I am blind as a bat. I understand the rules: you can read from a document. I literally cannot read it if I put it on my desk. I need it close. I have a condition—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gladstone, you are on a warning. I was taking a point of order. You can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gladstone withdrew from the chamber at 3.10 pm.*

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I have astigmatism. I have keratoconus in my eyes. I wear contacts. I am blind as a bat and I cannot read it if I put it on my desk.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have the call.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I understand why the member for Springwood is a bit touchy today bearing in mind that yesterday he was named in a royal commission into the CFMEU, as was the member for Murrumba, the member for McConnel, the member for Miller and the member for Woodridge. There are so many questions former Labor ministers must answer.

Yesterday in the royal commission evidence was given that Labor ministers were warned about it, including at the time premier Palaszczuk, and they choose to do nothing for years. Not only that, but former minister de Brenni's department wrote to Michael Ravbar asking which construction companies' contractors should get the job of the CFMEU. A department would not have done that without a ministerial direction. It also went on to say that former minister Mark Bailey give a direction that his department ought to negotiate directly with the CFMEU. There are so many questions to answer. There are so many former Labor ministers—

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Inala, you are also on a warning, so you can also leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Inala withdrew from the chamber at 3.12 pm.*

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The LNP government is taking the issue of the CFMEU seriously. Yesterday there was a protest out the front of Parliament House. In that protest there was a big CFMEU flag being waved right out the front of Parliament House. Guess who stood near the CFMEU flag only yesterday while the royal commission was naming these people: deputy opposition leader Cameron Dick and opposition leader Steven Miles. We have another one here of opposition leader Steven Miles. We have another one here of shadow treasurer Fentiman in front of the CFMEU flag. We have another one here of the shadow minister, the member for Bundaberg, in front of the CFMEU flag. They still defend the CFMEU. They protest with the CFMEU. It is disgusting. They owe it to Queenslanders to explain themselves before they get hauled before the royal commission. I table those.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs depicting union protests [164].

*(Time expired)*

### Integrity in Government

**Mr McDONALD:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. Will the Attorney-General outline the importance of upholding integrity, especially in public office, and can the Attorney outline any alternative approaches during a decade of decline?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I do thank the member for Lockyer for this very important question about integrity in government. For the last decade under the former Palaszczuk-Miles government we saw zero examples of integrity, and I remind this House of 2017. There is no greater example of the lack of integrity over the decade of decline than what we are seeing right now with the CFMEU commission of inquiry. If we go right back—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Scandalous.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is scandalous—I take that interjection. It is disgraceful. There is so much being reported about the lack of integrity by those opposite for us even to get it into question time.

Back in 2017 I stood in this House and called out the then Palaszczuk government and the member for Waterford for their close connection to the CFMEU. I even tabled a document where the member for Waterford was saying to the CFMEU, ‘Thank you very much for having me.’ That was back in 2017. I thought that maybe she has changed—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Stop. We have had too many props. If you want to table documents, table them. We have had enough of props.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I table it.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 6 February 2015, from the Facebook page of the CFMEU, regarding the election of the member for Waterford [165].

I did table it back in 2017. I thought that surely the former minister for women, the member for Waterford, has changed her ways. Surely she sees what is happening with the CFMEU. Surely the former minister for women thinks, ‘I’m going to stand up for women on construction sites.’ Surely the former minister for women would say, ‘Enough is enough. We must support women in this state.’ We have words like this coming out of the CFMEU: ‘Come out here and I’ll [unparliamentary] you’; ‘There’s a bullet with your name on it’; ‘We’re going to get you’; and ‘We know you have two young sons.’ What about this one, former minister for women: ‘How does it feel to know that your mum is an effing’—

**Honourable members:** Oh!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am reading it—‘[unparliamentary] grub.’

**Mrs Gerber** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Currumbin, you know what I am going to say. You are on the list.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** For all of the fake outrage today, where is that post from 2017? Not only is it still on the page but the name ‘Shannon Fentiman’ has changed to ‘Shannon Maree’ with this proudly still at the end of the post. It always says, ‘Never forget your roots, Shannon.’ Honestly, that says it all in relation to how the Labor Party treats women in construction in this place.

*(Time expired)*

### Yurika, Workers

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. Yurika, a part of Energy Queensland, has been dissolved under the Crisafulli-Bleijie government. Can the minister guarantee that all 571 Yurika workers have been retained?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question. We have made it clear that we back Energy Queensland and subsidiary companies. There are commitments to all employment being maintained. In fact, we have made it clear how much we invest in, how much we respect and how much we support Energy Queensland with a record \$2.74 billion investment in the budget into the work of Energy Queensland. We are still in the midst of it, but we know the work that Energy Queensland does, particularly over the summer in supporting Queensland communities to get their power back on. It does not matter if you are in the Ergon network or Energex in South-East Queensland, Energy Queensland gets the lights back on quickly and they do the job extraordinarily well.

We are continuing to invest in Energy Queensland. We want to make sure they are continuing to invest in their people and their capital. That is why we put in a record investment into the budget in 2025 to make sure that work continues. We are going to continue to do that because they are such an important part of our energy framework, whether it is generation, distribution or transmission.

I am going to take this opportunity—because it is an important message to send on behalf of the GOC minister, Minister Bates, as well—to support our government owned corporations in the role they play right across Queensland, obviously in the storm season by getting the lights back for people when they need it most and helping vulnerable communities right across Queensland. I applaud all of the staff members who do such an extraordinary job under very trying circumstances. There are often power outages and it is extraordinarily difficult for people. It is important they get that power back on, and Energy Queensland delivers.

As I said, whether it is the Ergon network in the regions or the Energex network in South-East Queensland, it is an important investment that we are continuing to make. We honour our government owned corporations that do such an extraordinary job in generation, distribution and transmission, and we will continue to have their back and continue to invest in what they do to help keep the lights on for Queenslanders no matter where they may be in the energy supply chain.

### Housing Supply

**Mr BAROUNIS:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering more housing across Queensland, and is the minister aware of any approaches that delivered less housing while costs ballooned during a decade of decline?

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I thank the member for Maryborough for that excellent question. His community, like many communities across Queensland, is struggling with the housing crisis. In his community median rents over Labor's decade of decline nearly doubled, and that is why the member for Maryborough was elected: to deliver the change that his community wanted to see.

The member can inform his community that one of the reasons they are experiencing this housing crisis is that Labor created a construction system that favoured the CFMEU over Queenslanders. We saw the devastating impact of those policies of the former Labor government outlined in our Queensland Productivity Commission's report. We have had 77,000 fewer homes delivered across our state because of declines in productivity on construction sites. Imagine what the housing situation would look like right now in Queensland if we had another 77,000 homes.

If BPIC had continued over the next five years, we would have had 26,500 fewer homes delivered. That was unacceptable to us. We heard shocking evidence yesterday at the CFMEU commission of inquiry that BPIC cost Queensland between \$13 billion and \$40 billion. That is because, while Labor were entrenching CFMEU influence in procurement, housing supply was collapsing. The worst part about this is that they were warned. They were told repeatedly by industry that if they went down this path it would have a devastating impact on our construction industry. That is being felt by all Queenslanders who are struggling to have a roof over their head. As the Deputy Premier outlined earlier, there were just a few hundred CFMEU approved subcontractors who were allowed to bid for government projects and that massively increased the cost to deliver things.

We are turning things around. In the member for Maryborough's community and across the Fraser Coast, we have 89 social and community homes under contract or construction and we have delivered 39 since we were elected. We have RAF projects underway in his beautiful part of the world. Just this morning we welcomed our largest intake of QBuild apprentices in 25 years; it was the largest intake since 2002. These 79 apprentices include new apprentices for the Maryborough community who will be working on the homes, schools, police stations and other government assets in that beautiful part of Queensland.

We have scrapped BPIC permanently. We have overhauled government procurement. We are delivering our Building Reg Reno. We are restoring productivity. We are delivering the homes the former Labor government could not. We are getting Queensland back on track and delivering the homes that our people deserve.

### QCN Fibre

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. QCN Fibre is being dissolved under the Crisafulli-Blejje government. Can the minister guarantee that high-speed internet and phone coverage will be delivered as part of the CopperString project?

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, I can. We are showing our good faith towards CopperString through the Energy Roadmap. It is an excellent opportunity to make sure we can send the clearest possible message in relation to this important project. It is a state-building project. It is a project that never would have been delivered under those opposite. We know the cost blowouts under those opposite, where it started at \$1.8 billion and then went to \$5 billion then \$6.2 billion then \$9 billion and then \$13.9 billion. We had a constant expansion in cost due to their failure to plan appropriately and actually land an appropriate business case to have it delivered. We know those challenges, and when we stepped in at the start of this term we knew that it was important to get it right. The Energy Roadmap absolutely solidifies that now as we move ahead with CopperString.

CopperString is a vitally important project that is going to be built all the way from Townsville to Mount Isa. We have said clearly how we are going to have it delivered, and we know the economic case that underpins it, including the renewables in the eastern limb in particular. I have already mentioned Kennedy Energy Park during question time today. We know the opportunities for solar and wind investment there and we have proponents there. That is where CleanCo is so important, picking up that 43-megawatt offtake from the Kennedy Energy Park. There will be more investment into that area. We also have critical minerals in the west. There are significant opportunities and projects in Queensland that are now being invested in because of the certainty and stability that the Crisafulli government is delivering through its CopperString plan.

I look back to the budget. We have said that we want to attract private sector capital. Even when those opposite were in government, they said they wanted to attract private sector capital to this project and get the private sector involved. We have continued to commit a record amount of funding in the budget for it. I announced \$2.4 billion in the budget to get CopperString built, so that is an important government investment. We are investing state money into this nation-building infrastructure project. That is the importance we see in it, and I know that the people in the Traeger electorate see the importance in it as well. That is why the state is investing in it, and that is why delivering CopperString is a priority for this government. We are absolutely committed to it, as seen by the investment we have made and the attraction of capital that we are seeing. All of this is in stark contrast to those opposite, who never would have delivered it.

### Productivity

**Mr G KELLY:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is restoring productivity to major infrastructure sites, and is the minister aware of any approaches that caused cost and timeframe blowouts during a decade of decline?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. It is great to see a member for Mirani tirelessly advocating for his community. Whether it is our \$9 billion investment in the Bruce Highway, our Country Roads Connect Program, the Stanwell Waroula Road or the Beef Roads program and May Downs Road, the member for Mirani is delivering for his community—unlike those opposite. For the 10 years they were in power they delivered for the CFMEU at the expense of Queenslanders. In the portfolio that I now have responsibility for, it is writ large. Let's look at Cross River Rail. Originally, they said it was going to be \$5.4 billion. As a consequence of the CFMEU and incompetent Labor ministers who were not across their brief, it is now \$19 billion. That is their record. They said it would be finished in 2024 but it will now be 2029. They knew it but they hid it from Queenslanders. That is their record.

It begs the question: why did this arise? We all suspected it, but some of it was writ large yesterday in front of the commission of inquiry. Evidence was presented yesterday which showed that the government were warned. The Labor ministers in my portfolio—then minister Mellish and then minister Bailey—were warned that BPIC would drive up the cost of transport and infrastructure projects

here in Queensland. They knew it but they hid it because they chose to side with their CFMEU mates over Queenslanders. The Productivity Commission report has it writ large that it would have cost Queenslanders \$20.6 billion extra for the same infrastructure to the end of this decade.

Damian Long from the Civil Contractors Federation said that it is quite bizarre that you had the state government doing the bidding of the unions like the CFMEU. It begs the question: was this a one-off instance or do they have form? All of us in this room know that they have form. We all remember mangocube. We all remember the then minister for transport and main roads taking his riding instructions from the ETU. He was 'their minister'; they put him there.

We know that those opposite will always side with the unions over Queenslanders. Whether it is the CFMEU or the ETU, they will put their mates ahead of the interests of Queenslanders and it is Queenslanders who will pay the price. By contrast, we are getting on with the job of delivering the major infrastructure, the generational infrastructure, that Queenslanders need and Queenslanders deserve. Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, a project they said they cared about, blew out from \$2.6 billion on under them to \$5.75 billion when we inherited it, and they had not started it. We are getting on with it. Mooloolah River Interchange blew out under them. They did not even start, but we are getting on with it. When we inherited Cross River Rail, productivity was at two days a week. It is now at five—

*(Time expired)*

### CopperString

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership. Given CopperString was developed to address gouging by a single privately owned power generator, will the Treasurer categorically rule out handing the CopperString project to private ownership?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I thank the honourable member for the question and I thank the member for Traeger for his consistent advocacy for the project. As I have just answered—and I will furnish him with some more information in addition to my last answer—yes, it is an important investment into Queensland's future. I know our members on this side of the House see how important it is as well, whether it be the members for Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra or Hinchinbrook—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Burdekin doesn't mind it, either.

**Mr JANETZKI:**—and Burdekin does not mind it, either. I take the interjection from the Premier. More important than anything, there is a commitment from this side of the House to have this project delivered.

As I have mentioned in my previous answer to the member for Stretton, there is a significant state investment into this. There is significant state ownership, significant state investment and significant state oversight in this project through the QIC's involvement. Also obviously we are getting Powerlink to get on with the job, to paraphrase the member for Buderim's favourite phrase. We need to get on with the job. In fact—

**Mr O'Connor:** And we will do it in a calm and considered and methodical way.

**Mr JANETZKI:** We will do it in a calm and methodical way as well. I say to the member for Traeger that next week I am visiting the CopperString site again. I will be there personally again next week. I have not been to CopperString since the Energy Roadmap, but I want to send a clear message of support for the project to my members, to him as the member for Traeger and, importantly, to the communities he represents along the CopperString line. I will be there meeting and having more to say about the progress.

The North West Energy Fund, that \$200 million fund that we announced in the Energy Roadmap, is an important part of that CopperString line as well. Obviously we have the renewables investment east of Hughenden. We have the extraordinary and plentiful opportunities for critical minerals at Hughenden West. We have the over \$2 billion investment from Harmony Gold into Eva Copper. That is a crucial mineral for the future. We are seeing that kind of investment into Eva Copper and into that half a trillion dollars worth of critical minerals in that North West Minerals Province. That is an extraordinary opportunity. The \$200 million North West Energy Fund will be part of providing those energy solutions for some of those key projects along the line, whether they be critical minerals in the north-west or whether it be supporting power stability and generation within the remote townships the member represents.

All in all, we are absolutely determined to keep state involvement, state ownership and a state management process involved in this because we want to deliver this project as much as the member for Traeger does.

## Housing Supply

**Mr HUTTON:** 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 unlocking more housing across the state, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any approaches that kept land locked up during a decade of decline?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for Keppel for the question. Unlike my honourable colleague the Treasurer, who does everything in a calm and methodical way, as the transport minister says, we just 'get on with it, brother'. We are just building houses right across the state in a very calm and methodical way. We have the bulldozers and the excavator. We just get on with it, as the transport minister says.

In the honourable member's electorate he is a big supporter of the RAF, not to be confused with what we have been talking about, the LAP—the Land Activation Program. We have the \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund, which is unlocking land right across the state. There is \$2 billion in RAF funding including in Yeppoon in the honourable member's electorate, where there are to be 1,500 new homes. In Central Queensland, due to the advocacy of the members for Rockhampton and Mirani there are 1,500 new homes at Parkhurst in Rockhampton, unlocking up to 3,600 homes.

The benefit of the Residential Activation Fund is that at least 50 per cent will be spent outside of South-East Queensland. We had 178 applications seeking a total of \$1.79 billion in funding. We doubled round 1 to a billion dollars. We put the money out after the budget. The councils and the private sector are getting on with the job and building that infrastructure so then the houses will come. I can announce today that I have signed off on round 2 guidelines. As we speak, they are live on the worldwide web. People can go on there. Within the next couple of weeks we are going to open applications for round 2 of the Residential Activation Fund.

The member asks: what were the problems of housing delivery in the state? There are two easy answers. One: the Labor Party Queensland—and the Labor Party federally I might add—and the decade of decline. I was out at the opposition leader's electorate today. I have done more in housing for the people of Murrumba in this 1½ years of the Crisafulli government than the member for Murrumba did when he was the premier, which was nothing. There was a vacant block of land. We are delivering houses.

The second thing that has held up housing and land supply across the state is the CFMEU and the BPIC, the Best Practice Industry Conditions, aka Labor's CFMEU tax, which has been highly exposed in the royal commission into the CFMEU. Former Labor ministers have been exposed in the media today and in the royal commission yesterday and not one of them has done a press conference. I think it is disgusting that they did not answer questions yesterday as to why they were mentioned at the royal commission yesterday. They chose to go to a rally backing the CFMEU while their names were being mentioned in a royal commission into corruption in the CFMEU. It just shows they owe their political life to the CFMEU. Whilst they have individually been named down the road in a court in a royal commission, they are out the front standing with a CFMEU flag. Times are changing on construction sites. Productivity is coming back and so is safety.

*(Time expired)*

## Energy Queensland

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. Can the minister confirm that 150 Energy Queensland frontline energy workers contracted to keep the lights on after natural disasters will lose their jobs under the Crisafulli-Bleijie government?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Could you repeat that question for me, please?

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. Can the minister confirm that 150 Energy Queensland frontline energy workers contracted to keep the lights on after natural disasters will lose their jobs under the Crisafulli government?

**Mr JANETZKI:** No. Mr Speaker, I want to spend the rest of my contribution reminding those opposite and the honourable member who has asked the question—and, frankly, we all know that he probably should not even be here given some of the things he has decided to repost. That is just the start of the problem for those opposite because the energy system that they ran, the energy system that they oversaw, led—

**Mr McCallum:** Answer the question.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I have already. The member should keep up. I already answered it in the first second. Keep up and listen. The energy system that they left us with—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, it would be much better if you direct all your comments through the chair.

**Mr JANETZKI:** The state that those opposite left the energy system in is the challenge that we have had to face coming into government. That they would ask a question like that after the damage they have done to the energy system in Queensland is frankly appalling. It is appalling because with the damage they have done they have set back—with Pioneer-Burdekin for instance, there was \$36.8 billion and Borumba went from \$14 billion to \$8 billion. Those opposite had run so many companies into the ground such as CS Energy, pulling out \$500 million in dividends in the last five years, when they should have been properly maintaining the energy system.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am going to assume it is relevance.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Yes, Mr Speaker. Under standing order 118(b), this is irrelevant.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is a fair point. It was around jobs and losing jobs.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I have already answered the question. It is not true, Mr Speaker. I said it within the first two seconds, but I am going to take the rest of my time because what those opposite had done to the energy system and the mess they had left it in meant that we had to deliver an Energy Roadmap when we did and in the way we did it because they failed to invest appropriately into the assets. They pulled out \$500 million from CS Energy when it should have been invested into maintaining the assets. They were chasing Twiggy's pipedream. They wanted to spend a billion dollars of taxpayer money when the rest of the world was walking away from hydrogen.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Earlier today in the time allowed for questions without notice to ministers you made it very clear to the Minister for Energy that if he had nothing further to contribute that was relevant then he should conclude his answer, and my point of order is that he has strayed from your ruling and this is irrelevant to the question under standing order 118(b).

**Mr SPEAKER:** Okay. I will have a look at the question again.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Treasurer is being relevant to the question as asked. He is providing detailed information and he is addressing elements of misinformation and disinformation. I would submit to you that the minister is being relevant and should continue in his response with the minute that he has left.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do find that the minister is giving some context around why those people will not be losing their jobs as I hear it, so in that vein, Treasurer, you have the call.

**Mr JANETZKI:** Those opposite wanted an additional billion dollars to tip into a pipedream of hydrogen that would never have been delivered—never, ever—and they were willing to put on the line hardworking taxpayers' dollars for the member for Murrumba's fantasy together with the member for Springwood. It was their fantasy with the Energy and Jobs Plan with 37 pictures—fairy lights and campsites. That was their Energy and Jobs Plan that they presented to the market. That was the seriousness with which they took the energy system. We on this side of the House take our energy system seriously because we need to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable power for Queenslanders. We are being honest about our approach. We have said coal for longer, more gas and private sector investment into renewables, and we are delivering it. We will continue to improve and invest in what we have while we build what we need for the future.

### Townsville, Mental Health Services

**Mr BAILLIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister outline how the Crisafulli government is fulfilling a key election commitment in delivering easier access to mental health care for young people in the Townsville region, and is the minister aware of any approaches that did not properly resource our healthcare system during a decade of decline?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have two minutes.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The question from the member for Townsville is the second-best question that has been asked here today. I want to thank the member for Townsville for his advocacy for easier access to health services for North Queensland, supported of course by the members for Mundingburra and Thuringowa. It is a great trio and we always get together when I am up in Townsville to support those health services.

The LNP made a \$50 million commitment to young Queenslanders at the 2024 state election, and we are delivering. Thanks to the Crisafulli government, young people in North Queensland will have better access to life-saving mental health care with a new youth step-up step-down facility progressing at pace. Last week the members and I stood up in Townsville with the chair of the Townsville HHS, Tony Mooney, at the health service's Vincent campus to announce that another six beds will be delivered by the Crisafulli government for young people in North Queensland, and that is in addition to the six beds that we are going to be providing in Rockhampton for which the member for Rockhampton has been a strong advocate. Too many young people are ending up in hospital because the right care is not available or close enough to home and we are fixing that problem in rural and regional Queensland.

Regional health care was abandoned by Labor during its decade of decline and its solution was to make unfunded promises for headlines, not to deliver services. First we had to redesign Labor's failed plan for the Townsville University Hospital expansion. It was missing a sterilisation room and a bridge between services—the existing hospital and pharmacy—and was unable to be progressed due to a half-billion dollar blowout. We are also delivering the car park there and, because we have been able to save \$90,000 per space since we got rid of BPIC, we have increased the car park from 650 car-parking spaces to over a thousand—a 50 per cent increase. Our fully funded Hospital Rescue Plan is delivering for Townsville and regional Queensland. We are also delivering the staff to run it, with the largest graduate intake of doctors in the state's history announced earlier this year. Only the Crisafulli government is delivering health services for Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

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

## TRANSPORT AFFORDABILITY AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.45 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Fair Trading Act 1989, the Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulation 2017, the Fair Trading (Fuel Price Reporting) Regulation 2018 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026 [\[166\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026, explanatory notes [\[167\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[168\]](#).

I rise to introduce the Transport Affordability Amendment Bill 2026. It is a bill that does what it says on the tin. This bill aims to address the growing affordability pressures that Queenslanders are facing, specifically the cost of getting around. It is no secret that Queenslanders are struggling, be that with the rising price of groceries, rent, the mortgage, electricity, health care or education. The reality is that families are having to make harder choices more often. This bill goes directly to the cost of filling up the car to get to work, school, the shops or hospital and it speaks to the cost of catching public transport for those who rely on it each and every day, because transport is not optional. Getting to work or school every day is not a 'nice to have'; it is a necessity. For households across the state, particularly in those outer suburbs, regional cities and rural communities, it is unavoidable to pay these bills. When fuel prices spike or you need to pay your rego the same week as your rates, you just have to do it. The family budget absorbs the hit, often at the expense of other essentials. This is the problem we are seeking to address.

This bill does two clear and practical things. Firstly, it introduces a fairer fuel-pricing framework for Queensland—a framework that puts an end to extreme price spikes and restores basic predictability at the bowser. Secondly, it locks in Labor's 50-cent public transport fares in legislation, ensuring that this proven cost-of-living measure cannot be quietly wound back or cut behind closed doors.

This is not symbolic legislation. This is not aspirational; it is practical, targeted and grounded in evidence. Members do not have to take my word for it: the RACQ has long been advocating for targeted intervention in the Queensland fuel price market, because for far too long it is Queenslanders' hip pockets that have been pumped at the petrol station. Specifically, Brisbane motorists are paying more for petrol than drivers in any other capital city. It is an award we have received three years in a row, but it is hardly a gong to write home about. It is because we have this extended and unregulated fuel price cycle that is controlled by major companies looking to extort the unique conditions we have here in

Queensland, meaning we are faced with sharper peaks, longer periods of high prices and greater uncertainty for those trying to time their fill-ups. It is a fuel price cycle that disadvantages Queenslanders who are already struggling with affordability.

The RACQ's own analysis has shown that unleaded retail margins in Brisbane are more than double those in Perth. On top of that, our fuel price cycle lasts about six weeks, meaning Queenslanders only have about eight chances to get cheap petrol per year. Imagine having to wait six weeks to fully fill the tank again. It is just impossible for the people who rely on their car to get around. In comparison, the Adelaide price cycle lasts about 2½ weeks and in Perth it is a weekly cycle—that is, 52 chances each year to get cheaper petrol. In other words, the difference is not explained by geography, supply chains or global oil prices alone. Simply, it is explained by the price-setting decisions of retailers. Crucially, the RACQ has been very clear about the solution. In 2025 the RACQ said—

There is absolutely no reason why drivers in Brisbane should be paying so much ... to fill up their cars compared to drivers in other capital cities. This is why we're calling for the State Government to regulate the market and impose a five-cent cap on fuel price increases to bring an end to dramatic and unjustified margins.

They have called for regulation to cap daily fuel price increases. While the Premier has said his government was 'looking into it', it has now been over 12 months and there has been crickets from the government. Now is the time for action because if you live in an area without frequent public transport, you drive; if you work shifts, travel between job sites or live outside major centres, you drive; if you have caring responsibilities, mobility needs or limited transport options, you drive; and when fuel prices spike unpredictably those families are left with no buffer.

What those families need is action not a slogan. That is exactly what this bill does. Under this bill fuel retailers will be required to publish their fuel price for the following day by 2 pm. Fuel prices cannot increase by more than five cents per litre from the previous day's lowest price. Once that price is set it cannot be increased for the full 24-hour period. Retailers can still drop prices during the day, but if they do that lower price becomes that new baseline. Simply put, this legislation ends the ability to jack up prices by 20, 30 or even 60 cents overnight; this legislation provides certainty to consumers about what they will pay tomorrow; and this legislation preserves competition by allowing retailers to undercut each other but not to exploit sudden spikes.

This model builds on reforms already introduced by Labor in Queensland, including real-time fuel price reporting. It takes transparency and turns it into protection. It is informed by what works elsewhere. Western Australia has long required fuel retailers to lock in prices for a 24-hour period. This result has been lower margins and more stable pricing for motorists. The difference in outcomes is clear. Queensland motorists pay more because Queensland motorists are exposed to greater volatility and weaker protections.

This bill does not ask a misbehaving market to change voluntarily, it does not assume competition alone in a concentrated market will solve the problem, it sets clear rules and enforces them. That is as important here in Brisbane as it is in Beaudesert, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns or the cape, because fuel affordability is not just a metro issue. In regional and remote areas Queenslanders rely on their cars more than ever. There are longer distances and fewer alternatives—and that is not just for the school run or the daily commute. It could be for getting to the doctor, to uni, to TAFE or to the job site.

When prices spike for no good reason other than a major company wanting to cash in, it is our regional communities who feel it first. I cannot guarantee that this bill will eliminate price differences between regions, but it does seek to stamp out volatility and prevent unjustified daily increases everywhere in the state. It is a baseline protection for all Queenslanders regardless of postcode. I think that is a fair way to go about things, don't you, Mr Deputy Speaker?

The second major pillar of this bill is the protection of Labor's 50-cent public transport fares. Queensland Labor introduced 50-cent fares in 2024. It was a nation-leading reform and it worked. Public transport patronage increased significantly. Queenslanders saved money and people travelled more often. It is so successful that the Crisafulli LNP government has tried to rebadge it and claim it as their own. If I had 50 cents for every time the LNP tried to claim 50-cent fares I would be back to paying full fares and then some. It is a good thing Queenslanders can see right through the blue washing. Fifty cent fares were criticised for being a gimmick, an election ploy, but we knew what it was and what could be done. It was cost-of-living relief delivered on a statewide and nation-leading scale.

The LNP might say that they have locked in permanent 50-cent fares, but right now there is nothing stopping this government, or any future government, from quietly increasing public transport fares. There would not even be a peep. To people who rely on 50-cent fares to balance their weekly budget that uncertainty matters. Families who have built public transport into their weekly budget deserve to know that the rules will not change overnight. Under this bill if a government wishes to

increase public transport fares above 50 cents it cannot do so by executive decision alone. It must provide at least 28 days notice and it must bring a motion before this House that would be debated and voted on. That is transparency. That is accountability. This is an opportunity for the government to practise what they preach, an opportunity to lock in Labor's 50-cent fares. Will the Premier play politics or will he squib it? Will he get behind this straightforward measure? If the government believes fares should rise, it should be prepared to explain why openly, publicly and on the record.

This bill ensures that any decision to increase fares is not hidden in a regulation or implemented without scrutiny. Transport affordability is not just about dollars and cents; it is about trust. Queenslanders have seen too many examples of promises made and quietly walked away from—from this LNP government specifically. By legislating these protections this bill provides certainty. It tells Queenslanders that relief measures that they rely on will not disappear without a fight.

On this side of the House we have a strong track record of supporting Queenslanders in need. Under Labor, a record cost-of-living budget was handed down which helped every single Queensland household. It was Labor that provided \$1,000 off every Queensland's power bill. That is a measure that was not continued under this LNP government. It was Labor that reduced registration costs by 20 per cent—again another measure that was not continued by this LNP government. In fact, they went even further by jacking up rego costs by an extra 3.4 per cent, essentially overseeing an almost 24 per cent hike in rego costs on the LNP's watch.

We know those opposite have a track record of cuts. Right now the LNP might be more focused on patching the cracks in their party room, but on this side of the House we are focused on delivering real outcomes for real Queenslanders. Filling up the car should not be a game of beating the bowser. It should be a consistent and fair system. No government, current or future, should be able to wind back 50-cent fares without a really good reason.

With the introduction of this bill our team will be going out to Queenslanders to see what they think. We want to see their voices elevated on the issue of transport affordability. We want to see what the government has to say on the issue. Now is their chance to stop the price gouging and support real action to drive down the cost of transport here in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.55 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

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

### LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.01 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 33:**

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

**KAP, 1—**Knuth.

**NOES, 51:**

**LNP, 51—**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, Vorster, Young.

Pair: Watts, Linard.

Resolved in the negative.

## YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 10 December 2025 (see p. 3998).

### Second Reading



**Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025 is the first step towards delivering stronger bail laws in this state. This bill makes electronic monitoring for youth on bail permanent and statewide, removes age restrictions and simplifies the matters a court must have regard to when ordering an electronic monitoring condition.

I introduced this bill on 10 December 2025 and it was referred to the Education, Arts and Communities Committee for consideration. I thank the committee for their consideration of this bill—in particular, the chair of the committee and member for Keppel—and acknowledge the entire committee for their hard work in deliberating on and reviewing the bill. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all of the stakeholders, organisations, victims and witnesses who took the time to make a submission or appear before the committee to inform the committee's deliberations. The committee has made one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

The Crisafulli government promised to restore safety where you live and reduce the number of victims of crime in this state after a decade of decline under the former Labor government. We are delivering on that promise with some of the strongest youth bail electronic monitoring laws in the country. For a decade, Labor weakened our youth crime laws, made detention a last resort, removed breach of bail as an offence and created a generation of serious hardcore repeat offenders. 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 unseen and unprotected. Year after year under the former Labor government, Queenslanders called for change as youth crime skyrocketed and victim numbers rose.

On Australia Day 2021, a tragedy that we know all too well occurred when Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son, Miles, were killed by a youth offender who had an extensive rap sheet and was driving a stolen car while high and out on bail. In the weeks and months that followed, Queenslanders called for stronger laws and consequences for actions. Labor's response was two botched electronic monitoring trials that were so narrow and so restrictive that only four youth offenders were ordered to wear a device in the first year.

Labor's first failed trial attempt was in 2021. The policy was poorly designed and even more poorly implemented. The trial was so narrowly constrained that it was designed to fail from the outset. The eligibility criteria were overly restrictive, it was limited to just five locations in Queensland and the court's ability to impose electronic monitoring was confined to a small cohort of youth aged 16 and over. A year later, the consequences of that botched trial were laid bare, with Labor's own interim evaluation labelling the trial 'limited' and 'restrictive'. The number of youths ordered to wear a device was so low that their own review of the trial determined its effectiveness could not be determined.

Rather than addressing the fundamental design flaws, Labor made piecemeal changes to the legislation. In 2023 they extended the trial for another two years, lowering the minimum age from 16 to 15 and adding a further three locations. In August 2024, just months before the trial was set to expire, Labor again tinkered around the edges but notably failed to deal with the sunset clause.

In April 2025 we dealt with the sunset clause by extending the trial of electronic monitoring for 12 months to ensure a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of electronic monitoring of youth on bail. The independent evaluation has found that electronic monitoring for youth on bail works. It is associated with higher bail completion, reduced reoffending and lower victimisation. In fact, a youth ordered to wear a GPS device was 24 per cent less likely to reoffend.

The Crisafulli government will always put victims first, and that is why we are making electronic monitoring permanent and statewide and giving the courts the ability to order a youth who is released on bail to wear one. These new laws, alongside our early intervention and rehabilitation programs, will help break the cycle of repeat youth offending and make Queensland safer. This bill delivers a clear and deliberate shift away from the failed piecemeal approach of the former Labor government's botched trial of electronic monitoring. They never intended to make it permanent because they do not believe in strong youth crime laws.

Queenslanders want these laws. Throughout the committee process, we heard from stakeholders and victims of crime who had been let down by the previous Labor government, time and time again. They told us they want to feel safe and they want their rights prioritised. Sharon Guest from Cairns said—

My daughter was stabbed ... and left for dead ... They told me she might not live. She is a victim but the perpetrator seems to get more rights.

Trudy Reading, the Director and Chief Advocacy Officer for the Voice for Victims Foundation, said—

Too often the impact of legislation changes on victims is overshadowed by concerns about protecting the rights of offenders. While many offenders make a conscious choice to offend and must accept the consequences of that choice, victims suffer harm through no fault of their own and are rarely afforded the same consideration.

The Crisafulli government has listened to the voices of victims and we have acted. Under our government, the rights of victims will always come before the rights of offenders. This bill ensures that youth justice laws meet community expectations. In their submission to the committee, the Voice for Victims Foundation stated—

Electronic monitoring ... could have prevented incidents by enabling earlier intervention and more informed responses by authorities.

They further stated—

For victim-survivors, this measure represents:

- increased confidence in the justice system
- reassurance that serious risks are being actively managed
- a tangible acknowledgment of the harm caused by repeat offending

Natalie Merlehan, a director of the Voice for Victims Foundation, said—

... I was a victim of a violent youth crime incident almost five years ago—

We know her story and that of the member for Capalaba all too well. She said—

... three lives were lost, mine was profoundly changed and he caused long-term damage to a number of people ... I would have welcomed the option of an EMD being used for someone such as that repeat offender because I became a victim through a lack of requirement of meaningful ... rehabilitative supports, as well as monitoring.

I want to thank all of the victims of crime who made their voices heard during the committee process. I reassure them that they have a government that is listening, acting and prioritising their rights.

The evaluation found that a youth ordered to wear a GPS device was 24 per cent less likely to reoffend. By reducing reoffending we will reduce the number of victims of crime. The evaluation also found that electronic monitoring can improve a youth's compliance with their bail conditions and help our frontline workers to detect and respond to breaches. Some youth said that their electronic monitoring device served as a physical reminder of their bail conditions or the surveillance they were under and they feared that if they offended while wearing an EMD they would be caught immediately. When asked about the effects of wearing an electronic monitoring device, one youth said—

Now I think more about what I am doing. I say no to meeting my mates when they are out, and I have complied with all of my conditions.

Recently another youth, a 16-year-old in Cairns, was ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device as part of their bail. They did not reoffend and, in fact, complied with their conditional bail obligations 100 per cent of the time.

The electronic monitoring of youth on bail has shown that it can reduce reoffending. That is why we are expanding our strong youth bail monitoring laws statewide and equipping our courts with the tools they need to impose electronic monitoring on a youth on bail where it is appropriate, to ensure community safety. Of course, an electronic monitoring device needs network coverage to work and that is built into the bill as a necessary requirement in order for it to be a condition of bail. In their submission to the committee, Voice for Victims Foundation stated—

A statewide framework ensures consistency, fairness, and equal protection for communities across Queensland.

The bill also simplifies the eligibility criteria. Under Labor, youth needed to meet a shopping list of eligibility criteria to even be considered for a device. They had to be between 15 and 17 years old, live in one of the few areas prescribed under Labor, be heard by a court in only a handful of locations, charged with only certain prescribed indictable offences and have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence or charged with a prescribed indictable offence in the last 12 months. Those were the restrictions and limitations that Labor put on electronic monitoring in this state. Labor's parameters were so restrictive, only a small cohort were even given a device. Labor set the trial up to fail.

We are removing Labor's restrictive eligibility criteria and simplifying the matters a court must consider in order to impose an electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail. This bill means courts can impose an electronic monitoring device for any youth offender aged 10 to 17 who comes before them, including first-time offenders. But let me be 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 offender bail, this bill allows the courts to also order that youth wear an electronic monitoring device.

Whilst there were stakeholders that opposed this strong measure of allowing an electronic monitoring device for any youth offender, including youth offenders aged 10 to 17, victims supported the change. In Townsville, Lynette Cullen wanted us to know that if an offender is out on bail she wants to know they are being monitored because when that offender is on bail her safety is at risk. Lynette went on to say—

... I believe that at any age, even at 10 years old, people know right from wrong. If they are not doing the right thing then they need to be monitored and continue to be monitored.

Another victim of Labor's youth crime crisis, Daryl Griffiths, said—

It is the old adage: 'If you don't want to do the time, don't do the crime.' If you do not want to wear an ankle monitor—and the word will get out really quick to these kids—then do not do the crime. Do not break into my house. Do not steal my cars.

Well said, Daryl.

For too long, Queenslanders have been at the mercy of Labor's weak laws and suffered through the revolving door of youth crime time and time again. The Crisafulli government is taking action and delivering strong laws to turn the tide on Labor's youth crime crisis. By removing the age restrictions, this bill brings electronic monitoring into line with all other bail conditions and removes the constraints Labor put in place on judicial discretion.

Under Labor, the courts had to consider a range of matters including: the youth's capacity to understand the bail condition; whether they were likely to comply with the condition; if anyone has indicated a willingness to support the youth and notify the court of any changes in circumstances or breaches of the conditions; and whether the youth consented to wearing the device. This bill removes these requirements so that the courts will only have to consider the suitability assessment.

In addition, the bill prescribes key safeguards so that a court can only impose an electronic monitoring device if the Youth Justice chief executive advises the court that all of the following services are available in the area in which the child lives: services necessary to support the effective operation of a monitoring 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, which is QCS. These protections are enshrined in the legislation to ensure a youth on bail has the necessary support services to comply with their bail conditions and that community safety can be upheld.

As Queenslanders know, network coverage across the state varies. The availability and maintenance of network coverage is a matter for the federal government. Electronic monitoring devices require coverage to work. We know that, and that is why this bill makes it explicit that a court can only order an electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail where there is network coverage for it to work. Yes, we are making electronic monitoring statewide, in that any court is able to consider it and order it. We have enshrined in legislation that if there is no coverage it cannot be ordered.

Some stakeholders also raised concerns that during severe weather events there is often network coverage issues where entire communities can experience network outages. Where these disruptions occur, the department employs workarounds to maintain contact and monitor compliance. A youth with a GPS device will also have intensive support services in their area to help ensure bail conditions are adhered to.

Contrary to the scare campaign Labor is peddling in their statement of reservation, the Crisafulli government's has invested \$44.3 million in bail supports over the next four years to ensure services are available statewide. As Katherine Hayes, the CEO of the Youth Advocacy Centre, said—

... every child who receives an EMD does need to have access to the bail support services ... that is in the legislation.

Luke Twyford, the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner, also commented on how important wraparound supports are for youth on bail and noted—

Queensland is one of a small number of Australian jurisdictions to embed bail supports, reflecting evidence that electronic monitoring is more effective when combined with case management, family support and therapeutic interventions.

Wraparound supports for every youth offender out on bail with an electronic monitoring device are critical to preventing reoffending. That is why we have embedded it in our tough new laws. Alongside that, we are delivering targeted, intensive intervention and rehabilitation programs to help get these youth back on the right track. We are delivering the strongest investment in bail support services. That is not all, we have also delivered \$75 million over four years to fund our youth co-responder teams and expand them statewide. Under Labor, our co-responders were not funded permanently. The police were on contracts and their positions fell off a cliff. We permanently funded those positions.

We are also delivering \$50 million for four crime prevention schools across the state and \$40 million for two specialised youth justice schools—designed to get disengaged and high-risk youth away from crime and into education, employment or a job. In fact, our youth justice schools, in particular, are targeted at youth on youth justice orders—orders that might mean a youth is wearing an electronic monitoring device. Our youth justice schools directly contribute to the wraparound services that youth ordered to wear electronic monitoring devices can receive. We are not just delivering strong laws; we are ensuring that youth have the supports in place to turn their lives around. Under Labor these youth were on the streets committing more crimes. Now they can be in our schools re-engaging with education and be given the tailored, intensive support they need to head towards a brighter future.

Katherine Hayes from the Youth Advocacy Centre spoke about the importance of education for youth on bail. A 15-year-old boy that she worked with who was ordered to wear an EMD for four months found that he improved his engagement in school—attending five days a week—positively engaged with his caseworker and engaged with youth justice for support.

Our government's funding does not end there. Every youth offender in our detention centres will get Staying on Track—that is, 12 months of intensive rehabilitation to break the cycle of crime and prevent them from reoffending. We know that electronic monitoring is most effective when partnered with wraparound supports, and that is exactly what we are delivering. In fact, we have embedded it in the bill.

I also want to address the concerns raised during the committee process about the operational impacts of electronic monitoring. The independent report uncovered that Labor's trial failed on an operational level. It was rolled out without proper planning which meant our frontline workers were left confused and without the structure they needed to effectively monitor these GPS devices. This meant that at times, under Labor, alerts were missed and at other times our frontline agencies were doubling up on work.

The independent evaluation report found that staff described Labor's rollout of the trial as administratively burdensome, engrained with unclear responsibilities and having poor interagency coordination, poor training, role clarity gaps and inefficient escalation pathways—all of this resulting in significant alert response fatigue. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of fixing those Labor failures also.

Under the Crisafulli government, electronic monitoring will operate as a reliable, real-time tool that supports our frontline workers to respond quickly and decisively. These reforms deliver some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country and, alongside early intervention and rehabilitation, they will make Queensland safer after a decade of Labor's weak laws which created a youth crime crisis. These reforms are all part of our plan to put the rights of victims first, deliver consequences for action and reduce reoffending, returning safety to Queensland communities. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.20 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. It is always great to follow the member for Currumbin, except this time she is actually extolling the virtues of our trial. It was lovely. Thank you so much to the minister for saying such lovely things about our trial. I would like to thank the chair and members of the Education, Arts and Communities Committee.

I want to make it clear that the Queensland Labor opposition supports the use of any tools that can be shown to improve community safety. This bill builds on the work of the former Queensland Labor government, which developed and introduced the trial of electronic monitoring devices as a bail condition for recidivist youth offenders, accompanied by the support and supervision these young people need to help improve compliance outcomes, avoid reoffending and reduce further victimisation.

We all remember being in this chamber almost a year ago for the debate of the similarly named Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025. That bill had gone through a full committee process, which resulted in a 41-page committee report. There were more than 30 pages of hearing transcripts and a queue of speakers in this House a mile long, all to change just one number in the Youth Justice Act—extending the trial from four years to five years. There were no other changes—just

one number, from four to five. At that time the government could have introduced some of these things that the minister just said were a problem with it. They could have changed operational expectations. There was legislation before and after in which that could have been done, but I think it was just all a bit confusing for the minister—it was all a bit of a scramble. She did not take care of any of it. She is just working out now that it is a good thing to say. It was all a bit of a shambles.

I turn to this bill. Queenslanders have a legitimate and urgent expectation of safer communities, of fewer victims and of fewer young people being involved with the criminal justice system. The Crisafulli LNP government made promises to Queenslanders that that is what they would get. They promised victims that things would be different. They promised Queenslanders safer communities, they promised Queenslanders that they would turn the tide on crime and they promised Queenslanders 'safety where you live'. What Queenslanders are seeing on the ground is not really that. Queenslanders tell us that they cannot see crime falling. Queenslanders tell us that they cannot see services on the ground. Queenslanders tell us that they just want crime to be fixed, like the LNP government promised, and that is a problem for them.

With this bill the LNP government is making another promise: this time electronic monitoring devices, EMDs, will fix things. From the way they talk about it you would think, no matter who you are or where you are across the state, this will fix the youth crime issue. They are going to use the results of the trial that Labor introduced of EMDs for young people aged 15 and over for certain offences and certain locations. We know from the evaluation conducted of our trial by Nous that there is a reduction in offending under the parameters that we set. It is our trial parameters that the evaluation found were effective.

Where other factors are present—and I want to talk about those in a moment; that is really key—it is less effective for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and young people with mental health issues. The LNP government is using that trial of ours and is assuming that it works for 10- to 14-year-olds, for all offences and everywhere across the state, even though: one, the evaluation did not assess any of those parameters—that is, there is no evidence that says the new parameters of this bill will reduce reoffending; two, they are very slippery about what they will do to support the rollout with coverage and programs and services—more on that later, too; and, three, just about every single stakeholder raised concerns about the ability of children of that age to comply, because of developmental immaturity, unless they had supportive home environments, which few, if any, serious repeat offenders do. With all of those questions on whether this will actually work, they are yet again promising Queenslanders that this is another big thing that will keep them safe—another big promise.

I want to restate, which I will do throughout my allocation of time today, that the Labor opposition will support any tools which can reduce reoffending and, most importantly, will reduce the impact on, and the number of, victims—absolutely—because we know that that is what Queenslanders want and it is what they deserve. What we have problems with is the government making big promises about reducing youth crime and about being slippery with the truth.

It is important, before I go much further, to talk about the Nous evaluation of the electronic monitoring trial. It was quite comprehensive. The evaluation found that electronic monitoring can, where a court grants bail to a young person, and in carefully targeted circumstances, assist in managing risk. EMDs complement other supports to achieve positive outcomes, including an 11 per cent higher bail completion rate by the trial cohort—our trial cohort—reduced rates of reoffending in both severity and frequency relative to a comparison cohort, fewer victim-involved offences in offences committed on bail, and less time in custody during bail. These are great results for our trial using our parameters.

There is one key finding from the report by Nous that impacts the outcome of the EMD use: wraparound services are critical to EMD. That is the key takeaway from the report. The evaluation found that electronic monitoring 'in combination with wrap-around supports may be effective in reducing reoffending and supporting bail compliance for some young people'. The report also provides guidelines for interpreting the results of the trial, stating—

The evaluation was not designed to isolate the impact of the EMDs from the impact of wrap-around supports. This aligns with the design of the EM trial, which embeds wrap-around services into the delivery model.

You cannot separate one from the other.

Here is the reality: electronic monitoring does not create stable housing, it does not treat trauma, it does not address cognitive disability, it does not fix a lack of transport, it does not build prosocial routines, it does not create family support when none exists and it does not heal the causes of offending—all the key determinants of youth offending. An EMD is a compliance tool, one that can work for some young people when it is embedded in a broader plan that includes supervision, case

management and genuine pathways away from offending. That is exactly what many of the expert witnesses said. Victim rights advocate and Director of Voice for Victims Foundation, Natalie Merlehan said—

Ankle monitors alone are never going to be a meaningful way to address the root cause of offending behaviour, without additional rehabilitation, education and support underpinning that requirement.

Luke Twyford, Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, said—

Supporting behaviour change for children and young people on bail requires the integration of two distinct but interdependent elements:

1. Monitoring and compliance, and
2. Support and growth (rehabilitation).

Neither element is sufficient on its own.

Councillor Nick Dametto, Mayor of Townsville, said at the Townsville hearing—

If you do not have a wraparound service or a guiding adult in these young people's lives, just monitoring them and knowing where they are while they are up to no good is not going to change their behaviour.

There were dozens more comments to that effect.

The report said that support from youth co-responder teams and bail services in particular, but from other services as well, was critical to helping young people comply with electronic monitoring conditions and seeing a reduction in reoffending and that wraparound services are the crux. In fact, wraparound services are perceived as being so critical that some submitters—for example, Mr Tom Allsop, former CEO of PeakCare; and aren't they pleased he is not in that job anymore so he cannot go out and say bad things about them?—suggested that in fact it is the wraparound supports which may have resulted in the positive outcomes of the EMD trial rather than the EMDs themselves.

During the committee process, the Labor opposition members were so intent on hearing from the government about the status of wraparound services in Queensland. We figured that if the government is promising Queenslanders that EMDs will help reduce crime in their areas then those Queenslanders need to know what wraparound services are in place in their areas and what coverage there is in their areas. I will speak more on that later as well.

We asked some questions. We asked the department if they could confirm that any organisation had a contract for a bail support service after June this year. It was a question raised by several submitters, including by the Youth Advocacy Centre, who stated in their submission—

Many bail support services do not have funding certainty beyond 30 June 2026.

That is this year! The department refused to answer our question when we asked, 'Are there any bail support services with a contract after June?' and the chair of the committee, the member for Keppel, refused to allow us to pursue it. It was very suspicious, indeed.

We asked the department to provide us with a list of wraparound services across the state so it would be clear to Queenslanders where EMDs could conceivably work. They took that on notice, which is fair enough, but when they came back to us—a formal parliamentary committee—they referred us to the Youth Justice website. They could not even make an effort to give us the link or list the services. When we did go to the website, there was only very broad information—no information at all really for Queenslanders on specific locations to understand whether EMDs would be relevant to them.

By the end of the committee hearings, the LNP members had worked out that they probably needed to start talking a bit more about wraparound services because everybody seemed to want to know the answer. As I have said, it had been raised strongly in the *Nous* report. The stakeholders, who were all very sceptical about the wraparound services that are actually available, and all of the individual submitters who support the use of EMDs want to know if there would be any wraparound services in their area.

Many of the individual witnesses in Townsville and Cairns are very concerned about crime rates going up—perhaps it has something to do with the fact that the FNQ QPS region had an almost 20 per cent increase in victims of car theft in 2025 on the year before and Townsville had a 30 per cent increase in unlawful offences committed by youth offenders in 2025 compared to the year before. People in those regions the committee visited do not believe that there are sufficient wraparound services. If there are, they are not working. At the public hearing, the chair of the Townsville Justice Group said—

Services come and go ... There needs to be ongoing and constant mapping of the services in the area. Someone will have a service for three years and they get funding and then it drops away and we do not know it has gone ... It is critical to know what the services are so we can recommend them to families.

The LNP members worked out after quite a while that they probably should start talking about wraparound services, especially after the department basically refused to tell us where the services were. The LNP was starting to look a bit sketchy on it, so they reeled out the line they often use about the \$560 million worth of rolled-gold early intervention programs. We know that slogan. They used it before the election, saying they were going to put in place the rolled-gold early intervention, and the minister has talked about that. It all sounds very good. On the LNP government's investment in early intervention, the Voice for Victims Foundation—and I notice the minister has quoted them a lot—said—

We have seen a lot of announcements around different programs and things, and I think there is still a little bit of a gap between them being announced and them rolling out ...

That is so true. When the LNP asked some individual witnesses whether \$560 million in early intervention prevention would help settle their fears about there being sufficient wraparound services, of course those witnesses said, yes, it would. What the LNP did not tell them, though, is that those early intervention and prevention programs the LNP promised are not going so well. If we have a closer look at those programs announced by the Crisafulli LNP government, we will be hard pressed to find many that are up and running.

They have announced a number of kick-starter programs—a whole lot of programs generally—worth a few hundred thousand dollars that are run by hardworking local organisations. It is our program renamed, and many of those organisations had previously already received funding from Labor. However, on their broader signature programs things are very light on. I could not find any evidence that any Regional Reset programs have actually commenced delivery. Of the 14 organisations funded under Staying on Track, fewer than half have commenced delivery.

It appears that not a single crime prevention school has commenced and only one youth justice school is now operating. The application for the other youth justice school has been submitted to NSSAB without a site, which means the application cannot be progressed. Maybe that delay will give the Crisafulli LNP government time to address the reported opposition they are facing from the local community. Sources from the department tell us that the ministerial office is panicking, that they have never seen or heard of such micromanaging on programs, with ministerial staff nitpicking over the most minute details. I think there was something about that in a media report last week too.

We could have seen this coming. Although the minister told us in December 2024 in answer to a QoN that their plan for early intervention and prevention was well underway, we found out through estimates last year that of the \$97.5 million allocated in that financial year to rolled-gold early intervention only \$10 million had been spent. Here we are in the eighth month of the second financial year of their term. Before we know it, they will be at the halfway mark of their term and, despite lots of announcements, very little will have happened.

I digress. In reality, it is actually only Labor's early intervention and prevention programs that are in place and working: youth co-responder teams, intensive bail support and intensive case management. The Nous evaluation, for instance, records extensive engagement by youth co-responder teams—almost 2,000 engagements with 91 per cent of electronic monitoring episodes engaging with youth co-responder services and the majority of interactions relating to bail compliance. Thank goodness for Labor.

All of these concerns were raised by stakeholders and witnesses. All of these facts are warnings. If this government expands the use of electronic monitoring without the wraparound services the evidence says are critical, it risks creating new failure points. These failure points will be borne by victims, by communities, by frontline staff and by children who are set up to breach bail conditions for reasons that are entirely foreseeable. It goes directly to what the evaluation says about making electronic monitoring succeed. Wraparound supports are not a 'nice to have'; they are what turns monitoring from a blunt control mechanism into a structured intervention that supports compliance and reduces offending.

Queenslanders have heard the Crisafulli LNP government's slogans. They have seen the press conferences. They have read the media releases. Queenslanders cannot see services on the ground. They cannot see delivery at the scale suggested by the government's rhetoric, and that is where community confidence starts to collapse.

I now turn to the question of technology and geography. There is no argument that Queensland has a digital divide. Our state is so geographically diverse, with substantial variation in mobile telecommunications and network coverage. While limited coverage mostly affects regional, rural and remote Queensland, it can also be felt in some metro and built-up areas. Electronic monitoring relies

on connectivity, and the evaluation report itself evidenced challenges with ‘patch connectivity’ as well as false alerts generated by GPS drifts and spikes, resulting in frequent follow-up calls and home visits from police and youth co-responder teams. To be fair, the bill does make it clear that the EMDs will only apply where there is coverage and where there are appropriate programs.

The government cannot legislate statewide capability. It cannot legislate away black spots, disasters, network outages and the daily reality that some communities do not have a reliable mobile service. The Crisafulli LNP government has promised safety where you live, but when the Labor opposition asked the department for information about coverage—information that witnesses agreed should be made public—the department advised locations that may experience network coverage issues are not publicly available ‘in order to protect the integrity of electronic monitoring programs across Queensland’.

Queenslanders, including those victims who attended the public hearings, have been left with a basic question unanswered: where will this work and where will it not work? This government is not just trialling a limited approach in a defined area. It is proposing permanent expanded powers and claiming it will have a statewide benefit, yet it is refusing to provide Queenslanders with clear information about the limits of that promise.

If the government claims the bill will provide ‘safety where you live’ then how does this bill protect those living in parts of Queensland without consistent mobile coverage? The LNP says, ‘Oh, well, it’s where there’s 4G coverage and that’s pretty extensive, so it should cover a lot of people. Blah, blah, blah’—and there was a bit of that at the committee. If you listen to the individual witnesses in places like Townsville and Cairns you will hear that in fact coverage is pretty ‘spotty’, to quote a *Townsville Bulletin* article from today. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 11 February 2026, titled ‘No signal on trackers’ [169].

The *Townsville Bulletin* refers to some of the many quotes on this. Nick Dametto said that reception issues are a reality of living in regional Queensland. He said that ‘we could have service today and no service tomorrow’. The article states—

The Queensland Law Society said these issues could disproportionately affect people in certain areas.

“In remote communities, over 43 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and homelands across Australia lack mobile service, and 45.9 per cent of residents are highly digitally excluded ...

In fact, there was one older lady in Townsville, I think, who told us that there was no coverage in her retirement village and if she wanted to use her mobile she would have to go to the local shopping centre to get it reliably. It begs the quite scary question: what would happen to her if a young offender with an ankle bracelet was standing at the end of her bed at night with a knife trying to attack her? No-one would know where that young person was. Again, the LNP is making this sound good—more promises on law and order but very sketchy on how it will work.

That brings me to the other resources that will be required to make EMDs work. The evaluation make clear that the operational demands of the model must be carefully weighed against intended benefits. While it can be effective, the model is resource intensive, generates high alert volumes and requires consistent interagency coordination and technical capability to respond appropriately.

The evaluation makes it clear that electronic monitoring is a technology-based monitoring mechanism that necessitates effective operational arrangements to administer and maintain. This operational burden is carried largely by Queensland Corrective Services through monitoring and by the Queensland Police Service and youth co-responder teams through supervision and response, but it also impacts young people and families.

The evaluation records that over the course of the trial electronic monitoring devices triggered 5,667 confirmed alerts, averaging about 50 alerts per order. Of those, 70 per cent were inclusion zone alerts and 16 per cent were low-battery alerts. Every alert required a response. Only 33 of the 5,667 alerts—each of which had to be responded to—resulted in a breach of bail.

The evaluation also records that connectivity problems and false alerts were common, leading to frequent follow-up calls and home visits that reportedly frustrated both police and youth justice staff, and the stats in the appendix of the evaluation report are very clear on this. Members may have read the *Courier-Mail* article today in which the Queensland Police Union expressed concern about the police resources which would be required EMDs. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 10 February 2026, titled ‘Cops tied to ankle alerts’ [170].

They referred to the figures I just quoted. The QPU is very concerned that police will be slower to attend break-ins and other serious crimes as ‘an ankle monitor roll-out for children as young as 10 years diverts resources off the street’.

The evaluation report suggests that with the right supports the issues can be mitigated for family members experiencing double handling or multiple calls about movements that had already been explained, but the operational challenges already being experienced will matter even more because of the expanded and untested eligibility and geography. It is one thing to operate a tightly defined trial with heavily engaged co-responder teams and a cohort concentrated largely in South-East Queensland. You can imagine how happy—not—submitters from the regions were to know that the trial had focused on young offenders in South-East Queensland and there were no young offenders north of Rockhampton. It is another thing entirely to make it permanent, expand eligibility and infer statewide operational readiness.

At the Brisbane public hearing the Bar Association of Queensland shared that expanding beyond the narrow scope without significant consideration of resources to ensure compliance 'seems like a recipe ... for disaster'. The Labor opposition members were keen to know what modelling the government had done to look at possible numbers of young people who would be caught up in this bill and the result of that modelling—what new resources would be required, particularly police and corrective services resources, and what budget had been set aside to cater for those resources so the EMD rollout could be properly implemented. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to know that—not even whether any modelling had been done.

It would be extremely negligent if the government had not done any modelling, and I am sure we would all be very pleased to hear whether there had been any modelling done and any budgets. Were individual witnesses concerned about this? You bet they were, Mr Speaker. When the Labor opposition asked witnesses whether they thought it was important that the government states its commitment to resources as it passes the legislation, witnesses were very clear that, yes, this definitely should happen. They just want EMDs to work. They just want to know that whatever the government is promising actually works, because what Queenslanders are starting to fear is that this is a government more interested in the announcement than the hard, sometimes unglamorous work of building the infrastructure that prevents predictable failures.

I turn to the changes in eligibility delivered by the bill. In the evaluation report's 'Considerations for the future' summary, Nous explicitly identified that, while 'opportunities exist to appropriately widen usage' of EMDs, 'through changes to the defined eligible population, such as allowing more offence types or expanding to additional locations', results should be considered with the intentionally narrow eligibility and suitability thresholds of the trial and 'results may not be generalised to broader populations'. That is exactly what this bill has done. The trial findings are drawn from our parameters. Our parameters were found to be successful in reducing reoffending. There was no suggestion at all in the evaluation report that the new parameters would be effective. The LNP government is yet again promising Queenslanders that they are going to fix youth crime with a mechanism that there is no evidence to suggest will be effective.

During the Cairns hearing, the Community Justice Action Group stated—

... there is not any trial data, there is no increased intelligence for the populations north of Rockhampton to understand that this technology and the framework, by and large, is actually going to work.

The QLS submission highlighted the evidentiary gap in young people. YAC went further, warning that the use of electronic monitoring on children aged 10 to 14 is not evidence based. It is more likely to reduce offending in older children. They talked about the wraparound services that are required. The concerns go on: what supports are mandatory? What supervision exists? Who is responsible for ensuring the device is charged?

Even if you do not care about whether a child should or could comply, if in fact they are incapable of compliance for whatever reason then it will mean more ineffective use of resources for people like police and corrective services who have to go out and visit young people—as we heard, 33 of the 5,667 alerts were actually real breaches of bail. Even if you do not care about the kids and whether they are up to complying, you surely care about taking those resources away from real policing and otherwise.

I also want to talk about the matters identified by the minister in her explanatory speech and just now when she said that the preceding legislation was 'kept in trial mode and was never set up to succeed' and she talked about operational issues which apparently were Labor's fault. As I have already outlined, this House passed a bill early last year which literally changed one thing about that trial. There was opportunity for the LNP government to change any other parameters at that time and they chose not to do that. Most of the operations of the trial actually occurred under this government but they chose not to address those. I just make that point.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** I want to address permanency and accountability. This bill makes electronic monitoring a permanent option. It expands geography while refusing to provide transparent information about coverage. It expands eligibility to cohorts who are not covered by evidence. It relies on operational capacity and wraparound services of which there is no evidence. It is promising Queenslanders that youth crime will reduce and there will be fewer victims.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** The Premier might note I am not taking his interjections. That is precisely why a statutory review is not optional. When we talked to the witnesses who came before the committee—many of them victims of crime—we heard how distressed they are about having been victims and about crime not going down as the Premier promised. They were saying, ‘They are promising us that this will work. They made big promises before, yet there is so much that actually shows that this may not work.’

In consideration in detail we will move an amendment to say that we want to see a statutory review which must examine whether these laws work. Before I wrap up, I want to touch on a concern raised in our statement of reservation about the hardworking people and the leadership of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support since the Crisafulli government has taken office. For the second time in less than a year I find myself thanking an outgoing director-general of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. This time I would like to acknowledge Kate Connors, who appeared at the committee hearing. I wish her well in her new role. I wish Michael Drane well in his new role; Nick Dwyer and Lisa Pollard, senior staff members in the department who also left in the last few months, I wish them well. I also extend my best wishes to any other youth justice member of staff who feels they must leave this department because of the leadership.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Logan, during the final minutes of the member for Bulimba’s contribution I noted you were directing some comments towards me without rising to your feet and taking a point of order. I consider that the comments you were making towards me were a reflection on the chair. I would ask you to withdraw and apologise.

**Mr POWER:** I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Withdraw as well, please.

**Mr POWER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Logan, you were on a warning, so I would ask you to withdraw from the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 4.51 pm.*

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (4.51 pm): The contrast between a government that is putting victims first and an opposition that has spent 20 minutes defending a decade of decline, taking no responsibility and no accountability, is so clear—yet there was no shame. A failed youth justice minister does not really want to support our reforms—yet she still does not get it. This was not about her failed trial, which was very clearly provided for in the report. It is not about her failed government; it is about Queensland victims and what we are going to do to make sure they are better supported so that people do have safety where they live. For Queensland victims youth crime is not a policy argument: it is life-changing lived experiences. It is a night when a home no longer feels like a safe place; it is a moment of terror; it is the vulnerability that follows a person into every ordinary day that comes after; it is the legacy they hold onto of those experiences.

In Townsville the committee heard from Ms Lynette Cullen. She told us of the experience of having a youth enter her home with a knife. He put that knife to her throat and demanded keys. She told the inquiry about running down the street screaming for help and that her security had been taken away. She said—

Until they are found, I do not have any more security. I am locked in my house.

She described how now every time she opens the garage door she has fear and how she has had to change her everyday life and her routine just so she can leave her home safely. That is what victimisation looks like. It is not just the offence; it is the aftermath—the anxiety, the sleeplessness, the changed behaviour and the sense that in their community the world is no longer predictable. Our committee heard how break-ins and violence ripple through families and have effects on many, including children who no longer sleep in their own bedrooms because there had been offenders in their rooms.

When we consider this bill we should begin with victims. The fundamental obligation of government, which is being taken up by this government, is to give victims protection in their homes, in their workplaces and in their communities. For Queenslanders the Crisafulli government is making Queensland safer. The Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill takes a practical, evidence informed step in that direction. It makes electronic monitoring permanent by removing the expiry date. It makes it available statewide unless the court is advised that services are not available in a location. It is calm, it is methodical, and it is about doing the right thing and providing tools to our courts and the justice system. It removes restrictive eligibility barriers, including the age threshold, and it simplifies matters a court must consider when deciding whether an electronic monitoring condition is appropriate. This bill has a clear purpose. This is about accountability for offenders and it is about safety for Queensland victims. This is how we reduce risk, this is how we increase compliance and this is how we prevent more Queensland victims.

The committee report outlines that the independent evaluation found that electronic monitoring resulted in higher bail completion and a 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending. It also found a lower proportion of offences involving victims during bail. For victims and their families that is not okay. That matters because less reoffending means fewer people harmed, fewer homes invaded, fewer cars stolen, fewer assaults and fewer Queenslanders who are forced to live in fear. Queensland victims expect honesty. That is why in the minister's introductory speech she spoke about this being a tool that adds to the work we are doing as part of the Making Queensland Safer plan. It works alongside early intervention, rehabilitation programs and family support.

One of the strongest messages from stakeholders is that monitoring works best when it is paired with wraparound supports, and aren't we lucky that the Crisafulli government is investing in those wraparound supports in communities across this state. These supports will help ensure that a young person complies with their bail conditions, give them the opportunity to reconnect with their community, stabilise their family situation, and help give them an opportunity to build a different pathway.

Sometimes when we have these debates, as much as we talk about victims and as much as we talk about perpetrators, for these young people we need to talk about turning their lives around. We are turning these lives around because this stops the creation of the next victim and it stops what could be a lifetime of offending. The committee heard directly that young people had responded positively to electronic monitoring. Ms Katherine Hayes told the Brisbane hearing—

Some young people find that they are an active, dissuading device from committing further crimes. It helps them desist any kinds of attempts from peers to continue to commit crimes. It can help them reconnect with family because they are more prone to comply with their bail conditions ...

That is not a small thing. The pathway out of reoffending begins with a young person staying home at night; a young person keeping a curfew; a young person not being picked up by older peers who are taking advantage of their age and encouraging offending; a young person who is turning up to school or training or one of the programs that we are putting in place one day, then the next day, then the next. Electronic monitoring is a tool that helps create that structure. It allows for accountability. It creates boundaries that families are pleading for, particularly in regional areas. Most importantly, it provides time for interventions with caseworkers and a connection with youth co-responder and bail services. It allows these teams to do hard work with offenders and their families so we can change that behaviour.

We saw examples during this inquiry where that combination has made a real difference: young people who, while subject to electronic monitoring and a curfew, have complied with their conditions, avoided new offending, re-engaged with school and taken up rehabilitation supports. These are not just good news stories. It means fewer victims and a better chance at a lawful, stable future for that young person.

For victims, I repeat, that is the point. Victims do not want more victims—they spoke very clearly about that. They want a justice system that takes risk seriously and that acts before the next family is harmed. Queenslanders want safety where they live. Our responsibility today is to respond with laws that are firm, fair and effective. This bill is a meaningful part of our Making Queensland Safer plan. It strengthens the credibility of bail conditions, it improves accountability, it reduces reoffending and, most importantly, it reduces the number of victims of crime in Queensland.

As I conclude my comments, I would like to acknowledge and thank the committee secretariat and all of the committee members, including those who stepped in when I was unable to attend a hearing due to the flooding in Central Queensland. Most importantly, I acknowledge and thank the witnesses—those who provided submissions, those who shared their lived experiences and stories and those who took the time to attend our hearings on this bill. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. Queenslanders reported not seeing crime rates fall under this Crisafulli LNP government, especially in Cairns and Townsville. We know that there are extra steps that are needed for this next policy iteration—electronic monitoring—to work. We know this because the experts have been clear and the research is convincing. During the committee process, PeakCare CEO Tom Allsop said—

... a support model must be mandatory. Electronic monitoring should never be ordered without guaranteed intensive wraparound supports that are both therapeutic and practical to avoid the predictable technical breaches that will occur.

The Queensland Police Union have told the *Courier-Mail* that this legislation's rollout will divert police resources off the street. The union said that the trial alone meant police were having to check on 5,677 alerts from ankle monitors on children. They noted that nearly one in five of their visits were the result of a dead battery and only 33 resulted in a breach of bail. That was when only children aged 15 years or older were being monitored; now this LNP government wants to include children as young as 10.

It seems the Crisafulli LNP government is ignoring the recommendations from the trial evaluation by Nous Group, which warned against generalising the findings from the trial to other cohorts given the trial was intentionally narrow. As just one example, 84 per cent of the monitoring device orders within the trial evaluation were in the south-east corner. If the LNP is to ensure this program will work, research in the regions must be thorough, especially when we take into consideration that the EMDs rely on mobile connectivity, which is something that can be lacking in regional and remote areas.

We know that the narrow scope of the trial does not end there. We were told that there was no modelling, that the budget allocation was unknown and that the trial had a lower participation of First Nations young people due to the suitability criteria for participation in the trial. We need to know such a program would be helpful for every child, no matter their background or where they live in this great state of ours. We also know that, in order to know whether this trial was truly effective, the use of the device cannot be separately measured from the wraparound supports delivered with the trial. During the Townsville committee hearing, Queensland Youth Services stated—

We heard earlier: where is the data? Where are the figures? Where are the numbers? There is scepticism when people claim that there has been success in a program and people say we are comparing apples and oranges.

The Queensland Labor opposition holds grave concerns about the viability of expanding this program without the proper research or wraparound services that are clearly needed.

This bill not only extends this program to 10- to 14-year-old offenders but also removes a court's requirement to consider a child's ability to understand, their likelihood of compliance and the support available to them—replacing it instead with a department provided suitability report. It also removes restrictions on the limits of the use of EMDs to only prescribed offences. In other words, it removes the limit on the use of EMDs to serious repeat offenders only.

This was a program aimed at trying to get repeat offenders out of the cycle of crime. Isn't that supposed to be our main concern when it comes to these children—setting them up to become functioning, contributing and respectful members of our Queensland society—or has this government completely given up on these children? This LNP government must ensure that if they are going to implement this program it will work.

Stakeholders have already told the government what they need to support this program. They have told the LNP there needs to be a significant investment in wraparound services. In their submission, Queensland Family and Child Commission Principal Commissioner Luke Twyford said—

The most effective responses to behaviour change on bail occur when monitoring and compliance measures are intentionally integrated with support and rehabilitation interventions. In this integrated model, each element reinforces the other rather than operating in isolation.

Stakeholders also made their concerns clear around the expansion of the program to demographics not tested in the trial. This includes younger children, regional children and First Nations children. As I previously noted, this is a concern that the Labor opposition shares. The submission of the Queensland Law Society states—

In remote communities, over 43% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and homelands across Australia lack mobile service, and 45.9% of residents are highly digitally excluded, compared to 94.5% for the broader Australian population. Therefore, remote communities face technological barriers that may increase the risk of breaches, often resulting in harsher consequences and further justice involvement.

From reading that, I can glean that that would mean more and further marginalisation for these children. Stakeholders also told the committee that they would support these laws being reviewed by an amendment to the bill. Hub Community Legal submitted—

These significant changes are worthy of ongoing review and evaluation.

The data shows the program helped to reduce crime, including that 72 per cent of participants completed their bail successfully, and there was a reduction in reoffending. However, I note that the criteria used to select these children to engage in the trial contributed to the success of these children in the trial. The trial and the data were completely skewed. However, Queenslanders must feel that this will work no matter where they live.

Victim-survivors and community members told the committee they felt they had been extremely let down by the Crisafulli LNP government. They felt they had been sold a four-word slogan as a fix—that is something I hear regularly in my community—yet almost 18 months into government the promised turnaround has not happened. QPS data also supports these perceptions of worsening offending. The Far Northern QPS region, which includes Cairns, saw more victims of car theft in 2025 under the Crisafulli LNP government, with a 19 per cent increase on the previous year. In Townsville they experienced a 30.1 per cent increase in unlawful entry offences by young offenders in 2025 compared to 2024. I do not think the story is going very well. By adding a review amendment to the bill, Queenslanders can be given reassurance that the program is working for them to enhance their safety.

We cannot ignore the way solutions play out in the regions, and I would once again encourage the LNP to invest in wraparound supports. That includes programs such as the youth co-responder program established by the former Labor government, the intensive bail initiative established by the former Labor government and many of the currently funded bail support initiatives that we instituted. These are initiatives that the Crisafulli LNP government continue to rely on, especially when their own services are yet to be delivered. We heard that clearly time and time again from stakeholders in the committee process. It is time for this government to put their slogans into action and ensure that when they roll out a program it will improve safety where Queenslanders live, as promised by this minister and this Premier.

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill is about restoring community safety, reducing reoffending and giving courts the tools they need to stop the revolving door of youth crime that has left too many Queenslanders feeling unsafe in their own homes.

This issue is not abstract in the Pumicestone electorate. It is real, it is daily and it is personal. Across Bribie Island, Caboolture, Beachmere and Donnybrook families tell me the same thing again and again: they are tired, they are anxious and they want to feel safe where they live. They lock their doors earlier, they hesitate before opening the garage and they worry when their kids walk to the bus stop. This bill responds directly to those concerns.

The former Labor government introduced electronic monitoring as a trial in 2021. It was narrow, restrictive and ultimately ineffective. In the first year only four youth offenders were placed on an electronic monitoring device—four. That is not a serious response to a youth crime crisis. Labor was warned from the outset that the cohort would be too small to evaluate the trial properly. They ignored these warnings. They extended the trial, tinkered around the edges and still failed to make it permanent, statewide or workable. The result was predictable: confusion on the ground, missed alerts, frontline workers left without clarity and communities left without confidence.

This government has done what Labor failed to do. We looked at the evidence, commissioned an independent evaluation and acted on the findings. That evaluation found that when a youth offender was wearing an electronic monitoring device they were 24 per cent less likely to reoffend. That is one in four fewer kids committing another crime while on bail. That is one in four fewer victims. The data is clear: youth wearing electronic monitoring devices completed their bail conditions at a rate of 72 per cent. They committed fewer offences involving victims. They were easier to monitor, easier to manage and more likely to comply, particularly when paired with proper bail support services. Importantly, the evaluation also told us something else: young people themselves said electronic monitoring changed their behaviour. They said it made them think twice. It reduced contact with peers who encouraged offending. It acted as a physical reminder that bail conditions mattered.

This bill takes those findings and turns them into action. It does four critical things. First, it makes electronic monitoring permanent by removing the sunset clause. Second, it makes electronic monitoring statewide so community safety does not depend on postcode. Third, it removes restrictive eligibility

criteria, including age limits, so courts can apply this to where it is appropriate including for first-time offenders. Fourth, it simplifies the matters a court must consider, giving magistrates clarity and discretion rather than tying their hands.

Let me be very clear: this bill does not replace detention. If a youth offender should be in detention, they will be. This is about what happens when a court decides bail is appropriate. It ensures bail has meaning, it ensures compliance is monitored and it ensures breaches have consequences.

In Pumicestone we have seen what happens when bail conditions lack credibility. Communities in my electorate have raised concerns about the small group of repeat offenders cycling through arrest, bail and reoffending, sometimes within days. Small business owners on Bribie Island tell me how vandalism and theft affect not just their bottom line but their sense of security. Seniors across Pumicestone tell me they are frightened to live alone. This bill gives courts a middle ground between unsupervised bail and detention—a measured accountability tool that protects the community while giving young people a chance to comply.

Community safety and rehabilitation are not opposing goals. They are actually two sides of the same coin. That is why this government is backing these reforms with the largest investment in bail support services in a decade: \$44.3 million over four years. This is why we have invested \$75 million to save and expand youth co-responder teams statewide. That is why we are delivering \$90 million for specialised crime prevention and youth justice schools, so disengaged young people are not left on the streets but are re-engaged in education, training and employment. Because the evidence is clear electronic monitoring works best when paired with support, this bill ensures accountability but also ensures opportunity.

Victims must be at the centre of this debate. Too often the voices of victims are drowned out by ideology. However, victims in Pumicestone, like victims across Queensland, want balance. They want early intervention. They want rehabilitation, but they also want to know that the justice system takes their safety seriously. As one victim advocate told the committee, electronic monitoring is not punitive; it is preventative. It reduces the number of victims, it restores confidence in the system and it reassures communities that risks are being actively managed.

The Crisafulli government was elected with a clear mandate to take youth crime seriously and to restore safety where people live. We make no apology for delivering some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. Already we are seeing results with a reduction in victims of crime across Queensland. With this bill, we will continue to head in the right direction. This legislation is firm, it is fair and it is evidence-based. For communities like Pumicestone, it is overdue. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.14 pm): I rise today to speak on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. As the proud member for Ipswich West and as a member of the committee that looked at this bill, I am acutely aware of the seriousness of the issue before this House and the real harm crime has on communities across Queensland.

There is no dispute in this parliament that Queenslanders deserve to feel safe where they live, work and raise their families. Last Friday the committee tabled its report into this bill. Our role was to assess whether the legislation had sufficient regard to individual rights and liberties, the institution of parliament and its compatibility with the Human Rights Act 2019. In undertaking that work, the committee travelled across the state and heard from victim-survivors, advocates, service providers and experts in this field. I want to acknowledge all the victim-survivors who shared their lived experience so courageously with us.

However, I must place on the record that this report does not fully reflect the balance of evidence we heard. Whilst the harm caused by crime was made clear, we also heard a consistent and nuanced message that electronic monitoring can only be effective if it is implemented alongside appropriate wraparound supports. Throughout this inquiry service providers repeatedly emphasised the importance of intensive bail support, case management, family engagement, mental health services and education pathways as essential to an effective monitoring regime. The trial's evaluation report, completed by Nous Group, described these wraparound services as 'critical to the success of EMDs', yet at present there remains a troubling lack of clarity from the Crisafulli government around funding certainty for these services.

Evidence before the committee indicated that some basic bail support services do not even have funding beyond 30 June this year. PeakCare Queensland highlighted this issue explicitly in their submission, stating—

... electronic monitoring does not operate as a standalone mechanism for behaviour change. Any positive outcomes identified could not be assessed for their effectiveness independent of the ... wrap-around supports ...

We also heard from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocates on the risk of disproportionately impacting First Nations children, who are already significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system. Without culturally appropriate safeguards and community-based supports, there is a real risk that this bill entrenches surveillance rather than delivers rehabilitation. Labor members of the committee have sought clarity from the government on what organisations are funded to deliver these supports and for how long. Those questions remain unanswered.

Youth offenders living in regional and remote Queensland present further challenges to the efficacy of this bill. In Cairns and Townsville witnesses raised legitimate concerns about the practical operation of electronic monitoring in areas with unreliable mobile coverage, limited access to charging infrastructure and already stretched service systems. The bill assumes a level of connectivity and infrastructure that does not exist. When a device loses signal or power, a child may be found in breach of bail conditions through no fault of their own. This is not a minor implementation issue. It goes directly to fairness, effectiveness and the risk of unintended harm.

Save the Children and 54 Reasons as well as the Queensland Law Society warned that visible electronic monitoring can reinforce trajectories into the criminal justice system by increasing social isolation and disengagement from education and employment. Education remains one of the strongest protective factors against reoffending. Any policy that unintentionally pushes children from school is a risk.

The Queensland Labor opposition supports evidence-based measures to reduce reoffending. After reviewing the evidence, we must not ignore the risks associated with expanding electronic monitoring without adequate supports, safeguards and funding certainty. That is why we have issued a statement of reservation. This does not deny the reality of the situation or the need for action. Instead, it acknowledges that this problem is complex. Whilst electronic monitoring can tell us where a child is, it does not tell us why they offend. It does not address facility instability or disengagement or resolve unmet health needs.

The former Labor government introduced electronic monitoring as part of a supported trial, recognising that supervision and services are essential to success. We continue to seek answers from the Crisafulli government about funding arrangements, service delivery and a commitment to review these laws. The Crisafulli LNP government must answer these questions if the bill is to be effective. I want to thank all those on the committee, particularly the shadow minister and deputy chair, and also thank our secretariat, which worked very hard on this.

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.21 pm): Today I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. This bill is about a simple promise: Queenslanders deserve to feel safe where they live—in their homes, on their streets and in their communities. In Caloundra and right across the Sunshine Coast, people tell me the same thing: they have been tired and frustrated with a system that has felt like a revolving door—kids arrested, bailed and then back out committing offences again; families locking up earlier; small businesses spending more on security; and ordinary residents changing how they live, how they park, when they go out and even how they open their garage doors at night. This is why this bill matters. It is a step in delivering stronger bail laws, making electronic monitoring for youth on bail permanent and statewide, removing unnecessary restrictions and ensuring courts have clearer powers to manage risk. This bill is not about slogans; it is about strong laws backed by evidence to reduce reoffending and ultimately reduce the numbers of victims.

We cannot pretend that we arrived at this point by accident. For a decade the former Labor government weakened Queensland's youth crime laws. It made detention a last resort, it abolished breach of bail as an offence, it constrained courts and it created a system where consequences for actions were missing, leaving victims and families unseen and unprotected, and it is Queenslanders who paid the price. Queenslanders called for stronger laws. Labor's response was electronic monitoring that was so narrow and so restrictive that hardly any youths were ordered to wear a device. Electronic monitoring was introduced as a two-year trial in 2021, but it was rolled out in a way that was bound to fail. In the first year of operation only four youth offenders were placed on an electronic monitoring device as a condition of their bail—four. That is not a serious trial; it is a policy experiment designed so narrowly it can never produce meaningful results.

In April 2025 the Crisafulli government extended the trial by 12 months until April 2026 so that a comprehensive, independent evaluation could be completed and properly inform decision-making. That evaluation has now been delivered. The findings are clear: when a young person was wearing an electronic monitoring device they were 24 per cent less likely to reoffend. That is one in four kids on bail not committing another crime. The report found that 72 per cent of youth on electronic monitoring

completed their bail conditions, reoffending was 63 per cent for those wearing a device compared with 81 per cent for those not wearing one, and youths wearing a device committed fewer offences involving victims—40 per cent compared to 66 per cent. In an environment where communities like Caloundra are demanding real action, this matters. It shows that electronic monitoring works as a supervision tool and it changes behaviour.

This bill does four key things: first, it makes electronic monitoring permanent by removing the expiry provision; second, it makes electronic monitoring statewide unless a court is advised that a location does not have the necessary or suitable services; third, it removes restrictive eligibility criteria, including the 15-year-old age limit and the complicated offence and location rules that meant courts often could not use this tool, even when risk was obvious; and, fourth, it simplifies the matters that courts must consider so magistrates can apply common sense and focus on what matters—risk, compliance and community safety.

This bill gives every court in Queensland the power to place an electronic monitoring condition on any youth granted bail from age 10 to 17, including first-time offenders, if the court deems it suitable. That is a major strengthening of the system because it trusts courts and gives them the tools they have been missing. This bill is not about punishment for punishment's sake. It is not an alternative to detention. If a youth offender should be in detention, they will be. This bill is about what happens when bail is granted, ensuring bail is not simply a piece of paper with conditions that cannot be enforced. Electronic monitoring means there is nowhere to hide if a youth chooses to breach or reoffend and the police can respond faster when conditions are broken.

The report also found that electronic monitoring is even more effective when paired with support services, and that is why this government is investing not only in stronger laws but also in the supports that prevent reoffending. Evidence tells us that youth offenders who engage with bail support services are less likely to reoffend than those who receive none.

This is why our government has delivered the largest investment in bail support services in the last decade—\$44.3 million funded over the next four years. We have delivered \$75 million to save and expand youth co-responder teams statewide, because under Labor the program had no funding beyond June 2025 and was set to fall off a cliff. We have committed \$90 million for specialised crime prevention and youth justice schools designed to take disengaged, high-risk youths off the streets and back into education, training and the pathway to a job. On the Sunshine Coast we know that when young people disengage from school, community and structure the risks rise quickly. These investments mean we are not only enforcing conditions; we are giving young people a pathway back.

Importantly, we are listening to victims. Victim advocates have made it clear that, yes, early intervention and rehabilitation are vital, but the rights of offenders must not crowd out the rights of victims to live safely. Victims want fewer victims, and nobody wants to be a victim.

One of my favourite parts of being involved with this process was hearing anecdotal evidence that when a youth has a device fitted other youth offenders stay away. What a great opportunity to break a cycle for vulnerable people by keeping other youth offenders away from them, and as a parent I would want to utilise all tools available to have that outcome. That is what support looks like. Let us give these kids a real chance at their pathway back.

In Caloundra and across Queensland, people want to see action that is measurable—not announcements, not pilots designed to fail, not endless tinkering. This bill delivers measurable reform, strengthens bail, reduces reoffending, reduces victim numbers and restores confidence that bail has credibility and enforceability. This bill will help ensure we continue to head in the right direction, because every percentage point of lowering victim numbers represents real people, real families and real peace of mind restored in communities like mine. I say a big thank you to Minister Gerber, her team, her department, the committee secretariat and the committee for all of their hard work on this important legislation. I also want to acknowledge all of the witnesses who came forward in the hearings to have their say.

I am confident that every step towards reducing victim numbers plays an important role in keeping our community safe. I liken it to a toolbox. In this case we are adding another tool to fight the youth crime crisis. This bill is not a silver bullet, but it is part of the puzzle. It is a strong step forward. It makes electronic monitoring permanent, it makes it statewide, it removes Labor's confusing restrictions and it strengthens the ability of our courts to protect Queenslanders while supporting young people to comply and change the course of their lives.

Debate, on motion of Ms Morton, adjourned.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before we go to the member for Mansfield I will run through the list—it is extensive—of those on a warning: Mansfield, Greenslopes, Logan, Cairns, Ferny Grove, Buderim, Surfers Paradise, Gladstone, McConnel, Inala, Mudgeeraba and Currumbin.

## MOTION

### Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence



**Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the member for Whitsunday for their failures in their ministerial duties to protect vulnerable Queensland children, victims of domestic and family violence and Queenslanders recovering from natural disasters.

Children of the child safety system, those experiencing domestic and family violence and communities subject to cyclonic weather are victims of circumstance through no fault of their own. It is the responsibility of any and every government to protect them, especially our most vulnerable, our children. The situation that has been unfolding for the past 14 months demonstrates a series of ministerial leadership failures and maladministration. This failed ministerial leadership means the system is not safer, it is more fragile, it is opaque and more unstable than it was before.

The minister's absence overseas on safari while the state was dealing with a cyclone and the child safety system was in turmoil sends a disturbing message about this LNP government's priorities. Child safety is not a portfolio that pauses. Children do not get a holiday from abuse. It is clear that the department under this minister is in turmoil. Acting appointments and executive reshuffles are becoming the norm, undermining the stability needed to safeguard our most precious, our children.

Ministerial leadership failure is at the heart of the events unfolding. We have a department in crisis, yet the minister remains. Election commitments remain unmet: promised reductions in residential care, more child safety officers, a professional foster care model, proper monitoring of children. Without clear data there is no evidence of progress. Minister Camm turned on an IT system that an independent audit found was, 'Unfinished, poorly tested, missing critical functions and rolled out despite frontline warnings.'

**Mr Head** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you are not in your seat.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Intakes slowed, backlogs exploded, making response times unknowable. Nearly 40,000 children flagged as at risk were left in unsafe environments. The minister herself admitted that without a doubt there were children put at greater risk for a period. That admission alone should have triggered urgent transparency and accountability. Instead, Queenslanders got silence. When children are at risk, when a department is failing and falling apart at the seams, strong, decisive and deliberate leadership is needed. The minister must be present. The data blackout which has now lasted 11 months is one of the most concerning aspects—a data blackout that the minister knew would occur before the system went live.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Lytton and member for Nanango, if I have to call either of you again you will be warned.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Even the Queensland Family and Child Commission has raised the alarm. Queenslanders are being asked to trust a system they are no longer allowed to see. Mr Allsop put it plainly: we should be in a better place but we are not. Without transparency the public experts and advocates cannot assess the state of child safety or hold this government accountable. The loss of key metrics such as harm, response times and safety outcomes just fuels mistrust. On the front line morale is at rock bottom. Workers facing immense stress with dangerous workloads are being silenced, fearing retribution if they speak out. Any confidence in this minister has been lost. A staff survey rated the system 1.79 out of 10. A child protection system that neglects its workers will inevitably fail the children it is meant to protect.

The systemic issues surrounding domestic and family violence, including the absence of prevention programs and the failure to report on recommendations from key inquiries, show a broader problem with this LNP government's approach to safeguarding children exposed to violence. Further, it is clear that the minister did not advocate to prevent the de-establishment of a crucial domestic

violence command in the QPS, which advocates have called out as a backward step. Exposure to domestic and family violence is one of the largest contributing factors to child maltreatment in Queensland, an issue this minister has failed to take seriously.

Further data released in May 2025 showed that more than 100 of 400 serious repeat offenders were living in state care. Additionally, more than 200 children in state care were under strict supervised youth justice orders. This is not acceptable. Silence is reprehensible, ignorance and disregard is immoral, obfuscation is intolerable and delay is dangerous, perhaps life threatening.

Leading child advocates are calling for the Premier to step in. Our children, our most vulnerable, deserve leadership that is stable, transparent and accountable. Queenslanders deserve a minister worthy of trust, a minister who will protect them.

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (5.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

- '1. condemns the members for Waterford, Bulimba, Jordan and Nudgee and the former member for Barron River for their failures in their ministerial duties to protect vulnerable Queensland children;
2. notes the former government's 10 years of failure in dealing with victims of domestic and family violence.'

It is truly astounding that those opposite would come into this place and play political games with the protection of vulnerable children. Have they no shame? Are they so quick to forget how the child safety system in Queensland reached crisis in the first place? I will give the member for Mansfield a clue: the answer lies with those on the benches around her.

Those opposite have the gall to come into this place and cast aspersions against the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence with their track record. How dare they! Queenslanders will not soon forget how those opposite treated the child safety portfolio when they were in government. Unfortunately for the Labor Party, cheap political stunts on the floor of parliament do not change the facts. It was under Labor that we saw a child safety minister who could not even be bothered to acknowledge the one-year anniversary of the death of Mason Jett Lee at their own press conference. It was under Labor that we saw a minister who was more interested in attending Splendour in the Grass—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! You know what is coming, do you not, member for Waterford? You are warned.

**Ms BATES:** It was under Labor that we saw the minister attend Splendour in the Grass on the day the front page of the *Courier-Mail* revealed that the department and the minister knew about at least five children's deaths under suspicious circumstances. It was under a Labor government that a minister admitted that her department washed data before releasing it to the public. It was a department rife with a culture of secrecy and cover-up to shield incompetent Labor ministers. These were shocking failures—system failures—that led to the deaths of children, including a baby at Yeppoon—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

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

**Ms BATES:**—and Maddilyn-Rose Stokes, known to the Department of Child Safety. And do not ever forget Tiahleigh Palmer and Dexter Wilton, because I will not. It was a system that saw child safety officers burdened by unsustainable caseloads and high staff turnover, particularly in our regions, a system that—horribly—saw the deaths of children, including Darcey and Chloe Conley, which could potentially have been prevented if child safety officers had the appropriate time and resources.

The member for Waterford's time as child safety minister alone saw at least 12 children allegedly die in care under suspicious circumstances, children like Curtis Powell, Tiahleigh Palmer and Dexter Wilton. That is the legacy of those opposite. That is their track record: a system in crisis, lurching from one disaster to another while they left our most vulnerable at risk, not to mention the fact that those opposite cut funding for 91 existing frontline child safety staff in their 2024-25 budget.

It was the LNP that saved those jobs and we will continue to work to fix 10 years of failures in this space. Who can forget the way those opposite treated the portfolio of the prevention of domestic and family violence? Members in this House know full well that I am a survivor of domestic violence and it is a cause that I care deeply about. It was the Queensland Labor government that sat at the helm while a domestic violence crisis enveloped this state.

I will remind the House of a couple of names. Under the watch of those opposite, on the Gold Coast we saw the tragic death of Tara Brown, who was bludgeoned to death; in my own electorate Teresa Bradford was stabbed by her husband; Larissa Beilby was bashed to death; Shelsea Schilling was suffocated; Melinda Homer was murdered; Karina Lock was gunned down; Fabiana Palhares was bludgeoned to death; Kym Cobby was strangled to death; Mary Benedito was killed; and Kelly Wilkinson was burnt to death. That is their record and that is their legacy: systems in crisis and chaos and the most awful, vile incidents occurring under the watch of the Queensland Labor government.

Unlike those opposite, who bring this sort of unhelpful nonsense into this place, we spend our time trying to improve the child safety system. Who can forget the largest ever petition that came into this parliament for child safety? Thirty thousand Queenslanders called for policy change after the death of Mason Jett Lee. That was the sort of constructive activity that we did in opposition. Instead, they come into this House with their cheap stunts and their shameless grab for a news headline. Unlike those opposite, on this side of the House we are working tirelessly to fix this mess.

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.41 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Mansfield. The words we say in this chamber matter. They matter because they are on the record forever, so I would like to share some words uttered in this chamber. There is this—

Child Safety cannot prevent a child coming to harm before they are under Child Safety's care. Once a young person is known to Child Safety, they have every opportunity to make a difference and they fall under the minister's responsibility as that child's guardian.

And this—

This minister has every excuse in the book, but there needs to be a recognition and accountability for the mistakes and for reforms that have not been carried out.

And this—

The minister needs to step up and be accountable because this government is not keeping vulnerable Queensland children safe.

Every one of those words is true and every one of those words was uttered by the now child safety minister in this very chamber. Does she still believe those words? What we have seen since she has been elevated to the role of child safety minister is a clear failure to take responsibility for vulnerable children, a clear failure to accept responsibility and accountability for her mistakes and more excuses over her actions.

I am not going to pretend that child safety minister is an easy role. There were days when it absolutely broke me, reading and hearing about some of the ways that children in our state are being terribly mistreated by the people who should love them the most. There were days when it felt almost overwhelming, but then I would think about our frontline child safety officers, who are confronted with these situations each and every day. That motivates you. It motivates you to work harder to find solutions and to engage deeply with stakeholders, with frontline staff, with foster and kinship carers, and with young people in your care. I never pretended that I would solve every problem in child safety because I understood the complexities.

The member for Whitsunday smugly and arrogantly believed she could walk into this very complex department and know everything. Hasn't that come back to her? Child safety officers have reached out to me. They have told me how unsupported they feel at this time, how senior managers are leaving in droves and how they have been thrown under the bus by this minister and this LNP government. They come up to me at mobile offices to tell me that.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, I gave you fair warning that if I heard you again you would be warned. You are warned.

**Ms MULLEN:** The department is in shambles. We have a Unify IT system that was turned on too early in order to save money and a minister who claims that she knew nothing about the system failures until September and that her director-general knew nothing, even though it is clear that as early as June the director-general was alerted to clear failings in the system. This is a minister who claims frontline staff did not raise concerns with her, which begs the question: why didn't she ask them? We have a minister who gave Unify a glowing review in early August during the estimates process through an answer to a question on notice that the minister and her staff signed off on. I guarantee the minister would have had written and oral estimates briefings, yet we are expected to believe that issues with Unify were not raised at all.

This beleaguered minister is now working overtime to try to find something she can pin on anyone—the former government or former and current departmental staff. She thought she had a smoking gun by making a song and dance about letters to stakeholders in June 2024 from the former director-general, who advised that June 2024 would be the last datasets available under the old ICMS system. So it must be Labor's fault that we cannot get current data except that, since June 2024, we have seen published data for September 2024, December 2024 and March 2025. It is clear that data was still being produced and published, but suddenly it became unavailable from April 2025, when the minister finally and fully turned on the Unify system. What did the Minister for Youth Justice know—sitting there mute—because that system was turned on in her time as well? The more this minister tries to point fingers, the more she digs a hole for herself.

What we have seen is a former shadow minister who talked a big game. She was going to fix child safety because, as she so often liked to remind us, she is a mother and she is the only one who cares. We have seen very little of that care from the minister who, despite her department being in complete meltdown, said, 'I'm tired and I need a holiday.' I leave you with these words from said minister—

Leadership is about hard conversations. Leadership is about empathy. Leadership is about caring about every Queenslanders—those who are vulnerable, not just those who are out there to make the government look good.



**Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (5.46 pm): There is an example of why a failed minister is sitting on the opposition benches. The fact that that failed child safety minister could even make it to the shadow cabinet absolutely beggars belief. That failed child safety minister followed one of the worst child safety ministers that this state has ever seen—that is, the person sitting right beside her. That is actually saying something when we have the shadow treasurer, who was also a child safety minister, the member for Nudgee, who was also a child safety minister, and the former member for Barron River. That is not even worth talking about.

The Palaszczuk-Miles government—both of them—left the child safety system in utter disrepair. It was a disgrace. It was unfunded. They were going to sack 91 frontline workers in the child safety system. I know because my niece is one of them. You only have to go around the state and you—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I beg your pardon? I am happy to take that interjection—whatever it was—from the former treasurer because he laughed. He was the one who signed off on sacking 91 frontline officers and he sits there and smiles and smirks and laughs because he has no clue what it is like to get outside of Brisbane.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to point of order. I do not like to do it but I take personal offence and I ask the Attorney to withdraw.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. I go back to the failed child safety minister I started with, the member for Jordan.

**A government member:** It is hard to tell which one.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is a bit hard to tell, but let us look at that failed minister. Some 7.6 per cent of children involved in child safety were reported as absent or missing from care, placing them at even greater risk of sexual harm, exploitation, abuse, assault and rape.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take the interjection from the member for Lytton.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the chamber at 5.49 pm.*

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am still referring to the member for Jordan. What else happened? Response times to commence investigations increased through the roof, with it taking up to nine weeks for caseworkers to sight a child. That is the member for Jordan's record. There was a rapidly growing number of child safety cases closing—what about this?—without full investigation. The member for Jordan sits there and dares to criticise the current minister. Do members know why she criticises the

current minister? I will quote the member for Jordan. She said, 'Because she is a mother.' How dare she. Are you kidding me? I have heard some low things in this House, but is she seriously saying that because Minister Camm is a mother there is an issue? Get out of the gutter.

Worse than that—and I am still referring to the member for Jordan—infant mortality rates were significantly higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait infants than for others. Expenditure on family services based on a per-child spend remained significantly lower—under that member and the other failed child safety ministers—than in other states like Victoria and New South Wales. It goes on and on.

They come in here and talk about holidays. I mention the member for Waterford when she was the child safety minister. I was trying to find the article. Was it when she was at Whistler or when she was skiing with Jackie Trad and a few other influential people that she forgot to put that on her register of interests. I note that because it was a free trip to Whistler. Then there was Splendour in the Grass. That was when there was a death of a child in the state. An article stated that child safety minister, Shannon Fentiman, was spending time at Splendour in the Grass. That was not the ski trip. The ski trip issue was because she failed to put it on her register of interests. The former Labor government only knew how to fail children in this state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.52 pm): Some 45 of the state's 77 councils were disaster activated in the first month of this year, but they were not the only ones. The minister for community recovery and the Minister for Disaster Recovery were both activated too—the disaster dames. They may not hold a hose, but skipping out from natural disasters in peak season for a long break is their jam—one dame being brazen enough to jaunt across the globe to 'bless the rains down in Africa' instead of in Queensland.

'Not only is it a bad look; it is utterly irresponsible' was a quote from a *Sunrise* panel, as the abandonment was beamed into every lounge room in the nation. Commentators went on to call the member for Whitsunday's actions incredibly deceptive. I reflect fondly on the days when the member for Whitsunday was the self-appointed community recovery minister—long before she was ever assigned the role. Back in those honeymoon days, one dame loved to overreach and the other underreach.

Eventually, we saw a reshuffle and the surrogate got her prize. In fact, we sat through an entire sitting week with the demoted member for Warrego awkwardly muted. The gig was up when the House rose and the *Gazette* landed. There was no updating of the House, just deception—a deception that comes all too often, all too naturally. We are left to ponder what went so wrong—not with the member for Warrego as that is obvious. How did the member for Whitsunday go from a minister who could not stay in her own lane to a minister who could not stay on the same continent? She wanted it so badly and discarded it almost instantly.

The LNP crows that there is no daylight between response and recovery. There is an international dateline. Approved by the Premier was the annual leave for the Minister for Disaster Recovery for the second year in a row in the thick of disaster season—one of the longest ministerial leave periods gazetted. When natural disaster struck again, the minister was working from her office in Warrego. So remote was she that a spokesperson needed to provide media comment rather than the minister herself. The missing minister finally made an, albeit brief, lacklustre appearance. It beggars belief that, within the course of a week of this public outcry and embarrassment, the member for Whitsunday thought it was fine and dandy to pack up her gear and forge ahead with her three weeks annual leave on an African safari—'hakuna matata'.

An already natural disaster impacted state saw Tropical Cyclone Koji bear down in, amongst other locations, the electorate of Whitsunday. Yesterday, the devastation of that event was addressed by the members for Traeger, Rockhampton and Keppel. Why has the member for Whitsunday not updated the House? What is the extent to which Queenslanders have been impacted? What supports are available for them and their families? There is an African saying 'well done is better than well said'. This is a minister who proves day to day that she cannot manage the well done. Deflection, deception and denial is the member for Whitsunday's version of well said.

The 'incredibly deceptive' assessment of *Sunrise* is spot on. There is real anger around that and it relates to the guise of support that the member for Whitsunday laid on thick—misleading of her presence. It is deception that is insulting, most of all to our first responders—those who put themselves in harm's way to protect us, to serve us, to save us. The member for Whitsunday was so comfortable

on safari, hanging out in the hide, that even upon her return the media could not find her. It took more than a month from the start of her leave for her to front up to the media. When she finally put down the ranger's coffee, ticked off the big five, the little five and the ugly five and the sundowners were a distant memory, what did she have to say?

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for a period of one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Nanango withdrew from the chamber at 5.56 pm.*

**Ms BOYD:** 'I take my job and role very seriously,' she said. 'I want to be fit, healthy and alert to be able to give it my all.' 'Part of that was being able to take a break,' she said. The minister's privilege and entitlement oozes from her words.

Queenslanders with flooded homes are not given a break. Farmers who have lost their livelihoods are not given a break. Abandoned and abused children are not given a break. Our SES volunteers, who are not paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to show up, still showed up in this time of crisis. This is how they spend their holidays—serving the community for free. We all deserve a better standard than what the member for Whitsunday is offering. People experiencing the worst days of their lives do not want someone who is pretending to be here. They need someone who is actually here.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.57 pm): The member for Pine Rivers wants to talk about things being well done. After that contribution, I am bound to say that things over there are thoroughly cooked. I rise to speak on this motion a little shocked because it is either delusion or maybe they are losing touch with reality when those opposite start throwing stones on the issue of child safety. I guess there is another option. Maybe a bit like Dory in *Finding Nemo*, they have been plagued by amnesia. I want to give a charitable potential interpretation. If they are struggling to remember, let me help.

Their record is not good. Perhaps that is why the last Labor government went through five child safety ministers. While this government deals with the youth crime revolving door that Labor left behind, perhaps we should grant them just a little bit of grace. After all, they were busy swirling around in their own revolving door of child safety ministers.

Let us give that record a bit of a look. Let us look at the investigation timelines for child safety during the period of the last government. A census in 2024 revealed there were critical delays during their period in government. Only 19 per cent of five-day and 18.6 per cent of 10-day investigations were even being commenced within the required timeframes. There was a surge in the number of children in residential care during that decade of decline. They turned it into a quite repugnant multibillion dollar industry.

Sadly, it became what the Queensland Child and Family Commission called 'a pipeline to youth crime'. Instead of having 650 people in it, as it did in 2015, by late 2024 there were 2,212 children in residential care—an explosion. Some 683 of those children were under 12, representing a 381 per cent increase since 2015. There is no way to spin, slice or dice this that is not an absolutely abhorrent outcome for the most vulnerable kids in this state.

Missing children is a big part of their record, too. An audit that was arranged after Labor left office found that over 770 children were what they call self-placing, meaning they were missing or absent from their assigned care, with some found to be homeless or having been brought in to criminal networks. It is a really sad indictment on what was left behind. Adoption rates plummeted—down 80 per cent on the levels in place in the nineties, denying children stable, loving and permanent homes. Budget black holes were left behind. There was a \$500 million shortfall in residential care funding and the failure to fund 91 frontline positions past Christmas 2024. What was the grand plan here? Was it just, 'Oh, we will deal with that sometime in the future. Let's get through the election and deal with it on the other side'? They literally had no plan for the ongoing paying of the pay cheques of the hardworking staff in Child Safety who do such difficult work. It is an extraordinary thing!

The IT failures over which they presided should not be forgotten. The \$183 million Unify IT system was commissioned under Labor then descoped under Labor, with its functionality gutted in 2023 and early 2024. They are trying to blame this government for the messes made by that descoping, yet everybody knows that Labor are so unreliable when it comes to IT. I remind those listening about the Queensland Health payroll scandal—a \$6 million budget that went to \$1.25 billion, with 78,000 health workers not paid. What about Smart Ticketing as an IT project? It was almost a decade late, with a \$60 million blowout. An IT fail for SPER—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to relevance. The member's contribution is well outside the scope of the original motion or the amendment, and I would ask you to remind her of her obligations.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The point of order is on relevance. I was a little distracted. Member for Oodgeroo, you know what the motion is about. It is in front of you.

**Mrs STOKER:** Thank you, Speaker. The good news is that I have plenty more to share in my limited time. The *In plain sight* report showed that the failure of Labor to implement the Reportable Conduct Scheme left children unprotected for nearly a decade—real harm done to children as this former Labor government lags at the bottom of the class, failing to implement. This is not funny. At last we have a child safety minister who is prepared to do the hard work to keep kids safe.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Mansfield. The Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence has cheated the people of Queensland. The minister has cheated and failed in her responsibility to support Queenslanders facing natural disasters, to support women, men, children and families experiencing family and domestic violence, and to protect the most vulnerable children in our state. The minister has failed in all three. There is a pattern of deflection and abandoning those who need the minister most—abandoning vulnerable children and people who are being faced with family and domestic violence. What a shame!

The minister accepted this critical responsibility and she made a commitment to protect these people. Then, at a time when Queenslanders desperately need more services and support, she was nowhere to be found. We need more specialist resources to combat the epidemic we have in family and domestic violence, and we are presented with cuts.

While women impacted by family and domestic violence have been turned away and told to wait up to 20 days for help, the LNP minister has made the unconscionable decision to disband a specialist unit providing statewide support to women, men and children facing family and domestic violence. This is a catastrophic failure in her duty as minister. While domestic and family violence rates explode through our state, the decision is indefensible. Last week, the minister came out and said there was 'nothing to see here'. There were no words of support for the frontline workers who are doing the most when it comes to this epidemic. They were told to just ignore the fact that this unit had been disbanded and there were no other resources going to be provided for this. I cannot fathom how the minister can get away with this failure.

I know there are many knives being sharpened on the other side because I think they all see that there are failures on the minister's part. I can think of a few—potentially the highly reported 'rising star' the member for Gregory, or maybe it is the member for Oodgeroo. Maybe the Premier is already considering who he might be replacing the minister with. We will know more in the days to come.

The unit which was disbanded by the minister is a specialist unit to provide support and drive the QPS's capabilities to prevent, disrupt, investigate and respond to incidents involving family and domestic violence and harm to vulnerable persons. The definition of the unit on the QPS's website says—

... advocates and supports delivery of holistic, victim-centric, and trauma-informed responses to address the needs of individuals, reduce harm and make Queensland the safest state.

Where are these people supposed to go now when they are faced with this harm? What is happening? Where are people going to go? I simply do not understand. Why has the minister sat silent, doing absolutely nothing, while the sector calls out for help?

Frontline workers have come out and said that this is going to be a catastrophic failure. Frontline DV workers, the people who witness the crisis daily, have sounded the alarm about the devastating impact this reckless decision will have on victims. Their expertise and warnings have been completely ignored. It is astounding! Not only the victims but also the people who are out there trying to protect them have said that this cannot happen, and the minister has nothing to say to them. Protecting women, children, men and families fleeing domestic violence is not optional. Their protection is on the shoulders of the government and they must continue to do that. It is an absolute disgrace that the LNP minister and the government, whose job it is to protect those very people, have slashed the resources and now stand in between them getting support.

Everyone deserves a break from work, but unfortunately those people who are on the front lines did not get a break. They did not get a break when there was a cyclone over the summer break. Just to let the minister know, the Queensland government website very clearly indicates that during summer

months Queensland is prone to disasters. This should not be a surprise to anyone at all. Maybe that could be included on the Queensland parliamentary calendar—I do not know—but the minister could perhaps potentially plan her leave around the disaster season, when the responsibility falls on the minister's shoulders to be there on the ground and to be with the people who need her most. That is what Queenslanders expect from their governments.

It is clear that the minister is simply not up to the job. When the DV unit was disbanded it was called 'realignment'. I say it is another word for 'cut'. When the IT system she turned on failed, she blamed anyone and everyone except for herself as minister. She should take some accountability and responsibility for her actions. It is time for her to show up and do her job. The people of Queensland have elected her to do a particular thing, which is to look out for them and govern the state and do that in her role. The Premier said before the election that that is what he expects from his ministers. It is time to show some action.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (6.08 pm): I rise today in support of our amendment. I recall the worst flood to hit our region, the Cyclone Jasper floods in Far North Queensland. The former member for Barron River, who was also the former child safety minister, was nowhere to be seen in Barron River for at least two weeks during that disaster. He was at the tennis! In Far North Queensland we do not experience policy; we experience—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Barron River has the call.

**Ms JAMES:** I will take the interjection from the member for Mansfield, who I think is on a warning.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Barron River, you have the call.

**Ms JAMES:** In Far North Queensland we do not experience policy; we experience consequences of poor policy. We see the flashing lights on the Captain Cook Highway—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bundaberg, you are now on a warning.

**Ms JAMES:** We see the exhausted teachers supporting children who are carrying adult sized trauma, empty bellies and scars we cannot see but we can feel; we can see the grandparents stepping in to raise kids because someone else could not keep them safe; and we have one of the highest rates of domestic violence and strangulation in the state. It is heartbreaking.

Behind every statistic is an adult or a child who is just trying to make tomorrow better than yesterday. For too long the response was reactive—record the incident, process the paperwork and move to the next crisis—but this government is doing something different. We are redesigning the system so that harm is prevented, not just documented—

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, you have had your go.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Ms JAMES:** I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. We say 'hakuna matata', as you said, but it does mean 'no worries'. There are plenty of people worrying in Cairns, I can assure you.

We have strengthened domestic and family violence laws so police can act immediately, not just after escalation. High-risk offenders can now be GPS monitored. Tracking perpetrators means victims do not have to live in fear. This is an option now for the police. We changed these laws last year to protect more women from high-risk domestic and family violence offenders.

Having videorecorded evidence means survivors tell their story once and do not have to relive the trauma over and over in the courtroom. In North Queensland we are delivering a 24/7 crisis line because violence does not wait for business hours and neither should help. We recently announced \$19.3 million in funding to boost the Cairns courthouse DFV project, which includes construction of a brand new courtroom dedicated to DFV matters, a new secure DFV safe room and refurbishment of two existing courtrooms, ensuring victim-survivors can have their matters heard sooner and because everyone deserves to feel safe when seeking justice.

Far North Queensland was also the first place for a man to be charged with the new coercive control laws our government introduced last year. Reform is not just about laws; it is about changing behaviour, and we are investing in prevention and perpetrator intervention programs to stop violence before children grow up thinking that it is normal. The safest DFV response is the one that prevents the next victim.

No child chooses the home they grow up in and, sadly, many children live in terrible conditions that you would not leave an animal in. We are rebuilding the system around stability. We are boosting support payments to carers so more families can step forward. We are piloting professional foster care to provide consistent, skilled support for complex children. We are introducing dual-carer residential models so children have relationships, not rosters. We are planning secure care facilities for the highest risk cases so children and carers remain safe. For the first time, we actually went looking for children in care who are missing, not waiting for paperwork to catch up with reality.

This is what change looks like: no announcements, just action. We have also established a commission of inquiry because systems only improve when governments are honest about failure. We will not hide the problems behind reports. We will confront them and we will fix them because children in Far North Queensland deserve the same protection as children anywhere in Queensland. We are already seeing early results, fewer victims and more offenders held accountable.

Queenslanders watched a revolving door of ministers under the former Labor government, with announcements, reviews and road maps that led nowhere. The difference today is leadership. Instead of press conferences followed by silence, we have a smart, dedicated and passionate minister methodically implementing reform step by step, rebuilding a system that has been allowed to drift for far too long. Protecting children is not solved by one speech.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (6.13 pm): What is very interesting about this debate is who is not over there to defend this minister. I cannot see the Premier. I cannot see the Deputy Premier. Half of the frontbench is not over there to support their colleague.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**Ms FARMER:** I cannot see the Minister for Sport—

**Dr ROWAN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

**Ms FARMER:**—he is probably booking the next holiday. If it were me—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have a point—

**Ms FARMER:**—and I was—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, three times I said I have a point of order. What is your point of order?

**Dr ROWAN:** My point of order is that the member for Bulimba is an experienced member and would know it is a long-standing convention of the House not to reflect on the absence of members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bulimba, you are to talk to the motion.

**Ms FARMER:** If I were the current child safety minister, I would not be worried about us; I would be worried about my own side. They are deafening in their lack of support.

We are clear on the facts of the disastrous Unify rollout. This minister oversaw the rollout when it was not ready, which was known to be not ready but which proceeded anyway because it would save money to do so. Despite evidence of multiple briefings and advice to her department and her office, the minister said she did not know it was happening and is blaming public servants for not telling her. She is either dishonest or has no idea what she is doing, or both. On those facts alone she needs to go. This is not a portfolio for someone who is not up to it.

The human stories behind these facts are the biggest reasons she needs to go. This Premier needs to make the call. Who knows, it might even be closer than we think. The human side of this story is the 40,000 children who have been flagged as being in unsafe environments. Those 40,000 children depend on the government to have their best interests at heart. This government said they would take care of those 40,000 children. They are kids who are homeless, kids in poverty, kids who are victims of domestic violence, kids who are subject to abuse, kids who have disengaged from school and have no one person in their life to walk alongside them, kids who have never known a loving home and kids who are hungry. This minister lost those kids.

Her 3,000 dedicated department staff across six Queensland regions are working tirelessly to find every single one of them. They are knocking on doors. They are ringing NGOs to find those kids. They are laboriously working through Unify. They are working around delays and timeouts caused by failed updates and by incorrect and out-of-date information. They are working around incomplete data and incorrect data. They are working around backlogs. They are reporting that missing data has impacted details of court orders. They are coping with the gaps that are making it so difficult for them to find crucial data, including family members who are responsible for the harm. They are coping with disappearing data. One user said they spent over an hour completing a detailed assessment for a complex case and then the data disappeared. They are overworked. They are resigning. They are taking stress leave because they are so stressed and distressed. Despite all of this, those child safety workers are continuing to try to find those kids. They know those kids need them. These are the people whom this minister is blaming for mucking up Unify.

In 2020 when I was the child safety minister I had the great privilege of attending many child safety centres and meeting staff. I went back to a post I did when I was at the Labrador Child Safety Service Centre. There were beautiful posters from the child safety workers talking about why they love their jobs. I want to read out some of those statements. They read—

I am not afraid to fight for our Young People to get their best outcome; ... Seeing Young People Succeed is the absolute highlight of my day.

...

I love showing our young people that they are valued, wanted and cared for ...

...

I want the best for you and will be there to cheer you on or pick you up when you fall.

...

I want our young people to know that I am here for them!

...

I want to give you opportunities to be brave and strong.

...

I will not give up on you when things get tough.

...

I believe every young person has the potential to do great things.

...

No matter how hard you might push me away, I will be there for you when you need it ... I follow through with what I say I'm going to do.

These are the people who are looking after our kids. Despite the fact this minister is making their work so hard, they are not giving up. Most of them would not have gone away in January for a holiday. They are working every single day to make sure our kids are safe. We need this minister to act in the same way as her staff. She needs to be like her staff. That is all we ask.

*(Time expired)*



**Hon. DG PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (6.18 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to talk on the amended motion moved by the member for Mudgeeraba. I also thank those opposite for moving this motion because I appreciate the opportunity to talk on it. I want to correct the record, and I want to highlight some of the mistruths being spread by those opposite in this scare campaign. I acknowledge the contribution that the member for Bulimba just made. It is disappointing that when they were in government they did not fight as hard for women and children as they did for the CFMEU. They fought hard for the CFMEU—and still do.

I want to go back to 2015 to 2017. I was on the front line working in the child abuse unit when the member for Waterford was the child safety minister. Let's talk about mid-2016. Let's talk about Mason Jett Lee, whom the coroner later found was failed in every possible way by the department. Let's rewind to October 2015, when it was revealed that that minister received a brief from her department marked 'urgent'—and this was seven or eight months before Mason Jett Lee died—saying that her department was failing and young, vulnerable kids were falling through the cracks. What did

that minister do at the time? Nothing. There is no record of her going to the premier or going to CBRC to get more information or to get more funding not only to help those vulnerable children in their care but also to help the workers on the front line, of which I was one. As I said, I was in the police in the child abuse unit working closely with them on the Sunshine Coast. What did the minister do? We know that two weeks after Mason Jett Lee died she went off to Splendour in the Grass but did not fight for Mason Jett Lee and the people under her care at the time. If you do not believe me, Mr Speaker, let's go to 2017.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and I ask the member to withdraw.

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

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw. I was outlining the chronology.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, you withdraw unreservedly.

**Mr PURDIE:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker. If the former minister does not like my timeline of events—

**Ms Boyd:** Unreservedly.

**Mr PURDIE:** I was just saying—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Is that a prop?

**Mr PURDIE:** I want to read from it, Mr Speaker. Let's go to the *Deaths of children and young people in Queensland* report. It shows that in 2017 if you were a child in Queensland you were more likely to be killed than a child in any other state was. The former minister might be offended by what I say but the report speaks for itself.

Let's fast-forward to 2023, when that minister was the minister for women and health and failed to provide rape kits to hospitals in Queensland. There was one case where a whistleblower came forward to say that she had been turned away from a Queensland hospital after being raped by two men because there was no rape kit. She was told, 'Go home. Don't change your clothes. Don't shower. Photograph your injuries and come back on Monday.' That is the member for Waterford's record.

That takes me to the domestic violence scare campaign they are running which I said yesterday is disgraceful. Why is it disgraceful? I am not concerned about those opposite being loose with the truth for a political attack. I am not. We know that domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault are under-reported. The only way we can improve that reporting is by giving those vulnerable people confidence in the police to come forward and report it. The member for Waterford knows that the campaign she is running is not true and it is undermining that confidence. The commissioner today even confirmed, as the assistant commissioner did at the time, that the domestic violence command has been elevated under the new Office of the Commissioner. Staff from that office who are now not in the commissioner's office are being redeployed to the front line, coupled with the 48 extra staff we have put on in stations around Queensland—DV specialists and the vulnerable persons unit—to support the front line.

The member for Waterford sat on her hands as calls for service for domestic violence increased by 200 per cent. When Commissioner Gollschewski got the job under them, one of the first things he did was sit down with the *Courier-Mail*—an extraordinary thing for the commissioner to do—to call on the government to give the police the laws, the resources and the powers they had been asking for for five years to protect women and children in domestic violence situations, and they did nothing. At the time there were up to 200 calls for service unanswered at Logan alone, 85 per cent of which were victims of domestic violence the police could not get to.

I said yesterday that the minister did nothing when she was the attorney-general other than wrap police up in red tape. Immediately when we came into power we took a different approach. We trust our police to protect women and children. We want to build confidence in the police so that people come forward and report, and we will continue to do that.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.23 pm): I am very thankful that I got to follow the member for Ninderry, who—take 2—decides to continue to yell at women for the things he has failed to do as the police minister. The member for Ninderry says that in my time as the minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence I wrapped police up in red tape. What he means is that we called a commission of inquiry into how police handled domestic and family violence—recommendations that he has still failed to implement. He still fails to consult with key domestic and family violence stakeholders, who are outraged that specialist positions that provide casework support and oversight to other police officers are being disbanded. It is shameful.

I note that the member for Ninderry was so intent on yelling at us for the things he is failing to do that he has not said one thing about the member for Whitsunday. Clearly, he has not one nice thing to say about his colleague. He is still more focused on shouting at us because he feels terrible that the stakeholders have got to the bottom of why they have cut a specialist domestic and family violence unit. Get on with the job, Minister, of implementing the recommendations from the commission of inquiry because women's lives are at stake!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Waterford, your comments will come through the chair.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Let's turn to the Minister for Child Safety, the minister who refuses to take any responsibility for the vulnerable children who are at risk. What is most alarming about this situation is that we do not know how many children are potentially in need of support. We do not know how many children are at risk of harm. We do not know how many children are being neglected—for the first time in Queensland's history. You do not have to take our words about how damning that is. Let's listen to the stakeholders and experts. The Queensland Family and Child Commission said—

While I understand that there may have been some issues preventing the release of polished data, there is no reason for the department's own website to be almost 12 months out of date.

'How many children do you have?' and 'where are they?' are two pretty common questions for any parent.

Then, of course, we have all heard about PeakCare coming out and basically pleading with the Premier to take action—to take the portfolio off the member for Whitsunday, to split the portfolio in two—because it is absolutely damning how little work is being done. The system has gotten worse. For all of the ranting and raving of the member for Mudgeeraba about how terrible it was—and haven't we all heard that speech a million times!—it has gotten so much worse. That is not the Labor opposition saying that; it is the experts. It is the stakeholders.

A number of members opposite have described very heartbreaking, tragic, awful things that have happened over the years because sometimes awful, tragic things do happen in our community. What is important is that the minister of the day listens, works collaboratively with the partners and tries to make it better. Not once in our time did we have the CEO of PeakCare go on record with the paper basically calling on the portfolio to be stripped from a minister. Within 18 months that is what has happened to this child safety minister. That is the reality of what is happening in our child safety system.

This minister says that she knew nothing—'I knew nothing'—except that she says she goes around and speaks to all of these hardworking child safety officers. She prides herself on the fact that she goes and sits down with them and she listens to them. If all of those staff were telling their union and her department that the new system was so bad and they gave it a rating of 1.9 out of 10, don't you think the minister may have picked up on the fact that staff were having troubles with that system?

**Mr Miles:** Did she ask them?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection. Did she ask any of the staff how they found the new system? Are you telling me that this minister went to child safety service centres, sat down with staff and did not ask them once about the whole new IT system that she pressed the 'go' switch on? She did not ask a question? That in and of itself shows that she is not up to the job. This is a minister who is not listening to frontline staff, who is refusing to take responsibility. When the Family and Child Commission and PeakCare are calling on the portfolio to be stripped from her, she goes on holiday overseas. She does not do a press conference in over a month. It is embarrassing for Queensland. We are in the dark about what is happening with our most vulnerable kids, and this Premier will not do anything. He promised that there would be KPIs, that ministers will be held to account and that bad ministers will not stay. He has done nothing. He has not spoken in this debate in defence of her. It is about time he did something.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.28 pm): Mr Speaker, there you have it: the revolving door of failed Labor child safety ministers—the member for Waterford and the member for Bulimba.

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** I hear you, member for Bulimba. Not only were you a failed—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let's try again.

**Mrs GERBER:** I take the interjection from the member for Bulimba, who not only was a failed child safety minister but also a failed youth justice minister. She oversaw the pipeline of child safety kids into youth justice. She oversaw the pipeline of serious repeat offenders in this state, 24 per cent of whom were in the care of the state. Under that failed child safety minister and then failed youth justice minister we saw a youth crime crisis in Queensland. What did we hear from her today? They are still not supporting tough laws in this state. They are refusing to back our strong electronic monitoring laws. They are completely divided when it comes to strong laws in this state. They failed in child safety, they failed in youth justice and now they will not back statewide permanent electronic monitoring laws. She is a failed youth justice minister and a failed child safety minister who saw a pipeline of vulnerable child safety kids into youth justice. She sat by and did nothing.

We heard the member for Waterford talking about records. She was the first failed child safety minister. Let's look at some headlines: 'Child safety minister Shannon Fentiman at Splendour in the Grass.' As stated in the *Courier-Mail*, that was all while children were dying under her watch. It was revealed that she received a report that alerted of the failures. What did she do? She buried that report and Mason Jett Lee paid the consequence.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I ask her to withdraw.

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

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw. There is another headline here for the member for Waterford, the failed child safety minister who oversaw the most horrific cases of child deaths in this state. 'Child safety minister Shannon Fentiman reject calls for sacking.' She rejected calls that she be sacked at the time. What did she say? 'Our Queensland system is under pressure but it's not in crisis.' This is while children were dying under her watch. Those failed child safety ministers should not be throwing stones because they oversaw a child safety system that is in crisis and it has led us to where we are today. The member for Whitsunday is calmly and methodically going about fixing Labor's broken child safety system.

I can see the member for Waterford laughing. She thinks this is a big joke. This is all university politics for them. This is how it works. They do not care about the children in child safety who are paying the consequences of 10 years of Labor neglecting the system. They do not care about that. They do not care about the 10 years of a youth crime crisis in this state. They do not care about that. They will not vote for strong bail laws. They will not vote for electronic monitoring to be permanent in this state. The member for Waterford, the member for Bulimba, the member for Nudgee, the former member for Barron River and the member for Jordan are all failed child safety ministers in Labor's revolving door that created the system that Minister Camm is trying to fix.

Wait, there is one more thing I forgot about the member for Waterford. That is right, the reportable conduct scheme. We had an inquiry in this state that left a Reportable Conduct Scheme with the member for Waterford to implement. That would have stopped paedophiles in this state. That was in 2017. Did she implement it? Did it happen? No, it did not. They sat on it for four years. That saw the most prolific paedophile in this state able to carry out horrendous offending against children in Queensland. If the member for Waterford had acted when that report was on her desk in 2017—

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

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

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw. Children may have been saved. The Minister for Child Safety is getting on with the plan of delivering Safer Children, Safer Communities—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The convention is that if the member is asked to withdraw, they do so unreservedly. The minister continued her—

**Mr SPEAKER:** There was that much noise in here, member, that I am not really sure. I think the Clerk may have something for me.

**Mrs GERBER:** For the benefit of the House, I am happy to withdraw again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Unreservedly?

**Mrs GERBER:** Yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have 11 seconds left.

**Mrs GERBER:** The child safety minister is getting on with the job of fixing Labor's failed child safety system, delivering what Queenslanders have called for. The Labor government left the system in complete disarray. We are getting on with the job of fixing Labor's failed child safety system.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 50:**

**LNP, 50**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, 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, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Sullivan.

Pair: Watts, Linard.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**LNP, 50**—Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Chiesa, Crandon, Crisafulli, Dalton, Dillon, Doolan, Dooley, Field, 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, Vorster, Young.

**NOES, 34:**

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

**Ind, 1**—Sullivan.

Pair: Watts, Linard.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. condemns the members for Waterford, Bulimba, Jordan and Nudgee and the former member for Barron River for their failures in their ministerial duties to protect vulnerable Queensland children;
2. notes the former government's 10 years of failure in dealing with victims of domestic and family violence.

Sitting suspended from 6.42 pm to 7.40 pm.

## YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 156, on motion of Mrs Gerber—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.40 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. At face value, this bill proposes a simple amendment to the Youth Justice Act, changing a reference from 'four years' to 'five years'. On the surface, it appears technical and minor, but when examined closely it reflects deeper and more concerning issues about the government's approach to youth justice, policy planning and accountability.

Electronic monitoring devices are designed to supervise young people in the community by tracking their movements as a condition of bail. Their stated purpose is to support compliance with bail conditions, provide an alternative to remand and allow young people to remain connected to family, education and community while awaiting the outcome of court proceedings. When used appropriately, they can help disrupt negative peer influences and support young people to stabilise their lives.

In Queensland, the use of electronic monitoring has, until now, been conditional and limited. Courts may impose monitoring devices as a bail condition for young people aged 15 years or older, living in prescribed trial locations and with a demonstrated history of serious offending. Devices are fitted by the Queensland Police Service and monitored by Queensland Corrective Services. Before a young person is required to wear a device, youth justice service centre staff conduct a suitability assessment to ensure the child understands the conditions imposed and has a stable environment in which to live. As part of the trial, the program was expanded following Labor's 2024 eligibility changes, resulting in increased participation.

This debate cannot occur without reference to evidence. The independent Nous Group's evaluation of the electronic monitoring device trial provides critical insight into when and how these devices can be effective. The evaluation found that 72 per cent of young people in the trial successfully completed their bail conditions. Reoffending outcomes were also lower, with 63 per cent of the trial cohort reoffending compared with 81 per cent in a comparable group. Importantly, there was a 26 per cent reduction in victim-involved offences committed while young people were on bail. However, the evaluation is unequivocal in its conclusions. These outcomes were not achieved through monitoring alone. The success of electronic monitoring depended on the delivery of intensive wraparound support services. The findings cannot be attributed solely to the device itself but to the combination of supervision, case management and support delivered alongside it.

The evaluation also issues a clear warning that must not be ignored. The trial cohort was intentionally narrow, and Nous cautions against generalising the findings to broader or different cohorts. Nous found that 84 per cent of electronic monitoring orders occurred in South-East Queensland, where service availability and mobile connectivity are strongest. Participation by First Nations children was lower due to suitability criteria, and suitability itself depended on reliable mobile coverage—something that cannot be assumed in many regional, rural and remote communities.

Community members and victim-survivors in places such as Townsville and Cairns told the committee they feel let down by a government that sold a four-word slogan as a solution yet has failed to deliver tangible change. Queensland Police Service data reflects these concerns. In the Far Northern Police Region, which includes Cairns, there were more victims of motor vehicle theft in 2025, with a 19 per cent increase on the previous year. In Townsville, unlawful entry offences by young offenders increased by 30.1 per cent over the same period. These communities are not asking for slogans; they are asking for policies that are proven to work, properly resourced and reviewed when expanded.

Electronic monitoring must earn community confidence through evidence, not assumption. Crucially, the evaluation makes clear that the effectiveness of electronic monitoring cannot be separated from the wraparound supports delivered during the trial. Expanding the use of these devices to younger children, to new cohorts or to areas without proven service capacity—without equivalent support in place—risks undermining both the evidence base and community trust.

The bill before the House is remarkably narrow in its drafting. The sole amendment is the extension of the eligibility period from four years to five, yet this narrow amendment sits within a much broader policy context that cannot be ignored. The legislation makes electronic monitoring permanent. It expands eligibility to younger children, removes offence-based restrictions, replaces a court's obligation to consider a child's capacity to understand and comply with conditions with a department provided suitability report, and removes geographic limits so monitoring may occur wherever the department advises services and technology are available. These are not minor changes. They represent a significant expansion of electronic monitoring beyond the cohort tested in the trial, despite clear warnings from the evaluation and from stakeholders about the risks of doing so without proven supports in place.

Stakeholders including the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and the Queensland Family and Child Commission have expressed qualified support for electronic monitoring as an alternative to remand, but they have been equally clear that these devices are only effective when paired with wraparound services that address the underlying drivers of offending, including trauma, substance misuse, disengagement from education and exposure to family violence.

Unfortunately, the Crisafulli LNP government's approach to support services remains vague. Programs such as Regional Reset and Staying on Track are unlikely to be operational until late this year. While the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support continues to manage existing bail support and rehabilitation programs, there is a clear absence of a credible, funded plan for early intervention and prevention to complement the expanded use of electronic monitoring. The evaluation also makes clear that the trial relied heavily on programs established under the former Labor government. Youth co-responder teams, the intensive bail initiative, intensive case management and existing bail support services formed the backbone of the support delivered during the trial, yet, almost 18 months into government, witnesses and submitters told the committee that many of the Crisafulli LNP government's newly announced services have not commenced. Stakeholders highlighted a growing gap between funding announcements and services actually operating on the ground. Funding certainty for key bail support services beyond 30 June 2026 remains unclear. Queensland is yet to see evidence that Regional Reset programs are up and running. Only a handful of Staying on Track programs have commenced and just one of the six promised youth justice and crime prevention schools is operating.

The bill is another example of a government that has failed to adequately plan and deliver meaningful reform. Despite its wide-reaching policy implementations, it is four pages long and contains only one substantive clause. This amendment could have been incorporated into earlier legislation. Its omission raises serious questions about planning, coordination and transparency. The bill is not the bold step forward Queensland needs. A punitive, reactive approach to youth offending does not reduce reoffending, does not address the underlying causes and does not make communities safer.

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.49 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This is a bill to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Regulation 2016. This bill is great news for Hervey Bay after a decade of decline that gave rise to the youth crime crisis. Youth crime inflicted significant economic damage throughout our hardworking small business community and terrified many older members in our community. Meanwhile the former Labor member for Hervey Bay remained in witness protection, reportedly dismissing the youth crime crisis as a media beat-up and quickly retreating from Labor's vacuous and patronising slogan of 'keeping us safe and strong'. Hervey Bay cannot risk returning to the bad old days of Labor.

Section 52AA of the Youth Justice Act provides that the court, in certain circumstances, can impose on a grant of bail a condition that a child must wear an electronic monitoring device while released on bail. This bill makes several substantial amendments. Firstly, the bill amends section 52AA(10) of the Youth Justice Act to provide permanent electronic monitoring by removing the expiry date of 30 April 2026 after a period of five years have expired. Secondly, it removes the existing geographical limitations under section 52AA to allow for the use of electronic monitoring on any youth offender throughout Queensland. To give practical effect to this amendment, the bill amends the Youth Justice Regulation and removes part 2A, 'Geographical areas for monitoring device condition' and schedule 1AA, 'Geographical area for child to live in'. Thirdly, the bill removes the restrictive eligibility criteria that requires a 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. Finally, the bill simplifies the matters which a court must consider when determining whether an electronic monitoring device condition is appropriate.

It is important to understand the legislative history behind this amendment bill. It is a history that speaks to Labor's muddled and chaotic policy on the run. It is a story that exemplifies a pattern of obfuscation. It was Queensland Labor that substantially weakened the youth justice legislation by removing detention as a last resort, abolishing breach of bail as an offence and closing the Childrens Court to victims, their families and the media. In 2021 section 26 of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill inserted a new section 52AA into the Youth Justice Act. Subsection (10) provided that this section expire two years after commencement. That was on 30 April 2023. Then in 2023 section 14 of the Strengthening Community Safety Bill extended the application of section 52AA by a further two years, until 30 April 2025. The Crisafulli government is taking a calm and methodical approach to the electronic monitoring law, and in April 2025 we extended that sunset clause for a further year, to 30 April 2026. This 2025 amendment was because of Labor's half-hearted and rushed legislative agenda.

A credible and robust qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the effectiveness of electronic monitoring devices requires a sufficiently large and statistically significant sample size, and that is why we extended the trial in 2025. The *Evaluation of the electronic monitoring trial: final report* was released

in October 2025. According to the final report, the outcomes were generally positive and electronic monitoring conditions were associated with bail completion, reduced reoffending, lower victimisation and reduced time in custody. The report speaks about wraparound services being central to the success of electronic monitoring devices. We are doing just that. We have our gold standard early intervention programs like Regional Reset and the Kickstarter program.

Labor's breathtaking arrogance is self-evident in a misleading and deceptive statement of reservation where it is stated—and wait for it—

It is clear this bill is an expansion of the strong tool implemented and trialled by the former Labor Government.

Let's be very clear: Labor's trial from the very beginning was set up to fail because it was impossible to conduct a robust, qualitative and quantitative assessment with such a manifestly restricted cohort.

Let's look at some quick EMD statistics. In relation to high bail completion, 114 EMD orders had been completed as at 30 June 2025. Of those 114 with completed EMD orders, 72 per cent resulted in successful completion of bail conditions. There was a 24 per cent reduction in relation to the comparison group in the likelihood of reoffending. A lower proportion of EMD episodes was associated with offences involving victims during bail compared to the comparison group. There was less time in custody: 46 per cent of EMD episodes spent less time in custody during bail compared to 96 per cent in the three months before the episode.

Labor's soft approach to crime has given rise to a youth crime crisis in my electorate of Hervey Bay and indeed Queensland. Clearly, when it came to reforming the youth justice system and putting the rights of victims first, Queensland Labor just does not have the ticker. An inconvenient and embarrassing truth for Labor occurred on 9 February 2024 when the former police commissioner Katarina Carroll said, 'I will always provide frank and fearless advice to the government.' The former police commissioner described electronic monitoring devices as a very, very powerful tool. Her comments came following the tragic death of Ipswich grandmother Vyleen White. Sadly, at the time of Ms Carroll's statement 33 EMD devices had been issued but only five were in use.

Section 52AA has been considerably simplified to provide that a court may impose a bail condition that a child must wear an electronic monitoring device while released on bail if the court is satisfied, in addition to the matters mentioned in 52AA that: imposing the monitoring device condition is appropriate having regard to the suitability assessment report given to the court under subsection (4); and any other matter the court considers relevant. The court must continue to apply all of the requirements under section 52AA(2) before imposing electronic monitoring as a condition of bail.

In closing, the Crisafulli government is taking a proactive and transformative approach to youth justice. This side of the House is delivering for Queenslanders some of the strongest youth justice monitoring laws in the country. We are a government that listens to Queenslanders, and in October 2024 Hervey Bay resoundingly voted for a Crisafulli government that would provide stronger youth justice laws, hold youth offenders accountable for their crimes and provide a youth justice system that puts victims first. Queenslanders know that we cannot risk a return to a chaotic Labor government whose botched youth crime policy was evident in a 2016 five-point plan, in a 2019 four-point plan, in a 2020 five-point plan and in a 2022 10-point plan. I commend the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. I support this bill and agree that electronic monitoring can play a role, but this bill also exposes a far bigger problem: the government's selective courage when it comes to tackling youth crime. While the government is prepared to put ankle bracelets on offenders, it still refuses to implement real deterrence that Queenslanders have been crying out for.

**Mr Stevens:** Castle law.

**Mr KNUTH:** Spot on! More than 110,000 Queenslanders signed the record-breaking petition—not 20,000, not 5,000 but 110,000 Queenslanders—calling for castle law, giving families the right to defend themselves in their own homes without fear of prosecution. That is the real voice of a fed-up community, yet the government refuses to act. Why is it acceptable to electronically track offenders but not acceptable to give law-abiding families legal certainty when youth criminals invade their homes at night? It is far better to deter crime before it happens, not deal with the aftermath when the crime occurs which destroys the lives of Queenslanders. The same can be said for the KAP's relocation sentencing policy. This policy is simple—

**Mr KRAUSE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Thank you. Member for Hill, I ask you to stay more focused on the bill at hand. I have given you a bit of leniency there, but I will be keeping an eye on you moving forward.

**Mr KNUTH:** During the recent by-election the now member for Hinchinbrook repeatedly insisted that, once elected, he would immediately implement breach of bail resulting in jail. I have read through this bill, but I cannot find anything like that mentioned, despite this bill presenting the perfect opportunity to deliver that promise. The KAP's relocation sentencing policy simply means that repeat youth offenders who terrorise communities are removed from the environments where the offending occurs and relocated to structural outback facilities where behaviour can be addressed.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, I bring you back to the scope of the bill at hand, thank you.

**Mr KNUTH:** I ask: where is the breach of bail to go to jail and why is it not in this bill? Why are victims still watching the same offenders cycle in and out of the system again and again? Commitments made during the by-election should not evaporate the moment the ballot boxes are packed away. Queenslanders are sick and weary of politicians saying one thing to get elected and doing another once they sit in the parliament.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr KNUTH:** Electronic monitoring may help manage offenders, but it does not replace accountability.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, I ask you to take your seat, please, for a moment. Member for Bundaberg, I do not need your assistance, especially when you are not in your correct seat. Member for Hill, you may proceed.

**Mr KNUTH:** Queenslanders are weary and sick of politicians saying one thing to get elected and then doing another once they sit in the parliament. Electronic monitoring may help manage offenders, but it does not replace accountability, consequences or deterrence. If the government is serious about tackling youth crime then ankle bracelets alone will not cut it. Queenslanders want another policy—castle law—to protect families—

**Mr DILLON:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Mr KNUTH:**—relocation sentencing to protect communities—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, please take your seat. Member for Gregory, did you have a point of order?

**Mr DILLON:** I did, Madam Deputy Speaker, regarding the long title of the bill and the relevance of the current member's contribution.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Hill, this is your last warning. Please keep your comments to the long title of the bill.

**Mr KNUTH:** Yes, okay, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I have mentioned electronic monitoring about 15 times, so I cannot see why my comments are outside the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, you will not speak to anybody in this chair in that manner. I would ask you to apologise and please move on with your speech.

**Mr KNUTH:** Sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr KNUTH:** Until those measures that I mentioned are on the table, this bill, while supported, remains only part of the solution. I want to say that again: until those measures are on the table, this bill is only part of the solution. The longer the government avoids the hard decisions, the longer Queensland families will keep paying the price.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (8.04 pm): I am very pleased to rise to speak on this important piece of legislation, the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. At the outset I acknowledge the Minister for Youth Justice, the member for Currumbin, Laura Gerber, for her and her team's tireless work and efforts on this bill. Queenslanders have welcomed the Crisafulli government's

focus on victims. The youth justice minister, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and the Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence are all working together focused on victims and trying to ensure there are fewer victims.

This important tranche of the youth justice electronic monitoring amendments is such a critical piece of that Gold Standard Early Intervention that we talked about years before the election when those opposite scoffed at us talking about gold standard. If you talk to the academics out there, they will tell you that gold standard is delivering outcomes when you properly measure outcomes and then we can professionally examine those outcomes and make changes to produce even better outcomes. That is something the former government did not do well, and I suspect very strongly that it did not do it well because it was not coordinated, particularly around those areas of youth justice, police, the Attorney-General's portfolio area as well as child safety. That is something this government is doing in a calm and methodical way.

With regard to this suite of changes for electronic monitoring, there is a section that is very focused around assisting those offenders who need help. Electronic monitoring devices can be the last chance people get before going to jail. When you look at the statistics, 84 per cent of youth property offenders in the criminal justice system stop offending when they turn 18 because of the consequences of adult jail. These early intervention processes that we have, including electronic monitoring devices with other support services and other counselling and coaching and mentoring for these youngsters, are about getting them to stop offending when they are 15 and 16, because if we stop them offending at 15 and 16 then they do not end up in jail, and that is a success for our community.

It is not just me who is talking about this; it is an examination of a very large cohort who have been subject to the electronic monitoring system under these changes. I note that over 5,600 people have triggered the system because of the fact that they are outside the area of their location—perhaps not being at home—while they are under a curfew. Police and youth justice have a curfew system in that if an offender is out at night there is a chance they will be associating with others and reoffending. That curfew system linked with electronic monitoring devices is an important step which ensures that offender stays at home and they do not commit offences. As I said, this is the Gold Standard Early Intervention that we have coupled with Adult Crime, Adult Time.

Queenslanders welcome our approach to make sure there are fewer victims, and we have had great success. However, I am challenged by the conflicting contributions those opposite have made here tonight. I wonder if they are going to support this bill to ensure these important measures are implemented so that we have fewer victims, or are they going to go off on some other tangent and be soft on crime like they were for 10 years? In 2015 those opposite weakened the laws, and they weakened the laws because they thought that if they arrested fewer people there would be fewer victims. But, no, there were still more victims; they just did not charge the offenders. That is the perverse reality of what they did in 2015 and it is one of the reasons I am here today: I saw what they were doing by trying to stop arresting offenders. Guess what? If you arrest offenders and there are consequences for their actions, they do not offend again. I am proud to be associated with the government that is working in that space.

The question is: does the Labor opposition support these laws or not? I have not heard anyone from the opposition stand up and say that they do not support them. I am actually having a bit of *deja vu* back to the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws when they were conflicted and trying to work out whether they should support those laws or not. I think that would have been a very interesting caucus meeting to be a part of. Perhaps the same thing is happening again.

I know that Queenslanders respected the calm and methodical way we went about being in opposition and respect the calm and methodical and considered way we are in government. One of the reasons for that was the health crisis, the youth crime crisis, the cost-of-living crisis—and here we now see the opposition in crisis again and not able to come to terms with this issue of supporting strong bail laws, the strongest bail laws in the country. I am pleased that we are able to deliver this for Queensland. We have so many different projects, such as the Regional Reset program, the Staying on Track program—

**Mrs Gerber:** Youth Justice Schools.

**Mr McDONALD:** The Youth Justice Schools and the Kickstarter grants. They are just a few. I am confused when those opposite talk about support for youth offenders and keeping them out of jail because 'jail is a bad place for them; they all offend when they go to jail.' The worst of the worst go to jail. We have to stop them from offending. I am interested to know where those opposite stand in relation to support for our youth justice electronic monitoring changes, the strongest bail laws.

Queenslanders will appreciate that those on this side are not fighting amongst ourselves. We are working together to produce the best outcomes for Queenslanders. I am not making up what we have achieved over the last 12 months. For 10 years the Labor Party weakened the laws. We have had a decade of offenders teaching other offenders and we have ended up with a generation of untouchables. When you end up with youth offenders in Townsville driving cars at police cars the system is completely broken. It is the little changes that you make in the youth justice system that will make the difference, from the earliest school interventions and making sure those offenders who are vulnerable are supported. I think we are catering for 600 in each region.

**Mrs Gerber:** The kids on electronic monitoring will be able to go to Youth Justice Schools.

**Mr McDONALD:** The kids on electronic monitoring can go to Youth Justice Schools because they are not actually in jail. That is a really great point. The youth justice minister knows quite a lot about this. I am very pleased to associate with her knowledge. I was pleased to work with the youth justice minister and the member for Ninderry when we were on the Youth Justice Reform Select Committee. Those opposite did not like the outcomes we were producing and they shut it down at the 11th hour when we had a 150-page report and 55 recommendations. We learned a lot through that.

I was very proud to be the officer in charge of police at Laidley when we were dealing with youth offenders. I was encouraging my operational officers to do what they could, even though they had some of the weakest laws. We supported our community and we were able to produce okay outcomes. This government has put in place some great resources and some great laws to produce even better outcomes for our police. That will continue for some time. The electronic monitoring devices that those opposite put in place back in 2021—

**Mrs Gerber:** They were set up to fail.

**Mr McDONALD:** They were set up to fail. There were four people in the first year because they had to agree to it, they had to have their parents agree, they had to have somewhere to charge it overnight, they had to have committed an indictable offence. The member for Glass House warned them at the committee hearing and they did not listen. I commend this bill. I ask those opposite to get on board and help victims in Queensland, not offenders.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (8.14 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill before the House tonight, the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. I note from the outset that electronic monitoring was introduced under a Labor government. The evaluation that has been provided by Nous Group, which was tabled here in the House in December last year, is a pretty riveting read for 116-odd pages. It goes into the methodology around the eligibility and how that qualitative analysis was conducted. This evaluation refers to the fact that this was a limited cohort and that it was specifically designed to be a limited cohort and that is taken into consideration.

At times I have heard government members talk about the botched rollout, but at the same time referring to an evaluation that praised the effectiveness of electronic monitoring under this program. It is a kind of Schrodinger's evaluation: it is botched, but they are going to continue with a lot of the outcomes that were mentioned specifically in this report.

The electronic monitoring trial that was introduced under Labor and expanded was acknowledged from the outset as a trial and a tool. That does not mean a statewide rollout; that means a deliberately targeted strategy. The evaluation report referred to the supports that were fundamental to the success that was achieved in the program. Those were programs that again were introduced by the Labor government.

Nominated quite pointedly throughout the evaluation is the youth co-responder team, another Labor innovation in the youth justice space. Everywhere throughout this evaluation the success of electronic monitoring in the trial is linked specifically to interactions between the cohort that had the monitors fitted and youth co-responder teams. Right up until 2024 the Labor government was rolling out more and more youth co-responder teams throughout Queensland.

The statistics show there were 114 young people who received an electronic monitoring device, but those 114 people were responsible for 5,667 alerts. Every single one of those over 5,000 interactions required a follow-up. We do have youth co-responder teams throughout the state. We have QCS who are the first point of call, but in terms of turning up to find out the cause, that was the responsibility of the youth co-responder teams. In the event there was no youth co-responder team—keeping in mind that most youth co-responder teams do not operate 24/7—that goes back to general duties police. It was identified in the trial that with only 114 young people it was an impost on QPS.

My concern is in relation to expanding the trial statewide. Clearly in legislation it is not going to happen statewide. It is unfortunate that those people who will not be under the cover of EMD will not know because the department will refuse to tell them whether people can be fitted with EMDs. I am sure anyone checking their phone at any given time will be able to determine whether they are in a site where offenders will have EMDs. It is not that hard. If you are expanding statewide—and I will caveat that—and you are increasing the eligibility—and the evaluation report recommended that—and you decrease the age to 10 years old—so we will potentially have kids in primary school with these devices fitted—the number of alerts will exponentially increase from 5,667. When we have police who are run off their feet, whether it is in relation to DV, mental health or a whole range of other calls for service, this will exponentially increase calls for service.

Notwithstanding the 48 extra police officers who have been redistributed—keeping in mind that that is specifically for DV teams—my concern is about the operational impact on the police on the ground. Can anyone tell me that police in their area are idly sitting around, waiting for a call to see whether someone's battery has failed or whether someone is breaching their bail conditions? This means more calls for service on already pressed QPS officers. I am concerned about the areas of policing that are going to have to be put off while police respond to this. As I said, the youth co-responder teams throughout Queensland do not operate 24/7. Some of them have only a handful of police officers as well as YJ officers and a 24/7 operational roster is not covered, so that impost will go on to uniformed police elsewhere.

I want to acknowledge the amount of wraparound support that is required. During the committee inquiry, the department was very reticent to outline the support services that are available throughout the state. We have had some recent media releases around an offender school in Logan, although that will not open just yet. There are funding requirements for the intensive case management that is required. We must keep in mind that the original trial and the evaluation determined that those children involved in the trial already had an amount of support around them. That was the cohort that was set to succeed. If the program is to be expanded to a wider cohort where there may not be family supports and there may not be an offender school that can help them to adjust and if we are talking about primary school kids then I want to know where in my local area the supports will be to make sure those kids have every chance. We know that once kids go to jail they are on a path to reoffending. All of the statistics show that once a child ends up in custody in the corrective services system they have a greater chance of further and more frequent offending. If EMDs are a tool that is about keeping kids out of jail unless it is absolutely necessary in terms of consequences for their actions, I want to know that they will be set up to succeed. The young people on the original trial were supported to succeed.

This is not a silver bullet. When we talk about a reduction in reoffending, we are still talking about an average of seven offences per person in relation to those who were fitted with a device as opposed to the control group, so this is not a silver bullet. This requires intensive support and an increase in the youth co-responder teams not only in terms of location but also in terms of resourcing to make sure the increased operational burden on uniform and general duties police does not tie up that very limited police resource. We need to be honest with Queenslanders that this is a tool, that it will not be a silver bullet and that, as identified by the union, our police will bear the brunt of the increase in the expanded cohort throughout the state. In addition, we need to have those wraparound support services in place and ready to go. This is going to rely on keeping a child safety and youth justice workforce that is fully engaged, because we know that once there is a turnover in case managers we have backward steps in relation to outcomes. I wait to see a further evaluation.

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (8.24 pm): I rise to support the bill introduced by the honourable member for Currumbin and Minister for Youth Justice. The Crisafulli government was elected on a platform of keeping Queenslanders safe and ensuring we put victims first. We will do everything we can to drive down crime in this state. I must say that I am completely confused as to the position of the Labor Party right now. We have just heard from a former police officer, and I acknowledge the work that the member for Macalister has done on behalf of the people of Queensland as a police officer. However, it is obvious that there is a great deal of division and divide in the Labor Party right now.

As the member for Lockyer touched on, this reminds me of December 2024 when they could not decide how to vote on the Making Queensland Safer Bill. I had to speak for about an hour and a half to give them enough time to finish their caucus meeting, at which they were deciding how they would vote. My voice is still hoarse from that and I apologise to the House for waffling, but I had to do that because

the opposition did not know which way they were going to vote. I had to give them time to have their caucus meeting and make up their minds. Where are we today? What is Labor's position on the bill? If you listened to the member for Macalister—

**Mrs Gerber:** They don't even know.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** They do not even know; I take that interjection from the minister. They are still trying to work it out. It is obvious that half of the Labor opposition think they should be tough on crime and they want to tell the Queensland people that they are tough on crime; however, the other half say, 'No, we don't want to do that because we will upset our Greens mates.' I am wondering how the Labor opposition will come to a conclusion. Will they support our tough laws or will they try to weaken them? Do they support children having opportunity? I thought they wanted to look after children. A young child who has done the wrong thing could have the opportunity to have an electronic monitoring device and go home. Half of the Labor Party go, 'No, lock 'em up' and the other half say, 'No, let 'em out.' Actually, I will say that a third say, 'Lock 'em up'; a third say, 'Let 'em out'; and the other third say, 'Don't arrest them. Despite the fact that they've done something wrong, we don't want to punish them.'

I want to give the House a statistic: 84 per cent of people over the age of 18 stop offending. Do members know why? It is because of consequences for actions. After turning 18, 84 per cent are less likely to reoffend. However, we hear from the member for Macalister that if you offend once you will continue to offend. Under the youth justice minister, I can tell the House that that is not going to happen because the Crisafulli government is resolute: consequences for actions—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): We will have order in the House. Attorney-General, I bring you back to relevance to the bill. You have been slightly relevant but I bring you back to being directly relevant to the bill, otherwise you will be seated.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is great to have you in the chair. We are ensuring that we have the strongest bail laws in the nation. This is a step in that direction. With the greatest respect, I am exceedingly confused about how the Labor opposition are going to come together and work out how they vote on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. We on this side of the House, the Crisafulli government, believe that victims deserve to have peace of mind while they wait for justice.

At this point, I acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook, Wade Chiesa. Welcome to the House, member for Hinchinbrook. He is a member who understands that victims of crime should come first. If kids do the wrong thing they should face the consequences. However, with electronic monitoring across the state, which is what the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill provides for, it offers youth who do the wrong thing a chance. It gives them bail support.

Labor failed to fund permanent police positions in the youth co-responder unit. The member for Macalister talked at great length about the co-responder model for police. I would like to tell the House—and I know the police minister would probably like to announce this—that the Crisafulli government funded the co-responder unit. We made those police positions permanent.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We will have some quiet in the House, thank you.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Apologies. We made those positions permanent because it is about ensuring that those police officers can wrap their arms around the kids who are on bail and those who will have electronic monitoring devices. Importantly, it is about preventing them from reoffending.

I have more faith and hope in the next generation of Queensland kids than I think some on the opposite side of the House have. I have heard from Labor speakers that kids are going to continue to offend. I actually have more faith in them than that. I think they should be given the opportunity if they are in juvie to go to school, to learn how to be a better citizen or to perhaps work with local citizens. For example, in and around Kingaroy and the South Burnett, CTC, an amazing organisation, is working with youth offenders through the program that the minister has implemented to ensure that when these youths come out of juvie—and we have quite a few of them in the South Burnett—they will have someone who looks after them not just once and for 72 hours, but is a touch point for a period of time to get them back on track.

We do not want to see them reoffending. We want them to get back to school, to be employed and to be wonderful citizens, particularly in and around the South Burnett. They may become tradies. They can become whatever it is they want to become. They may become lawyers. They may be the next Attorney-General. Who knows! The point is that we must ensure that we look after these youth offenders and give them the options that the youth justice minister is giving them.

In the dying days of the Labor government in 2024 they added further trial locations, but then failed to extend the end date of the program. They never made it permanent. That sums up the Labor opposition. They made the announcement and they failed to follow through.

In my last 40 seconds, I have one question for the Labor opposition: what is their position on the bill? Where is Labor going with electronic monitoring and strengthening the bail laws in this state? Where are they going? We know crime is still a problem in Cairns. Where is the member for Cairns going? Is he going to back the LNP's strong on crime approach? Is he going to back—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! No. I will bring you back to being relevant to the bill. This is the second time I have had to ask you to do that, Attorney-General.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Excuse me! I have sat down.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney-General, I call you now.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (8.35 pm): All Queenslanders deserve to be safe and feel safe in their homes, on their streets and in their communities. They also deserve confidence that the laws passed by this parliament are not only appropriate in intention but also effective in practice, fair in application and humane in outcome. There are no competing goals. Community safety and compassion are not opposites. When done well, they reinforce one another.

No political party, no member of parliament and no government has a monopoly on the desire to keep Queensland safe. These are shared responsibilities and must be met with seriousness, honesty and evidence. The Queensland Labor opposition has always supported laws that reduce the number of victims, prevent reoffending and stop young people from becoming entrenched in the justice system. We will continue to do so.

It is in that spirit that the opposition supports the intent of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill, but not without significant reservations. Electronic monitoring can be a useful tool. It can provide structure, accountability and reassurance for victims and communities. It was trialled by the former Labor government for a narrow cohort of older, high-risk repeat offenders and only alongside intense supervision and wraparound support. That trial made one point unmistakably clear: electronic monitoring is not a solution in itself; it is a tool whose effectiveness depends entirely on how, where and with what supports it is used. The evaluation found that the electronic monitoring devices do not prevent offending on their own. Their impact is shaped by implementation, by service availability and by the presence of trusted adults, youth workers and, more importantly in some cases, culturally appropriate supports.

Witness after witness—victims' advocates, community leaders, legal experts and frontline services—reiterated the same message: monitoring without support is a recipe for predictable failure. This bill significantly expands the scope of electronic monitoring beyond the narrow parameters of the original trial. This is worth mentioning. That expansion raises serious questions that remain unanswered.

Firstly, wraparound support services should not be optional. They are the engine room of any successful youth justice intervention. Youth co-responder teams, bail support services, intense case management, family support, schooling, stability and trauma informed care are what reduce reoffending. This is a complex program and it has to be because it is a complex issue. Without them, electronic monitoring risks becoming a blunt surveillance method that increases technical breaches, not to mention police call-outs—and we have heard those numbers—and court involvement, particularly for young children, First Nations children and those in regional and remote Queensland.

The opposition is deeply concerned that the government has not clearly identified where these services are operating, where they are absent and who is funded, for how long and what gaps remain. Referring parliament and the community to a general website does not reflect transparency, by any means. Queenslanders, including victims, have a right to know whether the supports that make this policy work exist in their communities.

Secondly, funding certainly matters. Many bail support and youth services face funding cliffs beyond June 2026. Announcements of large funding packages mean little if services are not yet operating or if experienced providers are left in limbo—and we are hearing from some of those experienced providers. The evidence before the committee suggests a worrying gap between announcement and delivery. Good policy cannot be built on short-term funding, uncertainty and, most importantly, staff turnover.

Thirdly, technology is not neutral. Queensland's geography matters. Large parts of regional, rural and remote Queensland experience inconsistent and non-existent mobile coverage. The evaluation identified connectivity problems, GPS drift and false alerts that trigger unnecessary police responses. They mention this and they talked about this. These issues disproportionately affect First Nations communities and remote regions, increasing the risk of breach and escalation rather than rehabilitation.

It is neither honest nor fair to suggest that electronic monitoring will work equally across the state when network coverage does not. Communities deserve clarity about where the technology is reliable, where it is not and how failures will be managed so that children are not punished for infrastructure gaps beyond their control.

Fourthly, children are not just small adults. Developmental science tells us that young people are impulsive, identity-forming and highly influenced by peers. Wearing an electronic monitoring device, particularly in school or community settings, can stigmatise, isolate and entrench negative identity. Many children placed on monitoring are there for compliance issues, not for new serious issues. Labelling them as dangerous risks is doing long-term harm in the name of short-term reassurance. This must be acknowledged in any process. If rehabilitation is the goal then policies must build bridges forward, not shackle children to their worst moments.

Fifthly, oversight and review are essential. The trial data is limited, is geographically concentrated and does not include younger children. I want to say that again: the trial data is limited, is geographically concentrated and does not include younger children. The expansion proposed in this bill goes well beyond what has been evaluated. A legislated review mechanism is not a sign of weakness; it is a mark of responsible lawmaking. It provides reassurance to communities, victims and practitioners that if something is not working it can be fixed.

Finally, implementation depends on people and leadership. Electronic monitoring is not 'set and forget'. It requires sustained investment in police, corrective services, youth justice staff and non-government partners. It requires stable departmental leadership and genuine collaboration with a variety of sectors. Without that, even well-intentioned laws will falter.

In conclusion, the opposition supports the intent of this bill because communities are hurting, victims deserve protection and youth offending must be addressed, but support cannot be blind. Queenslanders deserve honesty, evidence and transparency, not false hope. Electronic monitoring can play a role, but only if it is properly resourced, fairly applied, supported by services, reviewed rigorously and grounded in an understanding of young people, not fear of them. We owe Queenslanders safety, we owe victims justice and we owe our young people a future that is shared by opportunity, accountability and care, not just surveillance.

 **Hon. AJ PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (8.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. This bill represents the first part of the Crisafulli government's strong bail laws and will deliver the strongest bail laws in Australia. According to the explanatory notes, the key objectives of the bill are to make youth electronic monitoring permanent and statewide, remove age restrictions and simplify the matters a court must consider.

The complicated history of the trial of electronic monitoring is testament to the former Labor government's failure to deal with the youth crime crisis. That crime crisis was a legacy of 10 years of decline under the former Labor government. It is what Labor bequeathed to Queenslanders because Labor was always reluctant to properly deal with youth crime.

The former Labor government introduced a trial of electronic monitoring devices—EMDs—in 2021. The first year of the trial failed because only four youth offenders had an order imposed on them. My colleague the member for Glass House forewarned the former government in 2021 that this would happen. He said—

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

It was prophetic. Labor conducted a trial where they set conditions that meant there was no-one to count.

Then two years later, in 2023, the Labor government tried again. It extended the trial for another two years and made piecemeal changes to electronic monitoring. The scope and conditions were never enough to deliver a proper evaluation of the option of using them. Given the extent of the youth crime crisis in Queensland, it was a half-hearted attempt at trying to appear to be doing something. The Labor government never had its heart in using EMDs.

Under the shadow of the election and to dampen the palpable anger in the community about youth crime, the former Labor government expanded the parameters of the program. Suspiciously, nothing was done until two months before the last election, in August 2024, with the trial ending the following April. A cynic would say that those changes were to give breathing space to get past the election and then cancel the whole program if Labor had been re-elected. Labor never gave enough time for a meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the data. It is the Crisafulli government which gave it time by extending the trial.

The bill follows a robust analysis of the trial. The independent evaluation report found the trial demonstrated the effectiveness of electronic monitoring as a condition of youth bail and described the outcomes of the trial as 'generally positive'. It found high bail completion rates, reduced reoffending, lower victimisation and less time in custody. It found EMDs can improve compliance and accountability.

EMDs reduced the likelihood of reoffending by 24 per cent, and 72 per cent of youth on EMDs completed their bail conditions. The reoffending rate was 63 per cent, compared to 81 per cent for youth not wearing an EMD. Youth wearing an EMD committed fewer offences involving victims—40 per cent—compared to 66 per cent for those not wearing an EMD. The report also found that EMDs made it easier to monitor and manage breaches. Where an EMD was used, it was almost always paired with a curfew. Across the trial, EMDs triggered 5,677 confirmed alerts, mostly—70 per cent—for leaving their curfew location.

The report also found that bail support services make EMDs more effective, with 49 per cent of offenders on an EMD condition having no engagement with government funded bail services. Youth who did not receive support from bail services were more likely to reoffend—69 per cent—than those who did engage with bail services—58 per cent. Youth with a monitoring device changed their behaviour, with some reporting that the fear of being caught immediately stopped them reoffending and others reducing their contact with questionable peers.

When Labor watered down youth crime laws in 2015-16, it created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders. I was on the committee when the government started its ideological and misguided campaign to water down the laws. Ten years ago, a Townsville resident spoke about her frustration, saying about the former Labor government—

The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime.

...

The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no effect if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.

That was after only the first year of what was to become a decade of decline under Labor.

For a decade the former Labor government weakened our youth crime laws, made detention a last resort, abolished breach of bail as an offence and created a generation of hardcore repeat offenders. Labor had no enthusiasm for addressing youth crime. It sees youth crime as a political problem, not a crime problem. For a decade it treated crime as a management problem to be batted away with announcements and carefully crafted media spin. Labor repeatedly said that youth crime was decreasing when it was actually rising.

You cannot fix a problem if you will not admit the problem exists. The Crisafulli government is committed to restoring safety in our communities and reducing the number of victims of crime. Electronic monitoring devices are only some of the tools we want to use to help make Queensland safer and restore safety in our communities. These GPS devices mean that there is nowhere for youth to hide if they choose to reoffend. If they commit another crime, there will be consequences for their actions. This is not about providing an alternative to detention. If a youth offender should be in detention, they will be.

This is about ensuring when a youth is deemed eligible for bail the courts have another tool they can use. For too long there has been a revolving door of youth who have been given bail who have committed more offences. These strong laws will help break the cycle of repeat youth offending. The Crisafulli government is committed to delivering a youth justice system that meets the expectations of the community and ensures offenders are held accountable. I support the bill.

 **Mr JKELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.49 pm): One would think if the LNP ministers had their own speech writers we would get a different speech from each of them, but we still seem to get A and B speeches from every single one of them. It is money well spent—value for Queensland’s money. We are lucky to have in this House members of the calibre of the member for Macalister, who gave us an excellent analysis based on real-world experience of the impacts of this legislation and how it might be put into operation. It was a deep analysis and exploration of what this would mean for the offenders, for the victims and for the operational police officers. What did we get from those opposite? They dug deep into their bag of interjections and we got the very erudite, ‘Do you support it or not?’ Perhaps they should have listened to an operational police officer of the member for Macalister’s calibre and tried to understand what she was trying to contribute here.

It is always a pleasure to rise to speak on a bill that essentially involves the LNP handing in Labor’s homework. We have seen the pathetic efforts in this chamber today of the transport minister trying to claim credit for 50-cent fares. I talk to a lot of young people in my community, and when 50-cent fares come up does the name Mickelberg come up? They immediately say, ‘Steven Miles.’

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance and on remaining within the long title of the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to be relevant to the bill before the House.

**Mr JKELLY:** Tonight, the Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation held its annual launch here in Parliament House. Congratulations to founder and good friend John Godwin on what should be another great year. This is an organisation that uses a vast network of mentors to run wellness mentoring programs. They help people to identify their values, set goals, build esteem and empower them to move on with their lives. They work with women recovering from domestic violence, young people who are on a bad path, refugees, First Nations people, people in bikie gangs and people who are returning to society after serving time in prison. This organisation started in 2010, and it has been helping people to aim big, build confidence and make great choices.

This is the type of organisation that the Nous Group’s report anticipated when it said for electronic monitoring devices to be successful wraparound services are essential. I have spoken about this in the past, but I think we have to take a broad view of preventing people from ending up committing crimes and creating more victims when we are developing policy. It is not all in the criminal justice space. While this bill contains measures that will certainly help with that, there is a whole range of things that we have to do and that we have done.

Early and long-term engagement with education reduces people’s likelihood of ending up in crime. Free kindy, pathways colleges, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and free TAFE did that. We know that people who are exposed to domestic violence are also predisposed to ending up in the criminal justice system. That is why the work around preventing domestic violence, supporting victims and helping with recovery is so important. The work of Sue and Lloyd Clarke in ending coercive control is so incredibly important.

People who live with mental health issues and intellectual disabilities are over-represented in our prisons. Often the victims of their crimes are their families and their carers, the people who are trying to help them. I was proud to lead Labor’s mental health inquiry, which resulted in massive increases in funding via the mental health levy which increased support for specialised services for people with disabilities.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance again in relation to the long title of the bill.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The issues which the member for Greenslopes is addressing go to the settings and supports that are provided to those who might be considered eligible for being fitted with one of these devices and are well traversed in the committee report and the statement of reservation.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have your point of order, thank you. Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to directly refer your comments back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr JKELLY:** I will come back to the Nous Group’s evaluation, but I am not surprised that the party which voted against a mental health levy does not want me talking about it. That is of no surprise here.

Their evaluation noted that the use of EMDs is not a silver bullet; rather, it is one tool that if applied correctly has evidence to show it works and is an alternative to custody. I think the key concept here is 'applied correctly'. We have heard a lot about rolled-gold early intervention programs. We have heard a lot, but we have not seen a lot. I think the minister has started more new chiefs of staff than she has started rolled-gold intervention—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Greenslopes, I will keep you relevant to the bill.

**Mr JKELLY:** Submitter after submitter noted how important it was to have wraparound services accompany the use of EDMs—Voices for Victims, the Queensland Law Society, PeakCare, the Townsville Justice Group, to name a few. Newly minted Townsville City Council mayor Nick Dametto said in his contribution—

If you do not have a wraparound service or a guiding adult in these young people's lives, just monitoring them and knowing where they are while they are up to no good is not going to change their behaviour.

I did not agree with a lot of what Nick said when he was a member of this chamber, but I think he could be on to something there. I should note that, while submitters shared similar thoughts to the Townsville mayor, the evidence also supports their view. Look at the numbers from the evaluation: 72 per cent of orders completed during the trial resulted in successful completion of bail conditions; and the trial group had an 18 per cent lower reoffending rate and 16 per cent fewer offences involving victims. They are real reductions in victim numbers because they involved the use of interventions that are based on evidence.

The Townsville Justice Group shared their concerns with the committee about the reliability of wraparound services. It suggests that the talk of rolled-gold wraparound services is just talk. The questions put by the Labor team in their statement of reservation are the key questions the minister needs to answer: where will the services be delivered; what parts of our state will miss out; what organisations are funded and when does that funding run out; when will those services which funded organisations have not started commence; and which rolled-gold services have been announced but are actually not yet being delivered?

I also note the concerns raised by submitters about technology issues. Wraparound services are important, but it is also important to have a reliable internet connection. It is easy to announce a program which sounds great, but what is the use of an intervention if we do not have the technology capability to implement it? I fear that people will hear about this program and think it will help to improve community safety, but it seems the government remains silent on the fact that this will not be deliverable in many parts of Queensland.

I thank those submitters who took the time to participate in this inquiry. I think all submitters would hope that if these EDMs are properly resourced and supported by wraparound services the early trends will continue and lead to a reduction in the number of victims in our state. Labor remains committed to supporting evidence-based laws and programs that protect Queenslanders, prevent individuals from entering the youth justice system in the first place and, most importantly, support victims, ultimately preventing people from becoming victims.

I want to leave the last words in my contribution tonight to the young lady we heard from at the Inspiring Brighter Futures launch tonight. She is their youth ambassador. Elise was the school captain at her school while experiencing homelessness and hiding the fact that she lived in a tent and had to use public toilets to get ready for school. Here are a couple of things she said in her speech—

To everyone in this room, your support turns programs like this from ideas into impact.

From concepts into lives changed.

From good intentions into real opportunity.

...

Keep listening to young people.

Keep believing in them.

Keep backing programs like Onwards & Upwards.

And keep creating spaces where young people can grow, lead, and thrive.

Because when young people are supported properly, they don't just survive—

They rise.

Together, we really can inspire brighter futures, one young person at a time.

Thank you, Elise.

Debate, on motion of Mr J Kelly, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

That the House do now adjourn.

### Swanbank Battery

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.59 pm): We have now had the Crisafulli-Bleijie government here in Queensland for over a year, and during that year we have seen that the LNP are addicted to cuts—whether it is cutting affordability measures such as energy rebates, whether it is cutting services, whether it is cutting jobs or even whether it is cutting ribbons on Labor projects.

Last week the energy minister snuck into Ipswich and made a big announcement, with lots of fanfare, that the big battery at Swanbank was ready for commissioning, making out that it was part of the government's policies when in fact the big battery at Swanbank was a proud Labor project. I was there with the member for Springwood and the member for Murrumba turning the sod back in 2025 for this 250-megawatt battery that is located at Swanbank Power Station.

Our community remembers when the LNP closed down Swanbank Power Station, sacked the workforce and prepped it for sale. It was a Labor government that came back, re-employed the workers and got Swanbank up and running. It was a Labor government that had the vision and committed to creating South-East Queensland's very first clean energy hub, and that is what the big battery was all about. To have the energy minister come in and try to claim credit on a Labor project like that is, frankly, really sad.

**Ms Grace:** It's a bit like the 50-cent fares.

**Mr McCALLUM:** It is exactly like the 50-cent fares. Thanks to Labor, over 350,000 households will be able to be powered by this battery. That is the legacy of Labor when it comes to energy infrastructure in our Bundamba community. It was Labor that delivered energy rebates; it was the LNP that cut them. The LNP's legacy when it comes to energy prices in Queensland is one of record high prices. We have seen the CPI data from the ABS. Thanks to their cut of the \$1,000 universal energy rebate and no support coming through, power prices have gone up by over 400 per cent. Shame on this government.

### Hervey Bay, Banking Services

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.02 pm): The recent closure of the Heritage Bank at Hervey Bay is a blatant betrayal of a longstanding and implied social contract with the Hervey Bay community. Older Hervey Bay customers, including my 87-year-old mother and those with disabilities, are the victims of an unconscionable People First Bank board decision to prioritise profits over people.

On 12 March, the Heritage Bank will permanently close its doors to our Hervey Bay community. That sad day signifies an end to the warm and personal and direct Heritage Bank customer service that Hervey Bay residents have treasured for decades. The Heritage Bank is a customer owned bank which was created through a merger of Heritage Bank and People's Choice Credit Union in 2023. Little did the members realise that their trust would soon be betrayed in the pursuit of profits.

Sadly, the People First Bank has recently announced that it is closing 15 branches across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. The People First Bank justification for the closures are claims that less than one per cent of transactions occur in banks, with 0.7 per cent of customers using the branch regularly. The bank's contentious claim has all the traits of a desktop analysis conducted from head office in Ruthven Street, Toowoomba or Flinders Street, Adelaide. The bank's one-size-fits-all approach has alienated the unique and local characteristics of my Hervey Bay community.

Clearly the People First Bank management have never set foot into the busy Hervey Bay Heritage Bank. If they had, they would have observed that Hervey Bay Heritage Bank's competitive advantage for decades has been putting people first through excellence in direct customer service. The obsession with digital apps, telephone and online banking alienates a large cohort in our community.

Here is what locals are saying about the People First Bank: 'How about Heritage Bank telling us how many transactions are performed in the actual branch'; 'It sounds like the merger has harmed Heritage's good reputation'; 'My friends are closing their accounts because of what this bank is doing, including me'; 'Profits first, people last'; 'Amazing staff who treat their customers with absolute respect'; 'If they were putting people first, they wouldn't be closing the bank'; 'The bank's actions speak far louder than their words'; 'People First Bank? No, here is a new name—People Last Bank.' We call on the People First Bank to reverse their decision at the earliest opportunity; otherwise, they will be known as the 'People Last Bank'.

### Copper Theft

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.05 pm): I rise this evening to remind the Premier that we are still waiting for action on his promise to prevent Queensland copper thefts. I specifically want to remind the Premier that back in May 2024 he had this to say on the subject: 'No more reviews, no more talkfests. It is time to legislate.' I remember these words well for a couple of reasons. Firstly, the Premier came to my electorate, the Harris Avenue sports facility in Narangba, to make this promise on copper theft. I was not invited, but I happened to be holding a mobile office just down the road that day, as I do quite often, and I saw them all coming in. Harris Avenue is a council owned sports precinct. It is the home of the mighty Narangba Eagles Football Club and the Narangba Demons Baseball Club. Sadly, these clubs have been the victims of copper theft numerous times over the years and the City of Moreton Bay and its ratepayers have had to foot the bill.

It was the experience of these clubs and others in my electorate, clubs right across Queensland, increasing reports from the energy industry, construction sites and electrical businesses that led the Labor government to conduct a parliamentary inquiry into scrap metal theft, including copper, during the last parliament. I chaired that inquiry by the Transport and Resources Committee. That is the second reason I have been following the LNP's actions—or, rather, lack of action—on copper theft. Our Labor government had committed to support six of the committee's seven recommendations.

We see no move by the LNP to follow up on this issue at all. Maybe the victims of copper theft are not part of the Premier's core business or not one of his metrics. I am not seeing any green shoots in the copper theft space. If the Premier does have a plan, please let us know so my sports clubs, the electrical contractors on local development sites, and the Energex workers out there sorting out stripped power poles and highway lights can have some comfort. Let the City of Moreton Bay in on the plan before they consider raising our rates in the budget to recover repair costs over and over.

The Premier says he is tough on crime. That should include the theft of copper and other scrap metals, so why does he delay on his promise to 'give police the teeth they need'? The LNP is happy to move an urgency motion for electoral law reform. We are still almost 1,000 days out from the next election, so I am not sure why that is as urgent as copper theft—unless it is so the LNP can take more money from donors before the financial year ends. I submit to the Premier that stamping out scrap metal theft is more important than lining their coffers, but it has been 683 days since the Premier said it is time to legislate and he has been in government for almost 500 of them. So much for a fresh start. This LNP state government is getting staler by the minute.

### Gold Coast Electorate

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.08 pm): The Gold Coast is now a very diversified economy, and as a city bigger than the state of Tasmania the nation's tourism capital now boasts the construction industry, the education industry and the burgeoning film and entertainment industry as major contributors to the employment and financial sustainability of Queensland's fastest growing city. In the magnificent electorate of Mermaid Beach, from the very early days of what is now known as Gold Coast City the Gold Coast city council maintained a freehold property at Miami which ran as the council depot for city maintenance crews and machinery servicing the eastern areas of the Gold Coast.

Just recently I was invited by council officers to inspect the site with them to be appraised of the council's proposal to change the use of the site to a film production studio under the direction and operation of the world famous film producer Mr Baz Luhrmann.

**A government member interjected.**

**Mr STEVENS:** Baz and Ray. Currently Mr Luhrmann has a small office situated on the site, but he has big plans for a major expansion of the production facilities which would attract many employees from the many facets of filmmaking on the Gold Coast who enjoy our fabulous lifestyle. While I was there, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Luhrmann personally and discussing directly his vision and the

opportunities available for the expansion of the Gold Coast film industry. His enthusiasm and belief in the Gold Coast's suitability for the film industry expansion was infectious, and I support his and the council's vision for the development of this site for the specific purpose of film industry growth and employment opportunities. However, I have written to the council and advised of my dissension to any proposals for multiple residential high-rise development on this publicly owned property which would exacerbate traffic, parking and social issues when there is an unserved demand for sporting ovals for the clubs that host the thousands of young kids who come to the coast every year hoping to play soccer, AFL, rugby, netball and other sporting endeavours.

The last Oscar winner I can remember for the Gold Coast was Peter Frampton, who won his Oscar for his work on the Mel Gibson movie *Braveheart*. Hopefully, with Baz Luhrmann making his home on the Gold Coast, there will be many more Oscars to come. We have great actors on the world stage who have originated from the Gold Coast, such as the lovely Margot Robbie who went to Somerset College on the Gold Coast with my son—he is a bit slow to move, obviously—and our very good family friend, Anna Torv, who is an absolute star right across the world as well. The financial benefits that come from this incredibly important 21st century industry must be supported and promoted wherever possible.

### Lytton Electorate, Development

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.11 pm): I, too, would like to acknowledge the great work of the Queensland film industry and thank former premier Anastacia Palaszczuk for her foresight and commitment to the film industry in Queensland.

The LNP Lord Mayor of Brisbane plans to put tens of thousands of additional people into Brisbane's bayside. His Wynnum precinct plan proposes 15-level, high-density housing. My bayside electorate is earmarked for dramatic change. I am not opposed to change. I believe we cannot stop progress and, indeed, we need social and affordable housing to ensure the bayside maintains its innovative and inclusive identity. However, we can plan for it responsibly and thoughtfully.

This proposed population explosion provides some context for the inaction of this government. Where are the plans to invest in services and infrastructure in the bayside? If high population density is the LNP's plan at a council level, where is the forward planning by this LNP government? Where is the planning for road infrastructure, additional public transport services, health services, education services, et cetera? I saw nothing for my electorate in the Crisafulli-Blejje budget last year—zilch. We all know they closed the Wynnum hospital, the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, child safety—yes, they did close child safety—and bayside housing when they were last in power. It seems their tradition of gutting and neglecting Brisbane's bayside is set to continue.

This brings me to one of the most important projects in my electorate—the Lindum rail crossing upgrade. Why is it so important to my community? It is important because it is a major traffic route into bayside suburbs as motorists come on and off the Port of Brisbane Motorway and onto Lytton Road. The only other way is via Wynnum Road. Sadly, the Lindum rail crossing upgrade remains in limbo. The Miles Labor government did its bit—

**Mr Stevens:** What did you do for 10 years?

**Ms PEASE:** Excuse me, I will take that interjection because, do you know what, it is a Brisbane City Council project and it is funded by the state government. Do you know what we did as a state government?

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Lytton, through the chair, thank you.

**Mr BAROUNIS:** Thank you.

**Ms PEASE:** As a state government, we instigated a Lytton precinct plan and undertook a number of investigations, and the ATSB intervened as well, only to discover that the Brisbane City Council had not been upholding their part of the bargain. As a result, the federal Albanese government invested \$85 million but, guess what—this LNP state government have done nothing. We are in limbo in regard to Lytton. Member for Mermaid Beach, before you start interjecting, know your facts.

**Mr Lee** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the member up the back who made a defamatory comment to me. I take personal offence and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr LEE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I made no such comment.

**Ms PEASE:** Excuse me, Mr Deputy Speaker, I asked for him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Hold on while I seek advice. Member for Lytton, I understand there was a comment made, but it was not directed to you personally.

### **Mundingburra Electorate, Cost-of-Living Relief**

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (9.14 pm): It is an absolute pleasure to stand up here and talk about real cost-of-living relief that the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering. As we know, many across our state are doing it tough, and we on this side of the House are serious about providing our communities with genuine cost-of-living relief measures. Yesterday marked one year since the LNP made 50-cent fares permanent—a great LNP initiative. In our first sitting week last year we axed not one but two taxes, stamp duty and Labor's patient tax, making buying your first home and visiting your GP more affordable.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Member for Lytton, I will have no arguments across the chamber.

**Mrs POOLE:** We have extended the first home owner grant and we are allowing our first home buyers to rent out a room without any penalty. We have delivered on disability parking permits being free with not one, not two, but up to three free permits.

We are doing more than ever for our young and growing families. The Crisafulli government is delivering free kindy, and we have seen over 5,000 additional children enrolled as a direct result of this program. Last week I had the pleasure of welcoming the Minister for Education to the Lady Gowrie Headstart Kindergarten in Vincent to announce that we are investing an additional \$535 million to continue the program. It is always exciting to see so many of our young ones learning while playing, gaining confidence and getting the best possible start in life.

We have also launched round 2 of the \$200 Play On! Sports Vouchers, another great LNP initiative. Our kids aged between five and 17 years can choose to use their voucher for any summer or winter sport they like and they can put it towards the cost of membership, registration or participation fees.

Just a few short weeks ago we had our primary school students swing back the gates for the first time this year, excited to see their classmates and meet their new teachers. Our parents also had reason to have a little extra pep in their step as the Crisafulli LNP government delivered our \$100 Back to School Boost; \$100 has been allocated to every primary school student in Queensland. In Mundingburra alone our families are saving over \$650,000 with this program.

We on this side of the House are providing real cost-of-living relief, and I look forward to continuing to deliver real cost-of-living relief to the Mundingburra electorate.

### **Ipswich, Waste**

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.17 pm): On 20 January our national broadcaster introduced Ipswich to viewers across the nation as Australia's dumping ground, presented as an inevitability, a natural consequence of being next door to Brisbane rather than the unfair and deliberate expectation that our region should host harmful waste in our backyards. This particular report by the ABC referenced a site in my electorate housing the uncovered by-product of nickel processing. Many residents fear sitting on their patios and opening windows in their own homes with such waste on their doorstep. Goodness knows what is in the dust coming into their homes.

This is far from an isolated case. Unregulated and poorly planned industrial activity has left families in my electorate suffering noxious odours and airborne hazards that invade their homes, their schools and their backyards. Parents cannot let their children play outside, locals cannot open their windows and their complaints to this LNP government fall on deaf ears. A recent public health inquiry into Ipswich industrial estates found that the waste housed by these sites is negatively impacting my community's health and wellbeing—an inquiry, might I add, that took heavy grassroots campaigning from my community to even get off the ground and which did not even include several key communities in my electorate until public outcry forced the health minister's hand.

Every step of the way we have had to force people to listen. I implore those opposite to ask themselves: would they tolerate this in their backyard? Would they wince through the smell, squint against the dust? Would they brave the confirmed risk of respiratory, neurological, gastrointestinal, skin

and mental health conditions arising from the presence of these industries mere metres from their homes? Then why should we? Why is it assumed that Ipswich will shoulder the burden, that regulations must be enforced everywhere but Ipswich, that quality of life must be considered everywhere but Ipswich? We deserve the same standards, the same protections, the same respect every other community in this state gets. We deserve to open our windows in the summer. We deserve to share a coldie with mates on the verandah. We deserve to have a barbecue with our neighbours. Our kids deserve to play outside. We deserve quality of life.

I call on the government to listen to the people of Ipswich West, to review the planning decisions that place industrial developments too close to homes, to strengthen environmental safeguards and to, most importantly, establish a community reference group for our community to hold these industries to account. We are only Australia's dumping ground so long as the government makes us so. It is time for that to change.

### **Bowen Regional Forum**

 **Hon. DR LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development) (9.21 pm): History shows that Bowen in the mighty Burdekin electorate was a contender to become the capital of a new state when Queensland separated from New South Wales all those many years ago. The town has a proud history, but in the last week the focus has been on Bowen's future.

Last Thursday in my role as the Minister for Regional and Rural Development I hosted the Crisafulli government's third regional forum in Bowen, and it was very well received by that community. Outside the rain fell, but inside the Bowen PCYC we shined a light on Bowen's potential guided by a presentation from students from Bowen State High School who highlighted the importance of making the right decisions.

In direct contrast to what we saw under the previous government, the Crisafulli government is engaging directly and genuinely with business and community leaders right across regional Queensland. As the CEO of Bowen Gumlu Growers, Jenn Honnery, said—

Place-based conversations like the Bowen Regional Forum are invaluable for bringing local voices together, strengthening partnerships and shaping practical solutions that support long-term regional economic development.

The days of people flying in, telling the community what to do and then leaving without a meaningful contribution are over. We are working cooperatively with communities to recognise both the challenges that communities face and the potential benefits, because unlocking potential provides benefits throughout communities and throughout the state. I would like to acknowledge Coordinator-General Gerard Coggan, Director-General Sally Stannard and DDG of Sport Sarah Vandersee, who not only participated in the forum but also engaged directly with local community groups, paving the way to unlock even more opportunities for the community.

The Crisafulli government is not just listening; we are delivering for Queensland. The following day we announced that Arup would undertake the master planning of the Bowen boat harbour. That is right: an internationally recognised consultancy firm helping to transform Bowen's potential into reality. From world-class stadiums to the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal and the renewal of the Sydney Opera House, Arup has runs on the board in Australia and will bring its expertise to Bowen and this long-awaited project. Importantly, the master planning of the Bowen boat harbour will build on the Bowen Jetty redevelopment and plans for the iconic foreshore to provide real opportunities for both business and tourism.

Just as we have for communities across Queensland, the Crisafulli government is delivering for Bowen. I look forward to delivering a brighter future for the residents of Bowen and the surrounding areas. When you think about the opportunities there with the Gilmour Space station, with the state development area, with the Water for Bowen project, with the horticultural development—which you are well aware of, Mr Deputy Speaker Furner, given your former role around the Bowen area—and the Bowen Rail Co., the future is looking very bright for that community and I could not have been happier to be there.

### **Noosa Electorate, Housing**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (9.24 pm): Regardless of promises by governments, our housing crisis remains critical and was amplified over Christmas. In Noosa we had much loved residents pleading on Facebook—or to myself—such as an 80-year-old invalid pensioner who has lived in the same one-bedroom unit for a decade, a 70-year-old grandma and volunteer of 45 years, mums with

bubs, working families and young professionals, all desperate. Then we have to add in the many who have come from elsewhere in Queensland and those in hardship without a mooring and live-aboard permit potentially needing to be transitioned to housing or unregulated rivers in coming months. These are all real stories, real residents and real tears.

We have a waitlist for our Salvos safe car park for women over 55, at capacity since opening. With nowhere to transition these Noosa volunteers and workers to whilst projects in the pipelines are built—some two years away—we need government to step up. I have raised with various ministers since 2018 the state owned former House with No Steps site at Doonan that has a portion that was originally a campground with infrastructure and capacity for transportable solutions—as well as the Salvos site. We have requested stamp duty relief to incentivise downsizing as well as an end to negative gearing and the commercialisation of everyday residential homes through short-term letting. With housing and construction pressure leading into the Olympic and Paralympic Games, governments can no longer hide behind statements such as ‘investing more into housing’ or touting build targets two decades into the future that cannot address the needs of the waitlist now.

That waitlist is not even reflective of the extent of the need. For 20 years successive state governments have not reviewed the income threshold criteria for social housing. Once that is done, how many more will be eligible for Queensland’s waitlist? Are we talking about 100,000 or 200,000, more? Nobody knows as no data has been collected. It is these workers who are becoming broken, with no solution in sight, yet governments continue to say that the various sites put forward are not suitable, nor fund suitable sites identified in 50-50 partnerships. Instead they announce a Land Activation Program without mandating affordable housing for workers. I ask: what is going on?

The hard-fought-for projects in my electorate need to house our own. I call again on the minister to commit any units not required by existing Noosa residents on the waitlist to be made available to those not eligible via an affordable housing subsidy as well as utilise in the interim the former House with No Steps site, as requested, and partner with the Salvos on their transitional site when it is brought back to you.

### Cairns Hospital

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (9.27 pm): I rise today to share a history-making moment for Far North Queensland and the almost 300,000 people serviced by the Cairns Hospital. On average, each week 132 patients receive elective surgery, 44 babies are born, 1,601 people present to the ED and 1,757 people are admitted to hospital. The Cairns Hospital is a foundational pillar of our community and under Labor’s watch our hospital workers were stretched to the limit. We do not have enough beds, enough parking spaces or even an adequate, safe helipad. The former government made false promises for an expanded hospital but they failed to actually put money in the budget for it. For more than a decade we waited for action and were left with nothing but unfulfilled promises, an overflowing ED and a dangerous helipad still located in a busy park.

Since taking government we have delivered several key health commitments: new advanced defibrillators for emergency services, an expanded transit lounge at Cairns Hospital, thousands of new frontline staff across Queensland and a second paediatric cardiologist for Far North Queensland that has been truly welcomed by the Far North community. Last week we delivered a once-in-a-generation investment for Far North Queensland—the biggest investment in the Far North of any state government. This is a \$1 billion investment to transform the Cairns Hospital into the world-class health facility and innovation precinct that our region deserves. By comparison, Labor’s failed investment was less than a quarter of the Crisafulli government’s commitment which left major parts of the project unfunded and forgotten.

Construction will commence in 2026. We will have a new and improved hospital by 2031. This is not a refurb or a minor upgrade; this is a complete revitalisation of the CBD and an overhaul of the health facility left to wither under the Labor government and under the watchful eyes of the member for Cairns. This is making sure that the people in Far North Queensland can access high-quality health care close to home, now and into the future.

The 30-year master plan provides a clear, staged road map to expand and modernise the hospital. It includes three new buildings, a health innovation surgical centre, a multistorey car park and a health management hub. It will also include a new cyclone rated helipad to be constructed on the top of D block. It will also deliver new operating theatres, 16 day surgery spaces, 40 inpatient beds, specialist outpatient services, clinical trials, training and simulation spaces, plus a 950-space staff-only multistorey car park to make it safer for our health workers and free up parking for patients and visitors.

These health services to Cairns will better serve both residents and our hardworking health workers. Thank you so much to Leena Singh, chief executive officer, and her entire team for the incredible work they do. It is a huge win for our economy and for the 289,000 residents who call Far North Queensland home.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.30 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Asif, Bailey, Baillie, Barounis, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Bourne, Boyd, Bush, Butcher, Camm, 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, Katter, Kelly G, Kelly J, Kempton, King, Kirkland, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lee, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Weir, Whiting, Young