



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS (PROOF)

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 12 February 2026

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# THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

## REPORT

### Office of the Speaker

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I lay upon the table of the House the Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

*Tabled paper:* Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Parliamentary Rules and Etiquette

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, following yesterday's proceedings I have determined to remind all members of some basic parliamentary rules and etiquette that I note have slipped. Members elected to leadership positions are to be referred to by their title—for example, the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the minister, the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If a member does not hold an office then they should be referred to by their electorate, never by name.

A member should always address their remarks through the chair and refer to another member by their parliamentary title or electoral district—for example, the member for Moggill. Never speak directly to another member; only address the House through the chair.

Members shall not quarrel with one another across the chamber during proceedings.

A government may be referred to by the party of government—for example, the ALP government—or the premier who leads it—for example, the Beattie government—and in the case of a coalition only by the premier and other party leader. That is a ruling by Speaker Wellington.

Members should never interject when a question is being asked. It is important that the Speaker and the clerks can hear the question.

The display of signs or placards or the use of other props in the chamber is highly disorderly. I suggest that members extract details from newspapers and other publications into their speech rather than attempt to read them in the House as subterfuge for a prop.

When a member turns on a microphone a log is created. The logs indicate that some members are turning their microphone on in advance of the member on their feet finishing, hoping to get the jump on the next call. Members should not turn on their microphone until the member on their feet finishes as there is a limit on the number of microphones that can be on at once. Other members have been inadvertently turning on their microphone when leaning on or over their desk area. I encourage all members to have their microphone head clearly visible to ensure transparency and alert us to instances of microphones inadvertently being turned on.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 12 December 2025 the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the member for McConnel deliberately misled the House on 11 December 2025. The Deputy Premier stated that the member recently organised and attended an anti-Victoria Park stadium forum. While it appears there may have been participants in attendance who opposed the stadium, the member for McConnel advised me that the intention was to discuss the Olympic infrastructure plans with the community. The Deputy Premier also tabled documents allegedly evidencing the member for McConnel's opposition to the stadium.

The member for McConnel advised me that she misspoke when rising on a matter of privilege. I note the member's clarifying statement in the House yesterday and recorded at page 126 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the member has made an adequate explanation with respect to both allegations.

The member made two counter-complaints in her submission. First, she alleged the Deputy Premier was deliberately misleading with respect to stating she attended and organised an 'anti-63,000-Victoria Park stadium forum'. I consider this has been dealt with in the initial complaint. Second, the member alleged the Deputy Premier was misleading when he said that the member 'would rather see Queensland embarrassed on the world stage by using QSAC.' As per my ruling on 30 October 2025, this is clearly puffery and political exaggeration. It is trivial.

I also note that, if there is any confusion or contention around whether a member does or does not support a particular policy or initiative, the procedures of the House are available to them to make those contributions. Debating such issues in submissions on matters of privilege are unhelpful to my assessment of matters.

I will not be referring the original matter or the counter-complaints 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 McConnel.

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 Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the member for McConnel deliberately misled the House on 11 December 2025.

The matter relates to interjections made by the member for McConnel during Ministerial Statements and later during Question Time.

During Ministerial Statements, the Deputy Premier said:

'The member for McConnel recently attended an anti-63,000-seat Victoria Park stadium forum. Make of that what you will, Mr Speaker. Draw your own conclusions from that—just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time?'

And the member responded saying:

'... *That is not correct...*'

During Question Time, the member stated:

*'I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Those tabled documents, referring to the statement made earlier by the member that I took offence to and asked to be withdrawn, are incorrect. They were all done before the election when they promised no stadium....'*

The Deputy Premier argued that both statements were incorrect because the documents he tabled provided evidence of the member's attendance at the stated forum, and the opposition to a stadium at Victoria Park subsequent to the 2024 election.

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

With respect to the first statement, the member submitted that the forum was not an anti-stadium forum but was rather a community event that she co-led and was an information session about infrastructure investment occurring in her community.

With respect to the second statement, the member admitted that she misspoke, and she meant to say, 'before the decision was made' rather than 'before the election'.

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.

With respect to the first statement, I consider that the event, while its participants may be opposed to the stadium, was not explicitly advertised as a call to arms to oppose the stadium.

With respect to the member misspeaking, I note the member clarified her statement and corrected the record in the House on 11 February 2026 and it is recorded at page 126 of the Record of Proceedings.

Accordingly, I consider that the member has made an adequate explanation with respect to both statements.

The member made two counter-complaints in her submission. First, she alleged the Deputy Premier was deliberately misleading with respect to stating she attended and organised an 'anti-63,000-Victoria Park stadium forum'. I consider this has been dealt with in the initial complaint.

Second, the member alleged the Deputy Premier was misleading when he said that the member 'would rather see Queensland embarrassed on the world stage by using QSAC.' As per my ruling on 30 October 2025, this is clearly puffery and political exaggeration. It is trivial.

I **will not** be referring the original matter or the counter-complaint for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

### Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Corinda State School in the electorate of Mount Ommaney and Victoria Point State School in the electorate of Redlands.

I also wish to advise that we are being visited in the gallery today by the Hon. Bruce Scott AM, a former federal member for Maranoa and deputy speaker of the House of Representatives. Welcome, Bruce.

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

#### Clauson, Mr PJ, AM

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.37 am): I move—

That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Paul John Clauson AM, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and minister of the state; and

That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.

Paul John Clauson AM was born in Brisbane on 16 September 1949. He went to school in Brisbane before studying law at the University of Queensland. The law became a pivotal and enduring part of his life. Mr Clauson went on to serve the legal institutions of Queensland and Australia for much of his life. He began as a solicitor and public servant before becoming a judge's associate in 1974. Ten years owning and running a general legal practice followed before he was admitted to the bar in 1987.

Mr Clauson's political life began in 1985 when the then member for Redlands, the Hon. John Golby, tragically died in a farm accident. Mr Clauson was selected by the National Party to contest the Redlands by-election, which he successfully retained. Twelve months later, he went on to hold the seat at the state election of November 1986. Following his election, Mr Clauson was elevated to cabinet. He served as Queensland's attorney-general from 1986 to 1989, continuing his long association with the law. At times throughout his three years as a cabinet minister he also held the portfolios of justice, corrective services, heritage and the arts. Mr Clauson lost his seat at the state election of December 1989.

After his time in the House, Mr Clauson served the community in many ways. This included as a member of the Board of Directors for Ormiston College for over 20 years and with the Infrastructure Association of Queensland for 16 years. Mr Clauson served as the Commissioner of Queensland's Legal Services Commission from 2014 to 2017. He then served the Commonwealth of Australia from 2017 to 2024 as a senior member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

In 2019, Mr Clauson was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law and to the people and parliament of Queensland. It is an honour of which his family can be very proud. I acknowledge Mr Clauson's family members who join us in the gallery today: his daughter, Camilla, and her husband, Ken, his son, Andrew, and wife, Kate.

Paul John Clauson AM passed away on 12 September. On behalf of the government, I place on record our thanks for his service over many years, and I extend my sympathy and that of this House to his family and friends. Vale, Paul Clauson.

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): On the behalf of the Labor opposition, I rise to express our condolences for the passing of Paul John Clauson AM, a former member of this House and former minister. Though his service in this place was for a shorter time than many, Paul's contribution to public life was unquestionably large. Paul was elected to represent the Redlands in 1985—not knowing the mammoth role he would take on during the downfall of his own government.

His service as attorney-general came at a time of great change and reform in Queensland. Paul oversaw the Fitzgerald inquiry, with his conduct and service marked by his steadfast commitment to maintaining the integrity of his office and of restoring public trust and confidence in the government of Queensland. We know that the legacy of that inquiry has shaped the fabric of Queensland for the better.

This House and this state gives its thanks to Paul for his service to Queensland. As we all know, our families share the burden of our public service. We say thank you to Paul's wife, Kate, son, Andrew, daughter, Camilla, and son-in-law, Ken, who join us in the gallery this morning for sharing their husband and dad and express our sincerest condolences on his passing. Vale, Paul Clauson.

**Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (9.41 am): I rise to honour the life of Paul John Clauson—former member for Redlands, former attorney-general of Queensland and, by all accounts, a true gentleman. The Premier spoke of Paul's public service and his contribution to this parliament. Today, I wish to reflect on something quieter—the character of the man behind the titles. I met Paul only once. What stayed with me was not status or office, but thoughtfulness—frank advice given honestly and respectfully without any expectation. It was calm and generous and very considered. In this place that kind of presence matters.

To understand Paul more fully, I sought the reflections of former member for Redlands Matt McEachan. He described a gentleman with a wicked, mischievous and irreverent sense of humour—shared privately between friends, bringing laughter that left them both in tears. He spoke, too, of Paul's deep love for his wife and the peace he found sailing on Moreton Bay. He could not recall anyone speaking of Paul with anything but warmth.

On the night Paul passed, his good friend Andrew shared a message from Paul's daughter, Camilla: that he was ready to let his body rest. Paul asked for no funeral, no wake, only that people raise a glass in quiet remembrance. Today, Camilla is here in the gallery. Camilla, to you, I say: your father is remembered not only for what he did, but for who he was—thoughtful, kind, quietly wise and deeply loved.

For the Redlands, Paul will always be part of our story. In honour we remember quietly, give thanks sincerely and in our own way raise a glass to a life well lived. May he rest in peace. Vale, Paul John Clauson.

**Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (9.43 am): I rise to honour the life and parliamentary service of Paul Clauson—former member for Redlands, at a time when it took in much of my now electorate. It is a privilege to do so in the presence of members of his family, especially his daughter, Camilla, whom he loved dearly, and several friends whose trust and companionship he enjoyed to the end.

Paul was a Redlander through and through. He was educated at Wellington Point State School and later Churchie before studying at UQ and commencing a legal career that saw him practice as a solicitor, serve as a judge's associate and be admitted to the Queensland bar. He was a National Party, and later Liberal National Party, man throughout too. He never lost his passion for the policy that sits at the heart of politics—the desire to deliver better infrastructure, economic opportunities, education and stronger communities for Queenslanders.

Paul served as attorney-general at a critical time. He ensured that the Fitzgerald inquiry was granted, in his words, 'the full resources of government' to complete its difficult but important work. Several times he had to extend the scope and powers of that inquiry and he never hesitated to act in the interests of transparency and accountability. Our institutions today are the stronger for it.

Paul met his beloved wife, Kate, at Mooloolaba Yacht Club—their shared love of sailing continuing throughout their life. That passion would also see him contribute substantially to the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. Redlanders are very passionate about their cricket and he too was an advocate for local cricket throughout his life. The Redlands Tigers, that make us so proud today, are the stronger for his work to build cricket in our neck of the woods.

He will be remembered, of course, for his contribution in this place, but he continued to serve the community with distinction well beyond his time as a parliamentarian. As an adjunct professor at Bond

University, he continued his thought leadership. He served as a member of the board of Ormiston College from 1991 to 2014, helping to build that school into one of the state's top academic performers and an institution of which my community is today deeply proud. I see the school's chairman, John Miller, in the gallery to honour that legacy.

His commitment to an ever improving legal profession continued too when, as Legal Services Commissioner, he set the standard for legal ethics and transparency for clients, and that service continued on the AAT. For 15 years he served as a committee member and as the executive director of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, continuing the National Party legacy of getting things built across this state.

Even in his last year, a group of mates who shared a passion for the policy that gets major infrastructure projects off the ground would regularly meet at the Cleveland Lighthouse over a meal and a drink, always engaged in the project of how they could make this state better for those who come next. He leaves fingerprints in terms of the sound legal advice and the smart design initiatives he championed on projects from the Redlands to the Airtrain to the Sunshine Coast and beyond.

It is perhaps not surprising, in light of this work, that he was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to the law and to the people and parliament of Queensland. He will be remembered as a man of great integrity and professionalism, kind and humble. He wanted no fuss at his passing, not even a memorial—oriented always to his family. That humility is a model to those of us who now serve. Paul Clauson—friend, attorney, servant of Queensland, may you rest in peace.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.47 am): Paul Clauson's contribution to the state in relation to the Fitzgerald inquiry was indeed immense. He had only been a member of parliament for a year when he joined cabinet in 1986 as attorney-general and minister for justice and his stewardship of that inquiry from the government side was a real lustre to his reputation. He steered a number of changes to the Commissions of Inquiry Act through the House and also dealt with the very sensitive matter of indemnities at the Fitzgerald inquiry. He did them in a way which reflected great credit on him and served to keep the government at arms-length from what was going on at the inquiry. I recall seeing a newspaper cartoon of him at the time he was given this heavy responsibility. He was portrayed as the minister in nappies because he had not been around for long. He very quickly proved the doubters wrong. I would like to reflect on his very important contribution to the state in that regard. Vale, Paul Clauson.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will commence at 10.35 am.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Productivity

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.50 am): Our government is delivering a plan for Queensland's future. The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a golden opportunity for our state. Done right, the legacy of the games will serve Queenslanders for generations to come, delivering jobs, investment and infrastructure across every part of Queensland. But to deliver the homes, hospitals, roads, schools and public transport projects and the Olympic and Paralympic venues we need, productivity must improve.

Under the former Labor government, productivity in this state went backwards. The cost of infrastructure projects blew out. Projects were delayed or never delivered at all. Our state's housing market became crippled by a lack of supply and an affordability crisis. Queenslanders are paying the price.

Our government promised to restore respect for taxpayers' money and we promised to be a government that works for Queenslanders. That is what we are delivering for Queensland. It is why our government initiated the landmark Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry. We are learning more about the CFMEU's influence on major construction sites as well as their influence on former Labor ministers. Many are still here. The inquiry has already shown the CFMEU's influence has had a real and measurable impact: fewer homes, higher prices, commuters waiting on roads, and patients waiting on hospitals.

Let me be clear: the government will not tolerate unlawful behaviour and intimidation. We want an environment where builders can build, where contractors can compete fairly, and where workers are safe and respected without projects being held hostage.

We have already permanently removed BPIC which drove up costs and drove productivity down. We have already started delivering for Queensland: more beds through our Hospital Rescue Plan, more land for housing through the Land Activation and Residential Activation funds, upgrades to the Bruce Highway, and other key infrastructure projects across the state—real progress—and a plan to deliver the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will take time to undo a decade of decline under Labor, but we will continue to deliver the fresh start we promised.

### Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): For 1,200 days, the former Labor government failed to plan for the 2032 games. We are fixing what Labor failed to do not only in the decade of decline but also with the failing of the games.

Following our amendments to the BOPGA Act in 2025, I indicated there would be subsequent amendments to add projects as planning progressed, as part of our Delivery Plan. These are targeted amendments that enable the commencement of works and ensure key infrastructure projects are delivered on time and on budget for the games. The amendments will be formally moved by the honourable Minister for Sport this afternoon when he moves his bill. They include: to formally recognise the Brisbane Athletes' Village, a key housing legacy of the 2032 Delivery Plan in the act so that its planning pathway may be accelerated; adding games-related transport infrastructure that is critical across all parts of our state, particularly in regional Queensland, ensuring that transport projects to move athletes, officials and spectators are delivered in time for the games; and to vest the tenure of Victoria Park to GIICA—the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority—to allow for works to begin on the new Brisbane Stadium, and how exciting will that be!

**Mr O'Connor:** Grace can't wait.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. Well, I don't know. I don't know what their position is on anything. There is chaos in the caucus on many fronts over there. I don't know—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Yesterday was the longest list of warnings I ever wrote down. I do not want a repeat of that, but I will.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In March last year, we delivered our 2032 Delivery Plan. A year later from that plan and I am yet to see what the official response is from the opposition, or what the alternative plan is for the games. We are also going to add the Gabba Arena—part of our key legacy Gabba entertainment and housing precinct, recognising its potential use in the 2032 games and delivers a new indoor arena for Queensland in the heart of Brisbane.

The thing that risks all of this, if the former government had been elected, is BPICs. The cost to Queensland taxpayers since it was introduced in 2018 was estimated, as heard through the royal commission and through the Productivity Commission, to be between \$13.1 billion and \$38.6 billion.

Industry rightly warned Labor about BPICs. They say: they 'would impede the viability and growth of the construction industry'; they 'do not represent best practice industrial relations'; they 'resemble a pattern enterprise agreement with highly restrictive and costly provisions'; and they are 'the most damaging policy for the productivity of the construction industry and affordability of capital works in Queensland'. Those are quotes from the industry.

I also say that, as Industrial Relations Minister, I knew the CFMEU was bad and I knew the construction industry was bad. As shadow industrial relations minister for 10 years, I knew it was bad. However, with what we are seeing out of the CFMEU royal commission, I am even surprised of how bad it actually is.

What is worse is that we have had days of the commission of inquiry, and the Labor Party official opposition in Queensland have not done one press conference—not one press conference—to explain themselves, despite being mentioned in the royal commission. Not one Labor MP, as I understand it, has done a press conference this week to explain and put themselves before the Fourth Estate, the press gallery in Queensland, to explain what has been happening at the royal commission, and justify why they did what they did over 10 years. But no-one! The Labor opposition are in hiding because of the CFMEU royal commission. They have—

**Mr Dick:** Hiding in plain sight.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Well, go out and do a press conference!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! A few minutes ago I talked about how disruptive quarrelling across the chamber is to the House.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I would challenge him on that interjection to do a press conference today about the royal commission into the CFMEU. I challenge the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to take the person to his left and take the person to his right to the press conference today. To our members in the Fourth Estate, you heard it, he is happy to go out today and do it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Deputy Premier, direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have seen a lot of witnesses in the witness box at the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU over the last couple of days. I would ask the official opposition Labor Party in Queensland to get out of their witness protection and go and do a media conference.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Minister for Sport and Racing—

**Opposition members** interjected.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.58 am): Mr Speaker, the—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Hold. I had not even finished introducing you. I could not pick who it was who was interjecting at the time, but if I do, you will be named. I call the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Mr MANDER:** The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our state, an opportunity that we have saved from the fiscal recklessness that defines the members opposite. After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, we have put the games back on track.

I want to address what the single biggest threat to our \$7.1 billion venue budget is, and that is BPIC, or what is commonly known as the CFMEU tax. The recent commission of inquiry into the CFMEU raises a significant question, and that question is: what if? What if Labor was still in power? What if the CFMEU still had a vice grip on our Olympic infrastructure progress? What if productivity continued to plummet under their watch?

We do not have to let our imagination run too wild today. All we have to do is remember Labor's budget blowouts, fuelled by the CFMEU tax, when it comes to Olympic infrastructure. Let's not forget that the first of many of Labor's Olympic flip-flops was upgrading the Gabba for a billion dollars originally. Two years later the CFMEU cast their BPIC wand over the project and the budget blew out to a staggering \$2.7 billion. I think when GIICA did its analysis it went out to \$3.4 billion. It is absolutely disgraceful. Next we have the opposition leader's QSAC proposal—a temporary venue with no legacy, priced at \$1.6 billion. After further evaluation, there was estimated to be a \$650 million blowout to \$2.25 billion. This is not just a Brisbane problem; it is a threat to every regional community promised a games legacy.

We have analysed the impact of these conditions and the results are staggering. In South-East Queensland, BPIC would have added hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary costs to our major projects such as the Brisbane athletes village. By refusing to bow to union mandated conditions, we are ensuring the funding provided for the athletes villages, for example, actually delivers housing rather than just lines the pockets of union bosses.

For projects like the Sunshine Coast arena, Labor's CFMEU tax would have turned a world-class venue into a fiscal black hole. Our approach ensures the Sunshine Coast gets its venue on time and on budget, without Labor's premiums. The impact is felt most acutely in our regions. Every dollar wasted on the CFMEU tax in South-East Queensland is a dollar taken away from regional legacy projects, whether they are in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, the Whitsundays, Rockhampton, Maryborough or Toowoomba. We are protecting the integrity of our whole-of-games budget so that regional facilities, which will showcase our state to the world in 2032, do not face the chopping block due to cost blowouts.

Queensland taxpayers are thankful they do not have to live with the what-if. The LNP are taking action today to avoid delays tomorrow. The choice for Queensland is clear: have Labor's BPIC and the crippling CFMEU tax blowouts and regional neglect or have the Crisafulli LNP government's leadership and managerial competence, delivered calmly and methodically, delivering world-class infrastructure within a responsible budget. We will not allow Labor's union mates to derail the games. We are delivering a golden age for Queensland, and we are doing it with the fiscal discipline that all Queenslanders expect.

### Federal Government, Care Services

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.02 am): The Crisafulli LNP government is and has been delivering for Queensland and providing easier access to health services, no matter where Queenslanders live. However, our efforts and the efforts of our dedicated Queensland Health staff across the state have been hindered by the federal government dropping the ball on its areas of responsibility: primary health care, aged care and the NDIS. We are doing something those opposite would not have either the guts or the gumption to do: standing up to the federal government.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. We are doing something those opposite would not have had the stomach or the gumption to do: standing up to the federal government. We currently have more than 1,250 stranded Australians languishing in Queensland hospitals alone: 909 older patients waiting for aged care and 350 patients waiting for NDIS support. The Queensland government is also funding interim care beds outside of our hospitals for 450 patients. These stranded Australians should not be in hospital, but they cannot leave because of the lack of access to federally funded aged-care or disability supports.

We know the harrowing human cost of these delays. Just yesterday it was revealed that almost 5,000 older Australians died in the 2024-25 financial year waiting for the appropriate aged care they needed. Last month the Prime Minister made a clear commitment to us all that he would take responsibility to deliver the aged care and disability care stranded Australians need. Words need to be followed by actions.

The Commonwealth government's inability to provide for stranded Australians is not only causing harm to those stranded Australians but also costing Queensland \$2.88 million a day. We are calling on Canberra to establish clear targets for the next two years to help elderly Australians and those with a disability access the care they deserve so they are not left languishing in our hospitals. The federal government can no longer turn its back on this crisis and those human beings, those Queenslanders, waiting for support. It is time for Canberra to step up, pay up and help those stranded Australians get out of our hospitals as quickly as possible and into the appropriate Commonwealth funded care they deserve.

### Thriving Kids

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.05 am): I updated the House before Christmas on the Albanese Labor government's proposed Thriving Kids program that will overhaul the NDIS for children with autism. Sadly, it will come as no surprise that there is a risk. There is a risk to children who are diagnosed with autism not only now but also in the future. The federal government are about to shirk their responsibility to deliver critical services to these children and their families, and it is causing exceptional anxiety across our state.

I would like to be standing here today talking about the finer points of the agreement, but, unfortunately, the detail of the scope, design, funding, implementation arrangements and governance has been completing lacking. States are being urged to sign a deal next week without detail. This is causing anxiety, impacting the lives of vulnerable Queensland families. As we understand, the Commonwealth has undertaken modelling around funding states and territories, but we believe this modelling is undercooked and not reflective of the many children and families likely needing to access these supports across the complex and decentralised state that we lead.

There is a risk that the Albanese Labor government's funding will be insufficient. This potentially will put Queensland kids and their families at risk of losing out on their funding, their medical and allied health appointments and the services that are crucial to their future. We have heard nothing from the

Queensland Labor opposition or the shadow minister on this issue. Have they stood up to their masters in Canberra and demanded a better deal for Queensland children?

I met with peak bodies and stakeholders this week. The Queensland Disability Network and the Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion are just a couple of the advocacy organisations that are leading the charge in supporting vulnerable families. They expressed their frustration that Thriving Kids has increased the pressure on them with the demand to navigate the system and with the uncertainty. Parents are reaching out as supports shrink or as they are non-existent in parts of our state. We cannot allow those living with a disability and their families, particularly our children, to be short-changed and denied services in their formative years; nor can we allow cost shifting of the federal government's NDIS responsibilities to Queensland taxpayers. We will stand up for Queensland kids and families, and we will continue to fight for our fair share.

### Tourism Industry, Events

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.07 am): I rise to update the House on how the Crisafulli government is making Queensland the events capital of the nation and ensuring all Queenslanders reap the benefits. Events are not just about headlines; they are about jobs, they are about small businesses, they are about backing our regions. Our Destination 2045 plan sets a clear goal: to double visitor expenditure to \$84 billion by 2045. Events are central to that plan because when visitors come here Queenslanders benefit.

This week Brisbane hosts the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It will bring around 38,000 visitors and inject an estimated \$39 million into our economy. That means full hotels, busy restaurants and more shifts for local workers. Early indications are that year on year our hotel occupancy is already up 24 per cent across the four shows. We welcome the amazing 1,000 cast and crew to our state. Queensland, get your tartan on and get down to Suncorp over the next four nights!

It does not stop there. Next month the Matildas will take the field on the Gold Coast as part of the AFC Women's Asia Cup, one of six matches bringing elite international football and nearly \$9 million to Queensland and its economy. In April, the first of our mega and strategic events—Sting's exclusive *The Last Ship* will open to the public in our new Glasshouse Theatre at QPAC. The excitement continues into 2027, when Queensland will host 14 matches of the men's Rugby World Cup across Brisbane and Townsville, including two quarter finals. More than a quarter of the tournament will be played in our state, bringing a whopping 150,000 visitors and \$212 million to the economy.

The Crisafulli government is also backing Queensland events through dedicated investment and support. We have backed 40 events across the state through our \$1.92 million round 2 Homegrown Destination Events Fund. That includes first-time support for the likes of the Airlie Beach Triathlon and the Mundubbera Blueberry Festival. Over the three years we anticipate more than \$213 million in economic benefit and more than 887,000 visitor nights. The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers will continue with funding secured through 2026 and 2027, building on its record attendance last year. Cairns will host the 2026 Oceania Mountain Bike Continental Series Finale, further cementing Tropical North Queensland's reputation.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** I hear the member for Cairns. Of course all of this would have been in jeopardy if Labor's secret tourism funding cliff had remained. They were set to destroy the tourism department with a 95 per cent cut and decimate Tourism and Events Queensland by slashing half of their budget. Under those opposite there would be no Destination 2045. There would be no events. There would be no tourism industry.

On this side of the House we deeply respect the Queensland tourism industry. We deeply respect the tourism industry. It is essential. It is not an afterthought. It drives regional economies. It creates opportunities. It supports small and family businesses. That is why we are focused on practical outcomes—more visitors, longer stays, more money spent in local communities. That is how we strengthen our economy. That is how we support jobs. That is how we make Queensland the events capital of Australia.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am wearing my tartan, Minister. I am wearing the tie that was presented to me by the Scottish parliament.

### Secure Communities Partnership Program

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (10.12 am): The Crisafulli government is committed to ending Labor's decade-long soft-on-crime approach, and we are a government that is delivering exactly what we say we will do. The Crisafulli government is tackling crime against small and family businesses, their staff and customers by delivering our \$40 million Secure Communities Partnership Program election commitment.

I announced the outcomes of round 1 of the program which allocated \$9.6 million in projects in October last year. Round 1 saw 42 projects funded including 35 in regional Queensland. That is 42 projects that will deter crime and improve safety throughout local small and family business precincts. Whether that is the Fraser Coast, Rocky, Townsville, Ingham or across Far North Queensland, the Crisafulli government is delivering projects that provide additional security to reduce crime against Queensland's small and family businesses and, importantly, their staff. I can advise the House that we have now ticked over the half a million mark. There are now more than 508,000 small and family businesses across Queensland—in excess of half a million. This is a significant milestone.

We have a plan to support the growing number of small and family businesses that create jobs and contribute to local economies across the state. That also means reversing Labor's soft-on-crime approach. We know that even after a decade of decline those opposite are still hopelessly divided when it comes to crime prevention measures. Our program supports proactive crime prevention measures such as lighting, bollards, lockable fences and improved perimeter security and CCTV. I am pleased that local governments are getting on with the job of delivering for small and family businesses in partnership with the Crisafulli government.

Round 2 of the Secure Communities Partnership Program opened in November last year, beginning with funding available directly to eligible small and family businesses. I was pleased to be in the Wide Bay region with the member for Maryborough to launch round 2. Under this tranche, eligible small businesses are able to apply directly for funding for projects between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to implement crime prevention measures.

There will also be further funding for councils to deliver safer local business precincts. I have written to mayors across Queensland to advise them of this opportunity opening in coming weeks. Once again, this program supports a range of crime prevention measures including things I mentioned earlier—lighting, bollards, security fencing and improved CCTV et cetera. We want to make sure that it is not just for the employers but also for their staff.

By ending Labor's decade-long soft-on-crime approach we are supporting small and family business owners, their staff and customers with improved safety. We are working to foster a more welcoming environment that encourages additional foot traffic and consumer confidence. This is another example of how the Crisafulli government is indeed putting small and family businesses first.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Crime and Corruption Commission, Documents

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (10.15 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House a certified copy of the *Register of reports and recommendations to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, ministerial directions and tabled ministerial reasons 2025* and related correspondence. The register reflects that no communications were made which qualify for recording in the register in 2025 and was furnished without comment from the chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. The committee received the report on 30 January 2026. I am tabling the report within 14 days of receipt as required.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2025, pursuant to section 4.7(3) of the Police Service Administration Act 1990.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

### Toowoomba Hospital, Maternity Services

 **Mr MILES** (10.16 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the shocking stories from the Toowoomba Hospital which has tragically seen a baby pass away, a baby with permanent

brain damage and a baby with a broken skull. Why did the minister take four months to take any action regarding issues raised at the Toowoomba Hospital maternity unit?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. It is a serious question about a serious matter about the delivery of maternity services at the Toowoomba Hospital. Firstly, I want to start by saying thank you to the hardworking staff at the Toowoomba Hospital who deliver over 2,500 babies a year. As we all know, babies do not follow a schedule. They do not have any regard for a diary and they do not look at the calendar. They come at all times of the day or night whether expected or unexpected.

The Toowoomba maternity hospital also deals with presentations from people who choose not to be at the hospital but exercise their choice to have a birth at home, and increasingly we see the prevalence of freebirth. When that does not happen properly, those people rightly call an ambulance and turn up at the Toowoomba Hospital and seek the services there as well. The hardworking staff deal with those particular circumstances, which are challenging because the patient presents without any knowledge. The staff do a great job in dealing with all of those matters. They have served, and continue to serve, the community up there very well.

There were some reports that came to light in December last year. The first one was a report in the *Courier-Mail* in relation to an event that had occurred 12 months previously relating to a birthing service there. That also involved a report to the police and a report to the Office of the Health Ombudsman, the independent Health Ombudsman, for research. I sought advice on that and was advised that those matters were being investigated. That was the information that I responded to at that time. Subsequent to then we have had a number of other complaints.

I asked the director-general to attend at Toowoomba Hospital and the director-general did. He spoke to the clinicians, visited the maternity ward and reported back to me that in his view the hospital was in fact addressing a number of issues in relation to workforce culture that had been identified over a period of time that were leading to less than satisfactory outcomes. Subsequently, more people complained and my office has received a number of complaints directly in the last 10 days or so from some people there and they have been ventilated in the media. As a result of that, I decided to commission an assurance review. The terms of that assurance review will be released on Friday, and we are currently in the process of appointing three people to lead that assurance review.

There have been, to my recollection, at least five reviews into the Toowoomba maternity unit since 2018. One of those reviews seemed to have sat on a desk, and that is the 2018 review. I am surprised that was not elevated further up. What we are seeking is assurance that those reviews which have been undertaken have been complied with and that the Toowoomba Hospital and its executive team are doing the right job. We will report in 90 days after that review carries out its independent report.

*(Time expired)*

### Toowoomba Hospital, Maternity Services

**Ms FENTIMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The LNP party room recently spent two days in Toowoomba at a love-in as more mothers were raising shocking allegations about the Toowoomba Hospital. I have met personally with mothers and families who are victims of the Toowoomba Hospital maternity crisis. Why haven't the Minister for Health and the Premier?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the shadow treasurer and former health minister for her question. She is right: the LNP parliamentary team did meet in Toowoomba. We enjoy going to regional and rural Queensland because we are the party that represents not only the city but also, more than any other party, rural and regional Queensland in this place. That is why we meet in Toowoomba. The shadow treasurer described it as a love-in—and indeed it was, because we all get on with each other. As opposed—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Waterford, you asked the question so I am sure you are interested in the answer.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** As I was saying, we all get on well with each other. We like getting together. We like meeting with each other. We like agreeing with each other on our policy direction. We like agreeing with each other on how we are going to crack down on youth crime. We agree with each other on how we are going to invest in our hospital and health services—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We do not suffer from the chaos and divisiveness we have seen on display from those opposite from the moment they fell into opposition. They cannot agree on their position regarding our youth crime laws from morning to lunchtime to dinnertime. We are still waiting to see what they are going to do today. How are they going to vote today? What is going on over there? Are they going to support our laws? Are they going to have three caucus meetings before lunchtime to work out which way they are going to go?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I will bring you back to the question.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Yes, we love going to Toowoomba. At Toowoomba the Premier and I also, as the shadow treasurer pointed out, announced ongoing works at the Toowoomba Hospital—another great investment saved by the Crisafulli LNP government delivering for Queensland—one campus, in accordance with the recommendation of the local board and the local clinicians. We listened to them and they said, 'Make it all happen.' The concrete is being poured and the service is being delivered.

Turning to the other important issue, which I have addressed in terms of the Leader of the Opposition's question as well, as I indicated, a number of those maternity consumers—those mothers—have contacted my office. They contacted my office in the last seven days. I have responded to them, advising them of the steps that have been undertaken. I do encourage them to engage, as they requested, with the independent assurance review—

*(Time expired)*

### **Far North Queensland, Crime**

**Mr JAMES:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Veterans. Far North Queenslanders are demanding further action on crime. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering on our promise to see fewer victims of crime, and is the Premier aware of any alternatives during a decade of decline?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the member for Mulgrave for the question. It is a good question. I am well aware of the need for stronger laws. I get that regularly from the member for Mulgrave, from the member for Barron River, who is sitting beside him, and from members all over Far North Queensland and North Queensland right across the board. I thank them for their advocacy. I can make this promise to the member: we stand for stronger laws, more police, early intervention and rehabilitation with purpose. Every change we make in this place—every change—will be to strengthen, not weaken, the laws.

I will go into a bit of history here. The reason we are here is that one of the first acts of the former government when they came into this place was to weaken the laws. They boasted about it, they bragged about it and then they denied it. They denied there was a youth crime crisis and they elevated it. They said we were making up stories. The now Leader of the Opposition had an obsession with CCTV. They did everything they could to deny it. They will not rule out trashing Adult Crime, Adult Time. If members want proof of that, they should have a look at what is happening now. We do not know what they are going to do. We have been listening to contributions and what we are seeing again—

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will not reflect on the bill.

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is clear that the Premier is debating the substance of the bill. He cannot avoid that just by saying he is not, even though he continues to do it. For the avoidance of doubt, the opposition will not be opposing that bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pre-empting the bill: is that your point of order? It is not an opportunity to make a speech. What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** It is anticipation of the bill.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is all I needed to know.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, it took question time to get their position.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, there is a bill before the House. You are aware of it, so I would ask you not to stray into that territory.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will not. I will instead reflect on the chaos in the caucus we are seeing again. We remember last time. I will tell members what happened last time. There were allegations of an altercation; do members remember that? We had a shadow minister—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did tell you that I would not caution you again, so, member for Waterford, you are warned. Member for Cairns, you are also warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We heard allegations of an altercation. We had a shadow minister rolled—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I just brought the House to order. I cautioned you earlier. You are also warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is a repeat of last time. There were allegations of an altercation. We saw a shadow minister rolled. We saw a member come into this place and put their headphones on—blasting Enya's *Sail Away*, just trying to be at peace—and we are seeing it all again. The joy is that I think I may have heard the Manager of Opposition Business finally reveal their position.

Regardless, the easiest way is to step out and explain why the Leader of the Opposition is weak on crime and why he will not speak about the CFMEU inquiry. Go and face the music, because in this state we have young people paying more for homes and we have roads delayed. We are seeing it unfold. They were weak against the CFMEU. They were weak against crime. Now the weakest opposition leader will not even go out and face the music as to what is going on in his own backyard.

(*Time expired*)

### **Townsville Hospital, Workplace Safety**

**Mr BAILEY:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Townsville midwives are being harassed outside their workplace and online by anti-abortion protesters. What support will the health minister provide for the hardworking Townsville midwives providing life-saving health care to Queensland women?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for his question. Those are disturbing reports. As always, as you would expect any government to say, as all governments should say and as I say, our hardworking staff should not be harassed, whether they are in Townsville, whether they are in—

**Mr Crisafulli:** Transport and Main Roads.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Yes, whether they are in the Transport and Main Roads foyer, whether they are at Workplace Health and Safety, whether they are working on Cross River Rail at the Woolloongabba site or whether they are simply going to work and being called scabs and being threatened with having their wives and daughters raped. It is all unacceptable, and we condemn it all. We do not pick. We do not single one out and say, 'The comrades are exempt.' We condemn it all. We condemn it in relation to anyone who goes to work anywhere in Queensland. People are entitled to go to work and return home and not be harassed or threatened because of the work they do.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, you have asked the question.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** We offer our staff at all of our hospital and health services protection via the security staff who work in our hospitals. In just last year's budget I allocated an additional I think \$8½ million for security ambassadors to work in our hospitals. We have increased the number of security officers who are actually in our hospitals as well—that is, security guards—to protect people in emergency departments and throughout the hospital precinct and also to patrol the boundaries of the hospital precinct.

Outside of hospitals the responsibility obviously falls to police and we work closely with police services. Whether it is in Cairns, Townsville or Ipswich, we work with those police services to provide adequate security. We provide individualised support services so that nurses, doctors and others can get from their place of work to their car park. We run private buses to enable that to occur as well. We call it out and we prosecute it. We will stop the people who are doing it if we catch them and find them.

In the meantime, I encourage everyone to support everyone who works in our hardworking maternity units. The other disturbing reports I am getting are regarding the maternity services in Toowoomba. Staff there are being threatened online and are afraid to walk home in their scrubs at night because of the shameful campaign that is being run by those opposite. That is the result of the actions of those opposite. Everyone deserves to be protected from everyone.

(Time expired)

### Community and Workplace Safety

**Ms DOOLEY:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations. Yesterday the CFMEU commission of inquiry heard evidence about CFMEU links to criminal gangs, bikies and drug rings on worksites. Can the Deputy Premier outline how the Crisafulli government is restoring community safety, including in the workplace, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs Frecklington:** You've only got three minutes.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the honourable member for the question, and I take the interjection from the Attorney-General: if only I had 30 minutes and not 3 minutes, but I will see what I can do. The member for Redcliffe is a great advocate for her community, particularly in relation to safety in the workplace. I have to say that what we have seen come through from the royal commission is quite disturbing.

We are only now exposing at the CFMEU inquiry the criminal gang links, the bikie links and the other criminal elements of the CFMEU, but I would hazard a guess that there are many people sitting on that side who were in big positions of power in Queensland in the Labor Party for 10 years and would have known what is being exposed in the CFMEU. Would anyone believe them if they stood up in front of the media—and I do not know if they will ever do that again because they have not all week—and said, 'We didn't know about it'? They may not have a choice if the royal commission puts them on the stand where they have to give truthful testimony.

It will be very interesting to see the member for Miller talk about the direction that was issued. He has not said that he gave the direction or did not give the direction. What about the member for Springwood's department telling which contracts were going to be awarded to the CFMEU? He has not explained himself. Of course, the one who allowed his ministers to meet with the CFMEU—the opposition leader—has not explained himself.

The fact is whether it is the CFMEU, bikie gangs or criminal gangs, Labor is soft on crime. In regards to youth justice, Labor is soft on crime. We have seen it time and time again. When they won in 2015, one of the very first pieces of legislation they introduced was to weaken all of the youth justice laws. Over 10 years they weakened all of the youth justice laws. The comrades have got so much chaos in the caucus on youth justice. It is the left versus the right; it is the soft versus the tough—actually, they are not tough; I offend myself with that, Mr Speaker, because they are not tough. In the scale of left and right in the Labor Party, the left seem to win because the left run the Labor Party. Under a Labor government, we will always have weaker laws than under an LNP government. I table an article from the *Canberra Times* with the heading 'Queensland backs criminal age rise, youth crackdown'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Canberra Times* online, dated 23 February 2023, titled 'Queensland backs criminal age rise, youth crackdown'.

The article states—

Attorney-General Shannon Fentiman says Queensland supports efforts to raise the age from 10 ...

They wanted to weaken the youth justice laws. Who could forget, as the honourable Premier said, when the member for Cooper had her earphones on and was falling asleep in the Adult Crime, Adult Time law debate and on the second time she deliberately got herself kicked out of parliament so she did not have to vote on Adult Crime, Adult Time?

We are debating these laws today, and I still do not have clarification on whether they are supporting them or not supporting them. There is so much comrades chaos in the caucus in the Labor Party that they cannot take a position on youth justice. Here is a position you should take: be tough on crime and go with the offended and not the criminals for once in your life.

(Time expired)

### Termination of Pregnancy

**Mr MILES:** My question is to the Premier. Cherish Life CEO Matt Cliff has said that the member for Oodgeroo told him that changes to abortion law could come next term. Is the member for Oodgeroo correct?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It enables me to do a couple of things. It enables me to point to exactly what unfolded this week. Following the Leader of the Opposition's scare campaign, we said there would be no change and there is none. If ever you needed

proof of an example of a government keeping its word, then here it is. Every scare campaign that was run during that election campaign—and there were many and they were disgraceful—has been put to bed.

Let's go through a few. They said that the satellite hospitals would be scrapped. They have been strengthened; the satellite health centres have been strengthened, with MRIs and CT scanners. We drove past billboards, and it was wrong and it was always wrong.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will get to this, member.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Springwood, do you have a point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** The point of order is relevance.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is being relevant.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There will be silence while I take the point of order.

**Dr ROWAN:** He is being relevant to the question that was asked. I also note that no authentication was provided in relation to the question.

**Mr MILES:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: in response to the Leader of the House's request for authentication, I table a transcript and the subtitled video from YouTube.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from social media, undated, featuring a post by Cherish Life, and a transcript of the post, dated 12 February 2026, in relation to the member for Oodgeroo, Hon. Amanda Stoker, and termination of pregnancy law.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you heard the question. It was basically around a leadership issue so I will leave it to you. You have two minutes.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I did, Mr Speaker. Regarding that scare campaign, I said there would be no change and there is no change. I said that about a few things. I want to reflect on what they said about the Public Service and I want to remind people about those billboards: 5,000 extra doctors and nurses, so that was another scare campaign. I want to reflect on what they said about things like public transport that was not funded, and we did.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I ask you to bring the Premier back to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The question also went to leadership, as I heard the question asked. Premier, I will be listening closely.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was very specific. I will not repeat it because you have instructed me not to do that. If it assists in your deliberation of this matter, the question was strictly to the issue of abortion law and the position of the member for Oodgeroo.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I allowed that question because it was asking if the Premier was indeed going to change a policy. That is a leadership issue. I find that the Premier, if he sticks to that, is being relevant. I allowed the question. I could have ruled the question out of order because it did not come under his portfolio except for that part of the question. That is why I allowed it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** We said there would be no change and there will not be. I am reflecting on what the people of Queensland were subjected to.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie:** They're trying to do it again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, I am trying to listen to the Premier.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** What is most disappointing is, firstly, that they would be prepared to try to run a scare campaign again. The second is once again—

**Ms Asif** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Sandgate, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It shows that they have learned nothing from the grubbiness, the murkiness, the scaring, the subterfuge—

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Lytton.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—and the out-and-out untruths. It has been put to bed. There is a benefit—  
**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, you are now warned under the standing orders. I had just called for order.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The benefit for our side of the House in being in government now is that scare campaigns do not work as well. They cannot pretend about something and try to scare people. I always remember a conversation I had with someone on a booth in Ipswich in the final hour of the election campaign. She told me that she was phoned not once, not twice but three times. They deliberately used a scare campaign to politically weaponise. They will not get a chance next time to do that. I said there would be no change; there is no change, but nothing has changed about those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

### Community Safety

**Mr CHIESA:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity. The Hinchinbrook community spoke loud and clear last year on the need for continued action on crime including stronger bail laws. What steps is the Crisafulli LNP government taking to keep making Queensland safer and how does this contrast to the decade of decline?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** What an outstanding question from an outstanding member for Hinchinbrook. It is so wonderful to have the member for Hinchinbrook here in this chamber asking an important question about a matter that is obviously close to not only his heart but also the hearts of his entire electorate—that is, ensuring we continue to work on the Crisafulli government's tough-on-crime stance. The first legislation in this House under the Crisafulli government was, of course, the Making Queensland Safer Laws. We know that those on the other side of the chamber were deeply divided and in complete chaos with where they were going to land. In stark contrast, the Crisafulli government know exactly how we are going to support Queenslanders and that is to remain resolute and be tough on crime.

I remember that the honourable police minister and I were standing with the member for Hinchinbrook during the by-election campaign. We went to the police station at Deeragun, where the senior sergeant said to me that he had worked there for over 20 years and had never seen so many police officers for his station. That is all part of our government's support for that vitally important part of Queensland. It is in stark contrast to what those opposite gave us during their 10 years. As the Premier has said and as the Deputy Premier has said, the first piece of legislation for their government was to water down the youth justice laws. Our first piece of work was to make them tougher, to make them stronger.

There is a bill before the House in relation to bail. It would be interesting to know their position—and now we have heard the Manager of Opposition Business saying they have one. I heard an interjection by someone over there—it may or may not have been the shadow attorney-general—that no decision has been made. We may need to put some electronic monitoring on where their caucus is going at the moment. Is it going to the left or is it going to the right? It is all about chaos in the caucus over there. We have been here before.

Let's remember when we had SCAG, the Standing Council of Attorneys-General. Let's remember it was the Labor Party that wanted to bring back all the weak-on-crime laws. It was the member for Hinchinbrook who assisted and stood up and said, 'Queensland won't be bullied.' We will not be bullied and we will make sure we remain resolute—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—and tough on crime.

**Mr SPEAKER:** When the clock hits zero, time has expired.

### Termination of Pregnancy

**Mr DICK:** My question is to the Premier. In an interview with an anti-abortion activist, the member for Mackay said that he did not believe his colleagues when they said there would be no changes to

abortion law in Queensland. If the Premier's own members do not believe him on abortion, how can Queensland women and girls?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** In answer to the honourable member, it is because we are doing exactly what we said we were going to do. Scare campaigns do not work when a government is doing the things it said it was going to do. Not only—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** When all that noise started, the Premier was being directly relevant to the question that was asked. There was no need for that whatsoever.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I should have taken the interjection from the member for Logan, but I will take it next time.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** He is on a warning, is he? I will get the next one.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I did not see that, but you continue and I will look after the House.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am reminded of all of those scare campaigns that did not come true. I am even reminded of one—

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Jordan. Member for Ferny Grove.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am reminded of one that happened after.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hold on one second. I had just called the House to order. Member for Miller, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am even reminded of one that happened subsequent to the election. I still remember it. It was only in the first month or so after the election. It was something about a toll that was going to be placed on a bridge. The Leader of the Opposition went out there—do you remember that? Everything that the Leader of the Opposition—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will tell honourable members the problem for the Leader of the Opposition. Because he is so desperate, because he is living on borrowed time, he has to try to land that killer blow. As a result, the level of escalation increases a little bit every time on every single issue.

**Ms Mullen** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Jordan, you can join the list. You are warned under the standing orders. Premier, you have one minute left.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** As we said about the satellite health centres, as we said about the Public Service, as we said about health workers, as we said about 50-cent fares—which were not funded but we did fund—as we said about all of those issues, the positions we took to the people of Queensland have been the positions that we are implementing for the people of Queensland and as a result—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Sandgate withdrew from the chamber at 10.50 am.*

**Mr Bleijie:** Oh, okay: they're trying to get kicked out so they don't have to vote on the bail laws.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, you have 36 seconds left.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, Mr Speaker, and I reflect on what the honourable Deputy Premier said: that was a coordinated ejection, that one.

**Mrs Nightingale** interjected.

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

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I think the Deputy Premier might have been on to it. Get ready: the headphones are coming back. Enya is coming back. Someone is about to sail away, aren't they?

**Mr Mellish** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Aspley, you just joined the list.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The Labor members are deliberately trying to be kicked out so they do not have to vote on our tough youth crime laws. They do not want to vote on tough youth crime laws.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They do not want to vote on tough youth crime laws.

*(Time expired)*

### Youth Crime, Response

**Ms MARR:** My question is to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services. How is the Crisafulli LNP government delivering the early intervention and rehabilitation services required to make Queensland safer, and is the minister aware of any previous approaches that failed to deliver rehabilitation and early intervention during a decade of decline?

**Mrs GERBER:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question; it is a great question. Because of the advocacy of our North Queensland MPs, including the member for Thuringowa but all MPs up there, Townsville is getting a crime prevention school. It has rehabilitation for kids coming out of Cleveland with Staying on Track. It has a Regional Reset program. It has Kickstarter programs like the Fresh Start Academy. Those are the early intervention and rehabilitation measures that the people of Townsville are getting because of the advocacy of those members.

Guess what else they are getting? They are getting strong new laws from the Crisafulli government. Queenslanders know where we stand when it comes to strong laws in this state, but they do not know where the Labor Party stands. We saw what happened with Adult Crime, Adult Time, and that same caucus chaos is unfolding now—that same chaos with the left fighting the right and members getting kicked out so they do not have to vote on our tough electronic monitoring bill. If I heard the Leader of the Opposition's Manager of Opposition Business correctly, they are not supporting our laws. They are not supporting tough-on-crime laws.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** It might still be up in the air. He is shaking his head now, so the left is still trying to fight the right.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, just be aware that there is a bill in front of the House. You should not be talking about the bill.

**Mrs GERBER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. When the House debated Adult Crime, Adult Time laws we know what the Leader of the Opposition did to his caucus, because the *Australian* wrote about it. In November last year the Leader of the Opposition told his caucus, 'We don't want to touch anything to do with youth justice or anything that's controversial.' That was a direct quote from the *Australian*. That is what he said. That is what he has told his Labor members: 'We don't want to touch anything to do with youth justice. We don't want to touch anything controversial.' They do not support tough laws in this state. They did not support—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have pointed out to ministers opposite, through you, multiple times that these contributions are clearly contravening the rules around anticipation of debate. To settle that, I made it clear that the opposition would not be opposing that bill and so they do not need to continue to anticipate the debate.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** So your point of order is anticipating—

**Mr de BRENNI:** They can stop now.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, that is my point of order.

**Mr Bleijie:** Who are you to settle things?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! So your point of order is anticipating debate?

**Mr de BRENNI:** Anticipation of debate. There is no need—

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is all you need to say.

**Mr de BRENNI:**—to continue with it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is it. Resume your seat.

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order in relation to the point of order that has been raised by the Manager of Opposition Business is that you have ruled on a number of occasions that the basis of the objection or the point of order needs to be made up-front without the lengthy contribution and preamble leading to that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Okay.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** People are interjecting on my point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order is that you made a ruling about it and I would ask you to provide some direction to the Manager of Opposition Business.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will look after that. I will say that points of order should be much briefer, otherwise I will be issuing warnings. Come to your point of order. That is it. I will deal with it from there. Minister, you know there is a bill in front of the House. I will be listening closely.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I will look after that.

**Mrs GERBER:** We saw what happened with the Labor caucus when it came to Adult Crime, Adult Time. In fact, what just happened then is more evidence of the chaos and crisis in their caucus. For the Adult Crime, Adult Time bill the Leader of the Opposition told his Labor members, 'We don't want to talk about youth justice'. In fact, the *Australian* wrote that he was ruling with an iron fist. That has just unfolded again before us right now. The Manager of Opposition Business has just been told, 'Oh my God, no! You've got to change the position. You've got to do something different,' and he has stood up and taken a point of order.

We know that those opposite weakened the youth justice laws. That was their first act when they came into this House after they got into government. The first act of the Crisafulli government was to strengthen our laws. We will always support strong laws in this state because we put the rights of victims first.

### Termination of Pregnancy

**Ms GRACE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Has the minister counselled the member for Mackay and the assistant minister, Amanda Stoker, on the importance of safe access to abortion for Queensland women?

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to portfolio responsibilities and the word 'counselled' in the question. I would ask for your ruling in relation to that and whether that comes under those responsibilities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take a bit of advice.

### Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

**Mr SPEAKER:** That question did not go to the minister's portfolio responsibilities, so I am going to rule it out of order.

### Police Resources

**Ms JAMES:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Locals in Far North Queensland were some of the first to sound the alarm on our state's youth crime crisis. Can the minister tell us how the Crisafulli LNP government is delivering the resources police need to drive down crime in our communities, and is the minister aware of any alternatives during a decade of decline?

**Mr PURDIE:** I thank the member for the question. It was great to be in Far North Queensland just last week for a couple of days visiting her electorate and other electorates up there. I also got to walk the beat at Kuranda with the police, which was a great opportunity, and I got to meet some of the 174

new constables that we have delivered to Far North Queensland in just the last 12 months. It was great to meet them and see the work that they are doing.

I also got to catch up with Detective Inspector Jason Chetham to talk about the Property Crime Unit in Cairns and he advised that in the last 12 months they have arrested over 1,000 offenders on 500 charges. Off the back of that, they have decided to establish a new Property Crime Unit in the Tablelands specifically for the Tablelands.

I also got to catch up with our detectives from the State Flying Squad such as Detective Inspector Joe Nixon, who advised that in the last 12 months the newly bolstered State Flying Squad has arrested over 800 people on over 2,200 charges. This is just an example of what can be done when our police are backed with more police and tougher laws. We will continue to make sure we send the State Flying Squad and all the resources that Far North Queensland needs because we know that unfortunately, like Townsville and North Queensland, they were the epicentre of Labor's youth crime crisis.

These are not just statistics. In 2025, for the first time in a decade across Queensland we have been able to stem the tide of the chaos and crisis of those opposite whereby crime was spiralling out of control. The number of victims in Queensland did reduce by 7.2 per cent. There is more work to do and we will continue to do that work. It was not just crime numbers and victim numbers that went up under those opposite. Unfortunately, too many innocent Queenslanders lost their lives, as we saw at Alexandra Hills and elsewhere. That is why we are taking a vastly different approach.

The top priority of those opposite when they came into government in 2015 was to water down the laws. We know that. They removed the breach-of-bail offence. They reinstated detention as a last resort. In 2017 they raised the age of a juvenile to 18. The member for Waterford, who wants to be the next leader, is on the record saying that the reason she ran for the Labor Party was to raise the age of a juvenile to 18. When they watered down the laws she went on the record saying that she was proud to right the wrongs of the former government that gave police what they needed to drive down crime.

After the Alexandra Hills tragedy, year on year they proudly watered down the laws. It was not until 2021—after Alexandra Hills, after the outrage in the community was at boiling point—that for the first time they came out with a tough-on-crime policy. The top line of their tough-on-crime policy was GPS trackers for juveniles, yet today they are tearing themselves apart about it. We saw them dragged in here not wanting to support our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws. We are a united team when it comes to fighting crime. We will continue to give our police the laws and the resources they need to do their job.

*(Time expired)*

### **Stafford Electorate Schools, Pedestrian Safety**

**Mr SULLIVAN:** My question is to the Premier. In relation to the school communities of Mount Alvernia College, Padua College and St Anthony's Primary School in the heart of Kedron, all co-located in the Turner Road precinct, will the Premier guarantee that the required pedestrian safety upgrades will be delivered for the safety of students, staff and parents?

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is a question that probably should have gone to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads but, Premier, I am sure you can furnish the question with a response.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** That is a question I am happy to look into. It is something that could have easily been asked in writing of me or the relevant minister. This is the first time this member has asked a question since he has gone to the crossbench. I am sorry, but I do not believe he should still be in this chamber. I do not believe he is a fit and proper person to be in this chamber and he should not be. He continues to vote with the Labor Party on every single piece of legislation—

**Mr Sullivan:** Absolutely!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:**—and these guys are prepared to take the vote—every single time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, if you have anything to add to the answer, your response comes to me.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection from the member who said, 'Absolutely'. He is a Labor plant in drag and they do not have the ticker to ask him to leave.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They know full well that they take his vote every single time. They will not disown him, but they will not have the ticker to ask him to be held accountable for what he has done or alleged to have done.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Woodridge! Premier, you are straying from the question.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I am happy to investigate the matter for the sake of the individuals involved but not for the sake of a member who should not be in here voting en bloc with an opposition that is completely and utterly rudderless and too weak to have the ticker to tell him to walk.

### Child Safety System

**Miss DOOLAN:** My question is to the Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. How is the Crisafulli LNP government taking meaningful action to repair Labor's broken child safety system, and is the minister aware of any approaches that failed to act during a decade of decline?

**Ms CAMM:** I thank the member for the question. I know that, as a young person, she has a keen interest in contributing to meaningful policy across my portfolio, in particular around the challenge of the crisis we have inherited from those opposite.

**Mrs Gerber:** Who started it?

**Ms CAMM:** I will take that interjection from the minister. Who started it? It was over a decade of decline under those opposite where we saw the cost to this state of the residential care system go from \$200 million to \$1.12 billion. Each dollar represents children who have been funnelled through that system. As the numbers grew out of hand they were failed by a broken system and funnelled through the youth justice system. What we inherited from those opposite was that 111 of the 388 serious repeat offenders lived in Child Safety out-of-home care, overseen for over a decade by five failed child safety ministers. There are also 222 children under strict supervised youth justice orders creating a pipeline of youth criminals.

What are we doing about it? Last year we undertook the first census of children self-placing and missing. For 10 years those opposite did not even look for those children. Those children are the children who are falling into a life of crime. What was the response from those opposite? They created bail houses. We saw how successful that was as they were disbanded. The former attorney-general was advocating to raise the age of criminal responsibility. They talk a big game about scare campaigns, but the reality when it comes to a scare campaign is the potential for the former Labor government to come back into power and water down the strong youth justice laws that our government has implemented.

When it comes to Adult Crime, Adult Time we stand by victims of crime in this state. Unlike those opposite, who today are trying to get themselves kicked out so they do not have to vote to further strengthen laws when it comes to youth criminals, we will continue to take every single opportunity we can to strengthen laws across this state.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the member's comments and reflection on members' absences from the chamber—

**A government member:** No.

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

**Mr de BRENNI:**—and the long-held convention that such absences will not be reflected upon. I would ask you to rule on that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not think it was a direct reflection on a person. I think it was a general statement. Just be aware of that, Minister.

**Ms CAMM:** I find that ironic given the number of former ministers who in the chamber last night reflected on where I was. Those opposite stand up and condescend in the way they think they know all of the rules and the conventions of the House, yet they are happy to disregard them.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SMITH:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Hardworking frontline clinicians have told me that the Bundaberg Hospital has been at tier 3 capacity. Will the minister confirm he is delivering fewer beds and bed alternatives in 2031 than the current Bundaberg Hospital has now, in 2026?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I feel that I will not need the intervention of the Leader of the House on this particular question, I have to say, because it gives me yet another opportunity to refer to my well-thumbed 'Labor's Hospital Failures' folder of documents.

**Mr Minnikin:** Which volume?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Volume 1. Volume 2 is too large to bring in. It pays to remind those opposite—it has only been a couple of months since we had to do so—of their failures when it comes to the Bundaberg Hospital. There was a more than \$1 billion blowout, from \$1.2 billion to \$2.306 billion, and neither the member for Bundaberg, the member for Waterford, the member for Woodridge nor the member for Murrumba have stood up and said when they knew about it and explained why they did not tell Queenslanders about it. Not one of them has stood up and done that. They have not spoken about the additional \$200 million per year that it would have cost to run two campuses. The geniuses on that side thought it would be better to run the old hospital in a flood zone—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

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

*Whereupon the honourable member for Miller withdrew from the chamber at 11.10 am.*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We will have some order before we go back to the minister.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** There you go, Premier: KPI achieved for the week, thank you very much. The Bundaberg Hospital was never going to be delivered under those opposite because they were trying to deliver two of them. When it comes to believability, the member for Bundaberg—

**Mr Smith** interjected.

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

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member for Bundaberg ran a shameful scare campaign, saying that we were not going to build the Bundaberg Hospital. The member for Bundaberg takes his leave from the Leader of the Opposition, he runs a shameful scare campaign and he backs in an undeliverable plan for two campuses and fewer beds. We are doing completely the opposite, Mr Speaker, as you know: 410 beds and bed alternatives, level 5 facilities and a master plan released that will see beds being delivered, including 200 beds and bed alternatives delivered in 2031. It is a credible plan to deliver a hospital on a single campus, backed up with an allocation from our fully funded record plan.

The member also talks about tier 3 operational capacity. In the year since we came to office, the Bundaberg Hospital has been on tier 3 15 per cent less than it was in the last year under those opposite. Since coming to office, it is at 15 per cent less with more staff, more services and better access to health care. The LNP Crisafulli government is delivering for the people of Bundaberg.

## Townsville, Events

**Mrs POOLE:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation. Will the minister outline how the Crisafulli LNP government is locking in a stronger events calendar for Townsville and is the minister aware of any approaches that would have jeopardised the city's ability to attract and retain major events?

**Mr POWELL:** I certainly can. At the start, I thank the member for Mundingburra who, alongside the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Hinchinbrook, is standing up for and advocating on behalf of that city because she knows the value that events bring. Locals can not only enjoy those events; they also benefit through the jobs and economic growth that they bring. They know that they can get along to those events and that they also mean the hotels are full, the restaurants are full, the cafes are full and kids can get jobs. That is why we are locking in a stronger and more reliable events calendar for Townsville. We have backed it in with our \$1 billion investment across tourism over the next four years, specifically with \$1 million for strategic and mega events. I want to talk through some of the exciting events that Townsville has locked in over the next few years.

Earlier I mentioned that Queensland will be hosting 14 matches for the 2027 Men's Rugby World Cup, to be held across Brisbane and Townsville, including two quarter finals, which is more than

one-quarter of all of the matches. Townsville will be hosting Spain, Canada, Tonga and Chile, among other teams that will play in the competition. If you know those teams you will know that they are incredibly tribal. When they come to a game, they come in a pack and they stay. As we learned from the British and Irish Lions, in between the games they want to holiday. I tell the people of Townsville, tropical North Queensland and Whitsunday: get ready because the Tongans are coming, the Chileans are coming and the Canadians are coming so make the most of every opportunity. Later in the year Townsville will host the Wallabies against Japan. The Australian rugby league team will be turning up as part of the Rugby League World Cup. There will be homegrown events such as the Sweet Days Hot Nights Festival, the SeaLink Magnetic Island Race Week and the North Queensland Elite Rodeo.

The member asked me what would have put that in jeopardy. Labor had a secret plan to decimate the tourism budget. The tourism department would have gone from \$160 million to \$7.6 million and TEQ's budget was to be slashed by over \$100 million. How do you put on a rugby world cup with no money? You don't! How do you take a rugby league world cup to Townsville? You don't! That is Townsville; let's us talk about Cairns. There would be no Wangetti Trail, which would still be called 'Wrong-getti', stopping at Ellis Beach. There would be no investment in the Smithfield mountain bike track. There would be no investment in Barlow Park, where it is necessary to increase seating from 1,700 to 5,000 so that it can host events like Townsville. The secret plan of the member for Cairns, which he did not share with the tourism industry, would have seen that industry decimated over the next four years. Instead, Townsville, Cairns and other regional cities across the state will benefit from a green-and-gold runway in the lead-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### Health System, Data Reporting

**Ms ENOCH:** My question is the Minister for Health. Is it correct that the minister and his office have delayed the publication of the quarterly health data until this Sunday, deliberately after parliament?

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

## YOUTH JUSTICE (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 11 February (see p. 184).

 **Mr CHIESA** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.16 am): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. Hinchinbrook is a strong and proud regional electorate. From Tully Heads through to Townsville's northern suburbs, people know their neighbours and look out for one another. When crime happens in our community, it is never anonymous; it is personal. When a car is stolen, it may be the only way that a tradie gets to work or a parent takes their kids to school. When a home is broken into, it is not just property that is taken; it is peace of mind. When repeat offenders are released back into the community without meaningful supervision, it is our community that carries the risk.

During the Hinchinbrook by-election, one of the clearest messages that I heard at doors, community meetings and polling booths was that people want bail to mean something. They want real consequences for breaches and enforceable supervision when a court grants bail. During the campaign I said plainly that if you breach bail then you should go to jail. The Crisafulli government is listening and this bill is another step forward to stronger youth bail laws that put the rights of victims first, hold offenders accountable and help make Queensland safer.

It is worth remembering why we are here. Electronic monitoring was trialled for several years under the former Labor government but it was plagued by stop-start decision-making and narrow restricted eligibility. In the first year, only four youth offenders were ordered to wear a device, including just one in Townsville.

The Education, Arts and Communities Committee tabled its report on 4 February 2026 with one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The bill will make electronic monitoring permanent and available statewide unless services are not available in the area. It will remove current eligibility restrictions and simplify the matters a court must consider. Put simply, it will give courts across Queensland the ability to order GPS monitoring as a bail condition for young people aged 10 to 17 where appropriate, rather than limiting it to a narrow cohort in limited locations.

For regional communities such as Hinchinbrook, this matters. Electronic monitoring supports police as an early warning system. It can help enforce curfews and exclusion zones, detect breaches

quickly in real time and help police respond sooner and with better information to prevent further harm. It also strengthens victim protection, giving families greater confidence that bail conditions are being followed. Importantly, this approach is evidence informed. The independent evaluation found that electronic monitoring was associated with reduced reoffending and lower victimisation while a young person was on bail, including a 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending when wearing a device. It is not a silver bullet but it is meaningful.

The court will only apply electronic monitoring where support services and coverage are available—safeguards that are embedded in the legislation. We all know it must be paired with wraparound supports. That is why we are delivering \$44.3 million in bail supports in four years and \$75 million over four years to save and expand youth co-responder teams statewide. Doing nothing has a cost and weak bail compliance has a cost—and that cost is paid by victims, families and frontline police. For those reasons, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (11.20 am): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. After listening to the contributions to the debate and reading the materials—the committee report, the statement of reservation and the bill itself—I want to start my contribution by thanking, in particular, victims who have come forward to assist the parliament in developing this legislation. I want to thank those Queenslanders who have bravely shared their stories with us. I want to thank those Queenslanders who have shared their experiences. I want to thank those many Queenslanders who work in the youth justice sector for coming forward and enlightening the parliament through the wisdom of their experience and expertise. We say to those Queenslanders: we acknowledge you and we know that it is strong, evidence-based laws and programs that protect all Queenslanders, laws and programs that support victim-survivors and laws and programs that prevent individuals from entering the youth justice system in the first place that you want. So do we. Every member in this House is keen to do whatever possible to ensure we prevent crime and prevent young people, in particular, entering the youth justice system. Mostly, we support reforms that prevent crime from happening in the first place.

I have made it clear that we will support the passage of the bill. Electronic monitoring devices were an initiative of Labor in government. It should be no surprise, despite all of the wound-up political points scoring from ministers and the Premier today, that electronic monitoring was an initiative of ours. I note that we were criticised for trialling electronic monitoring devices and then the new government went and trialled electronic monitoring devices. It is quite extraordinary.

Community safety requires evidence, resources and honesty. It needs more than slogans. It needs more than political points scoring. Queenslanders deserve to be safe and feel safe. Not only do Queensland experts and victims support evidence-based, properly resourced laws that reduce victims and prevent reoffending but so do we on this side of the House.

The committee found that electronic monitoring can be a useful tool but only when implemented properly and supported adequately. It is this proper implementation that is properly supported that is the key and that so many on this side of the House drew attention to in their contributions to this debate. Yesterday, the shadow minister explained to the House that the unreliable and inconsistent access to mobile telecommunication coverage, particularly in North Queensland—and I suspect probably in many other areas, even in outer urban areas of South-East Queensland—could mean that the devices will not work. That is why it would have been better if this bill were drafted with a statutory review mechanism. That is why the opposition members addressed that in their statement of reservation. The shadow minister for youth justice said—

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.

Those amendments were drafted last week. They were circulated to all members this morning before the pathetic attempts at political points scoring that we saw from ministers during ministerial statements and question time. They were quite aware that the opposition would not be opposing this bill. In fact, it would be absurd to reach that conclusion given that we had circulated amendments seeking a statutory review be included in the bill that will be voted on in a couple of hours time. It would be nonsensical to say that we do not support the bill if we are going to move amendments in consideration in detail to insert a review mechanism of the law's effectiveness. I take this opportunity to table a copy of the opposition's amendments, which will be moved by the shadow minister for youth justice today.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025, amendments to be moved by Hon. Di Farmer MP.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Di Farmer's amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Di Farmer's amendments.

I want to reflect on something else the shadow minister said. She said—

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 have made clear in our contributions to the debate our concerns about whether this will be implemented effectively—whether this government can put effectiveness beyond their rhetoric. Effectiveness is what will keep communities safe. It is what will keep Queenslanders safe.

What concerns us is that the LNP will not say and have not said how they are going to ensure this framework and these initiatives will be delivered effectively. I heard the member for Lockyer's contribution to this debate yesterday, along with that of the Attorney-General. They are two members of this government who should have been able to provide confidence to the House and confidence to Queenslanders that there would be effective implementation of these measures, but they failed to do that. They failed abysmally to do that. Instead they used their time in this debate for political pointscoring. In fact, it appears to Queenslanders that there is nothing this Crisafulli government does that does not come with a political angle. It is all about votes. They talk about wanting to support victims and prevent victims of crime, but they are always chasing the political angle of votes.

That is why the LNP will not say where the wraparound support services are operating in Queensland. It is why the LNP has failed to tell Queenslanders where there will be no wraparound services in Queensland. It is why the LNP will not say which organisations have been funded. They will not tell Queenslanders how long that funding is for. They will not tell Queenslanders where electronic monitoring devices will not work. They will not tell Queenslanders in which communities mobile communication connectivity will fail to keep Queenslanders safe. The member for Macalister made the point incredibly eloquently yesterday that the LNP will not say what funding and resources have been provided to frontline agencies such as the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services and the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support to implement these laws.

Queenslanders deserve community safety. They deserve measures that work. They do not want to hear promises that cannot be delivered. On this side of the House, we will do everything to keep Queenslanders safe, but it takes more than politics, it takes more than rhetoric and, I submit to the House, it takes more than slogans.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (11.29 am): I rise today in support of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. I want to start by thanking those in my community who recently shared their thoughts at the inquiry held in Cairns. Graham Stokes shared insights that echo across our region, and he said—

Electronic monitoring is not punitive, it is not detention and it is not substitute for rehabilitation; it is a measured accountability tool.

We have a generation of serious repeat youth offenders, but every reform we are implementing and every new program we invest in is focused on restoring safety and supporting our community as we turn this crime crisis around, and this is another step forward to do that.

I speak constantly to the Premier, our ministers, my colleagues and to countless stakeholders and organisations to work together to make change to the crime crisis plaguing our city. The past year has been a yo-yo of things getting better and then having a crime spree again when kids who we hope are not given bail are, and they are released and they often go back into the community to reoffend again. It is frustrating. It is disheartening to our police and to our community and especially to me. That is why this legislation is so important.

This bill makes electronic monitoring statewide and gives Queensland the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. Youth will no longer have to live in one of the few prescribed areas to receive one. What's more, we have embedded safeguards in the legislation so that youth can only be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device where there are services to support them, services to support their compliance and services to monitor them.

In Cairns during a trial, a 16-year-old offender was ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device as part of the bail conditions and whilst fitted with this device, they did not commit any additional offences. They engaged with their conditional bail obligations 100 per cent of the time they were subject to electronic monitoring. In January 2025, a 17-year-old in Brisbane was granted conditional bail with an electronic monitoring device and a curfew. Again, the youth not only complied with all of their

conditions but also re-engaged with school and actively participated in rehabilitation services. This is exactly why this bill matters.

Youth have spoken about these devices. They say they act as a physical reminder of their bail conditions. They instil fear and they send the message, 'You are being watched and you will not get away with reoffending.' Plus, these devices give them an excuse from the peer pressure they receive from criminal friends.

The youth offenders in my region need this. The people of Far North Queensland need this. We are fed up with kids on bail reoffending on our streets and they cannot be monitored effectively.

The member for Cairns, when he was in government, assured us that crime was not an issue; that it was just a media beat-up. Now he is finally talking on crime and admitting there is a problem, but he voted for the weaker laws, and it will be really interesting to see if he supports this legislation today or if he votes against it.

Over the past year, there has been significant action taken on the ground in Far North Queensland to restore safety and support our community. There are now more police in Far North Queensland than at any point in the last 12 years. In 2018, the member for Cairns proudly shared how the former government would welcome 47 new police to Cairns in four years. Well, we have delivered 130 in Far North Queensland in 14 months. The State Flying Squad has been deployed 21 times across the Far North district, focusing on known crime hotspots.

This bill is another deliberate step in our government repairing what was left broken, and it makes it clear to Queenslanders that we will not walk away until it works. I will continue to advocate strongly for the consistent application of the law, both behind the scenes and in my community and here in parliament. There is a lot more to do in Far North Queensland. We know Cairns is ground zero for crime and we must do more, and this is why I support this bill.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.33 am): Crime and repeat offending, especially while an offender is on bail, remain justified concerns within our communities, and rightly so. This bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 by making electronic monitoring a permanent condition of youth bail, applying the eligibility and suitability criteria for monitoring devices statewide and removing the age limit of 15 years and over.

As demonstrated, legislation alone cannot keep communities safe, nor change the offending rate. The independent review tabled by the government with this bill confirmed that electronic monitoring devices do not prevent offending on their own. Essential are wraparound supports, identifying and addressing the underlying often complex factors that contribute to crime, especially by youth, as outlined by the National Children's Commissioner: poverty, neglect, health and mental health challenges, addictions, and abuse and trauma, sadly in their own homes by those who should be caring for them. Legal Aid Queensland identified over 53 per cent are victims of DFV themselves.

Submissions, including by victims and victim-survivor groups, stressed the critical role of wraparound supports, and Voice for Victims explained that victim-survivors would feel more confident with broader monitoring which could help prevent incidents.

When the trial of the monitoring was first brought in, I supported it, believing it would give relief for a period from the cohort that were traumatising their communities, and time for the needed changes as identified by the former Youth Justice Select Committee to be addressed.

In the independent review mentioned earlier, reoffending rates were still 63 per cent with monitoring, and the department acknowledged devices were associated with, not necessarily the cause of, improved outcomes. Two-thirds of submitters cautioned against this bill, with changes that could see these monitors applied without consent to 10-year-old first-time offenders. These are not repeat offenders; these are first-time. For young Queenslanders experiencing homelessness, DFV, limited access to power to charge devices or inconsistent internet supply—and it was really good to hear the previous members speaking that there are safeguards around this—the risk of inadvertently breaching bail conditions, as well triggering repeated checks from already overwhelmed resource of the QPS, youth co-responder teams and support workers is very real. Hence why the wraparound supports are essential.

As seen previously, if we set children and youth up to fail, they will, resulting in detention—I think, going back—at \$1,400 per day and probably more now, as has been evidenced, which is not rehabilitative or effective as the high re-incarceration rates show. Youth Advocacy Centre, Justice Reform Initiative, Queensland Law Society and Save the Children submitted electronic monitors

contribute to disengagement from school, work, family and community, which is the opposite to what everyone is trying to achieve, impacting rehabilitation and mental health.

Queensland Family and Child Commission submitted bail should be a bridge with opportunities to learn and belong. To say the solution is not to offend in the first place, as suggested by government, is technically accurate, however grossly denies the underlying root causes, whether this has been, as we have heard in various committees and inquiries, trauma from when they were very young, including rape, domestic violence or fetal alcohol syndrome.

The rationale used by government for monitoring includes higher levels of bail completion, reduced rates of reoffending and reduced time in custody, coming from a highly criticised trial under the former government with limited participants aged 15 years-plus, mostly down here in the SEQ corner, and charged with prescribed indictable offences.

Also problematic of the trial, as noted by the Office of the Information Commissioner, was the ongoing difficulties with data-sharing between government agencies, an issue I have raised over the years in multiple realms. The trial was also considered too narrow in scope to capture an untested cohort, including First Nations children, who may be restricted to unsafe home and social settings, as statistics have shown in previous inquiries. The sad facts around this are known. However, due to the politicking that has gone on over the last years, I can only ask again that facts be used as a basis for decision-making, not slogans.

Regarding age limits, Victoria recently raised, rather than reduced, the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years, based on the ongoing evidence that children, even those without comorbidities, lacked the developmental maturity to comprehend and competently engage in the criminal justice system.

Stakeholders and submitters, even those diametrically opposed in their support or rejection of the bill, showed consistency on one key factor—and we have heard about this a lot—that is, the need for customised, appropriately resourced, long-term local wraparound supports at all stages of the cycle from early intervention to rehabilitation. Even though the government has introduced measures that align with recommendations of the former select committee—a 12-month transition from detention and funding for alternative schooling programs, including MOB—where are these long-term wraparound supports? As well, there is mandatory rehabilitation and a lowering of the threshold for declaring young people as serious repeat offenders.

Creating greater safety for Queensland through less crime and fewer victims is a shared goal. However, the reality is that if we do not rehabilitate young Queenslanders and address the contributing factors they will transition to adult criminals and, as evidence has shown, grow more violent, creating much more harm. Decision-making, including around legislative changes, must be based on robust evidence. In this case, I, like so many others, am eager to grab at anything that may end offending, even without the evidence. I ask that this be closely monitored and reviewed every 12 months, and the data should not be skewed to suit political narratives and should be publicly released so we can evaluate the impact.

What has taken decades cannot be undone through legislation, bandaids, polished speeches or monitoring bracelets. It will take decades of substantial reform and investment in multiple realms, bipartisan agreements—yes, we need both sides of the House to agree—and commitments beyond an election cycle to create what Queenslanders seek: safety for all.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (11.41 am): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill will give Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. The LNP Crisafulli government is determined to make a change and be tough on crime. I know that my community of Thuringowa is expecting, and deserves, change. We stood at the election on the promise of delivering tougher laws, ones that are amongst the strongest in the nation, and that is exactly what we are focused on delivering.

This bill is the first step towards strong bail laws. These laws stand out for several key reasons, not just because they impose stricter bail conditions. My electorate of Thuringowa, unfortunately, endured 10 years of no action on youth crime by the former Labor government and developed a reputation for having elevated levels of lawlessness. The residents were fed up. They want no stone left unturned in our efforts to reduce the scourge of youth crime that has plagued our communities for far too long. This bill represents a critical step forward, but we must continue to prioritise early intervention and rehabilitation as core necessities to ensure youth crime declines.

It is worth reflecting on the long and complicated history of Labor's failed electronic monitoring trial, which underscores why this bill is so urgently needed. Introduced in 2021 as a two-year trial, it was an abysmal failure from the outset. Despite warnings from the LNP, the former Labor government pressed ahead. In the first year alone only four youth offenders had an electronic monitoring device order imposed as a bail condition. This made it impossible to complete a proper evaluation, as Labor's own review later confirmed, as it failed to even assess the effectiveness of electronic monitoring in deterring offending behaviour due to insufficient participants.

Labor's mishandling did not stop there. In 2023 they extended the trial for another two years with piecemeal changes. By August 2024 they had added more trial locations while amending regulations. Critically, they failed to extend the sunset clause. This left no realistic timeframe for a comprehensive evaluation of the changes before the trial lapsed. Under Labor, the program was doomed to remain limited and ineffective, with restrictive eligibility criteria that excluded most youth offenders and confined it to select areas, ensuring it never reached its potential to protect communities like Thuringowa.

The people of Thuringowa have lived through years of feeling unsafe in their own homes, shops and streets; having cars stolen in the night; having homes broken into; and having businesses vandalised, often by the same small group of repeat offenders who cycle through the system with little consequence. The former Labor government let this crisis fester. A decade of weak responses left communities like mine bearing the brunt. Thuringowa became a symbol of what happens when youth crime is met with inaction: escalating incidents, declining community confidence and a sense that lawlessness is the norm.

Families have told me directly they backed the LNP on election day because we promised real change, tougher consequences, better deterrence and a focus on making streets safer. They voted for us because they wanted action, not excuses. They wanted a government that would prioritise victims over endless leniency. This Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill delivers on that promise.

By making electronic monitoring a permanent feature of our bail system, we are sending a clear message: if you are granted bail as a young offender you will be held accountable. There are no more sunset clauses or limited trials. This is statewide, practical and enforceable. Importantly, the bill expands access sensibly. Removing the outdated 15-years age limit and eligibility restrictions means courts can apply this tool where it is needed most—on serious repeat offenders who pose a genuine risk to the community. By simplifying the considerations for courts, we reduce unnecessary red tape while still ensuring decisions are made carefully and always with community safety front of mind. The safeguards are built in.

We know that this is not the full answer. Tough enforcement must go hand in hand with prevention and support. We must continue to invest in early intervention programs that catch at-risk youth before they enter the cycle. Mentoring, education pathways, mental health support, family services—these are essential to turning lives around.

In Thuringowa, I have heard from parents who are desperate for help for their struggling teens, from victims who just want to feel safe again and from police who see the same faces over and over. This bill gives us one more layer of protection while we build those broader supports. It is about balance, consequences for actions and pathways out of crime. The Crisafulli government are delivering what we promised: we are restoring safety to where people live; we are putting victims first; and we are giving Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the nation. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (11.46 am): I rise to give my contribution to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill. In spite of everything that has been said by those opposite, it was a former Labor government which in 2021 introduced the use of electronic monitoring devices as a bail condition in Queensland on a trial basis, thereby facilitating an evaluation of the technology's ability to deter offending behaviour when used in conjunction with comprehensive wraparound services. These are our laws.

There were amendments in 2023 and 2024—new legislation, new ideas, new policies—brought in by the previous government, and in April 2025 we had the LNP government extending the trial by 12 months and, embarrassingly, making no other changes whatsoever. I remember that people were getting up in this House debating the one-year extension. They made no changes. They had no amendments. They just extended the trial. It could have been done as an adjunct in consideration in detail.

The completed evaluation by Nous Group, tabled on 10 December 2025, found that EMD conditions had a positive effect on high bail completion, reduced offending and lowered victimisation. They were our aims when we put these changes into legislation. To suggest that Labor did nothing on youth crime is completely misleading and wrong. The proof is right here. We are debating Labor laws and a report on those laws. We have made it clear that we will be supporting those.

Not getting answers to legitimate questions in committees from the current government is becoming the norm. I note that the member for Thuringowa said that this will now apply everywhere. It may not. If you do not have the technological ability to do it, it is not going to apply everywhere in Queensland. We are a big state. To come in here and suggest that is not correct. It is not correct to say time and again that we did nothing when we were in government.

They are fundamentally amending our laws. Let's not get away from that fact. It is a misnomer and it is misleading this House to say anything else. EMDs are just one strong tool—a strong Labor tool that we introduced in a considered way following extensive consultation.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Well, you are extending it. I take the interjection from the minister. You are extending it. You are making it permanent. This was our policy and don't anyone forget it. It is a tool to keep Queenslanders safe. I note that the evaluation report stated—

Importantly, EMDs do not prevent offending on their own. They are tools for monitoring, and their impact is shaped by how they are implemented and supported.

The evaluation report also said that 'wraparound services were critical to the success of EMDs' and that vulnerable cohorts 'may require additional support to success with EMDs'. What came through loud and clear from the Nous report and from stakeholders is that the use of EMDs is most successful for young people in reducing reoffending and completing orders when they are combined with comprehensive wraparound supports, and all emphasised the crucial role these supports played for an effective outcome. Everyone said the same thing.

The Nous report identified that the results of the evaluation cannot be generalised and interpreted due to the trial conducted on narrow eligibility, suitability and judicial thresholds. For example, 84 per cent of EMD conditions were ordered in urban SEQ compared to only 16 per cent in regional areas. This was mainly due to reliable mobile connectivity—or lack thereof—which is essential for successful EMDs. However, in spite of these caveats the bill makes EMD a condition of bail a permanent option to the courts—a move away from the considered opinion of the then Labor government.

The bill also extends the use of EMDs to be imposed on 10- to 14-year-olds charged with any offence, including first-time offences, by removing the eligibility criteria specified in the current legislation which did not form part of the Nous report. It also removes a youth's capacity to understand the condition, the support the child will have and any other relevant matter, and extends the condition in any location provided the chief executive advised that where the child lives has the services necessary to support effective operation of an EMD. I question: on what advice? How is he supposed to know whether there is a reliable telecommunication service in a particular remote area? That is a question that has not been answered.

It is clear that the rolled gold early intervention promised by the LNP crucial to the success of EMDs has not been rolled out to any extent. Everyone was on the same page when it came to this. The most consistent message coming out of the committee process was that improved bail outcomes are inseparable from comprehensive wraparound supports for young people and their families. With the changes, we cannot set up young people and their families with substandard supports or unreliable technology. I quote from a couple of submitters. The Queensland Law Society says—

Therefore, remote communities face technological barriers that may increase the risk of breaches, often resulting in harsher consequences and further justice involvement.

We do not want to see that. The Townsville mayor said—

We could have service today and no service tomorrow. We are in a situation where we have natural disasters and we have disruptions to the network so it is a very fluid situation when it comes to telecommunication services in Queensland.

It is unfair to do that to families, to victims and to the youth. It is unfair that they think they are being monitored but then they are not. The Youth Advocacy Centre also stressed that 'many bail support services do not have funding certainty beyond 30 June 2026', so they need to have funding certainty in relation to this and we need to ensure that those questions are answered. The Voice for Victims Foundation stated—

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—

They are not my words but those of the Voice for Victims Foundation. I think it might be a wait-and-see situation as to how that will positively impact communities and where perhaps those gaps remain.

One of the most important other things is that we do not want to over burden the police force. We want to make sure that they are not taken away from the front line on crime prevention because everyone, particularly in Townsville and Cairns, were saying that they were seeing an increase in crime in their area. That is a fact. They were saying that. A *Courier-Mail* article stated that police had to go out and check on 5,677 alerts—33 resulted in a breach of bail. Most of them were because of a dead battery. To make sure their battery is charged, a kid of 10 has to have that support so police do not have to call on them. It is absolutely essential. The only supports at the moment is what Labor has put in place such as the youth co-responder teams, the intensive bail initiative, the intensive case management program and many funded bail support services. It is these programs that the LNP is reliant on despite extending the trial on data to 30 June 2025.

It is absolutely essential that the questions we are asking about how this is going to work are answered. Where are the wraparound services operating in Queensland and where are they not? Which organisations have been funded and for how long? Where will electronic monitoring devices work in Queensland and where will they not? What funding and resources have been provided to frontline agencies such as the Queensland Police Service, Corrective Services and the department to implement these new laws? Which of the rolled gold early intervention programs have been announced and are actually delivering services? We cannot get an answer even on that. You would think if there were any services delivering they would shout it from the rooftops, but we cannot get an answer. Will there be a review?

We are supporting these laws but we are also making essential amendments—that there be a statutory review after 18 months, that it be done independently and that it is incumbent upon the legislators to incorporate that. With that, I say let's support the amendment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (11.56 am): Today we are delivering a clear and unwavering message to the people of Queensland. The Crisafulli government will no longer tolerate half-hearted measures when it comes to youth crime. Under our government the use of electronic monitoring devices for youth on bail is not just a fleeting experiment or a talking point; it is a permanent robust condition. This is not some policy that will quietly expire or be watered down over time. It is here to stay because our communities demand nothing less.

Unlike the Labor opposition, tinkering at the edges and delivering little of substance, we are providing the certainty and stability that Queenslanders do deserve. No more fluffing around with temporary solutions. We have studied five years of Labor's failed electronic monitoring trial and the results are crystal clear: restricting monitoring to a narrow age group, a handful of locations and only certain offences simply did not work. Courts were left powerless to order electronic monitoring except in the most limited of circumstances—only 15- to 17-year-olds, only if they lived in a prescribed area, only if their case was heard in a certain court, only if they faced very specific charges and only if they had already been involved in serious offending. The system was riddled with loopholes and limitations and our communities are paying the price.

Queenslanders are tired of excuses. My community is fed up with the endless cycle of crime and empty rhetoric. They are pleading for decisive action, and today that is exactly what we are delivering. Let me be very clear: our approach is not reckless. We have embedded strong safeguards in legislation to ensure this policy is effective and fair.

Electronic monitoring will only be imposed where there are: services absolutely necessary to support the reliable operation of monitoring service—that means robust network coverage wherever the youth lives; services specifically tailored to help the young person comply with the condition—comprehensive bail support services; and services suitable to assist in the ongoing monitoring and supervision of the youth.

We are not just ticking boxes. We are making sure that technology, support and accountability work together to reduce reoffending. This is a government that listens, acts and delivers. We will not return to the failed policies of the past. Our message to would-be offenders is simple: we are watching, we are acting and we are serious about ending the scourge of youth crime. The time for empty words is over; the time for action is now. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.00 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. I will say at the outset that, while I probably should be beyond the point of surprise at this government's failure to meaningfully address youth justice issues in a way that is consistent with the evidence, it still strikes me as astonishing that this government is content to waste taxpayers' money locking up kids. They are content to waste money installing ankle monitors on 10-year-olds and they are going to continue to waste this money while locking in cycles of disadvantage and deprivation when that money could be put towards social supports and the real supports and solutions that we know will actually reduce crime and benefit all of us.

The LNP's latest extension of the former Labor government's youth justice policy horror show really does paint a grim picture of Queensland and it takes us in the wrong direction. This bill will make Labor's electronic monitoring policies permanent and remove a series of safeguards. It is, frankly, shocking and telling to hear government members describing such safeguards as merely 'loopholes' and 'limitations'. It is particularly shocking when we consider that this bill will extend the use of electronic monitoring to kids as young as 10. Kids in primary school do not need safeguards that are nothing more than the loopholes and limitations of a regime.

Under this bill, kids as young as 10 can be required to wear ankle monitors as part of their bail conditions, and they can have that requirement imposed irrespective of what offence they are accused of. When the courts are considering whether to impose these conditions they are no longer required to consider the child's capacity to understand the conditions, the likelihood they will comply and the willingness of any person to provide support to the child. Surely those are the most basic safeguards and requirements that courts should be considering when they choose whether or not to impose these kinds of conditions. If a kid cannot understand a condition, how does that benefit anyone? If the court does not think they are likely to comply, why would that not be a relevant consideration? Instead, the court is simply tasked with considering whether it is appropriate to require the child to wear an ankle monitor. To be clear, for the record, I do not think there is any part of the LNP's youth justice policy that can humanely be considered appropriate in 2026 given what we know about the drivers of offending and how to address them.

If we accept for a moment that electronic monitoring is in fact used as an option of last resort to keep kids out of custody, we have to remember that it is the kids who are already at the margins of the margins who will benefit the least from this program because monitoring cannot be imposed as a bail condition unless the department has the necessary services in place to support the operation of the monitors as well as the services suitable for supporting the monitoring of the child and their compliance. On top of that, there are significant logistical hurdles to their use. Children will need access to stable housing to recharge the devices and a mobile phone with consistent network access. That necessarily narrows the cohort of kids who might be eligible to get them and again demonstrates that it is those kids who are most marginalised and most disadvantaged who will not have the notional benefit of not being forced into custody. Kids typically from underserviced areas from regional and remote communities will miss out on that. Similarly, kids living in unstable home environments without supportive adults or in out-of-home care will be disadvantaged in their access to these conditions as an alternative to custody. They will also be disadvantaged in their efforts to comply.

I have heard plenty of government members throughout this debate try to point to simple percentage statistics and assert that this is real evidence of a lower occurrence of breaches amongst kids with ankle monitors on. I understand there was plenty of evidence from stakeholders throughout the inquiry that those statistics cannot possibly disentangle the benefits of actual service and support for these kids—the real wraparound stuff that we know actually makes a difference. The kids who have ankle monitors on are the kids who are going to be getting better supports, so do not pretend that the ankle monitors do anything other than stigmatise and cause all of the downsides that we hear from stakeholders and submitters.

The evaluation into the electronic monitoring trial found that 82 per cent of young people without poor mental health were able to successfully complete their orders compared to only 65 per cent of kids with poor mental health. The government admits openly in the so-called statement of compatibility with human rights—probably better titled 'statement of incompatibility with human rights'—that First Nations kids and kids with poor mental health have lower completion rates and smaller reductions in offending. For those kids who are required to wear ankle monitors there are clear indications that this will impact their right to education as a result of bullying and stigmatisation and it will risk pushing them towards groups engaging in antisocial behaviour.

The continuation of this policy is literally torching hundreds of millions of dollars on caging and surveilling small kids—children as young as 10. It costs close to \$800,000 to keep one child in custody

for one year, yet as a government they continue to persist with a policy that more deeply entrenches cycles of criminalisation and disadvantage. The evaluation also estimated that electronic monitoring costs around \$577 per day per child. In particular, it noted the significant human resources required to monitor and respond to alerts across multiple agencies. This is obscene. Imagine if that same amount of money and that same human resource effort was invested in culturally appropriate housing, health care, training and education for kids and their families. Imagine if it was invested in safe and secure housing for these kids so they had a safe place to go, a roof over their heads and food on the table. What if it was invested in counselling? What if it was invested in widespread programs for screening and support in relation to cognitive impairment, which we know can be so closely tied to this particular cohort of kids? What if it was spent on meaningful educational supports to keep kids engaged in school?

If this money was directly invested in kids—the people whose behaviours we are trying to change—we could support genuinely thriving, healthy communities. We could take this state in the direction that we all want to see it go. Instead, this government continues to walk us down a completely failed path that is only going to see Queenslanders less safe in the end. This is a continuation of the bad policy and bad legislation that we saw under Labor. There is absolutely no way I can support legislation like this.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (12.09 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. This is an important next step in making our community safer and reducing the number of victims. Since being elected, the Crisafulli government has been working hard to restore safety where we live. Steps we have already taken include: the introduction of the Making Queensland Safer Laws, which remove detention as a last resort and put the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals; youth offenders now face tough new consequences for 33 offences under Adult Crime, Adult Time; the introduction of Daniel's Law to keep our children safer and Jack's Law to get knives off our streets; the introduction of a permanent rapid response unit, the State Flying Squad; more boots on the ground and police given the resources they need to get the job done; and, critically, the investment in early intervention and rehabilitation, despite what those opposite might have people believe. In fact one of the first early intervention programs we funded as a government was a program in my electorate of Townsville that had its funding cut under Labor. Maybe it was too effective.

This bill is another significant step forward. I commend the committee for coming to Townsville. We heard some harrowing experiences that were shared with us from members of our community. One of them was Darryl Griffiths, who was a victim of crime. He shared with the committee the experience that he and his family went through. He said—

The ankle monitors are a great idea and it needs to be done. 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.

It has been interesting listening to the contributions from those opposite, and I will reflect on what I heard yesterday from the member for Greenslopes. He said that Labor remain committed to evidence-based programs. We know, and Townsville knows, that the evidence shows that their programs did not work. To do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result is the definition of insanity.

Under our government electronic monitoring is a condition for youth on bail and it will not expire; it will be permanent. Labor failed to give the courts the power to order it on all youths; instead it was restricted. They had to be between 15 and 17 years old, live in one of the few prescribed areas, be heard by a court in only a handful of locations, be charged with certain prescribed indictable offences and have been previously found guilty of an indictable offence or were charged with a prescribed indictable offence in the last 12 months. It had very restrictive limitations.

When I speak with the community, one of the critical issues is the previous Labor government's guideline that meant the court had to get the consent of the offender to wear a monitoring device. That does not work. It is like me with my kids if they are misbehaving. If I said to them, 'Go and clean your room if you want to,' they would not go and clean their room. It is about consequences for action, and we take that seriously on this side of the House. We are taking steps forward. We are reducing the number of victims. We have much more to do so we will continue to work hard to keep our community safer and reduce the number of victims of crime in Townsville.

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (12.14 pm): It is an absolute pleasure to stand here and contribute to the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. It is a great pleasure to stand on this side of the House where we stand with victims of crime. Everything that we do on this side

of the House is about driving down victim numbers. It is about strengthening laws, not weakening laws. We have seen a decade of decline. We saw chaos from the other side of the House when they were in government. Townsville, in particular, saw that as they were the epicentre of the youth crime crisis.

I take members back to when I was proudly serving as a member of the Queensland Police Service. I think that gives me the credibility to stand here in this chamber and say that I saw firsthand what the weakening of the youth justice laws did under the former Labor government. They drove up victim numbers. Labor were on the side of the offenders. The Crisafulli LNP government are about restoring consequences for actions and driving down victim numbers. Everything we do is about strengthening the legislation.

I commend the minister and the committee for the work they have put into this bill. This bill will give Queensland some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in our country. Our community are crying out for support. They are crying out for a strong government that has their back. This bill will: make electronic monitoring permanent by removing the expiry provision; make electronic monitoring statewide; remove the current eligibility criteria, including the 15-year-old age limit; and simplify the matters which the courts must have regard to when deciding whether an electronic monitoring condition is appropriate.

I spoke in the chamber when we brought in the Adult Crime, Adult Time bill and, as I just said, everything we do on this side of the House is about strengthening the legislation. I spoke during the Adult Crime, Adult Time debate about two young boys aged 11 and 12 who were going fishing for the day on the weekend—as they should be allowed to do. They were held up at knifepoint by three juveniles who stole their bikes and all of their fishing equipment. Those youths were already on bail.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs POOLE:** It was absolutely shameful. I also spoke about a 19-year-old girl who works two jobs and contributes to our community. She was driving to work at 7 o'clock in the morning and she was faced with a stolen car being driven at her head-on by youths who were on bail. I would like to speak about Lynette, an elderly lady in our community who appeared at the committee hearing in Townsville. I commend Lynette for her strength in being able to tell her story. Her home was broken into, she was held at knifepoint and her car was stolen. At the public hearing Lynette said—

If they are out on bail we need to know that they are being monitored. When they are out on bail then our safety is at risk ...

She wanted them monitored, and I echo those words. On this side of the chamber, we are a consultative government, we listen to our community and we act on what our community needs.

Let me be absolutely clear: electronic monitoring for youth on bail has been evaluated. We saw the other side of the House have a trial for two years. Four youths, three in Townsville, were given electronic monitoring devices. They extended the trial and a total of zero youths in Townsville were put on that trial. We do know it works; we have evaluated it: 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending. There is the evidence right there and that is what our community is calling out for.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kempton): Member, please take your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.20 pm), in reply: Firstly, I want to thank the members for their contributions during this debate. We have heard from many members during this debate in relation to how strong electronic bail monitoring laws are needed in this state. In particular, I want to thank some of the members we just heard from: the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Hinchinbrook. Those communities have been rocked by Labor's youth crime crisis. Those communities were calling out for tougher bail laws for a very long time under Labor. This bill represents the first step towards stronger bail laws in this state and some of the strongest bail laws in the country.

We have spent the last two days debating our tough new youth bail monitoring laws, but we still do not really know where the Labor opposition stands on this.

**Mr de Brenni:** Change your script.

**Mrs GERBER:** I hear the Manager of Opposition Business interjecting—the same man who interjected to say they do not support the bill. During question time he stood up and said they do not support the bill—at least that is what I heard. Then the opposition leader had to come in here and say, 'Actually, no. The left has not won this one. The right has won this one. We're going to support the bill.' The chaos in their caucus was evident during question time today.

The shadow minister spoke for 30 minutes yesterday and failed in her 30-minute contribution to say, 'Labor will support these tough new laws.' She failed to say that in her contribution. It should not have been difficult. Will they stand with victims of crime? Will they stand with the communities that are calling for a safer Queensland? Will they stand in the way of tough new youth bail monitoring laws? It is still not clear where they are going to stand on this bill, particularly after question time this morning.

These reforms will give Queenslanders some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. We are about reducing reoffending, safer communities and fewer victims of crime. We make no apology for doing what needs to be done in this state after a decade of decline under the previous Labor government. Those opposite spent 10 years weakening our youth justice laws. Their very first act when they came to power 10 years ago was to water down the Youth Justice Act. They made detention a last resort. They removed breach of bail as an offence. They moved 18-year-olds back into our detention centres. With that they created a watch house crisis that left youths languishing in watch houses for up to three weeks. They created a youth crime crisis that ripped through communities like the Townsville region, like the Far North Queensland region, like Cairns. Then they stand in the way of reforms that are going to ensure Queenslanders have safety returned to where they live.

During this debate we heard some members say that they are going to be tough on crime and other members say, 'We're not sure if we're going to support these laws.' Now they would have Queenslanders believe—

**Mr Bennett:** If 'Blocker' allows them.

**Mrs GERBER:** I will take that interjection: if 'Blocker' allows them. Now they would have Queenslanders believe they are tough on crime, but it is crystal clear they are ideologically opposed to doing what needs to be done to make Queensland safer. We saw a party divided over Adult Crime, Adult Time and we have seen it again over the past two days. When we introduced our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws their caucus was in chaos, and we have seen that chaos again this week. They had members of the left in altercations with members of the right. They came in here having to wear headphones because they could not bring themselves to vote for the laws; they could not listen to it. Then today we have seen members of the Labor Party intentionally try to get kicked out so they do not have to vote on these laws. The question is: will they support the legislation? Will they support our tough new laws? Is it because the weak-on-crime Leader of the Opposition thinks the only way he can hold on to power is to appease the left?

**Mrs Frecklington:** That's actually a good point.

**Mrs GERBER:** Yes. The only way he can hold on to power is to appease the left, and that might be one of the reasons for their voting intentions today. They are in absolute chaos over there. While they fight amongst themselves, they are not fighting for the victims of the youth crime crisis they created, and the proof is in the pudding. Those opposite are in a shambles and are now trying to use this debate to run a scare campaign, claiming that youth on bail wearing a GPS tracker would be left without wraparound services. That could not be further from the truth.

The facts are written in black and white. They are in the bill, they were in my explanatory speech, they were discussed during the committee process and they were in my second reading speech. For the benefit of those opposite, who continue to run scare campaigns and peddle mistruths for their own political gain so they can go and weaponise that in their communities, a tried and tested method of Labor, I am going to say it again; I will repeat it. A court will only be able to order an electronic monitoring device on a youth who has been given bail if there are wraparound services for that youth. We have written it in black and white in the legislation. We have made it a statutory requirement that wraparound services must be available to support that youth.

We have also made it a statutory requirement that there needs to be sufficient network coverage. If there is no coverage, electronic monitoring cannot be ordered. Labor know this and yet they continue to peddle mistruths. Something else they know is that the Crisafulli government has delivered the largest investment in bail support services in the last decade: \$44.3 million over four years, with funding secured into the forwards, yet they continue to peddle mistruths that there is no funding for bail support services.

**Mr Janetzki:** Another scare campaign.

**Mrs GERBER:** It is another scare campaign; I will take the Treasurer's interjection. That is another mistruth by those opposite debunked, but I am sure it will not stop them from continuing to peddle it during consideration in detail.

Where there is insufficient coverage, electronic monitoring will not be ordered. Where a youth wearing an electronic monitoring device is not where they are supposed to be, our frontline responders will know sooner and can respond faster because electronic monitoring means they are monitored 24/7. While those opposite have stood on that side of the House and suggested that responding to electronic monitoring alerts is a poor use of our police resources—that is what some of those opposite said—and it takes our frontline officers away from what they call real policing, let's put some facts on the table. Over the course of the five-year trial, there were more than 5,000 confirmed alerts, but do honourable members know how many of the low-battery alerts required a response from our frontline police? Take a wild guess. It was only two per cent. That is right: the overwhelming majority of these alerts were triaged and resolved by Queensland Corrective Services without any need for frontline officers to be taken off the front line or police attendance or they were triaged by our co-responders. It was only when there was an incident of immediate risk to community safety that police were called to respond. In those circumstances police should absolutely respond because that is precisely when the community safety is at risk. I say to the member for Bulimba: that is real policing.

I want to thank the Queensland Police Union, who called for this back in 2021 under the late Ian Leavers. The late Ian Leavers stood up for police, stood up for community and called for electronic monitoring to help police. They called for it because it will allow police the tools they need to do 24/7 monitoring and to keep communities safe.

Those opposite have stood up one after the other and argued that there is no evidence to support strengthening and expanding the use of electronic monitoring for youth on bail. That claim simply does not stack up. The evaluation report reflected that, under the parameters of Labor's limited trial, the data can only speak to what was tested and that is Labor's deliberately narrow trial with restricted locations, restricted age cohort and restricted offence types. Here is what the facts say. Even within Labor's narrow parameters, the evidence is clear: electronic monitoring works, yet those opposite kept it in trial mode for four years.

Those opposite refused to make it permanent, and do members want to know why? Because they do not believe in it. They were at war with themselves over it. They were forced into it because of a youth crime crisis that they created.

The independent evaluation found that electronic monitoring for youths on bail is associated with higher bail compliance and a 24 per cent reduction in the likelihood of reoffending. The result of that is safer communities and fewer victims of crime.

I note that earlier today the member for McConnel was grandstanding about electronic monitoring being their policy. If those opposite loved it so much and if it truly was their policy, why did they not make it permanent? Why did they not ensure that the courts had the ability to impose electronic monitoring on any youth offender that they grant bail to? Why did they not ensure that Queensland communities had the ability for electronic monitoring to be used as a tool to keep them safe?

**A government member:** Heart's not in it.

**Mrs GERBER:** They did not because their heart is not in it—exactly—because they are at war with themselves in relation to this policy. They did not want to do it. They were forced into it because of a youth crime crisis that they created. Labor would have Queenslanders believe that it is for strong laws, but words are no substitute for actions, and its actions have shown that it is weak on crime. If only those opposite cared this much about electronic monitoring keeping Queenslanders safe when they were in government when they had four long years to bring in electronic monitoring! They had a decade to try to fix the youth crime crisis, but instead it got worse and worse and worse. In the decade of decline under those opposite, we saw victims of crime rise by 193 per cent.

**A government member:** Shame!

**Mrs GERBER:** It is shameful. It is an indictment on them, but the Crisafulli government is working to turn that around. Just to repeat for those opposite, who have shown throughout the debate that they really have not read the bill, they do not understand it and they have not listened to what these reforms actually do, or it could be that they are intentionally peddling these mistruths because that is their MO—scare campaigns: this bill makes electronic monitoring for youth on bail permanent. It gives every court in Queensland the power to order an electronic monitoring device as a condition of bail for youths aged 10 to 17. For any youth who appears before a court where the court determines that they can get bail, that court can then turn its mind to whether or not that youth should be electronically monitored 24/7, including for first time offenders.

Labor's parameters meant that first time offenders could not be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device. Labor's restrictive parameters meant that youths had to have committed a serious indictable offence already or be charged with a serious indictable offence before they could even be considered for electronic monitoring.

Electronic monitoring is a tool to keep communities safe. During the evaluation youths themselves said that wearing a device meant that they were reminded of the conditions of their bail and it helped them to stay out of trouble and it helped them to connect with bail services, and that results in safer communities, but Labor's heart was never in it. It intentionally made the trial narrow and restrictive, and so many members on that side of the House have spoken about that intention—proudly. They are still loudly and proudly talking about the fact that they intentionally created a policy that was narrow and restrictive, because they do not believe in tough-on-crime laws.

I do want to speak to some very important safeguards that are built into our legislation. Our laws mean that a court can only impose an electronic monitoring device as a condition if the youth justice chief executive advises the court that all of the following services are available in the area in which the youth lives. The first is services necessary to support the effective operation of a monitoring device—that is, suitable network coverage where the youth lives. We have heard those opposite peddle the mistruths, but it is built into the bill that there must be network coverage, because an EMD only works when there is network coverage. There also needs to be services suitable to support the youth's compliance with the condition—that is, bail support services. It is built into the bill that youths on an electronic monitoring device must get bail support services. Those opposite are trying to say, 'Not all youths are going to get it and there's no funding for it.' That could not be further from the truth. The third thing that is built into the bill as a safeguard is services suitable to support the monitoring of the youth—that is, QCS.

With regard to the crossbench, the member for Hill noted that over the last decade Queenslanders have watched the same repeat youth offenders being released on bail time and time again. Let me be very clear: if a youth poses an unacceptable risk to community safety, they should be remanded in custody. When they release them on bail, this bill is about giving the courts the power to order a youth to wear an EMD. First, the courts must turn their minds to whether or not that youth is suitable to be released on bail. If they decide that, then they can put an EMD on the youth. It is about giving our courts another tool that they can use to protect Queenslanders.

To the member for Maiwar, when it came to Labor's failed rolled out electronic monitoring trial, the staff who were on the front line found Labor's rollout to be 'administratively burdened' or 'ingrained with unclear responsibilities'—these are quotes—that it had 'poor interagency coordination', that Labor's trial 'failed to have training and role clarity gaps' and that Labor's trial had 'inefficient escalation pathways'. All of that is criticism in relation to Labor's botched operation of its failed trial. This independent evaluation allows for the Crisafulli government to get on with the job of fixing Labor's failures. The Crisafulli government is fixing those failures and, under our government, electronic monitoring will operate as a reliable, real-time tool that supports frontline workers to intervene early, respond quickly and decisively and better protect the community.

Not only did Labor fail to back its policy by making it permanent—it kept it in trial mode for four years—but it botched the rollout. The independent evaluation that the Crisafulli government has done of the trial demonstrated that Labor rushed it, botched it and did not give frontline officers the training they needed to be able to effectively roll out electronic monitoring. One has to ask themselves why. Why did the Labor Party fail to do all of that? The answer is pretty clear: its heart was not in it. It and the left did not want these strong electronic monitoring laws, so they failed to give training and they failed to roll it out properly. They did everything they possibly could to set this trial up to fail, and the first year of the trial is evidence of that. Only four youth offenders were ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device under Labor when it rolled this trial out. We do not need any more evidence than that that Labor does not believe in electronic monitoring, but those opposite come into this House and they are at war with themselves in relation to how they are going to vote to support strong laws.

Let us not forget that every youth wearing an electronic monitoring device will have wraparound supports to help them stay on track and comply with their bail conditions. Some of those wraparound supports are our bail support services, but the Crisafulli government is also doing intensive rehabilitation measures like our youth justice and crime prevention schools. We are nation-leading when it comes to our youth justice schools. They are the first of their kind to specifically target youths on youth justice orders. That would include a youth who is ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device. Those youths now have a targeted way to get back into education and school. Under Labor, they were dumped straight back into our communities with zero support and left to reoffend time and time again.

Under the Crisafulli government, we are not only implementing strong laws; we are also investing in the rehabilitation and early intervention measures needed to turn these young lives around. Our youth justice schools will give 12 hours of supervision for those youths on youth justice orders to ensure that they have a pathway into education.

Recently I was pleased to provide an update in relation to the first of our youth justice schools rolled out in South-East Queensland. The site is in Logan. The site has been announced and those youth justice schools are on track to start taking enrolments later this year.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Amazing!

**Mrs GERBER:** It is amazing and these are the initiatives that those opposite do not support. Not only do they not support our strong youth crime laws; they also do not support our youth justice schools. They have already been on the record saying that. Our strong electronic bail monitoring 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 and which resulted in kids going in and out of our detention centres, leaving thousands of victims in their wake.

These reforms are all part of our plan to put the rights of victims first, to deliver consequences for action, to reduce reoffending and to return safety to Queensland communities. We are partnering strong laws, like these electronic bail-monitoring laws, with early intervention and rehabilitation for a reason. We know that it works and we are committed to reducing the number of victims of crime in this state. I commend the bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the bill be read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106(10).

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—

 **Ms FARMER** (12.46 pm): I have several questions for the minister on this clause. The minister and most of the LNP speakers have referred to this bill as strengthening bail laws. Evidence from the Nous evaluation report and from stakeholders tells us that it is very clear that EMDs cannot be successful—that is, cannot strengthen bail laws—without wraparound services. Labor's youth co-responder teams, intensive bail support and other programs like intensive case management were singled out in the report as being critical to their success. However, it seems quite unclear what wraparound services will be available across Queensland. For instance, the committee could get no confirmation from the department on whether any organisation had a contract for bail support services after June this year. That was a question raised by submitters. It is unclear from the department's website the exact location of existing services. That was the only information we were given by the department. The big-ticket, rolled-gold early intervention programs the government announced have been announced; however, there is little evidence that the majority of them are actually off the ground. That was reinforced by Natalia Merlehan from Voice for Victims, who 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,

Almost every witness who appeared before the committee, including victims and people clearly supporting EMDs, either felt that existing programs were insufficient and/or said how important it would be for people to know whether EMDs could be supported in their location by the right wraparound services. I refer to the minister's speech where it is clear that EMDs can only be applied where there are wraparound services. That is the reason I am speaking to this clause. Will the minister provide detailed information to Queenslanders on where existing wraparound services currently are and where and when new and newly announced services will roll out so that Queenslanders are clear on whether EMDs will be able to operate in their areas?

There was also significant evidence of the quite extensive resourcing required to operate EMDs, in particular for the QPS and QCS. The evaluation records many alerts which had to be attended to. There will clearly be a significant impact on QPS and QCS resources. Most witnesses said that they would really like to know what the modelling is and whether there will be budget and further resources and, if so, what are they going to be.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I, too, rise on clause 4, the most important part of this bill. This bill was an election commitment of the Crisafulli LNP government to get tough when it comes to youth crime in this state. This government is delivering on everything we promised. Those opposite are ripping at their conscience about this issue. They cannot find consensus among themselves. This is what our community wants; this is what the Queensland public voted for. There are other members who are very passionate about this and want to speak on this clause so I will keep my contribution brief. This is the most important part of this bill and I ask that every member, whatever their conviction, supports this clause.

**Mr FIELD:** I rise in support of clause 4 of the Youth Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Amendment Bill 2025. As people are aware, on 26 January 2021 a repeat offender, while out on bail, killed my son Matthew, his partner Kate and our unborn grandson. This loss has not left our families. It opened the eyes of everyone to how the youth justice system was nothing more than a revolving door that allowed repeat offenders to ride roughshod over our communities.

Queenslanders expect a system that is firm. For far too long the electronic monitoring system in this state fell far short of that mark. The previous Labor government's approach was very narrow, limited and, in reality, completely ineffective. In my opinion it was a knee jerk reaction to our family's tragedy. It applied only in tightly prescribed circumstances, in select locations and to a very small group of offenders.

In its first year, only four people were ordered to wear a device—just four criminals. That is not a meaningful response to our communities' concerns. Very rightly, this government's approach to youth justice is meeting those expectations with the bill establishing electronic monitoring as a permanent part of youth bail in Queensland. It will not expire, lapse or require constant revisiting. The courts will now have a clear and stable framework to rely on when making decisions about supervision in the community.

We have examined years of data from Labor's failed rollout and the evidence is clear: what was previously modelled was too restrictive. It limited who could be monitored, where matters could be heard and what offences qualified. The result was a scheme that struggled to make any impact. Under this government's reforms, the courts will be able to order electronic monitoring for youth offenders granted bail where it is appropriate to do so. It will no longer be confined to a narrow set of offences or locations. The emphasis is on risk, accountability and community safety. Safeguards are built into the legislation. Monitoring will be used only where proper services are in place to supervise and support the young person. Orders will be backed by real oversight and practical systems that make them workable.

We are providing Queensland with some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country. They give courts a practical tool, they set clear expectations and they strengthen supervision in the community.

*(Time expired)*

**Mrs YOUNG:** This morning those opposite told us that they will not support tough youth bail monitoring laws, they will not stand with victims of crime such as Russell Field and they will not stand with communities like mine in Redlands that, under the former government, were far from immune.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members that I have an extensive list of warnings.

**Mrs YOUNG:** They do not want to hear about it because communities such as mine in Redlands were far from immune from their crime crisis. I refer to people like Chris Sanders who, in December 2023, was stabbed in one of our local shopping centres. Who listened to Chris? The now Premier and I, on behalf of Redlands. They had every opportunity to keep the criminal who stabbed Chris Sanders in an ankle bracelet and away from Chris during that time. Under our laws, any youth aged 10 to 17 who is released on bail, which would have made a difference to Chris at the time, including first-time offenders, can be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device. I reflect on the point made by the member for Townsville: I am a parent as well and getting my 14-year-old to do much is pretty hard so getting the courts to make youth offenders wear those bracelets is very important.

Under the former Labor government, electronic monitoring was restrictive and was set up to fail, like the kids under the trial. This morning we heard the truth: they never wanted it to succeed. We have embedded safeguards in our legislation so that youth can be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device only where there are services to support them, services to support their compliance and services to support their monitoring. The member for Bulimba spoke about resources for that. I can tell you what

takes a lot of resources: crime. If we can prevent the crimes from happening then we can stop the bleed of resources.

We are delivering some of the strongest youth bail monitoring laws in the country and we make no apologies for doing that. I committed to the people of Redlands to restore safety where they live.

**Ms DOOLEY:** I too rise to speak to clause 4 of this bill. The member for Capalaba is here in this chamber because of what happened to his family. I too have stories from Redcliffe. In 2020, Angus Beaumont was killed by youth on bail for multiple offences. In North Lakes, Emma Lovell was killed in her own front yard by youth on bail for multiple offences. I cannot help but think that if these laws were introduced at that time then they could still be alive. After a decade of the crime crisis created by those opposite, we have victims in our electorates who are calling and screaming for us to be tough on crime. Whilst those on the left stand with victims of crime, they will not stand for these laws.

We have embedded safeguards into our legislation so that youth can be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device only where there are services to support them. Despite what the member for Bulimba said, we are rolling out gold standard early intervention. In my electorate of Redcliffe, the Redcliffe Area Youth Space was granted a Kickstarter grant for wraparound support for those known to the youth justice system. I want to thank the minister for youth justice for listening to me and for committing that funding through the Kickstarter grant to the Redcliffe Area Youth Space. It is already having great effect for those known to youth justice, giving them the support they need. We have also committed \$2 million to the Redcliffe Edu Space for classrooms for those who are known to the youth justice system and are on bail and detention, to support them out of a life of crime. We are delivering some of the strongest youth bail laws and we unapologetically say to Redcliffe and our communities across Queensland: we hear you, we will listen and we will act today.

**Mrs STOKER:** I rise to speak in relation to clause 4, which really is at the heart of this bill. It removes all of the restrictive eligibility criteria to apply one of these electronic monitoring devices to a young person on bail because those bureaucratic requirements were really setting it up to fail. The Labor Party did not really believe in this. They wanted to have it as window-dressing rather than as an effective and practical measure that could be applied in the community. They put in place so many constraints that it was not really able to be applied and that shows in the data.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The volume is increasing again. Only the member for Oodgeroo has the call.

**Mrs STOKER:** As a consequence, so few devices were ordered that the program had very little meaning. Under our laws, any youth aged 10 to 17 released on bail, including first-time offenders, can be ordered to wear an electronic monitoring device if the court deems it appropriate. No longer will it apply only to youth who live in one of a few prescribed parts of the state, nor will eligibility for an electronic monitoring device be constrained by which court the matter is heard in. They will not be restricted to a certain number of limited indictable offences—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Oodgeroo, it being one o'clock I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill without further amendment or debate. Firstly, we must deal with clause 4.

Question put—That clause 4, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 4, as read, agreed to.

Question put—That clauses 5 to 9, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 9, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with standing order 106(10).

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.06 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Termination of Pregnancy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): It is the responsibility of all members of this House to act in the best interests of Queenslanders. On the issue of abortion, Queenslanders have said unequivocally that they are in favour of safe and accessible terminations of pregnancy. I stand with those Queenslanders and with Labor members on this side of the House who support a woman's right to choose. I stand with all Queensland women who say: her body, her choice.

Labor supports properly funded and accessible health care for all Queenslanders, but clearly that is not the case on the other side of the House. This week we finally heard and saw the truth from the LNP about their position on abortion laws in Queensland. This week we saw the member for Mackay vote with Labor and the crossbench in favour of a motion that could have created a pathway to lift the Premier's abortion gag.

We have also seen the video with the member for Mackay saying that he did not understand what he was voting for when his party room voted in favour of a gag motion. The member for Mackay also stated in the video that he simply did not believe the statements from his own leader and LNP MPs that there would be no change to abortion laws in Queensland. No wonder the Premier was so agitated and stressed in question time this morning.

The truth is: in their heart of hearts, LNP MPs, led by the member for Mackay, want to change Queensland's abortion laws. They want to take Queensland backwards. The member for Mackay is not alone. The LNP members for Burleigh, Callide, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Glass House, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Mackay, Mirani, Redcliffe, Rockhampton, Scenic Rim and, most of all, Oodgeroo are all on board when it comes to changing Queensland's abortion laws.

The worst kept secret in Queensland politics is this: anti-abortion activists have been told by the member for Oodgeroo in particular that the Crisafulli LNP government will revisit abortion laws in the future. The only way to revisit abortion laws in the future in Queensland is to make Queensland women criminals again—to criminalise Queensland women for decisions they want to make about their own bodies.

Everything we have seen and heard this week renders meaningless anything the Premier says on this topic. When the Premier says something it means something else or it means nothing at all. Do not listen to what the Premier says; look at what he does.

### Child Safety System

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (2.03 pm): The Crisafulli government has inherited a child safety system plagued by crisis, thanks to the gross mismanagement of those opposite. The Child Safety Commission of Inquiry has been methodically working through many issues affecting child safety and has already uncovered shocking revelations—all pointing to a system that the commission describes as broken.

While this work has been ongoing, government has been carefully and methodically working through the *In plain sight* report, which exposes the failings of the former government in the context of Ashley Paul Griffith and his horrific offending against children. These two very significant bodies of work, when considered together, paint a picture of a child safety system in a state of disarray—all attributable to the gross incompetence of Queensland Labor.

What has become abundantly clear to our government is that we need urgent policy responses to ensure the protection of Queensland children. We are a government about action, not words, and there is nothing more important to us than the protection of children. For these reasons, Commissioner Anastassiou has agreed to bring forward his report recommendations which, when coupled with the *In plain sight* report, will allow us to consider child safety issues in their totality. We will use the findings in these two reports to create a blueprint for the future of child safety in this state. There is no policy area

more important and no stone will be left unturned. I can advise the House that the Child Safety Commission of Inquiry will deliver its report to government by 22 May 2026.

We did not create the multitude of problems facing the child safety system, but we are certainly going to fix them. I thank the Minister for Child Safety for her hard work and dedication to the protection of Queensland's children. Queensland children were failed under the former Labor government, but the Crisafulli government is committed to taking strong action to turn the tide of Labor's decade of decline in the child safety system.

### Health System

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (2.06 pm): Queenslanders were promised a lot on health by the LNP—2,200 beds by 2028 and no health cuts—but what they got was a botched flu season, the denial of health care by bans on gender-affirming care and pill testing, record health construction delays and cuts and record ramping. Premier Crisafulli said last term—

Recording funding is not an outcome. Record ramping and record waiting lists are outcomes—...

Welcome to the Crisafulli-Nicholls era of record ramping. We have seen ballooning of outpatient lists by 13 per cent. That is an outcome. Record ramping is now an LNP outcome and their responsibility. Nearly half of Queensland patients were waiting more than 30 minutes on the ramp—the worst on record on their watch.

What does the so-called health minister do? He blames nurses, staff and the opposition. He blames everybody except himself or the Premier, who made the mistake of appointing him in the first place. He leaves people behind. He never accepts responsibility for his continued botch-ups, driven by his arrogance, aloofness and being out of touch.

Hospital expansions have been delayed and disappeared. At Bundaberg, expansion plans have been delayed for years—until at least 2031—under this government and now the hospital has been overwhelmed and pushed into tier 3 crisis conditions. Patients are in corridors and staff are at breaking point. While the LNP make regional patients wait, the health minister shuffles around trying to take credit for a huge pipeline of Labor's planned and funded hospital expansions—on the Gold Coast and at the PA, QEII, Logan, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Toowoomba, Ipswich and Moranbah, to name a few. That is their trick. They stop construction and dump timelines. Now they want kudos for what was achieved by Steven Miles and the Labor team.

The people of Mackay voted LNP. What was their reward? Their hospital expansion vanished—gone; finito. There is grass and air for Mackay, not health care. The Premier apparently has so much respect for the member for Mackay that he has taken his hospital expansion away from his community. If I were the member for Mackay, I would not be just splitting from the government and crossing the floor on the gag motions; I would be crossing the floor demanding the hospital expansion for Mackay be reinstated after it was cut by Premier Crisafulli. The member for Mackay finds himself in a confused position. He says that he did not even know what he was voting for on the gag motion when he first came here—essentially, that he was misled by Premier Crisafulli. He must now know that under his first term as the MP for Mackay he has let down his whole community by letting the hospital expansion be cut by the LNP.

What we see under the LNP is cuts in health and not delivering on their promises. It is the patients across Queensland, particularly in regional Queensland, who are waiting so long for health care.

### Child Safety System

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.09 pm): Every child deserves support, someone to love them and a family to guide them on life's journey. Every child deserves that, but when I read the briefs that come through my office, children are subject to the most unimaginable abuse by the ones that are supposed to provide that love and care. Many are placed with loving foster and kinship placements, but far too many others, sadly, have lived the majority of their life in the state's residential care system where the market has grown out of control, overseen by those opposite. Worse still, there are those in detention centres, couch surfing, staying in unsafe environments or, even worse, missing. A lot of them struggle with complex disabilities.

The Crisafulli government is embarking upon transformational change of the child safety system. We cannot continue to do what those opposite did for 10 years. We need change that will protect children and young people, a system that is responsive and where a child is given every opportunity to

thrive. The commission of inquiry will bring forward its recommendations to May this year, as outlined by the Attorney-General, so that they may be considered alongside the *In Plain Sight* report and its recommendations. We will bolster reform, in step with our election commitments, and fix the broken child safety system.

Our commitments are on track, including: reforming the residential care system; moving providers to a dual-carer model; building a secure care facility, a failure by those opposite to deliver on the back of the Carmody inquiry; our professional foster care pilot; and increasing the number of child safety officers we have on the frontline by 20 per cent. I say to those child safety officers once more: thank you and thank you for your contact, your emails and your messages. We, as a government, are looking forward to working with you to transform the system and make it better for you each and every day. We must focus all efforts to fix the broken child safety system and, in doing so, deliver on our policy and our commitment to Queensland children of Safer Children, Safer Communities.

I also place on record my sincere thanks to the commissioner and what has been relayed to me by the Attorney-General in him bringing forward his report to meet the needs of our government to be able to move quicker and act faster to protect our Queensland children, as well as reform the broken child safety system.

### Infrastructure Projects; Bruce Highway

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.12 pm): For a party with almost half their cabinet on the Sunshine Coast, it is remarkable that for transport there is no area worse off under this LNP Crisafulli government. First, the LNP broke their election commitment to deliver rail to Maroochydore, instead offering an Al-drawn bus as a poor consolation prize. Then late last year, they released new station plans for the Sunshine Coast direct rail line, running roughshod over the Beerwah community with their plans to bulldoze the 90-year-old Beerwah co-op. Last week we saw the disastrous new mapping for the Bruce Highway Western Alternative stage 4 snuck out, a road that now simply leads to nowhere. This government is taking Sunshine Coast residents for granted—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I will get to you, member for Glass House. At the heart of Beerwah is the co-op which has served the local community for the last 90 years. Owned by hundreds of local shareholders like small business owners and primary producers in the member for Glass House's electorate, the co-op's model focuses on supporting locals, something the LNP could learn from.

I recently met with the team from the co-op and their action group, and I want to thank and acknowledge them here today. It really is a community hub, a hardware store and a garden centre all in one. All the tangible community benefits that this co-op provides are now at risk from the changes the LNP have made to the Sunshine Coast rail project. Following new corridor mapping released last year, the co-op was told their time was up, that TMR would resume their site to build a four-storey commuter car park, dwarfing nearby local shops and undoubtedly causing long-term disruptions to the town.

Rather than giving in, the co-op is mobilising. They are determined to hold this government to account and, with over 6,500 signatories, they are not alone. The co-op have made direct appeals to their local MP, the member for Caloundra, and surrounding MPs like the member for Buderim and the member for Glass House, but currently no minister has shown up to meet with them. That is disappointing. The Minister for Transport talks a big game in here, but he is too scared to drive 20 minutes down the road from his electorate to meet with businesses getting turfed out because of his own department's actions.

Then we come to the new route for stage 4 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. A road once designed to reduce congestion on the Bruce Highway, it is now destined to be a busy side street, stopping in the middle of Elimbah. The LNP promised to scrap the existing route and offer a new one—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am not taking your interjections, member for Glass House. They have delivered half an election commitment with no connection through to Steve Irwin Way, let alone the Bruce Highway. This road is scrapped. Let's call it for what it is—the LNP has scrapped the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. With Queensland's population continuing to boom, Caboolture is expected to be home to tens of thousands more residents over the next 30 years. This road would have catered for many of them. It makes you wonder just who this government had in mind when they signed off on this

new route. Was it the local farm owners, residents who have owned their properties for decades, or was it just their property developer mates?

Two years ago, the member for Glass House stood here and said, 'This is not how you treat people.' He called for the government to provide a clear time line for affected residents. Those comments have not aged well because now the minister is putting videos on Facebook saying the road is two decades away. Two decades away! Let's call it for what it is: the LNP has scrapped this project. When you are stuck on the Bruce Highway, you know who to blame.

### Weather Events, Recovery

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (2.15 pm): Yesterday I provided an update to the House about the recent summer of severe weather. I acknowledge the amazing work of our mayors, councillors and council CEOs in leading their communities through recovery. It is one of the great privileges in my role as the local government and disaster recovery minister to work closely with local governments and rebuild the relationship between them and the state government, a relationship which was trashed by the Labor Party during their decade of decline. But do not take my word for it. Here is what some of the mayors have had to say. Mayor John 'Tractor' Ferguson said—

I would like to thank the Premier and Minister Leahy for when we had floods out here, they turned up. They said they would be back and they'd help us, and that's exactly what they've done.

Mayor Barry Hughes from the Etheridge Shire said—

Absolutely. We look and we are very fortunate in relation to having a state government that at the moment has got the empathy for the bush. We are getting a lot of support from the Premier down in relation to this event, and can I just say I was happy to receive the phone call from the Premier last night and Minister Ann Leahy, and it has been absolutely fantastic. I have spoken to her at least four to five times over the last 24 hours.

Mayor Adam Belot said—

Thank you also to the local government minister and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers, Minister Ann Leahy, and Mirani MP, Glen Kelly, for picking up the phone every time I rang to discuss residents' concerns.

When you are present on the ground and listening and working with those communities, those communities notice. That is a lesson that the member for Pine Rivers would do well to learn. I might ask: where has the member for Pine Rivers been during this summer disaster period? She has not been in the impacted communities.

Opposition members interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Order, members!

**Ms LEAHY:** The only disaster zone that the member for Pine Rivers has been in lately—

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Ms LEAHY:** The only disaster zone that the member for Pine Rivers has been in lately is the Labor Party caucus. The Crisafulli government will continue to work with our local governments. We will help them rebuild their communities and make them more resilient, and we will continue to roll out the betterment projects to make sure that when the next event comes along that they are well prepared for those events.

### Liberal National Party

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.17 pm): It has been a tough summer for the LNP. Green shoots seem to be calmly and methodically turning brown. Crime, ramping and country maternity services are not fixed and no ministers are held accountable. Calmly and methodically, we saw the local minister win the outback tourism award by inventing the 'Leahy-cation' staycation. Not to be outdone, the member for Whitsunday calmly and methodically took a tour of Africa. The environment minister calmly and methodically ignored every recommendation from the Containers for Change inquiry and appointed an LNP stooge as the CEO after calmly and methodically sacking the hardworking, honest and diligent CEO.

The health minister calmly and methodically ignored the mothers of Toowoomba. Speaking of hospitals, five people a day calmly and methodically showed up at emergency departments with fractures, head injuries and facial trauma, thanks to the Premier calmly and methodically doing absolutely nothing about the carnage being caused by e-scooters. The Deputy Premier calmly and

methodically put the wheels in motion to give developers state assets and require absolutely nothing in return, except that they 'donate, baby, donate'. By cutting any requirements for affordable or social housing, he showed he does not care about Queenslanders, baby, Queenslanders.

I took a calm and methodical holiday heading to Stanthorpe. I was looking forward to calmly and methodically paddling on Emu Swamp Dam. I will table a few holiday snaps. Here is the sign for Emu Swamp Road. Here is me wondering where the dam is that the member for Southern Downs was anything but calm and methodical about during his last two terms. It seems he has been calmly and methodically doing absolutely nothing about delivering this dam.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting the Member for Greenslopes on holiday in Stanthorpe near Emu Swamp Road.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliament sitting calendar for 2026 as supplied by Parliamentary staff, coloured in maroon by the Member for Greenslopes.

The member for Mackay calmly and methodically blew up any pretext of LNP unity. He said to the federal LNP, 'Hold my beer,' as he calmly and methodically crossed the floor and sashayed out of the chamber into an interview with the highly respected calm and methodical Dr Jo.

The all-time 'Calm and Methodical Award' has to go to the proudest product of the Currumbin Little Theatre Academy, the member for Currumbin. I was wondering where the member for Currumbin got the inspiration for yesterday's performance, and I remembered that great episode of *Seinfeld* where the late, great Frank Costanza sat in the car yelling, 'Serenity now! Serenity now!' 'Calm and methodical! Calm and methodical!': I will spare the chamber the full-volume version.

Finally, I want to thank the parliamentary staff for supplying this wonderful calendar. I fear the legend is missing a few things. It fails to show the LNP ministerial leave calendar, so I have coloured it all in maroon. I started in January and it finishes on 31 December. It was hard to find time because I had to fit in the 'Leahy-cation' staycation and the Camm safari, but I managed to give all of the ministers a chance because, clearly, they are not going to be doing anything this year. The green shoots will definitely calmly and methodically continue to turn brown.

### Callide Electorate, Hospitals; Gladstone Infrastructure

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.20 pm): I have fantastic news for the great people of Callide: the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering for Queensland. The communities of Chinchilla, Jandowae and Biloela will be getting a full detailed business case to plan for the future of their hospitals as we invest in the future of these communities. The business case is a necessary process, and I have called for community consultation to be part of this for a very long time.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** Those opposite are laughing.

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

**Mr HEAD:** They do not understand how important hospitals are to these communities, which is why they left a legacy of decline across rural hospitals in my electorate and shut down or put on bypass many maternity services. Labor was going to build lemons across the electorate of Callide with their hospital plan. That plan was completely underfunded and did not leave any money for the important projects for Chinchilla, Biloela and, of course, Jandowae. It was a cobbled together plan that did not consider the future needs of those communities. It did not consult appropriately with the staff who will actually have to work in those facilities. They did not talk to the community. We will be doing that. It is exactly what these communities have been calling for and it is exactly what they deserve. These detailed business cases will be happening over the course of this year, and I am looking forward to sharing with these communities the opportunity to participate going forward.

I also have great news for the people of Gladstone. In the Crisafulli government they actually have a government that cares for all of Queensland, including that great regional city, which is a powerhouse for our great state. The health minister and the Premier were both there on Wednesday. They announced that there is now a new transit lounge operating there. There are eight new staffing positions and eight spaces in that transit lounge. This is real delivery for the people of Gladstone. We know that under the previous government all they saw was a decade of decline.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** The former minister is interjecting right now. Member for Gladstone, I would not be smirking at your legacy for that community because we know that that community was left behind under

the watch of the former Palaszczuk-Miles Labor governments. The other thing that was left underfunded in Gladstone was the nurse-led clinic. The nurse-led clinic, announced by those opposite—

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr HEAD:** The member for Gladstone, who is interjecting, made a big song and dance about how many hours that clinic was going to be open for. They did not leave enough money to support the hours the community wanted, but the Crisafulli government is delivering for the people of Gladstone. As a representative of the Calliope community, I know how important the Gladstone Hospital is. There is an \$875,000 boost for the nurse-led clinic at Gladstone.

### Termination of Pregnancy

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.23 pm): I was intending to speak today about the failure of the sports minister to deliver the Queensland Sport Strategy. As one of his only clear commitments, this strategy was to be delivered in September. Then it was November. Now we are in February with no strategy, no explanation and only a quiet update on the department's website suggesting it might arrive sometime this year. I wanted to speak of the urgency of this overdue strategy, given the unprecedented pressure on our sporting clubs across Queensland, but that contribution will have to wait because I cannot look past the extraordinary week that the Queensland LNP have had. It would be laughable if it were not so desperately serious, particularly for Queensland's women.

This week the member for Mackay crossed the floor to lift the Premier's gag order that was preventing members of this parliament from debating a woman's right to choose. What followed made one thing abundantly clear: this was no accident. In a public interview with Cherish Life the member for Mackay openly outlined his personal pro-life views. He spoke of growing unrest within the LNP on this issue, and he admitted that he did not believe his colleagues when they promised there would be no changes to Queensland's abortion law. This tells us that, during an election campaign, Queenslanders were given public assurances that abortion laws were safe while members of the LNP privately knew that these laws were at risk.

We know that the member for Mackay is not alone. A known anti-abortion activist has recently been appointed to the LNP Women's committee. The member for Rockhampton has publicly stated that abortion is the greatest human rights abuse of our time. The members for Gympie and Scenic Rim are both on the record opposing a woman's right to choose. This is not coincidence; this is coordination.

When you look at the comments on the member for Mackay's social media where he is being called a hero, it becomes clear whom this behaviour is designed to appease. I would like to tell the House who the real heroes are. The heroes are the Queenslanders who voted with Labor to protect a woman's right to choose. The heroes are the women who make an incredibly difficult decision about their own bodies and then endure harassment, abuse and graphic protests simply for accessing health care. The heroes are the doctors, the nurses and the human rights defenders who face intimidation for providing safe and legal medical care. The heroes are the women who for more than 50 years have defended bodily autonomy, dignity and access to universal health care.

When Cherish Life's CEO confirms, following a discussion with the member for Oodgeroo, that abortion laws are considered untouchable in this term but vulnerable next term, that should send a chill down the spine of every Queenslander who believes that women and girls deserve access to health care. This is not leadership; this is a dictatorship. It explains why we are now seeing dissent, division and dysfunction on the LNP backbench.

### Zmuda, Ms C; Clark, Mr B; Bribie Island Seniors Expo; Community Events

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.26 pm): I begin by acknowledging the extraordinary courage of the Zmuda family. On 3 February our community marked one year since we lost Charlize, a bright light, a dedicated surf lifesaver and a young woman whose kindness and courage touched so many. As the sun set over Woorim Beach, family, friends and community members stood together, placing frangipanis—Charlize's favourite flower—into the ocean she loved so deeply. It was a powerful and heartfelt moment of remembrance. I want to thank Renee, Steve and Steph for their grace and strength. In the face of unimaginable loss, they continue to acknowledge Charlize's legacy of selflessness, service and love for others. Our community stands with them not just on the anniversary but always.

Last week I had the privilege of hosting a morning tea to acknowledge the service of Barry Clark OAM. Barry has dedicated decades to preserving the history of Bribie Island. He joked that he is not

used to all of the attention since receiving his Order of Australia Medal, but I reminded him that future generations will thank him for ensuring our stories are not lost.

We also welcomed the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety to Bribie Island to host a seniors expo. The room was packed with residents eager to learn about the support services and resources available to them. Queensland's population is aging and we must ensure our communities are equipped to support seniors to live independently, safely and with dignity. Expos like this are essential in building a truly age-friendly community, and I thank everyone who attended and contributed.

I also recently hosted a community catch-up at Palm Lake Resort in Beachmere Bay. It was wonderful to engage directly with residents, hear their ideas and concerns and provide an update on what our government is delivering locally, from infrastructure improvements to cost-of-living relief. These conversations matter. They ensure local voices are heard and give me a chance to speak to people one on one.

Another major win for our region is the Abbey Medieval Festival securing \$170,000 from the Homegrown tourism events fund. This iconic event attracts visitors from across Australia and beyond, boosting local business and showcasing the best of Queensland. It is more than a festival; it is a celebration of culture, creativity and community. I congratulate Edith and the team on this significant achievement.

Finally, I want to remind the Beachmere community that the Man Walk will be hosting a barbecue on 21 February from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm to raise funds in support of men's mental health. I am proud to sponsor this event and will also be attending. Supporting mental health initiatives at a grassroots level is vital in building stronger, more connected communities.

To our young people, the Brighter Futures grants are now open, closing on the 21st. Grants of \$250 are available to support career ambitions, extracurricular goals or community initiatives. I encourage anyone with a great idea to apply. Warrick, Gemma and Lawrence were our last grant recipients for 2025, and it has been a pleasure to help support their goals and dreams.

### Emissions Reduction Plans

 Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (2.29 pm): I rise today to put a spotlight on something this Crisafulli government is trying to keep in the dark, and that is their program for making emissions reduction plans. In December, when a Labor government would have published our industry plans, this LNP government tabled a statement extending the date for publication potentially out to 2030—five years. It is clear that the 'program' they published was nothing more than a box-ticking exercise to comply with the Clean Economy Jobs Act, an act they do not really support. Actions will always speak louder than words.

'Program' is too strong a word to use in the context of this one-page document. To most Queenslanders the word 'program' implies that there is an actual plan to get somewhere, but we know that that is not the case with this LNP government, who has absolutely no real plan or intention to reduce emissions to net zero by 2025.

Queenslanders are entitled to know how and when their government will decide to act on things that matter to them, and climate change matters in the minds of people in this state and across this country. An inconvenient truth for those opposite is that almost eight out of 10 Australians want climate plans to reduce risk from climate-fuelled extreme weather—eight out of 10. That is a clear majority of people in this country, yet this government does not appear to be listening.

You cannot reduce risk from climate-fuelled extreme weather without addressing climate change, but those opposite are more concerned with desperately trying to avoid messy internal politics and fall out here in Queensland like we see federally. They are so desperate to stave off One Nation and the Katter party in their regional seats that they say one thing on climate change to Queensland voters and do absolutely nothing to keep those commitments.

This document is not a program, not when there are no dates and no details. A seven-by-two table is as good as it is going to get it seems under this government. It is insulting to the hardworking industries who rely on clarity and a credible path forward to 2050. Industries know that there are those economies who are investing in new technologies and clean energy to future proof their industries and access to markets and that there are those who risk being left behind facing increasing instability from continued reliance on aging increasingly costly fossil fuels. That is the fate that Queensland industries face under those opposite. That is the fate that Queenslanders concerned about climate change face

under this LNP government, who say one thing and show through their actions they have absolutely no intention of keeping their promises.

### McCamley, Sir G, MBE; Cowan, Mr G; Bahnisch, Mr R

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.32 pm): Today I rise to offer condolences to three incredible community champions from Rockhampton and the Central Queensland region who have unfortunately passed this year.

Sir Graham McCamley MBE passed in January 2026. He was a Central Queensland cattleman whose leadership and innovation helped shape the modern Australian beef industry. He was a pioneer of the Brahman breed in Australia who established the influential red and grey Brahman studs. He was the founding president of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia in 1975 and gave producers a unified national voice during a difficult period for the industry. Early Cattlemen's Union of Australia conventions in Rockhampton drew thousands and helped shaped the advocacy structures that later became AgForce Queensland.

National recognition was received by Sir Graham McCamley, with an MBE in 1981 and he was knighted in 1986 for service to agriculture and rural leadership. He is widely regarded as a founding father of the modern Australian beef industry—a pioneer and a national leader.

George Cowan passed in February 2026—a man whose life was defined by justice, compassion and unwavering advocacy. He spent more than three decades standing up for those without a voice, deeply respected by colleagues, clients and the wider community. He was a steadfast advocate for personal injury and accident compensation. In fact, he was made somewhat famous in 2016 for his lead as a lawyer on a groundbreaking case against the mining companies for them to be held accountable for fatigue management of drive-in drive-out workers. He was known for fighting for the battlers and for the little guy.

Ron Bahnisch passed in February 2026. He was one of the last Marlborough brigalow block settlers, a tireless advocate for cattle producers and landowners of our region. He was an inaugural member of the Cattlemen's Union and Property Rights Australia. He dedicated his life to fairness and the rights of all rural Queenslanders.

In 1972 Ron and his wife, Lorna, were one of the first to take on a brigalow scheme block with determination whilst managing a young family. As a regional chairman of the Cattlemen's Union, he helped lead the 1977 Gracemere saleyards blockade—bold grassroots advocacy that drew national attention. Ron never did anything by halves. He ensured the voices of Rockhampton's rural producers were heard in boardrooms across Queensland and in Brisbane.

Graham, George and Ron's legacies will live on in the people and communities they have helped, the colleagues and industries they have shaped and the families who loved them.

*(Time expired)*

### Affordable Housing

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.35 pm): This evening in my electorate of South Brisbane, just across the river from here, people will be getting ready for yet another night sleeping in tents in our parks and along our river banks or in sleeping bags in shop doorways and under buildings. That is the people who we can see. Others are sleeping in cars, on friends' floors and couches.

Our homelessness services work tirelessly trying to find emergency accommodation for the homeless, but there is a shortage of emergency housing and this government's new immediate housing rules make it harder for people to get into emergency accommodation. With over 53,000 people on the waiting list for public housing, there is a massive shortage of long-term housing.

Meanwhile, the private rental market has become completely unaffordable for people on low incomes. Rents have been increasing almost three times faster than wages. With the average rent for a unit in Brisbane now \$650 a week and vacancies sitting below one per cent, renters are being priced out of the market and forced into homelessness.

I visited a retirement village in my community late last year and met Coral, who is in her late seventies. She asked me to table this article in the *Guardian* from October, which I would like to do now, about her daughter Tammie Thrower.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *The Guardian*, dated 19 October 2025, titled 'Evicted and dying of cancer, Tammie spent her final months desperately house-hunting in Brisbane'.

Tammie was a mother of three, a dental nurse and a children's swimming instructor. Last year, while struggling with cancer that had spread to her brain, Tammie's lease ended and she was evicted from her rental property. Tammie spent the final precious months of her life stressed and desperate, searching in vain for a place to rent. She ended up spending her last weeks sleeping in her mother's bed at the retirement home while Coral slept on the couch.

Tammie was just 50 years old when she died in August last year and, as this article points out, was one of the many Queenslanders with life-threatening and terminal illness unable to find an affordable home. Coral wanted me to share Tammie's story with this parliament so that this government is aware of the human cost of the housing crisis taking place outside these walls. I would encourage all members to read the article. I ask the government to increase access to emergency accommodation and build, not cut, affordable housing so that all Queenslanders, particularly our most vulnerable, can have the dignity of having a roof over their heads.

*(Time expired)*

### Coomera Electorate, Schools

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to provide the House with an update on the election commitments to our schools on the northern Gold Coast, where more than 20,000 young people go to school every day. Back in 2009, when I came into office, there were only nine schools on the northern Gold Coast. There are now 23 schools and a 24th school is slated to come along in the next couple of years. We certainly needed the schools to house those more than 20,000 students. When you consider the growth that has occurred, we needed them. The nearest electorate as far as student numbers is concerned has around 14,000 students, so we are well and truly above average as we are 35 per cent over quota with the number of people wanting to live on the northern Gold Coast, one of the most wonderful parts of the world. I describe it as 'where heaven meets earth'.

Of the eight school election commitments made in the Coomera electorate, four commitments have now been delivered. Three further projects are under construction and remain on track for delivery by term 2 of 2026, with earlier delays due to supply constraints and wet weather. The final commitment, a new canteen at Pimpama State School, has received additional funding of \$1.24 million, bringing the total project value to \$2.24 million. Construction is forecast to commence following contract awards in term 3 of 2026, with completion expected in term 1 of 2027. This school has been suffering because its very small canteen was suitable for around 200 students and they now have more than 800 students, so it is a great investment for that school.

The latest two projects we have delivered include: Norfolk Village State School, a \$450,000 project for open space and a nature playground that was delivered 4 February; and Pimpama State Primary College, \$200,000 for a new Ninja Warrior Senior School Playground that was delivered 5 February 2026 with a further \$5,000 contribution from the school. Minor turf reinstatement is still underway, with temporary fencing expected to remain for approximately another week or so. From that perspective, it is all done and dusted. The other two projects that were delivered include: Coomera River State School, \$450,000 for oval seating and a shade sail delivered 5 December last year; and Ormeau State School, \$450,000 for a shade structure for their multipurpose courts delivered 12 December.

This is all about providing positive learning environments for our young people. It is so important to make sure that our young people look forward to going to school and learning.

### Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (2.42 pm): This LNP government has broken its promises to Queenslanders on the cost of living. Premier Crisafulli spent this entire week in parliament doing only what matters for him. Has this Premier done anything this week to help any Queenslander pay their bills?

**Opposition members:** No!

**Mr de BRENNI:** No, he has not. Has this Premier done anything this week to help Queenslanders find an affordable place to call home?

**Mr Dick:** No, he's done the opposite.

**Mr de BRENNI:** That is right; I take the interjection. He has done the opposite. Has this Premier done anything this week to help Queenslanders access health care?

**Opposition members:** No!

**Mr de BRENNI:** He has done nothing. On this side of the House we want to support Queenslanders. We have seen from this Premier that he only wants to help himself. On this side of the House we have acted on fuel prices for motorists, because Labor is the party that puts more money back into the pockets of Queenslanders for the things that matter to them, because only Labor has a record of acting on the cost of living, and those opposite know it. Labor has a strong record when it comes to energy rebates and rego relief.

In my community the favourite is the 50-cent fares that Labor introduced and delivered. In my community commuters cannot even rely on 50-cent fares because the buses are unreliable, as they get stuck on the M1 between Daisy Hill and the Logan Motorway. It is not just commuters on the bus getting stuck; commuters on all forms of transport are getting stuck on the M1 thanks to the inaction of this LNP government.

I think about small business owners like Terri who lose money in fuel—that is costing her precious time and it is costing her business and her family—or Michelle, a cyclist who is paying the price for the suspension of the extension to the veloway. She might not be stuck in traffic, but the price she pays is the risk to her safety because she has to ride on the road. The RACQ says that the cost to our communities of the LNP's inaction on roads in the communities I represent is \$60 million a year. On top of the M1, there is the failure of the LNP to deliver upgrades to Beenleigh-Redland Bay Road and complete inaction on upgrades to Mount Cotton Road.

That is the record of this LNP government. They sit here in parliament on ministerial leather and rush through laws to line their pockets with big-money political donations whilst they fail on critical infrastructure. They fail to support Queenslanders with the cost of living. This Premier does nothing unless it is good for him. It is no wonder that his MPs are already challenging his authority.

**Burnett Electorate**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise today to acknowledge some outstanding people and community organisations across the Bundy and Burnett who continue to make our region a special place to live. Firstly, I want to congratulate all of the recipients of our Australia Day Awards who are making such a difference across our community. I give a special shout-out to Jo Leveritt, from Wide Bay Advocacy and Bundaberg Street Law, who was awarded Citizen of the Year. Jo embodies the quiet dedication we so often see in regional Queensland—someone who gets on with the job, supports others and strengthens the fabric of our community. These awards remind us that it is everyday Australians like Jo who make a real and lasting difference.

I also want to warmly welcome our new doctors and medical students. It was a privilege to welcome the 2026 cohort of returning medical students to the UQ Rural Clinical School. Our region is proud to play a role in training the next generation of doctors, and it was wonderful to meet students who have chosen to begin their medical journey in rural Queensland. When young medical professionals choose regional placements it strengthens our healthcare system for the long-term. I wish each of those students every success for the year ahead and thank the UQ Rural Clinical School for the vital work they do.

Do not get me wrong: parliament is exciting, but I am very excited to get back home tomorrow night to host our Sports On! information session. It is a free opportunity for clubs to hear directly from all three levels of government about grants, programs and practical strategies to strengthen their organisations. It is fantastic to see clubs like Kolan Rowing Club, East Magpies Sports Club, Brothers Sports Club, Bundaberg Bowls Club, Bundaberg Hockey Association, Across the Waves Tigers, Western Suburbs Junior Rugby League, Bargara FC and more already stepping up to be part of the conversation. From rowing and rugby league to hockey, netball, football, bowls, chess and croquet, the diversity of sport in the region is something we should all be proud of.

Grassroots sport is the backbone of our communities, which is why the Crisafulli government has invested in programs like the Play On! vouchers and Games On! funding. Volunteers, committee members and coaches give countless hours so young people and families can stay active and connected. Ensuring clubs know what support is available is critical to keeping them strong and sustainable into the future, and I look forward to saying g'day to many of our clubs tomorrow.

Finally, I give a shout-out to Amber Rogers and her team behind the Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock Festival, kicking off next weekend. Events like this not only showcase incredible talent but also inject energy and economic activity into our region. They bring people together, celebrate creativity and

highlight everything that makes the Discovery Coast so unique, which is why the Crisafulli government was proud to support them with a \$25,000 Homegrown destination events grant.

From volunteers and farmers to students, doctors and community leaders, the Burnett continues to punch above its weight. I am proud to stand in this House and share just a snapshot of the incredible work happening in our region.

### Holt, Mr A

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (2.48 pm): I rise today to pay my condolences and honour the life of Uncle Albert Holt, a proud Aboriginal elder and tireless advocate for justice and opportunity—a man who was proud to share values with Labor and a man whose work helped shape Inala and communities across Queensland for generations. I acknowledge the members of his family who are in the chamber today, Yvette Holt and Jackie Huggins. In the short time available it is impossible to do justice to the full life and legacy of Uncle Albert, but I hope these words reflect the deep respect with which he is held in the Inala community.

Uncle Albert's life was defined by service—service that was formally recognised through honours, including being made a Queensland Great. He believed that real change happens through steady, determined work alongside community. This was especially evident in Inala, a place he cared deeply about and worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Uncle Albert stood firm for dignity and fairness, especially when it would have been easier to stay silent. As one of Queensland's first Aboriginal police liaison officers, he helped build trust and understanding between police and Aboriginal communities. Education was a cornerstone of Uncle's legacy. In 1976 he helped found the Inala Family Education Centre, now housing the Dandiirri Library, providing access to resources, literature and shared cultural knowledge.

Uncle Albert carried culture with humility and generosity, believing young people thrive when they are proud of who they are. He worked to embed Indigenous perspectives in school curricula and volunteered in hundreds of schools across Queensland. As a custodian of knowledge, his wisdom was lived, passed on through stories, actions and trust.

Uncle's commitment to housing and community wellbeing was equally significant, and his advocacy in this space was tireless. Today a housing development on the site of the high school I once attended is named Uncle Albert Holt Terraces—a fitting tribute in the heart of Inala, on ground that shaped so many of us, and a lasting part of his legacy. This legacy lives on in people, in relationships and in stronger community ties.

He contributed to the establishment of health services, helping to close the gap in health and wellbeing for Indigenous families. He inspired those around him to be better, to care more and to act courageously in service of their community. His spirit lives on in the name 'Wangarra', which means one people, all people. It is a powerful reminder of his belief in unity and shared strength, a message that feels especially timely today.

To Uncle Albert and his loved ones: Inala mourns with you and we thank you for sharing Uncle Albert with our community for so long. His legacy leaves us stronger. Vale, Uncle Albert Holt.

*(Time expired)*

### Teitzel, Mr P; Dementia; Ormiston College

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.51 pm): I want to begin by acknowledging the passing of a stalwart of the Wellington Point Bowls Club in Peter Teitzel. After making a huge contribution to that club, I know its members are grieving, as is his wife Sue and his wider family. He leaves behind an incredible legacy. The shade and new surfaces that we have funded as an election commitment and are delivering in collaboration with the Redlands Sporting Club are the direct product of his advocacy and passion for the sport and for the Redlands. Peter, I hope you are playing well on the big bowling green upstairs.

Dementia is a difficult and isolating condition to experience, and the family and friends who care for older Redlanders with dementia often find it straining emotionally, practically and financially. The Sing Sing Sing choir provides an important opportunity for lightness and joy in the midst of walking this difficult path. I am so thankful that with Minister Langbroek's Regional Community Arts Program I have been able to deliver a grant to support them to continue that important work and make it more affordable and accessible than ever.

There is a large body of evidence showing the importance of music in communicating with people with dementia and slowing the advance of symptoms. I know that local seniors and carers appreciate the work of Trudy, Fiona, Melissa and the team at Sing Sing Sing. I want to congratulate them for the way they promote dignity, connection and respect for affected local people. You can join them on Mondays from 10 until 12 at the Redland Performing Arts Centre.

Finally, I want to congratulate the Ormiston College community on the reopening of their Centre for Learning and Innovation after it was burned in an arson attack by youth criminals in mid-2024. It is a very real example of the way Labor's youth crime crisis hit our community hard. Because of Labor's failure to provide consequences for actions and because Labor created a youth justice revolving door, an 11-year-old and a 14-year-old with no connection to the school community thought it was acceptable to walk in and set a near new building on fire on a Sunday afternoon. It had to be gutted and rebuilt. Every book and every bit of tech and wiring had to be replaced, costing tens of millions of dollars. That causes pressure on the cost of insurance premiums that come with the need to pay out these claims, with knock-on consequences for the pockets of families. Importantly, kids could not use it for 18 months.

The youth crime crisis rocked the school community. The good news, though, is that the Crisafulli LNP government has acted, restoring consequences for actions, introducing adult time for adult crime, strengthening youth bail laws and providing the early intervention and meaningful rehabilitation that troubled young people need to make better choices for their future. We will not stop until our community is safer. I give a big thank you to Minister Langbrook for being there for the opening and to headmaster Michael Hornby for the opportunity to be part of it.

### Water Licences

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.54 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that is significantly impacting primary producers across Far North Queensland—that is, the inclusion of water licences in land valuations. In the Tolga groundwater area and across parts of the Tablelands, landholders are seeing their property valuations climb sharply—not because they have expanded their operation or improved their land but because water licences are being treated as speculative assets and folded into land values.

In a letter to me which I raised with the previous government, water licences in the Barron resource plan area are currently trading at between \$3,500 and \$4,000 per megalitre and, because these licences are tradable, they are now driving up valuations. I table a letter from Joe Moro, the president of the Tinaroo Water Committee.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 1 April 2024, from the President, Tinaroo Water Committee, Mr Joe Moro, to the Member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, regarding rising land valuations due to increasing costs in water licences.

That might look good on paper, but for farmers the result is higher council rates, increased state charges and greater financial pressure—all without a single extra drop of water coming out of the ground.

Water licences are not luxury add-ons or speculative investments; they are essential for agricultural production, just like soil, seed and fertiliser. Primary producers are not asking for special treatment; they are asking for fairness. They are asking that water licences, which are necessary to keep farms viable, be excluded from land valuations so they are not punished for simply having the ability to irrigate. The government has floated an alternative solution in converting water licences into water allocations. However, growers have made it very clear that this is not a simple fix. Producers are deeply concerned that moving from licences to allocations could strip them of flexibility and security.

Under the current system, licences can be traded between landholders within the area, allowing farmers to respond to changing conditions, succession planning or business needs. There is a real fear that an allocation-only system could lock growers out of the market altogether, preventing them from purchasing additional water when they need it most. That is why growers see this allocation option as a last resort, not a preferred outcome.

The government must listen to the people who live with this reality every day. Any reform must protect farmers' rights, preserve water security and stop artificial valuation hikes that do nothing but increase costs. Water keeps agriculture alive and should not be used as a blunt instrument to drive up land values and punish the very people who feed this state. I urge the government to work with growers and water committees to deliver a fair and workable outcome.

### Beaudesert Hospital; Kalbar Sunflower Festival; Beaudesert Roads

Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.57 pm): The LNP government is delivering for Scenic Rim after a decade of decline under Labor—starting with the Beaudesert Hospital, where we have a proud record of delivery. We reintroduced maternity services there in 2013 after the Labor Party let them die years before. Our government is now committed to a CT scanner being introduced into Beaudesert Hospital, along with the staff needed to operate that. We are also working towards expanding and upgrading the emergency department. The hospital takes patients from not just the Beaudesert district but all over the broader region. The presentations there are growing very fast year by year so the investment in an upgraded ED has been put on the radar and we are working towards that. I will keep working towards that because we need that extra investment.

Recently, it was an honour to be at the Beaudesert Hospital and see the comfort bed in the palliative care ward that was donated by a generous local family. They are following in the inspiration of Jenny Jenner who instigated the Kalbar Sunflower Festival some years ago before the passing of her beloved husband, Russel, from cancer. Over the years Jenny has raised over \$430,000 through the Kalbar Sunflower Festival for cancer care. I thank the family who donated that bed and I also thank Jenny and her family for starting that festival. I commend Minister Andrew Powell for the investment from TEQ into the Kalbar Sunflower Festival. It is not just a great tourist event for our region; it is a terrific fundraising event for cancer care across the whole broader region.

The budget last year put in place funding to design and plan for the Coulson Crossing upgrade on Beaudesert Boonah Road as well as overtaking lanes. These are issues that were ignored for the best part of a decade under the Labor government. We still have a lot of work to do when it comes to those issues and also other roads around the region whether at Canungra, where the Minister for Main Roads visited recently along with the local councillor Steve Moriarty, or the Ipswich Boonah Road, especially around Peak Crossing, Yamanto, where we would like to see upgrades. The minister also visited there. It was great for him to get out and see firsthand as the Minister for Main Roads all of the things that need to be done.

We are getting on with the job of doing what Labor failed to do over the decade of decline. That includes on the Mount Lindesay Highway, where we have designated a specific funding allocation to plan for upgrades between Beaudesert and Jimboomba—an area that was completely ignored by the Labor Party during their decade in office. They left us with no plans at all. It is the same with the Amberley interchange near Amberley. The cupboard was completely bare when it came to upgrade plans at that intersection. We are getting on with that job and then we are to go for funding from both the state and the federal government—delivering for the Scenic Rim electorate.

## JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 11 December 2025 (see p. 4112), on motion of Mr Hunt—

That the House take note of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report No. 18, 58th Parliament, *Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman*, tabled on 5 September 2025.

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (3.00 pm), continuing: I thank the Ombudsman for his ongoing work and specifically in this instance for the work he undertakes in his role as Inspector of Detention Services. I also thank the members of the JICS Committee, a committee I joined throughout last year. I thank them for their work on this report. I want to go through some of the key points raised by the Ombudsman.

During the committee's February hearing the Ombudsman was asked about forecasting staffing needs for future detention centres given the known staffing challenges in Cleveland YDC. He stated—

There will be a challenge for the system as it builds new youth detention centres to recruit sufficient staff to ensure they are all fully staffed.

There are a few things I would like to unpack about this. Firstly, he has—naturally, I think—assumed that the system—that is, the minister—is actually going to build new youth detention centres. With all of these new people they say they are going to lock up under their new laws, you would naturally assume the government would have done some modelling on what it was going to mean for detention centre populations over the next 10 to 20 years and whether there would be enough capacity to house them. During the committee hearing the inspector was asked if that modelling had been done. He said that he was not aware of it but believed that modelling would have been useful. It does not appear the modelling has been done, despite the minister's Corrective Services Commissioner telling us in a

separate JICS hearing that they, of course, did modelling in QCS so they knew future facilities would meet prisoner populations.

The youth justice minister does not appear to think it is necessary for youth detention centres. She has repeatedly said that there is no need to rush into building new centres; they will just see how things go. That is despite her former director-general saying it might take up to four years to build, which will make it quite hard to just whip one up if the numbers build up unsustainably. It is no wonder she does not want to talk about new facilities, because she has created a debacle in Cairns with her mishandling of the Cairns YDC, which Labor had initially flagged and the LNP after them, after saying she had consulted, but nobody knew anyone who had been consulted, and after her own local member mounted a rearguard campaign to not have a YDC in his electorate. Of course, as they do, the minister claimed the Wacol remand centre and the upcoming Woodford YDC as the LNP's initiative to address future capacity challenges, despite Wacol opening just after they came to government.

The other point is about the need to recruit staff at YDC. The minister herself responded to media in December 2024 saying she was working with the department on that to come up with a workforce plan. Quick as a flash, it did not happen.

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw the House's attention to this committee report, which covers the period of 2023-24. My point of order is on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McDonald): Member for Bulimba, can you tell us how this relates to the bill? Make sure your contribution relates to the committee report, please.

**Ms FARMER:** The Ombudsman—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not have to explain. Just please stick to the Ombudsman's report.

**Ms FARMER:** The Ombudsman flagged the need for appropriate staffing at youth detention centres which, of course, means he is actually wanting that to happen in the future. We are looking at that time in the future, which is now. I asked the minister at estimates last year what she had done about the detailed work plan to ensure the staffing the Ombudsman required was actually in place. As it turns out, she had not done the workforce plan. She gave us a broad answer, which was one of those high-level ones that departments often produce, but it did not actually mention CYDC.

One of the real challenges with not having enough staff at a youth detention centre is related to 'night mode' separations, which the Ombudsman identified as a real problem. Ongoing in the future it will always be an issue, but it means that kids miss out on an education. This is a minister who promised many times in the House, in the media and on her social media that young people in youth detention centres would get more education. We know from a whistleblower that, in fact, education at Brisbane YDC has been cut for this year and young people are getting only two hours of education compared to four hours in mainstream. As usual, the minister is talking rhetoric and as usual we cannot believe one single thing she says.

 **Mr FIELD** (Capalaba—LNP) (3.05 pm): I rise today to speak to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's oversight report on the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman. As part of this process the committee reviewed the Queensland Ombudsman's annual report 2023-24 and conducted a public hearing with senior staff from the office of the Queensland Ombudsman on 19 February 2025. The Ombudsman also recently marked its 50th anniversary, and I congratulate it for its hard work on behalf of Queenslanders.

The Queensland Ombudsman is responsible for investigating complaints against government agencies, improving the quality of decision-making in government agencies, reviewing the management of public interest disclosure and promoting the humane treatment of detainees. Its powers relating to the treatment of detainees took effect on 1 July 2023 with the appointment of the Ombudsman to the role of Inspector of Detention Services.

Within the previous financial year the office received 11,479 contacts, with 6,295 of these being complaints. Of these complaints, 6,287 were finalised, with the average time for preliminary assessment being 7.8 days, which is well within the office's target of 10 days. The office also finalised 1,049 investigations, referred 1,047 complaints for investigation and, on the Ombudsman's initiative, initiated two investigations.

The office took an average of 57.5 days to close an investigation. As a result of these investigations, the office made 178 recommendations to improve public administration of which 177 were accepted. I commend the office's commitment to making its services more accessible to

Queenslanders through the use of easy-read documents, provision of Auslan interpretation, use of the National Relay Service and community involvement in education.

The Ombudsman also saw several key achievements as part of the Ombudsman's function of Inspector of Detention Services. As at 30 June 2024 the Detention Services Inspection Unit employed 14 full-time-equivalent employees. During the reporting period, seven inspections were conducted. Reports into these inspections are still being prepared. These inspections covered Queensland's three youth detention centres, three prisons and two watch houses. During the reporting period, 35 per cent of clients were satisfied or very satisfied with the performance of the office while 55 per cent were neutral, satisfied or very satisfied. The office received 153 requests for reviews of its internal decisions, a decrease from the previous year, and finalised 148 review requests.

On 19 February last year the committee held a public hearing with the Ombudsman. During the hearing the Ombudsman explained how its complaints jurisdiction had changed. In September 2024, section 12A of the Ombudsman Act commenced. That expanded the jurisdiction to cover government services provided by non-government entities. The establishment of a federal National Student Ombudsman has also resulted in some complaints regarding public universities being transferred to this office instead of the Queensland Ombudsman.

During this hearing the Ombudsman also advised that the expenditure of the office remained within its budget. I commend the office for this. The Ombudsman also stated that it anticipated to remain within the budget for both 2024-25 and 2025-26 and, because of this, it did not submit a proposal for additional funding. I commend the Queensland Ombudsman for its continued diligence, transparency and service to the people of Queensland. Over the past year the office has demonstrated a strong commitment to accountability in public administration.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's Queensland Ombudsman report. The position of the Queensland Ombudsman is a vital part of the state's Public Service, performing critical administrative duties. Part of these duties is the Ombudsman's role as the Inspector of Detention Services. This role investigates the standards of our detention centres. In fact, there were some interesting observations as a result of the committee's inquiries into youth detention centres in Queensland.

It is relevant to note that there has been a high turnover rate of staff at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and staff shortages experienced by detention centres generally. In the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report it was noted that these staff shortages mean that children often need to be separated for significant periods. The most notable periods are when the centre goes into 'night mode'—a phrase used for when children are separated into their individual cells from 7.30 am to 7.30 pm. This is similar to the overnight lockdown.

During the committee hearings it was found that children in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre do not have proper access to education and other programs due to staff shortages. This lack of access means that these children are not able to access critical programs—namely, education—important for when they leave detention. I understand the importance of educating our children to ensure their future, whether they are in school or in a detention centre. We cannot expect children in these centres to make something of themselves if we do not ensure they have the tools to do so.

The government must ensure these children have a chance to better themselves. That starts with access to a quality education. Education is one of the most influential transformative measures to assist all young people to make change. It means that, no matter what dream our children decide to pursue, they are afforded this opportunity. The children in these centres are facing the consequences of their actions, but they are no less worthy of an education than any other child. I call on this government to take the necessary steps to give the children in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre the same chance as their peers to become something more.

The inspector has the ability to investigate such matters as staff shortages and adequate remuneration for staff. If staff shortages are the barrier between these children and an education, the government needs to do everything it can to remove this barrier. As many detainees are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the government must also adhere to the Closing the Gap commitments. No child—no matter who they are, what their culture, race, gender or religion, or if they are incarcerated—should be without an opportunity to better themselves. There are a number of issues identified in this report which requires a significant and timely government response.

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.12 pm): Today I rise to talk to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report No. 18 of the 58th Parliament titled *Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman*, with a focus on the 2023-24 financial year. This report fulfils the committee's statutory

responsibility under the Ombudsman Act 2001 to conduct annual oversight of the Ombudsman's operations, including its core functions of investigating complaints against state government departments, local councils and state schools, TAFE colleges and public universities. It also encompasses the Ombudsman's role as Inspector of Detention Services monitoring youth and adult detention facilities and its oversight of public interest disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010.

Key details from the report highlight the Ombudsman's case load for 2023-24 under the former Labor government. The office received 3,456 complaints, marking a 12 per cent increase from the previous year, with the highest volumes directed at the former department of children, youth justice and multicultural affairs of 512 cases; Queensland Health, 478 cases; and the Department of Education, 412 cases. Of these, 1,278 complaints were assessed as requiring investigation, leading to 892 full investigations and 456 early resolutions. The report notes that 78 per cent of resolved complaints resulted in administrative improvements such as policy provisions or procedural changes in agencies.

In its capacity as Inspector of Detention Services, the Ombudsman conducted 145 site visits across 12 facilities. The annual operational report details 56 recommendations issued to the department of youth justice focusing on risk management and rehabilitation. This is a damning indictment on a failure to support staff, to maintain centres and to provide an environment of safety for our youth. The report also covers public interest disclosures with 189 reports received, primarily concerning workplace misconduct and corruption risks of 47 cases. Oversight activities included 23 training sessions delivered to 1,456 public sector employees on disclosure processes, contributing to a 15 per cent rise in early reporting.

Financially, the Ombudsman's budget for 2023-24 totalled \$18.7 million, with \$12.4 million allocated to complaint investigations and \$4.2 million to detention oversight. Operational efficiencies reduced average investigation times from 145 days to 128 while maintaining a 95 per cent compliance rate with timeliness benchmarks. It also outlines collaborative efforts with the Crime and Corruption Commission on 34 joint inquiries into agency misconduct.

In line with the committee's duties, the report identifies areas for enhanced procedures such as expanded digital complaint portals to handle the growing case load and strengthened data-sharing protocols for detention monitoring. Pursuant to recommendation 1 of the report, I support the motion that the House notes the contents of this report. I commend this document to the House as a comprehensive account of the Ombudsman's vital work in upholding administrative fairness and accountability across Queensland's public sector.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 18 of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee titled *Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman* for the 2023-24 financial year. I want to thank the committee members and stakeholders who participated in the public hearing on 19 February. The evidence we heard was both sobering and urgent. It shone a light on the growing pressures within our correctional and youth justice systems—pressures that demand our immediate and sustained attention.

The testimony presented by Mr Reilly, the Queensland Ombudsman and Inspector of Detention Services, was particularly compelling. He stated—

A key issue for Queensland's high-security prisons is that they are overcrowded. What is happening in the men's high-security prisons is that they are so overcrowded that the men are only getting out of their cells for three or four hours a day. They use a system called modified unit routines, where basically one half of each accommodation unit comes out in the morning and then they go back in and the other half come out in the afternoon. That is a very low number of hours for prisoners to be out each day in those secure facilities. That is a real concern in the adult prison environment.

This paints a stark picture of what overcrowding really means in practice—drastically reduced out-of-cell hours, restricted access to rehabilitation programs and heightened tensions inside already high-pressure environments. When facilities are pushed beyond capacity, not only is security compromised but the very purpose of imprisonment—rehabilitation and reintegration—is undermined. We must take Mr Reilly's warnings seriously. Tackling overcrowding requires both infrastructure investment and robust alternatives to incarceration, including diversionary programs and community-based supports.

Equally concerning was the evidence on youth detention centres. As Mr Reilly explained—

In youth detention centres, a key issue that was identified is the issue of staff shortages and how that drives children having to stay in their rooms for long periods with all the problems that creates. My understanding is that that is still a problem in Cleveland from our most recent inspection, which is the second inspection of Cleveland. That is still a problem. There are other issues in youth detention centres. That is probably one of the main ones that I think I can comment on at this stage.

This testimony highlights the ongoing and systemic nature of the staffing crisis.

Chronic staff shortages are leaving young people without consistent supervision, case management or access to education and mental health supports. This shortage places immense strain on existing staff, leading to burnout, increased sick leave and high turnover, creating a vicious cycle that undermines stability. The impact on young people is profound. Without stable staffing, centres resort to lockdowns, limited time out of rooms and curtailed programs. This is not conducive to rehabilitation and risks entrenching disadvantage and recidivism among our youth. We owe it to our young people, many of whom come from highly vulnerable backgrounds, to provide safe environments where rehabilitation and personal growth are possible. Addressing staffing issues requires better recruitment strategies, improved training, fair pay and a commitment to staff wellbeing.

Today's challenges are not insurmountable, but they are urgent. We must act on the evidence presented at the public hearing by investing in alternatives to custody, reducing prison overcrowding and strengthening workforce planning and conditions in youth detention centres and by ensuring our justice system reflects our shared values of fairness, safety and rehabilitation. This is not just about infrastructure or staffing ratios; it is about the kind of society we want to build—one where accountability, rehabilitation and community safety go hand in hand. I thank all who provided evidence at the 19 February 2025 public hearing including Mr Reilly, who shared his insights on youth detention. This testimony has given us a road map for reform. Let us not waste this opportunity to act decisively.

 **Hon. LJ GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.21 pm): Listening to members of the opposition quote from the report of the Inspector of Detention Services, one would think they were talking about something contemporaneous. One would think they were quoting about events at a given point in time and that that point of time is now, but the Inspector of Detention Services went into those detention centres in 2023 and 2024. All of those damning quotes that those opposite are talking about relate to their own record of critical staff shortages, of leaving youths in situations in detention centres because they failed to staff detention centres.

Opposition members stand here and try to spin it like it is a point-in-time narrative, like it is happening right now and they never knew about it, but they did know about it. Do members know how they knew about it? They knew about it because the Inspector of Detention Services directly referred it to the then minister, the member for Bulimba. The Inspector of Detention Services tabled it and referred it to the minister under section 17(b)—that there was a serious risk to the security, management, control, safety, care or wellbeing at the detention centre as a result of that minister's leadership. They said a detainee had been subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This was in 2023-24 under Labor.

Labor left our youth detention centres understaffed, unsupported and unable to function safely. The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre inspection report has laid bare a system that was in crisis under Labor. It was a system in crisis because the former Labor government failed to support staff, failed to maintain our detention centres and failed to ensure youth were in an environment that promoted safety and rehabilitation. Under Labor there were critical staff shortages. They were widespread. Youth detention centres were routinely under-resourced. There were not enough staff in those detention centres to support the youth. The report lays it bare. The quotes from those opposite are quotes from 2023-24.

**A government member:** Under their watch!

**Mrs GERBER:** Under their watch! The report found repeated failed mandatory observations of youth at risk of self-harm, sometimes simply because Labor did not put enough staff on to escort or monitor youths. Medical care was often deferred, with appointments frequently cancelled, because Labor failed to put enough staff in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre to escort or supervise the youth. Perhaps the most damning aspect of the Inspector of Detention Services' report is that it found that separation rooms were soiled with unknown substances that looked like urine and blood. In one case the report found that a youth was forced to urinate into a floor drain because the centre was so critically understaffed that there was no staff member to escort that youth to a bathroom. That is the damning indictment of the Labor government. They have the hide to stand up in this chamber and try to sheet that disgusting, awful record back to us. It is abominable. They should be ashamed.

It was not a sudden deterioration; it was slow and well documented. The Inspector of Detention Services raised it time and time again with Labor, but they chose to ignore it and do nothing. Instead, they come into this chamber, two years later, and say it is really concerning. They should have dealt with it back in 2023-24, when the Inspector of Detention Services raised it.

Queenslanders deserve better and the dedicated frontline workers who carry the burden of this in our detention centres deserve better. They deserve better than the way they were treated under the previous Labor government. Our detention centre workers deserve to be supported by state government with the resources and the tools they need to not only keep that detention centre safe but also rehabilitate those youth. Detention centre workers care about youth in detention centres. They care about rehabilitation. They are there because they want to ensure there is not a revolving door. They want to ensure those youth do not end up back in the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. They want rehabilitation. The Crisafulli government is delivering the Staying on Track program, which provides every single youth in detention with 12 months of support so they are not set up to fail, like they were under Labor by being dumped straight back into communities.

The Crisafulli government is committed to rebuilding a youth detention system that is focused on rehabilitation and the safety of our workers, is staffed properly and keeps our communities safe. That is far from what our community got under Labor. This committee report lays it bare. It is a damning indictment of Labor. The Crisafulli government is getting down to the business of fixing Labor's mess.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.26 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the committee report of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee regarding the oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman. I thank my fellow committee members who carried out the public hearing earlier this year. There has been a lot of talk about the role of the Ombudsman being to promote the humane treatment of and prevention of harm to detainees. That was as a result of the Inspector of Detention Services Act that was introduced under Labor. The act was introduced a number of years ago but, as is captured in this report, that role did not start until July 2023. The first report provided by the Ombudsman in the capacity of Inspector of Detention Services was tabled in late 2024. I believe it was prior to the election. It is important, as this was the first report by the Ombudsman in that role, to reflect on the first ever report of that nature.

That overview role was created so that members of this House, through the committee, can openly question the Ombudsman to determine the state of detention services within Queensland. That was a move to promote transparency and accountability of government. Going forward over the next term, the committee looks forward to making sure the recommendations of the Ombudsman in that report are followed through and we see improvement year on year.

The role of most ombudsmen in Queensland is to determine what is wrong and make recommendations. The Ombudsman has other significant roles within Queensland, specifically in relation to complaints about government agencies. I am sure most members and their staff are familiar with the public interest disclosures, PIDs, that come through to our offices. There has probably been many a member of this House who has been tripped up by PIDs not being appropriately or adequately followed through. I take this opportunity to thank the parliamentary staff who provided training only a few weeks ago to our electorate office staff on how to best handle those PIDs when they come into our electorate office. We often have a lot of turnover of staff.

I refer to the sheer volume of complaints. The report outlined that there were 6,295 complaints and over 1,000 investigations were finalised. As many members of the House would know, a lot of complaints come through but they do not always hit the particular threshold for a full investigation. However, of those 1,000 investigations, 178 recommendations were made. Ensuring that government departments follow up on those recommendations is important. So that that does not need to happen in the first place, the Ombudsman and his office have made a concerted effort in relation to ensuring that our public servants are trained in how to best deal with members of the public, whether that is through regular emails or actual training sessions. During the period in question, 128 training sessions were conducted throughout Queensland. Ensuring that our public servants are best trained to avoid the issues that create the investigations in the first place is key.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff at the Ombudsman's office, including in the new inspector of detention services unit, and acknowledge their work through the next 12 months. I note that the Ombudsman's office celebrated 50 years in practice. We will be watching and using our committee oversight role into next year. I wish the staff well and I commend the committee report.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

## Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.31 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee Report No. 4, 58th Parliament, *Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland*, tabled on 18 September 2025.

I note the presence in the House of the Minister for Volunteers. This is a portfolio that the House did not have until this government gave volunteering a ministry of its own. I thank Minister Ann Leahy and the government for referring this particular inquiry into volunteering in Queensland to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee. I am sure all committee members and those who served on the committee from time to time will join me in thanking the committee staff— inquiry secretary Kylie Guthrie, Zac Dadic and Kerri Swaine—for their tireless work. It was a very big undertaking. We travelled to 15 different public hearings held all over the state, often with quite short timeframes. It was a very difficult schedule to keep and I acknowledge their very hard work. I thank the members of the committee and those members who subbed in. In particular, I thank the member for Gregory, who usually sits behind me. I was crook and in hospital with a very bad back. I was paralysed at one point. The member for Gregory stepped in as acting chair.

**Mrs Poole**: That's what a good team does.

**Mr LISTER**: It is what a good team does; I take that interjection from the member for Mundingburra. He did a very good job and I thank him for it. I also thank the many Queenslanders who engaged with the committee in the course of its work. We received over 500 submissions and many people came to hearings that we held all over the state, which says that this is something that needed to be done much sooner.

As members of this House, we all know that volunteering, as we used to know it, is in decline. The volunteers we have are older. It is harder and harder to get someone to be chair, secretary or treasurer of an organisation. Younger people are busier and busier and they have different expectations about how they will volunteer. These things have weighed on Queensland. When we consider that volunteering has a value of over \$31.3 billion every year, it gives an indication of what we would lose. Can members imagine what it would be like not to have the local Lions Clubs, Meals on Wheels, Surf Life Saving, churches that do so much good, the Rural Fire Brigade, the SES and so many others? We would be lost without them. Therefore, it is incumbent on us to understand the value of volunteering and to know what is done so that we can ensure that volunteering has a bright future.

The government has tabled its response to the volunteering inquiry and I thank the government for doing that so swiftly. It has accepted in principle all eight recommendations of the committee. It is all about putting volunteers at the centre of the conversation in the government's response to their plight and their interests et cetera. This is around five key things. The first is working to build a stronger future for volunteering. This government will not leave the future up for grabs. This government will not indulge in announcements with no action. This government is going to do what it takes to get out of the way of volunteers and to encourage volunteering.

We want to promote growth in the sector. We want to value volunteers and make sure that they have personal fulfilment and satisfaction when doing what they do and that they are recognised for what they do. While many do not do it for recognition, it is important that we recognise them all the same. We want to remove barriers that make volunteering more difficult than it ought to be. We want to enhance the experience across areas where volunteers support government. I have mentioned the Rural Fire Brigade and the SES, but there are also volunteer rescue services, Landcare groups and all sorts of other groups that work for government. We would be so much poorer without them.

I would like to highlight my disappointment in the miserable statement of reservation at the end of the report. Considering how little Labor did for volunteering in its decade in office in which we saw a 20 per cent decline in formal volunteering over the three years to 2024, I do not think they really have much to crow about in this regard. What was their strategy? It was just an announcement. There was nothing done. There was no department of volunteering. We saw them hang their respect for volunteers on a moth-eaten rag of a flag that was hung on a worm-eaten pole. This government will enhance volunteering in this state. I am very thankful that the government has taken this so seriously and given us this referral.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.37 pm): The minister set up a committee inquiry charged with terms of reference that were overly broad. It made for a process that was cumbersome, general and vague. For over a year, this has been the only thing that the minister claims she has been doing for the volunteer sector. The minister's own department depends deeply on the peak body, needing to

crosscheck the accuracy and legitimacy of positions, but there is not a reasonable uplift of funding for them through this process. No siree. It is far more opaque than that.

Through this inquiry process, the minister has intentionally, repeatedly and shamefully issued ministerial media statements falsely claiming that this was a government inquiry. Time and again the minister has used this inquiry as her political plaything—bereft of integrity. She was caught out early stating that the inquiry would deliver, in short, not much. Whistleblowers recounted the minister's words that the inquiry would deliver three to four recommendations with no cost to government. Public pressure saw more than three to four recommendations, but what are the dollars and cents that are delivered to implement the recommendations? Opposition members' questions through estimates revealed that there was no funding allocated for the 2025-26 budget. We call on the minister to state how much will be allocated in funding, to what and when, and table that today. It is past time that this minister stopped politicking and actually started delivering.

The Queensland Labor opposition want to see meaningful support for volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations developed as a result of this inquiry. The government must do more than just consider. They must commit with determination and investigate, as they state they will. It is time to move past lip-service. The inquiry should have built on the former Labor government's Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032. Instead, the Crisafulli LNP government duplicated large amounts of work already undertaken, asking many of the same organisations many of the same questions at a cost to this parliament and at a cost to time-poor volunteers.

This inquiry was promised as part of the LNP's 100-day plan. The inquiry report was tabled 321 days into the minister's term. It has taken us 412 days to get a response to an inquiry that they are publicly claiming was in fact their own. Today we are on day 468 and we are left to wonder: what tangible benefit has the minister delivered for something she keeps claiming ownership of?

There is a laundry list of non-committal recommendations. The games got but a passing mention. The report whitewashes our First Nations people. 'One-off funding boosts for regional volunteer hubs' is what the media release to the government response reads. That was not what the inquiry called for. It called for funding for a network of volunteer hubs in addition to providing funding for other government volunteer organisations. Let us break that down. How much are they funded? The recommendation does not call for partial funding for anything or state that hubs will be funded in conjunction with the private sector. Rightly, there is a concern around what the minister is specifically putting on the table for this and when it will happen. It must be fully funded.

The establishment of the talkfest ministerial advisory panels and a whole-of-government working group will surely be a roaring success under this minister's carriage because the minister has form for squibbing forums. What confidence can emergency volunteers have that the minister will genuinely engage with them on culture and enhancing the volunteer experience when she went over 13 months without holding EVAF—a forum that meets every three months? Emergency volunteers were shunned by this government until they were embarrassed and shamed into acting. When it comes to our SES, MRQ and rural fires, these brave men and women represent the best in us—volunteers who put themselves in harm's way to protect, enhance and rebuild our communities. They deserve better.

Our state's decline in volunteering is consistent with a longer term decrease in the rate of volunteering across the nation. Of course, we must all strive to do better—on that we agree. The committee heard many creative and worthy suggestions on how to address an uptick in volunteering—support for students and financial discounts. The committee learned that in the last year not one improvement had been made to the blue card system under this LNP government. Only Labor initiatives have been rolled out.

There have been so many opportunities presented but so few that have been acted upon in this process. It is disappointing that so much of my time has been spent highlighting the lacklustre support for volunteering. It has taken away from my opportunity to recognise the incredible volunteer-involving organisations in my community. Volunteers who are the beating heart of the community are held together by equally hardworking and giving networks of charities and not-for-profits that enrich lives every day.

To each and every one of those volunteers we say a heartfelt thank you. We appreciate those Queenslanders and organisations that took the time to thoughtfully contribute to the committee's inquiry—the people who selflessly give so much of themselves to lift each other up and to drive progress and potential and are committed to something bigger than themselves. With heart and dedication they make Queensland a better place, and for that we are thankful.

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report of the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. At the outset, I acknowledge the minister and my fellow committee members and thank them for their work on this important inquiry. I also thank the Parliamentary Service and the committee secretariat, in particular Kylie and Zac, who did an outstanding job supporting this inquiry. I am advised that this is one of the longer committee reports that many of my more experienced parliamentary colleagues have worked on. Their professionalism never wavered.

This inquiry received more than 570 submissions. That alone tells our story. This report shines a light on the incredible contribution Queensland's volunteers make—not just in our major cities but in every small town, every sporting club, every disaster response and every community across our great state. Volunteering is the quiet heartbeat of Queensland. This report makes it clear just how vital it is to the fabric of our communities.

As we travelled across the state, one thing became very clear: the strength of the community is often directly proportionate to the number of volunteers willing to step up and give their time. It was a privilege to hear directly from so many Queenslanders who are deeply committed to their communities—people who choose to give up the time they could be spending earning an income or with their families, all for the betterment of others. To every volunteer across Queensland I say: thank you for your commitment, for your service and for your sacrifice.

This inquiry travelled the length and breadth of Queensland, holding 15 public hearings, including 11 in regional locations from Roma to Cooktown and my own community of Townsville. At every stop we heard stories of service, sacrifice and pride. Those stories are what give this report its weight and credibility. I particularly thank the Townsville community for turning out in force. The response in Townsville was so strong that it was the only hearing where we had to extend the scheduled time to ensure everyone who wanted to speak had the opportunity to be heard. In addition, I acknowledge the attendance of the member for Thuringowa and member for Mundingburra, who joined as observers. I acknowledge those members of our community who appeared at the Townsville hearing, including Margie and Maria from Volunteering North Queensland, Shane from UnitingCare Queensland, Anthony from Disaster Relief Australia, Julie from Sailability Townsville, Colleen from Queensland Youth Services, Alison from St Andrew's Meals on Wheels, Andrew from the Townsville Lot Owners Group, the Right Reverend Keith Joseph from the Anglican Church and dedicated local volunteers Nick Atamm, Greg Maloney, Debra Curd, Margaret Freestun and Brian Rai. Their evidence was incredibly insightful and practical. I reassure volunteers in Townsville that their contributions were valued, that their voices matter and that this is a government listening.

I give that reassurance because, despite the overwhelming interest and demand from volunteers in Townsville to participate in the public hearing, the opposition had only one representative present to hear those voices. I acknowledge that the deputy chair was the only member who attended the Townsville hearing. I thank them for ensuring there was a quorum so the hearing could go ahead. The reality remains that there were two empty Labor seats at that hearing. I did wonder what was so important that committee members—the member for Cairns and the member for Lytton, who had joined us just two days earlier for the Cairns hearing—could not attend the Townsville hearing. I checked their diaries and found no other reported commitments on that date. I would be intrigued to learn what was more important than Townsville volunteer voices but not important enough to make their diaries. This is not a personal attack. I understand that members have competing commitments and scheduling challenges, but the fact that Labor could not find more than one representative to travel to Townsville and demonstrate that they value the voices of volunteers in my community was deeply disappointing to the people I represent. Townsville volunteers showed up. They made the time. They told their stories. They deserve better. Labor showed they do not value voices from Townsville.

This report reflects a government that listens to people where they live—not just in Brisbane—and understands the vital role volunteers play in holding our communities together right across Queensland, including in Townsville. The Crisafulli government is committed to backing volunteers with practical support, clear outcomes and recognition of their time and contribution. We will continue to listen, continue to engage and continue to deliver for volunteers right across this great state, including in Townsville.

 **Mrs NIGHTINGALE** (Inala—ALP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the committee report on the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland. I am somewhat flabbergasted by the member for Townsville's contribution. He could have been speaking about all of the wonderful things that could have been addressed by this government in the volunteering sector. Instead, he chose to play politics and make ridiculous comments that are completely out of line.

I acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of Queenslanders who give their time to strengthen our communities. Across our state, an estimated 2.8 million people volunteer each year, contributing more than 719 million hours of service—generating over \$117 billion in economic value. They deserve better than that. Behind those figures are real people giving up evenings, weekends and family time to serve others. That is why this inquiry mattered and that is why volunteers deserve real progress, not duplication.

I thank my fellow committee members, the committee secretariat and the inquiry secretary, Kylie, for their hard work and dedication during what was quite an extensive inquiry. I thank the volunteers and peak bodies who participated in this inquiry in good faith. They prepared submissions, attended hearings and shared candid and at times emotional evidence about the pressures they face. Only eight weeks before this inquiry was established the Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032 and its action plan were released. That was built on extensive consultation with more than 110 sector representatives and over 20 co-designed meetings. That is how Labor listens to the people who volunteer across this state. The member for Townsville would do well to read that report himself. Instead of building on that evidence, though, this government sent the sector back through consultation, stretching already stretched organisations to repeat the work they had just completed when they already are feeling the pressures, particularly felt by those in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

We heard from Queensland regional, rural and remote women and other stakeholders about the unique challenges facing small communities. When one key volunteer steps away, there is often not a soul there to replace them. Rural and remote volunteers carry a disproportionate share of unpaid and volunteer labour, and they do this facing extreme burnout with limited support. An aging population is compounding these challenges, particularly outside metropolitan areas. Older volunteers bring extraordinary commitment, but organisations are increasingly worried about succession planning and the lack of younger volunteers coming through. Again, it was fairly crickets on that issue from the minister. Nearly half of volunteer-involving organisations report having no volunteers under 25—zero under 25. Despite this evidence, there is no strong recommendation targeting youth engagement or addressing this demographic shift. That is a failure.

The committee's recommendations were framed in cautious language—‘investigate’, ‘consider’, ‘review’. Well, that has been done. The government accepted every recommendation only ‘in principle subject to further investigation’. Further investigation? That is ludicrous! We know what needs to be done. What we do not know is what the government is actually going to do. According to the chair and the member for Southern Downs, the government is going to do something, but let's wait and see what that is, because there have been no recommendations that actually demonstrate action or meaningful improvement in outcomes—not a single one. What they have said is they will investigate, a volunteer passport will be explored, training reforms will be reviewed, blue card processes reconsidered, and insurance settings examined. That has been done. The government needs to do more. We need to see real actions because it is our volunteers who are paying the cost. They are paying it out of their pocket and emotionally, and their families are paying the cost as well. In some communities, insurance complexity and regulatory duplication can mean the difference between an event proceeding or being cancelled. These are significant issues.

On Brisbane 2032, the response is quite disappointing. We might have a brand new broken-promise stadium coming, but there will not be any volunteers to fill it, or if there are, they will be taken from community organisations in Inala or other places like Townsville. Where are you going to get your volunteer organisations? The games present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get volunteers, and this government has failed Queensland. It has failed our volunteer sector and it continues to do so.

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (3.52 pm): We promised Queensland volunteers a fresh start. The Crisafulli government is delivering with the completion of the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland and tabling the government's response. I might note that the Labor Party never had a minister for volunteers. This is the first government to have a minister dedicated to volunteers. This was a key election commitment and we are acting now to deliver for the state's volunteer sector and into the future.

Volunteering suffered under Labor's decade of decline. Participation rates dropped by more than 10 per cent over three years to 2024, with formal volunteers falling by over 20 per cent. Queensland was bleeding volunteers under Labor, resulting in the loss of important services and the decline of the bonds that hold communities together.

Compare Labor's neglect to our action. In little over a year, we have delivered the inquiry and our response which will serve as a framework to empower the volunteering sector and deliver real change. Over 500 submissions formed the inquiry's findings, and I want to thank all of the volunteers, the volunteer managers and the volunteer organisations who took the time to make their voices heard.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee, especially the chair, the member for Southern Downs, for making sure that as many volunteers had the chance to be heard, especially those in our far-flung regional areas.

Our response supports the inquiry's recommendations in principle, outlining practical initiatives to empower the sector and celebrate and strengthen volunteer participation.

A 10-year volunteering plan to be developed this year will set out a clear vision for volunteering across the state. The Ministerial Advisory Panel for Volunteering will ensure the sector voices continue to inform government decision-making, something that never happened under Labor, and the government Volunteering Working Group will deliver and report on those government-led initiatives designed to empower volunteers.

The remaining inquiry recommendations will be further developed to find sustainable solutions. This work includes: initiatives to identify ways to celebrate and promote volunteering benefits; investigate and consider options through a network of sustainably viable volunteering hubs—something that Labor was never able to achieve; investigate legal and regulatory barriers to volunteering—Labor put quite a lot of those in the way of the volunteering sector; and ways to improve the volunteer experience through the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service volunteers.

We are listening to volunteers and volunteer organisations. I would like to acknowledge Volunteering Queensland CEO, Jane Hedger, for her outstanding work and advocating for the sector. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Jane. I look forward to working closely with them over the years to come and delivering real support to improve volunteering across the state, something that was not happening under Labor.

The Crisafulli government will continue to raise awareness of the value of volunteers within our communities to ensure recognition of Queenslanders who step up and help other Queenslanders every day. Our response to the inquiry recognises that results are not just driven by government alone but through enabling volunteers and the volunteering sector to excel at what they do best. Our government understands that strengthening volunteering is about empowering the sector to take action, drive innovation and achieve meaningful results, because volunteers represent the best of Queensland, and the Crisafulli government is committed to helping them succeed.

I want to place on record my congratulations to all of the Australia Day awardees right across the state. There were many in my electorate who volunteer very regularly for organisations. They really are the social fabric that does so much in so many of our communities, not only our communities here in the South-East corner but also in our regional communities. They are incredibly important to our communities. They are incredibly important to what happens in and the functioning of those communities. I want to reflect on one of the volunteers in my electorate who said when you are volunteering, it actually keeps you feeling young. I think if we all did a little bit more volunteering, then we might all feel a little bit younger.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak to the report into the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland and to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution made by volunteers across our great state. The inquiry heard from over 500 submitters and dozens of witnesses across Queensland. What we heard was inspiring and also sobering. The report confirms that volunteering contributes an estimated \$117 billion in social and economic benefit annually to Queensland, yet participation has declined significantly in recent years, with about 200,000 fewer volunteers compared to pre-COVID levels. Those who remain are carrying more weight, more compliance and more cost. Let's be clear: volunteers are the very fabric of our community, and I acknowledge the critical contribution of volunteers across Queensland.

Stakeholders told us powerful stories. A 10-year-old, Evie Wright, spoke of the joy of helping others and how volunteering builds confidence and purpose. Emergency service volunteers described long onboarding delays, repetitive training processes and red tape that discourages new recruits. These are not abstract policy concerns; they are real frustrations felt by real people giving their time freely.

This inquiry was an opportunity to build on the former Labor government's Queensland Volunteering Strategy 2024-2032. Instead, the Crisafulli government duplicated large amounts of work already undertaken, asking many of the same organisations many of the same questions at the cost of

taxpayers and time-poor volunteers. That is why, as a committee, we created a subcommittee to enable less of the committee to travel so that it would keep the cost down for taxpayers. That is something that the member for Townsville should take note.

The Crisafulli LNP government's response to the inquiry is, quite frankly, underwhelming. Based on further investigation, further consultation, further planning processes, advisory panels and working groups, another cycle of planning will not reduce pressure now on volunteers facing burnout, declining participation rates, rising costs and administration burden. Regrettably, there are concerns that volunteer burnout, red tape and insurance costs were not addressed.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pease, adjourned.

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the government has circulated amendments proposed to be moved to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. Government amendment No. 2 seeks to amend various provisions of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021. I note that some of these provisions were considered by the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, which were passed in the same session of parliament.

Standing order 87 provides that once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Standing order 150 provides that no amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with one already agreed to by the House. Government amendment No. 2 proposes amendments to sections 53AD, 53BD, 53DC, 53DG, 53EA and 53EF and schedules 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 in that they qualify or modify the provisions. They are inconsistent with amendments previously considered and agreed to by the House in the same session of parliament. This is contrary to standing orders 87 and 150. Accordingly, I rule that the same question rule is enlivened by government amendment No. 2. A motion to suspend standing orders 87 and 150 would be required for this amendment to be considered.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing Orders

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—  
That, with respect to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, standing orders 87 and 150 be suspended to allow the bill and any amendments circulated by the minister to be moved and considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committee, Referral of Auditor-General's Report

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.02 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's *Report 8: 2025-26—Major Projects 2025* be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee and that the Auditor-General's *Report 9: 2025-26—Health 2025* be referred to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee.

## MOTION

### Member for Cooper, Finding of Contempt

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 240, tabled in the House on 11 December 2025
2. finds the member for Cooper in contempt for breaching a condition of the Broadcast Footage Terms and Conditions in accordance with section 58(3) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001
3. determines that an unequivocal apology to the House is an appropriate penalty
4. notes the apology on the floor of the House from the member for Cooper on 11 December 2025, and
5. resolves to take no further action.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 August 2025 (see p. 2373).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to speak again on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2025 and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for detailed consideration. I would like to thank the committee for their detailed consideration and the public briefings and hearings they undertook. Officers from the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games, with support from the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, provided a briefing paper and appeared at the public briefing to the committee about the bill on 17 September, with further information provided as requested by the committee. The committee received four submissions to its inquiry on the bill and tabled its report on 17 October 2025. I table a copy of the government's response to that report.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, government response.

I would like to thank the chair—the member for Lockyer—and the committee members for their timely consideration of the bill as well as acknowledge the work of the committee secretariat. I also would like to thank the organisations that made submissions in relation to the bill, the officers from Stadiums Queensland and the City of Gold Coast who spoke at the committee's public hearing on the bill on 30 September down at Southport, and representatives of the Ticket Brokers Association of Australia who spoke at the committee's public hearing here in Brisbane on 1 October.

The committee's report made three recommendations. The first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support. The committee's second recommendation was that the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games consult with the City of Gold Coast and other key stakeholders on any future amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014—the regulation—relating to the operation of special events at Carrara Stadium and Robina Stadium. The Crisafulli government supports this recommendation and, pending passage of the bill, the department intends to set regulatory conditions for the operation of special events at Carrara Stadium and Robina Stadium through a future amendment to the regulation. The department will consult with key stakeholders, including the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland, stadium operators and hirers and the local community, during the development of these regulatory conditions to support the development of appropriate, fit-for-purpose regulatory conditions for the operation of special events at the stadiums.

**Mr Kempton** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take no offence from that interjection. I will try to beef it up a bit now. The committee's third recommendation was that the department monitor the effectiveness of increased ticket-scalping penalty provisions, including any enforcement or compliance challenges, to ensure the amendments achieve their desired outcomes and remain fit for purpose. The Crisafulli government supports this recommendation and, pending passage of the bill, the department will seek to work with the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies such as the Office of Fair Trading within the Department of Justice to monitor the effectiveness of increased penalties for unlawful ticket reselling under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and Major Events Act 2014 to support achievement of the bill's objectives.

I am pleased to inform the House that the bill received strong support from stakeholders who provided submissions. The feedback presented during the committee's examination of the bill highlighted key matters that will be important for the department to consider as we proceed with consultation on amendments to the regulation. These amendments aim to establish a long-overdue regulatory framework for special events, including major concerts at People First Stadium in Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium in Robina. For too long the Gold Coast has been treated like a second-class destination by the former Labor government, held back by a tangled web of state and local bureaucracy. In contrast, the Crisafulli government is committed to securing Queensland's place as the event capital of the country.

This bill ends the era of archaic inconsistency with our stadiums. The new regulatory framework would effectively allow for concerts at these venues to be held until the industry standard of 10.30 pm instead of the current 10.00 pm curfew required in practice by liquor licensing constraints. This is about more than just an extra 30 minutes of music; it is about market efficiency. We are removing the handbrake of bureaucracy that has historically forced promoters to omit Queensland venues from their tours because of uncompetitive curfews.

The City of Gold Coast has given its broad support to the objective of the bill to attract major concerts that deliver social, cultural and economic benefits to the region. Understandably, like the Crisafulli government, the city wants to ensure a balance is struck between these benefits and effectively managing the impacts on the local community. The city would also like to better understand its role following any determination of noncompliance with proposed regulatory requirements for noise from concerts held at People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium.

Thanks also go to Live Performance Australia. Live Performance Australia is the peak body for Australia's live arts and entertainment industry and I am pleased to say they have offered their support for this bill. In particular, regarding the provisions which will ultimately enable concerts at the Gold Coast stadiums to finish at the industry standard time of 10.30 pm, in their words—

It would ... be disappointing for fans to be denied the opportunity to see their favourite act in their local area because event promoters have omitted Queensland stadiums and arenas from the tour because of the 10pm curfew.

Live Performance Australia also recognises that the current provisions which penalise buyers of tickets over 10 per cent of the original purchase price are out of step with other jurisdictions. By removing this offence, we are backing Queenslanders by delivering common-sense reform and ensuring our laws align with national best practice. Queensland is currently the only state that penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets and removing that provision will encourage people to report ticket scalping without fear of being fined themselves.

The City of Gold Coast and Live Performance Australia both raised the issue of festivals with the committee. While the suggestion to include festivals within the definition of a 'special event' under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 appears to have merit on first read, as festivals in Queensland are not held solely on major sports facility land, the regulation of festivals is beyond the scope of this bill. As a government that respects jurisdictional integrity, we recognise that because People First Stadium and adjacent council owned land are used together to host festivals, it is not appropriate for a single state agency to manage these events.

The establishment of regulatory conditions for major concerts at the Gold Coast stadiums will apply exclusively to events held entirely within the stadium's boundary or tenure. This approach ensures clear delineation of regulatory responsibility, with festivals spanning both People First Stadium and council owned land being regulated solely by the City of Gold Coast. Planning and operation of festival events should also continue to be managed in consultation with Stadiums Queensland.

I would like to thank the Ticket Brokers Association of Australia for their interest in the bill. The association is a professional industry body made up of several Australian-based marketplaces and individual brokers who represent the interests of the secondary ticket market in Australia. The

association raised a number of issues in the interest of their stakeholders including a recommendation to increase the allowable ticket resale threshold from 10 per cent above the original price of the ticket to 20 to 30 per cent to reflect business costs of lawful ticket resellers and align with international practice.

We have considered this carefully and we must put Queenslanders first. As set out in the department's response to this submission, the 10 per cent margin provides a fair opportunity for individuals who can no longer attend an event to recover the ticket price, along with any associated resale costs, without opening the door to the kind of predatory profiteering that Labor allowed to fester for years.

In Queensland, the regulation of unlawful ticket reselling under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 is specifically designed to prevent inappropriate profiteering by third parties who have no connection to the event. Selling tickets significantly above their face value not only is a barrier to entry that makes it harder for Queensland families to afford a night out but also jeopardises the commercial agreements between event organisers and their sponsors that keep our major events viable. Our position is clear: we want a service-led secondary market, not a scalper-led one. The association also took the opportunity of the committee inquiry to raise broader challenges in the regulation of ticket resale and suggest principles for the future approach to reselling in Queensland.

Queensland takes a collaborative, industry-led approach to managing unlawful ticket reselling. We are not here to play 'big brother'. We are here to support an industry that works for ticketing providers, event organisers, promoters and, most importantly, the fans.

Queensland legislation already permits the onselling of tickets as part of hospitality packages. Venue hirers at Stadiums Queensland facilities can bundle tickets with travel or accommodation and engage third-party providers to sell these packages, subject to contractual rules that safeguard the commercial interests of Stadiums Queensland, service providers and hirers. Continuing to allow these packages is crucial for driving our tourism economy and supporting third-party providers who add genuine value to the fan experience.

Key measures to deter ticket scalping include enforcing ticket terms and conditions that prohibit resale or onselling, delaying the release of tickets to ticketing apps, limiting the window for onselling and supporting ticketing companies in operating their own resale platforms for consumers unable to attend events. However, flexibility must be balanced with integrity.

We support our commercial partners, and Stadiums Queensland maintains ticketing agreements with Ticketek, Ticketmaster and AXS—all of which offer platforms for consumers to resell tickets they no longer need. Resale platforms run by these ticketing providers are designed to be transparent and consumer-friendly, ensuring buyers know exactly what they are purchasing. These measures help minimise consumer harm and reduce the risk of fraud in the ticketing market, and we will continue to work together in implementing common-sense measures to deter scalping.

Introducing additional regulatory measures such as a licensing framework for ticket resale platforms is considered unnecessary red tape. Therefore, the aim of this bill is not to overhaul the broader regulatory framework for ticket reselling in Queensland. Instead, the proposed amendments focus on discouraging unlawful ticket reselling for events at major sports facilities declared under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and at major events declared under the Major Events Act 2014. This will be achieved by aligning maximum penalties with those in other jurisdictions—particularly New South Wales, which is Queensland's main competitor in attracting event content—and by removing the offence of purchasing an unlawfully resold ticket.

For too long, Labor allowed our penalties to languish, making us less competitive in the hunt for global event content. By increasing these fines and, crucially, removing the offence for purchasing a ticket, we are shifting the focus from punishing the victim to penalising the perpetrator. These changes are designed to: protect individuals who have lawfully purchased tickets; safeguard the interests of event organisers and sponsors; and establish a strong, modern regulatory framework that sends a clear signal to event organisers and sponsors to choose Queensland as their destination for hosting events. By safeguarding these commercial agreements, we are protecting the future of Queensland's golden age of events leading up to 2032.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to Stadiums Queensland for their support of the bill. Stadiums Queensland worked closely with the department in the development of this bill. I thank CEO Todd Harris and his officers for their expertise in assisting the department to make this legislation as robust and fit for purpose as it could be. Stadiums Queensland will continue to be a key stakeholder as we move forward with implementation and consultation on proposed amendments to the regulation.

In summary, the bill introduces key amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to introduce a head of power under the act to exclude liquor licensing and local laws in relation to conditions for amplified music from special events such as concerts which will streamline regulations for stadium operators. This change will allow concert noise conditions to be set directly under the regulation, addressing liquor licensing constraints that currently require concerts to finish by 10.00 pm and aligning with the 10.30 pm industry standard, to maximise venue use and attract more events, particularly at People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast. The bill ensures the override of local laws is narrowly applied to noise related matters for special events only, avoiding unintended impacts on other aspects of event management such as traffic and parking.

The bill will also strengthen deterrents for unlawful ticket reselling by increasing maximum penalties for individuals and corporations—this approach ensures alignment with penalties in other Australian jurisdictions—and remove the offence of purchasing tickets above 10 per cent of their original price, encourage reporting of unlawful reselling and harmonise with national practices. The bill will also modernise governance provisions for the Stadiums Queensland Board to update processes for appointment, termination, resignation and vacancies, and allow the Governor in Council to appoint a deputy chairperson to strengthen leadership, support succession planning and manage strategic risks. Finally for the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the bill will update the definition of ‘aircraft’ to include unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, ensuring these are captured under unauthorised advertising provisions to address ambush marketing.

The bill also makes important amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to ensure Queensland’s legislative framework for major events remains contemporary, consistent and capable of supporting the state’s growing event portfolio. The amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 are designed to provide alignment and consistency with the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, particularly in relation to ticketing-reselling provisions, and to strengthen the overall effectiveness of Queensland’s event governance framework. These updates ensure that both acts operate cohesively, providing clarity for promoters, organisers and enforcement agencies while supporting a seamless and efficient approach to event delivery across the state.

In addition, the bill makes a series of technical and machinery-in-nature amendments to the Major Events Act 2014. These changes modernise the language of the legislation, remove ambiguity and improve the precision and consistency of key provisions. They will also ensure the Major Events Act 2014 remains clear and fit for purpose for current and emerging event models. Importantly, these refinements represent the first step in a broader program of legislative review to ensure the Major Events Act 2014 continues to reflect best practice as Queensland approaches the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Through these amendments, the Crisafulli government is taking early action to future-proof Queensland’s major events framework, reducing complexity, improving regulatory agility and ensuring our legislation continues to deliver the right balance between community benefit, commercial opportunity and efficient administration. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring Queensland remains a world leader in event delivery. These initial updates to the Major Events Act 2014 strengthen the foundations of that vision and reaffirm our commitment to a dynamic, globally competitive and well-governed events sector that benefits communities right across the state.

I would also like to move that amendments be made to the bill. First, in relation to technical amendments to be made to the Major Events Act, I would like to move that the commencement of these provisions occurs on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

The Gold Coast will host six matches of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup between 1 and 21 March 2026, injecting an expected \$12.5 million into the Queensland economy. It was great to see Football Queensland here today giving everybody an Australian jersey with their name on it. We expect you to wear that when you are either down the coast or watching that on television. A regulation declaring this important international event as a ‘major event’ under the Major Events Act is expected to be considered by the Governor in Council very shortly.

By commencing these technical amendments on a date to be set by proclamation, this government can ensure the declaration remains valid and effective, given it will be made under the act prior to any amendments made by this bill. This approach also allows the increased penalties for unlawful ticket reselling under both the Major Events Act and the Major Sports Facilities Act to commence at the same time, pending assent of the bill. That alignment will strengthen deterrence against unlawful ticketing activity in the lead-up to the AFC Women’s Asian Cup and help protect the integrity and safe delivery of this major international event.

Secondly, and importantly, I would like to move that urgent amendments to the Racing Queensland board appointment and composition provisions within the Racing Act 2000 be included in the bill to fast-track implementation of relevant recommendations approved by the government from the independent Racing Review to ensure that meaningful and timely change is delivered for the Queensland racing industry and regions. This government is about action, not secret reviews. We are getting on with the implementation of the recommendations because we know that the Queensland racing industry cannot afford to wait.

These amendments seek to implement the legislative component of recommendations 3, 4, 77 and 88 of the independent Racing Review and will serve to deliver on the government's commitment to reform the Racing Queensland board by increasing the flexibility of the board, including broadening the pool of eligible candidates, simplifying board appointment processes and ensuring broad industry representation on the board, including from each of the board codes of racing—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound—as well as up to six other members who have skills and experience in one or more of the relevant areas or live in a rural or regional part of Queensland.

This government is committed to moving towards a modern, agile governance structure. This commonsense approach to industry stewardship prioritises transparency, protects integrity and delivers a better deal for Queenslanders. Racing's impact on the state is now close to \$2.5 billion per year and is responsible for around 14,500 full-time jobs for Queenslanders, so it is vital we ensure it will grow and prosper well into the future. This government is backing Queensland's racing industry.

Our regions are the heartbeat of racing in this state. For too long the challenges faced by our regional tracks and trainers were overlooked by the former Labor government. By enshrining regional representation in this legislation, we are ensuring that the voices of those who live and work in our country towns are heard at the highest level of decision-making. It is proposed that these amendments to the Racing Act commence on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

Finally, today we are also taking another important step in ensuring the successful planning and delivery of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For 1,200 days the former Labor government failed to deliver a plan for the 2032 games. Since the Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan set a clear path out of Labor's chaos we have put the games back on track, and we are getting on with the job of delivering generational infrastructure in the lead-up to 2032 and beyond.

We have remained firmly focused on delivery, and in less than a year since the Delivery Plan was announced Queenslanders are seeing that, for the Crisafulli government, promises made are promises kept. Through the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, we are introducing a series of targeted administrative amendments that enable the commencement of works and ensure key generational infrastructure projects across Queensland are able to be progressed under the streamlined pathway created to ensure delivery in time for the games. The Crisafulli government recognises that these amendments are not to be taken lightly, but they are necessary—as a result of more than three years of inaction, indecision and backflips from the former Labor government—to reach our 2032 deadline.

When the Crisafulli government amended the BOPGA Act in 2025, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations indicated that subsequent amendments would be made for games infrastructure projects, including those defined in the 2032 Delivery Plan, to be added in schedules to the act as project planning progressed. These amendments formally recognise the Brisbane Athletes Village—a key housing legacy of the 2032 Delivery Plan—in the act so that its planning pathway may be accelerated. This designation is essential to support the timely delivery of a world-class home for our athletes for the duration of the games after the former Labor government forgot to fund the villages.

In August last year we announced the commencement of heritage restoration works on the Brisbane Showgrounds arena. The inclusion of the Brisbane Athletes Village today provides planning certainty to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland and our village development partner so that further works can commence onsite after this year's Ekka.

The Crisafulli government is proud to be hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games that delivers for all of Queensland, which is why we are also incorporating games related transport infrastructure that provides generational legacy. This also ensures that transport projects that are critical to the movement of athletes, officials and spectators are captured in the legislative framework and delivered in time for the games. Transport projects will deliver benefits right across Queensland. The Wave on the Sunshine Coast, the Coomera Connector and the Cairns Western Arterial Road are all

transformational projects delivering legacy transport outcomes that support Queensland's growing population.

The amendments also provide the necessary tenure for the new Brisbane Stadium and the National Aquatic Centre at Victoria Park, and both projects were included in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 last year. These provisions are administrative in nature and ensure the various land tenures across Victoria Park will vest unencumbered in the GIICA so that works can commence in June 2026. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, GIICA and Brisbane City Council are working collaboratively to support this transition, including working with tenants to ensure works can get underway.

We have hit the ground running on games delivery in 2026, announcing the principal architects, COX and Hassell, with Azusa Sekkei, for the new Brisbane Stadium. These amendments continue this momentum and provide the certainty GIICA needs to continue delivery. We are also including the landmark Gabba arena, which is part of the transformative Gabba entertainment and housing precinct, as an 'other venue' under the act.

When the Delivery Plan was released, the Crisafulli government recognised the importance of delivering a new indoor arena for Queensland in the heart of Brisbane and commenced a market process to find an investment and delivery partner from the private sector. With strong national and international interest and the competitive transaction process underway, the inclusion of the Gabba arena within the BOPGA Act provides a clear commitment to investors that the Crisafulli government is prepared to prioritise its delivery. Recognising its potential for the 2032 Games, these amendments reduce risk and complexity to provide a clear runway for the bold transformation of this significant legacy precinct. The amendments clarify that the role of GIICA will only be required to oversee other venues—such as the Gabba arena—when directed by the minister.

Finally, a number of consequential amendments have been made, including clarification that development undertaken for a games related use may be utilised prior to the games. This provides flexibility and supports the practical delivery of infrastructure in the lead-up to 2032. It is no secret that we have a shorter runway to get these games back on track after Labor's chaos and crisis. These amendments will ensure these venues and villages critical to Queensland's long-term future can get built in time. Together, these updates support a number of 2032 Delivery Plan once-in-a-generation projects moving from planning to efficient and effective delivery. It also reinforces our commitment to delivering a games that all of Queensland can be proud of—a games for all of Queensland.

Once again, I thank the organisations which made submissions on the bill and the committee for its prompt consideration. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The opposition will be supporting this bill. We do so not because it is perfect but because, on balance, it enhances some areas of law and regulation which will support major sports facilities and major events into the future. At its core, the bill seeks to modernise how major stadiums are managed, strengthen consumer protections around ticket reselling—which we know is vitally important—and improve the governance framework for Stadiums Queensland. Those are sensible objectives and they are objectives which Queensland Labor has consistently supported. Where the bill succeeds, it does so by responding to industry realities, community feedback and issues raised through the committee process. Where questions remain, it is incumbent on the LNP government to answer them through clear guidance and disciplined implementation.

The bill amends three key legislative frameworks: the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the Major Events Act 2014 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014. The government says these changes will support an effective and efficient regulatory regime and deliver best practice governance for Stadiums Queensland. The opposition agrees with that direction, but we will also be watching very closely to ensure that these reforms are delivered in a way that protects communities, consumers and public confidence.

Queensland prides itself on having world-class venues—from Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane to People First Stadium at Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium at Robina. These are not just entertainment assets; they are publicly owned facilities that carry economic, social and community responsibilities with them. They drive jobs, tourism and local business activities, but they also sit in real neighbourhoods alongside real residents. That is why getting the regulatory settings right matters to those people. The challenge for government, and the test for this bill, is whether it can modernise the system while maintaining proper safeguards for fans, neighbours and taxpayers.

Let me turn to the amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act, particularly those dealing with concerts, event finish times and noise regulation. The opposition acknowledges the reality of the modern live music and events market. Rigid and inconsistent curfews have, in practice, made Queensland less competitive in securing major touring acts. Removing liquor-licensing constraints that have effectively forced some concerts to finish by 10 pm is a sensible step, particularly where it creates consistency across Stadiums Queensland venues in South-East Queensland.

However, support for later finishes must never be read as indifference to community impact. The bill attempts to strike that balance by deeming the general environmental duty to be met where prescribed, evidence-based noise conditions are complied with. That framework can work but only if compliance responsibilities are clear and enforcement is credible. The City of Gold Coast has raised legitimate practical questions about this: who is the responsible authority for noise compliance, and how will events be managed when they extend onto adjacent council owned land?

These are not academic concerns; they go directly to accountability. Our position is straightforward. The government must provide unambiguous guidance so that promoters, councils and residents around stadiums all know who is responsible and how issues will be addressed at that time. Ambiguity benefits no-one, especially not the local community around the stadiums.

Ticket scalping remains one of the most visible and frustrating failures in the events ecosystem. When tickets disappear in seconds and reappear at grossly inflated prices, it is ordinary Queenslanders who lose out. The opposition supports the bill's move to increase penalties for unlawful ticket reselling and to focus enforcement on those who profit from this behaviour. We also support the removal of the offence for purchasing tickets above 10 per cent of face value. Consumers are overwhelmingly victims in this space, not perpetrators, and the law should reflect that reality. Encouraging reporting rather than discouraging it is the right policy choice. Labor has consistently advocated for stronger consumer protections in the ticketing market, and we will always stand up for Queenslanders who just want a fair go, particularly when it comes to ticketing. Our support for these reforms is grounded in that principle, and it must be reflected in how the laws are implemented.

Consumer protection must be the No. 1 priority. These laws will only succeed if they are administered in a way that actively protects Queenslanders from exploitation rather than shifting risk or responsibility onto fans. Enforcement strategies, compliance resources and cooperation with ticketing platforms must be designed first and foremost to stop those predatory practices before they occur, not simply to respond after harm has already been done to locals.

Industry stakeholders, including Live Performance Australia, have been clear about the damage scalping does to trust and to accessibility. Stadiums Queensland has also welcomed greater consistency. The opposition agrees that enforcement should target organised, often offshore, operators using bots and bulk-purchasing tactics, not fans who just want to take their family to a game of footy or a concert. Proposals raised by the Ticket Brokers Association, including licensing models and exemptions, warrant further consideration as part of this bill, but only against a clear test: do they strengthen consumer protection, transparency and enforcement later on? Convenience for resellers cannot come at the expense of fairness for fans of footy games and concerts.

The bill's governance reforms for Stadiums Queensland, particularly the removal of at-will termination of board members, are welcome. Stable, skills-based boards are essential for managing assets of this scale and public importance. That said, the opposition cannot ignore the broader context. It is notable that the government is embracing stability and independence in this statutory body while pursuing greater executive discretion elsewhere. This was seen with the recent amendments to the Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024, removing the independent status of Forensic Science Queensland and giving the Attorney-General the power to appoint and terminate the director of Forensic Science Queensland at will.

Good governance principles should apply consistently across government. If stability builds confidence and performance here, it should do so everywhere. With greater board stability comes greater responsibility, greater transparency and also engagement with communities and a clear communication about major commercial and strategic decisions that are being made. We expect that standard to be met in Queensland.

The inclusion of drones in unauthorised advertising provisions is a practical and overdue update. Event ambush marketing undermines legitimate commercial partnerships that help fund these major events and keep ticket prices in check and affordable for families. This is a sensible modernisation. Similarly, the technical amendments to the Major Events Act allowing staged activation of provisions

for complex multiday events reflect the operational reality faced by police, councils and the organisers of those events. These are pragmatic changes and the opposition supports them.

Our support for this bill is not a blank cheque. We will be watching the implementation of these closely, particularly clear guidance on responsibility at the Gold Coast venues. The government should publish unambiguous guidance on which entity—state or council—has the lead responsibility for noise compliance and event coordination, especially where events involve adjacent council land. That clarity will prevent duplication and help residents know who to call when any issues arise.

I turn to enforcement against unlawful reselling. The penalty settings matter, but they only deter if they are used. We expect a dedicated compliance effort including intelligence-led monitoring and cooperation with platforms to target organised resellers, particularly those operating offshore or using bots to bypass legitimate purchasing limits. Also, extended finish times must be matched by practical mitigation, transport planning, crowd dispersal of people out of the stadiums and transparent noise management. Residents have a right to quiet enjoyment. Promoters have a right to run world-class shows. This bill can deliver both if operational detail is done well.

Board governance that builds trust is important. With greater stability at Stadiums Queensland comes a greater responsibility to communicate about strategy, about community impact and about the commercial rationale for major decisions being made. Transparency builds legitimacy. The opposition, as I said, supports this bill because it moves Queensland in the right direction towards modern, practical regulation that supports major events while also recognising community and consumer interests. However, legislation is only as good as its delivery. Where councils and industry have raised legitimate concerns, the government must now provide that clarity, coordination and enforcement. Queenslanders deserve vibrant venues, those world-class events and a ticketing system that is fair to all. This bill can help deliver that outcome if the government gets those details right.

I am aware also—as we heard today before the second reading of his bill—of amendments which have been circulated by the Minister for Sport. I must say, it is certainly disappointing that the minister did not circulate these earlier and they have not gone through a committee process. This is just another example of the LNP government trying to do things in secret. The deputy leader and the shadow minister for transport will have more to say about that later this evening. As I said before, the opposition supports this bill and I, like many Queenslanders, look forward to continuing to watch events at major stadiums here in Queensland, particularly the Brisbane Broncos at Suncorp Stadium, in 2026. Go the mighty Broncos!

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.43 pm): I am very proud to be able to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill this afternoon. As chair of the committee that considered this bill, I thank the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games for his and his team's great efforts in bringing the bill into the House and for the opportunity to have that inquiry. I place on record also our appreciation to the Deputy Premier and his office and the Premier for their support of this bill, the continuing development and enhancement of the development plan for the Brisbane Olympics and the amendments that have been brought here today. The Deputy Premier highlighted when this was raised earlier that there will be other additions. I am pleased to see those other additions occur today as well as the amendments with regard to the Racing Review that will allow the timely delivery of those things.

With regard to the major sports facilities bill that the committee inquired into, I can tell honourable members that Queensland is open for business. We are here to make sure we have major events right across the state. That is something I am looking forward to. That is something I believe all Queenslanders are looking forward to. If there is any indication from my relatives across Australia and overseas, they are excited to be coming to Queensland, too—not just for the Olympics but also for all of the lead-up events to it. I know that a lot of people are even moving to Queensland because of that opportunity. It is great to welcome them—as long as they come here and wear maroon when the Queensland State of Origin team plays.

I would like to thank all of the submitters to and witnesses before the committee. Queensland is open for business and we have a modern entertainment sector, but it is going to be enhanced by these changes and by making sure things are simplified and well understood. As the minister said, we want to provide clarity—clarity for Queenslanders and spectators but also for promoters and those involved in the industry. That is something they called out for.

I also want to give a shout-out to Stadiums Queensland. They do a wonderful job at our venues across Queensland. I must say, I am always enthusiastic to be in their company because they understand stadiums. I was pleased to hear that Cox and Hassell were appointed the architects of the

new Olympic venue here. I had the absolute honour to represent some of us at a meeting in Perth to see what they have done there. It was amazing. We need to make sure learnings from that stadium are applied here to deliver quality outcomes for all Queenslanders as a great legacy. Some of those things relate to the enjoyment of entertainment at that stadium. It is about making sure people can get in there easily, can spend a lot of time there and can get food and beverages very easily while they enjoy whatever events are on there.

They have a very smart way of handling the merchandising in their stadiums and facilities. That is about not having an overabundance of permanent advertising and markings but having electronic fields and screens which can be changed very quickly to accommodate the relevant sport and the necessary sponsors and participants. We have world-class stadium event managers here, and it is great to be in their company and learn from what they have done both here in Australia and overseas. I am excited to see those things rolled out.

This bill contains some very clear and simple things, particularly with regard to the stadiums at the Gold Coast and the adjustment of times to ensure we catch major events and concerts involving international artists. Over time there has been a neglect in terms of big artists not coming here. We are looking forward to rectifying that to maximise those opportunities.

One of the things the committee took a long time to consider—and we did have some really great advice with regard to this—was ticket scalping in the modern era, with the technology that is being used to trick and defraud people. It is something all consumers have to be aware of. They should only go to the trusted sites. That is why Stadiums Queensland partners with some very trusted ticket suppliers. If people are not going through those avenues to purchase tickets and are looking elsewhere, they are probably going to be defrauded. That was one of the reasons we included recommendation 3: to make sure the department continues to keep up to date with the changing face of these things. The changing status of AI and all of those things that are continually improving is something the department will keep an eye on, and we wanted to make sure that continues. I have every confidence it will, because this government actually works together with the different departments.

I recognise that the Minister for Sport highlighted in his speech that working with Police, Justice and Fair Trading to make sure they keep track of those things in the best interests of Queenslanders is something we will do as a government. I will be pleased to accept the challenge from the shadow minister that the government must keep an eye on these things. We certainly will be doing that to protect and ensure the best outcome for Queenslanders. There is a multifaceted approach to all of these things, but the main thing is to ensure Queensland has a vibrant events sector, and this bill is part of the development of that sector.

I now turn to the efforts of the Deputy Premier and his team with regard to the changes that are being made in these amendments. This is something that Queenslanders have been crying out for. Twelve months before the election we said that we would deliver a development plan. We said that we would establish an independent delivery authority—and we did that—and it has delivered the development plan and we are seeing that being gone through at the moment.

The Deputy Premier highlighted that there would be additional areas added into that and this bill and its amendments are the first suite of those, so we welcome those inclusions in order to continue the rollout of the development plan and to ensure that we all have certainty about what is going on so that we continue to move forward. It is very pleasing to see that in just 12 months we are able to roll out the next phase of this. It was March last year that GIICA handed down its development plan, so members can see that we are progressing these things. We are not just having red carpet events or talking about it or appointing ourselves to things; we are listening to very smart people in the independent delivery authority. Stephen Conry and the other members of his team are doing a great job.

The importance of protecting Queenslanders in terms of scalping and other issues when they attend stadiums cannot be understated. During the inquiry concerns were expressed by some people from Victoria who were worried that they might not be able to buy a number or group of tickets and then package them together in order to sell a package to a particular event to their clients. We sought clarification on that and we received advice that that was not the case and that those sorts of things could happen. That is not onselling and putting a premium on it; that is just putting a package of tickets together for people to come and enjoy it as a tourism experience. We appreciate the department responding to those questions.

I also want to place on the record my appreciation to the secretariat and the teams in each of the departments for the work that they have done on this bill. I also thank my colleagues the member for

Cook and the member for Mulgrave and the opposition members on the committee for the work that they have done on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I believe that we had a very fair and fulsome inquiry and were able to get to the bottom of a couple of areas that were of concern. I certainly was very satisfied with the outcomes that we came to, but that would not have been possible if not for the way in which the minister and his team worked with us.

I also thank the minister, the Deputy Premier and the Premier for together delivering these outcomes for Queensland to ensure that the Olympics and Paralympics are something that Queenslanders can be very proud of, not just in the future but in the lead-up to the games and the legacy that those games will leave. I am certainly very proud to be part of the team that is able to deliver and consider these things. I am sure, Mr Deputy Speaker Furner, that you would agree that there are many more exciting things to happen, but this is a focus that we will all enjoy.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.54 pm): I am happy to follow the committee chair in speaking in this debate. This was a fairly sensible examination of the bill and it was pretty straightforward on what are fairly sensible measures—that was until we saw the late circulated amendments slipped in today, foreshadowed by the Deputy Premier. These are amendments that the Crisafulli LNP government has added on the last day which will essentially add to a legislative schedule that switches off normal planning, heritage and environmental laws: the Brisbane athletes village; the Gabba arena; the Wave's stages 1, 2 and 3; the Mooloolah River Interchange—a project which has no timeframe and no budget despite early works having started; the Coomera Connector stage 2—again, another project with no timeframe, no budget, no funding; the Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrade, which was revealed by the member for Cairns this week to have been sent back to the drawing board; and the Shute Harbour recreational boating facility. These amendments have added these projects to a legislative schedule which switches off normal planning, heritage and environmental laws.

There will be no development application process, no public notification period, no formal opportunity to lodge objections, no third-party appeal rights, no independent review, no transparency. Communities are asking when they will be consulted and how they will be involved in shaping projects which will not just be there for the Olympics but forever. Under the Crisafulli government, they will not get a say. Queenslanders currently have more formal input into a boundary fence, a backyard shed or a house next door than into multibillion dollar infrastructure projects.

Under this government, transparency is being reframed as ‘delay’ and community involvement is being labelled as ‘red tape’. Just today I spoke in this chamber about the Beerwah station plans of the government which would resume the 90-year-old Beerwah Co-Op, a group the transport minister is refusing to meet with despite over 6½ thousand petitioners. This government in these amendments now says to Beerwah, ‘You may as well throw that feedback in the bin,’ because this project can be approved without any community consultation. Under these rushed amendments, which have been given half a day’s notice and zero scrutiny, those locals will not have a say.

We know the Deputy Premier owns property along the proposed Wave rail line. The Deputy Premier owns property along this proposed rail line right near a proposed new station, so presumably he is fine with these things, but others may not be. Rushing through laws which remove any parliamentary or public scrutiny of a project which materially benefits the Deputy Premier’s financial interests: that is what we are talking about today.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Aspley referred to things before the Ethics Committee and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr MELLISH:** If I can assist on that point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Please do.

**Mr MELLISH:** These matters are not before the Ethics Committee. That is a related matter but is not what I am talking about today.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice from the clerks at the table. Member for Aspley, can you give an assurance that this is a matter that is not before the Ethics Committee?

**Mr MELLISH:** I am very happy to give an assurance that this matter is not before the Ethics Committee in the way in which I am speaking about it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please proceed.

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is rushing through laws when the Deputy Premier has stated that he has interests along this rail line. That is not up for debate and will—

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

**Mr MELLISH:** This is a protection racket. This is clearly—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Take your seat please, member for Aspley.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I think this is very dangerous territory. The Deputy Premier has clearly expressed a number of times that he has made clear explanations, including to authorities, about his declarations. Trying to smear, as the shadow minister is currently doing, is completely inappropriate when he cannot validate his claim that the Ethics Committee is not investigating all aspects of the Deputy Premier's ownership of his house along this prospective rail line.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have had assurances that it is not before the committee, so I call the member for Aspley to continue.

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. When you are on the LNP backbench and you are trying to get a road approved in your local area or you are trying to get a school hall built and you are pitching to the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer, just know that the Deputy Premier is spending his time in this chamber rushing through legislation which benefits his financial interests.

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

**Mr MELLISH:** This rushed-through bill will benefit the Deputy Premier's interests.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, take your seat. What is your point of order?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, there are clear imputations that the shadow minister is making, having given an assurance that the issues that he has raised are not before the Ethics Committee. It is clear that you cannot just say anything you like in a debate, having given a verbal assurance that the matter is not before the Ethics Committee, when the Deputy Premier has made numerous declarations about this very matter. You cannot just come in here and say anything you like about anything with a tenuous connection.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand that. What is your point of order?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** That this is not relevant to the long title of the bill.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The acting Leader of the House, if he has concerns, knows the process. He can write, as is his right, to the Speaker. That is the appropriate process. This is not a place to argue the matter at hand.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Once again, member for Aspley, I will get you to reinforce your assurance that this is not a matter before the Ethics Committee.

**Mr MELLISH:** Absolutely, Deputy Speaker, in the way that I am talking about this project. The matter before the Ethics Committee, as I understand it, is around whether the Deputy Premier has made a declaration. I am making no accusation that the Deputy Premier has not made a declaration. If I can continue my contribution?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Maybe an explanation of the relevance to the bill before the House would be helpful.

**Mr MELLISH:** To explain the relevance, the amendments here clearly outline transport infrastructure, including the transport infrastructure project that I am referring to, which will be fast-tracked under the amendments to this bill. That is very clear. There is a media release here from the Deputy Premier today outlining this exact project—the Wave project—and these amendments would allow this project to bypass planning approvals.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Given the standing orders, the Speaker has arrived and I am going to have him replace me.

**Mr MELLISH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If I can continue my contribution? Might I continue my contribution, Speaker?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Wait until I give you the call. Member, from what I can hear, the contribution you are making at the moment has no relevance to the bill as we have it. You have no evidence—you have nothing to support what you are saying, and I will ask you to come back to the long title of the bill or you will be sat down.

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

**Mr MELLISH:** I am speaking to the amendments.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Resume your seat—last warning. Member for Mermaid Beach?

**Mr STEVENS:** My point of order is as chairman of the Ethics Committee. I am terribly embarrassed about the assurance that the member has given to the Deputy Speaker previously in the chair, because the matters he raised directly impinge upon the considerations of the Ethics Committee and I shall be writing to you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you very much for that point of order. Member for Aspley, you will talk to the bill or I will be taking serious action—last warning.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am happy to speak on the bill and the amendments to the bill which will bypass planning approvals, which will bypass heritage approvals, which will bypass parliamentary scrutiny, which will bypass public scrutiny of a range of Olympics related infrastructure and Olympics related transport infrastructure. If there is a late amendment to the amendment that removes those from the bill I am happy to no longer speak about those, but I will continue speaking about what these amendments will do and what they will do to projects which the Deputy Premier has flagged. This is major, generational infrastructure and it deserves more than three hours scrutiny. It deserves more than a cursory glance by this parliament. This should have gone through a proper committee process.

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The primary objective of this bill is to support an effective and efficient regulatory regime for major events and major sports facilities, ensuring they continue to deliver social and economic benefits for Queensland. It also aims to provide statutory body best practice in governance, accountability and commercial agility.

Mulgrave is a community passionate about sport. It is especially rewarding to see so many families and children making use of our regional sporting facilities each week. While Mulgrave boasts outstanding sports infrastructure, it is clear these facilities must be expanded to keep pace with our growing population. This will ensure that our aspiring athletes are well prepared for the opportunities presented by the 2032 Olympics. Another key interest for Mulgrave residents is attending major entertainment shows and concerts. Often this requires travelling to larger centres to see artists who are unable to visit every region in Queensland. When this occurs, our community members frequent major stadiums in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. The amendments in this bill are designed to provide these venues with greater flexibility and to enhance protections for event goers from unlawful ticket sellers.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2021 established Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for managing, operating, developing and promoting major sports facilities in Queensland. These facilities are capable of hosting national and international sporting, recreational, entertainment and special events. The Major Events Act 2014 provides a flexible legislative framework for various major events, ensuring the safety of visitors and spectators and protecting the rights of event organisers and sponsors. The bill seeks to remove liquor licensing restrictions that currently require concerts at major sports facilities to finish by 10 pm. The new standard will allow events to conclude at 10.30 pm, aligning with industry norms. This change is expected to attract more concerts to the Gold Coast, especially to Carrara Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium, and foster commercial parity with Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

The bill proposes to increase penalties for unlawful ticket reselling—scalping. It will also remove the offence for buyers who purchase tickets at more than 10 per cent above the original price, focusing enforcement on the sellers and deterring unlawful reselling. The definition of ‘aircraft’ will be updated to explicitly include drones, clarifying that unauthorised aerial advertising is prohibited during declared special events at major sports facilities.

The bill aims to create a more fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for managing major events, improving governance, accountability and commercial agility. This includes changes related to the appointment, termination, resignation and vacancy of Stadiums Queensland board directors. The bill provides a streamlined pathway for the delivery of venues, villages and transport infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by limiting review rights and creating a streamlined 2032 corporation board for efficient decision-making. The bill introduces requirements for the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority to share information with the relevant department and gives the Queensland government observer status at corporation board and committee meetings to maintain oversight.

The bill has been developed in consultation with a range of external stakeholders including Stadiums Queensland, the Australian Football League—operators of Carrara Stadium and People First Stadium—the City of Gold Coast and several government departments such as the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation in the Department of Justice and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. Community consultation on regulating special events at Carrara Stadium,

People First Stadium and Robina Stadium/Cbus Super Stadium in a manner similar to Suncorp Stadium was conducted in 2024.

These changes will bring Queensland into line with other states such as New South Wales and Victoria which also have legislation regulating major events, sporting facilities and unlawful ticket selling. The proposed amendments to maximum penalties for ticket scalping are intended to align Queensland with these other jurisdictions.

In closing, I reiterate that stadium events are extremely popular for young people and families across Queensland. The proposed changes will better protect them from illegal scalpers and offer greater flexibility regarding event timing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (5.09 pm): The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is legislation that this House can support. We on this side of the chamber are very happy to support it. Its objectives are sensible, its mechanisms are proportionate and its outcomes align with the realities of modern major event delivery. It strengthens Queensland's capability to attract world-class concerts and sporting events, protects consumers from ticket scalping and modernises governance arrangements at Stadiums Queensland. These are all worthwhile reforms. However, it is also important to place this bill in its proper context.

The intent, architecture and policy direction underpinning these reforms did not emerge spontaneously under the current government. The nucleus of this legislation was clearly formed under the previous Labor government that, in early 2024, undertook extensive community consultation on extending stadium special event finishing times to 10.30 pm. We went across the state to all the areas that are involved and there was some fierce feedback, but the majority of people were very keen to see these changes. That is why I make the comment that we are all very happy to see support for the bill from throughout the chamber. The consultation was measured, it was evidence-based and it was overwhelmingly supported by the community. It recognised that Queensland's major events must remain competitive in a national and international events market where rigid curfews increasingly act as a deterrent to promoters, performers and, just as importantly, broadcasters.

We are now seeing the continuation and implementation of a Labor-led vision. Once again, the LNP government has arrived in office and found itself legislating reforms that were already well developed, well consulted and well supported under the previous Labor government. That is not a criticism of the bill. I acknowledge that good ideas should endure beyond political cycles. However, it is important to be honest about where the work began and whose strategic thinking shaped it.

The amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 appropriately align finishing times at Carrara and Robina with those that have long applied at Suncorp Stadium. They remove outdated liquor licensing constraints that artificially capped concerts at 10 pm and constrained venue utilisation. This had a big impact on Queensland's ability to bring big names to our state and was certainly identified as a restriction. The bill strikes a careful balance by ensuring environmental obligations are met through prescribed regulatory conditions rather than blunt prohibitions that serve neither residents nor industry events well.

The strengthening of ticket scalping provisions is another area of clear merit. Increasing penalties for individuals and corporations whilst removing offences that inadvertently punish unwitting consumers reflects a more sophisticated and fair regulatory approach. Certainly the process of analysis identified that the technology that criminals have available to them these days is extensive and impressive. The ability to inadvertently punish unwitting consumers needs to be assessed, which is what is happening here. Aligning Queensland with other jurisdictions sends a clear message that large-scale profiteering at the expense of fans will not be tolerated. Rather, we will be encouraging reporting rather than the silence that has been the case in the past.

Governance reforms to the Stadiums Queensland board are also welcome. Ending the ability for directors to be terminated at will by the minister enhances institutional independence and stability. That is particularly notable given the contrast with recent moves elsewhere that have constrained ministerial control rather than restrained it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Excuse me, member for Cairns. There is too much chatter from both sides. We can barely hear.

**Mr HEALY:** I am trying to make it as exciting as I can, Deputy Speaker. If I did a cartwheel I would hurt myself. Amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 are technical, sensible and supported by stakeholders. The fact that all submissions

to the committee inquiry were supportive and that Labor members raised no statement of reservation speak to the fundamentally sound nature of the reforms so we are supportive.

However, while this bill improves the operation of major venues in South-East Queensland it also throws into sharp relief a broader and deeper concerning pattern under the Crisafulli government, which is a failure to meaningfully support sport, major events and high-profile infrastructure in regional Queensland, particularly in Cairns and the Far North. Whilst we are looking forward to seeing Barlow Park upgraded—when it starts—and we are very much looking forward to seeing the Cairns Western Arterial Road developed, we are also looking forward to seeing the budget and the timelines as that is what the government is telling us will happen.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** We have been having discussions with other people. I take that interjection from the minister. I appreciate that but the failure to progress a high-performance sports centre in Cairns is emblematic of that neglect. Such a facility would be transformative. The North Queensland Cowboys' willingness to contribute \$10 million and underwrite the asset's long-term viability is unprecedented. Given that that would be in addition to the money that has been spent and that we would have an Olympic-class stadium, it is remarkable that we are not seeing any other investment. The Cairns Regional Council are 100 per cent behind this and the Cowboys are 100 per cent behind it. We have secured \$15 million from the federal government as part of building a high-performance sports centre.

The demand is undeniable. The North Queensland Cowboys women's team, the Northern Pride rugby league team, CQU, James Cook University, TAFE's Academy of Sport, the Cairns Taipans, athletics and multiple sporting codes stand ready to use it if we had the support of the Crisafulli government. We are looking for that and we need it. It would also develop a new stream of sports tourism. As we head towards the Olympics, we know that Olympic teams from around the world will come to Queensland to train. They are going to be staying here in big numbers. We need to make sure we have that infrastructure. Cairns needs this piece of infrastructure. It is vitally important and we look forward to hearing some positive news in the near future.

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to support the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and to place on the record what this legislation will mean not only for Queensland but also for the people I represent in Redlands, which is a community emerging as a key contributor to our Olympic and Paralympic future. This bill is about readiness. It ensures Queensland is competitive, well governed and positioned to deliver lasting benefits before, during and long after the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The amendments will modernise the framework governing our major sports and entertainment venues, particularly those managed by Stadiums Queensland. They will strengthen governance, improve commercial protections and ensure our venues can attract and deliver world-class events in an increasingly competitive global market. In practical terms, this legislation supports better venue operations, modern governance and stronger protections for consumers. It sends a clear message: Queensland is ready to host major events and maximise the economic return for local communities.

While much of the public conversation focuses on venues in Brisbane, regional communities such as Redlands are central to this story. Redlands is no longer watching the games take shape; we are helping to deliver them. I am incredibly proud that the Redland Whitewater Centre within the Birkdale Community Precinct has been confirmed as an Olympic standard venue for Brisbane 2032. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, this will be a thriving destination well before the games begin and one of Queensland's most exciting legacy projects.

Expressions of interest for the design consultant are already open and momentum is building. Just last week, artist impressions of the centre were showcased at an International Olympic Committee function in Milan, placing Redlands on the global stage. The Redland Whitewater Centre will become Australia's northern hub for world-class whitewater events and training, hosting Olympic and Paralympic slalom competitions while delivering year-around community use. This is not a facility built for a single moment in time. It will have a lasting legacy and will be designed to serve the community for generations.

Located within the Redland City Council's Birkdale Community Precinct, beside a protected conservation area, the project balances environmental responsibility with world-class infrastructure—exactly the approach Queensland needs as we plan for the future. For Redlanders, the benefits are real and long-term. Economically, the centre will drive tourism, support jobs and strengthen local businesses, contributing to the billions in tourism and trade expected from the games legacy. Socially, it will deliver recreational and health benefits for people of all abilities—from elite athletes to families

enjoying kayaking, tubing and water play. This will be a venue locals use every week, not just once every four years.

Critically, it will also support emergency services training, strengthening whitewater rescue capability for firefighters, SES and first responders—a practical investment in community safety and disaster resilience. Importantly, the project strengthens the case for key infrastructure upgrades across the Redlands coast including improved transport connections such as the dedicated bus corridor to Capalaba, ensuring the benefits of the games extend well beyond the event itself.

This bill matters because it provides the certainty and flexibility required to support venues like the Redland whitewater centre—venues that will host major international events before, during and after 2032. Recently I met with Kim Crane, CEO of Paddle Australia, to discuss a significant pre-2032 opportunity—the 2030 World Paddle Games. This inaugural event is expected to attract more than 10,000 competitors from over 80 countries, delivering major economic and tourist benefits while placing Queensland, and the Redlands, firmly on the international stage. Events like this align with Queensland's focus on active lifestyle, wellness and nature-based tourism. They elevate ecotourism, strengthen global connections and showcase our region to the world—exactly the outcomes this legislation is designed to support.

The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill ensures our venues are competitive, well governed and protected from practices that undermine consumers and communities. More than that, it ensures communities like Redlands are not spectators in this historic moment—we are participants. This bill turns infrastructure into opportunity, it turns global attention into local benefit and it helps ensure Brisbane 2032 leave a legacy that reaches beyond stadium walls and into the lives of everyday Queenslanders. For Redlanders—our business, emergency services, families, athletes and young people—this legislation supports a future that is active, connected, resilient and globally recognised.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.22 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Overall, my speech was going to be reasonably positive, but I have just picked up the amendments that have been circulated by the minister this evening and now I unfortunately do have some concerns that I will get to.

I will start with the essence of what I wanted to talk about tonight. I am the deputy chair of the committee that oversaw this particular bill. At its heart, the bill is really about ensuring Queensland can host major sporting and entertainment events in a way that is modern, fair and fit for purpose while still respecting the people who live, work and raise families in and around those venues.

The bill achieves this through three key changes. Firstly, it updates the framework for how major events and special events are regulated at our major stadiums, particularly around concerts and large-scale entertainment. It removes outdated barriers that would have made it harder for some venues to host events that are now pretty much standard across Australia and internationally. Secondly, it strengthens the protections against ticket scalping, cracking down on unfair resale practices that drive up prices and lock everyday mums and dads out of events that they should be able to attend and enjoy. Thirdly, it improves the governance arrangements for Stadiums Queensland, ensuring clearer roles, stronger accountability and better decision-making for assets that belong to the public.

Taken together, these changes are about making better use of public infrastructure. They are about supporting jobs, supporting the local economy and ensuring Queensland can remain competitive as a destination for major events. All of those things, of course, the Labor opposition supports.

I want to speak particularly to the experience I have in my own electorate, where Suncorp Stadium—or, depending on your vintage, Lang Park—sits at the heart of an established entertainment precinct. For years, Suncorp Stadium has shown that it is possible to host major concerts and events in the middle of a densified inner-city community if you do it properly and do it well. I have to applaud the efforts of the successive leadership teams we have had at Suncorp Stadium.

In my time, I have had the pleasure of working alongside former general manager Alan Graham. Alan had an incredible capability in both considering operational matters and meeting the needs of tour operators and customers while keeping central the needs of our community. Alan recognised that Suncorp is not only a major sporting and events stadium but also a neighbour and that as a neighbour it has a responsibility to minimise the disruption that it causes to residents and to ensure local businesses can actually benefit from the major events that are hosted there.

Alan's retirement in July last year left really large shoes to fill and I welcomed the incoming general manager, Darren Burden. I have had the pleasure of meeting Darren. I think he has a wonderful

vision for Suncorp and I look forward to working alongside him to ensure Suncorp does remain the jewel in the crown for Brisbane's entertainment and sporting events and continues to be a wonderful neighbour to our local residents.

Events at Suncorp operate under clear conditions. They have strict noise management, defined finishing times, detailed transport plans, community notification requirements and real accountability when things go wrong. Residents know when events are happening. Public transport is built into ticketing. Traffic and crowd management are planned in advance. Noise is monitored and reported on. When concerns are raised, there are strong mechanisms to respond to those.

The result is a precinct that is vibrant, economically active and culturally alive while still being a place where people live, work, sleep and raise their families. This experience at Suncorp shows us that, if managed correctly, we do not have to make the choice between live events and local amenity. With the right rules and having an engaged and present management team, we can in fact have both.

This bill seeks to extend that kind of consistent and modern framework across other Queensland major sporting stadiums including venues that have until now been operating under a bit of a patchwork of outdated regulatory arrangements. It recognises that our live performance industry has changed. As a committee we also heard from JC, our Queensland's Night-Life Economy Commissioner, about the changing shape of the live entertainment industry across Queensland. That experience is one that is shared right throughout the nation. There is a much greater demand now for major music events. Of course, we want to be able to rise to that challenge in Queensland. This bill recognises that artists, promoters and audiences operate on a national and global schedule and it recognises that if Queensland wants the jobs, tourism and cultural benefits that come with major events our regulatory settings have to keep up, without cutting corners on community impact.

In terms of ticket scalping, I agree with the strengthening of penalties and removing the perverse incentives to penalise buyers. Those of us who enjoy attending live events may have had firsthand experience of the frustration you feel when hundreds or thousands of tickets are snapped up by third parties and then onsold, often at an inflated price. Families saving up to take their kids to a concert or to a game should not be priced out by unfair resale practices. This bill attempts to manage that.

In supporting this bill, the Queensland opposition backs live sport, live music and live culture but also good governance, fairness and respect for local communities. That is ironic when I come in and look at the amendments that have been circulated by the minister. I have not had a chance to look at them in detail. From the glance I have had, I want to raise a few questions with the minister.

The amendments talk about vesting stage 1, 2 or 3 land and providing it to GIICA as an estate in fee simple. My understanding is that that is essentially handing that land over as freehold land. Handing over Victoria Park is essentially what we are talking about here. There is other land too, but Victoria Park is the one I am concerned about. It is not in my electorate, but a lot of people in my electorate feel strongly about this particular park and about the stadium that will go there. This is about handing it over as freehold land to GIICA.

It then talks about the fact that there is no compensation payable. I would like to know from the minister what that means exactly. What are we now doing? As the deputy chair of the committee that looked at this bill, this was never raised and never flagged. To sneak that amendment in here right before we are about to take a vote on it and to not discuss it and not circulate it is intentional and deliberate. They are hiding something here. If there was something fantastic happening in this we would be hearing about it, I am sure. It has been snuck in at the eleventh hour with no information and no detail. I can assure members that it does not have the community's interests at heart. It will mean that GIICA can sell off parts of the land. We all know that this government is not going to be able to deliver the Victoria Park and aquatic stadiums in line with the budget it has proposed.

We all know what they are going to do: they are going to flog off the rest of Victoria Park to developers. They are going to sell it off to developers to cover the cost. That is exactly what they are going to do. Everyone knows exactly what is going to happen, and this amendment is the gateway for that to happen. The minister needs come in here and explain why he is doing that. Maybe we do not all in this place disagree with Victoria Park—people have different ideas about the placement of that stadium—but I think we would all agree that no government should be handing over public assets to an institution like GIICA to be able to sell off to the closest developer.

We are passing legislation as well this week allowing ministers and politicians to be in receipt of donations from developers; now removing legislation that is essentially allowing us to sell off public land to developers with no consultation. We managed a bill within months of the LNP coming into government that essentially erased 15 pieces of planning legislation, including vital environmental

protections and cultural protections. When it comes to building stadiums, that is erasing the ability of communities to have a say. There is no consultation required. We have residents in this area who have a strong interest in this.

Wherever you live in Queensland, everybody should be concerned why governments are making decisions like this—governments that campaigned on transparency, trust and, ‘When I say something it means something.’ Well, that is complete—I do not even know where to go with that, without pulling myself up as unparliamentary. That is a complete—

**Mr Whiting:** Fabrication.

**Ms BUSH:** Fabrication. We will leave it at that. They have absolutely been misleading Queenslanders on this—to come in here at the eleventh hour to introduce an amendment like this, to not talk about it. In the time I have left, I say the minister needs to come in here tonight and he needs to explain what these amendments are going to do and what the impact is. Who are we selling off land to? Who is going to benefit from that? What rights do our constituents have? What rights do our small businesses have? Why is there no compensation required? What do they expect will come from this?

This is 64 hectares of public land right in the middle of Brisbane City, one of the last remaining pieces of parkland that we have left, and I think we need to be talking honestly about what we are going to do with that. We are selling this off to developers at a time when we are trying to minimise the influence that developers have in politics and in the Public Service, and we are selling it off to anybody, with no explanation. It is extraordinary! The minister needs to come in here and explain that, get on the record about it, and explain why this was not put forward as part of the substantial bill, why it has been put in here now. There is no way you can tell me that they did not know this was coming. This is intentional and it is intended to mislead the people of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games now just over six years away, this bill could not be more timely, nor more important. It represents a significant step towards ensuring Queensland’s sporting events and infrastructure landscape is prepared not only for the games themselves but also for the decades of legacy that will follow.

The bill strengthens and modernises key components of the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the Major Events Act 2014, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and, through the amendments now circulated, the Racing Act 2002 and the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021. Together, these reforms provide clarity, functionality and consistency in how provisions are applied across our major sports venues and events. There are numerous amendments throughout the bill, and today I will speak to several that are particularly important for my community and for Queensland’s future.

For far too long, our major venues have been constrained by a maze of overlapping state legislation, local government regulations and cumbersome approval processes. These inconsistencies, allowed to persist under the previous Labor government, created uncertainty for operators, frustration for event organisers and lost opportunities for communities. The bill finally brings to an end that confusion.

The bill establishes a clear, streamlined and consistent framework for the lawful use of major sports facilities for special events. That clarity is not just bureaucratic improvement, it is a practical tangible benefit for communities across Queensland. This is especially important for Central Queensland and Rockhampton where the upgraded facility at Browne Park, rescued by the Crisafulli government with an additional \$3.5 million, bringing a total investment of \$63 million, will finally be delivered. Browne Park, a proud home of Central Queensland rugby league, will be able to host events catering for up to 15,000 patrons. This is not just a stadium upgrade, it is an investment in community identity, in regional pride and in the economic communities that come with hosting major events. It is a venue that will attract visitors, support local businesses and showcase the strength of regional Queensland.

Targeted consultation on the bill has been thorough and constructive. Key government agencies, including the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the Department of Justice, have all contributed to shaping these reforms. External stakeholders such as Stadiums Queensland, the City of Gold Coast and the operators of People First Stadium, have also provided valuable insights. This collaborative approach ensures that

the bill is not only legal but also operationally practical. It reflects the real-world needs of those who manage, regulate and rely on our major venues.

This bill ends a decade of irregularities under Labor—irregularities that created uncertainty, delayed investment and stifled the growth of our events industry. By removing unnecessary bureaucracy and modernising outdated processes, this legislation unlocks agility and efficiency. It ensures that taxpayers receive maximum bang for buck with returns on investment through increased event frequency, greater private sector confidence and more opportunities for communities to benefit from major events. This is critically important as we roll out the infrastructure across Queensland for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Let me be very clear: this is not just a games for Brisbane, this is a games for all of Queensland. Regional communities like Rockhampton will proudly host the Paralympic rowing and canoeing on the mighty Fitzroy River, as outlined in the 2032 Delivery Plan. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase our region to the world.

Despite the opposition's attempts to foster confusion and their disdain for extending the Olympics to the regions, particularly Rockhampton, their negativity has only amplified the significance of what will be an incredible world-class event for all Queenslanders. Their resistance reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of what the games represent—unity, opportunity and legacy for the entire state.

The bill also includes important amendments to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 as circulated. In February this year, the government approved that amendments made to the BOPGA in June 2025 be included in this bill. They have been approved. These amendments are essential to facilitating the delivery of designated Olympic and Paralympic venues, villages and games related transport and infrastructure. They ensure that Queensland is ready to successfully host the games and maximise their long-term legacy.

One key amendment clarifies that GIICA—Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority—is responsible for overseeing other venues only when directed by the minister administering chapter 3 of the act. This provides flexibility, allowing certain venues to be prescribed as 'other venues' without requiring GIICA oversight. It ensures the state can effectively monitor and manage these venues while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden.

Further amendments clarify that development may be utilised prior to the commencement of games related use. This is a practical and sensible change. It ensures that infrastructure can be used, tested and refined in the lead-up to 2032, rather than sitting idle until the games officially begin. It supports efficient delivery and maximises community benefit.

This is what makes the Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan so powerful. It sets a clear, achievable path forward after Labor's chaotic attempts, which delivered 1,200 days of inaction and a complete disregard for regional involvement. Labor simply does not prioritise the regions or the people who live in them.

In contrast, our government's plan is grounded in transparency, accountability and statewide opportunity. It ensures that every Queenslander, whether they live in Rockhampton, Keppel, Mirani, Brisbane or beyond, shares in the benefits of hosting the games.

Our region will benefit from the legacy infrastructure across our sporting precincts, increased accommodation capacity, major events leading into the games such as Beef 2027 and Beef 2030, visitation from international Olympic teams, transport upgrades, expanded tourism opportunities and strengthened economic stability. These are real measurable outcomes that will shape the future of Central Queensland.

By far the greatest beneficiary of this bill will be the social licence for my community and for communities across Queensland. People can finally have confidence that they have a government focused on delivering for their future prosperity and wellbeing. This bill is not just about venues or events; it is about restoring trust. It is about empowering regions and ensuring Queensland is ready not just for 2032 but for the decades of opportunities that will indeed follow. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (5.40 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill makes targeted amendments to the way Queensland manages major sports facilities and major events. It aligns special event finishing times at People First Stadium in Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium in Robina with the 10.30 pm standard that already applies at Suncorp. It strengthens provisions against ticket scalping. It modernises unauthorised advertising enforcement in the age of drones. It improves some governance arrangements for Stadiums Queensland.

Before the election, the LNP promised Queenslanders there would be action on cost of living, on health and on housing. We are a little over a year into this government and electricity bills are up, energy rebates have been stripped away, housing pressures are worse, outpatient lists are blowing out and ramping has hit record levels. We were promised a fresh start. Instead, the legislative cupboard is bare. Families who voted for change are still waiting for change. Workers who were promised relief are paying more for power. Patients who were promised shorter waiting lists are waiting longer. This government's agenda is threadbare and it is not listening to people on the—

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title of the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): Member for Miller, I hope you are heading towards talking about the bill. If you can keep it to the content of the bill, that would be appreciated.

**Mr BAILEY:** I certainly am. This government's agenda is threadbare, reduced to debating stadium finishing times and ticket resales. This week the opposition introduced a bill to make transport more affordable for families across Queensland to deliver real cost-of-living relief. Meanwhile, this government is spending its parliamentary time in this debate on when concerts should finish on the Gold Coast.

This is not a bad bill, but it is a small bill. It is a technical bill. It could have been dealt with quickly because it is uncontroversial. The problem is not the content; the problem is what it reveals about this government's priorities and its lack of a serious agenda other than cuts and spending hospital expansion funding on three stadiums that they promised never to build. The finishing time change is straightforward. The bill brings Carrara and Robina into line with Suncorp for special events. It removes constraints that effectively force earlier concert finishes at those venues and sets a clear framework for organisers and patrons.

Queensland's major venues compete for major events. Promoters and tour managers work within fixed scheduling windows. Broadcasting, security, transport and staffing are all run to tight operational plans. When one state has inconsistent rules across its major venues that causes friction, and friction costs events. This bill is seeking to reduce that friction. That is to be acknowledged.

Labor did the groundwork on this bill. That is the simple fact. The former Miles Labor government initiated consultation on extending special event finishing times to 10.30 pm. That was 15 to 16 months ago at least. Labor went to the community and listened. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Now we have Premier Crisafulli simply arriving at the end to claim the credit, just as he is doing on a range of hospital expansions across the state at the moment, whether at Logan, Ipswich, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast or Hervey Bay.

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, if you could bring it back to the scope of the bill, that would be appreciated.

**Mr BAILEY:** The bill also deals with noise approvals in the context of turning up to take the credit for other people's work. It overrides restrictions under other approvals that would otherwise limit special events on noise grounds.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BAILEY:** I do but seek your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. It provides that the general environmental duty is satisfied where prescribed conditions are met. It anticipates the intersection of different approval systems and gives event organisers a clear legal framework, reducing confusion, litigation risk and the prospect of inconsistent decisions.

I note, by contrast, that the government has had ample time to produce the amendments that were put here at the last minute. Let me make some comments about that. Last-minute amendments moved by the government undermine the integrity of legislation. When the Goss government reformed the committee system—this is a unicameral—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is obviously landing because we hear silly interjections from has-been politicians on the other side. What we are seeing here are late amendments not going through the parliamentary committee process and not getting the scrutiny they deserve. They are being slipped in and, of course, why would we not be suspicious of those sly and slippery tactics? It is not just this bill. This has been a constant over the last year with legislation—the government have slipped things in at the last minute

so they can avoid the parliamentary committee process. That is anti-democratic. That is back to the bad old days of Newman and Bjelke-Petersen. It is no different.

The opposition has the absolute right and a duty to raise in this parliament that slippery and sly tactic from Premier Crisafulli which has now become the norm to bypass the parliamentary committee process where departments can look at legislation in detail and government, opposition and crossbench MPs have the opportunity to scrutinise it to ensure the bills do not have inadvertent consequences, to look at all of the implications and to ensure things are not being done on the sly. Once in a blue moon—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is the same old has-beens—all sound, no content on the other side. It is very sad. They defend these anti-democratic tactics that we get from this government, and we are seeing it again here with this bill. We have to ask the question: why is the government, again, slipping amendments in at the last minute? Is it to avoid scrutiny, to get them through, so they cannot be looked at in totality and across the whole perspective of what they might mean? This is the kind of tactic that a dying government often uses, not a new government that is only 15 months old.

**Mr Langbroek:** You'd know!

**Mr BAILEY:** I have been part of a sustainable, long-term government—unlike you, member for Surfers Paradise.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Miller, you will make your comments through the chair. Thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:** My apologies. I was just responding to an interjection, but I certainly should have done it through you.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need any help to talk about the interjections across the floor, thank you.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take your guidance. The opposition has concerns about those sorts of tactics. I know that previous speakers have raised concerns specifically about that, but I will not go over that. Those comments have been made on the record.

It is not good process. It is not good government. When they use these sorts of slippery, sly tactics and they get caught out for doing things that are not acceptable and reasonable, it will come back to bite them at some point. It is unfortunate to see the tactic again being employed with these amendments. It has been employed by the government constantly during its first year in power. Any comfortable government, any secure government, would not be doing those sorts of things. If they had real confidence in what they were doing and why they were doing it, they would be happy to put things through a parliamentary scrutiny process.

That is what the previous government did over three terms. There are rare occasions when a bill needs to be declared urgent, and that is fine. Occasionally that happens. It should not be a constant in this House to avoid scrutiny. I make that point very clearly in relation to this bill. I am sure we will see more of it. I look forward to the consequences of it because at some point it will come back to bite the government, well and truly.

 **Mr BAILIE** (Townsville—LNP) (5.49 pm): I rise to make a modest contribution to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. We are cementing Townsville as the tourism and events capital of the north. Just over the last week Townsville featured as a honeymoon destination on a TV show called *Married at First Sight*. Social media personality David the Medium is having an exclusive show in Townsville and it sold out in one minute. This weekend Townsville Fire will be playing their first game of finals after finishing at the top of the ladder in the WNBL. We wish them the best of luck in their finals campaign.

In addition, we have some major events coming to Townsville, welcoming the Kangaroos for their Rugby League World Cup game versus the Cook Islands and hosting another Rugby Union International game with the Wallabies taking on Japan following the enormous success of the Wallabies versus Argentina which was held last year. The PBR grand finals will be played in Townsville later in the year.

Last week we announced that next year in 2027 we will be hosting four Rugby World Cup games in Townsville, with Georgia versus Romania, Chile versus Hong Kong, Tonga versus Zimbabwe and Spain versus Canada. Of course in 2032 the Crisafulli government is making the games for all of Queensland, with Townsville set to become an Olympic city hosting the sailing against the backdrop of The Strand and Magnetic Island. We are also looking forward to hosting football at our stadium.

There are obviously a lot of benefits in bringing these events to the regions and to Townsville including economic benefits—what it means for small and family business, accommodation, tourism providers as well as the hospitality industry. What is often overlooked is what it means for families to have these events in the regions they live in, providing parents with the opportunity to expose their children to the best the world has to offer; to experience the atmosphere, the excitement; and to see skills on display without the expense and time commitment required for airfares and accommodation. To have these events in their home city makes an enormous difference to regional families.

An important part of having these events is to ensure that tickets are affordable and available for these families. That is why the amendments in this bill regarding ticket scalping are so important. This legislation seeks to increase maximum penalties for ticket scalping under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 to help to ensure that Queensland remains competitive for major sporting and entertainment events.

We also need to ensure that Queensland fans can enjoy world-class events without being ripped off by scalpers. Currently, penalties for reselling tickets to a major sports facility event or a major event at a price greater than 10 per cent above the price of the original ticket is set at 20 penalty points, or just over \$3,000 for an individual and almost \$17,000 for bodies corporate. These existing penalties are an invitation to exploitation. They are well below those in other jurisdictions including New South Wales, which is one of our biggest competitors for major sporting and entertainment events.

The Crisafulli government is finally bringing Queensland into line with the rest of the country and strengthening our position as the events capital of Australia. Promoters of major events rely on strong ticketing protections to safeguard their brands and maintain public confidence in the events they deliver. If we allow scalpers to distort the market, we risk losing world-class content that Queenslanders deserve. The increase in penalties for individuals to just over \$22,000 and bodies corporate to just over \$113,000 will help to ensure that Queensland remains competitive, and it sends a clear message that ticket scalping will not be tolerated. This is a matter of economic fairness. We are aligning our deterrents with the rest of the country to ensure that Queensland remains a premier, trusted destination for global talent.

Furthermore, this bill removes the outdated provision that penalises the buyer of unlawfully resold tickets. Queensland is currently the only state with such a penalty, which ironically acts as a deterrent for victims to report the very scalpers who exploited them. By removing this hurdle, we are empowering consumers to stand up against unfair reselling practices.

I would like to thank the committee, ably led by the member for Lockyer in his role as chair, for the consideration of this bill, and we recognise their recommendation that the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games monitor the effectiveness of increased penalty provisions, including any enforcement or compliance challenges, to ensure that the amendments achieve their desired outcomes and remain fit for purpose. I note that the department has undertaken to work with the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies to monitor the effectiveness of increased maximum penalties for ticket scalping pending the passage of this bill.

By deterring the resale of tickets at inflated prices, we are protecting the social value of our major events and venues and ensuring everyday Queenslanders, the families and fans, no matter where they live or where the event is held across our great state, are not priced out of the events they love. Queensland and Townsville are open for business.

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill currently before the House. When I saw the provisions for this sitting week which had this particular bill—the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—declared an urgent bill, I was a bit surprised. This bill has been sitting on the *Notice Paper* since October last year, but all of a sudden come February this year it is declared urgent. If there are a huge number of bills to get through—which on inspection there is not—so be it. That is the prerogative of the government of the day. Then I saw the amendments come through that need to be passed later tonight. Now it is quite clear to me, and it will be to Queenslanders waking up to this tomorrow, why this is an urgent bill.

There are some amendments there that the community and Queenslanders should have had every right to scrutinise and respond to that are going to pass tonight without any consultation, without any scrutiny. I heard a member over there talk about trust—trust in the government. It is actions like these which actively contravene any community's trust. There are going to be huge implications for communities out there.

Notwithstanding what anyone's view is on the Olympics—the venues, the sports and wherever they are going to be—every single one of those events is going to have an impact on a community, and

those communities deserve the right to have their say. No. That is not what this government does. These are not insubstantial amendments. There are pages and pages of details, maps and schedules. These are not last-minute amendments. This was always planned. This was always going to go through tonight on the last sitting day after the news is broadcast when no-one is going to be paying attention to the news tomorrow. That is not instilling Queenslanders with trust in what this government does.

I know we are on a timeline for 2032 but that should not abrogate any government's responsibility to consult, to make sure that the legacy that is left is not one of destruction. You can have bright, fancy stadiums and no doubt sell off public land to developers—and what a coincidence that this is the week when we allow property developers to give donations to politicians! A plus B equals C. I think Queenslanders know what C is. They know exactly why an amendment like this is going through without any consultation and without any scrutiny. If anyone over there thinks that moves like this are going to promote trust that the community has in the government, they are living on another planet.

I came in here with a wonderful speech about the substantive bill. I heard the member for Miller say that there are some minor amendments to it. They are minor amendments but they have the potential to have a great impact on events, particularly in South-East Queensland. The provision around extending the time for major events at Carrara and Cbus Stadium from 10 to 10.30 means those venues now have a greater chance to host world-class events, so it will bring them into line with Suncorp Stadium.

We know that Suncorp Stadium has a limit on how many events it can have, so enabling venues like Carrara and Cbus to host more events is great for South-East Queensland and the Gold Coast, and I am here for it. The later those concerts can finish, the greater opportunity we have to support our local music industry. Because we usually have Australian artists supporting big bands and that kind of thing, the fact is that we will get to see more Australian bands supporting the bigger ones. We have had quite a few big concerts at Carrara, but having a later finishing time means we can have more support acts. I commend what the Minns government did in New South Wales by making it a requirement to have Australian bands as the support act. We had the Australian music awards. Amyl and the Sniffers got their start—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms McMAHON:** Thank you—by being a support act for Pearl Jam, I think it was, on a tour. Last weekend I went to Laneway and saw Team Jesus and the Jean Teasers. They were originally a support act for Green Day. I know that 30 minutes sounds quite minor, but what that will do for young up-and-coming Australian bands is great.

In line with that, making changes to ticket-scalping laws makes it more competitive for us to get some of those bigger concerts, because it is important to make sure that artists get the money. I know that people always complain about the cost of concerts, but we live in a digital world now. Artists big and small are not getting paid for people buying their albums anymore. They get paid for concert tickets, which is great if you are a live-music fan because it means artists are touring more often. If there is going to be lost revenue because of ticket scalping or ambush advertising, if those performers and touring companies do not have the protection of legislation like this then these are reasons Queensland can be bypassed.

In 2024 we went out to the community and asked, 'What are some changes we can make to stadiums?' Community consultation specifically did make reference to removing the differences between Suncorp Stadium and those two Gold Coast stadiums. Hopefully, with the changes to the events framework in the substantive bill we will see more live music here in South-East Queensland. That is a win for our tourism operators. It is also, thankfully, a win for our live-music scene here in Australia. I look forward to hopefully seeing the next Amyl and the Sniffers as a support act for a band at Cbus.

This quite minor but important bill, particularly for the Gold Coast and its surrounding communities, is being completely overshadowed by amendments that affect a lot of areas throughout Queensland, not just Victoria Park. I note the local members here who are affected by it. You have an amendment that is going to overrule a lot of planning conditions. You have amendments that say 'no compensation is required when we take this land', and that is something the community should have known about rather than it being passed at nine o'clock on a Thursday night.

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (6.04 pm): Today I do stand here not just as a member of parliament; I stand here as a huge supporter and lover of live music and events. I know the potential my region has for world-class sporting events, and I will continue to push for more funding for our Far North Queensland sporting facilities and more events to our region.

The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is another example of how the LNP Crisafulli government is putting regional Queensland first and foremost. This bill updates the Major Sports Facilities Act and the Major Events Act to bring regulations for major sports venues in line with current event industry needs. It allows a clearer, fit-for-purpose regulatory framework so stadiums can host more high-profile special events like concerts under sensible and consistent rules. Most importantly, this bill levels the playing field for sporting and cultural events. It allows Far North Queensland and sporting stadiums to shine, or at least to give our venues the opportunities that we often miss out on under the current legislation.

The bill will push for more regional sporting and cultural events that bring state- and national-level competition to regional areas, because it is time for the rest of the world to see just what we have to offer in Far North Queensland. It evens the regulatory playing field between stadiums and supports equitable development, helping venues outside of Brisbane so that venues can attract headline acts and international events. What this means is more entertainment locally, more investment into our region and more opportunities for locals and tourists to rock out and cheer on their favourite teams without the need to hop on a plane.

For years, Cairns has missed out hosting major headline events even though we have the facilities to do so. We have sporting facilities like the Cairns Convention Centre, the Cairns Showgrounds, Barlow Park and Cazalys Stadium. We have cultural facilities like Munro Martin Parklands, Kuranda Amphitheatre, CPAC and the Cairns Convention Centre. We are home to the best business events venue in Queensland—the Cairns Convention Centre—which has previously supported over \$80 million in direct regional spending. Major events delivered an estimated \$31 million to \$38 million to our regional economy last year and we had 22,721 visitors and 108,000 visitor nights from these events. Business events brought \$42 million to the Tropical North Queensland region last year. Recently we hosted a near-sellout crowd of more than 8,000 passionate cricket fans at Cazalys, and more than 1,700 visitors travelled here specifically for the matches, bringing an estimated \$2.48 million boost to our regional economy. It was an epic event.

While Cairns has been fortunate to host many world-class sporting events, from Crankworx to the Cairns Ironman, this bill will ensure our region remains front and centre, especially when it comes to world-class entertainers. It provides us with the opportunity to host Olympic-size events from downhill mountain biking to soccer and beyond. It also ensures we can lure world-class entertainers to our region. By enabling more concerts and special events, this bill has the potential to drive greater economic activity, more tourism, more hospitality spending and greater visibility for the regions.

On a quick sidenote, I want to commend Tones And I for coming to regional Ingham later this month. This is an epic win for this region. Well done to the member for Hinchinbrook for his advocacy for this, but it should not be a one-off. It was a competition that the town won. We should not be the underdogs. North Queensland and Far North Queensland should be on the touring map each and every time for sports, concerts and world-class events.

My community is really passionate about sport and entertainment. I recently launched a survey for support for the sporting infrastructure in the region. Hundreds of locals have shared their thoughts on our inadequate sporting infrastructure. The message from them is clear: we want, and deserve, more sporting infrastructure. As the assistant minister for the creative industries, events, live music and the arts are things I am really passionate about. Last year I launched a petition to change the legislation about live music in our pubs and clubs, because right now sound regulation laws and expensive acoustic reports are impeding local venues and it has killed the night-life economy in our region and in our state. This generation of musicians is not getting the stage time they need to be the next Powder Finger or the next Veronicas, so I do hope these are changes our government may make in the near future. If you have not signed my petition, please join the hundreds of people in Far North Queensland who have. I will keep advocating for Queensland musicians and live-music venues so we can make the changes that we need.

I go back to sports. Under the former government, we missed out on vital funding across our grassroots sports. Under the former government, not a single cent was given to our sporting community in Barron River in the last decade, other than through community grants. This is not good enough. My local clubs have missed out: the Redlynch Strikers have no clubhouse; Barron Valley Gymnastics have damaged facilities from the Jasper floods and an inadequate facility; the Stratford Dolphins have no lighting and an inadequate clubhouse and change room facilities; the Marlin Coast Rangers have broken grandstands; and the Northern Beaches Heat Basketball have no home courts. I could go on and on. The lack of female change rooms, the lack of adequate facilities and the lack of training grounds

are all realities for Far North Queensland. Our government sees Far North Queensland. Our clubs are begging for a chance to represent the state on a larger scale.

**Ms FARMER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member may be straying from the long title of the bill. I seek your guidance.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Marr): I will take some advice. Member for Barron River, what you are talking about is quite broad so can you please return to the long title of the bill when you can.

**Ms JAMES:** Our clubs are begging for a chance to represent the state on a larger scale, to host local and national events and to provide our young athletes with the opportunity to witness the thrill of world-class sporting events. Between our incredible location and tourism offerings—and our humidity training which no other location in the state can offer—Far North Queensland has an opportunity to shine. This legislation will assist large-scale events to succeed. This bill will provide my region and other regional Queensland cities with a chance to get in the games. That is why I give my full support to the bill.

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The core objective of this bill is to deliver an effective and efficient regulatory regime for our state's major assets, ensuring they provide maximum social and economic benefits for all Queenslanders. As a government, we are committed to statutory body best practice which ensures our institutions operate with the governance, accountability and commercial agility required in a modern economy. This bill provides a series of pragmatic amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 that unlock the full potential of our state.

Firstly, we are lifting the bureaucratic handbrake on our regional venues. By overriding liquor licensing restrictions and local law noise constraints, we are unlocking the untapped potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast. This is not only a local issue; it is also a matter of economic productivity for our whole state. By making our regional venues competitive with Brisbane, we strengthen Queensland's reputation as a premier destination for high-profile touring artists and international events. More events across multiple cities means more visitors, more tourism and more economic activity flowing through our hospitality, transport and retail sectors. It also complements the work we are doing under Destination 2045 to secure Queensland's place as the events capital. It ensures Queenslanders everywhere have better access to world-class cultural and sporting events, promoting the social and cultural life of the whole state. This bill demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP government's unwavering commitment to streamlining major events delivered by modernising legislation, ensuring it is fit for purpose. By making our venues competitive, we maximise opportunities for all of Queensland, not just one city.

The Crisafulli LNP government is securing Queensland's reputation as the events capital of the country, and this legislation complements the work being done through Destination 2045. This bill helps remove barriers that have limited our major venues. It enables us to meet community expectations and ensures Queensland's reputation is maintained. On the road to the 2032 games, we want to showcase Queensland as the home of major events in Australia, and this bill makes sure that we will remove the red tape created by the former Labor government, in the process making Queensland a world-class destination for entertainment, too.

Secondly, this bill delivers a strike for market integrity. We are significantly increasing the maximum penalties for unlawful ticket reselling or ticket scalping. By raising these fines to over \$113,000 for corporations, we are sending a clear message that predatory behaviour has no place in our market. The Crisafulli government is ensuring that access to tickets is more equitable and that fans are protected from those who seek to profit by distorting the market.

Thirdly, the Crisafulli LNP government is modernising our oversight through institutional accountability. The contemporary board arrangements for Stadiums Queensland will ensure strong oversight while giving operators the commercial agility to respond efficiently to new opportunities. We are also ensuring that our laws keep pace with modern technology by including drones under ambush marketing provisions, safeguarding the commercial value that sponsors and organisers bring to our state. This bill removes outdated restrictions and introduces practical, modern measures that ensure Queensland's stadiums remain competitive, vibrant and trusted. It positions the state as a leader in hosting major events, enriching cultural life, supporting local jobs and boosting tourism across Queensland.

With the upcoming 2032 Olympic Games and events being held in regional locations, this will provide lasting legacies to our regional communities. This will also boost our economies and provide

employment opportunities prior, during and after the Olympic Games. Queensland is uniquely positioned to attract significant sporting events in the lead-up to and following the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Events in our communities showcase our lifestyle and culture.

My electorate of Maryborough—to be known as Olympic-borough during the games—is continuing to buzz with excitement that we have been chosen to host the archery events for the 2032 Olympic Games. The archery communities and businesses within Maryborough have already noticed a surge of interest in archery. One of our archery groups has been chosen to host the 2028 world titles in Olympic-borough. This will bring around 700 competitors, their support teams, family, friends and tourists. It will be fantastic for Maryborough, Hervey Bay, the Fraser Coast and the whole Wide Bay. This event will be the forerunner for the 2032 Olympic archery event being held in Olympic-borough.

This bill removes outdated, complex restrictions and replaces them with practical, modern measures. It ensures Queensland remains competitive, vibrant and trusted by the global events industry. By using clear, unambiguous language in our regulatory framework, we improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our major event declarations, ensuring we continue to attract and retain the very best contact for Queenslanders. This bill is just another example of how the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to streamlining major events delivery by modernising legislation and ensuring it is fit for purpose.

I would like to thank our government for including regional Queensland in the 2032 Olympic journey. I thank the honourable minister, Tim Mander, the department, the committee and everyone else for their hard work. I have no hesitation in supporting and recommending the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. It is a relatively straightforward one. I want to start by raising my concerns about the way late amendments have been added to this bill. Only an hour or so ago, the Crisafulli LNP government added a range of venues including the Brisbane Athlete Village, the Gabba arena, the Wave stages 1, 2 and 3, the Mooloolah River Interchange stages 1 and 2, Coomera Connector stage 2, Cairns western arterial and Shute Harbour recreational boating facility to a legislative schedule that switches off normal planning, heritage and environment laws. For Queenslanders who live nearby that will mean no development application process, no public notification period, no formal opportunity to lodge objections, no third-party appeal rights, no independent review and no transparency.

These amendments are significant, but for some reason they have been rushed. We have been given only a few hours notice and there has been zero scrutiny and zero committee process. I have to ask: why is that? What is the government trying to hide? I would have thought the government would be up-front and a bit more transparent about these significant changes. It certainly does not look good; it looks very dodgy, and a committee process would have rightly shone a light on these amendments.

Before the election the LNP promised to be up-front and transparent with Queenslanders, so why are they dodging parliamentary scrutiny? What is going on? These projects are not just bypassing planning, heritage and environment laws; they are bypassing proper parliamentary scrutiny. The Crisafulli LNP government is exempting itself from the parliamentary committee process in order to avoid public submissions—perhaps embarrassing public submissions; we will not know—expert evidence and independent examination. Major generational infrastructure should withstand committee scrutiny, not be shielded from it with dodgy parliamentary tactics by the LNP. What should have been a reasonably straightforward bill will now raise suspicion amongst Queenslanders and the question is: why did the LNP do this?

I will move on to the bill. I want to start by acknowledging the importance of major events to Queensland's cultural life, our visitor economy and international reputation. Our stadiums and event precincts have become places where Queenslanders come together, whether for sports, concerts or major international events. This is particularly important as we move towards Brisbane 2032, a once-in-a-lifetime event that will showcase Queensland to the world.

Labor also supports the ongoing work to ensure our facilities remain competitive and attractive to promoters, performers and sports bodies. We want Queensland to host more major events and get the international recognition it deserves. While this bill contains elements that we broadly support, there are some areas where assurances are needed to ensure that communities, local governments and stakeholders remain properly consulted and that all sports benefit from the bill, not just the major codes. Frankly, with the way these amendments have been brought in today, the LNP are not off to a great start.

Firstly, the bill proposes a new regulatory framework for concerts at major sporting facilities, particularly on the Gold Coast, including the ability to harmonise noise conditions and operating hours. All members of this House recognise that supporting more concerts and big events delivers economic and cultural value. The Gold Coast in particular has long sought consistency with Suncorp Stadium operating times, and we support that. However, it is also important that we do not unintentionally override local voices or planning safeguards without adequate community consultation—something a committee process would have been perfect for. Residents living near these facilities deserve clarity about how noise, traffic and public safety impacts will be mitigated. Considering the actions today of the LNP government, they need to double down and commit to more consultation. The government has indicated that consultation would occur when the regulation is amended, but it is critical that this consultation is genuine, transparent and thorough. Communities need confidence that changes to operating conditions will balance economic opportunities with neighbourhood amenity. We want to ensure the state works closely with councils, operators and residents to deliver that balance.

Secondly, the bill strengthens penalties for ticket scalping while also removing penalties for purchasers. Stronger penalties can protect fans, improve fairness and enhance confidence in our events sector. As with any regulatory change, the success of these reforms will rely on enforcement and industry cooperation. We encourage the government to ensure that appropriate resources and monitoring processes accompany the increased penalties so that fans truly benefit and that it is made clear to the community that buyers will no longer be penalised.

The bill also updates several governance provisions for Stadiums Queensland, including the appointment of a deputy chair, changes to board vacancy management and updates to reflect contemporary statutory body standards. We encourage the government to ensure that governance changes remain consistent with robust public sector standards and that decision-making remains transparent to the community.

Updating ambush-marketing provisions to include drones and other emerging technologies is also a practical change. Whilst these adjustments appear technical, they will also contribute to Queensland's reputation as a reliable and well-regulated events destination.

As we look ahead to the Olympics, it is important our approach to stadium regulation fits into a broader vision for transport precinct development, community engagement and, importantly, legacy outcomes. Stadium regulation does not operate in isolation; it intersects with transport planning, pedestrian movements, security arrangements, land use and long-term community activation. We encourage the government to ensure regulatory changes are part of an integrated planning framework that maximises both the immediate benefits and the long-term legacy for local communities.

In this context of precinct planning, I must talk about the lack of support being provided to two core Olympic sports—namely, badminton and table tennis. As honourable members may be aware, I have long been a passionate advocate for these sports in my electorate. Badminton and table tennis are amongst the fastest growing sports in Queensland, driven by our state's vibrant, diverse communities. In Stretton I have seen firsthand how these sports bring people together, promote healthy lifestyles and showcase the incredible talent of our young players. With participation in badminton in Queensland increasing by 86 per cent and table tennis by 69 per cent in the last five years alone, now is the time to invest in the facilities and sporting pathways that will allow Queensland to become a national powerhouse in these core Olympic sports in the lead-up to the Olympics.

There is real potential for our elite athletes in Queensland to compete in table tennis at Brisbane 2032 and go for gold. However, this will clearly require enhanced training facilities, both to support local athletes and for international Olympians who may choose to undertake pre-games training in Queensland prior to the games. This would also encourage national and international tournaments to relocate to Queensland.

In June 2025 I wrote to the Minister for Sport asking that the government investigate development of a multisports facility, with a specific focus on badminton and table tennis, in or around my electorate, where the community loves table tennis and badminton, to meet the demand for these growing sports. It would also create opportunities to attract tournaments and training camps and allow Brisbane to become a centre of excellence for badminton and table tennis nationally. Unfortunately, the response from the minister does not address these requests and it is unclear at this point what will be provided for these two sports, but I will keep fighting on behalf my community.

I would encourage that these two core Olympic sports be considered in the context of this bill. I will continue to work with Queensland Badminton Association and Table Tennis Queensland to support their efforts. We want Queensland to thrive as an international events destination. We want our

stadiums to be well used, well governed and welcoming to promoters and performers from around the world. We support the bill but, at the same time, Queenslanders deserve reassurance that community expectations are met including ensuring that key Olympic growth sports such as badminton and table tennis are catered for.

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.28 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. In particular, I will be directing my comments towards the amendments that have been circulated that amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 transport schedule.

If honourable members talk to any sportsperson they will be told how a crowd can impact performance. The home team advantage is a real thing: a cheering crowd can lift athletes to a higher level of performance, just like in question time here. Tokyo 2020, which was held in 2021 due to COVID, was a spectacular event, but the lack of a crowd made it feel like there was something missing. If we reflect on the train wreck that was the so-called planning for the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games under the previous Labor government, it is clear to me that the importance of having a roaring crowd in the stands was lost on them. They were in such turmoil over the location of this stadium that they ignored the importance of being able to get the crowd to the stadium. To see this, members have only to look at the member for Murrumba's fantastic idea to build a new temporary stadium at QEII. With no rail line anywhere close by, a long line of buses multiple kilometres long would have been needed to service the venue. It was never going to work. Worse than that, it would deliver no legacy benefits for Queenslanders at all.

That is why the Crisafulli government delivered our 2032 Delivery Plan. It has been so welcomed by Queenslanders right up and down the coast. We know that Queenslanders across the board are welcoming of the certainty and the vision provided by the 2032 Delivery Plan and at last the planning chaos has been replaced with a clear vision and, importantly, action. The confusion and the delay are over.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr MICKELBERG:** If you look through the delivery plan you will see that it is not just a list of venues; it also includes important transport infrastructure that will not only facilitate the movement of crowds to and from the events for the Olympics but also deliver a transport legacy that Queenslanders will benefit from long after the athletes have left. To my mind, that is the biggest reason Queenslanders should be excited for when Brisbane and Queensland host the games in 2032.

Queensland was awarded the games in July 2021. The Olympic and Paralympic Games are usually awarded seven years in advance, but for the first time we were given a 10-year runway to prepare. It was like competing in a 100-metre sprint and getting a three-second head start. Unfortunately, under those opposite the first three years were wasted. What do we have to show for it? Nothing. In sport they call that a false start. It is so important that we get on with the job of building the necessary infrastructure, whether that is transport or venue infrastructure or the athletes villages, expeditiously. There is no time to waste and that is why these amendments are being considered tonight.

I note the critical comments of those opposite about these amendments. These amendments would not be needed if those opposite were not running the race previously in slow motion, particularly when it comes to transport infrastructure. Had they not wasted the three years when we were first awarded the games before we came to office, we would be in a better place to deliver the games. I have to ask the question: just exactly what did the member for Aspley do when he was a member of the former Labor government? I know it is not the first time he has been asked that question this week. I heard him on Steve Austin yesterday when he was asked, 'What exactly did the member for Aspley do in the former government?' Many people are asking the same question, but it is a relevant question because it was not planning for the Olympic and the Paralympic Games.

**Mr Dick:** Rubbish!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** It was not planning for the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. I hear the interjections from the former treasurer, who did not fund this and did not deliver the infrastructure needed—failed to deliver, including for his own community, I might add. He did not get work started on Logan to Gold Coast faster rail. It is an LNP government that is delivering for the member for Woodridge's community. The LNP government is delivering Logan to Gold Coast faster rail—something that those opposite should have championed, wanted to deliver but did not get on with the job.

Seriously, I want to address the attack which we heard from the member for Aspley earlier trying to throw mud and slander in a completely unparliamentary way and an unfounded and non-factual way, and I want to be very clear: these amendments are about fast-tracking delivery of infrastructure that is needed to support the games. Whether that is transport infrastructure, whether that is games venues or athletes villages, that is what these amendments do. I might add that these amendments only add these projects into a schedule for the legislation which was debated last year which those opposite had plenty of time to consider, but they want to come in here and they want to throw mud because that is all they have. They cannot stand on their record. They would rather come in here and throw mud because they know they do not have a record to stand on, but we will deliver a successful games in 2032 and we will deliver the infrastructure required.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about some of the projects that are included in the amendments that have been circulated. We all recall the commitment that Labor made regarding heavy rail to the Sunshine Coast—Beerwah to Caloundra by 2015 and to Maroochydore by 2020. That is Labor's promise—to Caloundra by 2015 and Maroochydore by 2020. 2015 came and 2015 went—no rail line, no work. Then 2020 came and 2020 went—still no rail line. Finally, after the LNP had committed to it before the last election, Labor decided that it might be time to have a think about it, but only to Caloundra. It wanted to turn Caloundra into a car park. That was Labor's plan.

The new member for Caloundra knew that turning Caloundra into a car park was not a great plan. She listened to her community. She could see that it was a half-baked idea and, thankfully, her community supported her and now we have an energetic, hardworking local member for Caloundra delivering the Wave all the way through to the Sunshine Coast Airport. I ask members to note that this amendment does not just include rail to Caloundra, or the Wave stage 1 as it is known; it also includes the Wave stage 2 and stage 3 all the way to Maroochydore and on to the Sunshine Coast Airport—something that Labor did not even think of delivering. Labor has never spoken about going all the way to the airport. We can only focus on its failure to get to Caloundra and to Maroochydore. Every Sunshine Coast local knows it, and it is its failure nonetheless. In contrast, our government has hit the ground running. We are building the Wave all the way to Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast Airport.

As they say in the classics, there is more. The Mooloolah River Interchange was abandoned by the federal Labor Party—abandoned by the federal government after funding was withdrawn. In fact, one of the first actions of the member for Aspley as the transport minister was to roll over on the Mooloolah River Interchange. He said, 'Oh, well,' and did not put up a fight. It was a bit like when they cut funding for the Bruce Highway—said it was going to be fifty-fifty, gave up on 80-20. Those opposite cannot stand up to the CFMEU and they will not stand up to their Labor mates in Canberra, and it is Queenslanders who pay the price. By contrast, our Crisafulli LNP government will build the Mooloolah River Interchange—the same Mooloolah River Interchange that those opposite gave up on—and work has already started. Work has already started.

Further north we are also upgrading the Cairns Western Arterial Road—and, boy, haven't we seen an own goal this week from the member for Cairns when it comes to the Cairns Western Arterial Road? He was on the news last night lamenting that that project was sent back to the drawing board. It was disclosed to him by the federal Labor government—shock, horror! If there was ever an example of how a little bit of information was a dangerous thing, this is it. The project was sent back to the drawing board. He is correct: it was sent back to the drawing board by federal Labor, but the emphasis there is on 'was': it was sent back to the drawing board in 2023 under the former Labor government.

Has the member for Cairns been hiding under a rock for all of those years? He was in cabinet, mind you. Remember, he was in cabinet. Maybe he was just too busy posting on social media. Maybe the member for Cairns should instead be getting up in this chamber and apologising to the people of Cairns for accidentally forgetting to point out to the media that it was his government that mucked up and failed the planning for that critical project, that it was the abject project mismanagement of the former Labor state government that resulted in its federal Labor mates losing confidence and its ability to deliver the project. So we have added the Cairns Western Arterial Road into the list of projects that Labor could never deliver but our side will.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a great opportunity to showcase Queensland to the world, and I think there is no better example of this than sailing in the Whitsundays—and sailing in Townsville as well, for that matter. Labor wanted the games to be a South-East Queensland party alone, but I can tell members one person who wanted these games to be for all of Queensland, and that is the member for Whitsunday. She has been fighting for her community, and we think that sailing in the Whitsundays is a great idea for the 2032 Olympics, but we need the facilities to match. That is why our

government supports upgrades to the Shute Harbour boating facilities, and that is why they are contained in these amendments as well.

Finally, let us have a look at the Coomera Connector. We are getting on with the job of progressing stage 2 of this project and I can tell you categorically, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, that stage 2 is going to be different from stage 1. We are not going to let the project costs double as they did under stage 1 by those weak, incompetent Labor ministers. We will do the proper planning. We will not be beholden to union masters like the CFMEU. The BPIC CFMEU tax will not apply to the Coomera Connector stage 2. We will deliver it on time and on budget. We have a plan to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games for all Queenslanders. Whether that is the venues or whether that is the transport infrastructure, our government is getting on with the job. I commend the bill to the House.

 Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.39 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and, in particular, the amendments to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 being rammed through the parliament tonight on obscenely short notice. Let me start by saying this: 'Loopy, baby, loopy.' Fresh from abusing the International Olympic Committee, fresh from attacking World Rowing, fresh from ignoring the president of the board of the Brisbane Organising Committee, Andrew Liveris, who now says that because of the LNP's delivery plan the budget for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 bears 'no resemblance to reality', our state's arrogant, pantomime Deputy Premier is seeking to rush amendments through the House tonight with the barest of public scrutiny. What I say to that is, 'Loopy, baby, loopy', because if there is one thing this state's pantomime Deputy Premier abhors it is proper public scrutiny of his decision-making. We know that by his arrogant dismissal of and disregard for Queenslanders—in fact, anyone who disagrees with him on anything to do with Olympic infrastructure. Remember what he said about Queenslanders at the beginning of this year: 'Loopy.' What a way to treat your fellow Queenslanders. What a way to treat someone who has a different view to you. So much for transparency, openness and accountability and all of the nonsense from the Premier about listening to Queenslanders. When Queenslanders want to say something, what do they get from the Deputy Premier? They get 'Loopy' from our arrogant, pantomime Deputy Premier. The only thing loopy is the way the Deputy Premier treats Queenslanders and treats this parliament.

As we all know, today the Crisafulli LNP government has added several major projects to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act. It means that these projects will not be subject to the normal planning, heritage and environmental laws. The additional projects that will not be subject to normal approval processes include the Brisbane Athlete Village and the Gabba arena—whatever that is. The Deputy Premier has completely punted the public interest and handed it all over to private interest.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** It is a horror; that is right. It is a horrible way to treat what should have been one of the centrepieces of Olympic infrastructure. He has punted public interest, he has handed it holus-bolus over to private interest and we do not know anything about it because his mate the CEO of Economic Development Queensland is running it. He was walking around here getting his riding instructions. So much for being independent of the Deputy Premier!

Another major project added to the arrangements act is the Wave, stages 1, 2 and 3. Remember this from the Premier and the pantomime deputy: no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts, heavy rail to Maroochydore by 2032. What are the people getting on the Sunshine Coast? A bus! As the shadow minister for transport said earlier, they are not even getting a bus; they are getting an AI image of a bus. That is all they are getting at the moment. That was nonsense from the Premier and the Deputy Premier on the Sunshine Coast. The Deputy Premier stabbed his own community in the back. He promised black and blue the heavy rail: no ifs, no buts, no maybes. He said that everybody knows it can be built by 2032. It was just more nonsense from him. It was dishonesty to get elected. If I have said it once, I have said 100 times: if the Premier says something it means something else or it means nothing.

Also added to the act are the Mooloolah River Interchange, the Coomera Connector Stage 2, the Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrade and the Shute Harbour recreational boating facility. Why? It is because this government does not want the cost of those projects, in particular the Olympics infrastructure projects, to be examined by a parliamentary committee.

Andrew Liveris was absolutely dead on the money when he said to the IOC in a plenary session that the budget, both operational and capital, has no connection with reality. What is the budget? The president of the organising committee knows. They are rushing this through the House with no public scrutiny because they do not want to talk about it.

The inclusion of those projects in the arrangements act means there will be no development application process, no public notification period, no formal opportunity to lodge objections, no third-party appeal rights, no independent review and no transparency. What does that mean? It means that Queenslanders are in the dark. The community has every right to question this process. The community has every right to ask when we will be consulted. The answer from the Deputy Premier is, 'Crush, baby, crush. We will crush you and your right to be heard and your right to be consulted. We will crush your voice.' The community has the right to ask how they will be involved in shaping projects that will transform our suburbs and communities for generations. The answer from the Deputy Premier is, 'Crush, baby, crush. We have no interest in your view and your voice.'

**Mrs KIRKLAND:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the long title. He has prattled on long enough.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I think there has been a bit of latitude extended on both sides through a succession of speakers. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, are you speaking to particular clauses or amendments that you can identify?

**Mr DICK:** Yes, I am speaking to all of the amendments that ram all of these infrastructure projects into the act without proper public scrutiny.

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

**Mr DICK:** Thank you. I appreciate it, Deputy Speaker. I know I got under the skin of the member for Rockhampton today.

The community has a right to know. Under this magic schedule, the reality is stark. Once a project is added to it, planning, heritage and state environmental laws no longer apply. It is a legislative invisibility cloak. Add it to the schedule and planning process is gone, community consultation process is gone and transparency and accountability are gone. Do members remember the big promise from the Premier: openness, transparency, accountability? Out the window it goes. We are told the 2032 Delivery Plan provides certainty. It provides certainty that the public will not get any more detail than what is in the LNP's glossy Delivery Plan brochure. For the LNP, scrutiny is now classified as delay. For the LNP and the Deputy Premier, community input is now red tape. For the LNP and the Deputy Premier, accountability is apparently chaos. So much for the Premier's promise! If I have said it once, I have said it 100 times: when the Premier says something it means something else or it means nothing at all.

The part that really matters is the funding envelope. Queenslanders are being kept in the dark. The organising committee knows what is happening to the budget for operational costs for the Olympics and for the capital cost. These are nine locations that have not only a capital consequence but also an operating consequence. That is what Andrew Liveris said. While the government is busy switching off planning, switching off heritage and switching off environmental laws, it keeps promising on-time, on-budget, disciplined delivery. Cost blowouts love closed rooms. Scope creep thrives without sunlight. That is why these projects are being hidden from the people of Queensland. If everything is comfortably within the funding envelope, what does this government have to hide? Why not send it to a parliamentary committee? They do not want hard questions asked.

Everyone in Queensland wants this Olympic Games to be successful and to be the subject of appropriate scrutiny. We know that everywhere in the world the Olympics has been held budgets blow out. Queenslanders deserve to know because Andrew Liveris knows, but the government will not tell us: 'Trust the LNP, trust the LNP's brochure, trust the LNP's timeline and trust the LNP's budget.' At least Andrew Liveris has told the truth about what is happening to the capital and operating costs for the Olympics.

Queenslanders are generous, but they are not naive and they are not stupid. We all want a successful games. We all want a lasting legacy. We all want infrastructure that works. However, legacy is about more than concrete and steel. Legacy is where the decisions are made in the open, not tucked inside a schedule where all rules disappear. Queenslanders deserve a games delivered on time, on budget and, most importantly, in plain sight.

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (7.49 pm): Tonight I rise to speak in strong support of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and the circulated amendments. This outlines what Queensland has been screaming for. After 1,200 days of inaction by those opposite, the Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with the job. This matters for communities like mine in Redcliffe. At its core, this bill is about ensuring that our major sports and entertainment infrastructure delivers maximum social and economic benefit to all Queenslanders. The core objectives of the bill are to deliver

effective and efficient regulatory regimes for our state's major assets, ensuring they provide maximum social and economic benefits for all Queenslanders. That is what the legislation seeks to achieve.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 established Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for owning, managing and promoting our state's major venues. These facilities are the lifeblood of our sports and entertainment sectors. They host everything from international cricket to world-class concerts. They generate tourism and events. They support local jobs. They create community pride. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will create a legacy for Brisbane and Queensland that will reap benefits for generations to come.

For the City of Moreton Bay, I am excited to see a commitment to build an indoor stadium at the Petrie campus of UniSC, soon to be known as Moreton Central. After the games, this will become home to one of Brisbane's major sporting teams, yet to be announced. If Queensland can confidently host more major events across multiple locations, we will attract more visitors and more tourism, and more economic activity will flow through the hospitality, retail and transport sectors. That activity does not stop at the stadium gates. It ripples across the state, including into communities like Redcliffe.

Redcliffe is a proud sporting community. We are home to the Redcliffe Dolphins, a club with deep roots and now a national reach through the NRL. They are playing tonight—Phins up! Go the Dolphins! We have the Redcliffe Tigers AFL club, the Redcliffe Hockey Club, the Peninsula Power FC, the Redcliffe Leagues Netball Association, the Redcliffe SeaSnakes, softball, baseball, the SSG Multisports, Australia's largest pickleball courts at Focus Tennis Academy, cricket and touch football, all of which help to shape the next generation. A kid in sport is a kid out of court.

Next year we will welcome the globe with the largest sporting event in the City of Moreton Bay's history when we host the Softball World Cup championships at Talobilla Park in Redcliffe. Thank you to the minister for injecting money into that event. When Queensland strengthens its position as the events capital of Australia, we strengthen pathways for our young athletes. Increased event frequency at our major venues means more curtain-raisers, more junior showcases and more community partnerships. It means more opportunities for Redcliffe kids to see elite sport up close and aspire to be—or actually be—a part of it.

The bill is also about statutory body best practice. As outlined, we are ensuring our institutions operate with strong governance and commercial agility. Modern board arrangements for Stadiums Queensland will provide strong oversight while enabling operators to respond efficiently to new opportunities. That is critical as we move towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Queensland must be presented as a unified, streamlined and globally competitive destination. This legislation modernises outdated restrictions and ensures our framework is fit for purpose. It complements the broader Destination 2045 strategy and positions Queensland to attract and retain world-class content. For Redcliffe, that matters.

Major events in Brisbane and across South-East Queensland bring visitors to the peninsular to stay in accommodation such as the Komo, the Sebel at Margate, the Kippa Ring Village Motel, the Scarborough Beach Resort, the Redcliffe Motor Inn and hopefully, one day, the Dolphins hotel. Those people dine in our wonderful cafes along the waterfront and explore our local attractions such as Brisbane Whale Watching on the magnificent Moreton Bay. When Suncorp Stadium, the Gabba or other venues host high-profile events, our peninsula benefits from overflow tourism and increased visitation. We are only 20 minutes from the Brisbane international airport.

The bill also safeguards market integrity. It significantly increases maximum penalties for unlawful ticket reselling. In the past those penalties have been insufficient deterrents. The reforms raise the penalties for individuals to just over \$22,000 and for corporations to over \$113,000. That sends an unequivocal message: predatory ticket scalping will not be tolerated in Queensland. By deterring the resale of tickets at inflated prices, we are protecting the social value of our major venues and ensuring that everyday Queenslanders are not priced out of events. In Redcliffe, that matters.

Families save hard to take their children to State of Origin, buy Dolphins membership and go to major concerts or finals matches. Sporting events are not luxuries; they are shared cultural moments. They are father-and-son traditions, mother-and-daughter milestones and team celebrations for our junior clubs at the end of a season. Importantly, the bill also removes the outdated provision that penalised the buyer of unlawfully resold tickets. This reform empowers consumers rather than punishes victims. It ensures that families in my electorate of Redcliffe who unknowingly purchase an overpriced ticket are treated not as offenders but as Queenslanders deserving protection.

The legislation further modernises our oversight of major events, including by ensuring our laws keep pace with emerging technologies such as drones under ambush-marketing provisions. That

protects the commercial value sponsors and organisers bring to our state, ensuring ongoing investment and confidence. This is a comprehensive reform package. It removes outdated, complex restrictions and replaces them with practical, modern measures. It provides clarity. It enhances consistency. It strengthens deterrence. It improves competitiveness.

For Redcliffe sporting clubs, this bill supports a thriving statewide sporting ecosystem. A strong major events sector drives participation, sponsorship and aspiration at grassroots level. When young players from the Redcliffe Dolphins Juniors or Peninsula Power see Queensland host international fixtures and global artists, it reinforces that our state is a place of opportunity. For local businesses from Scarborough to Woody Point and from Margate to Clontarf, greater event activity right across the south-east means increased trade, particularly during peak tourism periods, coming to check out our Bee Gees Way. For Queensland as a whole, this bill ensures our infrastructure investment delivers maximum return. It ensures our regulatory framework is efficient, unambiguous and commercially realistic. It strengthens our ability to compete with other states for major content and it protects consumers from exploitative practices.

This legislation is about more than finishing times or penalty units. It is about providing confidence for promoters, confidence for investors, confidence for the construction industry and confidence for fans as well as helping to create a legacy for Queensland that we can all be proud of. It is about ensuring Queensland remains competitive, vibrant and trusted by the global events industry. It is about ensuring communities such as mine in Redcliffe—communities that love sport, family, local pride and legacy—share in the benefits of a thriving major events sector. I commend the bill to the House. Phins up!

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (7.59 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. When the original bill went before committee it basically addressed Labor's homework. We did the homework on all of this. How do we change these stadiums? How do we improve their times for events? How do we link this to Suncorp and others? Those opposite polished it up and brought it in, it went to the committee, there was scrutiny of it and there were no problems.

It was all fine and then the bombshell hit. We received the amendments 10 minutes before we were set to debate the bill. The amendments look nothing like the provisions that were in the original bill that went before the committee. In fact, there are amendments in here that are slimy, that are sneaky and that are made in haste when haste is not required. There is no justification whatsoever for such urgency to change the provisions.

When we were elected in 2015 the racing industry was on its knees and Alan MacSporran delivered to our government a damning report which demanded that the greyhound industry and the racing industry clean up their act. We inherited that after three years of LNP government doing absolutely nothing to address the issues in the racing industry. The MacSporran recommendations demanded that integrity and public confidence be restored to the industry. The industry was dealt a significant blow under those opposite, particularly by allegations of live animals being used to bait dogs.

It was a significant piece of work and his report made 15 recommendations. The report highlighted the shocking details which could not be ignored. The then Labor government acted. He found that the racing industry's efforts to self-regulate had been a failure and that we needed to put integrity, animal welfare and safety at the forefront. His report showed that Racing Queensland had operated in an environment in which it could not adequately access and deal with the risks to integrity and animal welfare.

He made a number of recommendations around QRIC being established. With those 15 recommendations we changed the racing industry from being on its knees to one of the most dynamic racing industries in Australia. We led the nation. It was amazing what we did. We took them out of debt. Prize money increased. Integrity was improved. An incredible amount of work was done.

After an embarrassing delay with regard to the Queensland Racing Review—I think the minister got a clip over the ear when it comes to some of the recommendations in it—and after MacSporran had to clean up an industry on its knees by making 15 recommendations, this review report makes 110 recommendations. It was delayed because some of those recommendations were so controversial and so loopy that even his own team could not agree and they had to be removed.

When I became minister I spoke to Mr MacSporran about his recommendations regarding the board. To ensure we had integrity within the board he recommended a board of seven. Recommendation 2 stated—

Four (4) of the members are to be entirely independent of the racing industry during the period of board membership and to have had no relevant connection to the racing industry (ownership of horses or greyhounds or membership of a race club or organisation) for a period of at least two (2) years prior to appointment.

We could have experience on the board but board members could not have had direct connection with the industry for two years. When I spoke to him about why he recommended that he said that they could declare an interest but it is inherent. He said it is very difficult not to act in your own interests even though you may have declared an interest.

What are the amendments that have been circulated with no notice at all? They have picked up four of the recommendations. There has been no consultation. The industry is still getting its head around the 110 recommendations. Those opposite claim that urgent amendments are required to the Racing Act to change the board appointments. They are now removing all of the MacSporran integrity recommendations with regard to board appointments. They are now allowing anybody who is connected to the industry on the board. There were industry and non-industry representatives on the board. We had three industry people who represented the harness, greyhound and thoroughbred industries. The non-industry people could be the chair or deputy chair.

These amendments have been introduced without any scrutiny. This government that came in talking about transparency and accountability is putting through amendments with absolutely no notice, no discussion and no consultation. Not even the animal welfare groups that may have wanted to be heard in relation to these amendments are going to have the ability to have their say. The minister will be appointing industry people as chairs, deputy chairs and board members and will increase the number on the board to nine. MacSporran is out the door. It is an absolute disgrace that these amendments are being moved without any consultation and without any scrutiny whatsoever. It is absolutely breathtaking and an absolute disgrace.

The minister should hang his head in shame. He was embarrassed when they brought down this report. He could not even get the simplest things through when it came to funding. We now have these amendments being slipped through without any consultation. Any decent government would have ensured they went through the committee process and the industry was able to have their say and the animal welfare people could have their say. The most important part of the racing industry would have been able to have their say.

Not only that, we have also seen changes to tenure arrangements for Victoria Park. In a television ad the Deputy Premier called the Victoria Park people loopy. I know why he said that. I will tell you why these people do not trust the government. They were told there was going to be no new stadium. They suspected that changes would come. Hand on heart I can tell you that when I talk to them they say, 'Grace, they are going to sell off the land.'

Guess what? Amendments came before the House 10 minutes before we debated this legislation that land will be required for both venues. It includes certain parts of land for Victoria Park. Victoria Park is largely held as a DOGIT, deed of grant in trust, by the Brisbane City Council. The Brisbane City Council is complicit in this, too. It is allowing it. The LNP are all in cahoots in allowing this to happen.

Guess what? The worst nightmare of the people from Victoria Park is coming true. This is happening without the amendments going to a committee for scrutiny. The effect of these amendments is that they will remove all registered leases, including trustee leases, granted by the BCC under the DOGIT to third parties and—here is the kicker—convert the land from trust land to freehold held by GIICA. It is absolutely unbelievable.

Parkland that is now being used as a stadium, when those people were told there would be no new stadium, is now going to be freehold. It will not even remain trust land, so whatever is left when the stadium is built can become parkland or used for something else at the end. There is the possibly now that that land could be sold to developers—and we saw what happened with regard to donations and we have seen what has happened with no affordable housing—to develop that land and sell it as freehold.

It is no wonder my constituents do not trust this government. I ask the minister to categorically rule out land at Victoria Park being sold as a result of this change and confirm that it will be maintained as parkland for the use of my constituents and others. Minister, categorically rule out any sale of Victoria Park when it is converted from trust land to freehold. I await the answer from the minister. We were supporting this legislation. Now we have major concerns with these amendments that have been rushed through.

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (8.09 pm): Around about 1,200 days or, think of it this way, 3.5 years—that is how long those opposite, the Labor Party, delayed and dithered, wringing their hands in indecision and failing to ever grapple with the work that was—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Oodgeroo, I ask you to resume your seat, please. In accordance with the order agreed to by the House, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (8.10 pm), in reply: First of all, I would like to thank all the members for their contributions to the debate today. The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 seeks to provide an effective and efficient regulatory framework for major events and major sporting facilities that drive social and economic benefit to Queensland and deliver statutory body best practice for governance, accountability and commercial agility. Amending the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to lift liquor licensing restrictions on concert noise and providing clarity that noise from special events at major sporting facilities will not be regulated by any local laws that may apply unlocks the full potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast as major concert venues.

Subject to the passage of this bill and following consultation with key stakeholders, such as the local community, the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland and others, it is proposed to make amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 to provide for conditions for special events such as concerts at those Gold Coast venues. This would allow People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium to overcome existing noise restrictions, creating opportunities for these venues to attract and host more concerts. This does not just benefit the Gold Coast, it strengthens Queensland as a whole as a destination for high-profile touring artists and international events.

More events across multiple cities means more visitors, more tourism and more economic activity across the state, supporting jobs in hospitality, transport, retail and entertainment. It also ensures Queenslanders everywhere have better access to world-class cultural and sporting events, enriching the social and cultural life of the whole state. In short, by making our venues competitive, we maximise opportunities for all of Queensland, not just one city.

By increasing maximum penalties for ticket scalping and making it easier for consumers to report unfair selling, we are ensuring access to tickets is more equitable and fans are protected.

Updating the board arrangements for Stadiums Queensland ensures strong oversight and accountability, while giving operators the agility to respond efficiently to new opportunities and deliver high quality events. This bill also keeps pace with modern challenges, including drones. The legislative provisions for ambush marketing will protect organisers and sponsors from unauthorised advertising, safeguarding the value of major events.

In short, this bill removes outdated restrictions and introduces practical, modern measures that ensure Queensland stadiums remain competitive, vibrant and trusted. It positions the state as a leader in hosting major events enriching cultural life, supporting local jobs, and boosting tourism across Queensland.

The bill's minor technical amendment to the Major Events Act 2014 will also ensure Queensland's regulatory framework for major events ensures clear, unambiguous language that will improve efficiency and effectiveness in declaring major event areas and major events periods. This will support a more competitive, modern events sector that will ensure we continue to attract and retain the very best content for Queensland.

People First Stadium at Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium at Robina are cornerstone venues for the Gold Coast and key assets in Queensland's major venues portfolio owned by Stadiums Queensland. People First Stadium, originally built as Carrara Stadium in the mid-1980s, has been home to a whole variety of events such as the AFL and rugby league matches, concerts, festivals, Big Bash cricket and more. It served as the main stadium for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, hosting the athletics and opening and closing ceremonies. World-class acts such as Queen, Harry Styles, Paul McCartney, Pink and Pearl Jam have appeared at People First Stadium, drawing excited crowds to the Gold Coast, keen to see their favourite performers live in concert.

Cbus Super Stadium at Robina opened to the public in 2008 and is the home of the Gold Coast Titans. It has hosted a variety of major events, including international and national sporting events, such as the rugby sevens event as part of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, State of Origin 3 in 2021 and the 2021 Rugby Championship double-headers played between New Zealand, Argentina,

South Africa and Australia. This versatile venue also hosts motorsports and, in 2022, it hosted the KISS End of the Road World Tour.

Currently, concerts at the Gold Coast must finish by 10 pm, 30 minutes earlier than the industry standard of 10.30 pm and earlier than the finishing time at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. By amending the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to allow for an override to liquor licensing constraints on noise from concerts at major sports facilities, the untapped potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium as major concert venues can be realised. The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 also provides for clarity that noise from special events at major sports facilities will not be regulated by any local laws that may apply.

Subject to the passage of the bill, it is proposed to make amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 to provide for conditions for special events such as concerts at those Gold Coast venues, following consultation with key stakeholders such as the local community, the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland and others. Subject to those regulatory amendments, the Gold Coast would then be on a level playing field, making its venues more competitive with Brisbane for major touring artists and high-profile events. By lifting those old restrictions, we make these venues more attractive to artists and event organisers, creating opportunities for more events, more energy and more life in our Gold Coast stadiums. Attracting more visitors to the Gold Coast for major concerts will drive significant economic benefits by boosting revenue and supporting local jobs, as well as enriching the cultural and social life of the community.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 establishes Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for owning, managing, operating, using, promoting and developing the state's major sports facilities. These venues are capable of hosting national and international sport, recreation, entertainment and special events such as concerts. This bill helps removes barriers that have limited how these major venues can be used. It enables Stadiums Queensland to attract and deliver concerts in a way that better meet industry standards and community expectations. These changes will bring the Gold Coast stadiums into line with other major venues, ensuring they can continue to attract high-profile events that support Queensland's reputation as a premier destination for sport and entertainment.

This legislation seeks to increase maximum penalties for ticket scalping under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 to help ensure Queensland remains competitive for major sporting and entertainment events. We are also ensuring that Queensland fans can enjoy world-class events without being ripped off by scalpers. Currently, penalties for reselling tickets to a major sports facility event or a major event at a price greater than 10 per cent above the price of the ticket is set at 20 penalty units or just over \$3,000 for an individual and almost \$17,000 for body corporates. These maximum penalties are well below those in other jurisdictions, including New South Wales which is one of our biggest competitors for major sporting and entertainment events.

Promoters of major events rely on strong ticketing protections to safeguard their brands and maintain public confidence in the events they deliver. The increase in penalties for individuals to just over \$22,000 and for bodies corporate to just over \$113,000 will help ensure Queensland remains competitive and sends a clear message that ticket scalping will not be tolerated. Queensland is currently the only state that penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets. The bill proposes to remove that provision to encourage people to report ticket scalping without fear of being fined themselves. This approach will support the achievement of a key objective of the bill: to deter the resale of tickets at inflated prices.

If we want to attract world-class events, our legislative framework must be world class too. Aligning the Major Events Act 2014 and the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 strengthens ticket integrity, ensures consistent compliance settings and gives global promoters the certainty that they demand. Consistency across our two key event acts is not a technical detail; it is a competitive advantage. International rights holders look for jurisdictions that are coordinated, predictable and professional. They look for strong anti-scalping protections. They look for clear enforcement powers across venues. They look for governments which have done the work. This bill demonstrates that we have done that work, and we are already seeing the dividends of that approach. The government secured the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo—

**A government member:** Underway as we speak.

**Mr MANDER:** I hope it is not raining.

**A government member:** No. It's going fantastically.

**Mr MANDER:** It is one of the world's most spectacular and historic military and cultural events, and it is in Brisbane for the first time. As we just mentioned, the first show is on right now, with over a thousand performers and a global audience, bringing an estimated \$39 million economic boost to the city. This is what happens when you combine vision, investment and a legislative framework that inspires confidence.

Securing events like the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is about more than four nights at a stadium; it is about filling hotels, energising restaurants, supporting small businesses and showcasing Queensland's lifestyle, culture and natural beauty to the world. This bill strengthens our ability to secure more global spectacles, more international tournaments, more cultural events and more business conventions and to deliver them seamlessly. It reduces complexity. It strengthens consumer protection. It aligns our enforcement frameworks. It sends a clear message that Queensland is ready—ready for the next Rugby World Cup, ready for more cultural icons, ready for 2032 and ready for the decade beyond.

During 2025 the Queensland Racing Review was undertaken, culminating in a recommendation report being provided to government in September 2025. The government response to the report, published on 6 December 2025, is titled *The next lap: a plan for the future of Queensland racing*. As outlined in the response, the Queensland government has committed to making governance of the racing industry more efficient.

The review heard consistent feedback that inconsistencies with the Queensland racing governance model needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Following government consideration of the report, the board has been tasked with developing an implementation plan by no later than 2 April 2026. This implementation plan is expected to detail the timetable of responsibilities to implement the government's response to the report, bringing meaningful change to the Queensland racing industry and Queensland regions. To drive the development of the implementation plan and to ensure the response is implemented in an efficient and timely manner, it is critical that the membership of the Queensland racing board be urgently amended, delivering on the government's commitment to reform the board, provide broad industry representation and provide greater flexibility in the appointment process. The amendment to this bill sees these commitments delivered.

I take this opportunity to address some of the matters raised in the second reading debate. I was asked about noise compliance and for clear, unambiguous guidance in this framework. Pending passage of the bill, future amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 will stipulate, similar to existing provisions for special events at Brisbane Stadium and Suncorp Stadium, that noise monitoring of special events is the responsibility of the stadium operator. Of course, these amendments will be considered in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders such as the City of Gold Coast to ensure we get things right. Noise-monitoring reports as undertaken by an independent acoustic consultant will be required to be published for each event. Any breach of those conditions as outlined in the independent report will be investigated by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation as the department with administrative responsibility for the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to determine the parties responsible for the breach. The bill does not change existing regulatory settings for enforcement and compliance.

An example of a self-regulation approach, which is proposed to be adopted for the two Gold Coast stadiums, is the operation of Suncorp Stadium. This self-regulation approach is widely used across the statute book and in the case of Suncorp Stadium requires that the stadium abide by and monitor compliance with regulatory conditions. The stadium engages technical and other staff for noise monitoring and complaints management. This has proven to be very successful.

I now want to talk about some of the changes with regard to the Brisbane Olympic act. Last year Labor voted for the laws that provide planning, environment and cultural heritage exemptions to games infrastructure projects, knowing at the time that projects would be subsequently added. Now that the 2032 Delivery Plan projects are being added, Labor are acting surprised, like they had no plan and never saw a single shovel in the ground for games infrastructure delivery. These amendments are the next stage in our promise to Queensland.

Queenslanders made over 5,800 submissions to our 100-day review of these projects. The amendments to the act that were passed last year went through an extensive committee process and public consultation, and the projects added today were identified in the 2032 Delivery Plan almost a year ago. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job. These amendments are necessary, due to Labor's 1,200 days of chaos when there was no plan. It left us with no choice to reach our 2032 deadline on time and on budget. The Brisbane City Council will continue to work with tenants of Victoria

Park to finalise all impacted commercial end-of-lease agreements. We announced almost a year ago that that work was going to begin on the Brisbane Stadium and surrounds. The vesting empowers GIICA to take possession of Victoria Park by 1 June 2026.

While the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job, all we saw from Labor today was a disgraceful attack from the member for Aspley on the Deputy Premier, who has repeatedly disclosed his interests publicly in this House. The question today is: are Labor going to support these amendments or are they going to get in the way of games delivery? If the wasted 1,200 days was not enough, now they are wanting to delay the projects once again.

It is my belief that Labor do not want the games infrastructure built on time. For political advantage, they will do everything to make sure we do not deliver the promises that we made. By passing this legislation tonight we will cut through the rubbish, we will cut through the red tape, we will cut through the bureaucracy and we will deliver what Queenslanders are asking for. They are asking for us to get on with the job.

The Labor Party obviously does not understand that there is a deadline—a non-negotiable deadline—in 6½ years, and Queenslanders will not accept any excuse if we do not meet that deadline. We are a government of action. We are a government that builds things. That is what we will do. I commend the Deputy Premier for what he has done to bring these amendments to this bill so that we can do exactly that. These people opposite have such temerity. After 1,200 days of doing nothing—they had 11 years notice, the greatest advance notice ever given to a host city—

**Mr Stevens:** They blew it!

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection—they blew it. The public sentiment in this state was so low. It was low in Brisbane, let alone out in the regions. It was not until we handed down our 2032 Delivery Plan that the vibe and the sentiment in this state changed. Now we have councils right across the state begging to have training events, to have athletes from other countries come and stay in these cities, to have events themselves. That is why we are proud of the program that we will deliver. We have regionalised the games. There will be events from Cairns, from Townsville, from Mackay, from the Whitsundays, from Rockhampton, from Maryborough, from Toowoomba, from the Sunshine Coast, and from the Gold Coast to Brisbane. We will deliver a games that Queenslanders deserve and that Queenslanders will be proud of.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I ask members to take their seats. There are members standing about here everywhere.

Insertion of new clause—

 **Mr MANDER** (8.30 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr MANDER:** I move amendment No. 1 circulated in my name—

1 After clause 1

Page 4, after line 5—

*insert—*

#### 1A Commencement

The following provisions commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation—

- (a) section 1H, to the extent it inserts sections 53DFC and 53DFD;
- (b) part 2, other than sections 2 and 10(1A);
- (c) part 3A.

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

*Tabled paper:* Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes to Hon. Tim Mander's amendments.

*Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Tim Mander's amendments.*

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

 **Mr MANDER** (8.31 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr MANDER:** I move amendment No. 2 circulated in my name—

2 After clause 1

Page 4, after line 5—

*insert*—

**Part 1A Amendment of Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021**

**1B Act amended**

This part amends the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*.

**1C Amendment of s 5B (Other venues)**

Section 5B(1), (2) and (3), after 'schedule 2,'—

*insert*—

part 2,

**1D Amendment of s 5C (Villages)**

Section 5C(1), (2) and (3), after 'schedule 3,'—

*insert*—

part 2,

**1E Amendment of s 53AD (Functions)**

Section 53AD(1)(c)—

*omit, insert*—

(c) if the Minister, by written notice to the chief executive officer of the authority, directs the authority to monitor the delivery of an other venue—to monitor the delivery of the venue; and

**1F Amendment of s 53DB (Definitions for chapter)**

(1) Section 53DB, definition *games-related transport infrastructure*, paragraph (b), after 'schedule 4'—

*insert*—

, part 2

(2) Section 53DB, definition *transport infrastructure*—

*insert*—

(l) a local government road within the meaning of the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**1G Amendment of s 53DC (Application of part)**

Section 53DC—

*insert*—

(2) If development mentioned in subsection (1)(a) has been carried out for, or in relation to, an authority venue or other venue, this part also applies to a legacy use of the venue before the start of the venue's games-related use.

**1H Insertion of new ch 3A, pt 2A**

Chapter 3A—

*insert*—

**Part 2A Vesting of particular land**

**Division 1 Preliminary**

**53DFA Interpretation for part**

(1) In this part—

*Land Act reservation*, for schedule 4A land, means a reservation or condition that—

(a) is mentioned in the Land Act, section 21; and

(b) would have applied in relation to the land if, instead of vesting under division 2, a deed of grant had been issued under the Land Act for the land.

**preserved interest**, for schedule 4A land, means an easement, or an easement in gross, over or affecting the land if, immediately before the vesting day for the land—

- (a) the easement or easement in gross was registered under the Land Title Act; or
- (b) the tenure document for the easement or easement in gross was lodged, and capable of registration, under the Land Title Act.

**schedule 4A land** means the land described in schedule 4A, part 1, 2 or 3.

**vesting day**, for schedule 4A land, means the day on which the land vests under division 2.

(2) Words and expressions used in this part and the Land Act have the same meaning, to the extent the context permits.

## Division 2 Vesting of land

### 53DFB Stage 1 land

On 1 June 2026, the land described in schedule 4A, part 1 is vested in the authority as an estate in fee simple subject to—

- (a) any preserved interests for the land; and
- (b) any Land Act reservations for the land.

### 53DFC Stage 2 land

On the day this section commences, the land described in schedule 4A, part 2 is vested in the authority as an estate in fee simple subject to—

- (a) any preserved interests for the land; and
- (b) any Land Act reservations for the land.

### 53DFD Stage 3 land

On the day this section commences, the land described in schedule 4A, part 3 is vested in the authority as an estate in fee simple subject to—

- (a) any preserved interests for the land; and
- (b) any Land Act reservations for the land.

### 53DFE Lodgement of plan of survey

- (1) This section applies in relation to the land identified as 'part of Gilchrist Avenue' on the plan shown in schedule 4A, part 4.
- (2) The chief executive must ensure a plan of survey of the land is lodged before 1 June 2026.
- (3) The plan of survey must—
  - (a) generally correspond with the plan shown in schedule 4A, part 4 to the extent the plan identifies the land; and
  - (b) define the land as 1 lot for the purposes of the Land Title Act; and
  - (c) comply with the *Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003*; and
  - (d) be certified as accurate by a cadastral surveyor within the meaning of the *Surveyors Act 2003*.
- (4) Despite any other Act or law, if a plan of survey is lodged in accordance with this section—
  - (a) the lot defined in the plan is created as a lot under the Land Title Act, and able to be vested under this division, on the lodgement of the plan; and
  - (b) the registrar of titles must, as soon as practicable after the lodgement of the plan, record the particulars of the plan in the freehold land register; and
  - (c) no fee is payable for—
    - (i) the lodgement of the plan; or
    - (ii) the recording of the particulars mentioned in paragraph (b).

## Division 3 Effect of vesting

### 53DFF Effect of vesting

(1) On the vesting of schedule 4A land under division 2—

- (a) any interest in the land that existed immediately before the vesting day for the land, other than a preserved interest or Land Act reservation, is cancelled; and
- (b) any tenure document evidencing an interest cancelled under paragraph (a) is cancelled; and
- (c) any road on the land is permanently closed.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies despite any requirement that would otherwise apply, under the Land Act or the Land Title Act, in relation to—
  - (a) the cancellation of the interest in the land or the tenure document; or
  - (b) the closure of the road.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the vesting of the land under division 2, the registrar of titles must record particulars of the following in the appropriate register and the freehold land register—
  - (a) the vesting of the land, subject to the preserved interests and Land Act reservations for the land;
  - (b) the cancellation of an interest in the land under subsection (1)(a);
  - (c) the cancellation of a tenure document under subsection (1)(b).
- (4) Subsection (3) applies despite any requirement that would otherwise apply, under the Land Act or the Land Title Act, in relation to the recording of the particulars mentioned in that subsection.
- (5) Despite the Land Act and the Land Title Act, no fee is payable by the authority in relation to—
  - (a) the vesting of land under division 2; or
  - (b) the recording of the particulars mentioned in subsection (3).
- (6) In this section—
  - cancel**, an interest, includes—
    - (a) cancel a deed of grant in trust; and
    - (b) permanently close a road; and
    - (c) revoke a dedication or reservation and setting apart; and
    - (d) end a lease or other interest.

#### 53DFG Compensation

- (1) No compensation is payable under this Act for the cancellation of an interest in land under section 53DFF.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not affect a right to compensation, under another Act or law, for the cancellation of an interest in land under section 53DFF.

#### 1I Amendment of s 53DG (Definitions for part)

Section 53DG, definition *games project*, 'section 53DC(a), (b) or (c)'—

*omit, insert*—

section 53DC(1)(a), (b) or (c) or (2)

#### 1J Amendment of s 53EA (Use of necessary games infrastructure)

- (1) Section 53EA(1)(a), 'section 53DC(a)'—

*omit, insert*—

section 53DC(1)(a)

- (2) Section 53EA(1)(b), 'section 53DC(b)'—

*omit, insert*—

section 53DC(1)(b) or (2)

#### 1K Amendment of s 53EF (Exemption from infrastructure charges under other Acts)

- (1) Section 53EF(1)(a), 'section 53DC(a)'—

*omit, insert*—

section 53DC(1)(a)

- (2) Section 53EF(1)(b), 'section 53DC(b)'—

*omit, insert*—

section 53DC(1)(b) or (2)

#### 1L Amendment of sch 1 (Authority venues)

- (1) Schedule 1, table, entry for the facility to be known as Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre, column 1, 'The Mill at Moreton Bay Priority Development Area'—

*omit, insert—*

the Moreton Bay Central Priority Development Area

(2) Schedule 1, table, entry for the facility known as Barlow Stadium Park, column 1, 'Barlow Stadium Park'—

*omit, insert—*

Barlow Park Stadium

**1M Amendment of sch 2 (Other venues)**

(1) Schedule 2, before table—

*insert—*

**Part 1 Preliminary**

**1 Definition for schedule**

In this schedule—

**arena land** means each of the following lots—

- (a) lot 61 on SP188566;
- (b) lots 63, 64 and 65 on SP312152;
- (c) lot 60 on SP184385;
- (d) lot 1291 on SP149280.

**Part 2 Other venues**

(2) Schedule 2, as amended by this Act, part 2, table—

*insert—*

a facility to be known as the Gabba Arena, located on the arena land	a new indoor entertainment and sport venue with seating for approximately 17,000 people and associated facilities	indoor entertainment and sport venue with seating for approximately 17,000 people and associated facilities
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**1N Replacement of sch 3 (Villages)**

Schedule 3—

*omit, insert—*

**Schedule 3 Villages**

section 5C

**Part 1 Preliminary**

**1 Definitions for schedule**

In this schedule—

**BAV games land** means each of the following lots—

- (a) lot 474 on SP190740;
- (b) lot 709 on SP238200;
- (c) lot 102 on SP277762;
- (d) lots 801, 802 and 803 on SP288047;
- (e) lots 112, 113, 114, 115, 703 and 705 on SP288048;
- (f) lot 117 on SP288049;
- (g) lots 708 and 709 on SP288052;
- (h) lot 2 on SP288053;
- (i) lot 710 on SP288054;
- (j) lot 913 on SP288076;
- (k) lot 805 on SP288132;
- (l) lot 704 on SP296435;
- (m) lots 1 and 3 on SP329545;
- (n) lots 110 and 111 on SP336809;
- (o) lot 116 on SP341419;
- (p) lot 1 on SP341431;
- (q) lot 455 on SL3473;
- (r) lot 482 on SL4552;
- (s) lot 1 on RP41361.

**BAV legacy land** means each of the following lots—

- (a) lots 112, 113, 114, 115 and 705 on SP288048;
- (b) lots 110 and 111 on SP336809.

**Part 2 Villages**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Description of site or facility	Games-related use	Legacy use
a site to be known as the Brisbane Athletes Village located on the BAV games land	<p>the following uses of the site—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) accommodation for up to 12,000 athletes and officials; associated uses and facilities</li> </ul> <p><i>Example—</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">training facilities for athletes</p>	<p>the following uses of the site to the extent it comprises the BAV legacy land—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) residential accommodation;</li> <li>(b) associated commercial and retail uses</li> </ul>

**10 Replacement of sch 4 (Games-related transport infrastructure)**

Schedule 4—

*omit, insert—*

**Schedule 4 Games-related transport infrastructure**

section 53DB, definition *games-related transport infrastructure*

**Part 1 Preliminary**

**1 Definitions for schedule**

In this schedule—

**active transport infrastructure** see the *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994*, section 8A(3).

**busway** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**busway transport infrastructure** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**general route service** see the *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*.

**local government road** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**public marine transport infrastructure** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**public passenger transport infrastructure** see the *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994*.

**QTRIP** means the implementation programs, known as 'Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2025–26 to 2028–29', approved under the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, chapter 4, as in effect on the commencement.

*Editor's note—*

The QTRIP website is [www.tmr.qld.gov.au/qtriponline](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/qtriponline).

**rail transport infrastructure** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**railway** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**State-controlled road** see the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*.

**Part 2 Games-related transport infrastructure**

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Name	QTRIP Investment ID	Description
The Wave (stage 1)	3024759	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) rail transport infrastructure for operating a general route service on a new dual-track railway from Beerwah to Caloundra</li> <li>(b) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a)</li> </ul>
The Wave (stage 2)	3357421	(a) rail transport infrastructure for operating a general route service on a new dual-track railway from Caloundra to Birtinya

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Name	QTRIP Investment ID	Description
		(b) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a)
The Wave (stage 3)	3357421	(a) busway transport infrastructure and public passenger transport infrastructure for operating a new high-capacity, high-frequency general route service on roads and a new busway between Birtinya to Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast Airport  (b) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a)
Mooloolah River interchange upgrade (stage 1)	2007574	new and upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the following—  (a) the connection of Nicklin Way to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba; (b) the connection of Karawatha Drive at Mountain Creek to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba; (c) the connection of the Sunshine Motorway to Brisbane Road at Mooloolaba
Mooloolah River interchange upgrade (stage 2)	2356108	new and upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the following—  (a) the connection of the Sunshine Motorway to Kawana Way at Parrearra; (b) additional lanes on the Sunshine Motorway between—  (i) the Mooloolah River interchange and Buderim-Mooloolaba interchange; and (ii) the Kawana Way interchange and the Mooloolah River interchange
Coomera Connector (stage 2)	3646282	(a) an extension of the State-controlled road, known as the Coomera Connector (M9), from Shipper Drive, Coomera to Yawalpah Road, Pimpama  (b) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a)
Cairns Western Arterial Road upgrade	1810618	(a) a duplication of the State-controlled road, known as the Cairns Western Arterial Road, between Redlynch Connector Road, Redlynch and the Captain Cook Highway  (b) an upgraded State-controlled road, known as the Cairns Western Arterial Road, at its intersection with Lorian Drive and View Street at Brinsmead  (c) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b)
Shute Harbour recreational facility	3552018	(a) new public marine transport infrastructure at Shute Harbour associated with the following—  (i) a new multi-lane boat ramp; (ii) a new breakwater; (iii) new floating walkways; (iv) an upgraded car-trailer parking area  (b) upgraded State-controlled roads, local government roads and active transport infrastructure associated with the infrastructure mentioned in paragraph (a)

**1P Insertion of new sch 4A**

After schedule 4—

*insert—*

**Schedule 4A Vesting of particular land**

sections 53DFA, definition *schedule 4A land*, 53DFB, 53DFC, 53DFD and 53DFE

**Part 1**

**Stage 1 land**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Description of land</b>	<b>Title reference</b>
Lot 3 on SP185072	51299277
Lot 5 on SP185074	51299279
Lot 5 on SP288407	51228852
The lot created by the lodgement of a plan of survey under section 53DFE(2)	—

**Part 2**

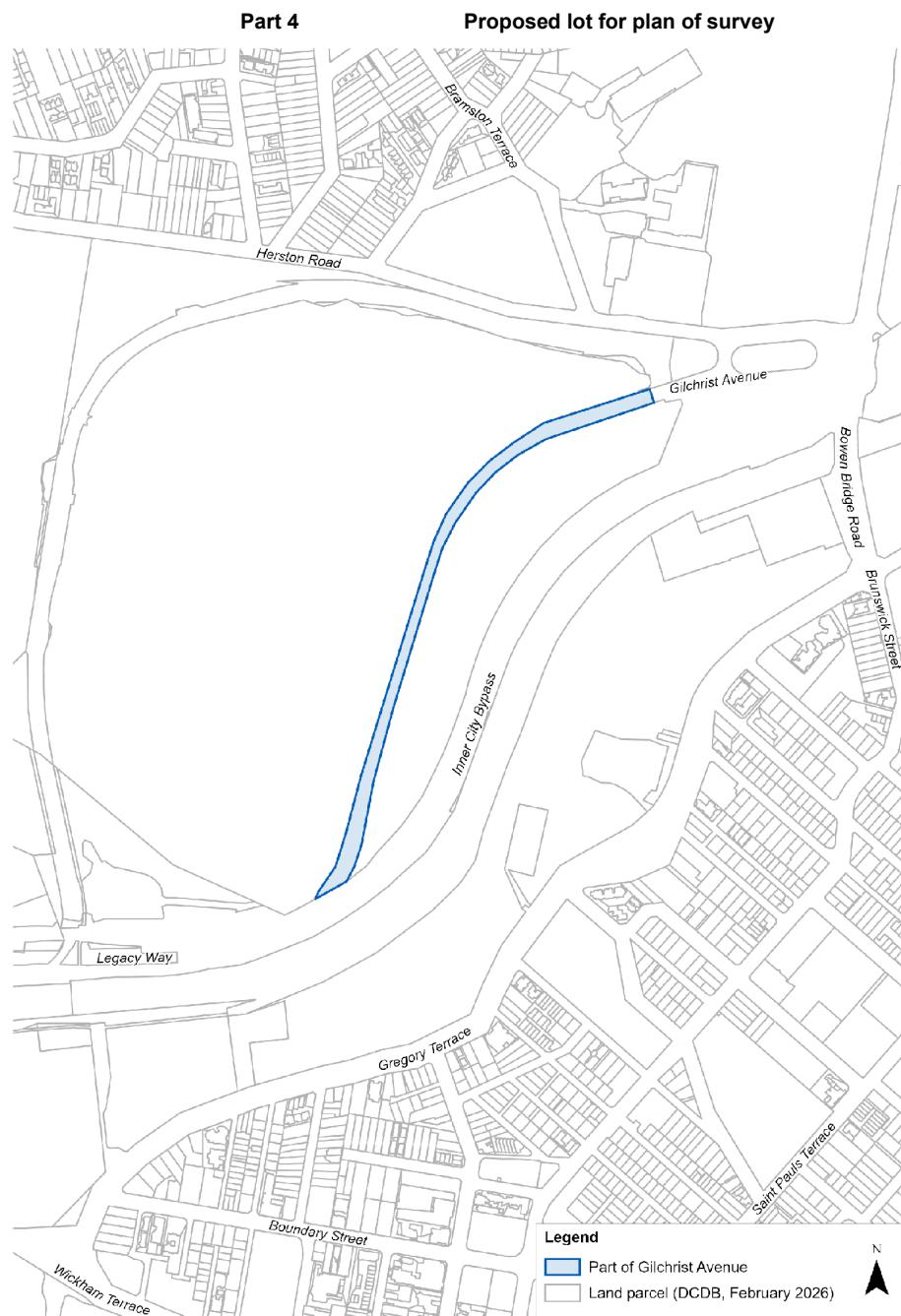
**Stage 2 land**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Description of land</b>	<b>Title reference</b>
Lot 2 on CP909154	50266918
Lot 3 on CP909154	50266927
Lot 5 on SP184695	50702248

**Part 3**

**Stage 3 land**

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>
<b>Description of land</b>	<b>Title reference</b>
Lot 17 on SP185062	51406241
Lot 18 on SP185075	51406244
Lot 1 on SP269374	51406246
Lot 5 on SP334726	51406252
Lot 7 on SP334727	51406255



**1Q      Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary)**

Schedule 6—

*insert—*

**active transport infrastructure**, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

**arena land**, for schedule 2, see schedule 2, section 1.

**BAV games land**, for schedule 3, see schedule 3, section 1.

**BAV legacy land**, for schedule 3, see schedule 3, section 1.

**busway**, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

**busway transport infrastructure**, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

**general route service**, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

**Land Act** means the *Land Act 1994*.

**Land Act reservation**, for schedule 4A land, for chapter 3A, part 2A, see section 53DFA(1).

**Land Title Act** means the *Land Title Act 1994*.

*local government road*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*preserved interest*, for schedule 4A land, for chapter 3A, part 2A, see section 53DFA(1).

*public marine transport infrastructure*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*public passenger transport infrastructure*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*QTRIP*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*rail transport infrastructure*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*railway*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*schedule 4A land*, for chapter 3A, part 2A, see section 53DFA(1).

*State-controlled road*, for schedule 4, see schedule 4, section 1.

*vesting day*, for schedule 4A land, for chapter 3A, part 2A, see section 53DFA(1).

**Ms GRACE:** This amendment has just landed on our desk. The minister in summing-up was talking about the consultation and the submissions and everything they did when they were looking at the stadiums for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but I do not recall at any stage that it was going to sell trust land and convert it into freehold land. I do not recall any consultation around the conversion of a DOGIT into freehold land—at no stage. Yet here before us is an amendment that was given to us 10 minutes before the debate started in relation to this issue. They wonder why the people at Herston and others who want to save Victoria Park do not trust this government. We now have an amendment that is going to convert trust land into freehold land with the tenure going to GIICA.

I have a couple of clarifying questions for the minister. Can the minister clarify why it is absolutely necessary to convert the land from trust land to freehold land? The other question that we would like answered for clarification is: why can't this land remain trust land? The other clarification and guarantee is: will the minister categorically rule out any sale of land by GIICA with regard to the amendments in this legislation and that it will be retained as parkland? I see the minister smirking opposite. These are serious issues in relation to land that is in my electorate much loved by my constituency. The government has come without any transparency, without any scrutiny, without any ability for anyone to place these questions on the record about why it is necessary to do this.

Is this the manner in which the government is going to pay for the blowouts that have been earmarked by Andrew Liveris? Is this what this is all about? You might say it is a fresh start but at the end of the day all we are seeing again is a government that cuts projects, sells and sacks, and puts their own lot in. That is where we are. It is the same old government—the same old opposition. I ask that the minister clarify these issues. The constituents in my electorate who they labelled 'loopy' want to know exactly why trust land is becoming freehold.

**Mr DICK:** The minister said in his reply that the LNP are going to cut through the rubbish. That is what he said. That is the quiet part out loud. The minister said the quiet part out loud because the LNP thinks consultation, transparency and Queenslanders having a say is rubbish. That is what he thinks. I see them all smirking over there, all laughing. That is what they think. I see them all laughing over there. That is what they think about Queenslanders. They do not want them to be heard.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members that you can be warned and evicted during this session of parliament. If you want to be here for the vote, take notice of what I say.

**Mr DICK:** We also know what the sports minister said to and about the IOC: 'We dictate what will happen.' That is what he said. Imagine the sports minister for Queensland dealing with the largest and greatest sporting organisation in the world, sending a telegram directly from Everton, 'We will dictate what happens.' That is the history of the National Party in this state—dictating to everyone what happens, dictating to Queenslanders, 'You won't be heard,' which is why they are using clause 2 to ram these infrastructure projects through without any form of public consultation.

Then we have the two geniuses of the LNP government—the arrogant Deputy Premier and the arrogant sports minister—saying, 'We will dictate to the IOC.' That is not what the games agreement says. The whole point of the Olympics is to bring people together in consultation to deliver a world-class event. But that is not good enough for the LNP. They want to tell World Rowing, 'We are going to dictate it.' They want to tell the IOC, 'We are going to dictate it.' They know what is coming.

They will not even talk to people whose neighbourhoods are going to be disturbed by these infrastructure projects. Where is the Wave going to run through? The LNP has not even dictated the route for the Wave yet, for the bus line. The first people are going to know about it because of this clause is when they hear a bulldozer in their backyard. There will be no consultation. The first thing they will hear are the jackhammers. They will see the bulldozers. That is why you are putting it through this clause.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. He has no idea what this clause even does. He says it is rubbish but what it means is there is no planning control. There is no heritage control. All of that is junked so they can dictate to Queenslanders, to the IOC and to everyone else in the world what they want. That is the history of Queensland under the National Party and the LNP. It is simply not good enough.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** It was my omission before. I should have gone to the minister. The member for McConnel asked a series of questions. Minister, could you respond?

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It was entertaining to listen to the former treasurer anyhow.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I would like to hear what the minister has to say.

**Mr MANDER:** The member for McConnel was wondering what we were laughing about. The minister here said to me, 'That sounds like a statement written and authorised by Campbell Newman.' That is exactly what we were laughing about because that is what it is. A small number of people are defying what the majority of Queenslanders want and who overwhelmingly endorse the delivery plan.

Why are we bringing these amendments in? It is because we are building a stadium to hold 63,000 people. It will be the third biggest stadium in the country. It will attract the greatest sporting events, whether it is World Athletics, the Rugby World Cup, the AFL final or cricket. What did this side say? This side said, 'QSAC, and you are going to go into the Ekka and you are going to have to pay for it yourself.'

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are talking about the specific amendments that are in clause 2.

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

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, if I could respond: the former minister is asking why these amendments are necessary and I am explaining why. We have to get on with the job. We are not building—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I listed three pertinent questions about amendment 2 with regard to freehold land. That is the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have that. It is a fair point. This clause goes to freehold and vesting of land. If you can address that, that would be great.

**Mr MANDER:** I am getting to that. I am trying to give some context to why this is necessary. It is necessary because we are building a dirty big stadium, okay? It is not the local football stadium down at the local park. It is a huge stadium. That is going to take time. We have 6½ years to go. We have to get on with the job, and to do that we have to make these necessary amendments to free up the encumbrances on that land so that GIICA can take control over it and start digging. These amendments provide the necessary tenure for the new Brisbane Stadium and the National Aquatic Centre at Victoria Park. Both projects were included in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 last year. These provisions are administrative in nature and ensure GIICA has the necessary tenure and access to Victoria Park to commence works on 1 June 2026. We cannot stuff around with this. We have to get on with it. That is what Queenslanders and people in Brisbane are telling us to do.

**Mr O'Connor:** Stop backing Campbell Newman over Queenslanders.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, if I hear from you again—are you listening to me? I suggest you do, because if I call you again you will be warned.

**Mr MANDER:** Victoria Park is already underlying state land. Brisbane City Council has been the trustee under a deed of grant in trust, a DOGIT, and GIICA represents the state and will hold land on behalf of the state under the act so that it may efficiently deliver games infrastructure in Victoria Park. GIICA is a public entity and represents the state. Vesting the land in GIICA allows it to fulfil its responsibilities to deliver this vital infrastructure.

Brisbane City Council offered to hand over Victoria Park to support the stadium and aquatic centre development, and the Crisafulli government is repairing the relationship with local governments by working with them to ensure that generational infrastructure laid out in the 2032 Delivery Plan is actually delivered. Brisbane City Council will retain a number of land parcels that are not currently identified as being required for venues or precinct infrastructure and will be involved throughout the planning for the Victoria Park precinct, including consideration of a long-term operating model for the parklands.

During the delivery of the 2032 games venue program, construction works at some of these venues may temporarily or permanently displace existing users or tenants, including sporting bodies and community focused businesses. Amendments do not affect the compensation rights that a party would have. Several businesses and organisations operating within Victoria Park will be required to relocate in preparation for early site works for the Brisbane Stadium and the National Aquatic Centre. Brisbane City Council is leading the engagement with tenants, working closely with GIICA and the Queensland government on this. Amendments to the BOPGA introduced last year also clearly set out the breadth of GIICA's responsibilities, accompanied by the schedule of games and legacy users for games infrastructure projects in accordance with the 2032 Delivery Plan and the IGA with the Australian government.

The location of the new Brisbane Stadium at Victoria Park has been subject to significant consultation through the 100-day review, included in the 2032 games delivery plan in March 2025, and it has been subject to numerous announcements of delivery progress since that time, including site investigations and the requirement for the site to be ready for construction to commence in mid-2026. These amendments ensure GIICA can get on with this delivery with clear tenure, which is supported by the Brisbane City Council.

We have hit the ground running on games delivery in 2026, announcing the principal architects for the new Brisbane Stadium. These amendments continue this momentum and provide the certainty GIICA needs to continue delivery. These changes demonstrate that the Crisafulli government is getting on with what it said it would do: ensuring generational infrastructure is delivered on time. As I said in my response speech, I can only think the Labor Party does not want us to meet these deadlines. We want to meet them in a timely fashion that allows us to test the Aquatic Centre.

The Aquatic Centre will be the best in the world, and that is what our swimmers deserve. Queensland swimmers basically win more than half of the gold medals that we win at every Olympics, and most of those swimmers are Queenslanders based at the Queensland Academy of Sport. We want to reward them, and that is what we intend to do by building them a facility that they will be proud of, that we will be proud of—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the minister—that they deserve. That is what they are asking for. What did the opposition want? They wanted a temporary pool in an arena, and that was insulting to our swimmers. They were into this 'temporary' stuff. We are into legacy. We want to provide a legacy for years and years to come—whether it is the stadium at Victoria Park, the National Aquatic Centre or the community infrastructure we are installing right across this state, no matter where you live, to encourage young people to be involved in sport and to build the champions of the future.

**Mr WHITING:** I will speak to the clause and amendments that have come through today. I want to raise my concerns about these amendments. It is clear that the late amendments that have been dropped on us will allow the privatisation and sell-off of public land within the heart of Brisbane—64 hectares in Victoria Park. It is very clear that these were dropped late—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, if I have to call your name again you will be warned.

**Mr WHITING:**—to avoid scrutiny of the parliamentary process, the committee process and public scrutiny.

Land held as a DOGIT by council goes over to freehold land owned by GIICA without consultation and it means, as we have heard, that GIICA can sell that off. They could sell off the entire site. They

can sell off parcels of that site—parkland that now belongs to the people of Queensland. There is no review, there are no laws and there is no appeal. There is nothing that can be done about it if that is what they want to do.

These amendments explain so much. They explain why the board of GIICA is staffed with the development industry. The development industry has been salivating about this block and the land all around it for a long time. Perhaps it explains how they are going to fund part of these games or fund the Aquatic Centre—by the possible sell-off of public land that is owned by the people of Queensland.

As I said, we are seeing land across South-East Queensland specifically being offered up to developers: South Brisbane, the Gabba, Mango Hill, Banyo, Victoria Park. Where is the social and affordable housing component of that? Where are those requirements? Where is the public benefit that is going to flow from this? This is the same week that developers have been allowed to pour money into the LNP coffers. We could say this is a payday to major developers, but every day is a payday to major developers under this LNP government.

**Mr MANDER:** Let me reiterate what I said before. GIICA is a public entity that represents the state. Lo and behold, the GIICA board—who are the people responsible for developing our infrastructure—may include developers. Shock, horror: we have actually put people on the board who have experience in major infrastructure projects! What one person on that board could be criticised? Who could say that any of those people on that board are not qualified to be there? They have been universally accepted and everybody has praised their work from the 100-day review. Again, the Labor Party does what—

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to the amendment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I think the minister is responding to the comments made by the member for Bancroft.

**Mr MANDER:** Exactly. These scare campaigns are the only mode of operating that the Labor Party knows. It was proven to be unsuccessful last time, and the Premier went through each of those scare campaigns one by one today and said why they did not work. People are over it. They see through it. They realise how ridiculous it is.

**Mr Stevens:** Politics of envy.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who occasionally comes up with a good interjection: it is the politics of envy. They are worried about people who are successful and they criticise people who are successful. Here we have a board that is so well equipped to deliver what we said we were going to deliver—the Delivery Plan from the 100-day review. I am so happy that this Delivery Plan is in good hands in the GIICA board and the GIICA administration. The new CEO is a fantastic operator and very easy to work with.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** He is very personable, very practical, very capable; I take all of those interjections. These scare campaigns that they continue to throw out are an insult to Queenslanders' intelligence. Queenslanders are not silly and they can see what Labor are trying to do—that is, delay the process for political purposes. Labor would love it if we did not reach a deadline. We will reach every deadline well within the deadline to make sure we have enough time to prepare ourselves, particularly at the stadium, the aquatic centre and the athletes village at the exhibition, which is going to have a great revamp. The Ekka have been asking for it for years but they were ignored by the previous Labor government. We will go to the Ekka in the future, sit on Machinery Hill and not get a sore backside.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Obviously, the terms of the clause limit what I might say about all of the downsides of this government's broken promise and the plans to build the stadium on Victoria Park/Barrambin. I cannot go into the detail I might like about the cultural heritage values of that place. It is important to First Nations communities around here. The complete ignorance amongst government members of its cultural heritage significance tells the entire story.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maiwar has the call, nobody else.

**Mr BERKMAN:** This amendment right here turns it into fee simple so it can be transferred to GIICA. That is the short-term proposal. What about beyond the Olympics? This is no longer in public hands; it is now regular, saleable land and, as we have heard, developers will be absolutely salivating over this inner-city property.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mermaid Beach, you are warned. You have done nothing but interject.

**Mr BERKMAN:** There is nothing preventing future iterations of this government or any other government from repurposing it. If it is in GIICA's hands, why could it not end up in private developer's hands in the future, even if it is used solely for the purposes they have suggested?

There is another real catch in here, and this is the one that jumps out at me immediately. In the context of this sitting week, where they have opened up the door for developers to donate directly into their pockets again, they have included the Gabba Arena. The old Goprint site, as we all know it, is now going to be an 'other venue' under the BOPGA Act.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The venue the member is referring to is not part of this amendment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar, could you confine your comments to this specific clause please, which is around freehold and transfer.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I do not purport to challenge the minister on this, but we are talking about clause 2 which is an extensive insertion of an entirely new part 1A. As I understand it, it does include provisions around the Goprint site and it does include the reclassification of the Goprint site. Expressions of interest are being taken at the moment from developers who want to make a bank off this Brisbane Arena site, and now they are going to be able to put in those expressions and put forward their proposals without any of the legislative barriers that might have existed previously. They will enjoy the privilege of all of those shortcuts. Whatever developer picks this up through the EOI process is getting money for jam. I remind everyone that this is the same week that these clowns over there have opened up their pockets: 'Let's get the developer dollars in there as quick as we can.'

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the language used unparliamentary and offensive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I was just about to do that. Member for Maiwar, that language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Withdrawn. The LNP have been completely bought and sold by property developers this week and that tells us all we need to know about this party and this government.

*(Time expired)*

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** You were not named so you cannot take personal offence. Minister, would you like to respond?

**Mr MANDER:** There are a couple of things I want to say in response. With regards to the engagement with First Nations people, that has been done respectfully and for quite some time.

**Mr McDonald:** Meaningfully.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer; it has been done meaningfully. GIICA have had very good discussions and ongoing consultations with the First Nations people there. That is the first thing I will say. The second thing I will say is that this land is under state tenure. Why aren't you asking the same questions about Suncorp Stadium, the Gabba, People First Stadium, Cbus Super Stadium or the Queensland Tennis Centre? These are all assets owned by the Queensland government under the control of Stadiums Queensland. It is a ridiculous question.

**Mr Berkman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maiwar! If there is another outburst like that, you will not be in this chamber to have a vote.

**Mr MANDER:** Victoria Park is state land and it will always be state land, and BCC is a trustee. They are the facts. Let us put all of these ridiculous scare campaigns to bed now.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—

 **Mr MANDER** (8.59 pm): I move amendments Nos 3 to 5 circulated in my name—

3 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 31 (Resale of tickets))

Page 6, after line 22—

*insert—*

(1A) Section 31(1), penalty—

*omit, insert—*

Maximum penalty—

(a) for an individual—135 penalty units; or

(b) for a corporation—680 penalty units.

**4 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 31 (Resale of tickets))**

Page 6, line 23, after 'Section 31(1)'—

*insert—*

, all words before penalty

**5 Clause 10 (Amendment of s 31 (Resale of tickets))**

Page 6, line 28 to page 7, line 2—

*omit.*

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 33, as read, agreed to.

### Message from Governor

 **Mr MANDER** (8.59 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the amendment circulated by the minister. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to amend the Major Events Act 2014, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes.

(Sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 February 2026

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 11 February 2026, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending an amendment to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bill, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate. I note that the minister's amendment No. 6 is outside the long title of the bill and therefore requires leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 6, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

**6 After clause 33**

Page 17, after line 11—

*insert—*

**Part 3A Amendment of Racing Act 2002**

**33A Act amended**

This part amends the *Racing Act 2002*.

**33B Replacement of ch 2, pt 1, div 3, hdg (Membership)**

Chapter 2, part 1, division 3, heading—

*omit, insert—*

**Division 3 Composition****33C Replacement of ss 14 and 15**

Sections 14 and 15—

*omit, insert—*

**14 Composition**

- (1) The board consists of at least 3, but not more than 9, persons (each a **member**) as follows—
  - (a) 1 person to represent thoroughbred racing;
  - (b) 1 person to represent harness racing;
  - (c) 1 person to represent greyhound racing;
  - (d) up to 6 other persons.
- (2) A member is appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister under section 15.
- (3) The instrument of appointment of a member appointed under subsection (1)(a), (b) or (c) must state the code of racing the person is to represent.

**15 Minister's recommendation of person for appointment**

- (1) The Minister may recommend a person for appointment as a member only if satisfied—
  - (a) the person is an eligible individual; and
  - (b) the person is suitable to be appointed as a member; and
  - (c) the person satisfies the requirements under subsection (3) for the appointment.
- (2) For subsection (1)(b), in deciding whether a person is suitable to be appointed as a member, the Minister must have regard to the following matters—
  - (a) the person's background;
  - (b) the person's business reputation, if any, and character;
  - (c) the person's financial background and current financial position.
- (3) For subsection (1)(c), the person must—
  - (a) for appointment under section 14(1)(a)—have skills and experience in thoroughbred racing; or
  - (b) for appointment under section 14(1)(b)—have skills and experience in harness racing; or
  - (c) for appointment under section 14(1)(c)—have skills and experience in greyhound racing; or
  - (d) for appointment under section 14(1)(d)—
    - (i) have skills and experience in 1 or more relevant areas; or
    - (ii) live in a rural or regional part of the State.
- (4) Also, in deciding whether to recommend a person for appointment as a member, the Minister must have regard to whether the person's skills and experience in the relevant areas will complement the skills and experience of the other members in the relevant areas.
- (5) In this section—
 

**relevant area** means—

  - (a) accounting; or
  - (b) animal welfare; or
  - (c) business; or
  - (d) commercial and marketing development; or
  - (e) thoroughbred racing, harness racing or greyhound racing; or
  - (f) an area relevant to the function of the board under section 10(3)(f).

**15A Term of appointment**

- (1) A member holds office for the term stated in the member's instrument of appointment.
- (2) The stated term must not be longer than 3 years.
- (3) A member may be reappointed.
- (4) However, a member may not be reappointed for a term that would result in the member holding office continuously for more than 9 years at a time.

(5) For applying subsection (4), any period for which a person has held office as a member because of an appointment under section 19 is to be disregarded.

*Note—*

See also section 234 in relation to other periods that must be disregarded.

(6) Also, the terms of appointment of members must be staggered so that, to the extent practicable, the terms of 3 members end every year.

**33D Amendment of s 17 (Chairperson and deputy chairperson)**

(1) Section 17, heading, 'and deputy chairperson'—  
*omit.*

(2) Section 17(1), 'appoint 1 of the non-industry members as'—  
*omit, insert—*  
, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a member to be

(3) Section 17(2)—  
*omit.*

(4) Section 17(3), 'or deputy chairperson'—  
*omit.*

(5) Section 17—  
*insert—*

(4) The chairperson holds office for the term stated in the person's instrument of appointment as chairperson.

(5) The stated term must end not later than the person's term of appointment as a member.

(6) Section 17(3) to (5)—  
*renumber as section 17(2) to (4).*

**33E Insertion of new s 17A**

After section 17—

*insert—*

**17A Deputy chairperson**

(1) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a member to be the deputy chairperson of the board.

(2) The Minister may recommend a member for appointment as deputy chairperson only if—  
(a) the Minister has given the board a direction under section 28(2); and  
(b) the board, in compliance with the direction, has given the Minister notice of its nomination of the member as deputy chairperson.

(3) The deputy chairperson holds office for the term stated in the person's instrument of appointment as deputy chairperson.

(4) The stated term must end not later than the person's term of appointment as a member.

**33F Amendment of s 19 (Casual vacancy)**

Section 19(1), 'section 15 or 17'—

*omit, insert—*

section 14, 17 or 17A

**33G Amendment of s 20 (Effect of vacancy in membership)**

(1) Section 20, 'section 14(1) or 17(1) or (2)'—

*omit, insert—*

section 14(1)(a), (b) or (c) or 17(1)

(2) Section 20, 'the chairperson or the deputy chairperson'—

*omit, insert—*

or the chairperson

**33H Amendment of s 24 (Quorum)**

Section 24, 'at least 4 members'—

*omit, insert—*

a majority of the members at the time the meeting is held

**33I Amendment of s 25 (Presiding at meetings)**

Section 25(3), 'non-industry board member'—

*omit, insert—*

member

**33J Amendment of s 28 (Minister may call meeting)**

(1) Section 28, heading, 'call meeting'—  
*omit, insert—*  
**direct convening of meeting etc.**

(2) Section 28—  
*insert—*

(1A) Without limiting subsection (1), the Minister may direct the board to—

(a) convene a meeting to nominate a member, other than the chairperson, for appointment as the deputy chairperson; and

(b) give the Minister notice of the board's nomination as soon as practicable after the meeting is convened.

(3) Section 28(1A) and (2)—  
*renumber as section 28(2) and (3).*

**33K Amendment of s 41 (Member must disclose interest)**

Section 41(8), 'is a racing-industry member'—  
*omit, insert—*

holds office under section 14(1)(a), (b) or (c)

**33L Replacement of ch 9, hdg (Transitional and validating provisions for Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020)**

Chapter 9, heading—  
*omit, insert—*

**Chapter 9 Further transitional and validating provisions**

**Division 1 Transitional and validating provisions for Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020**

**33M Renumbering of ch 10 (Transitional provisions for Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022)**

Chapter 10—  
*relabel as chapter 9, division 2.*

**33N Amendment of s 227 (Definitions for chapter)**

Section 227, 'chapter'—  
*omit, insert—*

division

**33O Insertion of new ch 9, div 3**

Chapter 9—  
*insert—*

**Division 3 Transitional provisions for Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2025**

**232 Definitions for division**

In this division—

**former**, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force immediately before the commencement of the transitional provision in which the term is used.

**new**, in relation to a provision of this Act, means the provision as in force from the commencement of the transitional provision in which the term is used.

**transitional provision** means a provision of this division.

**233 Vacation of particular offices**

(1) This section applies to a person who, immediately before the commencement, held office as—

(a) a member under former section 14(1); or

(b) the deputy chairperson under former section 17(2).

(2) On the commencement, the person goes out of office.

(3) No compensation is payable to the person because of subsection (2).

**234 Particular periods as member to be disregarded**

(1) For applying new section 15A(4) to a person, each of the following periods is to be disregarded—

- (a) if, immediately before the commencement, the person held office as a member under former section 14(1)—the period for which the person held the office continuously before going out of office under section 233;
- (b) if, whether before or after the commencement, the person is appointed as a member under new section 14 for a term starting during the initial period—the period of the term for which the person is appointed.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not limit the application of new section 15A(5) to the person.
- (3) In this section—  
***initial period*** means the period—
  - (a) starting on the commencement; and
  - (b) ending at the beginning of the day that is 12 months after the day this section commences.

**235 Delayed application of requirement to stagger members' terms of appointment**

The first year to which new section 15A(6) applies is the year starting on 1 January 2027.

**33P Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)**

- (1) Schedule 1, definitions *member*, *non-industry member* and *racing-industry member*—*omit*.
- (2) Schedule 1—  
*insert*—  
***member*** see section 14(1).
- (3) Schedule 1, definition *eligible individual*, paragraph (e)—  
*omit, insert*—
  - (e) is not a member of a committee, or an employee, of a licensed club; and

Question put—That clauses 34 to 36 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 34 to 36 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

**Third Reading**



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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

**Long Title**



Question put—That the minister's amendment No. 7, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

7

**Long title**

Long title, 'the *Major Events Act 2014*, the *Major Sports Facilities Act 2001*,'—

*omit, insert*—

**the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*, the *Major Events Act 2014*,  
*the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001*, the *Racing Act 2002*,**

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**ADJOURNMENT**



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.03 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

**Banyo, Housing**



**Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.03 pm): Last Tuesday the circus came to town when the Deputy Premier pushed open the gates to the six-hectare former Energex depot site in Banyo and

announced it was being sold to the highest bidder to build up to 400 new homes onsite. According to this LNP government, the site had been sitting idle for 10 years for no reason. Thank heavens the LNP had come to the rescue!

Unfortunately for the Deputy Premier, he underestimated our community, a fact he discovered when locals noticed his press conference and turned up to tell him exactly what they thought of his performance. I am told that as hard as the Deputy Premier's spin doctors tried to distract and silence my locals at the presser, they were determined to have their say. Instead of answering their questions, they tell me he turned tail and ran—ran from the truth, ran from the reality.

The truth is that that site is contaminated by PFAS, asbestos and toxic bioaccumulative contaminants linked to the former Energex activities onsite. There are visible groundwater testing sites all over the land—clearly evident during his press conference—but of course there was not one mention by the Deputy Premier that the site had been undergoing intensive remediation for contaminants since 2016 or that the site had ongoing PFAS levels in groundwater samples above the acceptable level as recently as 2024, all of which meant it could not legally be developed. There was also no mention that the majority of that site remains on the Environmental Management Register under a site management plan because of ongoing contamination.

According to the Deputy Premier's narrative, if the LNP had been in government prior to 2024 he would have just railroaded any appropriate remediation and allowed our children and families to play and live on asbestos and PFAS riddled dirt. Not on my watch, Deputy Premier. Confirming that soil and groundwater testing is now at an acceptable level to safely allow development is just the first question my community wants answered. Here is the second: the LNP has announced up to 400 homes. My community supports housing. We live in the best part of Brisbane. Of course we understand people want to call our community home, but up to an additional 800 people on that site? On our local roads? Really? That scale of density is well beyond—

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** Let the record show the Minister for Housing called my local residents 'NIMBYs'. Thank you very much. That makes you even more popular in Nudgee. That scale of density is well beyond what would ordinarily be expected for a block of that size and beyond what is proposed in the local planning scheme. So where did the number come from? What will they do about flooding impacts and sewerage issues onsite? My community wants answers, not political stunts and grandstanding.

### **Mudgeeraba Electorate, Boral Quarry**

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (9.06 pm): I rise once again on a matter of great importance to my community, particularly the residents of Reedy Creek, Tallebudgera and Old Burleigh Town. This is Boral's second attempt to propose a quarry at Reedy Creek. The message from our community over the past few weeks has been crystal clear: we do not want a quarry. A quarry does not belong in a residential area. We did not support this quarry in Reedy Creek 10 years ago, and we do not support it now. Council must reject this latest application. Council needs to do its job. The only development application at the moment is before council and I expect that council will do its job, just like it did last time.

I was very proud to join hundreds of Reedy Creek locals and residents from the Tallebudgera Valley and Old Burleigh Town with my colleagues the member for Burleigh and the member for Currumbin on Saturday in protest as we stood united against a Reedy Creek quarry. It was not the first time that we have stood alongside Reedy Creek locals protesting against a quarry, and I am no Johnny-come-lately to this fight. I have fought against this quarry since 2010 and my position has not changed, and locals know it has not changed. The facts also have not changed. A quarry will see more traffic congestion, impacts to property prices and consequences for the health of Reedy Creek residents.

It was critical that our communities voiced their concerns to council, which has so far not told us what it is going to do with this quarry. I expect that it would do what it did last time and have the courage of its convictions and come out and tell the voters of Currumbin, Burleigh and Mudgeeraba exactly what it is going to do. The mayor was very vocal last time. He actually led the fight against the quarry, so I hope the mayor will have the courage of his convictions and do it again and reject this quarry.

I was so pleased to see so many locals join our fight. It was wonderful to see new families fighting alongside the people who were there with me in 2010. We wrote to the local councillor and they all lodged a formal objection to the Gold Coast City council. It was just a pity that locals were not told that there was an application in the first place, but thank goodness they put pen to paper. It is my

understanding that there are almost 10,000 applications against this quarry, so that is a pretty strong voice—people power—to the Gold Coast City council.

We have heard lots of toing and froing about this application. This application is no different from the one 10 years ago. It is the same process and we need to make sure that the council does the same thing and does its job and stops this quarry.

### **Crisafulli Government, Performance; Toowong Private Hospital**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.09 pm): I rise tonight to highlight an issue that has become all too familiar: the LNP's ongoing failure to connect with Queenslanders both young and old. Parliament should be a place for serious debate about our state's future, instead too often the LNP reduce it to shallow theatre and stunts that demean this chamber. Young people and students visit parliament to see leadership and democracy in action, but what we see from the LNP is disrespect, heckling and shouting. Rather than role models, members opposite offer only performance.

While young Queenslanders face real challenges—housing affordability, jobs, mental health—the LNP members focus their energy on petty politics. They should stop trawling through opposition MPs' social media to search for cheap attack lines. It is a distraction tactic and young people see straight through it. What they want are real solutions. Housing affordability has collapsed locking young people out of rentals and homeownership, youth employment sits above nine per cent, mental health services are stretched and the closure of the Toowong Private Hospital has only worsened the crisis.

The LNP government was urged to step in and purchase the Toowong Private Hospital. We should remember that the Palaszczuk government was asked to purchase the Gladstone Mater Hospital in 2021 and it did exactly that. The LNP has refused to sort out the problem at the Toowong Private Hospital and that failure of leadership has left workers without jobs and patients without care. This chamber should inspire respect and confidence in our young people. Instead, what they often see is juvenile behaviour from those opposite. If the LNP is serious about the next generation it should stop chasing likes and start delivering policies that give young Queenslanders real hope for the future.

### **Burleigh, Development**

 **Mr VORSTER** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.11 pm): Burleigh needs a break—despite boasting one of the most epic surf breaks on the planet. Where Justins Park was once filled with a delightful cacophony of birdsong, its atmosphere has been replaced by incessant hammering, pounding, sirens and klaxons as the suburb has undergone a dramatic transformation over quite some years. Construction is now the norm in Burleigh. I regret to inform the House that it has robbed Burleigh of its quiet, idyllic village atmosphere, something at the very heart of the identity and spirit of this gorgeous part of the Gold Coast, a cultural treasure of Queensland itself.

While the third stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail project is progressing slowly towards its conclusion—a project utterly mismanaged by the former Labor government—locals are looking forward to a little bit of a reprieve. Regrettably, they were quite surprised to learn of ambitious plans of the Gold Coast City Council to rip up the green space of Burleigh over many years to remake the suburb, dare I say it, in the image of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. That is not to say that Surfers and Broadbeach are not incredible parts of the Gold Coast—they are just not Burleigh. Locals have been quite aghast at these plans and lamented the fact that council may just copy and paste the aesthetic of these other parts of the Gold Coast and impose it on Burleigh.

Council is presently running a community consultation on their plans to rip up and rebuild the Burleigh foreshore. That opportunity was only secured because of the advocacy of Josh Martin, a local councillor. I want to say thank you to that councillor for securing that opportunity for us. Council has not afforded our community enough time to grapple with these plans and make them the best possible plans. Our community is crying out for a pause to this work, genuine community consultation and, in the meantime, an opportunity for Burleigh locals to enjoy Burleigh without the noise pollution and without the visual pollution. They want their backyard back. Burleigh was beautiful before these council plans. I do not believe the plans improve upon perfection. Let's let locals settle into the rhythm of Burleigh and revisit this after the 2032 Olympic Games.

### **Toowoomba Hospital, Maternity Services; Miller Electorate, Veloway**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (9.14 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of Toowoomba mothers who have been advocating for an independent review into maternity services at Toowoomba Hospital after a series of traumatic episodes that have left them heartbroken and questioning the quality of maternity

health care at the hospital. Sadly, it has taken weeks and months of sustained pressure from Toowoomba mums and also the Miles Labor team to achieve some action from out-of-touch, arrogant, aloof and, to be frank, heartless Health Minister Nicholls.

The minister visited Toowoomba with the Premier recently and incredibly refused to meet with the Toowoomba mums and listen to their concerns. Instead, they held a media conference claiming false LNP credit for the new Toowoomba Hospital, which was in fact initiated and funded by Labor and was already under construction at the last election.

It is a fact that Health Minister Nicholls's initial response to the Toowoomba mums was to deny the need for any investigation and to pedantically suggest that their complaints were not made properly, which was a pathetic excuse from a limited man to avoid sitting across the table and listening to those Toowoomba mums. Those traumatised families are at a profound and pivotal moment in their lives and the best this minister could do initially was to fob them off and hide behind process excuses. What a cold, callous and remote response to Toowoomba mums and families from Minister Nicholls.

Fortunately, the shadow treasurer and shadow minister for women, the member for Waterford, did go to Toowoomba to meet with them and listen to their concerns. Combined pressure from Labor and the families has forced our so-called health minister to finally act and announce an assurance review yesterday. However, it is not a part 9 review, which would have given greater protection for staff coming forward and more wideranging powers. Health Minister Nicholls must return to Toowoomba, meet with those affected families and listen to their concerns. It is the least he can do.

On a different topic, in 2024 Premier Crisafulli promised to back everything in the Miles Labor government's last budget if he was elected, but we know that was just a big fat pork pie. In Tarragindi and Holland Park, an active transport bridge across Birdwood Road to keep veloway bike riders and scooter users separate from heavy traffic near the freeway onramp would be under construction right now if that promise from Premier Crisafulli had been kept. It is nearly 16 months into the Crisafulli government's term and absolutely nothing has happened after all the planning, design and preparation work had been completed under the Miles Labor government, with capital allocated for 2024 to 2026. It was an outstanding success, but what we see from Premier Crisafulli and the minister is a cut to that project. There is no sign of anything happening. They have broken their promise.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Miller, you are an experienced member and you have used unparliamentary language in that address. Would you withdraw, please?

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw.

### Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.17 pm): I rise to update the House on the continued delivery of real outcomes for local residents and families across the electorate of Moggill and to highlight the practical difference that a focused, committed, calm and methodical Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering for our community. Across the western suburbs, families are seeing the benefit of targeted cost-of-living support.

At the start of this school year, our Back to School Boost of \$100 for every primary school student from prep to year 6 is helping parents cover everyday education costs and is easing pressure on household budgets. For families in the electorate of Moggill alone, this means a collective saving of more than \$440,000 in practical relief and a direct investment in the future of our young people. Local families are also benefitting from round 2 of our \$200 PlayOn! sports vouchers, which are helping children to stay active and connected. These vouchers are making a real difference for families involved with local clubs.

Transport affordability support has also made a tangible difference for local residents. This week marks one year since the Crisafulli LNP state government made 50-cent fares permanent. We promised it before the election and we have delivered it. In just 12 months, Queenslanders have made more than 200 million trips on buses, trains, trams and ferries with Brisbane residents saving \$238 million. For a local resident in the electorate of Moggill travelling five days a week, that is a saving of more than \$1,630 each year.

I am also pleased to advise the House that there has been ongoing work to ensure the long-term needs of the electorate of Moggill are met as we deliver on our election commitments. There have been productive meetings with ministers, including the Minister for Education and the Treasurer just this week, as well as with departments and agencies to progress key election commitments.

Feedback from my recent community survey is helping inform important planning processes for a new community and neighbourhood centre, priorities for transport infrastructure and service delivery planning, as well as a business case for a new high school. I have also received a briefing from the Department of Transport and Main Roads on consultation underway for integrated road, public and active transport planning across the electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane.

Progress like this does not happen without determination. For too long Labor and the Greens have been a road block to progress with infrastructure and services for the western suburbs of Brisbane. What we are now seeing is a different approach—one grounded in delivery. Families in the electorate of Moggill want enhanced road infrastructure and public and active transport service delivery, strong schools, accessible health services, improved community safety and support with the cost of living. They want a state government that gets on with the job. That is exactly what is being delivered by the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government.

### **Veterans; Termination of Pregnancy**

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (9.20 pm): Last year I spoke in this House about my opposition and the opposition of the local Bundaberg veterans community to the federal government's Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal) Bill 2025. The bill aimed to restrict an individual's ability to seek a review of a defence honour and award by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal to a 20-year timeframe following the act or end of the prescribed conflict.

In November last year, the day after Remembrance Day, Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch board member Max Francis and I spoke to local media about the disappointment from veterans towards the proposed legislation. It can take many years for our veterans to share their story, let alone seek or have another seek on their behalf the awards and honours that they deserve for their brave service. On this matter Max said—

It's happened so quick and so fast, it's put the veteran community on the back foot.

When you commit to military service, you commit 100 per cent.

We get told to go, and we go. We drop everything and we go. You cancel weddings, you miss birthday parties, you miss funerals.

When we deploy, we get very limited news ... there was no emailing, no SMS, no texting, no favourite TV shows, we are frozen in time.

Everyone had moved on, but we don't.

So it takes time settling back into the community and you do need that break.

I am happy to report that the bill has since been discharged from the Senate and our veterans have once again won another proud battle.

I wish to reflect on the actions and the words of the member for Mackay during this week with regard to the very serious topic of termination of pregnancy. I note that the member for Mackay, in an interview now available on YouTube, quoted Ephesians 6:12. Ephesians 6:12 reads—

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

He is talking about demons. He is talking about Satan. To suggest that women in this state, when in a state of despair, considering whether or not to use the laws before them and enact a termination of pregnancy, should put on an armour of God because they are somehow under the powers of Satan is outrageous. It is an outrageous comment for a member of parliament to make. The member for Mackay can try to say that he has great respect and consideration for this. This is not. When the member for Mackay says that women in Queensland making this decision are bound by the evils of Satan and need to put on the armour of God, he needs to consider his resignation immediately.

*(Time expired)*

### **Cook Electorate, Illegal Fishing**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (9.23 pm): My electorate of Cook includes the top end of Cape York and the Torres Strait, which is the home to over 5,000 Queenslanders—Queenslanders who are a long way from Canberra or Brisbane and have been too long overlooked by successive Labor governments. Well, no more.

Since being elected nearly 18 months ago, I have turned up, listened and taken action on many occasions for the people I represent. There can be no better example of my advocacy than in the recent

unfolded debacle involving the incursion of illegal Indonesian fishing vessels in Australian waters in the Torres Strait. As more and more evidence emerged of breaches of our closest international border, Prime Minister Albanese, Tony Burke and Matt Smith claimed there was nothing to see and everything was hunky-dory. There was no visit, no consultation and no discussion with the population in respect of this critical issue.

In late January this year, the news broke of an illegal fishing vessel attempting to land on Mabuiag Island. I immediately called for Tony Burke, the minister responsible for the protection of our borders, to come to the Torres Strait and talk to the people. I travelled to Bamaga and Thursday Island for several days to hear firsthand from leaders including councils, TSRA, traditional owners, fishermen, residents and business owners.

Not only do these foreign vessels pose a health and safety risk to islanders; the leaking border exposes all Australians to the vagaries of disease, pests, illegal drugs, firearms, human trafficking and so on. In just the past month we have seen dozens of illegal vessels as far east as Mer Island and on the mainland in Jackey Jackey Creek, attempted landings at Mabuiag, locals threatened by armed fishermen on Crab Island and a large barge washing up on Badu Island. Prime Minister Albanese's only response was stern words from afar.

Now, without discussion or consultation, the Albanese government has decided to launch Operation Broadstaff to rid our northern waters of this scourge. It sounds stern, but the problem is that half of the ABF Cape Class patrol boats are out of action, and the two Bay Class patrol boats are responsible for Torres Strait and Northern Territory waters. Even if Broadstaff does chase a few vessels away, they will simply return as the status quo is returned. The federal government must get real and fully resource an appropriate border security force in conjunction with all agencies and engage all local islanders in extensive monitoring and surveillance, as no-one has the knowledge and experience of the Torres Strait Islanders.

### Adani

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.26 pm): I start with a rhetorical question, clearly not asking you, Deputy Speaker, but I am curious: what do you call it when a company gives a political party or a politician huge sums of money and gets favourable treatment in return? That is clearly bribery and I would go so far as to call it corruption.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Listen to these guys! Listen to them. Yappy yap! It is happening in Queensland. For anyone who has not been paying attention to the media reporting in recent days and weeks, I will go on a little trip back in time. We all know the company, Adani. They call themselves Bravus these days because their reputation was so sullied, but let's call them Adani, the common parlance. They made a \$600,000 donation right before the Queensland state election. It was not disclosed until just this month because they managed to use a federal loophole so that voters were not aware of it before we went to the polls. Queensland disclosure laws were sidestepped so that we did not know about it. We were completely unaware that this kind of funding was going on, for our now government.

This was, believe it or not—they have made plenty of them—Adani's biggest ever political donation, the biggest one they have made yet. We have to ask why. Fast-forward a little bit, not too much further, because within the first year of this LNP government's election, the government decided to drop a court case that would have cost Adani hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties.

By way of reminder, a royalty is what a company has to pay to extract the resources that belong to the people of Queensland before they sell them on and make massive profits. It is rent paid on resources to us. That is money that clearly could have funded public housing development, free school breakfasts or any number of different things, but instead it is now lining the pocket of one of the world's dodgiest coalminers. It is a secret deal, no less. We are not able to know the details of this deal apparently because it is commercial-in-confidence. We cannot forget that Adani has also been a donor to Labor, back before they signed the final approvals for the mine to go through in the first place.

Let's be clear what is happening here. The LNP colluded with Adani to exploit a loophole in our donation laws. They took hundreds of thousands of dollars, then negotiated a secret deal on royalties. That deal means that hundreds of millions of dollars remain in Adani's pocket rather than funding Queensland schools, hospitals and homes. If this isn't an argument for banning corporate donations, like the Greens have been calling for for years now, then I do not know what is.

### Theodore Electorate

**Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.29 pm): Firstly tonight I want to address the concerns of elderly residents at Baldwin Living Sequana in Upper Coomera. The Gold Coast City council has notified Baldwin Living of an approximate 80 per cent rise in their rates, justifying this as a concept of 'rate equity'. For many residents this is not an abstract policy change; this is a direct hit to their weekly budget. These are retirees, many of whom are on fixed pensions and modest incomes and simply cannot absorb increases of this scale.

Council's correspondence indicates this increase will be phased in over eight years; however, there is no clear detail how this will occur. Residents deserve certainty and a transparent schedule for the proposed changes. This should include a clear explanation of the basis for the new rating treatment to ensure there are safeguards and reasonable caps. I urge council to meet directly with residents and provide plain-English answers, not broad assurances. I wish to thank councillors Fowler and Gates for fighting this good fight.

Secondly, I want to speak about the responsibility we all share in having a strong community, one where people and businesses can act as good neighbours. Most do, but there are some who do not. For the last 18 months I have been requesting Nucrush Quarries to clear out a drain on its Upper Coomera property to restore water flow and prevent flooding on neighbouring residential properties during flood events. This request has been raised by my office and by offices of local councillors, yet it continues to be ignored. Clearing a drain is not a complex issue. It is not costly. It is not controversial. It is a basic responsibility. Nucrush has shown no interest in being a good neighbour. This is clearly not the only complaint I have received about this business—there are plenty more other complaints. I just wish to highlight that this very simple task of clearing the drain would stop flooding on residential properties that neighbour this business. Therefore, it really does speak volumes to the mindset of Nucrush Quarries.

Lastly, I wish to thank Matt Walker, the First Officer of Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade. He has been their first officer for the last 4½ years. He has led with distinction. He has led from the front. He is a very passionate member of that brigade. This year he has decided to hang up his first officer boots, but he will remain a very active member of the brigade. Matt Walker, thank you for all of your years of hard work and diligence, serving the brigade and serving the Theodore electorate with high distinction.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.32 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, Linard, Lister, Mander, Marr, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Minnikin, Molhoek, Morton, Mullen, Nicholls, Nightingale, O'Connor, O'Shea, Pease, Perrett, Poole, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stoker, Sullivan, Vorster, Weir, Whiting, Young